



**BLUE RIDGE
PARKWAY
FOUNDATION**

A scenic view of a lake with a canoe in the foreground and a mountain in the background, surrounded by colorful autumn foliage. The water is a deep blue, and the trees are in various shades of red, orange, and yellow. The mountain in the background is a dark, rounded peak under a clear blue sky.

THE SCENIC

FALL 2020



CONGRATS!

↑ Trails & Views Forever match met!

Your love for the Blue Ridge Parkway truly shows! Hundreds of supporters gave a total of \$300,000 to the Trails & Views Forever program and secured a \$300,000 challenge grant from an anonymous donor. That's a total of \$600,000 to repair and renew trails, overlooks, campgrounds, and picnic areas in North Carolina and Virginia. **We can't thank you enough!**

Let's keep the momentum going. Our ultimate goal for this critical program is to provide \$3 million over the next 5 to 10 years to rehabilitate sites along the entire length of the Parkway. Every gift makes a difference!

➔ The Bluffs to reopen in 2021

Thanks to your support, renovations to The Bluffs are complete. For many, the restaurant looks just as it did in its heyday, with green checkerboard floors and the same large Parkway photos hanging at opposite ends of the dining room. After a brief run-through of operations last month, the restaurant team has decided to reopen for full operations in the spring of 2021. We can't wait to see you then!



Photo by David Huff

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ONGOING PROJECT

↑ Flat Top repairs on the horizon

We planned to see repairs underway by the end of summer at Flat Top Manor at Moses H. Cone Memorial Park. Unfortunately, the pandemic has forced us to be more patient when it comes to project timelines. But rest assured, the steps needed to begin the extensive exterior renovations have continued behind the scenes. The work is now slated to begin at the manor this fall. In the meantime, we've been working on additional projects to raise awareness about the estate, provide a new virtual experience, and care for it.

- **Online tour:** Tours of Flat Top Manor are on hold due to COVID-19, but you will soon be able to explore the house with a new virtual walkthrough experience funded by your gifts. Details to be announced in our e-newsletter.
- **Webinar:** You can learn more about the Blowing Rock estate with our webinar, "Flat Top Manor & the Estate of Moses and Bertha Cone," available at BRPFoundation.org/webinar-series.
- **Caring for the grounds:** Volunteers are receiving training in hydrangea pruning and string trimmer operation to assist the National Park Service in maintaining the lovely landscape.

+ Welcoming a partner ranger

Staffing at Parkway visitor centers proved difficult this year as COVID-19 delayed hiring of seasonal rangers. Once the live Midday Mountain Music sessions and concerts resumed at the Blue Ridge Music Center this summer, there was a clear need for assistance to help visitors. The role of partner ranger, funded by your gifts, was created to ensure mountain music experiences continued. We were thrilled to welcome Partner Ranger Aubrey Arrington to our team. Be sure to say hello next time you visit!



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Cover Photo: Price Lake, milepost 297
By Monty E. Combs



Want to become a Parkway Protector? Visit ParkwayProtector.org