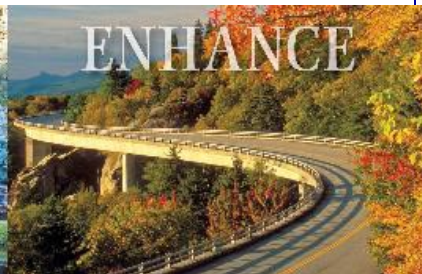
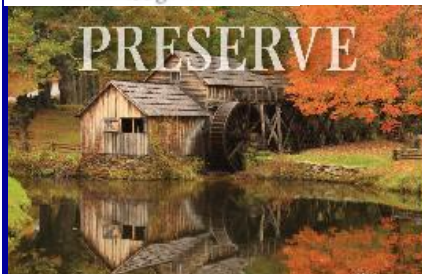




## FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Inc.



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Vol. 5 Issue: 3

March 2009

### IN THIS ISSUE

- [Saving Parkway Views](#)
- [17th Annual National Trails Day](#)
- [Trout Stream Protected](#)
- [Blue Ridge Parkway 75th Anniversary](#)
- [Preserve Funding for Conservation - North Carolina](#)
- [Mystery Building](#)
- [Welcome New Members of FRIENDS](#)
- [FRIENDS Office Volunteer Award](#)
- [469-Mile Award Winner Story](#)
- [Merchandise of the Month](#)
- [Chapter News](#)

### QUICK LINKS

- [Chapter Updates](#)
- [Saving Parkway Views](#)
- [Join Now!](#)
- [Past eNewsletters](#)
- [Donate](#)
- [More About Us](#)
- [Press Releases](#)



Greetings!

Although March brought us our first snowfall of the season, followed by unseasonably warm days, the Parkway is still in winter mode. The ranger stations and visitor buildings are closed to the public until April. For the latest

Blue Ridge Parkway Facility Openings/Closings, Spring 2009, [click here](#).

We anticipate many happenings along the Parkway this season. Check out some of the events that are being planned such as the Roanoke Viewshed Planting coming up on March 28, 2009, and the National Trails Day on June 6, 2009.

We thank all of our FRIENDS for sustaining our preservation and protection of the Blue Ridge Parkway!

## Saving Parkway Views

Saving Parkway Views is FRIENDS' signature project. FRIENDS needs adult and youth volunteers to help plant 500 seedlings at Milepost 121 on US Route 220 (behind Crossroads Auto on US 220 S) on Saturday, March 28 at 10:00 AM. Volunteers should begin arriving between 9:00 AM and 9:45 AM, rain or shine at Clearbrook Elementary School for free shuttle service to the work area. There will be a formal welcome at 10:00 AM, and the planting will end approximately 3:00 PM. Refreshments, activities and music will be provided. Call us for pre-registration material at 800.228.PARK(7275) or email us at [staff@FriendsBRP.org](mailto:staff@FriendsBRP.org).



## National News



### 17th Annual National Trails Day

The 17th annual National Trails Day will take place June 6, with events held all over the country. Whether you walk, hike, paddle, run or ride, there's an event for everyone. Check [www.AmericanHiking.org](http://www.AmericanHiking.org) in the coming months to find an event near you!

If you would like to host an event in your area, registration is available now on the American Hiking Society Website ([Click here to register](#)). Register today! Contact Heather Sable, Trail Programs Manager, at (800) 972-8608, ext. 204, or [hsable@AmericanHiking.org](mailto:hsable@AmericanHiking.org) with questions.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

[Back to Top](#)

## Local News

### Trout Stream Along Parkway Protected by Western Virginia Land Trust

Jack Norton and his family have placed a riparian conservation easement on a mile and a half of Roaring Run, a trout stream below Smart View on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Franklin County. The easement on 19.5 acres of stream frontage is co-held by the Western Virginia Land Trust and the Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District.

The easement prevents most timbering along the creek bottom, but allows the Nortons to fish, hunt, maintain trails and do all the things they love.

Jack Norton, his wife, Krista, son Jackson and daughter Summer, enjoy fishing and camping on the family woodland. Jackson loves the outdoors and he's learning to catch trout. Summer is a camper. "Hopefully, the children will enjoy the protected stream on into the future", Norton said.

The Western Virginia Land Trust is a non-profit organization whose mission is "promoting the conservation of western Virginia's natural resources--farms, forests, waterways, and rural landscapes." Since 1996, the Western Virginia Land Trust has helped to conserve more than 56,000 acres of land. For more information, [click here](#), or call 540-985-0000.

[Back to top](#)

## **Blue Ridge Parkway 75th Anniversary News**

### ***Make Your Event a Parkway Event***

This is a free opportunity to advertise your event(s) on the BRP75 Web site, which is scheduled to launch this spring. Submitted events must have a tie-in to the Parkway, but submissions are not limited to only new events. If you have an existing 2010 event, tailor the event so it becomes a Parkway event and it will get posted on the BRP75 Web site. Some events may qualify as they are. Contact Leesa Sutton Brandon, Executive Director of Blue Ridge Parkway 75, Inc. at 828.271.4779 x 224 or by email at [lbrandon@ncommerce.com](mailto:lbrandon@ncommerce.com) or [click here](#) for BRP75 Facebook.

### ***Community Spotlight***

Don't miss this opportunity to promote your community through the Blue Ridge Parkway's 75th Anniversary Web site. Applications are now being taken for Parkway cities, counties, and towns interested in showcasing their community on BRP 75's Web site, which is set to launch this spring. The listing is free, and the process is simple: complete the application and return it with a jpeg photo--past or present - of your community. Your information will be posted to BRP 75th's Web site and you'll be included in the rotation of communities being spotlighted and have your very own locator pin on the Parkway region map. [Click Here](#) to access the application. Contact Leesa Brandon at 828.271.4779 X 224 or [lbrandon@ncommerce.com](mailto:lbrandon@ncommerce.com) for more information.

[Back to Top](#)

## **Help Preserve Funding for Conservation - North Carolina**

Recently, North Carolina's Governor Beverly Perdue said she is preparing to make decisions about which programs to cut in her proposed budget for next year. We need your help to urge her to preserve substantial funding for North Carolina's highly successful conservation trust funds. Gov. Perdue is already fielding demands from every sector and trying to figure out where to allocate scarce dollars in a struggling economy. Current projections are that the state could face a \$3 billion budget shortfall next year. Large cuts to conservation programs would jeopardize land trusts' ability to save the places you love, and would harm rather than help North Carolina's economy. [Click here](#) to learn more, or go to [Conservation Trust for North Carolina](#) to send an email message or write to Governor Perdue at:

Governor Bev Perdue  
Office of the Governor  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

[Back to Top](#)

## **Mystery Solved!**

### ***Many Travelers Ask About the Large Church at Milepost 145***

A reader spent New Year's in Christiansburg, VA and drove the Blue Ridge Parkway. She drove the Parkway north to Roanoke, VA. At approximately milepost 145 (heading north) she came across a large church building across a pasture. She wanted to find out some more information about the building. She did a u-turn and was able to get some great photos. She requested any information we have about the building.



***The Same Traveler Wrote Back With the Following Information:***

The building is called the Syon Abbey, built by an order of Benedictine Monks. Some articles state no visitors are allowed and some indicate you can notify them of your intended trip to see if they will allow you in. [Click here](#) to visit the Syon Abbey Website and view the photo log of the construction.

[Back to top](#)

**WELCOME to Our Newest Members of FRIENDS for the Month of February**

Mr. Steve Barrier  
Mr. Kirk Shearin  
Jerry and Pat Behling  
Ms. Christina Koomen  
Mr. Edward S. McGall  
Ms. Jane B. Hawker  
Mr. Matthew E. Goode  
Mr. Larry Maust  
Mr. Eric Menges

[Back to Top](#)

**FRIENDS Office Volunteer Awards**

FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway held their office volunteer award ceremony on Monday, March 9, 2009 at 2:00 PM in the Roanoke office. Awards were given to those office volunteers who have accrued enough non-paid hours working on FRIENDS' programs to receive an incentive award. The awardees were Susan Jackson Mills, Kitty Coleman, Maggie Toole, Peggy Desper, Virginia Ehrich, Pauline O'Dell, Eva Gray and Linda Wade. Congratulations and THANKS for all your hard work!

[Back to top](#)



Photo: Tom Goff stops at Milepost 235 along the Parkway.

**469-Mile Award Winner Story**

***Tom Goff Describes How the "Wandering Emu Pedal Society" Tackles "Most Peaceful and Beautiful Stretch of Road in the Country."***

"Where do I begin? I could write 200 pages on our adventures on the Parkway. Let me say, from the beginning, that I never would have ridden the Blue Ridge if it weren't for Sam "the organizer" Jernigan. It was his idea from the very beginning. He wrote to the

Moss Tent Co. to get us one-man, lightweight tents for half price. He planned the route to get to the Parkway and even planned the meals. But, as I will explain, even "the best laid plans" can go awry.

Getting to the Parkway was probably our biggest challenge. After we did all the packing and drove the 500 miles to get to the train station in Charlottesville, VA, we found out that the freight car (for the bikes) was full. At least that's what they told us at the station. We made a quick decision to box up the bikes and plead with the "baggage master" to try to squeeze our bikes onto the train. With tickets in hand and our fingers crossed, the "night owl" pulled into the station. That car could have held 50 bikes!..."

**~by Tom Goff**

What did our intrepid band of bikers do at this setback? [Click Here](#) to read more and see more of Tom's photos.

[Back to top](#)

## **FRIENDS Merchandise Item of the Month**

### ***FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway T-Shirt***



Show off your appreciation of the Blue Ridge Parkway with your very own FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway T-shirt. All the proceeds from your purchase will benefit the scenic road we love! [Click Here](#) to go to our online store.

[Back to Top](#)

## **Chapter News**

### **Appalachian State University Chapter**

#### ***The 8th Annual Diversity Celebration at Appalachian State University - April 7, 2009***

The upcoming Diversity Celebration is a community-building event that draws over 2,000 people each year to the campus of Appalachian State University.

Since 2002, this spectacular FREE event has hosted performers and presenters from across the Southeast, including local artists who share aspects of cultures from all over the world. The music and dance performances, multicultural food spread, cultural exhibits and soccer tournaments have allowed thousands of Appalachian students, employees and community members to see the world without leaving the mountain or buying a plane ticket. People come from up and down the mountain every year to experience, participate in, and showcase their talents at the Diversity Celebration.

Best of all - there's free food! Cultural fare from around the world, created especially for the event by ASU's head chef. [Click here](#) to learn more or call 828-262-6252 or 828.262.2144.

If you are interested in volunteering for upcoming chapter projects, please contact Heather Paige Preston at [Prestonhp@appstate.edu](mailto:Prestonhp@appstate.edu) or call 828-262-2449.

### **Asheville Chapter**

The Asheville Chapter is having their annual FRIENDS' Spring Gathering, Friday April 17, 2009 from 5 to 7pm, featuring Anne Whisnant, author of "*Super Scenic Highway: A History of the Blue Ridge Parkway*," at REI Biltmore Town Square, Asheville, NC.

The Asheville Chapter has several projects in the planning stages: the placement of donation boxes and/or POS donation opportunities at selected area merchants in the Asheville area; a series of "Children in Nature" summer events involving youth and the Parkway; participation in the Asheville Weed Team's Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) project, headed by Nancy Fraley, Coordinator, Southeast Exotic Plant Management Team for the NPS; participation in a National Trails

Day at the Parkway HQs in Asheville; and hopefully another "gathering" in the fall.

If you are interested in volunteering for upcoming projects, or want more information, please contact Tom Morgan at [tmorgan51@bellsouth.net](mailto:tmorgan51@bellsouth.net) or call 828-242-4131.

### **Fisher Peak Chapter**

Below is the chapter work schedule for the next few months.

March 14, 9:00 a.m. - Landscaping at Blue Ridge Music Center (BRMC): Meet at the service road that goes behind the amphitheater.

April 4, 8:00 a.m. - Trail Work (meet at the trailhead parking lot off of Foothills Road)

April 18, 8:00 a.m. - Trail Work (meet at the trailhead parking lot off of Foothills Road)

May 2, 8:00 a.m. - Trail Work (meet at the trailhead parking lot off of Foothills Road)

May 16, 9:00 a.m. - Landscaping (weeding, etc. around amphitheater in preparation for the concert season) at BRMC (meet at the service road that goes behind the amphitheater)

June 13, 9:00 a.m. - Information table at Leaf and String Festival in Galax

If you are interested in helping the Fisher Peak Chapter, please contact Dottie Bramley at [pdbramley@valink.com](mailto:pdbramley@valink.com) or call 276-236-7658

### **Roanoke Valley Chapter**

The Roanoke Valley Chapter needs adult and youth volunteers to help plant 500 tree seedlings at Milepost 121 (behind Crossroads Automotive on US Route 220 South) on Saturday, March 28, at 10:00 AM. Volunteers should begin arriving between 9:00 AM and 9:45 AM, rain or shine at Clearbrook Elementary School for free shuttle service to the work area. There will be a formal welcome at 10:00 AM and the planting will end approximately 3:00 PM. Call us for pre-registration material at 800.228.PARK(7275) or email us at [staff@FriendsBRP.org](mailto:staff@FriendsBRP.org).

If you are interested in volunteering for upcoming projects, or want information on joining the Chapter's Steering Committee, please contact us at [staff@FriendsBRP.org](mailto:staff@FriendsBRP.org) or call toll free 800.228.PARK(7275).

### **Peaks of Otter Chapter**

If you are interested in volunteering for upcoming projects, or want information on joining the Chapter's Steering Committee, please contact Greg Eaton at [eaton.g@lynchburg.edu](mailto:eaton.g@lynchburg.edu) or call 434-661-8360.

### **Rocky Knob Chapter**

The Rocky Knob Chapter has invited the American Hikers Association to rebuild the Smart View Trail. They have requested 10 people and if the event is accepted, the workers will be at Rocky Knob for one week with Rocky Knob hosting, transporting and feeding the workers. Stay tuned for more

information. The Rocky Knob Chapter Steering Committee will be looking for volunteers to help with this event.

If you are interested in helping the Rocky Knob Chapter, please contact Gloria Hilton at [gjhilton1@yahoo.com](mailto:gjhilton1@yahoo.com) or call 540-593-3081.

[Back to top](#)



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