

Judd's Peak

Driving Directions: From the Saluda Library turn right on Greenville St. (The road name changes to Mt. Page Road when it enters Henderson County.) Go 1.5 and turn right on Pace Mountain Road. At Judd's Peak Road turn right. Stay right on to Orchard Hill Dr. Left at sign for Judd's Peak.

Hiking Directions: Park at the top, look for the Saluda Nature Park sign on the crest of Judd's Peak. A bench and descending stairs are located nearby. After descending stairs and coming to a level area, go right. Then down toward spring. Next there will be a slight climb to the trail head at the other entrance. Go down road and past Sullivan's Temple to Saluda Fire Station. There is much poison ivy during the summer months.

Educational Information: Judd's Peak is an acre look-out spot at the end of Judd's Peak and Orchard Hill roads. It was purchased in 2014 with the combined funds of several organizations (Saluda Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Methodist Church, City of Saluda, Polk County Community Foundation and Community Foundation of Henderson County) to ensure that this beautiful spot would never be further developed. This high peak overlooks the mountains which nestle Saluda. Many Saluda folks gather at this spot to for an Easter Sunday sunrise service.

SCLT has cleared Kudzu from the top and planted milkweed and blueberries. They have installed 6 bluebird boxes. There is much poison ivy on the trail during the summer months.

In 1800 Dr. Goulet, the first local doctor, owned this land and had an orchard on the peak. He built a tower with a 360-degree view. Dr. Goulet hired Will Moore, an ex-slave, to take care of the orchard. Will Moore owned the land that Sullivan's Temple is on. Phoebe Sullivan bought the land for the church from Will Moore. The City of Saluda

bought a piece of the land which in Henderson County in 1913 for a dump. The Wilkes family bought some of the land in the 1950's and sold off lots in Orchard Hill.

On the way down the road you will pass Sullivan's Temple Missionary Baptist Church. It was founded in 1947 by Phoebe Sullivan, a black woman who was said to have divine powers and was a leader in Saluda's black community. She often held grand celebrations on the church grounds, where a bounty of food was served and all were welcome. She never preached, as it was not her calling, but her son, James Sullivan became the assistant pastor. Phoebe claimed to receive her inspiration for healing from the book of Psalms. She died in 1956.

A restoration and memorial of Sullivan's Temple are in the planning stage by SCLT.