Hike – Taughannock Falls

This year the hike will be a half-day event among the Taughannock Falls State Park. You will be led by two great hosts: Leticia Smith and Ethan Degner.

On Saturday afternoon, buses will leave at 2:45pm from the Physical Sciences Building (after lunch an poster session) for a 30min ride to arrive at the park. The buses will return for a 6 pm drop-off at the on-campus townhouses.

Taughannock Falls State Park is home to the highest single-drop waterfall east of the Rocky Mountains (higher, even, than Niagara Falls!). Taughannock Falls is situated in a deep gorge and was formed as Taughannock Creek carved its way into shale deposits over millennia on its way to Cayuga Lake.
http://www.taughannock.com/index.html

Your hosts offer you two different trails:

Short hike: This 0.75 mile hike (1.5 mile out-and-back) winds along the gorge bottom and offers an up-close-and-personal view of the falls as well as an awe-inspiring view of the steep gorge walls. The annual freezing and thawing has loosened many shale fragments, and finding a fossil hidden in the ancient petrified sediment is not unheard of. This trail is flat, wide, and handicap accessible, although the majority of the trail is gravel.

Long hike: This ~2.6 mile hike takes visitors on a loop around the gorge and falls, closely following both the north and south rim of the gorge. It has some steep portions, but it is well-groomed and easily completed by a novice, in-shape hiker. It offers spectacular vistas overlooking the gorge from both sides, as well as a view of the mighty Cayuga Lake as Taughannock Creek flows into it.

What to bring: Hiking shoes. Depending on the weather preceding and during the hike, there may be some mud, so bring attire that can get a little dirty. A rain jacket, hat, water and sun tan lotion are all prudent accessories. There is a beach along the lake that allows swimming, although the water temperature is sure to be refreshingly frigid, and thus swimming is not advised.

Buses will take you back around 6-6:30pm directly at the townhouse is you want to change before the conference banquet.