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**Hardman Farms and Anna Ruby Falls Offer “Falls to Farm” Hike**

**Helen, GA** – Anna Ruby Falls and FIND Outdoors are proud to partner with Hardman Farm State Historic Site to offer the “Falls to Farm Hike” on June 4, 2022, to celebrate 150 years of shared history between these two amazing sites in north Georgia.

The entire event will begin and end at historic Hardman Farm, just outside of Helen, with shuttle service provided from the farm to beautiful Anna Ruby Falls, located deep within Unicoi State Park. Participants will meet at Hardman Farm at 7:30am for pre-hike information and check-in before loading up the bus for Anna Ruby Falls. Pre-registration is required for this special event and anyone interested is encouraged to purchase a ticket.

“This is the perfect opportunity for FIND Outdoors to showcase our amazing partnership with Hardman Farm,” stated Liberti Gates, Georgia Program Manager for FIND. “The history between these two sites dates back generations, and this hike perfectly captures the feel and routine visits of Captain Nichols and Anna Ruby to the falls.”

The hike itself is comprised of an 11-mile, moderately strenuous walk along Smith Creek Trail, named after the creek that runs from the base of Anna Ruby Falls through Unicoi State Park and ultimately into Unicoi Lake. Four aid stations will offer hikers water and snacks along the way, and participants will also be treated to a swag bag and post-hike meal at the finish line. Hardman Farm and Anna Ruby Falls educators will explore the natural history of north Georgia during the hike, while pointing out historical features such as the Sautee Ditch, a hand-dug water supply for two gold stamp mills dating back to the 1800’s.

Hikers are expected to arrive at the farm around 4:00pm, where they will receive a private tour of the site and learn about the fascinating history of the farm and house, built in 1870 by Captain



James Nichols. A grand example of Italianate architecture, the home contains a massive 19<sup>th</sup>-century parlor, original lighting, pre-telephone-era communications system, and a homemade method of climate control. In addition, participants will hear stories of the Sautee Nacoochee Indian Mound and the Native American Trail that passes directly through the site.

“North Georgia holds some of the most fascinating legends and stories in the southeast,” Gates concluded. “From the history of the Cherokee people and gold-panning, to the Nichols family and their innovative farm, there are boundless opportunities for our visitors to learn about everything this area has to offer.”

The Falls to Farm Hike is \$40 per person, and pre-registration is required to participate. To register, please visit <https://gofindoutdoors.org/falls-to-farm-hike/>. To learn more about Anna Ruby Falls, visit <https://gofindoutdoors.org/anna-ruby-falls/> or call the visitor center directly at 706-878-1448.

To learn more about Hardman Farm and to plan your visit to this unique site, head to <https://gastateparks.org/HardmanFarm>, and FIND yourself...out there!

### **About FIND Outdoors**

FIND Outdoors, formerly the Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association, is a 50-year old 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Pisgah Forest, NC. We serve over 900,000 visitors annually with a mission that promotes educational, recreational and interpretive opportunities about forest and water resources, natural history and the Cradle of Forestry in America. FIND Outdoors proudly manages campgrounds, visitor centers, sales outlets and educational facilities on five National Forests in North Carolina, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, and the Northwest Trading Post on the Blue Ridge Parkway. FIND accomplishes its mission by providing exceptional outdoor experiences through partnership opportunities for the health, safety and education of all visitors to local and regional public and private lands.