



Rockfish Valley Foundation

Enhancing the Quality of Life and Celebrating the People, Land, and History of the Rockfish Valley. www.rockfishvalley.org // contact@rockfishvalley.org



SPRING NEWSLETTER

Spring has sprung in the Rockfish Valley, and RVF is thrilled to share what we have in store for 2022!

NATURAL HISTORY CENTER OPENS FOR 2022: APR. 2 @12PM

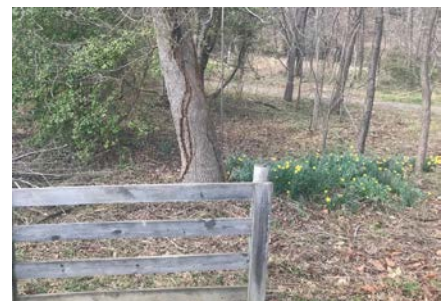
Beginning on April 2, the Natural History Center will be open for visitors! If the flags are up, we are open! Drop in to see our exhibits on water, rocks, plants, and animals - get a sneak peak by checking out the exhibit video with Betsy Agelasto at tinyurl.com/28bcrxtw. While you're here, pick up gifts for the historian or naturalist in your life - we have great prices on many rare books. Interested in volunteering at the Natural History Center? Swing by our **NHC Volunteer Open House from 12-2 on April 9th and 10th** to learn more! Or send a message to volunteers@rockfishvalley.org or fill out our simple volunteer interest form at tinyurl.com/5arnsum9.



NHC was opened in April of 2012. This marks its 10th anniversary of providing free exhibits and programs on water, rocks, plants, and animals.

CAMILLE MEMORIAL SITE AT TRAILS

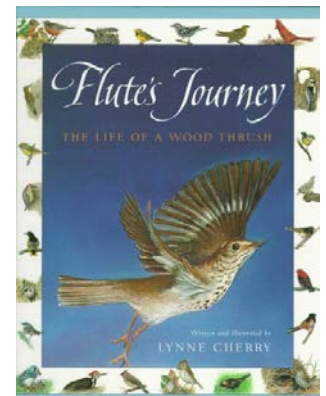
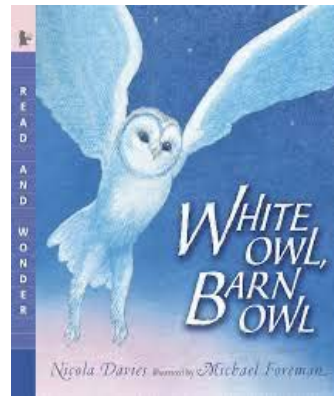
How did all these daffodils (jonquils) end up in the middle of fields around Nelson County? Some mark the spot where homes stood before being destroyed by Hurricane Camille. And some are visual indicators that the flood waters of Camille displaced *everything*, including garden bulbs. We are inviting folks to honor the loss of 125 lives and our friends, family, and neighbors who were devastated by Camille. Transplant jonquils from your property to our nascent Camille Memorial Site, located at the Camille Trailhead. Feel free to bring your bulbs and a spade to the site and add your own, or arrange a bulb drop-off to the Natural History Center by contacting operations@rockfishvalley.org. Thanks to our landscaping contractor, Francisco Barrigan, for clearing the area of vines and invasive plants so that we can embark on this project!



StoryWalks AT ROCKFISH TRAILS & SPRUCE CREEK PARK

ENJOY new content in our Storywalk installations!

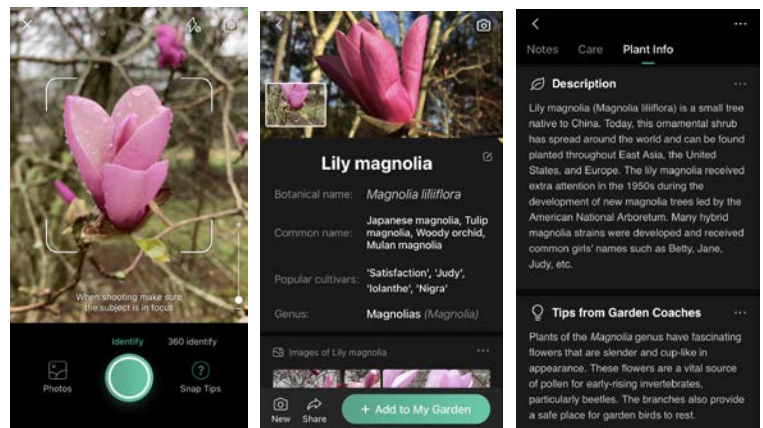
Find Flutes Journey: the Life of a Wood Thrush by Lynne Cherry on the Rockfish Trails east of Camille Trailhead, and *White Owl, Barn Owl* by Nicola Davies at Spruce Creek Park. Thanks to Grow Nelson and the Nelson County branch of the Jefferson Madison Regional Library for partnering with us to promote environmental literacy FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES!



PICTURE THIS APP

Consider donating your unused iPad to RVF! We will load PictureThis, a plant identification app, onto donated iPads to allow visitors to answer the big questions in life - like is this a tulip poplar or a lily magnolia? If you're interested in a tax-deductible donation of an iPad or similar device, email

operations@rockfishvalley.org.



VOLUNTEERS WELCOME AT TRAILS, PARK, AND NHC



After the hard winter, are you itching to get outside? Please join us as a volunteer! It's a great opportunity to see old friends, and meet new ones, while doing important work of conserving and beautifying our local natural resources.

Indoor folks can become hosts at the Natural History Center - stop by our NHC Volunteer Open House on April 9th and 10th between 12 & 2pm to learn more. Outdoor folks can help out with planting wildflowers, maintaining trails, beautifying the park, and more. Social butterflies can sign up for a weekly group workday - make friends while doing some gardening! Party planners can help plan and execute volunteer thank-you events. If you'd like to help, we'll find a job for you! If you're nervous that you don't have the skills or knowledge to help, we'll provide training and resources! Please fill out this (very quick, very easy!) volunteer interest form at tinyurl.com/5arnsum9 or email volunteer@rockfishvalley.org.

RVF INVITES YOU TO JOIN ITS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Nelson County and RVF begin a new chapter in education. 2022 is a formative year for RVF in all aspects. RVF believes in place-based education, outdoor classrooms, and environmental literacy. RVF seeks members of its newly formed education committee. Nelson County has hired Amanda Hesta as school superintendent, effective July 1st 2022. She commented “I can’t wait to get started and really hear from you all and learn from you all about how we can make a difference together. And I really appreciate this opportunity.” RVF provided her with a list of areas of expected mutual interest. See that letter at tinyurl.com/mwyb6bxj. Let us know if you want to join the committee by emailing contact@rockfishvalley.org



RESERVE THE GAZEBO AT SCP

Spruce Creek Park lovers - did you know that you may reserve the gazebo for a suggested donation of \$25? When not reserved, park goers can use the gazebo as a pop-up office, since we now have Firefly wifi throughout the park! Email operations@rockfishvalley.org to reserve the gazebo.

PLEIN AIR PAINT OUT SCHEDULED FOR OCT 7-9

By popular demand, RVF “PAPO 2” will occur. The two dozen artists from last year are being invited along with new artists. Please spread the word. The schedule will be the same as last year which can be seen at tinyurl.com/39vcze83. Interested artists should send an email with examples of their work to contact@rockfishvalley.org. “Along the Rockfish” by Steve Doherty is seen on the left and “On the Road” by Brett LaGue” is on the right. Both of these paintings were gifted to RVF by the artists.



RVF CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRESS

Capacity has been a top priority ever since before Covid. In the 2021 budget, we provided funds to build the RVF team. Below is the photo taken at the onboarding conference held Feb. 1st for the start of the Future of RVF.



Freedom Duff – Operations Manager and Outreach Coordinator

Peter Agelasto IV - Trustee and President

Melissa Luce – In-house Bookkeeper

Eric Caldwell –Capacity Builder, Strategist and RVF Team Developer

Paul Skalleberg – EnLit Project Manager

NOT PICTURED: Jack Dichiara - ground maintenance, social media and communications support

NOT PICTURED: Trustees - including 5 to be

recruited and added in next few months

NOT PICTURED: Volunteers - for NHC opening during week and weekend; Volunteers for park and trails

RVF IS HIRING AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

RVF is looking for a part-time (10-20 hours per week) administrative assistant! In addition to usual administrative duties, this position includes supporting public access to the Natural History Center museum during the week and supporting volunteers doing outdoor tasks in Spruce Creek Park. The applicant should be a people person, available mid-day on weekdays, and excited about an indoor/outdoor hybrid job. Please send a resume and a cover letter explaining your interest to operations@rockfishvalley.org.

DONATIONS WELCOME AND NEEDED!

The Rockfish Valley Foundation relies on the generosity of people like you! Text RVFSPRING2022 to 44321 or visit our secure donations website at tinyurl.com/4c27twh9. You can also support us with every Amazon purchase by selecting Rockfish Valley Foundation as your charity at smile.amazon.com. Additionally, support RVF by purchasing some of the unique books we have at the Natural History Center as seen below.

