

Vol. 5 Issue: 10

November 2009

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Dear Friend,

With the falling of the leaves comes our annual time of Thanksgiving.

On behalf of the thousands of visitors that travel the Blue Ridge Parkway annually, we would like to offer our sincere thanks to you!

Thank you for supporting FRIENDS and the Blue Ridge Parkway.



QUICK LINKS

- About Us
- Volunteer
- Join FRIENDS
- Donate
- Past eNewsletters
- Press Releases

Whether you volunteer your time and talent or offer financial support, we truly appreciate you. Your love of the Parkway is evident and appreciated by countless visitors each year. You are truly an asset to the Parkway and FRIENDS. We could not possibly exist without you!

If you would like more information about volunteering in the coming year, please [let us know](#). Or, if you're ready to get started right now, just complete our [online volunteer application](#). There are numerous opportunities available, some of which you can do right from home.

PARKWAY LINKS

- Road Closures
- Maps
- Fees & Reservations
- Things to Do

FRIENDS News

FRIENDS Announces Viewshed Planting November 13, 2009

We are eagerly preparing for our upcoming fall viewshed planting. What is a viewshed you ask? Picture yourself standing on the Parkway at one of the many beautiful overlooks. If you were to look

Be Prepared

Blue Ridge Parkway
Information Line
828-298-0398

PARKWAY TRIVIA

Did you know
that the Blue Ridge Parkway
is the longest and narrowest
National Park in the world?

It is 469 miles in length.

Source:
America's Favorite Drive

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at all 360 degrees around you, you would have just witnessed your viewshed!



One of our main goals is to protect this viewshed. Therefore, we hold two viewshed plantings a year.

Our spring planting utilizes seedlings. Our upcoming fall planting will utilize ball and burlap trees. These are more mature, substantial trees.

If you would like to join us and help preserve the Parkway's views, please let us know by emailing our Coordinator of Programs, [Kristen Gillespie](#) or calling her at 540.772.2992.

FRIENDS Thanks You, Donation Box Collectors

FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway maintains donation boxes both on and off of the Parkway. Our members/volunteers collect the monies generously donated by Parkway visitors into these boxes. 100% of these monies directly benefit the Parkway by funding programs and events.

As a small token of our appreciation, FRIENDS recently sent each donation box collector a small gift box filled with FRIENDS goodies. We sincerely thank you for all you do for us!

Trails Forever Program *The Joys of Fall Hiking*

The following is courtesy of the [American Hiking Society](#).

Now that autumn is well in progress throughout the country, we all have several things to look forward to: family holiday gatherings and fall hiking!

When planning an autumn hike, keep these things in mind:



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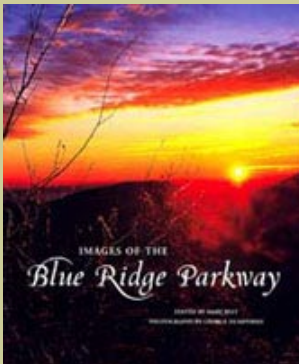
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- Obtain schedules of local hunting seasons and always pack appropriate blaze orange garments.
- Be aware that days are getting shorter. In some areas the sun is setting close to 5 PM now, so when planning that little "shortcut," make sure the batteries in your headlamp are fresh.
- Days are also getting colder and even a little drizzle can leave you dangerously chilled. Have appropriate waterproof and insulating garments available (avoiding cotton) and try to incorporate a few more calories into your trailside snacks.
- In the colder regions, fall is a great time to see wildlife stocking up for winter hibernation. Most of these critters will be active around dawn or dusk - sitting still during these times can increase your chances of seeing some great wildlife!

Enjoy the crisp autumn air and the changing color of the leaves.
Happy fall hiking from American Hiking Society and FRIENDS!

FRIENDS Book Winners

Members receive Images of the Blue Ridge Parkway book



Each month, FRIENDS holds a drawing for *Images of the Blue Ridge Parkway* book. Only members who renew their membership and provide us with their email address during that month are eligible. We would like to congratulate the following winners:

- * August - Mrs. Janice Ward of Tennessee
- * September - Mr. Jennings T. Bird of Virginia
- * October - Debbie & Earl Baker of Michigan

Would you like to be entered to win this month? Just give us your email address when [renewing your membership](#) 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

Patty and Bill Andrae

Corty Freeman

William H. Freeman

Shields Jarrett

Michael H. John

Shirley D. Wood



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, please complete our online [application](#).

Related 469-Mile Award News

Traveling the Parkway in 1929 Style

FRIENDS members, Walt and Linda Krite Meyer, recently completed an interesting trip on the Parkway. They traveled the full length of the Parkway in their 1929 Model A Business Coupe! This earned them both a 469-Mile Award from FRIENDS. To read their complete story, visit our [website](#). Congratulations, Walt and Linda, on completing a most interesting journey.

Newest FRIENDS Members

We Sincerely Thank You



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

Earl Amos, Matt Bowman, Sam Burke, Craig & Elaine Butterfield, Michele Dominiak, Erika Gleason, Ruth Harnesberger, Dale & Debi Hudler, Lanny & Karen Lewis, James Moster, Kate Neyland, J. David & Jamie Poole, Janice T. Pope, George & Darlene Ring, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Satkamp, Gary Skilton, Bruce & Annette Sutton and Paul Sykes.

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](#).

Merchandise Item of the Month

FRIENDS Logo Fleece Vest

The fall season is definitely upon us and so is the cooler weather. Our FRIENDS logo gray fleece vest would be the perfect piece of apparel to wear on your next Parkway hike.

It is made of 100% polyester and is machine washable. We offer sizes small to extra large for only \$19.95 plus shipping.

You can purchase this and many other logo items in our [online store](#).



FRIENDS Chapter News

Humpback Rocks Chapter

Ridge District

This newly formed Chapter held their first meeting on Nov. 5, 2009 in Waynesboro, VA. They elected officers and discussed upcoming Chapter projects.

If you would like more information about this Chapter, are interested in volunteering with this Chapter, or want to participate on the Chapter's Steering Committee, please contact [Gregory Bruno](#) or [David Munn](#). You can also call the FRIENDS office at 800-228-PARK (7275).

Peaks of Otter Chapter

Ridge District

For information about this Chapter, please contact [Greg Eaton](#) or [Kristen Gillespie](#).

Roanoke Chapter

Plateau District



The Roanoke Chapter of FRIENDS recently held a work day at the Fisherman's Trail located at the Roanoke River Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Eight adults and five children participated. They removed debris and litter from the trail. They have scheduled another work day for late-November, when they will be working to remove graffiti from the bridge pilings.

For more information about this upcoming work day, or for information about joining the Chapter, please contact Chapter Co-Chair, [Regina Desper](#).

Rocky Knob Chapter

Plateau District

The Rocky Knob Chapter of FRIENDS continues to collect funds from the donation box located at Mabry Mill. These monies help fund and support Parkway Programs.

Chapter members will be meeting this month to organize upcoming projects and to elect new officers.

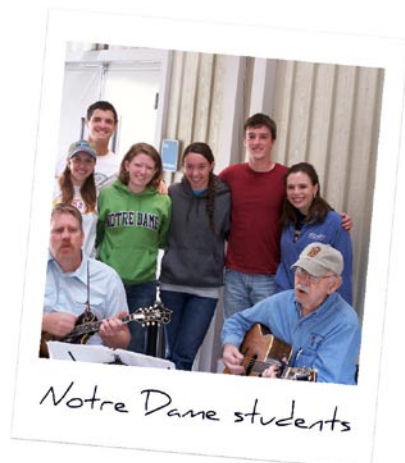
To be a part of upcoming work days, or for more information about the Rocky Knob Chapter, please contact Chapter Chair [Gloria Hilton](#).

Fisher Peak Chapter

Plateau & Highland Districts

The Fisher Peak Chapter of FRIENDS recently hosted six students from the University of Notre Dame. Students are required to spend one week in Appalachia as part of Notre Dame's Appalachia Studies Program. The students and Chapter members worked over 600 volunteer hours during their week-long stay.

The students, along with FRIENDS volunteers, spent the week building and repairing fences, landscaping and doing trail work on the Parkway. In addition, Chapter members provided the students with nightly dinners, helped them participate at a local food bank and



introduced them to music of the area.

This Chapter has planned another work day at the Blue Ridge Music Center, Milepost 213, this Saturday, November 14. They will be replacing trees and shrubs that did not survive last year's planting. They will meet at the storage shed on the service road behind the amphitheater at 9:00 a.m.

For more information about the upcoming work day, or for more information about the Chapter, please contact [Dottie Bramley](#).

West Jefferson Chapter

Highland District

FRIENDS is in the process of establishing a new Chapter in the West Jefferson, NC area. If you live in this area and are interested in being a part of this newly forming Chapter, or would like to serve on the Chapter's steering committee, please email FRIENDS Coordinator of Programs, [Kristen Gillespie](#), or call her at 800.228.PARK (7275).

ASU Chapter

Highland District

For information about this Chapter, including how to join, please contact [Heather Preston](#).

Asheville Chapter

Pisgah District



The Asheville Chapter of FRIENDS recently teamed with eight Warren Wilson students to install eleven new tent pads at the Mt. Pisgah Campground. According to Michael Ryan, NPS Pisgah District Facility Manager, "The Park is extremely pleased with their support and result."

It is the Chapter's hope that the students will return in the spring when the focus will turn to the rehabilitation of existing tent pad sites.

For more information about the Asheville Chapter, please contact [Hugh Stephens](#) or [Beth Siegel](#).

National News

Land Near Parkway Protected

Permanent Conservation Easement Established



The Conservation Trust for North Carolina recently closed a deal to save 1,488 acres (nearly 5 miles) currently owned by the CSX Corporation in McDowell County, NC. Much of the land borders the Parkway and even more of it can be viewed from the Parkway's overlooks.

The agreement, completed on September 4, 2009, will allow the Conservation Trust to manage the easement. CSX Corporation will retain ownership of the land and use the railroad tracks that traverse it. However, the permanent conservation easement will serve to protect against development and logging of the adjacent land. This will preserve Parkway views for years to come. [Learn more...](#)

National Park Service Funding Increased

President Obama Signs Bill

The National Park System (NPS) has received a substantial increase in funding for 2010. President Obama recently signed a \$32.2 billion Interior and Environment Appropriations bill for the 2010 fiscal year. In this bill, the NPS received \$2.7 billion.

A few of the bill's highlights include:

- NPS Operations received roughly \$130 million above last year's funding level
- The NPS portion of the Land & Water Conservation Fund received \$126 million
- Public-Private Partnerships were funded at \$15 million

Thank you, President Obama, for seeing a need and meeting it!

Parkway News

Blue Ridge Parkway 75th Anniversary Events Planned

Mark your calendar now for opening weekend

A series of opening events will be held November 12 - 14, in Cherokee and Asheville, North Carolina. The weekend-long celebration will highlight specific areas of Parkway history related to Western North Carolina.

Thursday, November 12, 2009

An afternoon school program and an evening public program will highlight tribal legacies in national parks.

Friday, November 13, 2009

A ceremonial torch passing from Great Smoky Mountains National Park to the Blue Ridge Parkway will occur at 10:00 a.m. The Warriors of AniKituwah dancers will perform.

Saturday, November 14, 2009

A panel discussion on the history of the landmark campaign to route the Blue Ridge Parkway in Western North Carolina will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Folk Art Center, Milepost 382. The event will also feature craft demonstrations, traditional music and book signings. A second panel will convene at 1:00 p.m. as well.

The weekend will wrap up with a benefit concert at Thomas Wolfe Auditorium in Asheville, NC, at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 14. Tickets for the concert are available at the Asheville Civic Center Box Office or at Ticketmaster. For more information, visit the Blue Ridge Parkway 75th Anniversary [website](#).



Birding the Blue Ridge

Migratory Hawks



October was a great month for hawk-watching along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen in large numbers during October, with approximately 305 spotted at Harvey's Knob (MP 95.3), and 236 reportedly seen at Rockfish Gap (MP 0). An unusual Blue Ridge Parkway visitor, the Northern Goshawk, was spotted in mid-October, and confirmed at hawk-watching sites all along the Blue Ridge. [Continue reading...](#)

Parkway Volunteers Honored

VIP Volunteer Recognition Event

Each year, Parkway staff nominate volunteers that have gone above and beyond their "volunteer" call of duty to receive special recognition. These volunteers are honored at the annual VIP (Volunteer In Parks) Event at the Folk Art Center in Asheville, NC. This year's event was held on October 2.

The following people were recognized for their superior volunteer service during 2009:

- Ridge District - Greg Baltad
- Plateau District - J.C. & Linda Barton and their grandson, Nicholas
- Highland District - Judy & Buddy Lovett
- Pisgah District - Frances Ogasawara



Congratulations to all of you! The Park Service and FRIENDS truly appreciates all you do. Without people like you, the Parkway would not be what it is today.

Over the next four months, we will highlight each winner and tell you a little more about them. Stay tuned...

Take only Pictures...

Leave only Footprints



In an effort to promote the *Leave No Trace* campaign, The National Park Service (NPS) has produced a captivating and informative video. The video is 9 ½ minutes and addresses the importance of taking a personal role in preserving the outdoor experience. It provides a vivid and adventurous display of outdoor scenery, showcasing wild animals, breathtaking scenery and explains how people can incorporate the *Leave No Trace* principles when they are outdoors.

"We hope the video inspires people to take a wilderness trip," said Jonathan Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service. "The more people know about making the right choices while camping and

enjoying the backcountry, the better we can protect these special places for future generations of hikers and campers."

You can view the *Leave No Trace* video on the NPS [website](#) and read the related [press release](#) there as well.



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.