

FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway
Asheville Chapter

Wednesday, April 07, 2010

“Let’s Go for a Hike!”

Asheville, NC—The Asheville Chapter of FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway announces the publication of a revised, updated edition of its popular brochure, “30 Hikes”. The brochure describes 30 day-hikes along the Mountains-to-Sea Trail in the Asheville vicinity, each with parking and access from the Blue Ridge Parkway. The new edition was funded by a generous grant from REI Asheville.

“This brochure is very helpful to travelers on the Parkway, as well as local residents, who want to take a short hike in our beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains,” says Michele Maertens, Interpretative Ranger for the Pisgah District of the Parkway. “It rates the difficulty and describes special features of each hike. The new edition includes a map and tips on having a safe and enjoyable hike.”

The brochure is free and available at the Visitor Center near Parkway Headquarters, the Folk Art Center, and the Craggy Gardens Visitor Center, as well as at REI Asheville in Biltmore Park and Diamond Brand Outdoors in Arden.

FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway is the official non-profit organization membership organization for the Blue Ridge Parkway. Its mission is to preserve, promote, and enhance the Parkway through the service and financial support of its volunteers and members. For more information, visit www.blueridgefriends.org or call 1-800-228-PARK (7275).

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Photo caption: Checking out the new “30 Hikes” brochure are (l-r) Dr. Hugh Stephens, chairman, FRIENDS Asheville Chapter Steering Committee; Walt Weber, author of the book *Trail Profiles and Maps: From the Great Smokies to Mount Mitchell and Beyond*, upon which the brochure is based; Michele Maertens, District Interpretive Ranger for the Blue Ridge Parkway; and Ching Fu, Outreach Specialist for REI Asheville.