

ROCKFISH VALLEY FOUNDATION BRIEF HISTORY, OBJECTIVES AND MISSION

- Founded August 18, 2005
- Internal Revenue Service 501c3 status was granted in 2006 and classified as public foundation
- Rockfish River Trails laid out spring and summer
- Birding Trail dedication by DGIF in September

2007

- First grant for trail signage and kiosk from NCCF, SAW and CACF

2009

- First community kite festival in April
- First community Star Watch
- BamaWorks grants for the geology trail

2010

- Nelson Scenic Loop dedicated and 75th anniversary of Blue Ridge parkway event hosted
- First Community fund raising campaign
- Grants from Bama Works & others to support Geology interpretation program ; Camille education programs, country store program

2011

- Opening of RVF headquarters in May
- Grant from CACF to support the development of the Natural History Center

2012

- Natural History Center becomes an affiliate of the VA Museum of Natural History in Feb
- Opening of Natural History Center on June 16, and the *Living off the Land* opens with 1300 visitors by year end

2013

- NCCF grant to develop education center in the NHC and
- Camp Rockfish is developed to address the needs of on young children, educational poster display cabinet and storage unit acquired;
- The first school programs and programs for children are held in the Spring
- *Rocks to Racing* exhibit opened April and attract over 1500 visitors by year end
- 5th annual Rockfish Valley Foundation kite festival was also held in April and attracts more than 800 attendees
- Spruce Creek Park bridge and approach paths replaced and are dedicated October 12 with a grant from the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation grant and paths become handicapped accessible
- Kids in Parks tract trail installed and opened November at Rockfish River Trail
- Water education models funded thru grant from Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund for ground water and surface water to be used at natural history center and Nelson schools

2014

- Biodiversity exhibit to open April 5
- Ben Greenberg talk, photo exhibit and book unveiling in March 14 – 15
- Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary program on March 15.
- Spruce Creek Children Nature trail planning and grant submission was the top priority

2015

2016

- First Naturally Nelson Day is held for Nelson County Schools in cooperation with the Environmental Science Academy at Western Albemarle High School
- Education Committee begin planning for addition programs with Nelson County Schools;
- native plant walk is developed
- South Rockfish River Historic District recognition is complete at state and federal level and celebration event is held at Three Chimneys; Stephen Tuso intern
- Recognition by governor McAuliffe and State of Virginia of the historic district, butterfly trail, Coleman Mills and Old Wintergreen Village as Virginia Treasures

2017

- Education committee moves forward with the children's nature trail design and construction; native plant walk with funding from local foundations;
- Children's Natural is constructed and officially opened September 3 with over 350 attending.
- Second annual Naturally Nelson Day is held at Spruce Creek Park
- 9th annual Rockfish Valley Foundation kite festival held on April 9, with nearly 2000 attending
- Naturally Nelson Exhibit is officially opened in September 21, 2017 exhibit RV
- Invasive Community Education Program held at RVCC with 74 attending;
- Invasive remediation project started at Coleman Mills begins;
- Perimeter fencing completed and construction and installation of storage shed built by Nelson High School students
- Strategic planning begins on August 18 with the help of the Center for Non Profit Excellence
- Initiate funding that includes salary for paid staff to enable next step of growth

2018 and 2019

- Over 2000 attended our 10th annual Rockfish Valley Foundation Kite Festival on April 8, 2018. The 2019 festival had to be canceled due to heavy rain and electrical storm that day.

It was recognized that RVF lacked certain capacity and organization. Effective management was the objective. Effort was made to hire and develop an executive director position but it was not possible to make funding sustainable or to develop the position in a timely manner.

In 2020 the recognized capacity and organization need has lead RVF to hire a part time educator and part time administrator and to improve committee leadership and volunteer recruitments.

OBJECTIVES and MISSION

The Rockfish Valley Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public charitable organization committed to working cooperatively with the Rockfish Valley community and others to demonstrate and promote agricultural and nonagricultural land uses and activities that conserve, protect, and sustain the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Rockfish Valley for the enjoyment and enrichment of residents and visitors. The foundation seeks to enhance the quality of life and celebrate the people land and history of the Rockfish Valley.

- Nature and natural history trails
- Birding
- Geology
- Water – S Fork Rishfish River, Spruce Creek, Reid’s Creek
- Botany -warm season grass area, invasives control
- Kids in Parks TRAC trail
- Rockfish River earth cache trail
- Spruce Creek and South Rockfish River trails
- Land and water conservation and restoration
- Wildlife habitat enhancement
- Spruce Creek Park
- South Rockfish River restoration and remediation project
- Bog and sensitive area restoration and protection
- Habitat assessment
- Elk Hill conservation easements
- Children’s Nature Trail
- Native Plant Walk

Recreation-based education and outreach

- Rockfish Valley Foundation Natural History Center
- Spruce Creek Park
- Discovery Days for 50 mile Nelson Scenic Loop
- Special events and programs like Old Wintergreen Day
- Naturally Nelson program

Historic resource promotion and protection

- South Rockfish Valley Rural Historic District
- Wintergreen Country Store
- Coleman Mills Archeology site
- Nelson Scenic Loop

