



Bees need blossoms and we need bees. This year, citizen scientists will help biologists survey bee populations and collect native seeds to replant wildflower display areas along the Parkway. (Find more project details on page 4.)

What's the buzz?

Check out our list of new projects to enhance the Parkway, including fresh trails, exhibits, and more!

“If the bees disappear,
we'll all be stung.”

– David Suzuki

2018 Giving Opportunities

Each year, the Foundation works closely with the National Park Service to identify initiatives on the Blue Ridge Parkway that need your support. You can give to the projects that mean the most to you or the overall protection of the park. No matter how you choose to give, you're investing in the future of one of the most treasured landscapes in our country.

Education & Outreach



TRACK Trails on the Parkway

Mileposts 63, 169 & 176 | **Goal: \$16,000**

Our Kids in Parks program got its start in 2009 with the opening of the first TRACK Trail at the Asheville Visitor Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Today, there are five trails along the route that engage children and their families with the outdoors through activity brochures. You can expand these adventures for future land stewards by supporting the creation of new trails at three fascinating Parkway sites in Virginia: Rocky Knob, Mabry Mill, and the James River.

Interactive Exhibits at Waterrock Knob Visitor Center

Milepost 451 | **Goal: \$38,005**

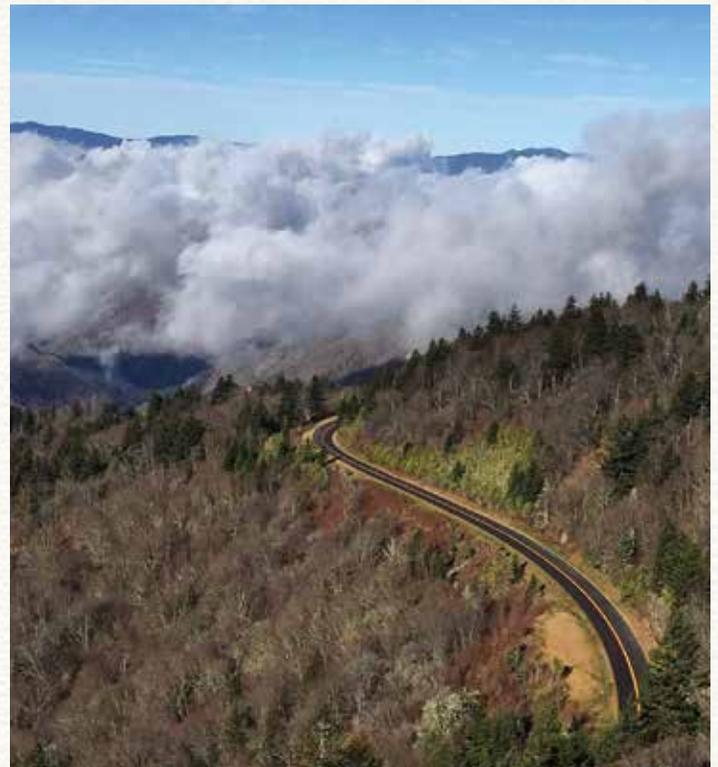
The Waterrock Knob Visitor Center near Cherokee, N.C., occupies a unique position on the Parkway, having the potential to be either the first or last stop for travelers. With the help of your donation, the National Park Service will install new exhibits to replace the current time-worn displays that feature outdated information. The



new exhibits will inform visitors about:

- The surrounding mountains of the Southern Highlands, and the role of conservation in maintaining their pristine beauty.
- Cherokee history and culture.
- The unique biodiversity resulting from such high elevations, with a focus on black bear and elk.
- The impact of invasive pests, primarily the balsam woolly adelgid.

Your gift will create a richer experience for travelers.



The Waterrock Knob region is one of the most biodiverse landscapes in the Eastern United States.

Visitor Amenities

Bluffs at Doughton Park

Milepost 241 | **Remaining goal: \$250,000**

Our goal is within reach! That's right, we only need \$250,000 to hit our fundraising target for reopening the former Bluffs Coffee Shop building at Doughton Park, near Sparta, N.C.

Project Update

We've come so far thanks to your dedication and generosity for the project. Support from the North Carolina General Assembly and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has also been critical.

In 2017, the state appropriated \$350,000 toward building repairs. ARC recently provided a \$300,000 grant to purchase updated restaurant equipment and furniture.

In the past, the significant cost of new equipment and repairs deterred potential concession applications. But today there is even more good news: several prospective operators recently toured the facility to learn about the logistics of setting up shop.

We are so close to bringing this beloved place back to life. Let's reopen the doors to new memories at Bluffs.



Shown in its early days and today, Bluffs Coffee Shop was built in 1949 and operated for more than 60 years.

Sharp Top Shelter

Milepost 86 |

Remaining goal: \$56,700

Work is set to begin this spring to rejuvenate the little stone shelter that greets visitors at the summit of Sharp Top Mountain at the Peaks of Otter. National Park Service staff will scrub away extensive graffiti, repair and reset windows, doors, sills and thresholds, replace the roof, and stain the clapboard siding to prepare the building for future interpretive programs and secure it against the elements. Donations for this project will be matched through the Centennial Challenge program!



The shelter at Sharp Top Mountain was built in 1858 by the Otter Peaks Hotel.

Blue Ridge Parkway Outdoor Activity Guide

Parkway-wide | **Goal: \$11,500**

Updated annually, the printed *Outdoor Activity Guide* features trail maps, safety information, bear encounter guidance, and articles on Parkway programs, the Blue Ridge Music Center, and current issues facing the park. The National Park Service offers this 24-page newspaper for free at every visitor center, as well as community outreach events. It is an essential guide to a well-planned Parkway excursion. With your support, 100,000 copies will be printed and made available before the busiest visitation periods of the season.



Bee Kind to the Parkway

Parkway-wide | **Remaining goal: \$8,180**

They may be small, but bees do big things on the Parkway. They play a vital role in the ecosystem, allowing plants to reproduce through pollination. These plants not only make a drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway beautiful, but provide an important food source for wildlife. You can make sure the park is a place where bees and their pollinator friends can thrive. A gift for this project will give citizen scientists the tools they need to collect native wildflower seeds and survey populations of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. The seeds will be used to re-establish wildflower display areas originally designed into the Parkway landscape, and therefore bolster pollinator habitats. The bee surveys will begin this spring, so please give today!

Force Multipliers for Plant and Wildlife Protection

Parkway-wide |

Remaining goal: \$12,264

Law enforcement rangers do far more on the Parkway than just control traffic and keep visitors safe. They protect plants and wildlife

from poachers in search of rare species, including galax, ginseng, and even bog turtles. With more than 80,000 acres of park land spread across 29 counties in two states, it's a logistical challenge to monitor the entire Parkway. Your gift for this project will purchase remote sensors to keep a careful watch on vulnerable species and alert rangers to potential thefts in real-time. Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, we are more than halfway to our goal.

New Project



What big brown eyes they have! Deer are just one of the mammals the wildlife cameras photograph in remote locations on the Parkway.

New Wildlife Cameras

Parkway-wide | **Goal: \$5,460**

You can give citizen scientists the equipment they need to complete an important mission. This summer, volunteers will hike off the beaten paths and use GPS coordinates to place motion-sensitive cameras in remote areas, returning periodically to find out what types of birds, mammals, reptiles, and other creatures have passed by the lens. Their work will allow park biologists to cover more territory in a multiyear study of animal populations and their locations on Parkway land.



Designed by Greensboro architect Orlo Epps in the colonial revival style, Flat Top Manor was completed in 1901.

Moses H. Cone Memorial Park

Milepost 294 | **Remaining goal: \$1 million**

Your gifts are truly remaking history at Moses H. Cone Memorial Park.

Flat Top Manor is regaining its grandeur with much-needed exterior repairs. The carriage trails are clear of overgrown vegetation and ready for hikers and horseback riders to explore freely. Soon additional exhibits will be installed in the manor to tell the story of the Cone family, servants, and farmers who called the estate home, and outdoor panels will feature trail maps.



Spring cleaning at the manor

Two years ago, we set out to raise \$3 million. Today, we are working to secure the last \$1 million to continue the improvements this landmark deserves, including restoration of the landscape the Cones so dearly loved and expanded parking for thousands of visitors each year. With a donation, you can keep us on the path to a brighter future for an estate steeped in history and natural beauty.

Telling Bertha's Story

Moses H. Cone Memorial Park may bear the name of its denim tycoon founder, but following Moses' death a mere 10 years after the estate's completion, his widow, Bertha, took up managing its 3,500 acres and carried on in the role of its protector for nearly 40 years. Bertha's story is just one of many we can tell through enhanced exhibits at Flat Top Manor. To learn more about her impact on the estate and Blowing Rock, visit brpfoundation.org/berthacone.



Historical & Cultural Preservation



National Park Service employees recently began repairing stacked stone on the farm buildings at Humpback Rocks.

Humpback Rocks Farm

Milepost 5 | Goal: \$75,056

Crews with the National Park Service are putting their skills in log structure repair and stone stacking to work on Ramsey Cabin and a collection of hand-hewn structures that make up the late 19th century farmstead at Humpback Rocks. With a gift, you can make sure this fascinating

place continues to pass down the story of pioneer families who depended on the land and each other to carve out lives in the mountains. Donations for this project will be matched through the Centennial Challenge program!

Gift Match

Blue Ridge Music Center Programming

Milepost 213 | Goal: \$55,000

The Blue Ridge Music Center is gearing up for a fantastic season of concerts (see schedule on page 11), and you can take center stage in making the Roots of American Music series a success. Your gift brings people together to experience old-time, bluegrass, folk, Americana, country blues, and gospel performances and learn about how these forms of music took root and grew into an American sound. Let's keep this rich tradition of homegrown music alive in the mountains.



Concertgoers step to the music of the Mountain Park Old Time Band at the Music Center near Galax, Virginia. Flat-foot dance lessons were just one of many programs offered at the venue last year.

How to Give

Please donate today. Your generosity makes a lasting impact on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Online: Make a monthly or one-time gift with a credit card or through PayPal at brpfoundation.org/donate



Mail: Send a check payable to Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation to 717 S. Marshall St., Suite 105B Winston-Salem, NC 27101



Share Your Journey

Growing up on the Parkway

As her father and uncle helped build the scenic route, Doris Luening discovered adventures

Doris Luening was only five years old when she spent a year on the Blue Ridge Parkway, but even today she can direct you straight to the site of the camp that she and her family called home while her father and uncle helped construct the new roadway.

Just north of the entrance to Mount Mitchell State Park, a gate spans the faded road that leads to the spot where a collection of cabins and a bunkhouse once stood. The lodgings were built for the crews who took on the hard work of clearing trees, blasting rock, and moving earth to give shape to what locals called “The Scenic.” Doris’s father, James Erwin Asbury, and uncle, Nesbitte Samuel Asbury, came to the monumental project with Nello Teer Construction Company, which was awarded the first Blue Ridge Parkway construction contract.

James and “Uncle Neb,” as the family called him, were shovel operators, running the complex machines on precarious hillsides to dig out rock and dirt, making way for the paving to come. “In 1935, if you had a job, you were a lucky dog. A lot of people didn’t,” Doris explains. “It was the depths of the Great Depression when this Parkway started. It was a wonderful gift to many people for creating jobs.”

While the Parkway provided



Clockwise from top left: Doris Luening at age 5 with her younger sister outside the family’s three-room cabin near Mount Mitchell on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Below, a worker at the job site operates a bulldozer to prepare for the paving of the motor road. Doris and David Luening, center, and their family visit the site where the construction camp once stood.



steady work for her dad and uncle from 1935 to 1940, it gave Doris a gift of exploration and adventure. There were plenty of young families on the mountain to form a tight-knit community. “You think of being atop Mount Mitchell as a lonely wild place, and you’re being a wild child,” says Doris, “but there were people to play with there and we did.”

She, her parents, and younger sister lived in a three-room cabin

Continued on page 8

Leave a Legacy

Giving back to the Parkway is a meaningful way to celebrate your personal connection to the journey. In 2014, Doris and David Luening created an endowment to honor her father and uncle. To learn more about how you can leave a legacy, contact Ashley Edwards at (866) 308-2773, ext. 170.

Continued from page 7

heated by a pot belly stove. Her uncle and aunt were just a few cabins away. Doris and her sister named the resident wild turkey “Tom,” and called him their pet, laying out bread crumbs on a stump so they could watch him eat. The kids rode bikes and played with blocks on the floors of each other’s cabins. Doris had special instructions to watch out for snakes to keep her sister safe. When family and friends came to visit their remote outpost, they hiked to the tower atop Mount Mitchell. Doris even remembers visiting the worksite and riding in a dump truck with one of the workers as he released earth over a steep drop off. “It was scary and thrilling,” she says.

The excitement and charm of those times have never left her memory, and in 2014, Doris and her husband, David, established the James Erwin Asbury and Nesbitt Samuel Asbury Endowment to give back to the place that has played an important role in her family’s history.

“My dad and uncle worked on the Parkway for five years, and it was a wonderful time period,” Doris says. “They loved the value of being outside on the Parkway and working, and what it did for the surrounding areas and the people. That’s why we created the endowment. We’d like our family to remember them, and remember that they helped create this park, because it’s a gift to all of us.”

Cheers to a wonderful 20 years!



Olson Huff, Broaddus Fitzpatrick (on behalf of his brother, Eric), Thomas Montgomery, Billie Brandon Howell, Helen White, Wayne Henderson, and John Willingham were honored at the 20th Anniversary Celebration hosted at Lioncrest at Biltmore.

Thank you for celebrating our anniversary with us

On November 9, 2017, we were honored to welcome guests to mark 20 years of protecting the Blue Ridge Parkway and recognize some of the park’s extraordinary supporters during a celebration at Lioncrest at Biltmore.

The program included remarks from Foundation CEO Carolyn Ward and Chase Pickering, great-great-grandson of George W. Vanderbilt, who spoke about the importance of the Parkway and the role everyone can play in its future.

Members of our Community of Stewards who go above and beyond to champion the Foundation’s mission received special awards.

Throughout the evening, guests shared their amazing Parkway memories with us, making it clear that together we are committed to improving the journey for generations to come.

We’d like to thank the evening’s presenting sponsor, Biltmore, for hosting a wonderful event.



Lou and Sara Bissette with Becky Anderson

BILTMORE®



Theresa and Gary Landwirth

Meet the Parkway's new Superintendent J.D. Lee

In February, the Blue Ridge Parkway welcomed its new superintendent, J.D. Lee. A 30-year veteran of the National Park Service, he comes to the mountains after eight years as Deputy Superintendent of Big Cypress National Preserve in southern Florida. Lee began his career as a seasonal ranger and wildland firefighter at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We recently sat down with him to talk about his plans as leader of the most visited national park unit.

What first drew you to the National Park Service as a career?

I was always outdoors as a kid. I loved to hike and camp. As I got older, I had teachers who were backcountry rangers at Glacier National Park. In high school, my friends and I borrowed a van and drove down to the Great Smoky Mountains and that trip sealed the deal for me. At Ball State University, I studied outdoor recreation and park management, and went on to become a ranger at Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

What role do you think the National Park Service plays in America today?

For more than 100 years, the National Park Service has been tasked with preserving this country's natural and cultural resources for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. Because of this mission, national parks offer so much opportunity for a wide variety of people in America and people all over the world, whether you like museums or you like to hike. The stories that national parks



Opening Day!

The Parkway visitor centers officially open for the season on Friday, May 25.

Superintendent J.D. Lee is also a Liaison Officer with the Southern Area Type I Red Team, which responds to wildland fires and manages natural disaster relief efforts and additional incident recovery activities.

tell are incredible. America needs that. The world needs that.

What are you most looking forward to doing on the Blue Ridge Parkway?

Seeing every mile of the Parkway. Meeting every employee on the Parkway and having a conversation with them just like we are doing now. I'm also looking forward to getting the message out that we are a great park and ensuring that future generations enjoy it.

What is the biggest challenge facing the Parkway?

Unfortunately, our park has \$500 million in backlog maintenance to address. It's tough to overcome the level of repairs needed. But the flip side of this challenge is opportunity, because we understand we can't fix this alone. We have to get creative in how we find solutions.

What has been, or what is going to be, your first priority as superintendent?

One of the biggest priorities is to involve the public. We did that recently with an open workshop and had over 20 displays and provided more than 200 visitors the chance to interact with all the various disciplines in the park. These are great opportunities for everyone to see that there is much more to protecting park resources, managing our operations and providing high quality visitor experiences here at the Blue Ridge than just the keeping an eye on the road and opening gates. It was really a big success, and we intend to help folks understand how they can enjoy the Parkway, what it takes to manage it, and how they can help us all. This is everyone's Parkway.

This interview was conducted by Foundation intern Sam Baker.

Foundation welcomes new officers and trustees

We are pleased to announce the election of six new members and a new slate of officers to serve on our board of trustees.

At the Foundation's board meeting in November 2017, Cynthia Evans Tessien of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, was elected chair of the board of trustees, taking over for Jack Betts. Betts will continue to serve on the board as past chair. Alfred G. Adams, also of Winston-Salem, was appointed vice chair, while Rebecca Reeve (Asheville, N.C.) and Craig Lancaster (Fletcher, N.C.) were appointed as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Additional trustees elected include Billie Brandon Howell (Boone, N.C.), Jim McDowell (Blowing Rock, N.C.), Jim Newlin (Meadows of Dan, V.A.), Brad Wilson (Raleigh, N.C.), and Jennifer Zuckerman (Durham, N.C.).

With diverse backgrounds, these individuals bring a wealth of experience and expertise to help guide the organization into the future. To read more about our trustees and advisors, visit brpfoundation.org/leadership.



Chair
Cynthia Tessien



Vice Chair
Alfred G. Adams



Secretary
Rebecca Reeve



Treasurer
Craig Lancaster

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SATURDAYS
at 7 PM
except where noted

Blue Ridge Music Center

SUMMER SERIES

The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation is proud to support programming at the Blue Ridge Music Center to preserve the rich musical heritage of the mountains. Join us for the exciting 2018 Roots of American Music concert series.



Photo by Mike Duncan

1-7 p.m.
MAY 19

Free
Junior Appalachian Musicians & Family Day



MAY 26

Tickets: \$10
Amythyst Kiah + Wild Ponies



JUNE 2

Tickets: \$10
Bill and the Belles + Dori Freeman



FRIDAY
JUNE 15

Tickets: \$17, \$12 kids
Galax Fiddlers' Convention Best All-Around Performers

Photo by Mike Duncan



JUNE 23

Tickets: \$20
Sierra Hull + ShadowGrass



JUNE 30

Tickets: \$20, \$25 show day
Kruger Brothers + Erynn Marshall & Carl Jones



JULY 7

Tickets: \$15
Wayne Henderson & Friends + Jeff Little Trio

Photo by Brian Blausler/Mountain Stage



JULY 14

Tickets: \$25, \$30 show day, \$10 kids
Steep Canyon Rangers + New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters



JULY 21

Tickets: \$15
The Revelers + Mountain Park Old Time Band



JULY 28

Tickets: \$35, \$40 show day, \$20 kids
An Evening with Rhiannon Giddens



AUG 4

Tickets: \$10
Che Apalache + The Cabin Creek Boys



AUG 18

Tickets: \$15
The Ingramettes + Linda and David Lay



AUG 25

Tickets: \$15
Front Country + Martha Bassett Band



SEPT 1

Tickets: \$10
Phoebe Hunt & The Gatherers + Zoe & Cloyd



5 p.m.
OCT 6

Tickets: \$20, \$10 kids
Riley Baugus (indoor theater)



5 p.m.
OCT 20

Tickets: \$20, \$10 kids
The Barefoot Movement (indoor theater)



BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org or (866) 308-2773, ext. 212

Milepost 213, Blue Ridge Parkway | 10 miles from Galax, VA | 20 miles from Mount Airy, NC
Visitor Center open May through October | (276) 236-5309

LIVE MIDDAY MOUNTAIN MUSIC DAILY • ROOTS OF AMERICAN MUSIC MUSEUM

Good times for a great cause

Find Your Pint

Our Find Your Pint beer series is back! We are partnering with breweries to raise funds for the Blue Ridge Parkway, and all you have to do is raise a glass.

Bhramari Brewing Company will donate \$1 from every pint of its flagship beer Painted Fortune sold between May 15 and June 14 to support our Bee Kind initiative (see page 4). Join us for the kickoff from 5 to 7 p.m., May 15.

Catawba Brewing Company will release a small batch brewed with fresh wild blueberries picked on the Parkway. For every pint sold between June 16 and July 15, Catawba will donate \$1.

Highland Brewing Company will brew a special batch of beer in honor of the Parkway and will donate \$1 from each pint sold from



July 20 until the batch is gone.

Noble Cider will donate \$1 from each pint of a special batch of cider inspired by the Parkway from October 4-7. Join us for the kickoff celebration at 6 p.m., October 4.

More participants will be announced soon. For additional details, visit brpfoundation.org/ events.

The Denim Ball

It's time to pick out your denim attire and get your tickets for the third annual Denim Ball to benefit Moses H. Cone Memorial Park. Join us at 6 p.m., Friday, August 3, at Chetola Resort at Blowing Rock for dinner, a silent auction, and great music by the Jeff Little Trio.



Plus, there is still time to donate an item to the silent auction or become an event sponsor. Please contact Mandy Gee at (866) 308-2773, ext. 364, for more information.

The event has sold out each year, so visit brpfoundation.org/denimball now to purchase tickets.



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.

With a planned gift, you also become a member of The André Michaux Society, which honors the French botanist and explorer who enlightened others about the natural wonders of our mountains.

Learn more at brpfoundation.org/giving.

