



the scenic

Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation – Summer 2020



Your table is waiting! Host a picnic in support of the Blue Ridge Parkway during National Picnic Month. *Details inside*

The Power of a Picnic

Celebrate summer with our Picnic for the Parkway fundraiser & check in on projects at Moses H. Cone Memorial Park and The Bluffs

“ Few things are so pleasant as a picnic eaten in perfect comfort. ”

— W. Somerset Maugham



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Creating a better tomorrow

As summer rolls across the Blue Ridge Mountains of my home, I am reminded of the certainty of change. Each day, new flowers emerge along the hiking trails that crisscross the Parkway. It is comforting to know that the Parkway continues to be here for all of us. And today, more than ever, we can all use a little comfort and certainty.

We are all affected by current events. We not only need to remain hopeful about the future, but work to find ways we can help create the kind of world in which we want to live.

As a Community of Stewards, you continue to demonstrate your ability to bring about change. Collectively, you are ensuring the future for the Parkway. From the restoration work ahead at the Moses H. Cone Memorial Park to the reopening of The Bluffs Restaurant, historical structures are being saved, experiences are being preserved, and memories are being honored. Because of you, the Trails & Views Forever program will save picnic areas, campgrounds, trails, and vistas for future generations.

Thank you for supporting the Blue Ridge Parkway and for all you do to make our world a better place today, tomorrow, and forever.



Sincerely,

CEO, Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation

More to the Story

In our spring issue of *The Scenic*, the article "Explore the Parkway's History from Home," highlighted a recent donor-funded project to make historical Parkway photos available at NPGallery.com. The article omitted an important piece of information. An earlier project laid the groundwork for this Parkway collection. Approximately 7,000 of the photographs uploaded to the gallery were originally scanned and digitized for the Driving Through Time website, a digital humanities project of UNC-Chapel Hill led by Dr. Anne Mitchell Whisnant, the author of *Super-Scenic Motorway: A Blue Ridge Parkway History*. The website includes the photographs and additional source materials about the Parkway, such as articles and oral histories. Learn more at www.docsouth.unc.edu/blueridgeparkway/.



Let's Picnic for the Parkway!

Invite your friends and family to celebrate and protect America's Favorite Journey

The iconic Parkway picnic. Family and friends. Homemade treats and fresh blueberries. The cool air of the high mountains. Games, hikes, and naps. Old stories and new memories.

This July, during National Picnic Month, you can help the Blue Ridge Parkway by putting a new twist on this great tradition. Through July 31, we invite you to host a picnic with a purpose—in-person or virtually.

It's easy. Just sign up at BRPFoundation.org/picnic to host a Picnic for the Parkway. Ask your family and friends to participate in your picnic, and join you in making a donation to support the Parkway. Whether you plan a safe, face-to-face gathering at a Parkway picnic area, in your backyard, or get together via FaceTime or Zoom, you can celebrate your commitment to the Parkway.

To help spread the word, be sure to post your fun



Picnic for the Parkway

pictures, recipes, and favorite picnic spots on social media using the hashtag #PicnicfortheParkway. You can even upload images and tales from past picnics. We can't wait to see and share your photographs and stories.

Picnic hosts and donors can win prizes for raising or giving certain amounts, including bumper stickers, a limited edition picnic blanket, and more. We hope you'll take this opportunity to connect with family and friends for the common cause of protecting Parkway experiences.

Visit BRPFoundation.org/picnic to sign up today!

We're making progress!

We've modified our projects and programs on the Parkway due to the pandemic, but we're happy to report that we're still moving forward. Thank you for your patience during this process. Here's the status of a few of your favorite projects.

The Bluffs Restaurant

The interior of the Doughton Park Restaurant is looking better and better in preparation for its reopening this summer. The contractors have rebuilt the iconic counter; they are upgrading the bathrooms for accessibility; and they are restoring the old light fixtures to like-new condition. Look for the opening date announcement soon.

Blue Ridge Music Center

You can now enjoy past concerts online! We know those who love the Music Center are missing our summer concert series, so we've made a collection of recordings from previous seasons available for a small donation. The past performances include those by Dori Freeman, Front Country, The Harris Brothers, and Barefoot Movement, and are a great way to support the artists you love during this time. Visit BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org for details.



Work on the exterior of Cone Manor is slated to begin later this summer.

Flat Top Manor

The historic manor is awaiting its opening for the season, but there will be a buzz of activity later this summer as the exterior rehab projects begin. The list includes replacing the cedar shingles, fixing the porch ceiling, and repairing windows. The annual Denim Ball fundraiser slated for August is postponed until 2021. If you have further questions about ticket purchases, please contact Development Officer Jordan Calaway at (866) 308-2773, ext. 245, or jcalaway@brpfoundation.org.

Kids in Parks opens new TRACK Trail in South Carolina

Children and families can add a new adventure to their summer plans: a hike along a historical train route on the Peak to Prosperity TRACK Trail in Little Mountain, South Carolina.

Built on a former railroad foundation, the trail takes hikers across two trestles and offers great vantage points to watch wildlife along the Broad river. Visitors can also explore the amazing history of this short stretch of railroad with the new "Peak to Prosperity Passage" activity brochure.

The trail is an easy 1-mile, out-and-back hike, and there is even a picnic area by the water. When you go, remember to continue practicing social distancing and Leave No Trace principles.

The new adventure was made possible thanks to



Families can now find a TRACK Trail along a former railroad.

support from Palmetto Conservation Foundation and The BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation.

Find more adventures at KidsinParks.com.

A path to better trails & clear views

Trails & Views Forever program on a path to protect outdoor experiences on the Parkway

Recently, it's been heartening to see so many people rediscovering the Parkway or even experiencing it for the first time. Perhaps you've noticed it, too. As we were all faced with staying indoors most of the time, so many of us turned to the Parkway for outdoor escapes to ease our minds and stay active.

All along the route, you could find couples excitedly climbing new trails together. Generations of families visiting at overlooks, while keeping a safe distance in their camp chairs. Parents unpacking picnics while siblings played nearby. All these wonderful scenes underscored just how important the trails, overlooks, picnic areas, and campgrounds are to enjoying the Parkway.

Your support for our Trails & Views Forever program will ensure these adventures continue. As fundraising for the program continues, we are working with the National Park Service to develop a comprehensive plan to address the long list of repairs needed at these recreational assets.

The initiative will strategically:

- Upgrade many of the 369 miles of trails along the Blue Ridge Parkway
- Clear overlooks blocked by foliage to restore the iconic views
- Rehabilitate picnic areas and campgrounds, as well as the accompanying restrooms
- Enhance educational resources, including informational panels and signs at overlooks and along trails
- Engage volunteers and youth conservation crews to complete work in the field



By engaging groups such as the American Conservation Experience for trail work, Trails & Views Forever will provide opportunities for young people to learn about protecting public lands.

Because the many outdoor recreational areas along the Parkway are in disrepair, the Trails & Views Forever initiative's overall goal is \$3 million to be spent over 5 to 10 years for restoration and enhancements.

Already, your support is moving us down the path toward making the Parkway a better place for us all to connect with nature, and even during these strange times, with each other.

Become a Founding Funder

Donors who give \$1,000 or more will receive this limited edition patch, and their names will be listed on acknowledgement signs at key locations along the Parkway, including Graveyard Fields, Craggy Gardens, Price Lake, Rough Ridge, Peaks of Otter, and Humpback Rocks. For more details, visit TrailsandViews.org.





Ellen, Bob, and Bill Alsup at Bluffs Lodge in 1953.

Generations on the Parkway

Bob Alsup writes about his family's lifelong connection to the scenic route

The Blue Ridge Parkway is and has been a part of the lives of the Alsup family since the early 1950s. My mother and father settled in the Winston-Salem area shortly after World War II, raised three children (Bill, Ellen, and myself), and like most depression-era parents, taught the kids the value of simplicity, the enjoyment of the great outdoors, and to be happy being together.

On a regular basis, my dad would pack all of us in the car and head to the Blue Ridge Parkway. We would spend the day hiking, picnicking, napping, and just being together. I clearly recall both sets of grandparents accompanying us on these outings. Photographs starting from around 1951 are beautiful reminders of what we did together. We kids grew up and moved to other places, but our parents' regular visits to the Parkway continued well into their late 90s.

My dad, William B. Alsup Jr., was able to purchase about three acres of land in Carroll County, Virginia, in 1978. This land bordered the Parkway and was part of a dream to one day have a home on the land or even live there permanently. Circumstances never allowed

the addition of a home, but the land was a focal point for our family and a place for two succeeding generations to gather. It became the best excuse ever to visit the Parkway, head out in the woods, visit nearby towns and villages, and to congregate.

The peace, tranquility, and beauty offered by the Parkway became a part of all of our beings. The happiest days that I recall were those watching my parents smile, enjoy the beauty, and obtain stress relief from those years.

The three acres of land were passed on to us kids. It did not take very long to know that the only reasonable option for that land would be to put it in the hands of the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation. This was completed in 2019 and remains the cornerstone of our now extended families' gratitude in knowing that a tiny piece of the puzzle will help preserve the beauty and enjoyment of this treasure. And just as rewarding is to know that our parents, Will and Martha Alsup, would have supported us in doing the right thing.

Additional ways to make your mark on the Parkway

The most common way to provide a legacy gift to the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation is to name our organization as a primary or contingent beneficiary in your will or through your 401(k), IRA, or life insurance policy. In the process, you will create an enduring legacy that protects this special place for generations to come.

Sample bequest language:

“I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation (Tax ID: 31-1512730), [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose.”

Beneficiary information for IRAs, 401(k)s, and insurance policies:
Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation
717 S. Marshall St., Suite 105B
Winston Salem, NC 27101
Tax ID: 31-1512730

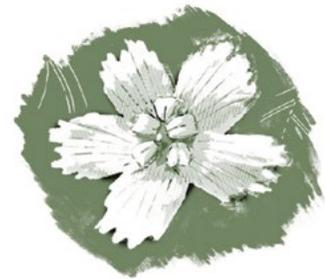
To learn more or to discuss gifts of real estate or other assets, please contact Development Officers Jordan Calaway, jcalaway@brpfoundation.org, (866) 308-2773, ext. 245, or George Ivey, givey@brpfoundation.org, (866) 308-2773, ext. 408. Every inquiry is handled confidentially and places you under no obligation.

The André Michaux Society

With a planned gift, you qualify for membership in The André Michaux Society, which honors the French botanist and explorer who enlightened others about the natural wonders of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Members receive a personalized certificate recognizing their dedication to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Please notify us of your intentions, and we will be very glad to welcome you to this honored group.

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Ed Blair
Connie Boylan
Chip Callaway
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Martha & Albert Yount

**deceased*

Save the date!

Mark your calendar and start practicing your cast! Our first fly-fishing fundraising tournament is slated for Thursday, September 24. The event will be held on private trophy water near Boone, North Carolina, and hosted by Chetola Resort and its Orvis-endorsed fly fishing guides. The registration fee is \$500 and participation is limited. For registration information, e-mail us at flyfishing@brpfoundation.org. More details about the event will be posted in the coming weeks at BRPFoundation.org.



2020 BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY MASTERS
FLY FISHING TOURNAMENT



717 S. Marshall St., Suite 105B
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Share your story!

We want to hear why you love the Parkway.
E-mail Rita Larkin at rlarkin@brpfoundation.org
or mail a letter to Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation,
322 Gashes Creek Road, Asheville, NC 28803.

