



A National Park Service team restored many views on the southern end of the Parkway this spring. (See page 4.)

## Transformations on the Parkway

Cleared overlooks, repaired cabins,  
cleaned campgrounds, and more inside

“Tis distance lends  
enchantment to the view,  
and robes the mountains  
in its azure hue.”

— Poet Thomas Campbell

## Community of Stewards

# Thank you to...

## Project Parkway volunteers

We appreciate all the volunteers who came out to make the Project Parkway cleanup day a success this spring. All eight campgrounds on the Blue Ridge Parkway were spruced up in three hours by 200 volunteers. Volunteers of all ages worked to clean and replace fire pits, clear leaves and limbs, build stairs, and more in preparation for summer visitors. It's amazing what we can accomplish by working together.



Volunteers cleared fallen limbs at Crabtree Falls Campground near Sparta, North Carolina. Left: National Park Service employees and volunteers get ready to work.

## Denim Ball sponsors

Throwing a party as fun and meaningful as the Denim Ball takes dedication from the community and sponsors. This year's annual event on August 3 is made possible by Blowing Rock Tourism Development Authority, Cone Health, Excalibur, Footsloggers, Modern Automotive, Mountaineer Inn & Log Cabins, The Blowing Rock attraction, Boone Rent-All, Blowing Rock Historical Society, The Rosemyr Corporation, and Mast General Store. We'd also like to express our great appreciation for Chetola Resort at Blowing Rock, which has hosted the event for three years in a row.



*Pssst! There may be a few tickets left for The Denim Ball. Visit [brpfoundation.org/denimball](http://brpfoundation.org/denimball)*

## High Pass Boogie riders

This spring's High Pass Boogie motorcycle event was a hit! Riders enjoyed a weekend of fun and raised \$13,000 for the Parkway. Frontline Eurosports of Salem, Virginia, and Eurosport Asheville presented the event. Past Boogies have raised critical funds for improvement projects at Graveyard Fields, Mount Pisgah, Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, and Craggy Gardens. Thank you to all who participated.

## Blue Ridge Boxster Summit drivers

This spring, Porsche Boxster owners gathered at Little Switzerland Inn for a weekend of Blue Ridge drives and camaraderie. Each year, a portion of registration fees for the gathering are donated to the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation in honor of Chuck "Porsche Pete" Hammersmith. To date, the drivers have raised more than \$11,000 for the Parkway.

# Happy Camper Memories

*Campground host Jean Watts reflects on her lifelong connection to the Parkway*

By Sam Baker

Jean Watts has spent a lot of time on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Born and raised in Caldwell County, North Carolina, it was always close to her, in proximity and in spirit. Throughout her childhood, her family made trips to the Parkway from the small town of Hudson.

“I have had so many memorable experiences on the Parkway,” Watts says. “As a child, I played in the woods at our campsites, rode my bike through whatever loop we were in, walked the trails, waded in the creek at the Julian Price picnic area, just too many to list.”

Watts has been making trips to the Parkway even before she could form memories; her first was shortly before her third birthday. “According to my parents, my first trip to Julian Price Park was back when only loop A was open all year round,” she says. The family had planned a day trip to visit an aunt and uncle who were camping there, but decided to stay overnight at the last minute.

“Momma hadn’t packed any cool weather clothes for any of us. So when I got cold, I wound up with my aunt’s sweatshirt jacket and momma’s scarf tied around my head to keep the wind off...there are still pictures of me beside the fire pit, in a lounge chair, trying to get warm.”

Julian Price Memorial Park and neighboring Moses H. Cone Memorial Park comprise the largest recreational area on the Parkway. But the park’s significance to Watts goes beyond the camping and picnicking. For her, it is an ideal communal space, a place where families can forge long-lasting bonds with each other, with friends, visitors, workers, and with nature. Some of her best experiences on the Parkway were taking her children to Price Park with her parents, aunts, and uncles for intergenerational



*Stayed overnight  
came back home  
on Christmas day*

Jean with her cousin, Cheryl, as young girls at Julian Price Memorial Park. Left: Jean (front) with her aunt, Maggie Hagaman, and mom, Helen Gragg

campouts. She still remembers the names of workers the family would talk to from season to season, who in turn knew the family members by name. Price Park was also the

site of some of her initial dates with her husband of 34 years, Rick.

This season, the couple is serving as campground hosts at Price Park Campground, milepost 297, a role in which they are living in the park over the summer. Jean is enjoying passing along her knowledge of camping to “newbies” coming to the park, and giving campers of all backgrounds the guidance and assistance they need to enjoy the Parkway to the fullest. Most of all, though, she is looking forward to “seeing old friends and making new ones!”

*Jean and Rick Watts are Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation volunteers.*

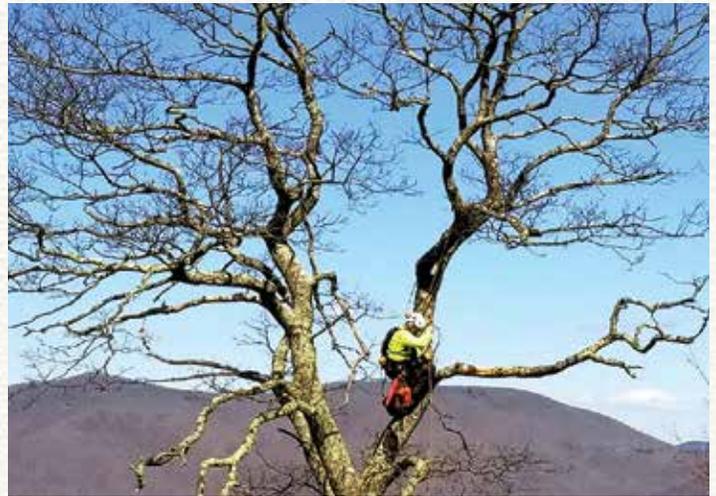
## Renew the Views

# Overlooks get a clear perspective

*Community of Stewards enables arborist team to open southern vistas on the Parkway*

Thanks to you, many of the overlooks on the southern end of the Blue Ridge Parkway have been cleared of overgrown vegetation and offer travelers the spectacular long-range views the parks designers originally intended. In April, the National Park Service's Arborist Incident Response team removed obstructions at overlooks from milepost 420 to 435, and the results are spectacular!

Additional vista clearing will take place this fall with special care taken not to disturb wildlife habitats. Learn more about the Renew the Views program and a special gift for donors by visiting [brpfoundation.org/renewtheviews](http://brpfoundation.org/renewtheviews).



Photograph by Cindi Probst

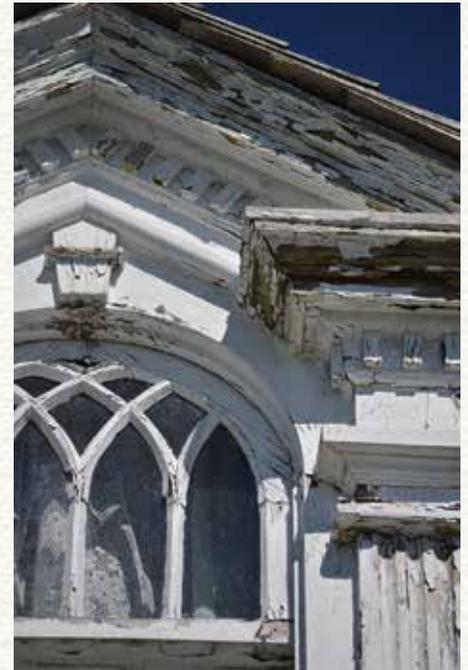
Crews spent eight days trimming and felling trees and cutting back vegetation. The team members were David Anderson, Donnie Patton, Charlie Townsend, Chris Ulrey, and Jamie Zielaskowski with the Blue Ridge Parkway; Peter Hepp from Morristown National Historic Park; and Patrick Kane from Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Below: Cleared views at milepost 434.2



**Fun Fact!** There are 889 managed vistas along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

## *Transformations on the Horizon*

# A Fresh Face for Flat Top



When beauty is only as deep as a coat of paint, you have to do more to ensure a historical manor retains its grandeur. One of the next steps in the makeover of Flat Top Manor at Moses H. Cone Memorial Park is the replacement and repair of weather-beaten exterior features including columns, boards, window and door trim, and moldings. Old homes need lots of care and together we can give this beauty the care it needs to last another 100 years and beyond. To join the effort, visit [brpfoundation.org/remakehistory](http://brpfoundation.org/remakehistory)



## Starting from the Top at Bluffs

Although we're still raising funds for the complete overhaul of Bluffs Restaurant at Doughton Park, we're taking a first step on the work ahead by replacing the roof soon. To help us reopen the former destination at milepost 241 near Sparta, North Carolina, visit [brpfoundation.org/doughtonpark](http://brpfoundation.org/doughtonpark)

## Transformation in Progress

# Farm Aid

*Repairs to historical structures at Humpback Rocks are underway*

A restoration crew with the National Park Service is making great progress repairing the log structures at Humpback Rocks Farm at milepost 6 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. In addition to replacing rotted logs, the crews have dry stacked stone walls. The staff and volunteers received formal training from the Historic Preservation Training Center, and online guidance from the show *Barnwood Builders* and its host Mark Bowe. The team members watched hours of Bowe's tutorials and binge-watched the show to glean extra tips. This is a much needed transformation and a great example of your donations at work!



Historic Preservation Training Center specialist Issac Foreman demonstrates the proper way to stack and lock dry stones.



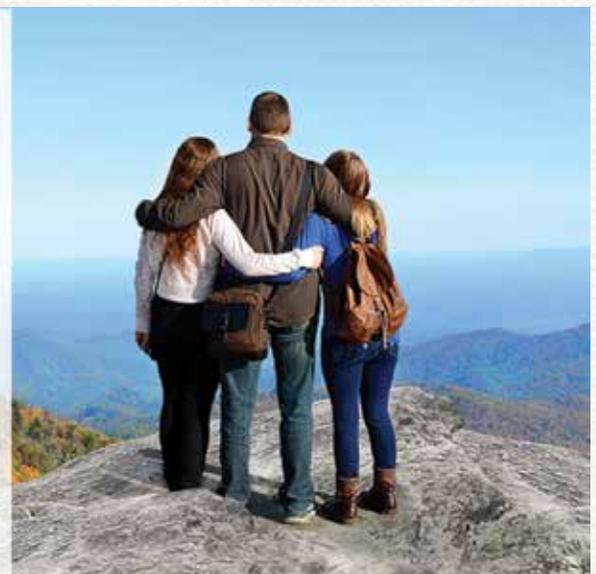
Hand-peeled and notched logs were used to shore up the barn after poor drainage caused the timbers to rot.

## 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](http://brpfoundation.org/giving).



# Events

## Rhiannon Giddens Concert & Preshow Reception

5 p.m. reception & 7 p.m. concert, Saturday, July 28;  
Blue Ridge Music Center, milepost 213, Virginia



Photograph by David McClister

From her Grammy Award-winning work with the Carolina Chocolate Drops to her illustrious solo career, Rhiannon Giddens is a powerful singer, songwriter, and musician. To introduce this fantastic show, the Blue Ridge Music Center is hosting a ticketed reception with hors

d'oeuvres, beer, and wine starting at 5 p.m., July 28. Reception tickets must be purchased in advance and are \$40 each. Concert tickets are \$35 in advance. To purchase, visit [blueridgemusiccenter.org](http://blueridgemusiccenter.org) or call (866) 308-2773, ext. 212.

## Friends Day at Mast General Stores

Saturday, September 8; Asheville, Boone, Hendersonville, Valle Crucis Main Store & Annex, North Carolina

Thanks to Mast General Store, adventurers can feel twice as good about their shopping experience as the store celebrates its annual Friends

Day. On Saturday, September 8, five Mast General Stores will donate 10 percent of sales to the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, mark your calendar to stop in for camping gear, outdoor wear, holiday gifts, and more.



## Of Valley & Ridge

October 26-28; Asheville

Join us for a scenic journey along the Parkway as seen through the works of 21 Western North Carolina fine artists. The three-day show will be presented by the Saints of Paint and Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation at Zealandia estate. Proceeds from a gala on Friday night and art sales during the weekend will support the Parkway. Gala tickets are \$100 and available at [brpfoundation.org/valleyandridge](http://brpfoundation.org/valleyandridge). Show admission on Saturday and Sunday is free.



You can support the Blue Ridge Parkway by purchasing a pint at these craft breweries during our annual Find Your Pint beer series. They're creating small batch brews and hosting fun events to ensure the Parkway thrives.

### Highland Brewing Company, Asheville, N.C.

Asheville's oldest legal brewery will donate \$1 from every pint of a special Cowee Kolsch sold from July 20 until the batch is gone.

### Hi-Wire Brewing, downtown Asheville

On July 26, Hi-Wire will donate 15 percent of sales to support the Parkway. Come by for prizes from 5 to 7 p.m.

### One World Brewing, downtown Asheville

During August, One World will designate a portion of sales to the Parkway. Stop by between 5 to 7 p.m., August 10, to learn more about the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation.

### Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, Fletcher, N.C.

Enjoy great food and live music by Time Sawyer from 5 to 8 p.m., August 29, in the Bier Garden. Dinner is \$15 with a portion of proceeds benefitting the Parkway. You can order a pint of Blue Ridge Red while the small batch lasts to further your support.

### Noble Cider, Asheville

Sip Noble's special Parkway cider from October 4-7 to secure \$1 per pint for the Parkway. Kick-off the giving from 6 to 8 p.m., October 4, with Foundation staff.

### Wicked Weed, Asheville

From October 25 to November 30, you can support the Parkway at this downtown hot spot. For every pint of a special batch, \$1 will go to Parkway projects. The kick-off event is from 5 to 7 p.m., November 1.

## Nature Note



Photograph by Jon Boeger/NPS

A Great Tiger Moth on the Blue Ridge Parkway

There are an estimated 1,500 species of moths flitting about along the Blue Ridge Parkway, according to park scientists. The key word there is “estimated.” These biologists have definitively identified about 500 so far. In celebration of National Moth Week, July 21-29, the Blue Ridge Parkway will offer educational activities at select visitor centers and campgrounds. Visit [brpfoundation.org](http://brpfoundation.org) for details.



717 S. Marshall St., Suite 105B  
Winston Salem, NC 27101-5865

NONPROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
ASHEVILLE, NC  
PERMIT #334

For subscription requests, address changes, or cancellations, e-mail [info@brpfoundation.org](mailto:info@brpfoundation.org) or call (866) 308-2773, ext. 364.



## Where has your Parkway license plate been?

**B**lue Ridge Parkway specialty plate owners show their park pride everywhere they go. That’s why it’s fun to spot the gold tag near and far. This spring, our staff spotted the plate in **Joshua Tree National Park!**

Here’s what owner Sandy Leafe wrote about her plate’s travels: We purchased one for our car the first year they became available and a second plate a few years later for our truck when we bought an RV. We love to travel, especially to our national parks and monuments. That license plate has been to every one of the lower 48 states except Idaho. We haven’t made it there yet, but it’s still on our bucket list. In addition to the lower 48, the plate has been to New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Ontario on the east coast and British Columbia, Alberta, The Yukon, and Alaska on the west coast.

*Where has your Blue Ridge Parkway license plate been? E-mail a photo of your plate on the road to Rita Larkin at [rlarkin@brpfoundation.org](mailto:rlarkin@brpfoundation.org) to have it featured in an upcoming newsletter.*



**Visit [GetThePlate.org](http://GetThePlate.org) to get yours!**