



# the scenic

Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation – Summer 2019



Waterrock Knob is a wondrous high-elevation landscape at the southern end of the Blue Ridge Parkway. You can provide a richer experience for visitors by supporting the installation of new exhibits at the visitor center. ***Learn more inside!***

## Mileposts & Milestones

This summer, we aim to take your support for the Blue Ridge Parkway even farther with opportunities to nurture rare plants, preserve the visual history of the route, and share greater insights about the mountain landscape with visitors.

***Find your Parkway passion project inside! >***



The return of elk to Parkway land will be explored in updated exhibits at Waterrock Knob.



# Families reach 1 million adventures on TRACK Trails

Our Kids in Parks program is marking a powerful milestone with children and families completing one million adventures on TRACK Trails! The figure represents more than one million miles hiked, biked, or paddled, and more than 500,000 hours spent outdoors.



Originally designed to get families to consider the trails along the Blue Ridge Parkway a resource for their health, the program has grown into a national network of trails.

With significant support from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, Kids in Parks has installed more than 100 TRACK Trails

*"The network of TRACK Trails encourages kids to explore the resources of parks and helps them develop an appreciation for natural spaces. Ultimately, both families and parks benefit from the program."*

- Sean Higgins, Interpretation and Education Program Manager for N.C. State Parks

in North Carolina; and through funding provided by additional groups, more than 90 trails have been installed in 12 states and Washington, D.C.

To learn more, visit [KidsinParks.com](http://KidsinParks.com).



Mandolin Orange and the Winston-Salem Symphony Chamber Orchestra at the Blue Ridge Music Center. Photos by Mike Duncan

## A Concert to Remember

The light rain didn't dampen the wonderful performance by Mandolin Orange and the Winston-Salem Symphony Chamber Orchestra on June 1 at the Blue Ridge Music Center. More than 1,700 music lovers attended the show, making it the third largest concert attendance to date at the amphitheater.

### Summer Concerts

The concert season continues on Saturdays through Labor Day, including performances by:

- **The Steel Wheels**, July 20
- **Chatham County Line**, August 3
- **John Jorgenson Bluegrass Band**, August 31

For a complete list of shows and to purchase tickets, visit [BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org](http://BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org).



Emily Frantz, Andrew Marlin, and Josh Oliver of Mandolin Orange

Since 2013, the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation has supported musical programming at the Blue Ridge Music Center as part of our mission to preserve the cultural heritage of the mountains.



# Pick your Parkway passion project

There are many meaningful ways to connect with the Blue Ridge Parkway, including showing your support for projects that reflect your passion for the scenic route. Here are just a few of the initiatives you can make possible with a donation. Every gift, large or small, is an investment in a national treasure.

For the complete list of projects that need your support, visit [brpfoundation.org/2019projects](http://brpfoundation.org/2019projects).

## Plant nursery intern

**Goal: \$20,000**

The 80,000-plus acres that comprise the Blue Ridge Parkway are home to more than 2,000

plant species. To protect this flora, the National Park Service is preparing to create a plant nursery that can help bolster



threatened and rare native plants like the Heller's Blazing Star.

Your gift will also create a learning experience for an intern who will assist park biologists in laying the groundwork for the nursery, including site selection, development of educational materials for visitors, and propagating plants.

## How to help

Use the enclosed envelope to make a donation or visit [brpfoundation.org/donate](http://brpfoundation.org/donate)



A worker monitors a dynamite blast during the early days of creating the Parkway.

## Digitize historical Parkway photos

**Goal: \$25,000**

The development of the Blue Ridge Parkway and its evolution over the decades is a fascinating story that is brought to life through photographs. Thousands of images in the Parkway's archives dating back to the initial days of construction in the 1930s are not available for public viewing. This project will begin the process of organizing and digitizing historical park photographs so they can be made available online for everyone to enjoy.

## New exhibits at Waterrock Knob

*Milepost 451*

**Remaining goal: \$31,305**

Waterrock Knob is a majestic and captivating place thanks to its ecosystem, wildlife, and history. However, the faded and outdated exhibits at the visitor center do not tell the compelling story of this landscape.

Your gift will create dynamic exhibits that share details about the role of conservation in maintaining the pristine environment, Cherokee history and culture, unique biodiversity at the high-elevation site, the return of elk to the area, and more.



Your gift will replace makeshift exhibits at Waterrock Knob Visitor Center.



## Nature Note



Photo by Vicki Dameron



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Summer is the season for spotting black bears and cubs along the Parkway. Make sure your encounter is safe with these tips:

- Watch your speed; a bear family might be crossing the road just around the bend.
- If a bear approaches you, do not run. Slowly back away.
- Do not corner a bear or cubs, and that includes surrounding a tree where they have taken refuge.
- Do not feed bears.

For more information, visit [nps.gov](http://nps.gov) and search for Bear Safety.



## Explore the art and influence of the Cone family

The Cones will be the talk of the village this summer as Blowing Rock Art & History Museum brings pieces from the art collections of Claribel and Etta Cone (siblings of Moses H. Cone) to the mountains for *Modern Visions, Modern Art: The Cone Sisters in North Carolina* from August 3 through November 30.

The art collection of Dr. Claribel and Etta Cone is cherished by art historians and museumgoers alike, and the exhibit presents a compelling selection of works on paper, paintings, and sculptures by artists in the collection who drew the admiration and attention of Claribel and Etta: Henri Matisse, Jacques Villon, Marie Laurencin, Ben Silbert, John Graham, Everett Bryant, Gertraud Brausewetter, Ilse Breit, Teresa Denny, and Bernice Oehler.



Ben Silbert (1893-1940). Portrait of Frances Stern, 1935. Watercolor on paper. 27½ x 19¾ inches. Commissioned by Etta Cone. Collection of Jane and Richard Levy.

The sisters' art collection was made possible with the financial support of their brothers' thriving textile business in North Carolina. The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation is offering a companion exhibit at the museum titled *Modern Visions, Mountain Views: The Cones of Flat Top Manor*. It connects the story of the Cone family to the Blowing Rock estate built by "Denim King" Moses H. Cone and his wife, Bertha Lindau Cone.

The museum is also offering a variety of talks, tours, and activities that delve into the art and lives of the Cones.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 4 p.m., Sundays. Entrance is free.

*Modern Visions, Modern Art* is presented to the community by Wells Fargo. For more information, visit [blowingrockmuseum.org](http://blowingrockmuseum.org).