



# Rockfish Valley Foundation

*Enhancing the Quality of Life and Celebrating the People, Land, and History of the Rockfish Valley*

## **WINTER NEWSLETTER**

### **YOUR DONATION IS NEEDED.**

We have lots of news to share. We have the 2020 budget and are happy to share it if you will contact us. It is based on success of our 2019-2020 fund drive. We are half way there but need 100 more donors and the balance of the drive or we start cutting programs and the planned work. Please support RVF and make your gift either through the website [www.rockfishvalley.org](http://www.rockfishvalley.org) or through the mail to P O Box 235, Nellysford VA 22958.

### **WHAT IS UP IN 2020?**

### **Rockfish Valley Foundation Board of Trustees Adopts TRAIL ETIQUETTE POLICY; December 2019**



Circumstances directed that the existing policy be reviewed and that input be solicited from the community. Several dozen responses were received and a new policy approved which includes new expectations for pet owners. Please view the policy at [rockfishvalley.org/blog/trail-etiquette/](http://rockfishvalley.org/blog/trail-etiquette/). The Rockfish Valley Foundation offers these beautiful trails for the enjoyment of the community. It is important that we keep the trails safe and also keep the habitat protected for the wildlife who live here.

## Katrina Broughman PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Katrina begun as paid educator/program director January 13, 2020.



Contact information:

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*Mary Baldwin University BA '13  
Enrolled: M.Ed. '21 in Environment-Based Learning  
from Mary Baldwin University and M.A. '21 in  
Sociology from Morehead State University  
Board Member, Boxerwood Nature Center  
Peace Corps Volunteer Moldova 2015-2017  
Member and Secretary VA Master Naturalist -*

*Central Blue Ridge Chapter*

Katrina will be working with the Nelson County Schools as well as other education groups in Nelson and beyond. New programs, improved programs and events will unfold in 2020. She will also be assisting with volunteer recruitment and training. We plan to make use of her skills in organization, technology, social media, marketing and development. .

## Natural History Center Is Closed Until April 4, 2020



RVF's Natural History center has closed for the year and will re-open on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Spruce Creek Park and the Rockfish Valley trails remain open for public use. The Center is still available for groups who wish to make an appointment, like the Charlottesville Nature Group who visited us on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **GOAL TO OPEN NATURAL HISTORY CENTER ON WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING IN APRIL 2020**

**Our wish is to open The Natural History Center not only on the weekends but also on Wednesdays. That takes our budget. It also takes some volunteers willing to spend 2 hours. Let us know if you wish to become a volunteer with our trails park or natural history center by contacting us at [contact@rockfishvalley.org](mailto:contact@rockfishvalley.org)**

## **SPRUCE CREEK PARK GAZEBO**



**We accepted a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Tucker of an 11 x 16 foot gazebo to serve as an outdoor classroom. We moved it 3 miles and a huge thank you to Gordon Miller and his team who built the foundation and installed it. It can hold a class of elementary school kids! But we need to do some work including power wash, stain, screen and install electricity. This unfortunately will not be done unless**

**we make the fund drive. We need to spend almost \$2000 more.**

## **EARTH DAY CELEBRATION IN SPRUCE CREEK PARK**

**The week of April 18-25 is the 50<sup>th</sup> international celebration of Earth Day . We are going to host the Nelson celebration. It will be a family event on Sunday, April 19; so stay tuned.**

## **ENLIT – our environmental literacy content grant**

**We have a grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia to create content that will be communicated thru Firefly and Verizon wireless on the trails to enhance both fun and learning along the trails and help accomplish our mission of environmental literacy.**

## **RVF Trail system in the December 2019 issue of Crozet Gazette**

The December 2019 issue of the Crozet Gazette features an article on the Rockfish Valley trail system. The article, authored by Mary S. Cunningham, gives a fantastic overview of the trails as well as the surrounding area. Link to article: [crozetgazette.com/2019/12/18/rockfish-valley-trail-system/](http://crozetgazette.com/2019/12/18/rockfish-valley-trail-system/)



## **Facebook and AmazonSmile**



Like us on Facebook @RockfishValleyFoundation by clicking [this link](#) to stay up to date with all RVF events, programs, and announcements.

SELECT US ON AmazonSmile. If you do we will get a donation from Amazon . each time you make a purchase. The link and instructions are on our website. It costs you nothing and can mean a lot to RVF

## **ROCKFISH VALLEY GEOLOGY IS BEING STUDIED**

**A class of William and Mary students under direction of Chuck Bailey have been studying the geology of the valley and Nelson for us and all our geology materials are being updated. With funding we plan to hold an event in the late summer. August 18 will be the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RVF. To support this we have a geology committee of eight professionals and volunteers chaired by Kate Humphrey.**

## **SPRUCE CREEK IS BEING STUDIED**

**We have a Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund grant to study, interpret and educate our community about Spruce Creek. That will be done in collaboration with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade ecology club at Nelson Middle School**

## **Governance**

**We are pleased to announce that Peter Agelasto IV is now president. Peter Agelasto III is chairman; David Peyton and Barbara Heyl have been elected new trustees. Leslie Wood has been elected trustee and treasurer. Michael Lachance and Barbara Heyl have assumed the roles of cochairs of the education committee. Chris Gensic a founding trustee is back with us to work on the trails committee. He helped lay out the initial Rockfish River Trails in 2005 and is now heads trails in the city of Charlottesville.**

### **THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**Thank you for your interest and support of Rockfish Valley Foundation in the past. We are indeed as big as all outdoors and we remain the nature guys. Your donations will make 2020 the success for the Nelson community we know it can be.**

**You may reach us at [contact@rockfishvalley.org](mailto:contact@rockfishvalley.org) or telephone 434 361 0271**