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## PARKWAY TRIVIA

Did you know that the Blue Ridge Parkway has more than twice the number of visitors as Yellowstone, Yosemite and the Grand Canyon combined?

However, the operating budget is roughly half that of the other parks.

Dear Friend,

Happy 4th of July! With summer now in full swing, it's time for baseball, hotdogs, fireworks and the Parkway. Yes, the Parkway!

With many families now choosing to vacation close to home, what better place to visit than the Blue Ridge Parkway?

There are countless activities, mostly free of charge, taking place all along the Parkway this summer. There is something for every member of your family. From "[They Call Me Aunt Orlene](#)" at the Puckett Cabin (MP 189) to the new [Price Park Pals](#) program at Julian Price Memorial Park (MP 297). You're sure to find a summer of enjoyment right in your backyard, on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

For a complete list of Parkway events, please visit our [website](#).



## FRIENDS News

**We would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of FRIENDS....**

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## CONTACT US

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Harold & Bethany Uhl  
Peggy Wright

Would you like to join FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway and help preserve a national legacy? We would love to have you! For more information on FRIENDS and how to join, please visit our [website](#).

## FRIENDS FYI

### *Inquisitive Minds Want to Know*

An eNewsletter reader recently asked why the name of our organization is spelled using all capital letters. Good question! It just so happens, we have a good answer.

We use FRIENDS, in all caps, to distinguish ourselves from other national friends organizations. By using all caps, we set ourselves apart and are, hopefully, more memorable.



## Artists Use Talents to Benefit FRIENDS

### *Unique Contributions Made*



Rhododendron Pathway  
Susan L. Stanton

070611\_0060

Susan Stanton, a Western N. C. resident, specializes in photography of the Southern Appalachians. Her love of the Blue Ridge Mountains is so strong that she is offering to share the proceeds of her upcoming exhibit with FRIENDS.

Susan believes the perfect photograph appears when she can place the viewer at the scene not only visually, but emotionally and spiritually as well - then, she believes she has taken the best photograph possible.

Susan has generously offered to donate 10% of the proceeds from her August exhibit, *Captured on Canvas*, to

FRIENDS. Visit that exhibit at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts, located in Black Mountain, NC. Check out her full collection of photographs on her website at [www.SusanStanton.com](http://www.SusanStanton.com), where her exhibit schedule can also be found. Don't forget - your August purchase will benefit the Blue Ridge Parkway and FRIENDS. Thank you Susan for the integration of nature, art, and philanthropy.

Watercolorist Lona Cox has provided the FRIENDS Fisher Peak Chapter with a generous donation of her beautifully crafted print entitled *Galax Leaves in Winter*. View the lovely print on our [website](#), where it can be purchased at the reduced rate of \$50.00 (including shipping). 100% of the purchase price will go directly to FRIENDS' Fisher Peak Chapter.

Lona lives in Galax, VA, where she has been a long time member of FRIENDS and is committed to the chapter's outstanding work. Desiring to support the chapter's projects, at the recent public chapter meeting, she provided the prints to Dottie Brambley asking that the proceeds of all sales stay locally to support the FRIENDS' Fisher Peak Chapter. Lona's art can also be viewed at the Shoney's Restaurant in Hillsville, VA. and in Dublin, VA. Contact Lona directly to purchase other works of art at (276) 236-3712.



## FRIENDS' Trails Forever Program

### *How You Can Get Involved*



FRIENDS provides volunteers to the Blue Ridge Parkway that work to adopt, construct, maintain and enhance over 91 trails spanning approximately 350 miles. The Trails Forever Program includes the Blue Ridge Parkway Adopt-A-Trail and Adopt-An-Overlook Programs. In addition, we provide not only volunteers but financial support for trail equipment and materials, trail head kiosks, maps and signage. Improving trail accessibility for physically impaired visitors is also important to FRIENDS.

The Buck Mountain Trail at Milepost 123 is currently available for adoption. This trail is just off of the Buck Mountain Overlook and is a 1/2 mile hike to the top of the mountain. It has encroaching vegetation and could use some litter control work as well. Major washout work was completed within the last two years. Therefore, major trail maintenance would not be an issue. For more information about the Adopt-A-Trail program, visit our [website](#) or call 540-772-2992. You may complete the online [volunteer application](#) form on our website as well.

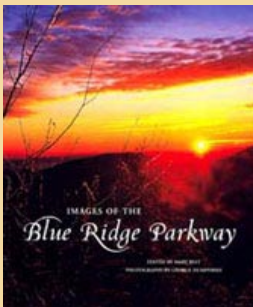
### *Related Trail News...*

The creation and maintenance of our nationwide trails is an ongoing effort. To be successful, we all need to contribute. In that vein, the Coalition for Recreational Trails is now preparing a letter for the U.S. Senate and, once again, they are looking for groups and local governments to sign on.

You can read the letter and sign on through the [American Trails website](#). Look for the Green Arrow at the bottom of the page.

## FRIENDS Book Winner

### *Member receives Images of Blue Ridge Parkway book*



Each month FRIENDS holds a book drawing for *Images of the Blue Ridge Parkway*. Only members who renew their membership and provide us with their email address during that month are eligible.

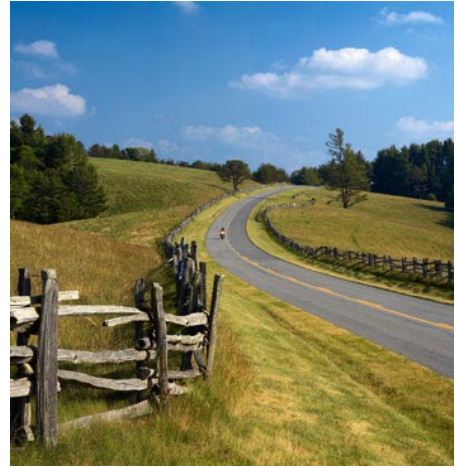
We would like to congratulate Nicholas Hawker as the winner for June! We hope you enjoy each page.

Would you like to be entered to win this month? Just [renew your membership](#) and give us your email address, and we'll throw your name in the hat! This book is also available for purchase in our [online store](#).

## The 469-Mile Club

### *Recent Award Recipients Announced*

John Albright  
Charles Boone  
Ted & Cathy Brown  
Hugh & Emily Clements  
Herb Haigh  
Ken Hilton  
David & Thorunn Ivey  
George Ivey  
Fay Lee  
Ray Luckenbach  
George & Mary Mitchell  
Ed Piper  
Brooke Stallings  
Joanna Stallings  
Edna Swanner



Congratulations to all of you for traveling all 469 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway. What an accomplishment! If you have driven, biked or even walked the full length of the Parkway, please let us know. We would love to present you with a 469-Mile Award too. You can email us at [staff@friendsbrp.org](mailto:staff@friendsbrp.org) or complete our [application](#) online.

### *Related 469-Mile Award News*



Recent 469-Mile Award winner and FRIENDS member, George Ivey, dubbed his 469-mile Parkway adventure as Tour de Parkway. Why? Because he saw many similarities between his trip and the world famous Tour de France.

[Read more](#)

## FRIENDS Merchandise Item of the Month

### *Bug World Cap*



This cap is great to protect your little hiker's face from the sun. It is black and covered with vibrantly colored bugs. *FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway* is embroidered on the back in red lettering. It has an adjustable strap to ensure a snug fit. For only \$12, this cap is a super value! You can find this and other great items in our [online store](#).

## National News

### Summer of Service 2009

#### *President Obama Calls on Nation*

This summer, President Obama is calling on all of us - young and old, from every background, all across this country - to participate in our nation's recovery and renewal by serving in our communities. From June 22 to September 11, United We Serve will begin to engage Americans from coast to coast in addressing community needs in education, health, energy, the environment and community renewal.

The Obama administration has created a website to make it easy for all Americans to find a way to volunteer during the Summer of Service. [Serve.gov](#) is your online resource for not only finding volunteer opportunities in your community, but also creating your own.

For additional [volunteer needs](#), please visit the FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway website. Thank you in advance for pitching in and doing your part!



## Legislative Updates



### *How Lawmakers are Impacting our Parks*

Vanessa Morel, Director of Ally Development for the National Parks Conservation Association, reports that the Interior Appropriations subcommittee and the House National Resources committee are busy reviewing proposals. To view her update in full, please visit our [website](#).

## Heeding the Call to Service

### *Our National Parks Need Your Support*

Our national parks belong to all of us. What better way to protect, preserve and restore the places we love than by rallying thousands of Americans to work in the parks?

Congress may soon authorize a Public Lands Service Corps to do just this, but we need your help to make sure it happens.

Please take a moment to tell your members of Congress why public service in national parks is important to you! For more information, visit the American Recreation Coalition [website](#).



## FRIENDS Chapter News

### What is a FRIENDS Chapter?

Chapters are groups of dedicated volunteers who are organized around mileposts closest to their homes. Most volunteers call the Blue Ridge Parkway their backyard, as many live on or very near the Parkway. They have a vested interest in maintaining the integrity of the Parkway and aren't afraid to work hard to keep the Parkway as pristine as it was at its inception, 74 years ago.



### What type of work is actually done by chapters?

Chapter activity comes in many forms. Maintenance activity requiring work boots, tools, and lots of sweat includes split rail fence renovation, trail maintenance (removal of fallen limbs, etc.), campground clean-up and bridge renovation. Maintenance work is normally done in

coordination with National Park Service personnel.

Jobs less physically taxing include painting of milepost markers or serving as a chapter and/or FRIENDS representative at a fair or festival. For example, the Rocky Knob Chapter, in conjunction with [Jacksonville Center for the Arts](#), is currently seeking volunteers to work at FloydFest this year. The volunteer agrees to work a 6 hour shift in exchange for a free all day pass to Floyd Fest.

Chapter volunteers are also involved in planting rhododendrons at an overlook or trail, or removing vegetation at an overlook. We try to have 2 viewshed plantings each year, and the chapter closest to the planting generally becomes heavily involved in the planning of that event.

Head on over to our [website](#) for a complete list of all currently active chapters, as well as chapters seeking chairpersons and/or steering committee members to move the chapters forward. Get involved and see for yourself how fun it is to meet new people and to work for a worthy cause.

Want to find out about each chapter's upcoming events? Our website lists those as well. Just follow these links to see what the [Humpback Rocks](#), [Peaks of Otter](#), [Roanoke Valley](#), [Rocky Knob](#), [Fisher Peak](#), [Appalachian Statue University](#) and [Asheville](#) Chapters have on their calendars for the coming months.

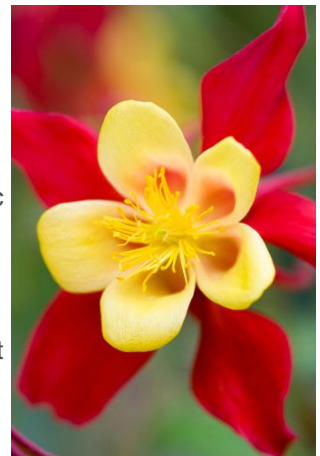
## Parkway News

### The Parkway is Blooming

#### *July Wildflowers*

An abundance of rain in the region here in late spring has given us full creeks and nice waterfalls tumbling down to the piedmont along with prolific wildflower blooms.

Beginning on the north end of the Parkway in the Ridge District, look for nice displays of Mountain Laurel and Goat's Beard from milepost 0 - 25. Through the James River area, a few Tulip Poplar are still in bloom and just a few remaining Laurel. [continue reading...](#)



### Blue Ridge Parkway 75th Anniversary News

#### *Parkway Seeks Volunteers*



Next year will mark the 75th anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Numerous events are being planned to celebrate this momentous occasion all along the Parkway. However, for the celebration to truly be a success, the Parkway needs *you*.

To find out how you can volunteer your time and/or talents, please visit our [website](#). With your help, this will surely be an anniversary to remember!

## Parkway Road Construction & Closures

### *Craggy Gardens Update*

The paving of both lanes of traffic has been completed. One lane of traffic will remain closed during the work week for the workers' safety while they complete drainage ditch and shoulder repairs. During this time the traffic light system will be in effect.

For a complete list of current road conditions on the Parkway, visit the [National Park Service](#) website.



Make a  
Donation

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.

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