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## News Release

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### **For Immediate Release**

July 9, 2007

### **Craft and Story Telling Workshops on the Parkway**

**MABRY MILL and BRINEGAR CABIN** – Have you ever wanted to spin wool into yarn? Spin memories into stories? Make an egg basket? Weave a cane bottom chair? Skilled park rangers and master cultural volunteers will be leading hands-on workshops this summer at the historic area of Mabry Mill, milepost 176.1, and the Brinegar Cabin, milepost 238.5, on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The public is invited to come and learn a new skill and help keep these traditions alive!

The workshops are co-sponsored by FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway, a non-profit, membership organization that raises funds for Parkway needs, recruits volunteers and provides leadership for projects on the Parkway such as trail building and maintenance, public programs, and viewshed restoration.

The workshop fee covers the cost of materials and supports the volunteer activities of FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Fees are payable the day of the workshop in cash or check made out to FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Advanced reservations are requested. To reserve your space at the workshop, call the Rocky Knob Visitor Center at 540-745-9662. Members in FRIENDS receive a reduced rate for all workshops. Individuals wishing to join may call 800-228-PARK (7275) or visit the web at [www.BlueRidgeFRIENDS.org](http://www.BlueRidgeFRIENDS.org).

All workshops will be held on Saturdays at either Mabry Mill or Brinegar Cabin according to the following schedule:

July 14, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Mabry Mill

Basket Making Workshop: Participants will learn how to make an egg basket.

Fee: \$20 for FRIENDS members and \$25 for non-members. Fees include materials for a basket that can be taken home at the conclusion of the workshop. Participants limited to 10.

July 28, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Mabry Mill

Storytelling Workshop: Master Storyteller Lisa Hollingsworth will present activities and exercises that teach techniques that will help participants become good story tellers.

Fee: \$10 for FRIENDS members and \$15 for non-members. Please bring a story you are working on. Participants limited to 25.

August 11, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Doughton Park area at Brinegar Cabin, milepost 238.5

Weaving and Spinning Workshops: participants will use a drop spindle to spin wool into yarn, and learn how to warp and weave a tabby weave using a small frame loom.

Fee: \$30 for FRIENDS members and \$35 for non-members. Participants limited to 16.

September 8, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Mabry Mill, milepost 176.1

Weaving and Spinning Workshops: participants will use a drop spindle to spin wool into yarn, and learn how to warp and weave a tabby weave using a small frame loom.

Fee: \$30 for FRIENDS members and \$35 for non-members. Participants limited to 16.

September 22, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Mabry Mill, milepost 176.1

Chair Bottoming Workshop: Learn how to weave a split bottom seat for a wooden chair

Participants are to bring their own wooden chairs (without a seat) to finish in class.

Fee is \$10 for FRIENDS members and \$15 for non-members. Fee includes the materials needed to complete the chair bottom. Participants limited to 20.

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FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Inc. is a Blue Ridge Parkway partner organization. FRIENDS is a nonprofit membership organization that has served the Blue Ridge Parkway for over 19 years. Individuals or organizations interested in learning about other volunteer opportunities or ways to financially support Parkway programs should call, write or visit on the Internet: FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Inc. P.O. Box 20986, Roanoke, VA 24018 / Telephone 540-772-2992 or 800-228-PARK (7275) / E-mail: [staff@FriendsBRP.org](mailto:staff@FriendsBRP.org) / Website: [www.BlueRidgeFRIENDS.org](http://www.BlueRidgeFRIENDS.org)