Impact Project Report

Master Naturalist develops trail guide for Occoneechee State Natural Area

Issue

While located in Orange County, Occoneechee Mountain supports species more typically found in the western region of North Carolina — including rhododendron, mountain laurel, and the rare brown elfin butterfly. Visitors to the mountain often wonder how this unique habitat was created. Master Naturalist student Tonya Brami, a geologist, used her background to create geologic trail guides for this unique state natural area.

Project

Tonya produced two guides; one a tri-fold for children, and another which delves deeper into the mountain's formation and the geologic observations visible along the trail system. The more detailed guide can also assist Occoneechee State Natural Area staff leading field trips, as well as interested members of the public.

In order to meet the needs of the park system, Tonya met with Jean-Michel Margeaux, who led geologic excursions up the mountain for a number of years, and also with Rangers from the Occoneechee State Natural Area. Then she continued her research on the trail and in books. While much of the mountain's story had been published in academic articles, a more concise, visitor-friendly version was needed for the new trail guides.



Geologic formations, called Monadock, found in Occoneechee Mountain Natural Area

These two guides are available to anyone interested in learning more about this unique natural area. Find out more at: ncmasternaturalists.org/occoneechee-mountain-state-natural-area/

Student

This project is the work of Tonya Brami

Impact Projects

Beyond classwork, a key feature of the Master Naturalist Volunteer program is the Impact Projects students develop. These projects integrate course concepts and benefit a Partner Organization.

Highlights

Partner Organization

Occoneechee State Natural Area

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