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ATHENS BANNER-HERALD

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By Staff Reports

Georgia's state parks have plenty planned in February



Georgia's State Parks this February have planned a full calendar of ways to celebrate Valentine's Day. From a sunset dinner to riverside stroll, or from archery class to a full-moon hike, it's easy to find the perfect outing with your sweetheart and the people you love. Here's a listing of events:

Coastal Georgia

Valentine's Full Moon Paddle, Feb. 10, 5:30 p.m.

Laura S. Walker State Park - Waycross

Take a romantic kayak tour under the light of the full moon. This is a ranger-led paddle perfect for beginners, plus there is a good chance of seeing nocturnal wildlife. Register in advance. \$25 single; \$35 tandem. \$5 parking. 912-287-4900.

Valentine's Civil War Dinner and Dance, Feb. 11, 5:30 p.m.

Fort McAllister State Park - Richmond Hill

This is the perfect chance for history lovers to get together for an evening full of fun and great food. The night includes beautiful low-country scenery, a candlelit roast dinner for two, tour of the fort, period singing and dancing, and cannon firing. \$100. 912-727-2339.

Metro Atlanta

Valentine's Singles Archery, Feb. 10, 6 p.m.

Panola Mountain State Park - Stockbridge

Single this Valentine's Day? Why not spend it doing something new? While we can't promise you'll find a new love, you may find something you love doing. Join us for this indoor introduction to archery. Ages 18 and older. All equipment provided. Must register in advance. \$25 plus \$5 parking. 770-389-7801.

Valentine's Day Luminary Riverside Stroll, Feb. 11, 6 p.m.

Chattahoochee Bend State Park - Newnan

Bring your sweetie for a stroll along the riverside at sunset. Luminary lanterns light the way to the Observation Tower where we'll keep a fire burning for you. The hike is self-guided for a quiet experience. Bring flashlight and sturdy shoes. Last admission is at 7:25 p.m. Register in advance. \$10 per couple. \$5 parking. 770-254-7271.

Valentine's Day Couples Hike, Feb. 11, 5:30 p.m.

Panola Mountain State Park - Stockbridge

Looking for something new to do with your valentine? Bring them to Panola Mountain for a sunset hike. Want more fun? Compete with your partner in a series of team-building games to see who knows their companion best. Reservations required. \$20 plus \$5 parking. 770-389-7801.

Valentine's Day Cupid Shoot, Feb. 11, 6 p.m.

Panola Mountain State Park - Stockbridge

Looking to spice things up this Valentine's Day? Nothing fans the flames of love like a little competition. Take aim and see which of you is the best Cupid during this couples-only class. Ages 18 and older. All equipment provided. Must register in advance. \$25 plus \$5 parking. 770-389-7801.

Middle & South Georgia

Valentine's Weekend at High Falls. Feb. 11, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Feb. 12, 2 to 4 p.m.

High Falls State Park - Jackson

Discover the wacky ways animals show their love for one another, or keep those healthy New Year's resolutions with an exhilarating hike. Join our park naturalist for one (or all) family-friendly programs. \$4 plus \$5 parking. 478-993-3053.

Love is in the "Scare" Valentine's Tour, Feb. 11, 2 to 10 p.m.

Magnolia Springs State Park - Millen

Looking for something other than roses and chocolates this Valentine's Day? Join us for a History and Haunts tour with guest authors and lecturers. Then walk the trails of Camp Lawton, once the world's largest prison, holding hands with your sweetheart. \$29 - \$49 plus \$5 parking. 478-982-1660.

Romantic Sunset Dinner on The Train, Feb. 14, 5:30 p.m.

SAM Shortline Train at Georgia Veterans State Park - Cordele

Departing from Georgia Veterans State Park, we'll take a short ride and park over beautiful Lake Blackshear as the sun is setting. After dinner, we will take a nighttime train ride through the Sumter County countryside before returning to the park. Reservations required. 229-276-0755.

Northern Georgia

Hidden Heart - Valentine's Day Hike, Feb. 14, 3 p.m.

Fort Mountain State Park - Chatsworth

In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps built the 38 foot fire tower at Fort Mountain. A young stone mason carved a heart out of a stone and placed it in the tower for his love. Join a ranger and hike the CCC Stone Tower Trail. \$5 parking. 706-422-1932.