



**BLUE RIDGE
PARKWAY
FOUNDATION**
1997•2017

2016-2017 Annual Report

SHARING THE JOURNEY



Celebrating 20 years

We are 20 years old! But thanks to you, that means we are 20 years strong. And that strength comes from your passion for the Blue Ridge Parkway. In the grand history of the National Park Service (now 101 years old), two decades may seem like a short chapter in time. But when it comes to protecting the Parkway, we measure our success in the accomplishments you've made possible.



All along the drive, it is easy to see the Parkway is a better place because of your commitment to its future. Since 1997, you have collectively contributed more than \$12 million to:

- Protect natural resources through wildlife surveys, trail repairs, environmental studies, forensic training for law enforcement rangers, and more.
- Expand education and outreach by introducing budding land stewards to the outdoors through the Kids in Parks program, rehabbing museum and visitor center exhibits, funding youth conservation crews, engaging in citizen science projects, and more.
- Preserve history and culture by placing Moses H. Cone Memorial Park on the National Register of Historic Places, supporting programming at the Blue Ridge Music Center, rehabbing Mabry Mill, Ramsey Cabin, and many more sites that tell the stories of the mountains.
- Enhance visitor amenities and experiences at stops up and down the Parkway, including Waterrock Knob, Graveyard Fields, Bass Lake, Linville Falls, Price Lake, Peaks of Otter, and more locations.

Each year brings new milestones, and 2017 is no exception. In our anniversary year, it seemed only fitting to launch our Volunteer Corps, opening a new avenue for those who love the Parkway to give back.

I hope you'll take a moment to reflect on all you've done for your park, and find inspiration for the decades to come. Some day, we'll look back at this milestone as just the beginning of our adventure together—an adventure that paves the way for a new generation to follow in your footsteps.

—Carolyn Ward, Chief Executive Officer

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Kids in Parks*

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*Interpretive Graphic Designer,
Kids in Parks*

Brandon Altemose
Administrative Assistant, Kids in Parks



The Parkway is more than just a road. It's a haven for biodiversity, a living museum for mountain culture and history, a recreational paradise, and a powerful economic engine for the communities that dot the Blue Ridge Mountains. By working with you, our dedicated Community of Stewards, we are ensuring that our park not only survives, but thrives.

Since 1997, the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation has been the primary nonprofit fundraising partner for the Blue Ridge Parkway, providing more than \$12 million for projects and programs that enhance and protect the national park unit.

We collaborate closely with the National Park Service to identify critical Parkway needs. When funding projects and programs, we listen to our Community of Stewards and represent their wishes for the future of the Parkway. The mission of the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation includes:

- Ensuring **natural resource protection**
- Preserving **historic and cultural resources**
- Transforming lives through **education and outreach**
- Enhancing **visitor amenities** to provide exceptional and safe experiences for all

Together we are celebrating the past, sharing the journey, and safeguarding the future of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Thank you for joining us!

CELEBRATING THE PAST

For the past two decades, your contributions have made a lasting impact on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Here are just a few of the highlights.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The education and outreach projects that you've made possible have built a connection between visitors and this magnificent place and helped to cultivate future stewards of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Our national award-winning **Kids in Parks** program, launched in 2008, has empowered thousands of kids to get active to combat childhood obesity and reconnect with nature.

In 2002, the Foundation partnered with the National Park Service and Mitchell County to fund a \$1 million renovation and expansion of the **Museum of North Carolina Minerals**, milepost 331, including a revamp of exhibits that had not been updated for 46 years. Today, students from five counties still enjoy a curriculum-based program at the museum.

Over the years, the **Parks as Classrooms** program introduced thousands of children to the wonders of the Parkway. Rangers brought a wealth of knowledge about wildlife, mountain habitats, and more to schools in neighboring communities.



Kids in Parks



Museum of North Carolina Minerals



Parks as Classrooms

PHOTOGRAPH BY VICKI DAMERON

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARIELLE DEJONG



PHOTOGRAPH BY NORRIS BARNES



NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

Your support has been key in preserving the delicate balance between welcoming visitors and protecting the thousands of species that call this diverse landscape home. By funding **environmental studies and wildlife surveys**, you give National Park Service biologists and resource specialists the information they need to safeguard wildlife and habitats.

What began as a project to allow Parkway biologists to monitor wildlife has grown into a fascinating citizen science program. Thanks to funding for the purchase of more than 50 **wildlife cameras**, volunteers trek into the woods to place the motion-activated devices in remote areas to capture images of mammals, birds, insects, and more for study.

In 2015, the Foundation collaborated with the Hemlock Restoration Initiative to **protect Eastern and Carolina hemlocks** from the hemlock woolly adelgid. A crew with the American Conservation Experience treated more than 2,500 trees along the Parkway to protect the giants from the deadly invasive insect.

CELEBRATING THE PAST

ENHANCING VISITOR AMENITIES

The enjoyment and safety of visitors on the Parkway is an important priority and many of our projects are undertaken to support exceptional experiences.

Our first capital improvement project was the conversion of a restroom and carport at **Waterrock Knob**, milepost 451, into a true Visitor Center with exhibits. The facility opened in September 1998, and later a new peaked roof was installed to upgrade the building.

In 2009, your generosity funded repairs to the boardwalk at **Rough Ridge Trail**, milepost 302, ensuring a safer hike for visitors and protection of fragile plant life on the peak.

Your gifts funded the repaving of **Abbott Lake Trail** at Peaks of Otter, milepost 86, in late 2015, making it accessible for those with mobility disabilities. The one-mile loop wraps around the lake, offering views of Sharp Top and Flat Top mountains and Harkening Hill.



Rough Ridge Boardwalk



Abbott Lake Trail



Waterrock Knob Visitor Center

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Our preservation initiatives focus on historical and cultural landmarks to ensure Blue Ridge traditions are celebrated and passed down to future generations.

Traditional mountain music is alive and well at the **Blue Ridge Music Center**, milepost 213, thanks to you and dedicated volunteers. Since 2013, the Foundation has supported and overseen musical programming at the venue in keeping with the goal of preserving cultural history on the Parkway. The Music Center passes on the musical traditions of the region with bluegrass, old-time, Americana, and country blues performances.

Projects to rehab historical structures at **Polly Woods Ordinary** and **Johnson Farm**, milepost 86, marked the beginning of the Centennial Challenge program that pairs government funding with private investments for critical park improvements. You rose to the challenge to reopen the log barn to visitors, reroof outbuildings, and restore Polly Woods Ordinary.

Mabry Mill, milepost 176, is one of the most photographed locations on the Parkway. The gristmill, sawmill, and blacksmith shop are operated by seasonal interpreters and volunteers, telling the story of early rural Virginia life. Over the years, the waterwheel deteriorated and the pond was choked with overgrown vegetation and silt. In 2014, your donations funded waterwheel repairs and the dredging of the pond.



Samantha Snyder at Blue Ridge Music Center

PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE DUNCAN



Johnson Farm Barn



Mabry Mill

SHARING THE JOURNEY

HONORING PARKWAY CHAMPIONS

In our 20th year, we are recognizing members of our Community of Stewards for their exceptional efforts to protect the Blue Ridge Parkway



CREATIVE PHILANTHROPY

Eric Fitzpatrick

In recognition of inspirational support of the overlook clearing program Renew the Views

Roanoke artist Eric Fitzpatrick's donation of lithographs of his painting, *The Blue Ridge Parkway*, as gifts for donors inspired hundreds of individual contributions to overlook clearing efforts, which are slated to begin next spring.

PHOTO BY BRIAN BLAUSER/MOUNTAIN STAGE



CREATIVE PHILANTHROPY

Wayne Henderson & Helen White

In recognition of talented leadership in preserving Blue Ridge traditional music

Renowned guitarist and luthier Wayne Henderson and Junior Appalachian Musicians program founder Helen White's contributions to spreading an appreciation for Blue Ridge Mountain music extend from their own performances to mentoring a new generation of musicians.

VISIONARY PHILANTHROPY

The Anonymous Trust

In recognition of key support of critical projects

The Anonymous Trust has provided \$600,000 in critical support over the past three years, bringing projects to fruition at Julian Price Memorial Park and Moses H. Cone Memorial Park.



CORPORATE CHAMPION

Indera Mills & John Willingham

In recognition of inspirational support of arts and cultural preservation

Through dedicated support for musical programming at the Blue Ridge Music Center, Indera Mills and its owner, John Willingham, are spreading a recognition of the important role traditional music plays in our history and daily lives.

FOSTERING NEW HORIZONS

Dr. Olson Huff

In recognition of innovative leadership

By envisioning the Kids in Parks program, Dr. Olson Huff has boosted the health and well-being of thousands of children, while inspiring a new generation of young stewards to engage in the protection of public lands.



PAT SHORE CLARK
STEWARDSHIP AWARD

**Billie Brandon
Howell**

*In recognition of exemplary
individual support
of the Blue Ridge Parkway*



Billie Brandon Howell has been a member of our Community of Stewards since the early days of the Foundation and was one of the first volunteers. Howell is particularly dedicated to the preservation of Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, serving on the steering and Denim Ball committees since 2015. She infuses enthusiasm and skill into every aspect of her contributions, including engaging others in protection of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

COMMUNITY CHAMPION

**Eurosport Asheville and
Asheville BMW Riders**

*In recognition of steadfast support of
improvement projects*

Eurosport Asheville and the Asheville BMW Riders motorcycle club have hosted the annual High Pass Boogie ride for four years, raising funds and awareness about the needs of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The local business and group have provided key support for critical projects at Graveyard Fields, Mount Pisgah, Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, and Craggy Gardens.



SHARING THE JOURNEY

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

This year, you showed your dedication to the Parkway is as strong as ever by helping us accomplish these projects.

Craggy Flats Bald Trail

Milepost 364

With showy rhododendron blossoms in the spring, blackberry picking in the summer, and spectacular long-range views, Craggy Gardens is a place hikers visit again and again. This summer, youth crews with the American Conservation Experience filled in braided trails that contributed to erosion, created new steps for easier trekking, and removed encroaching vegetation. Soon, new exhibits will be installed at the Visitor Center to tell the story of plants and animals that live in this high elevation environment.



Julian Price Campground Shower House

Milepost 297

Until this year, showers were only available at Mount Pisgah campground on the Parkway. This fall, Julian Price Campground, one of the most visited camping areas, became the second location to offer hot showers with the completion of a new six-stall facility built by Atriax of Hickory, North Carolina.



Pisgah Amphitheater

Milepost 418

For more than 50 years, the amphitheater at Mount Pisgah Campground had seen lots of visitors but few updates and improvements. The recent rehab of the amphitheater is a success made possible by your support and a Centennial Challenge matching grant. Now visitors at the popular campground can enjoy ranger-led programs in a setting that makes the National Park Service proud.

High Meadow Trail Bridge

Milepost 213

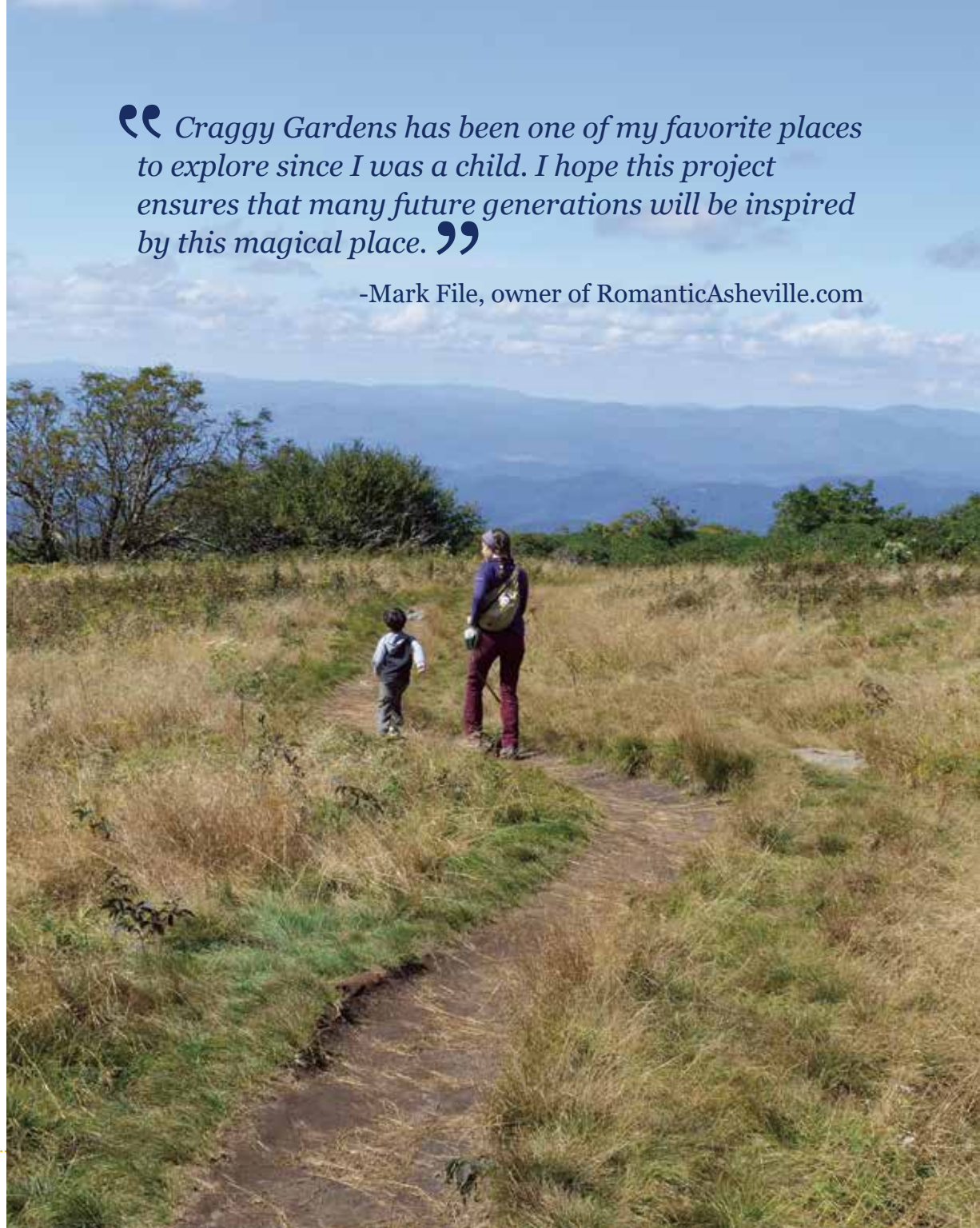
In 2014, flooding washed out the footbridge over Chestnut Creek, making for a soggy trek along the High Meadow and Fisher Peak Loop trails at the Blue Ridge Music Center. Now a new steel and wood span makes for a safe and dry crossing for families and other Parkway visitors enjoying the Kids in Parks TRACK Trail.



High Meadow
Trail Bridge

“Craggy Gardens has been one of my favorite places to explore since I was a child. I hope this project ensures that many future generations will be inspired by this magical place.”

-Mark File, owner of RomanticAsheville.com



SHARING THE JOURNEY

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

Moses H. Cone Memorial Park

Milepost 294

Each year, more than 250,000 visitors stroll the nearly 25 miles of carriage trails at Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, travel back in time with a ranger-led tour of Flat Top Manor, or simply sit on the porch and enjoy the view of Bass Lake. Every trip to the estate links back to the hospitality of denim magnate Moses H. Cone himself, who insisted guests come enjoy the bucolic grounds of his country retreat.

This year, the estate buzzed with activity as the Manor underwent repairs and the trails were cleared of overgrown vegetation. As we see more and more improvements on the grounds and at Flat Top Manor, we are keenly aware of your dedication to this grand estate. So far, your generosity has raised \$1.85 million to reinvigorate one of the North Carolina High Country's most beloved public spaces, setting the Foundation well on its way to reaching the total rehab goal of \$3 million.

Because of your support:

- A new flat roof and balustrade were installed at Flat Top Manor this year.
- The design of a new fire suppression system for the Manor is complete and it will be installed in 2018.
- A crew with the American Conservation Experience spent the spring clearing



Moses H. Cone Memorial Park was a hub of activity this year with an American Conservation Experience crew clearing carriage trails and workers replacing the roof at Flat Top Manor (below).

- overgrown vegetation along the trails.
 - The design phase for a new parking area behind Flat Top Manor is underway.
- We have passed the halfway mark to our goal, but we still need your support to provide the improvements this 3,500-acre estate deserves. There are bright days ahead for the park with all of us working together to secure its future.



Your Lasting Commitment

Thank you for making these milestones possible at the Cone Estate.

1999: The white wooden balustrade made a grand return to the front lawn of the manor house after years of storage in the Apple Barn.

2001: The Flat Top Mountain observation tower received much needed safety repairs, allowing visitors to continue enjoying panoramic views of the High Country.

2007: The play, *The Denim King*, was commissioned by the Foundation to introduce audiences to the fascinating life of the Cone family.

2009: The comfort station for visitors opened at Bass Lake. Since then, your support has ensured it is maintained and open year-round.

2010: Through interviews with the grandnieces of Mrs. Bertha Lindau Cone, new details about daily life on the estate was revealed and recorded.

2012: Work began to stop further deterioration of Heart Pond.

2014: The estate was successfully nominated for the National Register of Historic Places.

2016: The Foundation embarked on its initiative to raise \$3 million for the most pressing needs of the estate.

Right, American Conservation Experience crew members visit Flat Top Manor.



SHARING THE JOURNEY

THE DENIM BALL

August 4, 2017

The second annual Denim Ball was a huge success, raising more than \$120,000 for the Foundation's rehabilitation

efforts at Moses H. Cone Memorial Park. We had a blast at Chetola Resort at Blowing Rock with dancing to the music of The

Save the Date

Join us for the Denim Ball on August 3, 2018.

Lucky Strikes Orchestra, a silent and live auction, and a denim attire contest.

The fun included the crowning of the Denim King and Queens. The caped crusader "Denim Man," aka author Charles David Gelly, claimed the king's crown, while the mother-daughter duo Susan and Susannah Thomas shared the title of queen. The Cone Experience package offered by Tim Vines with Vx3 Trail Rides garnered the highest bid in the live auction. The winning bidder enjoyed a four-course dinner on the porch of Flat Top Manor after a ride on the estate's carriage trails.

Thank you!

Sponsors

The Blowing Rock Tourism & Development Authority
Cone Health
Chetola Resort at Blowing Rock
Mast General Store
Mountaineer Inn & Log Cabins
Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation

Planning Committee

Kathy Crutchfield,
Billie Brandon Howell,
Lauren McDowell,
Karen Robertson,
Billie Rogers, Emily Stallings,
and Pam Vines



Photographs by Jan Todd



Clockwise from top left: Susannah Thomas, Charles David Gelly, and Susan Thomas; Genie Starnes, Deatra and Charles Sellers, and Jerry Starnes; Tracy Brown, Charles Rogers, and Rhonda Rich; Alfred and Beth Adams with Christine and Ken Castelleo; Billie Brandon Howell, Karen Robertson, Willa Mays, Emily Stallings, and Kathy Crutchfield make a toast; Paul Pessina, Jenny Miller, and Zak Ammar



Brayden and Meredith Pitcairn with Clary and Chase Pickering at Noble Cider.



FIND YOUR PINT

August & September 2017

This year, 31 breweries and one cidery teamed up to raise funds for the Blue Ridge Parkway with special beer releases and events. During its second year, the series swept up the Blue Ridge Parkway from Asheville to breweries in the High Country of North Carolina, Virginia, and even Winston-Salem. Every brewery generously donated a portion of sales to support the Foundation.

Thank you to our Find Your Pint participants!

- Archetype Brewing Co.
- Asheville Brewing Co.
- BearWaters Brewing Co.
- Bhramari Brewing Co.
- Blue Ghost Brewing Co.
- Boojum Brewing Co.
- Boondocks Brewing
- Boonshine Brewing Co.
- Catawba Brewing Co.
- Creek Bottom Brewing
- Ecusta Brewing
- Flying Mouse Brewery
- Frog Level Brewing Co.
- Ginger's Revenge Craft Brewery
- Green Man Brewery
- Highland Brewing Co.
- Hi-Wire Brewing
- Innovation Brewing
- Loose Shoe Brewing Co.
- Lost Province Brewing Co.
- Mills River Brewery
- New Belgium Brewing
- Noble Cider
- One World Brewing
- Oyster House Brewing Co.
- Pisgah Brewing Company
- Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.
- Sweeten Creek Brewing
- Thirsty Monk Brewery & Pub
- Twin Creeks Brewing Co.
- Twin Leaf Brewery
- Wise Man Brewing Co.

SHARING THE JOURNEY

BLUE RIDGE MUSIC CENTER

Your support keeps the tradition of mountain music alive for all to enjoy

Crowd Around the Mic

This season, the Blue Ridge Music Center welcomed a record number of music lovers for the Roots of American Music concert series. More than 7,500 attended 13 outdoor concerts, three indoor concerts, seven interactive workshops, and the annual free Junior Appalachian Musicians & Family Day.

Seen and Heard

The season celebrated a range of styles rooted in American music history, from Appalachian dance and fiddle traditions to contemporary fusions of bluegrass, string band, folk, pop, and jazz. Performers included The Steel Wheels, Steep Canyon Rangers, Phil Wiggins, Slate Mountain Ramblers, Zephyr Lightning Bolts, The Crooked Road Ramblers, The Quebe Sisters, The New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters, Bill and the Belles, The Wildman Family Band, April Verch Band, Anna & Elizabeth, and Dom Flemons. A last-minute addition to the lineup in August made for a stellar concert with Old Crow Medicine Show, Mipso, and Amythyst Kiah, and drew more than 2,700 concert-goers, one of the largest audiences in the history of the Music Center.



Old Crow Medicine Show wows a sold-out crowd at the Blue Ridge Music Center in August.

Howdy, Partners!

The Music Center reached new audiences with 15 off-site concerts and events that attracted more than 4,000 patrons, thanks to presenting partnerships with Arts Greensboro, Arts Council of Winston-Salem & Forsyth County, Houston Fest, MerleFest, National Council for Traditional Arts, Triad Acoustic Stage, Virginia Folklife, Wake Forest Innovation Quarter, and Yadkin Cultural Arts Center.

Behind the Music

Keepers of mountain music shared stories and songs with scores of visitors daily during Midday Mountain Music sessions. Sadly, the program lost one of its founders this year. Bobby Patterson, a Virginia Heritage Award winner and Blue Ridge Music Hall of Fame inductee, passed away in September. Patterson and musical partner, Willard Gayheart, started the sessions in 2006, and religiously played each Tuesday for more than a decade.



Photographs by Mike Duncan

Clockwise from above: The Ingrams perform during A Show for Joe: The Joe Wilson Memorial Music Festival. The Steel Wheels kick off the 2017 Roots of American Music concert season. April Verch dances with her fiddle. More than 2,700 concert-goers welcome Old Crow Medicine Show to the stage in August. Amythyst Kiah moves the crowd with her powerful vocals.



SHARING THE JOURNEY

KIDS IN PARKS

A new generation is engaging with nature and growing up to become public land stewards

A decade ago, the National Park Service discovered a distressing trend. A survey found that only 7 to 11 percent of Blue Ridge Parkway visitors brought children with them to enjoy the park, raising the questions how are children learning about the joys of nature, and who will take care of our precious public lands in the future.

The discovery prompted the Foundation to partner with the Parkway and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation to create a hiking program designed to get families unplugged from electronic devices and outdoors. Over the last eight years, Kids in Parks (KIP) has achieved amazing results, including the creation of a network of more than 160 trails in 10 states and Washington, D.C., and getting hundreds of thousands of people active and connected to public lands.

This year, KIP added more TRACK Trails in National Parks and expanded along the Parkway corridor. It was a record-breaking year for hike registrations with more than 4,000 TRACK Trail sign-ups. Those registrations equate to more than 130,000 children who have trekked TRACK Trails, including 10,000 who visited Parkway locations. Because of these sustained results,



Children embark on a guided TRACK Trail hike at Chimney Rock State Park.

KIP was named one of five finalists for the Partnership for a Healthier America's Catalyst of Change Impact Award, which honors programs that have played a major role in helping ensure that all children are at a healthy weight.

A Leader in Park Rx

Over the last several years, there has been a growing movement for health care providers

to write prescriptions that direct their patients to spend time outdoors. KIP is a natural partner in this initiative, dubbed Park Prescriptions or Park Rx, due to its extensive trail network, its variety of outdoor recreation activities for many ages, and ability to measure results. Today, KIP is becoming a leader in the national movement, with more than 100 doctors writing prescriptions for outdoor recreation activities and hikes on TRACK Trails. So far, hundreds of kids have "filled" their prescriptions through the program's website, earning prizes and reaping the health benefits offered by nature.

Addressing a Global Issue

The problem of children disconnecting from nature extends beyond the United States: It is a global issue. Because KIP is recognized for its groundbreaking approach to addressing this problem, KIP Director Jason Urroz was invited to attend the Salzburg Global Seminar's session titled, *The Child in the City: Health, Parks, and Play*, to work with 50 leaders representing 23 countries to address the multiple facets of this issue.

For 70 years, the Salzburg Global Seminar, held in Salzburg, Austria, has convened current and future leaders from around the world to tackle issues of global concern by challenging established mind-sets, inspiring collaborative solutions, and building lasting networks. We're honored to have our program and director contribute to that legacy.



Fourth grade students observe and record insect activity at a citizen science trail at their school.

SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE

ON THE HORIZON

Together, we are moving forward with new Parkway projects and initiatives

Waterrock Knob

Milepost 451

In 2016, the Blue Ridge Parkway received a land donation of 5,329 acres surrounding Waterrock Knob for the largest expansion of the park unit in 60 years. The Foundation is proud to be collaborating with the National Park Service, nearby communities, and stakeholders to gather and provide input on the future of this fragile natural resource. The project is made possible by grants from the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area and the Pigeon River Fund of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina.

Doughton Park

Milepost 240

Doughton Park is on the road to recovery! This summer, the opening of the Doughton Park Information Center and Camp Store in the former store marked an important step in the effort to welcome back visitors to the facilities, which were shuttered in 2010. Next door, the former coffee shop has been cleared of the mold issue that



Waterrock Knob will receive community input for future uses of 5,329 acres donated to the Parkway. Below, Sparta Mayor John Miller and Millie Barbee cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the new store at Doughton Park.

had stalled the revitalization of this once-popular stop on the Parkway.

The next phase of work will be boosted by your support and a \$350,000 grant from the state of North Carolina. There is still much work ahead, and the lodge has not undergone repairs. However, we know with your help this place that holds many wonderful memories for visitors and neighboring communities will get a second chance.



PHOTOGRAPH BY MONTY E. COMBS

Centennial Challenge

Four fascinating historical sites along the Parkway are about to benefit from a big boost thanks to your gifts and a new round of Centennial Challenge grants. For the third year in a row, the Foundation is partnering with the National Park Service on this matching program that pairs private money with federal funds to address critical projects in parks across the country.

The 2017 grants are designated for repairs at Humpback Rocks Farm, Sharp Top Shelter, Mabry Mill and Groundhog Mountain, and Moses H. Cone Memorial Park. The program allows us to double your impact at highly visited interpretive sites.

Volunteer Corps

Our 20th anniversary year marks the beginning of a new chapter in service to the Blue Ridge Parkway with the launch of the Foundation's Volunteer Corps.

Dozens of people stepped forward to lend their time and talents to complete trail repairs, replenish materials at donor giving stations, serve as ambassadors at community events, plan fundraisers, and welcome concert-goers at the Blue Ridge Music Center. Joining the Volunteer Corps is a rewarding way to make a lasting difference for visitors, wildlife, the land, and future generations.

Join!

To become part of the Volunteer Corps, visit brpfoundation.org/volunteer.



A UNC Asheville student helps clear overgrown vegetation during a volunteer work day at the Folk Art Center.

SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE

GIVING

Create your own legacy on the Parkway, now and forever, with these opportunities

Whether your interests lie in education, environmental and resource protection, visitor facilities, or cultural heritage, the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation can match your donation with your preferred project. Opportunities to make an impact include committing to an annual donation, purchasing a specialty license plate, giving through your workplace, making an honor or memorial gift, and creating an endowment or fund. With any choice, your dollars cultivate the programs and projects that reflect your vision for the Parkway.

Annual Giving

Restricted and unrestricted donations provide support for projects and programs that preserve the past, enhance the present, and safeguard the future of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Blue Ridge Parkway Specialty Plates

Purchasing a North Carolina Blue Ridge Parkway specialty plate for your vehicle is one way to proudly display your commitment to the Parkway. From the specialty plate fee, \$20 is dedicated to the Foundation. Learn more at GetThePlate.org.



Workplace Giving

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



Charitable Bequests & The André Michaux Society

Including language in your will or trust specifying a gift to the Foundation is an easy way to ensure the future of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Individuals who choose to leave a lasting legacy become members of The André Michaux Society.



Members

Neal & Patrice Auspitz	Edward Howard	Miriam Sexton
William Barr	Hana Karpisek	Gary Stewart
Ed Blair	Karl & Edwina Kleeman	Les & Julie Taylor
Connie Boylan	Tom & Darlene Knight	Tim Thomas
Chip Callaway	Jack & Barbara Lockhart	Jim & Pat Toole
Deborah Clark	Greg & Vickie Madison	Vicki Troutman
Rodney Clark	Greg McKnight	Bill & Judy Watson
George & Sandra Fisher	Arnold & Rosemary	Dr. Cliff Watts
Mark & Marge Hoecker	Nelson	Valeria Watts
	Howard Pearson	Pam Westrick
	Bernadette Scott	Martha Yount

Honors & Memorials

Through the honor and memorial program, you can acknowledge family and friends who have enjoyed a deep personal connection to the Parkway. (See the list of 2017 honors & memorials on page 24.)

Endowments & Funds

Donors may set up or contribute to an endowment or fund for a specified interest. The principal remains intact and the interest earned is available to fund projects in that area, providing a long-term source of support for the Foundation.

All contributions to the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation are tax-deductible as allowed by law. The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation's tax identification number is 31-1512730.

FINANCES

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE		
Contributions	\$1,327,372	\$547,975
Grants	\$217,500	\$128,100
In Kind	\$51,702	\$97,453
North Carolina Specialty Plate	\$534,480	\$530,380
Net Gains (Losses) Investments	\$62,397	\$(21,451)
Endowment Income	\$7,418	\$9,996
Investment Income, net	\$1,015	\$(6,165)
Other	\$232,233	\$95,909
Total Support & Revenue	\$2,434,117	\$1,382,197
EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$1,366,022	\$1,571,453
General and Administrative	\$65,352	\$99,098
Fundraising	\$197,892	\$130,203
Total Expenses	\$1,629,266	\$1,800,754
Change in Net Assets	\$804,851	\$(418,557)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$2,619,966	\$3,038,523
Net Assets as of End of Year	\$3,424,817	\$2,619,966

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial information is derived from the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation's 2016 financial statements audited by an independent registered public accounting firm, and is available on our 990 and at brpfoundation.org/financials.



HONORS AND MEMORIALS

Those honored or memorialized are listed in bold. Donors are in italics. (Gifts from October 2016 to October 2017.)

Honors

Allene Adams

James Adams

Russell F. Anderson

Frances Anderson

Susan Arrendell

Kate & Stuart Kelley

Aubrey Arrington

Cary Simms

Daniel & Françoise Atsenhour

Bill & Susanne Short

Tom & Janet Bachmann

Vicki Troutman & Mary Tucker

Charles & Ann Baker

Rachel Deal

Millie Barbee

John & Deborah Sherrill

Helen Barnes-Reilly

Bill & Susanne Short

Grace Baucom

Michael Baucom

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“ *Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit.* ”

-Edward Abbey



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