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eNews

September 2010

Super Thanks for a Super Weekend!

From Phil Francis, Superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway

To all Parkway employees, volunteers, and partners: I want to thank all of you for your contributions to our very successful Anniversary weekend. I don't think I have ever experienced in my many years of service a better organized and well-planned event. I think the program planning and the logistics were exceptional. And the amount of effort expended by so many was just awesome. ...



I heard so many compliments about our employees and volunteers. I wish I could remember them all and wish I could have captured them on video so that all of you could have heard. The level of commitment and dedication was amazing and the level of coordination between divisions was as good as I have ever seen at any time in my career. You made me proud to be part of your organization and you impressed a lot of people who came to visit us. ...

There are so many examples that I could point to that illustrates how special this weekend was. ... The blue polo shirts with the Parkway's 75th Anniversary logo on them will be keepsake items for many and I will always remember that people who wore those blue shirts were everywhere working side by side with uniformed staff making our visitors feel welcome. ... I could go on and on and on, but I'll close by saying once again - Thank you. Thank you for a job well done. Thank you for representing the Parkway and the National Park Service so well. Thank you for being part of a cadre of dedicated people who love the Parkway and want it to be here for future generations.

Virginia Parkway License Plate

*It's like purchasing an annual pass
for the privilege of driving the Parkway*

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 350 plate applications and payments to make this endeavor a reality. Don't delay... visit our [website](#) to [print an application](#) and mail it, with your \$25 payment, to: FRIENDS BRP, PO Box 20986, Roanoke VA

24018.

Golf Classic at The Cliffs



The Cliffs at Walnut Cove in Arden NC will be hosting the FRIENDS [Golf Classic](#) on Tuesday, October 26. Play is limited to only 30 foursomes, so [register](#) NOW! The tournament celebrates the Blue Ridge Parkway's 75th Anniversary and honors NPS BRP Superintendent Phil Francis.

There are tournament [sponsorship](#) opportunities available, and [volunteers](#) from the Asheville and Arden areas are needed to help produce this enjoyable event. [Read more](#) ...



Bicycling the Blue Ridge ~~ Family Style

It was my husband's dream to bicycle the entire Blue Ridge Parkway. He had ridden it the year he turned 40, and looked forward to riding again in his 50th year. That dream became our latest family adventure. The trip grew to include the Skyline Drive and the Great Smoky Mountains - 682 miles of the beautiful mountains so dear to us. [Read More](#)

The Road More Traveled

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. This is one of the larger groups of award-recipients ever in a single month and perhaps is testimony to the larger number of travelers on the Parkway during this anniversary year.



The newest 469-Mile Award recipients are George Wilkinson III, Anthony Senecal, Max Archibald, Sally Archibald, Mark Archibald, Samuel Archibald, Joe and Pat Soares, Doris Gamelin and Rod Broker, William Caldwell, Jani Johnson, Wayne Johnson, John and Gwyneith McCleese, Jane Wilkinson, Lonnie Maize, Bill and Mary Ann Pruehsner, Deb Sanderson, Jim Sanderson, Edward Harris, Grover Pagans, Thomas Coffey, Lisa Carter, Cynthia Anderson, and Tanya Henry.

Visit the FRIENDS [website](#) for more information about what it takes to earn and receive a certificate and sticker to celebrate your journey on the road more traveled.

And the Winners Are ...

Sam Woodruff is the winner of the Grand Prize in the FRIENDS Non-Event Gala drawing held on September 1. Sam purchased ONE ticket for the Parkway Gala in June, and his prizes include a Taste of the Blue Ridge experiential weekend at [The Reserve at Lake Keowee](#) in Sunset, South Carolina.



Here are the additional winners of the drawing and what they won: Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Martin are winners of a 4-night stay for four at Holly 8, 2-bdrm villa at Chetola Resort in Blowing Rock, North Carolina. Mr. Kenneth Hartshorn is winner of One Round of Golf for two at Birdwood Golf Course at Boar's Head Inn, a country resort at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. T. Dalton Miller are winners of a relaxing one-night stay for two, including breakfast in the Blue Ridge Dining Room at The Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa in Asheville, North Carolina. Mr. Robert L.V. French is winner of one night's free lodging at Balsam Mountain Inn in Balsam, North Carolina. Mrs. Judy Lynn Trimble is winner of a Blue Ridge Parkway 75th Anniversary Basket from FRIENDS.

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all for purchasing tickets and supporting FRIENDS!



Make a
Donation

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.

Serve and Learn

During BRP75 Symposium

October 14-16, 2010

Volunteer Ambassadors are needed to serve one or more shifts during the October 14-16 BRP75 Symposium at Hotel Roanoke. Ambassadors will assist with registration, guide participants to rooms and meeting locations, provide support for administrative and program staff, staff a FRIENDS information and merchandise table, assist with closing procedures early Saturday afternoon and, of course, be available for other duties as assigned. When not on duty, Ambassadors will be given complementary access to Symposium presentations. Sign up here to serve as a [Volunteer Ambassador](#).



[Register](#) now for the Blue Ridge Parkway Symposium -- an opportunity to learn about the Blue Ridge Parkway as you have never known it before. The conference is open to all, including those who live near or do business with the Parkway, tourism and community development leaders, planning and government officials, teachers and students, outdoor enthusiasts, and Parkway lovers. Acclaimed authors Richard Louv (Last Child in the Woods) and Peter Jenkins (Walk Across America) are keynote speakers. [Read more](#).

FRIENDS Chapters Make a Difference All Year Long

Click on a Chapter name below for more information about recent activities and programs. Contact one of the Chapter leaders below for more information on how you can serve the Parkway as it winds through your area.



[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](#)

Driven to Help

In the midst of a depression in the 1930s and '40s, there wasn't much recreation going on in Galax - except for visits to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Many people went to Cumberland Knob - where the parkway began in 1935 - to grill, picnic and walk the trails because it was free and beautiful, Mary Guynn recalls. [Read more](#) about Mary and the Parkway in the *Galax Gazette*.



STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR FRIENDS

FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway
P.O. Box 20986 | Roanoke, VA 24018
540.772.2992 | 800.228.PARK (7275) | Staff@FriendsBRP.org

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