



THE YELLOW VEST

March Issue: Volunteer E-Newsletter

Gearing Up for Spring

Chapters are starting to get back out into their communities and get to work! Workdays and community events are popping up just like the flowers. See what's going on in your area with the [Chapter Updates](#).

There also are a couple of new things happening around FRIENDS that you'll start to learn more about as well. Read more about that in [FRIENDS News](#) below as well as the section towards the end about our [revised volunteer incentive program](#).



Thank you for all you do, FRIEND!

Julie Whalen

FRIENDS News

At the most recent FRIENDS Board meeting in February, two exciting programs were approved. Each will honor one of our FRIENDS co-founders, Mary Guynn and Lynn Davis.

FRIENDS Forever Mary Guynn Society

The "FRIENDS Forever Mary Guynn Society" seeks to provide our faithful supporters the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy to their beloved Blue Ridge region of Virginia and North Carolina. Mary was a treasure to her community and left a lasting impact for generations to come.

Individuals who have established a FRIENDS legacy in their estate planning will be inducted into the Society, enjoy its benefits while still living, and be acknowledged in FRIENDS' print, video, digital, and social media promotional materials.

Bequests to FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge are entirely free from federal estate tax and can, therefore, offer substantial estate tax savings. Please contact us to learn more about how you can continue to impact our beloved Blue Ridge not only during your lifetime, but for forever.



FRIENDS Founder Lynn Davis Scholarships

The Class of 2023 will be the first students to receive the inaugural Lynn Davis Scholarships from FRIENDS. Lynn is a lifelong learner and spent her career pouring her energies into serving communities and government agencies with an education focus so we can be good stewards of our natural world for those after us to enjoy.

Scholarship recipients will be chosen by our volunteer chapters from students in their local Blue Ridge communities. We hope to support about 20 students each year with scholarships as they pursue an environmental science path.

[Donate to the Scholarship Fund](#)

FRIENDS Chapter Updates

Springtime means more volunteer activities getting started. See what the chapters are up to so far in your area.

Humpback Rocks Chapter

Waynesboro, Staunton, Montebello and Nelson County, VA

The **Humpback Rocks Chapter** will continue work at the natural playground at the Blue Ridge Children's Museum. A couple of elements need to be installed as well as general maintenance. The chapter also hopes to restart their youth hikes this summer where day campers enjoy a day on the trail, learn to pitch a tent, and enjoy some reading time.



Peaks of Otter Chapter

Lexington, Lynchburg, Buena Vista, Bedford, and Buchanan, VA

The **Peaks of Otter Chapter** has been busy reaching out to community organizations for new projects to start as well as reaching out to members and volunteers in the area to help rebuild the chapter roster. If you live in the Peaks area please complete the chapter survey.

[Take the Chapter Survey](#)

Roanoke Valley Chapter

Roanoke, Salem, Bent Mountain, and Vinton, VA

The **Roanoke Chapter** will meet **Thursday, March 24th at the Grandin Library at 6 pm** to discuss upcoming volunteer opportunities including:

- Volunteering at the Blue Ridge Marathon in April and the IRONMAN in June
- Working with the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy
- Concerts at Explore Park as well as building a stage for the venue there

Volunteer for the Blue Ridge Marathon

Rocky Knob Chapter

Rocky Mount, Stuart, Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Meadows of Dan and Floyd, VA

The **Rocky Knob Chapter** will be hosting students from Western Carolina University for an Alternate Break weekend. This is the first time since the pandemic the students will be back. It's great to have them! We'll share the highlights from their visit next time.

Fisher Peak Chapter

Galax and Hillsville, VA

Work on the grounds of the Sidna Allen House will continue this spring as the **Fisher Peak Chapter** makes preparations to build a gazebo that mirrors the architecture of the home.

Other projects on their spring to-do list are:

- Garden boxes at the Hillsville Market
- Helping build a home in the community with Fuller Home Center
- Playground workdays in Hillsville
- Trail workdays
- Support for the Carroll County Creative Arts Center events



Northern Highlands Chapter

Sparta, Wilkesboro, Laurel Springs, and West Jefferson, NC

The **Northern Highlands Chapter** will be at the following community festivals. Stop by and see them.

NC Trail Days	June 4th	Elkin, NC
Smoke on the Mountain	July 22-23	Galax, VA
Peach Festival	July 30	Wilkesboro, NC
Mountain Heritage Festival	September 17	Sparta, NC
Apple Festival	October 1	N. Wilkesboro, NC

High Country Chapter

Boone, Linville, and Blowing Rock, NC



Throughout March and April and the **High Country Chapter** has weekend workdays planned which incorporate a little fun with the work. Check out the locations and the details on their Facebook Events Page. Click the button below to take you there.

[High Country Facebook Page](#)

Or click the button below to email Eric Hoidahl for more information:

[Email for High Country Community Workdays](#)

Asheville Chapter

Old Fort, Black Mountain, Swannanoa, Asheville, and Hendersonville, NC

The Asheville Chapter is seeking individuals looking for ways to help keep parks in and around Buncombe County inviting for all. The chapter is working with the National Forest Service, Buncombe County, and local nonprofits.

Currently, they are asking volunteers to work on one-time and continuing projects starting with an **Earth Day winter clean-up on Saturday, April 23**. We welcome all to meet new friends, work in a park, have some fun, and get something done. **To volunteer, click the button below to let Ross Akin know you're interested:**



[E-mail to Volunteer](#)

The Asheville Chapter will also staff aid stations for the Assault on Mount Mitchell again this year.

New Volunteer Incentive Program

For 2022, we're introducing a new volunteer incentive

Once people have

program that gives you the freedom to pick and choose your thank-you item. Here's how it works:

- For every hour you volunteer you receive a point.
- Redeem points for items of varying point value at the end of the calendar year.

We are building our "Volunteer Incentive Store" now with items that range from FRIENDS merchandise to books to discounts at venues to outdoor gear. Watch for more details to come!

time to catch up on reporting their hours, we will begin to highlight chapter and individual total in chart form the way we did previously.

So report your hours today!

Pretty simple, right? To get everyone caught up, please use the button below to report any volunteer hours you have since **January 1, 2021--the moment FRIENDS started to focus on activities in our Blue Ridge communities.**

When reporting volunteer hours please include:

- Travel time
- Meeting and/or preparation time for a project
- Making community connections
- Time representing FRIENDS at local festivals

You have numerous ways to spend your time so we are excited to recognize and thank you for spending your time with FRIENDS as we improve our local communities.

Report Volunteer Hours

Please Complete the FRIENDS Volunteer Form

To ensure you are covered for your FRIENDS volunteer work, please complete the new **FRIENDS Volunteer Form**.

FRIENDS of the BLUE RIDGE VOLUNTEER FORM
Release of Claims, Media Release, and Waiver of Liability

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: This document affects your legal rights. This agreement (the "Release") is executed as of the Agreement date below by the Volunteer, in favor of Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Inc. a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina, and its directors, officers, employees, volunteers, and agents (collectively, "FRIENDS").

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION:
Name: _____ (Last, first or the volunteer's, Date of Birth) ____/____/____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

*NOTE: A parent or guardian must sign this form for anyone under age 18. See bottom of page for signature area.

I desire to volunteer for FRIENDS and engage in activities related to being a volunteer (the "Activities"). I understand that the Activities may include, but are not limited to:

General Maintenance Community Event Volunteer Landscaping
 Utility/Debris Removal Trail Maintenance
 Other: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:
Name: _____
Phone: _____ Relation: _____

BY SIGNING, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD ALL OF THE TERMS OF THIS TWO PAGE RELEASE AND I AM SIGNING THIS RELEASE AS OF MY SIGNATURE DATE WRITTEN BELOW.

Signature of Volunteer: _____
Name of Volunteer (Please print): _____
Date: _____

For volunteers under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must also sign.
I am the parent or legal guardian of the child named above. I have the legal right to consent to and, by signing below, I hereby consent to all requests for the use of this Release. I authorize FRIENDS to obtain medical treatment for such minor and release a prior liability in accordance with this Release.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian: _____
Name of Parent or Legal Guardian (Please print): _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Date: _____

Please read page 2 and initial in the box at the bottom.

The form only needs to be completed **ONCE (not annual)** and then simply updated if information changes. It requires a live signature so please print the form and complete it. Contact us to have one mailed to you.

Once completed, please return the form by:

- Returning it to your chapter chair
- Emailing it to staff@friendsbrp.org
- Mailing it to FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge, PO Box 20986, Roanoke, VA 24018

Download Volunteer Form (PDF Format)

Download Volunteer Form (Fillable Word Format)

One Click Away: Volunteer Resources & Opportunities

Volunteer Forms & Documents

[Volunteer Form](#)

[Report Volunteer Hours](#)

Ways to Support FRIENDS!

[Donate](#)

[Join or
Renew](#)

[Volunteer](#)

For volunteers in Virginia, get the specialty plate that directly benefits FRIENDS and the work you are doing in your community!



Revenue from the plates funds FRIENDS projects and operations in Virginia, including a donation to the Blue Ridge Parkway.