

Rockfish Valley Foundation

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rockfishvalleyfoundation

Website: www.rockfishvalley.org

Email: contact@rockfishvalley.org

Spring 2020 Newsletter

Spruce Creek Park (SCP) Covid-19 Limitations:

1) **The Park is open at this time.** The mud kitchen is closed & utensils have been removed. 2) Trash cans have been removed. 3) The lending library has been removed. Use equipment at your own risk. We are not able to sanitize equipment. We encourage all to avoid close contact (remain at least 6 feet apart). **WATCH YOUR CHILDREN'S CONTACTS.** If the area is crowded, we highly suggest you avoid it. If you, your children, or grandchildren feel ill, stay home. Wash your hands often. Limit the use of the portajohn.

Rockfish Valley Trails System Covid-19 Updates:

2) **Our trails are still open for public use at this time.** 1) Trash cans are removed. Take all trash home including dog poop. We will close the trails if trash piles up. 2) Please keep dogs on a leash at this time. 3) Please follow all CDC guidelines, including 6 foot separations. Good news! Two picnic tables were recently constructed by Nelson County High School's woodshop and have been placed on upstream trails. A huge thank you to Paul Connell and all of his students. A donation was also made to create benches. We appreciate all of our community's support in keeping our trails updated and maintained.

Natural History Center Opening Postponed:

New exhibits are coming but the center will stay closed until it is safe for visitors. Our April 4th opening has been postponed.

Earth Day Nelson Festival: Before & After Covid-19:

We originally planned to have an outdoor festival on April 19th with live music, food, family friendly activities, vendors, exhibits, and more. This celebration is a big deal for our planet! Due to Covid-19, we have gone digital to celebrate Earth Day's 50th international anniversary. **Earth Day Nelson** has been tentatively postponed to **Sunday, August 23**, in combination with our **RVF 15th anniversary celebration**. More detail to come. *All students* in the Nelson County area (NCPS, homeschoolers, North Branch, Afton Christian School, etc.) are invited to participate in our **Earth-Art-Athon**, which will replace our poster contest previously scheduled to take place at our festival. Submissions will be accepted *until Saturday, April 25th*. Use #earthartathon hashtag. Additionally, RVF will be hosting a daily **Earth Day Challenge** on our Facebook page from now until April 25th. Each day, there will be a post about actions individuals and families can do to celebrate and take care of the planet during a pandemic. Make sure to include the hashtag #earthdaynelson2020 in each post! Details for both digital interactions and other ways to connect to Digital Earth Day can be found on our Facebook page and website. Guidelines about the digital Earth-Art-Athon are listed online. Please direct any questions to Katrina Broughman, Program Director, at programdirector@rockfishvalley.org. *RVF wants to thank all of its sponsors for their continued support of Earth Day Nelson:* Blue Mountain Brewery, Wintergreen Resort, Earth Day Network Virginia, Devils Backbone Brewery, Blue Ridge Bucha, Mountain Area Realty, Conservation Plus, Rogers and Associates, Blue Ridge Life Magazine, Virginia Master Naturalists Central Blue Ridge Chapter, WNRN Radio, Sylvan Graphics and YeeHaul Inc.,.

Without these sponsors, Earth Day Nelson would not be possible in any form.

Celebrating the History of the Wintergreen Community:

You can reserve your copy by email of the printed on demand of local history: *Bringing Our Family History to Life in the Old Wintergreen Community: Nelson County, VA* by Gene Hughes (Storyteller, Historian, & Collector) & Wayne Drumheller (Photojournalist & Author). This is 188 pages of stories & photos published in limited supply. We can sell 50 copies at \$20.00. Get them while they are hot but wait to come see us until it is safe. Reserve your copy by emailing contact@rockfishvalley.org. Payment upon receipt. We had scheduled a book signing April 19th during our Earth Day Nelson Festival. We will reschedule once it is safe.

The two best Books to Purchase at RVF for your Grandkids:

Calling all grandparents! We have two books in limited supply available in our gift shop: *Mud Pies & Other Recipes*, originally published in 1961 by Marjorie Winslow (\$20) and *I Can Name 50 Trees Today: All About Trees: A Cat in the Hat Learning Library*, published in 1998 by Bonnie Worth (\$15). Get them soon! These are great texts to read to your grandkids during a visit or your video chats in quarantine! Reserve a copy at contact@rockfishvalley.org.

Report on Volunteers:

We have volunteers ready to open Saturday & Sunday & have Wednesday staffed part-time. Tuesday is Giveback workday for the maintenance & upkeep of our parks & trails. Check out the website volunteer section for application, policy, etc. Our enthusiastic Volunteer Committee has been staying busy. Many thanks to the committee, chaired by Bruce Slater & Bill Plyler.

The Future of Education Programs:

Our website has updated information about our education programs. We plan to provide many school programs in Fall 2020.

Future Events: Save the Dates:

Several events are coming up in our world! 1) **Earth Day Nelson Festival + The 15th Anniversary of RVF: Sunday, August 23rd.** 2) **The Third Annual Old Wintergreen Day: October 11th.** We hope to be able to still hold both of these events but will make changes depending on Covid-19 in the coming months. **Check our Facebook & website often for updates.**