



# the scenic

Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation – Summer 2017



With beauty around every curve, it's no wonder mountain residents gave the Blue Ridge Parkway the nickname "The Scenic."

**You're invited to join our  
Volunteer Corps to help  
the Blue Ridge Parkway**

**Come make a difference!**

**“** *Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.* **”**

– Margaret Mead

# The Parkway needs you!



Photograph by Vicki Dameron

## *Join our new Volunteer Corps to explore and give back*

Some gifts come in well-wrapped packages, while others come in the form of time and dedication. The Parkway needs you more than ever, and that's why we've launched our Volunteer Corps to connect you with opportunities to do good for this amazing park.

More than 15 million visitors enjoy the scenic journey of the Blue Ridge Parkway each year. With stagnant and declining funding from the government, the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation's support has become essential in preserving and protecting the historical, cultural, and natural resources found along the 469-mile route. Philanthropic and volunteer efforts are vital contributions that sustain this unit of the national park system.

There are lots of ways to get involved. You can replenish materials at visitor centers and donor giving stations, serve as a Foundation ambassador at community events, plan



### **Good Deeds!**

To see a full list of volunteer opportunities and sign up, visit [brpfoundation.org/volunteer](http://brpfoundation.org/volunteer).

fund-raising events, and more.

Some of the exciting opportunities take volunteers out on the Parkway. For instance, as a wildlife camera volunteer you can work with one or two partners under the supervision of Parkway staff to set up and monitor cameras in remote locations. If you enjoy visiting the Parkway and walking or hiking in rugged terrain, this could be the role for you. Right now there is a specific need for recruits in the Pisgah District, between Linville Falls and the southern end of the Parkway near the entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

As a Parkway traveler, you replenish informational materials at important donor stations. This is a fun and easy role for those who regularly travel the route.

There are plenty more ways to help, so be sure to visit us online to learn more. It's a great time to get out and volunteer!



## Making strides at Doughton Park!

On June 23, the National Park Service, Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, state and community leaders, members of the Doughton family, and area residents marked the opening of the Doughton Park Info Center and Camp Store at milepost 241. Sen. Deanna Ballard and Rep. Jeffrey Elmore also announced a designation of \$350,000 in the state budget for rehab of the former Bluffs restaurant. The funds will go a long way toward the project. You can also play a role with a gift. To donate, return the enclosed envelope or visit [brpfoundation.org/doughtonpark](http://brpfoundation.org/doughtonpark).



*Clockwise from top:* Sparta Mayor John Miller and Millie Barbee, chair of the North Carolina Historical Commission, cut the ribbon; a crowd gathered for the celebration; historical photos are now displayed in the reopened building; Barbee and Parkway Superintendent Mark Woods.



## Get tickets for The Ball, y'all!

Time is running out to purchase your tickets for The Denim Ball, an enchanting evening that supports restoration efforts at Moses H. Cone Memorial Park.

Come enjoy dinner, drinks, dancing, and a live and silent auction at 6 p.m., Friday, August 4, at Chetola Resort at Blowing Rock. We've added a fun twist, too. Prizes will be awarded for most creative denim attire.

Last year's event sold out in advance, so get your tickets today! Visit [brpfoundation.org/thedenimball](http://brpfoundation.org/thedenimball) or call (866) 308-2773, ext. 245.



## Protect the Parkway. Get the Plate!

Take a piece of the Blue Ridge Parkway with you everywhere you go with a N.C. specialty license plate. For each new or renewed plate, \$20 goes to the Foundation to protect and enhance the scenic route.

[GetThePlate.org](http://GetThePlate.org)

# Who turned out the lights?



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For the first time since 1979, a total solar eclipse will be visible from the United States, including 20 national parks, on August 21! Around 2:30 p.m., the celestial event will sweep across the southern end of the Parkway, which lies in the path of totality, meaning visitors can witness the moon completely blocking the sun. Select a viewing spot where a wide expanse of sky is visible and get there early. Solar viewing glasses are a must, as are food, water, a first-aid kit, and sunscreen. Due to traffic, you may have to stay in one location for a while, so kick back and enjoy because the next eclipse isn't due until 2024. For more, visit [eclipse2017.nasa.gov](http://eclipse2017.nasa.gov).

For subscription requests, address changes, or cancellations, e-mail [info@brpfoundation.org](mailto:info@brpfoundation.org) or call (866) 308-2773, ext. 245.



## Volunteer Profile: Jim McDowell

After retiring to Blowing Rock in 2014, Jim McDowell began spending more and more time at Moses H. Cone Memorial Park. While enjoying the 25 miles of carriage trails, he noticed opportunities to rejuvenate the grounds.

**Look Inside**  
for details on how you can become a volunteer!

Another local resident, Hanes Boren, was also interested in volunteering to shape up the estate and the two began clearing trails, fixing fences, and more last fall.

“I am fortunate to have the time and good health to work outdoors, and help the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and the National Park Service with their goal of improving the Cone Manor House and trails,” says McDowell, who owns Mountainaire Inn and Log Cabins with his wife, Deb.

The couple also have a favorite spot to explore on the estate. “We like to walk from the Manor House to Bass Lake,” he says. “It’s downhill and cool in the heat of the summer.”



Jim McDowell and his dog, Guinness, at the Figure Eight Trailhead at Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, milepost 294.