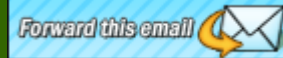


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Vol. 5 Issue: 9

September/October 2009

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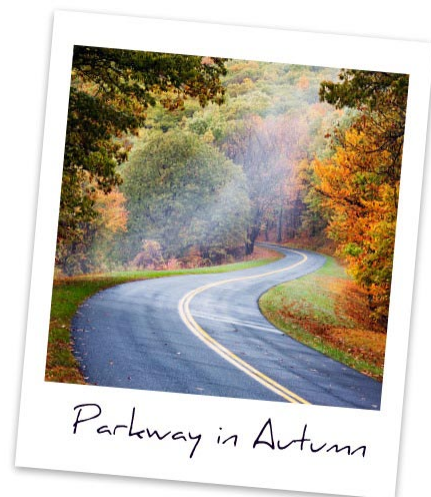
Dear Friend,

Did you know that October is National Go on a Field Trip Month? And guess what? Field trips aren't just for school children!

Why not enjoy the fall weather that is upon us by traveling the Parkway?

[Activities along the Parkway](#) are still in full swing. You could take in the fall foliage from Grandfather Mountain or get a little closer to it by hiking on a trail or two.

However you decide to spend the month of October, make sure you include the Parkway in at least one excursion. The autumn mountain vistas shouldn't be missed!



Be Prepared

Blue Ridge Parkway  
Information Line  
828-298-0398

## FRIENDS News

### PARKWAY TRIVIA

Did you know that the Blue Ridge Parkway is our nation's most-visited National Park?

An estimated 16.3 million people visited in 2008.

Source: National Park Service

### STAY CONNECTED



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Editor: [Shane Hawk](#)

### *FRIENDS Quarterly Board Meeting Held Chapter Chair Honored*

Due to the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center's generous in-kind donations, their facility was the venue for FRIENDS' recent quarterly board meeting. The meeting was held July 30 & 31st and, for the first time, FRIENDS' Chapter Chairs were invited to attend.

Chapters represented were: Asheville, Fisher Peak, Roanoke Valley and Rocky Knob. Each chapter gave a summary of the past year's work and accomplishments as well as future goals.



During the Thursday afternoon meeting, Dottie Bramley, long time FRIENDS member and Fisher Peak Chapter Chair, was honored for her immeasurable devotion, dedication and work.

Friday morning was filled with a closed session meeting for board members and a chapter chair meeting led by Kristen Gillespie, FRIENDS Coordinator of Programs.

The next board meeting is scheduled for November and will be held at Chetola Resort in Blowing Rock, NC.

### **FRIENDS' Office Relocates** *Staff Enjoying New Space*

In June of this year, FRIENDS Executive Director, Susan Mills, learned that the office space FRIENDS had occupied for nearly six years would no longer be available as in-kind space.

FRIENDS board member, Elmer Hodge, was soon able to secure 1,655 square feet of space in Building F of the Fralin & Waldron Office Park located at 3800 Franklin Road in SW Roanoke County.

Contributors:  
Virginia Ehrich, Kristen  
Gillsepie, Eva, O. Gray, Ben  
Geer Keys

Editorial Advisors:  
Peggy Desper, Susan Mills

Thanks to the efforts of  
FRIENDS' staff,  
FRIENDS' members and  
FRIENDS' volunteers, the  
move was started and  
completed in one day!

We are now unpacked  
and settled into our new  
space. Can you believe  
this is the first time the  
entire FRIENDS staff has  
shared the same office  
space? It is working out  
wonderfully and proving  
to be a much more  
efficient work  
environment.



We would like to sincerely thank George Blonar, Larry & Jean  
Covington, Danny Desper, Ryan Dunagan, Paul Finey, Payton  
Hawk, Bob Mills and Richard Wells for their hard work on moving  
day! We would also like to thank Karen Fralin and Heywood  
Waldron for their generosity.

If you are in the area, please stop by and see us. We would love to  
show you around!

## **Inaugural Blue Ridge Marathon Announced**

*FRIENDS to receive proceeds*



Virginia Congressman Bob Goodlatte recently announced the inaugural Blue Ridge Marathon on the Parkway. It will be held on April 24, 2010 and will begin and end in downtown Roanoke. Participants will tour the region's highest peaks along the way. The event is being held in conjunction with the Parkway's 75th anniversary. Organizers have designated FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway to receive all proceeds.

You can read the full press release on [FRIENDS' website](#).

## *Last Hurrah Children's Festival FRIENDS Participates*

FRIENDS Coordinator of Programs, Kristen Gillespie, recently attended the Last Hurrah Children's Festival in Asheville, NC.

Throughout the day she interacted with over 150 children. Using FRIENDS' Enviroscope (a hands-on learning tool), she and her mother, Lanae, were able to show children the effects that chemicals and other pollutants have on our water systems. Kristen reports the children were thoroughly engaged and enjoyed learning in this manner. Each child that participated received a "hiking animals" hat courtesy of FRIENDS.

Kristen says she looks forward to next year's event and hopes to interact with even more children!



## **Virginia Blue Ridge Parkway License Plate**

### *Support FRIENDS & the Blue Ridge Parkway*



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.

We are approaching the required 350 applications to make this plate a reality. To get your own, or to learn more, visit the [FRIENDS website](#). If you have additional question,

please email us at [staff@friendsbrp.org](mailto:staff@friendsbrp.org).

## The 469-Mile Club

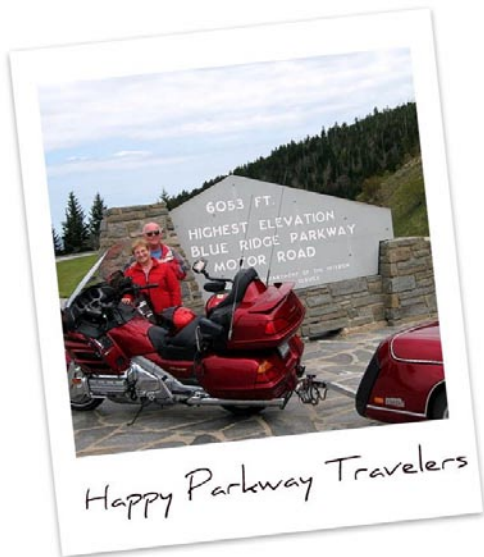
### Recent Award Recipients Announced

*John Stephen Alden, Barbara Apelian, David M. Barlow, Steven C. Buschor, Michael R. Ditto, Mansa Keegan, Chris Kidd, Joan Maddocks, William McIlwraith, Monica C. Mitchell, William F. Mitchell, Annette Sutton & Bruce Sutton.*

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 let us know. We would love to present you with a 469-Mile Award too. You can [email us](#) or complete our [application](#) online.



### Related 469-Mile Award News



Sean and Virginia McCarthy, FRIENDS members, have traveled the Blue Ridge Parkway more than a dozen times in the last twenty years. Sean relates, "each time we see something we missed previously."

They enjoy seeing the Parkway during different times of the year to fully experience it's grandeur. Side trips, off of the Parkway, are also a fun part of their experience. To read more, visit [FRIENDS' website](#).

## Merchandise Item of the Month

### Panoramic Note Cards

Enjoy summer and autumn scenes taken on the Blue Ridge Parkway and in the Great Smokey Mountains. This set of 12 cards and envelopes, three cards each of four different scenes, would be the perfect way to say "hi" to friends and relatives.

All photos were taken by Jim and Judy Mowbray. The price is only \$8.00 per set. That's only \$0.67 per card! You can purchase these and many other items in the FRIENDS [online store](#).



## Newest FRIENDS Members

*We Sincerely Thank You*



Welcome to the following members from North Carolina who have recently joined FRIENDS:

Carrie & Rebecca Atchley; Evie Weston  
Angela & Asia Harold; Robert & Joan Brunt;  
Jeannie & Mike Kuhlman; Sarah McKay;  
Clair Bilbao; Christie Conway; Tiffany  
Pardue; Amanda Moore; Kate Salisbury;  
Sarah Tencer; Megan Dann; Morgan  
Shank; Stephanie Matson & Anna Martin.

We are also happy to welcome the following new members from Virginia, Illinois, Texas and Michigan:

Christa Burnette; Kaylene Mabry; Veronica Santo; Anthony & Eileen Hayman; Susan O. Getz;  
Michael Walters; Tammy Fleming; Lola & B.W. Hedge; James Edwards; Karin J. Thomas; Rachel  
McManamay and Morgan Shank.

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](#).

**I go to nature to be soothed and healed,  
and to have my senses put in order.**

**~John Burroughs**

## FRIENDS Chapter News

### Roanoke Chapter

#### *Plateau District*

This chapter has been busy getting involved with the Roanoke community. On October 17, they will be participating in Macy's annual [Shop for a Cause](#) event. Chapter members will be selling shopping passes for \$5 each. (All of the monies from the sale of the passes will go directly to the Chapter.) This pass entitles shoppers to exclusive all-day savings throughout the store. For more information about this event, to pre-purchase a shopping pass, or for information about joining the chapter, please contact Chapter Co-Chair, [Regina Desper](#).



The chapter will also have a booth at the Vinton Fall Festival on October 10, from 9am - 4pm. Be sure to stop by and say hello!



Whorley Cabin

## Rocky Knob Chapter *Plateau District*

Chapter members recently worked with Parkway employees to clean up around the Whorley Cabin located at the top of Rock Castle Gorge. The cabin is the third stop on the [Rock Castle Gorge hike](#), a guided historical hike given by the National Park Service.

Their next planned work day will be in mid-October when they will be painting milemarkers at Rocky Knob Campground.

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

## Fisher Peak Chapter *Plateau & Highland Districts*

Fourteen members of FRIENDS' Fisher Peak Chapter recently met at Cumberland Knob for a work day. In preparation for events planned there for the Parkway's 75th anniversary, they assessed the condition of the picnic areas and grounds. They also removed brush and repaired horseshoe pits. Afterward, they all enjoyed Doug Robinson's spaghetti which was cooked on the grill!

Upcoming workdays are set for October 19 - 22 when students from the University of Notre Dame will participate. For more information about work days or how to join the chapter, please contact [Dottie Bramley](#), Fisher Peak Chapter Chair.



Fisher Peak Chapter

## Asheville Chapter *Pisgah District*

This chapter was presented a \$5,000 grant check at their recent steering committee meeting! They applied for and won the grant from [REI](#) in Asheville, NC. As you can see, Asheville Chapter Chair Hugh Stephens was all smiles. Thank you REI!

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



REI gives \$5,000 grant

## National News

### U.S. Mint to Honor Blue Ridge Parkway

#### *North Carolina Governor makes announcement*

Governor Bev Perdue recently announced that the Blue Ridge Parkway will be honored in the new U.S. Mint America the Beautiful Quarters Program. Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner approved the list of sites recommended by the U.S. Mint in August.

"Countless visitors from around the world have lasting impressions of the Blue Ridge Parkway - one of America's greatest treasures," said Perdue. "Now the lasting impressions of the Blue Ridge Parkway and its majestic legacy will be captured on these special coins."

The America the Beautiful Quarters Program is a 12-year program. The U.S. Mint will issue 56 of these quarters. The tails side will feature a national park or other national site in each of the 50 states, Washington D.C. and U.S. territories. They will be issued sequentially each year, in the order in which the featured site was first established as a national park or site.



The Blue Ridge Parkway quarter will be issued in 2015. For full details, visit the [U.S. Mint website](#).

## Parkway News

### Birding the Blue Ridge

#### *Migratory Hawks*



Hawk watching on Harvey's Knob (between mileposts 95 and 96 on the Blue Ridge Parkway) is in full swing. On September 19th, 1,937 raptors soared over Harvey's Knob on their 4,000 mile journey to Peru and other southerly destinations. On that day, a record setting 51 Osprey were sighted, along with 1,865 broad-winged hawks.

Official hawk counters, who provide data to the Hawk Migration Association of N.A., are at the overlook daily, weather permitting. Hawks will migrate over the Blue Ridge Mountains through late November, with different months bringing various raptor species. Peregrine falcons will join the migration in October, along with sharp-shinned hawks.

Bring a chair, a lunch, and a pair of binoculars and join members of the [Roanoke Valley Bird Club](#) and others for a daily display of soaring splendor.

## 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 at 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](#).



## Parkway in Bloom

*Floral Beauty Abundant*



Although fall is upon us, there are still plenty of blooming flowers to be seen on the Parkway.

You can see any of the following in all their glory.... Grass of Parnassus, Closed Gentian, Wild Impatient, Blue Aster and Cow Parsnip.

Also, Mountain Ash generally has beautiful orange berries this time of year. Lastly, don't forget about the beauty that Blueberries have to offer with their pink and blue berries.

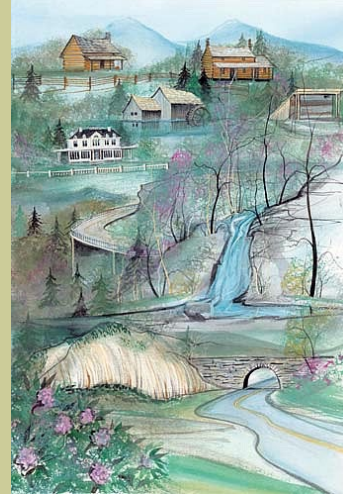
(A special thank you to [Ben Geer Keys](#), FRIENDS' board member, for sharing his photography and knowledge.)

## P. Buckley Moss Unveils Commemorative Print *Commemorates Blue Ridge Parkway 75th Anniversary*

On September 11, 2009, P. Buckley Moss unveiled her Blue Ridge Parkway 75th anniversary commemorative print, entitled *The Good Road - Blue Ridge Parkway*, at The Farmer's Daughter restaurant in Galax, VA.

The print features the Peaks of Otter, the Farmstead at Humpback Rocks, Explore Park, Mabry Mill, the Blue Ridge Music Center, the Cone Manor House, the Linn Cove Viaduct, Linville Falls and Looking Glass Rock.

The prints can be purchased for \$125.00 through her [online store](#).



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.

### [Forward email](#)



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