



Vol. 6 Issue 1

January 2010

IN THIS ISSUE

FRIENDS Basket
Painting a Day Artist
Spring Viewshed Planting
Blue Ridge Marathon
VA BRP License Plate
Chapter Information
Disney Volunteer Program
NPS News
Parkway VIPs Honored

QUICK LINKS

About Us
Volunteer
Join FRIENDS
Donate
Past eNewsletters
Press Releases

PARKWAY LINKS

Road Closures
Maps
Fees & Reservations
Things to Do



Congratulations to the Blue Ridge Parkway on
Your 75th Anniversary!

To commemorate this memorable occasion, there is a year of events planned all along the Parkway. To see what events are planned in your area, visit the [BRP 75 website](#).

Be Prepared

FRIENDS News

Blue Ridge Parkway
Information Line
828.298.0398

FRIENDS Announces Collectible Basket Commemorates Parkway's 75th Anniversary

PARKWAY TRIVIA

Did you know that there are four Park Service lodges and six restaurants dotting the Blue Ridge Parkway?

Most are open from late April through the fall color season.

[more details](#)

STAY CONNECTED



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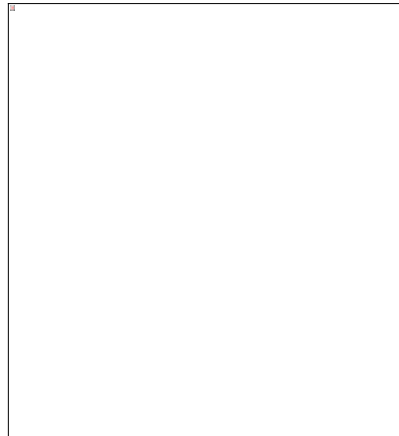
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CREDITS



In honor of the Parkway's 75th Anniversary, FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway has commissioned a commemorative basket from American Traditions Basket Company.

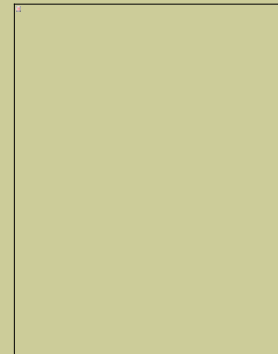
The baskets are for sale in our [online store](#). The cost is only \$69, which includes shipping.

For more information or to order, please visit our [website](#).

Blue Ridge Parkway Paintings *A Painting a Day by Janet Wimmer*

Artist Janet Wimmer continues to paint one Parkway-themed painting a day in honor of the Parkway's 75th Anniversary.

Janet has generously agreed to donate \$10 from every painting sold to FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway. To learn more about Janet, view more of her work or purchase one of her pieces, visit the [FRIENDS website](#).



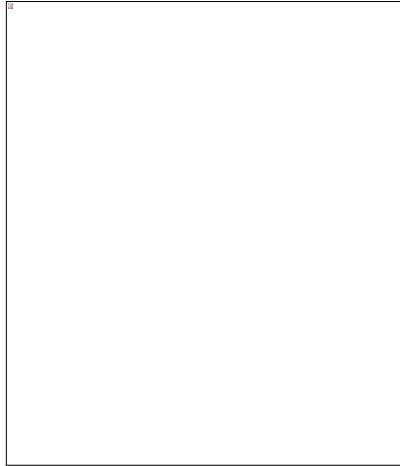
FRIENDS Spring Viewshed Planting

Editor: [Shane Hawk](#)

Blue Ridge Parkway Site Chosen

Contributors:
Virginia Ehrich & Eva O.
Gray

Editorial Advisors:
Peggy Desper, Susan Mills



FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway Roanoke Valley Chapter is sponsoring a viewshed planting on March 20, 2010 at Milepost 104.9. This location was chosen by National Park Service Landscape Architect David Anderson. The site is just north of the N&W Railroad Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway outside of Vinton, VA.

Volunteers will be planting 300 seedlings along the Parkway's boundaries. Once mature, the

seedlings will serve as a natural buffer between the Parkway and nearby development.

For more information please call the FRIENDS office at 800.228.PARK (7275) or email [Shane Hawk](#). We would love to have you join us!

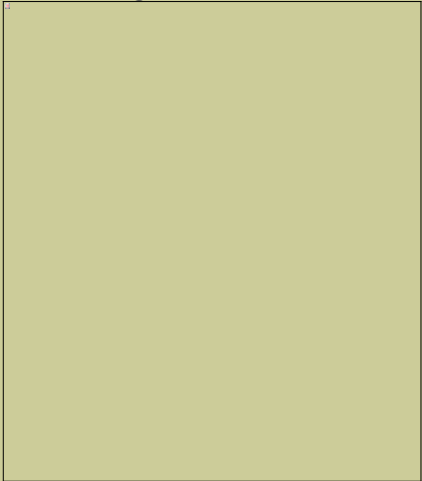
*We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors,
we borrow it from our children.*

~Haida Indian Saying

Blue Ridge Marathon on the Parkway

Inaugural Marathon to be Held in April

The inaugural running of the Blue Ridge Marathon on the Parkway coincides with the Parkway's 75th Anniversary. It will begin and end in downtown Roanoke, VA on April 24, 2010. All proceeds from the marathon will benefit FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The marathon website lists the following details:



- **What:** Full & Half Marathon. 5-Person Team Relay. Walking Half. YMCA Kids Marathon
- **Award:** \$5,000 Tag Heuer watch to top male and top female marathon finisher
- **Start Time:** 7:30 am
- **Begins:** Taubman Museum of Art
- **Ends:** Hotel Roanoke
- **Total Climb:** 3,076 ft. (full marathon), 1,399 ft. (half marathon)
- **Total Elevation Change:** 6,140 ft. (full marathon), 2,779 ft. (half marathon)
- **Most Difficult Section:** Roanoke Mountain
- **Honorary Race Chair:** Rep. Bob Goodlatte (VA)

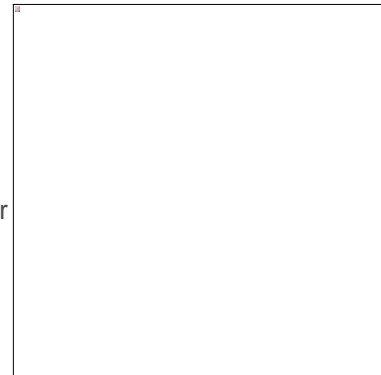
For more details visit the Blue Ridge Marathon [website](#).

Merchandise Item of the Month

Building the Blue Ridge Parkway Book

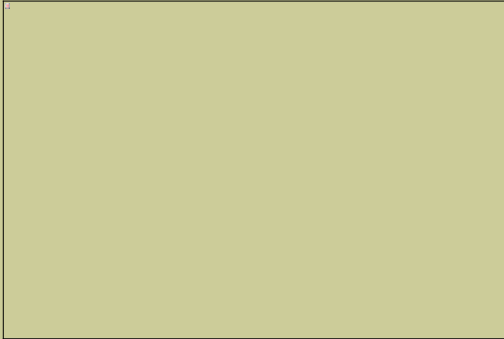
In honor of the Parkway's 75th Anniversary, why not learn more about "America's Favorite Drive?" This month's featured item is a book by author Karen J. Hall. This book details the Parkway's origins and showcases close to 200 photos. You'll learn how Roosevelt's New Deal played a vital role in its creation among other things.

This, along with many other Parkway related items, are available in our [online store](#).



Newest FRIENDS Members

We Sincerely Thank You



We are pleased to welcome the following new members...

Sharon McGaughey, Joel & Pameal Mitchell, Champe Burnley, Oleander Spring, Barbara Printer, Janet Ferguson, Christopher Oubre, Cathy & Jon Poer, A.W. & Charlene Hargrove, Shawn Rhodes, Sandra & Scott Penrod, Julie Fernandez, David Hochstetler, Steven Queen, Marilyn Peeler, Lettie Sticklely, Timothy Williams, Julie & Darryl Gearhart, Roy Reuter, Marianne Newman, Harold Brewster, Thomas & Joyce Andres, Robert Hody, Richard Searless, Sherri Wright,

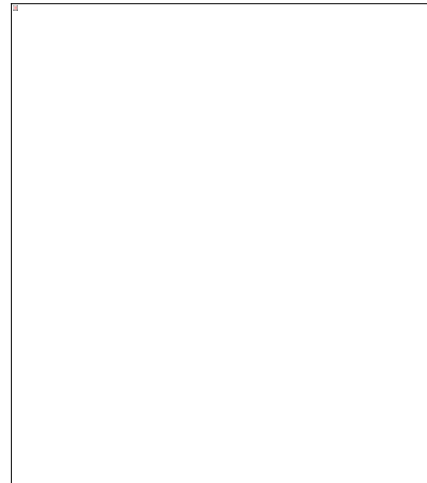
Elizabeth DePass, Sharyn Ogden, Scott Wilson, Liz Brown, Pino Daddi, Patricia Smail, Tillis & Betty Rendleman Jr., John Winn, Mary Jane Ferguson, Ethelyn Taylor, David & Eleanor Johnson, Bonnie Pulliam, Hunter Clarkson, Nancy Lippard, Ruth Smith, Susan Stanton, Ronald Collins, Janet Wilson and Debra Hineman.

Thank you for joining us in our effort to help preserve, promote and enhance the Blue Ridge Parkway. Not a member of FRIENDS? For information, including how to join, please visit our [website](#).

The 469-Mile Club

Recent Award Recipients

Scott and Doris Andres
Paulette Baker
Darryl Gearhart
Julie Gearhart
Sharyn Ogden
Roy Reuter



Congratulations to all of you for traveling all 469 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway. What an accomplishment!

If you have driven, biked or hiked the full length of the Parkway, we invite you to complete our online [application](#).

Parkway License Plate Offered

FRIENDS to Receive Proceeds

FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway is partnering with the Blue Ridge Parkway Association to sponsor a Blue Ridge Parkway specialty license plate in Virginia.

What a wonderful way to show your support for the Parkway during its 75th Anniversary year!



We are approaching the required 350 applicants to make this plate a reality. To learn more, visit the [FRIENDS website](#). If you have additional questions, please [email us](#) or call our office at 800.228.7275.

FRIENDS Chapter News

Make 2010 the Year You Keep Your New Year's Resolution *Resolve to Join Your Local FRIENDS Chapter*

Humpback Rocks Chapter

Ridge District

The Humpback Rocks Chapter held its first steering committee meeting on Thursday, Jan. 28th at the Waynesboro Public Library. Stay tuned for details from the meeting.

This Chapter has also created a webpage, www.HumpbackRocks.org. This site will serve to update Chapter members, as well as prospective members, about upcoming events, projects and meetings.

If you would like more information about this meeting, the Chapter, are interested in volunteering, or want to serve on the Chapter's Steering Committee, please contact Chapter Co-Chairs Gregory [Bruno](#) or [David Munn](#). You can also call the FRIENDS office at 800.228.7275.

Peaks of Otter Chapter

Ridge District

For information about this Chapter, please contact Chapter Chair [Greg Eaton](#) or call the FRIENDS office at 800.228.7275.

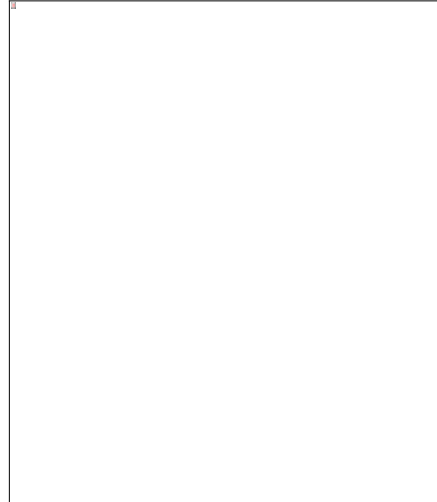
Roanoke Valley Chapter

Plateau District

The Roanoke Valley Chapter is planning a trail clean-up day on March 27th from 1pm - 3pm. They will continue to work on the Fisherman's Trail at Milepost 115. The tasks for the day include cleaning graffiti, painting bridge pillars, fence repair and litter pick-up. They are also busy preparing for the spring viewshed planting that will take place at Milepost 104.9 on March 20th.

The Chapter will also be assisting with the upcoming Blue Ridge Marathon on the Parkway on April 24th.

For more information about these events, or for information about joining the Chapter, please contact Chapter Co-Chair [Regina Desper](#) or call the FRIENDS office at 800.228.7275.



Rocky Knob Chapter

Plateau District

The Rocky Knob Chapter is planning a clean-up day in March to help clear the Rocky Knob Campground and area trails of fallen debris that is a result of this winter's harsh weather.

This Chapter will also be assisting the Roanoke Valley Chapter with the upcoming [Blue Ridge Marathon on the Parkway](#) on April 24th. For more information about these events or joining this Chapter, please contact [Gloria Hilton](#) or call the FRIENDS office at 800.228.7275.

Fisher Peak Chapter

Plateau & Highland Districts

The Fisher Peak Chapter has scheduled a Winter Picnic for Saturday, Feb 13th at 5:00 p.m. Chapter members, Tony and Wanda Hatcher, will host the picnic at their home. For more information about the picnic, upcoming work days, or about the Chapter, please contact [Dottie Bramley](#) or call the FRIENDS office at 800.228.7275.

West Jefferson Chapter

Highland District

This newly formed Chapter will be holding its first meeting on Saturday, February 27th from 2pm - 4pm at the home of Ken Canter in Wilkesboro, NC. If you live in the area and are interested in

being a part of this inaugural meeting, or would like to serve on the Chapter's steering committee, please email Chapter Chair [Ken Canter](#), or call the FRIENDS office at 800.228.7275.

Appalachian State University Chapter

Highland District



The ASU Chapter held a steering committee meeting on Tuesday, December 1st. They discussed plans to host an International Coffee Hour in the spring on the ASU campus. This will help increase FRIENDS' awareness on campus as well as generate support for the Parkway's 75th Anniversary. They also discussed plans for a fundraising event in February. Chapter members will also provide assistance for the Blue Ridge Parkway 75 Symposium to be held on the ASU campus April 22nd - 24th.

For information about this Chapter, including how to join, please contact Chapter Chair [Heather Preston](#) or call the FRIENDS office at 800.228.7275.

Asheville Chapter

Pisgah District

The Asheville Chapter held a steering committee meeting on Thursday, Jan. 28th. Stay tuned for information that developed from that meeting. For more information about this event or the Asheville Chapter in general, please contact [Hugh Stephens](#) or [Beth Siegel](#). You may also call the FRIENDS office at 800.228.7275.

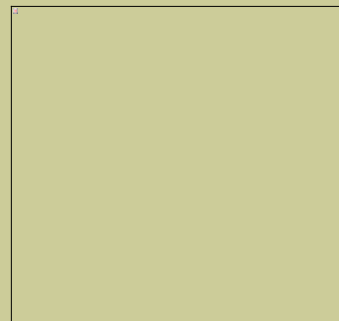
National News

Give a Day ~ Get a Disney Day

FRIENDS Participates in Disney Promotion

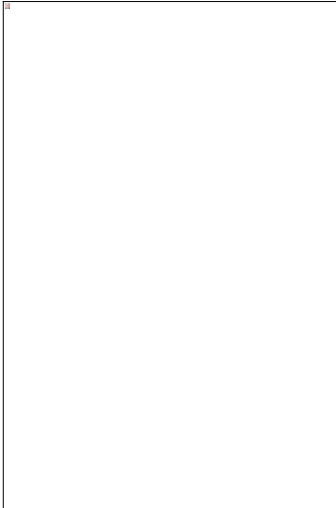
In an effort to inspire one million people to volunteer a day of service to a participating organization in their communities, Disney has created the *Give a Day ~ Get a Disney Day* promotion. To celebrate participating volunteers' good works, Disney will give each volunteer a 1-day, 1-theme park ticket to the Disneyland Resort or Walt Disney World Resort, for FREE!

FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway is happy to announce that we are a participating organization in this volunteer promotion. For details, including how to sign up to earn your free Disney ticket, please visit the [Disney website](#). Don't wait too long though... this promotion will only continue until the allotted number of free tickets have been distributed.



Legislation to Preserve Parkway Introduced

NC & VA Senators Join in Effort



To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway, U.S. Senators Jim Webb (D-VA) and Mark Warner (D-VA) have joined North Carolina Senators Kay R. Hagan (D-NC) and Richard Burr (R-NC) to introduce legislation authorizing the National Park Service to acquire up to 50,000 acres of land surrounding the historic roadway.

The Blue Ridge Parkway Protection Act will authorize \$75 million over five years to allow the National Park Service to acquire and preserve high priority land surrounding the Blue Ridge Parkway. The bill will adjust the Parkway's boundary to include the new land acquisition, but no land would be acquired through eminent domain. [continue reading](#)

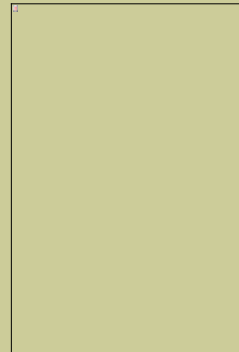
A Park Ranger's Life

Author Schedules Book Signing

The Roanoke County Library has announced that author Bruce Bytnar will sign his newest book, *A Park Ranger's Life*, at the Tanglewood Mall Barnes & Noble store, on Saturday January 30, 2010 at 1:00 pm in Roanoke, VA.

Mr. Bytnar is a Rockbridge County resident and retired National Park Ranger. The book is based on his experiences during his 32 year career. Twenty-three years of his career were spent as a District Ranger on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

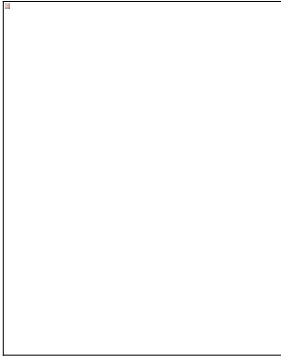
To learn more about the author and his career, visit his blog by the same name, [A Park Ranger's Life](#).



Parkway News

New Parkway Directory Available

Celebrates Parkway's 75th Anniversary



The 2010 edition of the *Blue Ridge Parkway Directory* is now available. The travel guide is published by the Blue Ridge Parkway Association to help you more fully enjoy your Parkway visit. This year's edition focuses on the Parkway's 75th Anniversary in addition to member business information, information by milepost and more.

You can view the complete online version of the Directory or order a copy by visiting the Blue Ridge Parkway Association's [website](#). Directories are also available at member businesses along the Parkway and at Parkway Visitor Centers free of charge.

Parkway Volunteers Honored

Plateau VIPs of the Year

A volunteer team consisting of two grandparents and their grandson made up the 2009 Volunteer In Parks (VIP) award winners in the Plateau District. J.C. and Linda Barton, along with their grandson Nicholas, logged 1,363 hours of volunteer service in 2009.

The team performed various maintenance tasks in addition to conducting monthly fire extinguisher checks, helping to open and close snow gates and hauling recyclable material. They were also responsible for locating and cleaning up a tire dump consisting of 96 tires that had been left on Parkway land. J.C. was also responsible for finding an abandoned well that was open and posed an extreme safety hazard. In addition to all of this, the Bartons also served as campground hosts for the second year.

According to Mindy DeCesar, Plateau District Interpretive Supervisor, this volunteer team always went "above and beyond the normal limits of all tasks assigned." She adds that "the value of the services these individuals performed is practically immeasurable."

Congratulations to J.C., Linda and Nicholas from FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway for a job well done! If you would like more information about volunteering for the Blue Ridge Parkway, or for FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway, please visit the [FRIENDS website](#).



FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway utilizes volunteer services, but needs your support to fund our programs. Please offer your generosity in support of our mission to preserve, promote and enhance the Parkway. Thank you.