



Painting "Moses H. Cone Memorial Park" by John Mac Kah

The benefit art show *Of Valley & Ridge: A Scenic Journey Through the Blue Ridge Parkway* will feature works created outdoors by more than 20 fine artists of Western North Carolina on October 26-28 in Asheville.



Painter John Mac Kah at work on the Parkway

Nature's Palette

Open air painters find inspiration on the Parkway for benefit art show

As we travel the Blue Ridge Parkway, most of us capture the awe-inspiring scenes with a camera. But if you've been exploring the park recently, you just might have encountered one of the many artists working en plein air, a French expression meaning "in the open air," to capture the wonders of the mountains on canvas.

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Sitting in front of small easels with brushes and paint-smearred palettes in hand, these artists leave the walls of the studio behind to experience painting amid the landscape and fresh air.

The Saints of Paint and Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation are inviting guests on a visual adventure with the benefit art show, *Of Valley & Ridge: A Scenic Journey Through the Blue Ridge Parkway*, showcasing the works of Western North Carolina fine artists from October 26 to 28 at Zealandia castle in Asheville, North Carolina.

The show opens with a ticketed gala from 5 to 8 p.m., Friday, October 26, at the historical Tudor mansion, Zealandia, atop Beaucatcher Mountain. Guests will enjoy wine, beer, food, and music, and can purchase Parkway-inspired pieces by more than 20 artists. The public is invited to explore the showcase for free from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, October 27, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday, October 28.

There will be five types of artwork at the show: oils, pastels, acrylics, watercolors, and etchings. Painter Susan Kokora hopes to preserve some of the natural beauty for generations to come through her plein air paintings. "As civilization encroaches ever more on our natural world, I want my grandchildren to see some of the inspirational places that I enjoy," she says. "When I paint outdoors, I often feel as though I reach a spiritual place that is both calming and uplifting. I want to share that experience with others."

Proceeds from the gala and art sales from the entire weekend will support the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation's work to protect, preserve, and enhance the 469-mile route.



Tess Darling paints in the Shining Rock area in preparation for the art show.

Of Valley & Ridge

Where: Zealandia, 1 Vance Gap Road, Asheville, N.C.

When: October 26-28

Tickets: \$100, Friday gala; free, Saturday & Sunday

Info: brpfoundation.org/valleyandridge or (866) 308-2773, ext. 364

LEAVE YOUR MARK ON THE MOUNTAINS

Where there's a will, there's a way.

Do you want to create an enduring legacy that protects the Blue Ridge Parkway for generations to come? You can do it today by including the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation in your estate plans.

Learn more at brpfoundation.org/giving.



Autumn Outings

While you're enjoying the golds, reds, and oranges of autumn on the Blue Ridge Parkway, stop at these spots to immerse yourself in the season.

The Old Days: For early homesteaders, the fall harvest was a busy time of year. You can experience a bit of this history at **Humpback Rocks Farm** (milepost 5 near Shenandoah National Park) where rangers and volunteers offer demonstrations and talks that illustrate what life would have been like for early mountaineers.

Sleep Under the Stars: The campgrounds in the park close for the season on October 28, but you can still enjoy a crisp evening under the stars at **Explore Park** (milepost 115 at Roanoke). The park recently added primitive sites, yurts, tepees, canvas tents, and pod cabins for overnight stays. To make reservations, visit roanokecountyparks.com



Fall photography tip: The views from the mountain peaks are breathtaking, but be sure to stop at lakes too. Reflections of trees on the water create gorgeous scenes for pictures.

Apple Picking Time: Don't miss a visit to **The Orchard at Altapass** (milepost 328 near Spuce Pine, N.C.), where you can roam the hillside to pick your own heirloom varieties of fruit or purchase them at the store. Visit altapassorchard.org for details.

Events

Blue Ridge Music Center Concerts

As the weather cools, the performances move indoors at the Blue Ridge Music Center, at milepost 213 near Galax, Virginia. The final concerts of the season are:

Riley Baugus

5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6; \$20, \$10 children ages 3-12
Hailed as one of the bearers of traditional Southern mountain music, Riley Baugus joined Willie Nelson for his *Country Music* album and tour, and played on Robert Plant and Alison Krauss's Grammy-winning album, *Raising Sand*.

The Barefoot Movement

5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 20; \$20, \$10 children 3-12
This young bluegrass quartet on the rise is known for its heartfelt, energetic, and down-home performances.

Tickets are available at blueridgemusiccenter.org.



The Barefoot Movement

The Roots of American Music Museum and free, daily Midday Mountain Music sessions continue at the Music Center through October 28. The Foundation proudly supports programming at this National Park Service facility to preserve the cultural and musical heritage of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Find Your Pint

Raise a toast to the Blue Ridge Parkway by purchasing a pint at these craft breweries during our annual Find Your Pint beer series: **Noble Cider**, Asheville, N.C.; **Twin Leaf Brewery**, Asheville; **Twin Creeks Brewing Company**, Vinton, V.A., **Wicked Weed Brewing**, Asheville; and **Boojum Brewing**, Waynesville, N.C. For event dates, visit brpfoundation.org/events

100th N.C. TRACK Trail Opening

Join us for the ribbon cutting for our Kids in Parks program's 100th TRACK Trail in North Carolina at 11 a.m., Thursday, November 1, at Indian Lake Park in Tarboro. For announcements about additional events, visit the events page at brpfoundation.org



Nature Note



As you hunt for the most vibrant fall color on the Blue Ridge Parkway, keep in mind these tips.

- Typically, throughout October you can expect to find good fall color along the Parkway. Leaves will begin changing first on the highest peaks and conclude in the lower elevations.
- Fall colors are often more vivid in cloudy weather than on sunny days.
- Leaves on smaller saplings and shaded trees stay green until the leaves of the taller, more exposed trees have changed color and fallen.



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Where has your plate been?

Erik and Brittany Hansen sent in this fun photo of their Blue Ridge Parkway plate taken during a summer adventure at Silver Lake State Park on the coast of Lake Michigan.

Show us where your plate has been! E-mail a photo of your license tag to Rita Larkin at rlarkin@brpfoundation.org.

To get your N.C. Parkway plate, visit GetThePlate.org.

Looking Sharp at Sharp Top



Sharp Top Shelter is looking its best thanks to your support! This summer, a crew with the National Park Service repaired and reset the windows, sills, and door frames, replaced the roof, and painted the clapboard siding on the structure at Peaks of Otter in Virginia. The most noticeable improvement is the removal of prolific graffiti that marred the charm of the circa-1850s building. You can still make a gift to show your appreciation for the rehab of this hikers' haven. Visit brpfoundation.org/sharptopshelter.