

Blue Ridge Parkway News Release
For immediate release
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Spinning Yarns of a Different Sort

Visitors to the historic Mabry Mill on the Blue Ridge Parkway are treated to activities of an earlier time. Most now view the blacksmithing, weaving and spinning as interesting hobbies and crafts, when they were actually a necessity of life. In the days before radio, TV and mass media, mountaineers also had to find ways to entertain themselves. While music making most often springs to mind, good story telling comes a close second. Telling tall tales and yarns was a much bigger part of every day life.

The art of Appalachian storytelling will be the theme of an upcoming workshop at the old Mill. It will be presented by Carroll County native Evelyn Beamer. Evelyn is a musician, educator and storyteller whose personal roots in Appalachia go deep and her interest in its culture and literature wide. The workshop will focus on discovering the inner source of stories that she believes everyone possesses. She will share techniques which help the participant identify stories that are good for telling and present methods for memorizing the new story.

The workshop takes place from 1-4 pm on Saturday afternoon, July 25 at Mabry Mill, milepost 176 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Class size is limited for individual attention and registration is required. The workshop is part of a series sponsored by the friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway and there is a \$15 registration fee. Call (540) 745-9662 for information.

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