**Hiking Options**

All hikes are a 5-8 mile drive from Mount Fair—see back of property map included in brochure.

**OPTION 1: Wood – Ballard Family Sites in Sugar Hollow**

Easy to moderate hikes: 2.6 to 4.7 miles roundtrip
- 1.3 miles to Ballard family home site
- 1.5 miles to Ballard Distillery
- 1.7 miles to Wood family’s apple barn
- 2.4 miles to Wood family home site

An 8 mile drive from Mount Fair, begin at the Sugar Hollow Reservoir parking area and follow the Moorman’s River Road to the west, crossing over the Moorman’s River. The trail parallels the river for a short distance and turns sharply left (west). Cross over the river again at 0.75 miles. At 1.3 miles the former home site of the Ballard Family appears on your left (east). At 1.5 miles you arrive at the Ballard Distillery, a licensed distillery that operated for several decades, that made, among many drinks, a delicious Apple Brandy. Continue past the distillery and at 1.7 miles, remnants of the Wood Family’s apple barn will appear on your right (north). This is where the family’s orchard products, apples particularly, were stored before going to the distillery for liquor production. At 2.4 miles, you will end at the former home of Joe Wood, the “Mayor of Sugar Hollow.” From here, re-trace your steps back to the beginning.

**OPTION 2: Patricia Ann Byrom Forest Preserve Park**

Moderate to difficult hikes: 1-6 miles roundtrip

Only 5 miles from Mount Fair off Blackwell Hollow Road, begin at the parking area where you can visit the Albemarle Blue Ridge Heritage Project’s chimney monument to families displaced for Shenandoah National Park’s creation. The county-owned park includes a variety of hiking opportunities ranging from 1 to 6 miles in length. Although there are no home sites to see in the Preserve, the 4.3 mile moderate loop along the Great Mountain, Blue Ledge, Little Flat Mountain and Blackwells Trails, includes a great view of nearby Gibson Mountain.

*Take care while hiking to avoid disturbing any historic or archeological sites. They are located on private property and within Shenandoah National Park and are protected under the law.*

**Schedule of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:15</td>
<td>Opening Remarks, Kristie Kendall and Rex Linville, The Piedmont Environmental Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>The Albemarle Mountain Communities and the Connection to Mount Fair: Phil James, historian and author of <em>Secrets of the Blue Ridge</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15</td>
<td>Concurrent Walking Tours (advance ticket required):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30-2</td>
<td>History of the American Chestnut Tree and its Legacy: Cathy Mayes, Board of Directors, American Chestnut Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30-3</td>
<td>History of Trout &amp; Fish Shocking Demonstration: John Odenkirk, fisheries biologist, Virginia Department of Game &amp; Inland Fisheries and Celia Vuocolo, habitat specialist, The Piedmont Environmental Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*A variety of other events will be on-going throughout the day.*

**History of Blackwells Hollow**

Located in a narrow valley between Little Flat Mountain to the northwest and Gibson Mountain to the southeast, Blackwells Hollow owes its name to the Blackwell family who lived here from the mid-18th century through the present. William Blackwell acquired 225 and settled here in 1767. William’s son, Armistead inherited the land and eventually sold it to John Blackwell in 1783. In 1828, John deeded his landholdings to his son, Leland. Between 1828 and Leland’s death in 1866, he amassed more than 1,400 acres in Blackwells Hollow and Leland’s son acquired an additional 600 acres.

Today, the Blackwell landholdings include all of the land within the Byrom Preserve and much of the land adjacent to it. The old homplace of Leland Blackwell has since burned down, but the Blackwell family cemetery still stands just west of the Preserve on private property.
**Things to Do**

**ON-GOING THROUGHOUT THE DAY**

- Check out the various family displays in the barn near the garden and visit with families that have connections to the Blue Ridge Mountains.
- Enjoy the musical talents of Pete and Ellen Vigour and join in on the Virginia Reel in the afternoon.
- Visit with local groups, including the Piedmont Environmental Council, Virginia Department of Historic Resources and Blue Ridge Heritage Project.
- Visit the listening station to hear oral histories from Albemarle County descendants who once lived in the Blue Ridge Mountains prior to the creation of Shenandoah National Park.
- Watch film footage taken at Episcopal missions in the Blue Ridge Mountains during the early 20th century.
- Take a hike in Patricia Ann Byrom Forest Preserve and visit Albemarle County’s Blue Ridge Heritage monument.
- Enjoy a self-guided hike along the Moorman’s River Trail in Shenandoah National Park and learn about the families that once called this area home.

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**Event Sponsors**

**Piedmont Environmental Council**

The Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) was founded in 1972 to promote and protect the Virginia Piedmont’s rural economy, natural resources, history and beauty. Headquartered in Warrenton, VA, we have offices throughout a nine county region that includes Albemarle, Clarke, Culpeper, Fauquier, Greene, Loudoun, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock counties. For more information, visit www.pecva.org.

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**Sponsored by:**

The Piedmont Environmental Council

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Top: Mount Fair (c.1848), historic home of Bezaleel Brown and many of his descendants. Bottom: Slave cemetery at Mount Fair. Both photos courtesy of Finlay Smith Photography.