



**BLUE RIDGE
PARKWAY
FOUNDATION**

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission

We are the primary fundraising partner for the Blue Ridge Parkway, providing support for initiatives along the 469-mile route, including natural resource protection, historical and cultural preservation, visitor amenities, and education and outreach.

LEADERSHIP

Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation

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Carolyn Ward, Ph.D. <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Blue Ridge Music Center Program
Willa Mays <i>Chief Development Officer</i>	Richard Emmett <i>Program Director</i>
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Rita Larkin <i>Communications Director</i>	Allison Royal <i>Graphic Design & Outreach Coordinator</i>
Jacob LeBlanc <i>Communications & Graphic Design Manager</i>	



The Blue Ridge Parkway is known as “America’s Favorite Journey” for good reason. Millions of people travel the scenic motorway each year to discover a magnificent adventure into our history, culture, and the mountain landscape.

If you are holding this report in your hands, your Parkway journey also includes the preservation and care of this national treasure. Your journey is about more than what the Parkway can give to you, but what you can give to the Parkway.

This year, you were responsible for milestones and moments that will serve the park for generations to come. Your support replaced the failing flume at picturesque Mabry Mill. Your dedication means The Bluffs Restaurant is on track to reopen in 2020. Thanks to you, the Denim Ball raised more funds for the preservation of Moses H. Cone Memorial Park than any previous event. We are so grateful for these contributions and many more outlined on these pages.

Thank you for traveling this road with us.

Carolyn Ward
Chief Executive Officer

Many people who love the Blue Ridge Parkway know exactly how many miles it stretches. They know their favorite overlook. They know how those twists and turns and special places make them feel. Far fewer know the number of assets that are maintained by the National Park Service on this much loved and highly visited parkway. There are 300 miles of trails, more than 200 overlooks, 91 historic buildings, more than 690,000 artifacts in the park museum collection, 80,000+ acres of land, 8 campgrounds and 14 picnic areas, just to name a few.

That is a lot to love, but it is also a lot to support and care for day in and day out. This is why it is good to know we have a Community of Stewards that assists the National Park Service through the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, engaging in the park’s protection and helping us maintain the Parkway for this and future generations of park users.

J.D. Lee
Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway

PRESERVING HISTORY & CULTURE

The Blue Ridge Parkway weaves the narrative of history into our modern-day lives. This ribbon of road is the great connector between the tales and traditions of our mountain roots. By protecting the places that embody these stories, we can ensure the lessons of our past are not lost to time, but instead reverberate for generations to come.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Preservation & the Future of Flat Top Manor

This was a landmark year in the effort to safeguard Flat Top Manor at Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, as the installation of a new fire suppression system is now complete. Drawing water from a roughly 30,000-gallon tank, and extending throughout the building as well as its expansive porch, the system is the first comprehensive fire solution to be installed in the dwelling's almost 120-year history.

In October, the National Park Service's Denver Service Center joined the process of restoring the manor, creating a plan to extensively rehabilitate the building's exterior. The repairs will include the replacement of cedar shingles and supportive columns, as well as restoration of the doors, windows, siding, gutters, and additional features.

As the planning, design, and construction management office for the national park system, the

Denver Service Center has been responsible for some of the largest park projects, including preservation efforts at the Jefferson and Lincoln memorials, and the construction of the Parkway Visitor Center in Asheville, North Carolina.

To date, your gifts have funded nearly 90 percent of the project's total \$3.6 million cost. Together, we will preserve this priceless Parkway icon for future visitors and stewards to enjoy.

The fourth annual Denim Ball raised more than \$200,000 for rehab work at Flat Top Manor. See photos from the celebration on page 17.

Flat Top Manor. Photo by Vicki Dameron.





Carolyn Ward, J.D. Lee, and Madeleine Balkonis cut the ribbon at Mabry Mill in Virginia.

PROJECT COMPLETE

A New Flume for Mabry Mill

Thanks to your generosity, this fall we finished a number of repairs at historic Mabry Mill, milepost 176. In the early 1900's, Ed and Lizzie Mabry proved their ingenuity and resourcefulness when constructing a web of ditches, flumes, and sluices throughout their land to consolidate the area's limited water supply. With the completion of the new flume, water can once again turn the mill's wheel. Additionally, new shake roofing was installed on a number of historic buildings at the site, ensuring that these structures can survive to be sources of education and inspiration for years to come.

PROJECT COMPLETE

Modern Visions, Mountain Views

From August through November, Blowing Rock locals and visitors were invited to delve into the history of the Cone family through the exhibit *Modern Visions, Mountain Views: The Cones of Flat Top Manor* at Blowing Rock Art and History Museum.

The exhibition was a collaboration between the Foundation, National Park Service, and museum. It explored the marvel of Moses and Bertha Cone's visionary country estate, from the orchards with more than 30,000 apple trees to Flat Top Manor's modern conveniences, including hot and cold running water, gas lights, telephones, and central heat. By featuring stories from family memories and letters as well as belongings, *Modern Visions, Mountain Views*

offered a window into the personal and cultural interests of Cone family members.

By sharing a deeper understanding of the Cones' impact on the High Country of North Carolina, the Foundation highlights the importance of protecting the estate.



Foundation Development Officer Jordan Calaway curated the exhibit, *Modern Visions, Mountain Views*.

ENHANCING VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Millions of people from across the globe visit our park each year. Your support plays a key role in making their experience safe and memorable. Whether they get the chance to enjoy a home-style meal at Bluffs Restaurant in the near future or receive the quick response they need during an emergency, these are the moments that will stay with them.

PROJECT COMPLETE

Streamlining Safety

When a call comes in to Blue Ridge Parkway dispatchers with the National Park Service, there are hundreds of scenarios they can face, ranging from a report of injured wildlife to a vehicle accident.

Until this fall, their role was even more complicated because they relied on hand-written logs and managed four to six computer programs to address any situation at hand. Thanks to your support for safer Parkway experiences, this branch of the law enforcement team is now using a new Computer Automated Dispatch (CAD) system. The system streamlines how dispatchers assist rangers or local emergency responders, with access to immediate mapping, site details, and background information.

The system is enabling the dispatch team to increase its focus and efficiency by more than 50 percent, allowing each member to provide better



Park Rangers can now rely on a new dispatch system.

service and more attention to each call.

The project was a collaboration between two parks, the Blue Ridge Parkway and Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and two partner groups, the Foundation and the Friends of the Smokies, which provided funding for both parks to install the system.



ONGOING EFFORT

Renew the Views

The Renew the Views initiative continued this year, with NPS resource managers restoring vistas between Craggy Gardens, milepost 364, and Cold Mountain, milepost 412. Highlights include the clearing of the Pink Beds Overlook, which uncovered a long-lost view of Looking Glass Rock. Efforts take place under the direction of the Parkway's resident landscape architect, with the goal of being minimally impactful to wildlife.



NEW BEGINNINGS

Happy Days Ahead for Bluffs Restaurant

By Julie Hettiger

For so many people who enjoy fond memories of Bluffs Coffee Shop, the stories go beyond the ham biscuits, pan-fried chicken, and berry cobbler. A big part of the charm of stopping in for a home-style meal was the welcoming staff, including server Ellen Woodruff Smith, who worked at The Bluffs from the day it opened on May 31, 1949, to the day it closed on November 1, 2010.

“I never met a stranger,” says Ellen, who greeted tourists from all 50 states and loyal locals with her beautiful Allegheny County accent and expressions. In her 61 years working at the popular Parkway spot at Doughton Park, she saw familiar faces come back time and again and children grow up each season, eventually returning with their own children. Ellen confesses she “spoiled every youngin’ I could.”

And just as The Bluffs was a meeting place for family and friends, it was also the place Ellen met her husband, Paul. He recalls her as “beautiful but aloof.” Still, he won her over and the two married in 1952. Paul became a regular face at Bluffs in his off time from working for the National Park Service to maintain the rangers’ vehicles and heavy duty equipment. He wasn’t just a frequent customer though, he helped with service at Bluffs Coffee Shop and the Lodge.

Today, Ellen and Paul, who are in their 90s, still receive Christmas cards from friends and customers

who frequented Bluffs Coffee Shop. The couple would like nothing more than to see it reopen, and thanks to your support, it’s happening. A decade after Bluffs Restaurant closed, the beloved dining spot is slated to reopen in 2020.

To safeguard the significant investment of our Community of Stewards, the Foundation is in the process of securing a historic lease for the site, allowing for oversight of the new operation as well as the facility. Thank you to all of our stewards for your support. Without you, this wouldn’t be possible.



Above: Ellen and Paul Smith

Top: Bluffs Coffee Shop in 1995. Photo courtesy of Bill Harrison.

PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES

The Blue Ridge Parkway gives us many powerful gifts, including the opportunity to explore the natural world. We are merely visitors in this vast landscape, while it is home to myriad plants and animals that contribute to the well-being of this diverse landscape. Your support is safeguarding this wild and wondrous place.



ONGOING PROJECT

Wildlife Cameras

Your generosity funded the purchase of motion-activated cameras for the Parkway Wild project. Through this initiative, scientists and citizens led by Parkway Natural Resource Specialist Tom Davis have been able to monitor wildlife in remote areas of the park.

This year, more than 75 camera “traps” were deployed throughout the Plateau and Highland districts, capturing roughly 32,000 images of 25 species. This wealth of data is a fantastic resource for scientists studying wildlife locations, habits, and populations. Parkway biologist Lillian McElrath also deployed cameras to monitor the park’s culverts and drainage systems, where she observed a number of species using the passages to cross underneath the

2019: 75 sites 25 species 32,000+ images

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

Thwarting Poachers

In 2018, Law Enforcement Rangers deployed a network of devices to assist them in watching over rare plant species at remote locations. Dubbed “force multipliers,” these devices alert rangers to potential threats within the thousands of acres that make up the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Chief Ranger Neal Labrie reports that his team is able to cover more ground and get a jump on emerging poaching efforts thanks to the devices. For instance, they were able to catch and charge a poacher for stripping bark from a stand of witch hazel plants, an attack on natural resources they had not seen before. Though the trees are not a threatened species, rangers are gaining awareness of what could be an emerging threat to the natural resources they protect.



Trash bags of bark stripped from witch hazel plants, along with poaching tools, seized by Law Enforcement Rangers.

road itself. In the future, this data could be used to engineer drainage systems that are more wildlife-friendly.

Additionally, a pair of cameras were set up to record video of wildlife activity at springs along the Parkway. These “bear bath tub” cameras have captured footage that is both insightful and entertaining, some of which can be viewed at the Foundation’s Facebook page.

Right: A black bear photographed by one of the Parkway Wild Project’s motion-activated cameras.

Opposite: An eastern coyote.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

By elevating the Parkway as a place of learning, we can create a deeper sense of responsibility for its care. Programs that highlight traditional mountain music and family-friendly trails are instrumental to the Foundation's mission.

YOUNG STEWARDS

A Decade of Kids in Parks

The Kids in Parks program reached a number of exciting milestones during its 10th year engaging children. The anniversary, on August 24, was celebrated with the first National TRACK Trails Day, during which kids, families, and partners across the country participated in educational talks, guided hikes, rounds of disc golf, and more activities. The new annual event will give Trail TRACKers the opportunity to connect with each other and celebrate being unplugged and out in nature.

This year also brought the unveiling of the 200th TRACK Trail, located at Rocky Knob Picnic Area. The trail is one of two opened on the Parkway this

year, with the other at James River Visitor Center. Twenty additional trails opened nationwide in 2019, including locations in Oregon, Washington, and South Dakota. And these trails are being put to good use: TRACK trails have been host to over one million adventures.

“Getting kids and families connected to our parks and public lands ensures we have the next generation of stewards to care for our nation's legacy,” says Jason Urroz, Director of Kids in Parks.

Below: Adam Rodes, Program Manager at KIP, connects kids to the wonders of life in the Blue Ridge.

10 years

200 trails

12 states & D.C.





CULTURAL CONNECTION

Blue Ridge Music Center

In April, the Blue Ridge Music Center convened its first-ever conference to explore the theme of “Mill Towns and the Birth of American Music” as a way to further its mission to preserve and share the roots of mountain music. Guest speakers, authors, and performers traced the thread of musical traditions that were born out of mill and factory towns in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was a period of migration from the countryside to the growing cities and towns, when people searched for work in factories and textile mills. They brought their instruments and songs, and the blending of traditions gave rise to new musical forms and a growing music industry.

The Music Center also produced an outstanding summer concert season in 2019. While there were many great moments, magic was in the air during a performance with Mandolin Orange and the Winston-Salem Symphony’s Chamber Orchestra. More than 1,700 attended the show, making it the third largest audience in the history of the Music Center. The mood was set from the first note as the orchestra played Aaron Copeland’s *Appalachian Spring* with Fisher Peak in the background.

Mandolin Orange followed with a set of their own folk-based music featuring beautiful harmonies, and the evening was capped off with the orchestra joining in on some of their original songs.

Your support for the Music Center through ticket purchases, donations, sponsorships, and volunteer time is helping to preserve a vital aspect of mountain heritage.

Women in Bluegrass

In November 2020, in honor of the Women’s Suffrage Centennial, the Blue Ridge Music Center will host a conference titled *A Place in the Band: Women in Bluegrass Music*, exploring the gender imbalance in bluegrass music. Visit BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org this spring for details about the event.

Above: Mandolin Orange performing at the Blue Ridge Music Center. Photo by Mike Duncan.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are valued members of our Community of Stewards. By generously sharing their time and talents, they reflect a deep commitment to the Blue Ridge Parkway. We can't thank them enough for choosing to work with the Foundation to make an impact. Here are just a few of the many people who contributed their time this year.

SPREADING THE WORD

Ed Grove

If there is one volunteer who knows how to go the extra mile, it's Ed Grove. Over the past two Parkway seasons, he's driven thousands of miles on his BMW RT motorcycle to deliver thousands of brochures to donor stations and Visitor Centers, from Craggy Gardens to Graveyard Fields. With each drop-off, he is making sure more visitors learn how to support this amazing park through the Foundation. And if you ask Ed, it's the coolest volunteer gig around. "It's the best way to experience the Parkway," he says.



PROTECTING PLANTS

Virginia Ward

At just 14 years old, Virginia Ward earned the Blue Ridge Parkway Youth Volunteer Award for her work to help protect native plant species in the park. Under the guidance of National Park Service Biologist Chris Ulrey, Virginia journeys off-trail, up steep rock faces and through dense flora, to access rare plants and gather data. The information she records will help to provide insight about the well-being of these plant populations, as well as assist in developing management strategies to protect each species.

CAPTURING MOMENTS

Mike Duncan

"I'm not just there for the photography. I love the music."

Mike Duncan is the official volunteer photographer for the Blue Ridge Music Center. For the last five concert seasons, Mike has made the drive from his home in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, with his wife, Judy, to capture dynamic photos of performances by the likes of the Steep Canyon Rangers, Mountain Park Old-time Band, Old Crow Medicine Show, and so many more. We are so grateful that he gives his time and incredible talent to help document and share the special musical moments that take place at the Music Center.



Mike Duncan. Photo by J.L. Parker.

John Jorgenson Bluegrass Band. Photo by Mike Duncan.



PARKWAY PLATES

If you live in North Carolina, purchasing the Blue Ridge Parkway license plate for your vehicle is a great way to show your support. \$20 from each new or renewed plate supports the Foundation, with the remaining \$10 going to the N.C. Wildflower Program. Plates can be customized for an additional fee. For more information, or to order your plate, visit GetThePlate.org.



The personalized plate 41ST (forest) is a perfect fit for Penelope Reed, who is a certified Blue Ridge Naturalist and serves on the board of the Blue Ridge Naturalist Network. She and her husband enjoy birdwatching at Ridge Junction Overlook and hawk watching in September at Mills River Overlook. They also visit the vertical bog near Wolf Mountain Overlook a few times a year. "The hiking trails along the Parkway are endless," Penelope says. "Craggy Gardens Pinnacle is the first place I take visitors because it is an easy, quick walk to the top with views that show them what Western North Carolina is all about."



After a 36-year career with the National Park Service, Gary Johnson is still taking care of the Parkway by renewing his "PLNR" (planner) plate each year. As a project manager, landscape architect, and section chief on major planning, design, and construction projects, he worked in 56 national park units in Alaska and the lower 48 states. From 1995 until he retired in 2011, Johnson served as the Parkway's Chief Landscape Architect and Planner. Gary was involved with the Foundation when the Parkway tag program was in development. In fact, it was his idea to incorporate the iconic overlook sign graphic that appears on the left side of each tag.



Using your initials is a classic way to make the plate distinctively yours! Longtime supporter of the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation Rick Lotz used his: "RSL."

MANY WAYS TO GIVE

Your gifts are always appreciated! The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation will work with you to achieve the giving plan that suits your goals. Popular options include:

Bequests

Bequests are one of the easiest ways to ensure the future of the Parkway. If you already have a will, a simple codicil can be added to include the Foundation in your estate plans. Individuals who choose to leave a lasting legacy by specifying a gift for the Foundation in their will or trust become members of The André Michaux Society. (For a list of members, see page 21.)

Monthly Giving

A recurring automatic payment charged to your credit card or bank account provides sustaining support for the Parkway.

Workplace Giving



Employees of businesses that participate in EarthShare's Workplace Giving, the Combined Federal Campaign, and the N.C. State Employees Combined Campaign can choose to designate their contributions to the Foundation.

Stock & Appreciated Assets

Gifts of stock or other appreciated assets are an effective way to support the Parkway. If you own stocks, securities, or other property that has appreciated since acquisition, you may face capital gains taxes if you sell. Donating that asset to the Foundation avoids the tax, and you can receive a charitable deduction for the entire market value of your gift.



Turk's Cap Lily. Photo by Vicki Dameron.

Honorarium or Memorial Gift

A tribute gift is a thoughtful way to recognize those in your life who value the Parkway, or to commemorate a milestone such as a birthday, wedding, anniversary, or retirement. (See the list of 2018-2019 honors & memorial gifts on page 24)

Employer Matches

Ask your human resources representative if your company offers a matching gift program to boost your impact on the Parkway.

CELEBRATIONS

ART SHOW

Of Valley & Ridge

Lovers of art and the Blue Ridge Parkway celebrated the opening of the three-day benefit art show, *Of Valley & Ridge: A Scenic Journey Through the Blue Ridge Parkway*, on October 11, 2019, at Zealandia in Asheville. The show featured plein air works of art by 23 members of the group The Saints of Paint. The pieces depicted a wealth of Parkway subjects from mountaintop views and wildlife to the communities that neighbor the park. The event was made possible thanks to generous support from First Citizens Bank.



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Photographs by Rachael McIntosh Photography

1) Saints of Paint artist John Mac Kah

2) Jeff Ward with artist Bryan Koontz

3) J.D. Lee, Bob Roberts, and Carolyn Ward

4) Susan Kokora and Cathy Mandeville

5) Donna Sawyer, Beth Adams, and Julie Moore

PRESERVATION PARTY

The Denim Ball

With Flat Top Manor as the backdrop, the fourth annual Denim Ball welcomed more than 200 guests on August 22, 2019. For the first time, the event was hosted at Moses H. Cone Memorial Park in Blowing Rock, N.C. Thanks to guests, the sold-out evening raised more than \$200,000 to fund continued restoration efforts at the historic manor. The evening was more than a fundraiser; it was truly a celebration of the community's deep commitment to this remarkable estate.

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**Planning Committee**

Billie Brandon Howell
Jonathan Lehman
Deborah McDowell
Rob Mendel
Karen Robertson
Deatra & Charlie Sellers
Emily Stallings
Genie & Jerry Starnes
Janet & Bob Stout
Pam Vines
Rita White

Sponsors

Blowing Rock Tourism
& Development Authority
Cone Health
Mast General Store
Chetola Resort
Mountaineer Inn & Log Cabins
The Rosemyr Corporation
Blowing Rock Historical Society
Modern Automotive
The Blowing Rock Attraction
Sunset & Vine
Blowing Rock Charity
Horse Show Foundation
Boonshine Brewing

Photos by Jan Todd/Deep Creek Photography

1) Cobb & Cindy Milner with George Harvin
2) Preston & Kristi Hammock
3) Jim & Linda Carlisle

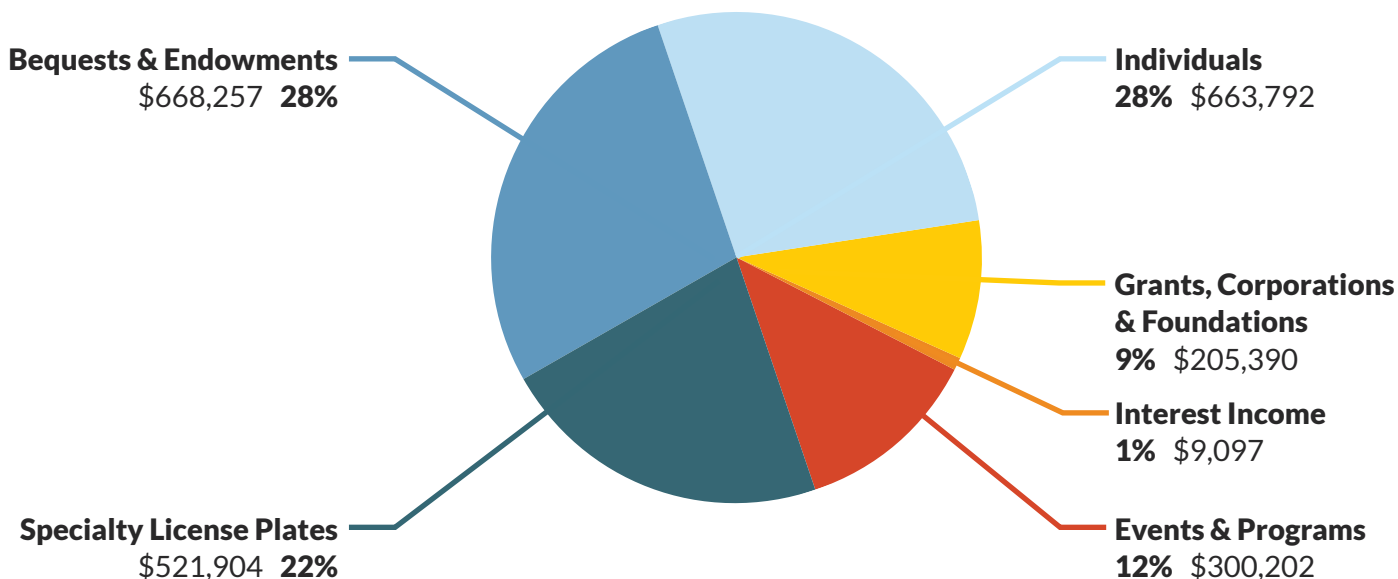
4) Guests enjoying dinner on the front drive at Flat Top Manor
5) Scott & Deanna Lampe

FINANCIALS

PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE	2018	2017
Contributions	\$1,343,784	\$1,493,847
Grants	\$78,000	\$1,212,936
In Kind	\$89,991	\$58,073
North Carolina Specialty Plate	\$521,904	\$524,700
Endowment Income	\$25,664	\$2,663
Investment Income, net	\$9,097	\$2,295
Other	\$300,202	\$243,070
Support	\$2,368,642	\$3,537,584
Net Gains (Losses) Investments	(\$97,279)	\$185,266
Total Support & Revenue	\$2,271,363	\$3,722,850

EXPENSES	2018	2017
Program Services	\$1,565,321	\$2,130,864
General and Administrative	\$84,395	\$68,775
Fundraising	\$256,581	\$276,310
Total Expenses	\$1,906,297	\$2,475,949
Change in Net Assets	\$365,066	\$1,246,901
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$4,671,718	\$3,424,817
Net Assets at End of Year	\$5,036,784	\$4,671,718

Support: \$2,368,642



Financial information is derived from the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation's 2018 financial statements audited by an independent registered public accounting firm, and is available on our 990 and at brpfoundation.org/financials.



SPECIAL THANKS

Community of Stewards

The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation is thankful for the individuals, businesses, foundations, and partners who contribute to the safekeeping of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Donors who contributed \$250 or more between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2018, are acknowledged on the following pages. They form a Community of Stewards that is truly committed to preserving and protecting the scenic route today and forever.

Foundations

AmazonSmile
 Anonymous Trust
 George T. Baker Foundation
 Bank of America Charitable Foundation
 William S. Barnickel Foundation
 Benevity/American Endowment Foundation
 Blowing Rock Charity Horse Show Foundation
 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation
 Blumenthal Foundation
 The Brady Foundation
 Brooks Family Foundation
 Chatham Foundation
 Community Foundation of

Western North Carolina Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
 Duke Energy Foundation
 ExxonMobil Foundation
 Foundation for the Carolinas
 Foundation for Roanoke Valley
 General Electric Foundation
 The Hanna Foundation
 Leonard G. Herring Family Foundation
 IBM Foundation
 Kulynych Family Foundation I
 Kulynych Family Foundation II
 Legatus Foundation
 Longleaf Foundation
 RCL Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation
 Storey Family Charitable Gift Fund
 Strickland Family Foundation

Surtman Foundation
 United Way of Asheville
 Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign
 Willow Branch Foundation
 The Winston-Salem Foundation

Businesses

Accenture
 Alleghany Inn
 Allegra
 Allstate Insurance
 Aloft Asheville Downtown
 Anders Natural Soap Co.
 Barringer Construction
 Basil's Market Fresh Pasta & Deli
 Bhramari Brewing Co.

The Blowing Rock Attraction
 Blue Ghost Brewing
 Boonshine Brewing Company
 Jonathan Burton Photography & Associates
 Carriage House Inn
 Catawba Brewing Company
 Chateau Morrisette
 Chetola Resort at Blowing Rock
 Cone Health
 Cool Breeze Campground
 Delaware North-Peaks of Otter Lodge
 Discovery Place
 Eastern National Corporation
 Emerging Technologies
 Eurosport Asheville
 First Bank
 Floyd Country Store
 Footsloggers of Blowing Rock



“Preserving our national parks is one of the most important things we can do for our country right now, and that’s especially true here in Virginia, where the national park maintenance backlog grew by \$100 million last year alone. Mabry Mill is a unique destination within our Commonwealth and a special part of our natural history – that’s why I’m grateful for the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation’s leadership and generosity in restoring this Virginia treasure.”

- U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA)

Foreign Translations
 Fries New River Trail RV Park
 Frugal Framer
 Galax Smokehouse
 The Gamekeeper Restaurant
 and Bar
 Grandfather Mountain
 Great Outdoor Provision
 Company
 Green Park Inn
 Hi-Wire Brewing
 Highland Brewing Company
 HomeTrust Bank
 Mast General Store

McGuire, Wood and Bissette,
 P.A.
 Meadowbrook Inn
 Modern Automotive Network
 Monkee’s of Blowing Rock
 Mountaineer Inn & Log Cabins
 New Belgium Brewing
 Noble Cider
 One World Brewing LLC
 Patagonia, Inc.
 Piedmont Opera
 Ray’s Weather
 Riverstone Organic Farm
 The Rosemyr Corporation

Jim Ruff Photography
 Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.
 The Spa at Biltmore Village
 Thirsty Monk
 Jan Todd Photography
 Triad City Beat
 Twin Creeks Brewing
 Twin Leaf Brewing
 Vaughan Bassett Furniture
 The Law Offices of Timothy D.
 Welborn
 Wicked Weed Brewing
 Winston-Salem Journal
 W.L.A. Trucking
 Zealandia Holding Company

North Carolina Division of
 Motor Vehicles
 North Carolina Folk Festival
 State of NC Department of
 Commerce
 The Saints of Paint
 Virginia Airstreamers
 Virginia Folklife Program
 Virginia Tourism Corporation
 Visit Galax
 Wake Forest Innovation
 Quarter
 WBRF: Classic Country 98.1
 Winston-Salem Convention &
 Visitors Bureau
 Winston-Salem Symphony
 Yadkin Arts Council

Community Partners

88.5 WFDD-Public Radio for
 the Piedmont
 Abingdon Convention &
 Visitors Bureau
 Appalachian Regional
 Commission
 Antiquarian Club
 Arts Greensboro
 Birthplace of Country Music
 Blowing Rock Art & History
 Museum
 Blowing Rock Chamber of
 Commerce
 Blowing Rock Historical Society
 Blowing Rock Tourism
 Development Authority
 Blue Ridge Boxster Summit
 Blue Ridge Institute & Museum
 Blue Ridge National Heritage
 Area
 Blue Ridge Parkway
 Association
 Carroll County Office of
 Tourism
 Chestnut Creek School of the
 Arts
 The Crooked Road
 EarthShare North Carolina
 Freewheelers of Spartanburg
 FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge
 Parkway
 Grayson County Tourism
 HoustonFest
 Junior Appalachian Musicians,
 Inc.
 National Council for the
 Traditional Arts
 National Endowment for the
 Arts

Individual Giving

\$20,000+
 North Carolina BRPF License
 Plate Holders
 Billie Brandon Howell
 Ken Nelson & Julie Hettiger

\$10,000-\$19,999
 Hal & Beth Carson
 James Coleman
 Pat Shore Clark
 Marcus Simpson & Marilyn
 Westphal
 Fred & Alice Stanback
 The Estate of Mary Shuford

\$5,000-\$9,999
 John & Annie Ager
 William Ammons
 Anonymous (2)
 Julia Carpenter
 Munroe & Becky Cobey
 Mark Davis
 George & Agnes Harvin
 Bill & Peggie Heeney
 Jo Hennelly
 Dave & Julia Ralston
 Jerry & Genie Starnes
 Walter & Jean Wilkinson

\$2,500-\$4,999
 Alfred & Beth Adams
 Chip & Judy Anderson
 Mike & Clarkie Brown
 Mike & Janet Ellis
 Roger & Kate Henry
 Chris & Debbie Herbert
 David & Susan Jamison

Anita Lupo
 Joe McGuire
 Dyke & Deborah Messinger
 Lee & Linda Minor
 Chuck & Dini Pickering
 James Stephens & Ann Berry
 James & Paula Weant
 Eric Wilsnack, DVM
 Ralph Womble & Ashley
 Edwards
 Bruce & Luci Wright
 Steve & Nancy Zuk

\$1,000-\$2,499

Dale Allison
 Michael & Tony Anderson
 Anonymous (4)
 Bernard & Holly Arghiere
 George & Grace Auten
 Anne & Norris Barnes
 Peter & Jean Anne Barnes
 Bill Barrier
 Beth Bartholomew
 Jack & Martha Betts
 Lou & Sara Bisette
 Rick & Amy Boucher
 W. Edward & Cheryl Brown
 Lou & Andrea Bruns
 Beverly & David Brunson
 Brian Carlton & Elizabeth
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With a planned gift, you become a member of The André Michaux Society, which honors the French botanist and explorer who enlightened others about the natural wonders of our mountains. Members receive a personalized certificate recognizing their dedication to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Current members are:



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If you have already named the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation in your estate plan, please let us know, so we can officially welcome you to the group and send you a token of our appreciation. Contact Willa Mays at wmays@brpfoundation.org.

REMEMBERING

A Parkway Love Story

Ray and Laura Pease shared a love story, and not just with each other. The Blue Ridge Parkway wove its way into their hearts, and became a touchstone in their life together.

After discovering the Pisgah Inn during a visit to the Blue Ridge Mountains in 1979, the couple returned each October to explore the Parkway. “Every year we would come and discover new trails and take some of the old trails,” Laura says. They weren’t shy about asking for recommendations for their next hiking or picnic spot. “Being Southerners, we talked to everybody.”

When the couple decided to get married in 1986, Ray knew he didn’t want a big to-do. Instead, they planned a simple ceremony with a justice of the peace and Ray’s brother and sister-in-law as witnesses. Clad in plaid flannel shirts, Laura and Ray took their vows amid the autumn colors at Craggy Gardens, just beyond the Visitor Center.

In 2010, they said goodbye to Louisiana and made the mountains their forever home. And because of all the people they had met during their Parkway visits, they had a trove of friends ready to welcome them.

As they grew older, the two replaced some hikes with weekly drives. “We would turn the radio off.



Ray and Laura Pease on their wedding day at Craggy Gardens in the fall of 1986.

We didn’t want to hear the news, or even music,” Laura recalls. “Riding along the Parkway, there is just so much to absorb.” On their car, a Blue Ridge Parkway license plate read “DCT,” for Dreams Come True.

After Ray passed away in June of this year, an outpouring of gifts came in to the Foundation in recognition of his love for the Parkway. And Laura honored one of his last wishes. Before resting his ashes at their church, she traveled with them to Mount Mitchell, with a stop at Craggy Gardens, so they could have one more Parkway journey together.

“I realized later, he did that to make sure I would go back without him,” Laura explains. “The Parkway became part of us, and it gives me great comfort now.”

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"It has been an honor to serve on the Foundation's boards since its inception on a journey of perseverance in protecting and maintaining the Parkway, coupled with a vision of new initiatives that will continue the momentum. It doesn't get any better!"

- Becky Anderson, Board of Advisors



“W.L.A. Trucking supports a variety of worthy causes. Our support of the Blue Ridge Music Center is one of my personal favorites. The venue is beautifully unique and the entertainment is wonderful to say the least. The exposure W.L.A. has received from our partnership with the Blue Ridge Music Center has been an unexpected benefit for our company. Thank you to all the folks that support the music at the Blue Ridge Music Center.”

**- Bobby Post, President, W.L.A. Trucking Inc.,
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pictured with his wife, Debbie**

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Grandfather Mountain, milepost 305. Photo by Vicki Dameron.

REMEMBERING

Eric Weigel

Everyone who knew Eric Weigel recognized from a very young age that he was remarkably intelligent and possessed a kind and generous spirit. According to his parents, Jayne Anderson and Larry Weigel, “Eric was always wise beyond his years; he was an old soul.”

Growing up, Eric and his older brother, David, spent endless hours exploring and playing in the dense woods surrounding their home in Asheville. The family regularly packed up their pop-up camper and headed out for weekend stays in campgrounds along the Parkway.

Eric’s connection to the outdoors continued to grow through camping, hiking, and later, kayaking. He attended many nature camps, including a summer experience at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, studying nature and environmental science. When Eric was 16, he participated in a rigorous Alaskan backpacking course with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). After that training, Larry and Jayne noted that their son left home a boy and returned a young man. Eric shared his love of nature and life in a high school presentation: “I feel God’s presence in nature, in other people, in all things mysterious and beautiful, in the awe-inspiring world we inhabit and will never fully understand.” While in college, Eric returned to NOLS and received his Wilderness Emergency Medical Training. This experience influenced his decision to pursue a career in medicine.

Larry and Jayne nurtured their son’s innate curiosity, allowing him to fill his life with a richness of diverse interests and experiences. In addition to his outdoor activities, Eric was an accomplished pianist, a science scholar, a nature photographer, and an avid reader. He made room in his busy schedule for volunteer activities, including many hours at the WNC Nature Center, as he believed we all have a responsibility to care for people in need, the environment, and animals.

Eric would have been 29 years old this year. In June 2013, one month after graduating from Furman



University with a degree in chemistry, Eric died in a tragic kayaking accident during a camping trip in Idaho. Two years later, his family established the Eric Anderson Weigel Memorial Fund through the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. Annual grants from the fund are given to organizations that reflect Eric’s passions.

To honor Eric’s belief that children need time in nature, the family sponsored our Kids in Parks program’s TRACK Trail at the North Carolina Arboretum, just off the Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 393 in Asheville. “The Arboretum holds many wonderful family memories,” Jayne says.

Through the grant, the TRACK Trail received updated signage, trail navigation, and a new custom brochure. The family also provided scholarships for the next five years for underserved youth to attend the arboretum’s summer camps.

“To have children see the wonder of nature, that was so important to Eric,” Larry says. “To have young people become stewards of the environment is so critical.”

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“I remember eating at Bluffs Restaurant and playing at Doughton Park with my family starting in the 1950s. We had the best of times there. Unique places like this need to be preserved for future generations. My wife, Beth, and I dined at the restaurant countless times and loved the ambience. It was like nowhere else. We give to many organizations, but the project to reopen Bluffs is personal.”

- Hal Carson, Bluffs Restaurant steward

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Joe Fielding Cahill
Jan Cahill
Dr. Ed S. Campbell
Marianne Campbell
Robert & Louise Canipe
Martha Canipe
William S. Cannon III
Jerry Cannon
Frank Casey
Les & Julie Taylor
Robert Causby
Laurel Springs Extension
Homemakers
Mary Lib Causey
Robby & Kim Ray
Bruce Chadwick
Gwynne Chadwick
David William Childress
Meredith P. & Shirley Bennett
Mary Lou & Wes Bowles
Lynne & Steven Emminger
Lee & Carolyn Gilley
David & Marilyn Hartman
Carolyn & Wayne Henson
Les & Ann Irvin
Bobby & Patricia Moore
Carolyn Moore
Robert & Mary Jane Moore
Joe & Katherine Payne
Joseph W. Smith
Thomas Smith
Joyce Staton
Mark & Donna Storm
Ruby Simmerson Chilson
Melanie Chilson
Tommy & Ray Clontz
Gerald & Ruby Clontz
Wayne A. Cobb
Mr. & Mrs. Kay Carroll
Starr Coble
William Coble

William J. Cogut

Lisa Joseph

Randy Collins

Susan & Harvey Durham

Martin Condon III

Anonymous

Moses & Bertha Cone

Betty & Benjamin Cone Jr.

John L. & Virginia L. Conway

John Conway

Paul & Mozelle Cooper

Wayne & Loretta Cooper

Bruce H. Corregan Jr.

Martha Corregan

Donna Correll

Rick & Amy Boucher

Robert & Aldonia Covington

Cynthia Covington

Claire Culbreath

Don Holland

Nan Cahill Davidson

Rudy & Cyndy LoMonaco

Clinton V. Davis

Daniel & Susan Zeller

Bruce Alan Dean

Richard Calhoun

Gregory, Doyle, Calhoun & Rogers LLC

Joseph Young

Graham W. Denton Jr.

Anne Denton

Betty Doss

Derek Doss

Paul Doyle

Elizabeth Doyle

Irene & Peter Dughi

Janice RuBino

Jo Duncan

Grady Duncan

Amos Patrick Duty

Vernon & Mary Beth Duty

Ernest & Ruth Edwards

Steve & Janet Edwards

Will Elmore

Lee & John Mebane

Kathryn Erlandson

Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Erlandson

Carol Ernst

William & Lynn Clark

Todd Benjamin Evans

Michele & J.W. Stinnett

Charlie Fant

Patty Fant

My Father

Frances Campbell

Betty J. Feamster

Crawford Honeycutt

Mitch Felder

Patricia Felder

Melvin Felts

Rick & Amy Boucher

Marlene Fennell

Tricia & Ron Wells

Henry H. Ferguson

Sharon & James Hutchens

Dr. Conway H. Ficklen

Rebecca Ficklen

William Fields

John & Jean Lathram

Tom Fields

Robert Stickley

Judge Beverly T. Fitzpatrick

Broaddus & LuAnn Fitzpatrick

Harry D. Forsyth

Anonymous

Woodrow & Lena Foster

Edward Scott

Lynn C. Fox

Katherine Cullinan

Rev. John H. Francisco

Mary Lou Francisco

Eleanor Freeman

Ed Williams

Curtis Freeze

Mike & Lori Constantino

William Arthur Fries

Sylvia Wiseman

Fritz, Our Golden

Kent & Susan Fawcett

Charles Galligan

Patricia Felder

Michael A. Gallucci Jr.

Leigh Ann Gallucci

Ron Garber

Terry Ellen Garber

Julian Lee Givens

Linda Kring

Charlotte & Norman Glock

Jennie Glock

Gerry Gollwitzer

Les & Julie Taylor

Bill Gray

Ray & Kay Bianchi

Dan & Nancy Bulluck

Friends from Fish & Wildlife,

Health and Histology

Sandra Frank

Rod & Bliss Watson

Floyd & Almeta Norris Greene

Judy Greene

Michael Gregory

Ed & Denise Gregory

Grinny

John Shore

Roland E. Griswold

Millie Griswold

Molly Lane Hall

Robert Lansing

Edna Mae Hamilton

David & Angela Hamilton

Chuck Hammersmith

Jim & Teresa Covington

Douglas Flint

Linda Henderson

Sheila Schlosser

Landon Roberts Henry

Jenny & Clay Ballantine

Elizabeth Barr

Field Coxe

Roger & Kate Henry

Mary Robinson Hervig

Jocelyn Reese

Dr. John M. Herr

Lucrecia Herr

Lawrence L. Hester Jr.

Bette Hester

Cynthia Diane Hiatt

Lucas Beasley

Maynard John Higby

Suzannah Higby

Robert "Bob" Hanes Hoffman

Alexander Hanes Pearman

Scott Hoffman

Donald & Cynthia Broome

William O. Hooper

Richard Hooper

Dr. Jack & Mrs. Wilhelmina Horner

Morgan & Jack Horner

Pop & Mimi Howell

James Hodges

Ruth Ann Huff

Jimmie & Patricia Kyser

Edward L. Irvin

Anonymous



Mabry Mill, milepost 176



N.C. Senator Deanna Ballard is an influential member of the community of those dedicated to the reopening the Bluffs.

Jeffrey David Jack

Vera Rooker

Ruth Jacob

Kaye Gaffney

Janet W. Jacobs

Erik & Hope Carpenter

Jake

Steve & Gretchen Smith

Harold Jaus

Victoria Jaus

Phillip & Ineda Jennings

Rodney Jennings

My ancestors at Johnson Farm

Susan Chappelle

Kenneth Johnson

Judy Johnson

David Johnson

Maxine Johnson

Mrs. H.P. Jones

David Blakewood

Samuel Thomas Jones

David Bailey

Donald & Regina Kambach

Keith Kambach

Kenneth Kaufman

Roger & Joyce McNeil

David Michael Keisler

Jim Keisler

Louise Kidd

Jim & Rachel Smith

Eddy M. Killete

Lynn Killete

Glenn & Gertrude Killon

Donald & Jacqueline Brooks

Timothy D. Krumm

John & Martha Babinski

Cheryl Krumm

Petro Kulynych

Kulynych Family Foundation I & II, Inc.

Vera Lachmann

Marilyn Berkon

Peter Kurzweil

Phillip B. Lane

Karen Hollinger

Sue Olesiuk

Marianne Larson

Carl Larson

Timothy Larson

Stephen H. LaVoy

Gerald & Dorothy LaVoy

Bill & Blanche Lawless

Sue Leon

Evelyn Laycock

Linda Henley

Gwen Leitch

Kim & Pete Berry

Robert R. Locke

Sue Clifton

Curtis E. Long

Sara Long

Jacqueline Lookabill

LaGena & Daniel Greene

Cheryl Marshbanks

Bill & Julee Rose

Walter & Kate Martin

Steve & Janet Edwards

Bob Martin

Sheila Mraz

Vickie Masters

Jennifer Shafer

Hazel Mathis

Sara Carter

James Houston Matthews Jr.

Vann & Alice Matthews

Bob Mauldin

Pat Mauldin

Ann G. McCurdy

Parker & Deborah Myers

Bill & Hilda McDonald

J. Tracy & Barbara Wilkerson

John & Nelda McElrath

Marian Bell

Peggy T. McFaden

Leslie McFaden

Dick McKnight

Greg McKnight

Harry "Ed" McLeod

Elizabeth McLeod

Thomas Craig McMillan

Janett McMillan

Stan Meares

Marilee Martin

Jan Stewart Miller

Anthony Verrecchio

Jean Joines Miller

Peggy Davis

David Lynch

Kaye Miller

The Miller Family

Sue Hall Miller

Sandra Hayes

Burwell David Mills

Randy Mills

Don & Barbara Moeller

Ruth Moeller

Elton Moore Jr.

Ann Moore

James Morlan

Janet Jorgenson

Patricia Morris

Charles & Carolyn O'Berry

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Moyer

Larrimore & Marilyn Wright

Hal Richard & Inez Couch Myers

Brenda Kay Myers Tillotson

Bob Myers

W. Clarence & Nelda Goings

Carroll Myers

David Myers

Floyd & Priscilla Myers

Rev. Cecil K. Myrick

Jane Moorman

Charlie A. Myrick

Ken, Carl & Ellen Myrick

Dwight & Lou Nichols

Nan Van Hoy

Kelly Norton

Susan Brokaw

Robert Ohlen

Gudrun Ohlen

John Oldershaw

David Wehner

Howard & Wave Olson

David & Phyllis Benbow

Don Osborne

Virginia Osborne

Maud Paul

Keith Miller

Raymond Pease

Laura Beck

Sue Bernie

Blue Mountain Pizza

Liz Brazelton & Donna Patrick

Anita Broxson

Lea Conlon

Gail Denham

Chris & Melody Derienzo

David Drury

Walter Fahr

Elizabeth Floyd

Richard Fox

Seth & Morgan George

Dianne Gilliland

Robert Johnson

Norman Karameles

Walter, Ann & Kat Legett

Melicent Lester

Lyle, Aletha, Seth, JJ, Casey,

Cameran & Brydan

Cory Matessino

Sarah & Paul McDuffie

Tom McGee

Chuck & Sonia Mullins

Jean Pease (from Jean, Bonnie,

Liane & Justin)

Nancy Pease

Melinda Pennington

Pennington Biomedical

Research Center

Brad & Blair Powers

Keith & Debbie Powers

Erin, Joey, Katie & Haley

Rosiere

Herb & Sharon Shubert

Kem, Ken & Theresa Singletary

David & Tamie Worthington

Liz & Peter Wright

Nancy Wright

Brian Zschiedrich

Kenneth Pederzani

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Green Penn

Gary & Karen Baldwin

Mr. & Mrs. J. Rahn Boyer

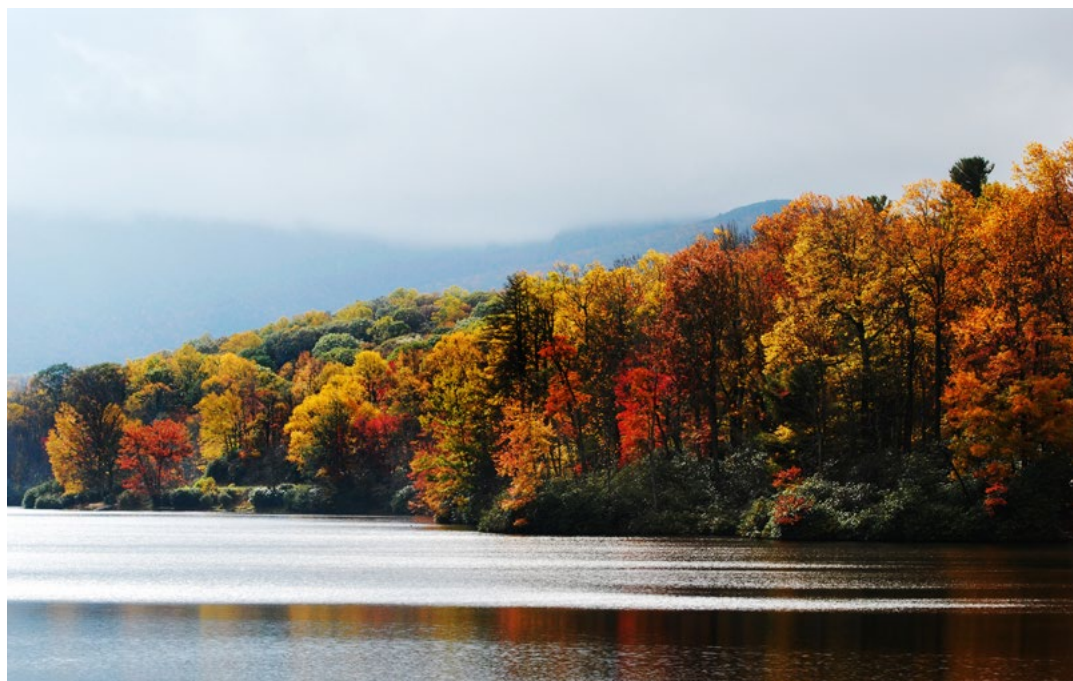
Michael Campbell

Lisa Comito

Richard Craver

Debbie & Dan Godwin

Emery Goff
 Anita Henderson
 Wendy Joyce
 Trudy Mason
 Sally McKibbin
 Dalton McMichael
 Julia Milligan
 Catharyn Nosek
 Kit Rodenbough
 Trent Capital Management, Inc.
 S.J. Webster
 Chappell & Marla Whitt
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 Goserud
 Erik Goserud
Dr. William Ross Pitser
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Bart G. Purvis
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Paul Rabold
 Brenda Myers
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 Kim Kotheimer
Kichili Jayarami Reddy
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Mary Richardson
 Gordon Richardson
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Helen Robinson
 Marjorie & Jane Asher
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Edgar Q. Rooker
 Vera Rooker
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rumley
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Jason Rust
 Charles Rust
Lochlainn Ryan
 Roibin Ryan
Sara
 Joanne & Rich Nowak
William & Janice Schroeder
 Steve & Nancy Zuk
Sequoia
 Jeffrey & Cindy Soell



Price Lake in Fall. Photo by Vicki Dameron.

Clifton & Eileen Sexton
 Miriam Sexton
Harry A. Shannon Jr.
 Charles Davis
J.R. Shew
 Wayne & Rebecca Shew
Nelson Simpson
 Nelson Harris
Gene Siningar
 Mike & Kris Roades
Joseph T. Sloane
 Therese Sloane
Irene Smith
 Leanne Pemberton
Rudolph & Louise Smith
 Rick & Cecelia Marks
John Speas
 Clifford & Bobbie Phillips
James Edgar Spicer
 Gerald & Brenda Peedin
Sara Spicuzza
 Ann Heintel
Elizabeth Jennings Stahl
 Anne Farmer
Robert O. Stephens
 Melissa Williams
Charlene Stinson
 Rosemary Weaver
John P. Stratton
 James & Alice Keighton
Fran & Hal Strickland
 Jack & Martha Betts
Scott Sutelan
 David & May Scott Sutelan

Tyson Swain
 Judie Swain
David Swann
 Nancy Swann
Betty S. Taylor
 Kurt & Betty Telford
Donald S. Taylor
 Caroline Taylor
Richard L. Thomas
 Fred & Daphne Berge
Clay Thomas
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Roy Thompson
 Arlene Edwards Thompson
John Tiernan
 Claire Tiernan
Dr. & Mrs. C.R. Titus
 John & Beth Titus
Tui Tucker
 Peter Kurzweil
Norman Tuller
 Joan Savage
Marie Vickers
 Frances Riley
Buddy Walker
 Ernest Walker
Eric Anderson Weigel
 Jayne Anderson and Larry
 Weigel
Hubert & Dot Weir
 Perry & Nancy Weir
Barry Werninck
 Kirby Werninck

Karen Whelehan
 Bill & Karen Tait
 Dermot Whelehan
Richard Whisnant
 W. Clarence & Nelda Goings
Bill & Mary Alice Wightman
 Mr. James Wightman
Charlie Williams
 Bryan Williams
Joe Wilson
 Maryse James
Robert Winters
 Sharon Winters
 Roger & Marilyn Winters
Jeffrey Winters
 Margaret Winters
Pat Witherington
 Hal & Ginny Tarleton
Libby Louise Davis Wood
 Bob & Mary Wood
Carolyn Jean Myers Worden
 Brenda Kay Myers Tillotson
Bland & Ada Worley
 Scott Montgomery & Pam
 Hollifield
 Anne Worley Register
Lynn Worth
 Rick & Amy Boucher
Basil Wyatt
 Caroline Jerger
Dr. Joseph Younger
 Timothy Scanlan



Sunrise at Big Ridge Overlook. Photo by Craig Lancaster.