



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



FALL NEWSLETTER

7TH ANNUAL OLD WINTERGREEN DAY: OCT 15th

Join us at Spruce Creek Park October 15th from 11:00am to 4:00pm for a fun filled day celebrating historic crafts, local culture and history with 20 exhibitors including Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary, Wayne Drumheller, & Kay Campbell.!

Activities include:

- Wintergreen village culture and history presentations about settlements, families, crafts and more
- Learn about wildlife with the Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary at the Children's Nature Trail
- History talks with Q&A presented by Liz Richardson, Gene Hughes, and Peter Agelasto
- Local crafts people displaying basket weaving, historical maps, rug making, floor cloths, chair caning, cooking on an open fire, making apple butter, soapstone carving and quilting
- Raffle for an antique fire truck ride, glider ride, and an Animal Paw Print floor cloth
- Music by Ken Janson: 70 songs from 1800's to present.
- An exhibition and sale of Plein Air paintings of Rockfish Valley landscapes in the Natural History Museum
- Vittles Van Food Truck

Thank you to Bob Holdsworth, Super Volunteer, for his organizational skills!

THANKS SUPER VOLUNTEERS!

Tina and Terry Thomas are an example of some of a dozen new super volunteers. They have been terrific volunteers at the Rockfish Valley Foundation! They are trail monitors for the downstream south fork of the Rockfish River for RVF. Here's what they had to say:

“We truly enjoy working the trails. We are certainly learning a lot. We're keeping an eye on the trees that were treated during our invasive workday”



THANK YOU Tina and Terry! Thank you also to Super Volunteer Norm Fenton, who you will see mowing the park and trails. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for RVF, [please email us at contact@rockfishvalley.org](mailto:contact@rockfishvalley.org)

Rockfish Valley Foundation
presents
OLD WINTERGREEN DAY

Sunday, October 15, 11:00-4:00
1368 Rockfish Valley Hwy, Nellysford

Featuring exhibits, crafts, music, speakers and food truck!
Special Plein Air Painting exhibit and sale!

Raffles for a one hour ride for 10 people on an antique firetruck and a glider ride for one over the Rockfish Valley

Snap Here for More Information

www.rockfishvalley.org/

PAINTING SALE

Rockfish Valley Foundation (RVF) presents works by a dozen Virginia artists known for their Plein Air landscape work. There are 29 beautiful oil and acrylic paintings painted in the Rockfish Valley recently, on display at the Natural History Center, 1368 Rockfish Valley Highway, Nellysford. The paintings are available for viewing and purchase at the following times:

- Saturday, September 30 | 12-4 pm
 - Sunday, October 1 | 12-4 pm
 - Saturday, October 7th | 12-4pm
 - Sunday, October 8th | 12-4pm
 - Saturday, October 14 | 12-4pm
 - Sunday, October 15 | 11am - 4 pm
(Old Wintergreen Day)
- portrayed in these photos . Come see them in person



* colors in paintings may be more spectacular than portrayed in these photos . Come see them in person

INVASIVES WORK DAY

Rockfish Valley Foundation (RVF) has begun an attack on invasive plants at all of its facilities. Our community must understand the problems associated with invasives. Watch what we are doing!

Several community members pitched in to do battle with invasive plants at Rockfish Valley Foundation's Camille Trailhead the morning of September 14. Utilizing guidance from Blue Ridge PRISM, nearly 20 people got to work pulling stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*), Oriental lady's thumb (*Persicaria longisetata*), and Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). Volunteers also used string trimmers to scalp larger stiltgrass infestations. Volunteers moved piles of stiltgrass off trail for the sun to degrade since it didn't have seedheads yet. The Invasive



workday was a part of a multi-year invasive plant management and education endeavor spearheaded by Mary Voorhees (Rivanna VMN) and Linda Hughes (CBR VMN) along with program director Peter Agelasto (RVF). Visit tinyurl.com/RVFInvasives to learn more about the workday!

EXCITING NEW NATURAL HISTORY CENTER EXHIBITS

RVF is proud to announce two new very exciting additions to the Natural History Center exhibits. We are extremely grateful to the community for these gifts and are excited to continue adding value and interest to the displays in the Natural History Center.

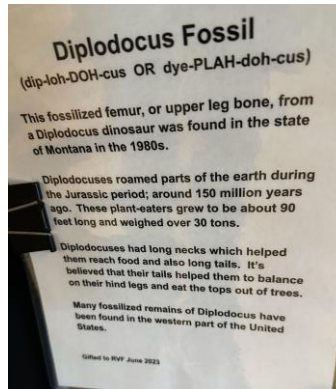
Fossilized Diplodocus Femur Bone

Diplodocus dinosaurs roamed the earth during the Jurassic period- around 150 million years ago. They could grow to be 90 ft long and could weigh over 30 tons. This particular fossil was found in Montana in the 1980s and recently gifted to RVF and is verified to be genuine.



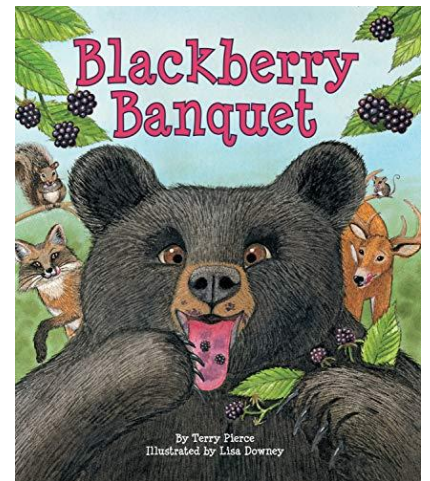
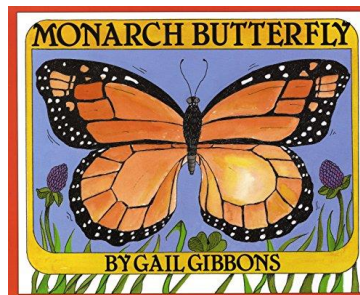
Taxidermy Wild Turkey In-Flight

RVF has also recently been gifted, from a family moving from Stony Creek, a large in-flight taxidermy Wild Turkey which can be seen on display in the Natural History Center.



NEW STORYWALK

New StoryWalk stories are installed at Spruce Creek Park and on the Rockfish Valley Trail System. Monarch Butterfly by Gail Gibbons was installed on the trails on October 1st. The book follows “the transformation from a tiny white egg laid on a leaf to a brilliantly colored butterfly in this kid-friendly introduction to metamorphosis”. “With detailed, bright watercolors, Gail Gibbons illustrates the life cycle of the monarch butterfly, stage by stage, as it grows, changes, and takes flight.”



Blackberry Banquet by Terry Pierce tells the whimsical tale of a bear interrupting a blackberry feast in the forest! It was installed at Spruce Creek Park on October 1st. Thanks again to Susan Huffman and the Nelson Memorial Library (JMRL) for their help with the StoryWalk project. We love it!

There is so much going on to benefit the community within the facilities of Rockfish Valley Foundation. Here are some teasers. Come by and ask us about them!

- **ENLIT MODULES UNDERWAY** in our outdoor classroom, including lessons on invasives, native trees and shrubs, geology, and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Interactive QR code posts along trails and in the park along with solar powered Wi-Fi availability makes this project a first of its kind.



- **NELSON CULTURE & HISTORY** video being turned into a professional YouTube product by KINO Comunicacion..
- **NELSON SCENIC LOOP** website is being refreshed by Jesus Najjar, Ken Janson, and others.
- **NATIVE PLANT TUBE PLANTINGS** from Farfields Farm. This is the second round of plant plugs donated by Farfields and to be planted at Rockfish Valley Foundation. These are set to be planted this fall and we need volunteers. Please email contact@rockfishvalley.org if you are interested.

OUR ANNUAL FUND DRIVE HAS BEGUN **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

RVF needs your help to support our many community focused projects. Our big focus now is identification of native and invasive plants for the public along the Rockfish trails, removing invasives, planting native trees and shrubs, making the Camille memorial site a special place and continuing to make trails more usable by maintenance and repair. We also need to replace the pump which brings water from Spruce Creek. It will support caring for the landscape and providing interactive environmental activities for the kids. The Rockfish Valley Foundation's goal is 500 donors. This will provide sustainability for the organization. We are in need of your help to reach this goal!

Facebook followers: RVF currently has ~1800 followers on our Facebook page at facebook.com/RockfishValleyFoundation. Help us grow that number to 2000. Follow to keep up to date with EVERYTHING RVF!

How to Donate: Please visit rockfishvalley.org/donations to learn how to donate to RVF and support the 2023-2024 operations budget.