

UUCR WOFFers Walks for Spring 2008

The UUCR walking group WOFFers (Walking Outdoors for Fun and Friendship) has scheduled the following walks this spring.

The walks are meant to foster an appreciation of nature while getting some good exercise and fresh air, and enjoying companionship and conversation with fellow walkers. The walks normally include a Dutch treat lunch.

Meeting point for each walk is at UUCR at 8:15am on Saturday. Departure is PROMPTLY at 8:30am and walks take place rain or shine. (The only WOFFers walk ever cancelled was due to an ice storm.) Any UUCR member or friends coming with a member are welcome, and no reservations are needed.

In the experience of the group, there have always been extra seats available for anyone that comes without a car, or who doesn't want to drive further than the church. Walks that can be done with a wheelchair are so indicated (April 26 and May 17). Some walks as shown below allow for persons to only walk one-way if they choose and then get a ride back.

April 26 Walk to Garrett Park on Rock Creek Trail. Lunch at Black Market restaurant.

This walk is about 2 ½ miles each way and starts at the corner of Viers Mill Road and Aspen Hill Road (we will still meet at UUCR). From here the group will walk down the Rock Creek trail, which is completely paved, through parks and some natural forests to the charming village of Garrett Park, where we will have lunch at the Black Market restaurant. Trail is wheelchair accessible. One-way option available. Return should be by 2pm. Led by Lou and Lana Cerny (301-869-8105)

May 3 Walk in vicinity of Riley's Lock. (C&O Canal and Blockhouse Point)

This walk will start on the C&O canal towpath at Riley's Lock. The Seneca Aqueduct and the lock here are built from the distinctive red sandstone from the quarry on the other side of Seneca Creek. We will walk on a dirt path (there are a few rocks) to Blockhouse Point Regional Park and the beautiful cedar-topped cliffs discussed in Justice Douglas' book "My wilderness, East to Katahdin." It's 1.82 miles each way. Afterwards, we will get sandwiches at Poole's General Store and have a picnic. If the weather is not picnic friendly, we will go to the Corner Bakery at Rio in Gaithersburg. Led by Claudia and Bryan West (301-460-3437)

May 10 Walk on Appalachian trail from Weaverton to Harper's Ferry. Lunch at Secret Six Tavern.

This walk, 3 ½ miles each way, has been praised in past years for its wonderful combination of mountainous and forested scenery along the rushing Potomac waters, its sense of history (Harpers Ferry town and museums, transportation history of canal and railroad), and its ease of use. The walk to Harper's Ferry is basically flat except for one 15 ft high set of steps up to the Potomac River bridge. (The group is very supportive and can offer help here.) We will have lunch on the rear deck of the Secret Six tavern with beautiful views of the town, river, and mountains. Those that wish can stay in Harper's Ferry and be picked up later by those who walk back to Weaverton. Led by Lana and Lou Cerny (301-869-8105) This is a longer trip and return should be by 4pm.

May 17 "Tunnels and Treetops" walk north from Bethesda.

This walk, about 2 ½ miles each way, goes north from the center of Bethesda, through a tunnel under the town, and along the Capitol Crescent trail to the high bridge in the treetops high over the Rock Creek ravine. There is a conveniently located bagel shop (with restrooms) at the 1/3 and 2/3 point on the walk. Trail is has no steep climbs, and can be done by wheelchair. Lunch will be at a Bethesda eating establishment, and return should be by 2pm. Led by Claudia and Bryan West (301-460-3437)

May 24 Walk from Palisades to Georgetown on the Capitol Crescent Trail. Lunch at Paolo's in Georgetown. Group returns together to starting point using city bus.

This 3 ½ mile walk will be on the Capitol Crescent trail from a neighborhood in D.C. known as the Palisades (corner of Manning and Potomac Ave.) to Georgetown, where we will walk along the C&O canal and the shops of M street before stopping for lunch at Paolo's on Wisconsin Avenue. The trail to Georgetown has a surprisingly forested rural feel, including views of the Potomac, with the transition to urban Georgetown being quite abrupt. Return to Palisades will be via D.C. city bus, which has been an enjoyable way to return on past trips. Our stop is near the end of the line and by then we had the bus to ourselves. Return should be by 2pm. Led by Ann Hope Scott (301-949-3406)

Future walks to be determined. If you want to lead a walk, call any of the people listed above. Normally a program is made each year for October to early December, but you may have ideas for summer and winter.