

Rod Broker

From: FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway [rod_broker@friendsbrp.org]
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To: rod_broker@friendsbrp.org
Subject: October eNews

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eNews

October 2010



Grand VIP of the Year!

Congratulations to Fran Shumate who was recently honored as Volunteer in Parks (VIP) Volunteer of the Year for the Plateau District as well as the entire Parkway. Other district VIPs of the year (John Turner, Peter Skeris, Dan Brown, and Warren Wilson College students) will be featured in future eNewsletters.

Here's what Superintendent Phil Francis had to say about Fran Shumate:

Congratulations on being selected as the Plateau District's and the Blue Ridge Parkway's Volunteer of the Year! You have been a dedicated parkway volunteer since 1991. Early on, you volunteered at the Rocky Knob Contact Station as well as performing Rocky Knob area trail raves. Over the years, you've also volunteered in the Highlands District, providing demonstrations as part of the Overmountain Victory Celebration. Now, most of the time you work at Mabry Mill as a versatile interpreter while demonstrating traditional skills.

Volunteering is not something you take lightly. During these past 20 years, you've worked at least two jobs, sometimes three while also attending college, and through it all, you continued to volunteer for the Parkway!

After taking traditional craft classes at your own expense, you share your knowledge with our staff; teaching experienced interpreters, new staff and other volunteers what you've learned. We are able to have a better interpretive program at Mabry Mill knowing that you will be in the Matthews Cabin spinning yarn (and yarns), making hats or demonstrating mountain toys when children come in.

You make a definite impression on parkway visitors - repeat visitors often ask about you if they happen to visit when you're not at Mabry Mill. Your kind and friendly manner easily draws visitors in, and they always leave with a greater understanding of mountain life and a good feeling about the park.

Your deep love and respect for the Blue Ridge Parkway shows in every contact you make. For your outstanding service, it is my honor to recognize and thank you as the Parkway's Volunteer of the Year for 2010.



Miles and Miles of Majesty

Congratulations to the following FRIENDS who have recently traveled the entire length of the Blue Ridge Parkway either in sections, over time, or in one continuous delightful adventure.

The newest 469-Mile Award recipients are ... J. Michael Plevyak, Braxton Naff, Shawn Carson, Anita and Curtis Easter, Susan Roquemore, David Roquemore, Annette R. Nogie, Spencer Hinson, Ziyad P. Ahmad, Ricky and Rita Parmer, Betty M. Johnson, Kathleen T. Bengel, Raymond N. Bengel Sr, Dan and Ellen Scott, Buford and Bonnie Johns, and Seth Schnuit.

Visit the FRIENDS [website](#) for more information about what it takes to earn and receive a certificate and sticker to celebrate your journey through miles and miles of majesty.

Virginia Parkway License Plate

About 100 more applications needed. Order yours now!



Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway by mailing \$25 and your application for this great Parkway plate to FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway today! After the Commonwealth takes its portion for administration, 100% of the remaining proceeds will benefit the Parkway.

FRIENDS must receive about 100 additional plate applications and payments to make this endeavor a reality. Don't delay... visit our [website](#) to print an [application](#). Mail the completed form with your \$25 payment to: FRIENDS BRP, PO Box 20986, Roanoke VA 24018.

Chapters Are More Than Sections In a Book

FRIENDS Has Chapters Too!

Our chapters are clusters of FRIENDS members and volunteers who take special care for the Parkway as it winds through their particular geographical area. Among other things, chapters recruit, organize, inspire and recognize volunteers for trail restoration, maintenance, and other hands-on projects. Chapters also engage in fund-raising and advocacy to support Parkway programs in their district. Chapters are led by steering committees who work, often behind the scenes, to do the planning and coordination that makes so many positive things happen on and for the Parkway.

Click on the name of chapter below for more information about recent activities and specific programs. Contact one of the chapter leaders below for more information on how you can serve the Parkway as a volunteer.



[Humpback Rocks](#), Mileposts 0-20, [Rod Broker](#)
[Peaks of Otter](#), Mileposts 60-90, [Rod Broker](#)
[Roanoke Valley](#), Mileposts 80-130, [Regina Desper](#)
[Rocky Knob](#), Mileposts 130-200, [Jim Newlin](#)
[Fisher Peak](#), Mileposts 200 - 217.5, [Lewis Shropshire](#)
[West Jefferson](#), Mileposts 217.5 - 270, [Ken Canter](#)
[High Country](#) Boone/Blowing Rock, Mileposts 270-316, [Mike Keibelbeck](#)
[Appalachian State University](#) Student Chapter, [Heather Preston](#)
[Asheville](#), Mileposts 364 - 410, [Hugh Stephens](#)
[Cherokee](#), Mileposts 410 - 469, [Robert Jumper](#)

Fall Colors Are Out

... And So Are the Rangers

Blue Ridge Parkway Rangers will be out in force this fall foliage season sending the strong message that any one caught not buckling up will be ticketed and fined. "Fall is one of the most beautiful times of the year," said Chief Ranger Steve Stinnett. But a drive on a beautiful fall day can quickly turn to tragedy if you fail to buckle up." [Read more](#) ...



FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway utilizes volunteer services, but needs your support to fund our programs. FRIENDS is unique - for every dollar you invest in FRIENDS, Parkway volunteers provide \$3.00 of volunteer service back to the Blue Ridge Parkway - together we are making a difference! Please offer your generosity in support of our mission to preserve, promote and enhance the Parkway. Thank you.

Anniversary Hand-Off to Shenandoah Park November 5, 2010

When Donna Bedwell was a youngster growing up in Monterey, she had several experiences that taught her about hard work, responsibility and the value of a good tourist draw. She's coordinator of the 75th anniversary of Shenandoah, a year of events that kick off November 5 when the home of Skyline Drive accepts the birthday-celebration baton from the Blue Ridge Parkway, winding up its own 75th. The "hand-off" ceremony will be held at McCormick Gap Overlook with officials from the Blue Ridge Parkway and Shenandoah National Park.



BRP Facility Closing Schedule

But the Parkway Remains Open for Travel!

Click here for the schedule of facility [closings](#) along the Parkway at the end of this month. The Parkway, of course, remains open for travel depending on weather and road conditions; a few visitor centers and other concessions remain open as well. Be sure to check the schedule for more information.

STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR FRIENDS

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