



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

A BOLD REFRESH TO PARK AND TRAILS IS UNDERWAY

Thanks to community support and a private foundation grant, RVF has embarked upon significant maintenance and refresh in the park and along the trails. Here are just a few projects you will notice:

Spruce Creek Park

The native Jamestown Shed Beds and Gazebo Iris beds will be receiving a rich compost layer with help from volunteers in preparation for planting in October. An additional thank you goes out to Jeff McGann. The perennials have been sourced. All existed in Jamestown in 1607. The bearded iris is a show all year! RVF thanks a Stoney Creek resident for donation of three iris colors you will see. Remember a special donation of \$25 reserves the gazebo for two hours if you are already an RVF donor. Just send an email to contact@rockfishvalley.org.



Grass removal and reestablishing the width of Children's Nature Trail and Native Plant Walk with top dressing is underway. Thanks to volunteers and especially Graham Howe who will distribute the gravel piles here and elsewhere. Grass grows no matter what and visitors to the park are requested to pull a few plugs from the gravel walks to keep them nice.

Let's have some fun. **The Gaga Pit** is replenished with sand. A sign with the rules is attached. Some can enjoy the gaga pit while others enjoy BOCCE, which also has a sign with the rules. Set up a competition! Additionally, you can reserve the court and get a special use and tour of the museum if you are a current donor of RVF and would like to make an additional cash donation.



The Natural History Center walks have worn down. Gravel addition after grass removal will provide a lovely walking environment around the small garden beds. The RVF Natural History Center will soon provide iPads loaded with PictureThis app for families to use and learn about all the plants in these gardens and in Spruce Creek Park. RVF just installed Firefly for the outdoors including all the park. You can use your own devices. The name of the network is RVF Guest and the

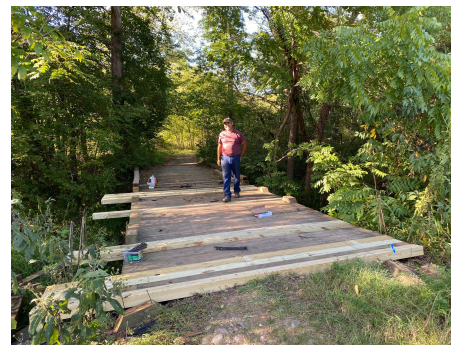
passcode is welcome2rvf. **The Center is open when the Open Flags are flying.**

Rockfish Valley Trail System

Camille Trail Head has been refreshed. The potholes and thin areas at the Camille Trailhead parking area are always a challenge. They are being filled and refreshed. Unfortunately, the budget does not allow all the work to be done here. In 2022 we must repave the entrance apron and add more gravel in the parking areas. Thanks for keeping the spot for access of the Bell's Septic waste truck cleared.



Reid's Creek Bridge rotted decking has been 100% replaced. A decision was made a year ago to replace a few deck boards. It was a split decision. It turns out there was more damage than we thought! We are shocked at the decomposition of some of the old material. Thanks to our super landscape contractor Francisco Barragan for the repairs. You will see his work all over the park and trail systems as well as in the Natural History Center. Thanks Poncho!



RVF OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS AND ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

The RVF facilities are destined to become popular outdoor classrooms.

Examples:

- StoryWalk at both park and trails resulting from a collaboration with Nelson Memorial Library. Thanks Susan Huffman! Read about in the Nelson County Times at tinyurl.com/c5b7t6m
- Enlit modules at both park and trails thanks to Paul Skalleberg, project manager. Enlit will use NFC tags to allow visitors to learn from their mobile phone.
- Jamestown Native beds - Thanks to volunteers and Cathy Clary, landscape designer
- Native Plant walk - thanks to funds provided by Rivanna Garden Club and Emmanuel Foundation
- Spruce Creek Buffer classroom - thanks to Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund
- PictureThis App - maybe the best plant identification app available



- Removal of invasives - RVF has a focus on educating others on the harm of invasives as well as the removal of stilt grass, kudzu, beefsteak (seen below), lespechea, and more.



PLEIN AIR PAINT OUT: Fri Oct. 8th - Sun Oct. 10th at Trails and Park

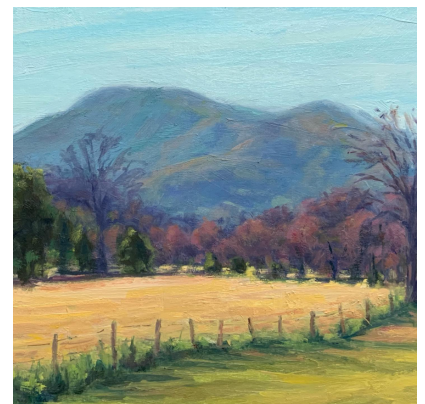
RVF's inaugural Plein Air Paint Out will take place on the Rockfish Trails the weekend of Indigenous People's Day / Columbus Day. We will have over two dozen invited artists painting along the trails on Friday (October 8), Saturday (October 9), and during a two-hour quick draw on Sunday morning (10am-12noon) at Spruce Creek Park. Further, the artists will allow visitors to watch them work along the trails and in the park. Paintings created during the event (ready to hang) will be displayed at the Tuckahoe Clubhouse from 2-5pm on Sunday and sold.



While artists are painting on Saturday, scheduled walk/talks will be offered. Adults and children will have fun learning about the water, rocks, trees, and soil of Rockfish Valley while they watch the artist paint. Additionally, a youth painting class will be held at Spruce Creek Park free of charge.

YOUTH PAINTING CLASS

Reservations for spots in the youth outdoor painting class can be made by email to contact@rockfishvalley.org. It's free at Spruce Creek Park from 9am-12pm on Saturday Oct. 9th. Carol Lemons, instructor, and Nancy Lauler, artist, will support the class effort. Thanks to Dick Blick of Blick Arts Materials for donation of paint, brushes, palettes, canvas for 24 young persons above the age of 6.



Thanks to Gray Dodson, Priscilla Whitlock, Susan Viemeister and Steve Doherty as artist members of the PAPO committee. Thanks to members of the Glenthorne Farm family for hosting the RVF picnic for artists and a tour of three generations of art at Glenthorne Farm.

A MAJOR CHANGE:

The Quick Draw two hour paint out location has been moved to Spruce Creek Park from Camille Trail head.

- **Friday, October 8, 2021**
 - 9am-5pm: Painting along the trails. Park at the Camille Trailhead - 721 Rockfish Valley Highway
- **Saturday, October 9, 2021**
 - 9am-12pm: a youth painting class will be held at Spruce Creek Park with paints, brushes, and surfaces available free of charge.
 - 9am-5pm: artists painting along the trails. Artists will lead some walks to interact with other artists.
 - 1-3pm: Artists and naturalists will lead some educational walk-talks along the Rockfish Trails leaving from Camille Trailhead every 15 minutes.
- **Sunday, October 10, 2021**
 - 10am-12pm: Quick draw painting at Rockfish Trails pasture next to Camille Trailhead.
 - 2-5pm: sale of produced work at the Tuckahoe Clubhouse in Stony Creek.

RVF 2022 FUND DRIVE EFFORT IS UNDERWAY

RVF begins its 17th year with objectives to build capacity, refresh its Board of Trustees, add staff and become sustainable. It's goal is to increase donations from 300 to 500. There was a turnover of 1000 properties in the resort in the last 12 months and RVF must gain support of many new faces. Please introduce yourself and join our efforts to spread environmental literacy and continue a wonderful outdoor experience for all.

- **How to Donate**: Please visit rockfishvalley.org/blog/donations to learn how to donate to RVF and support the 2022 operations budget.
- **Schedule Monthly Paypal Donations**: Visit our website through the link above to join those who have scheduled monthly PayPal donations to RVF.
- **Facebook followers**: Help us grow our Facebook followers from 1512 to 1700 by visiting facebook.com/RockfishValleyFoundation and following along for more educational and fun content!
- Please find the Satisfaction Questionnaire envelope and fill it out. They will be available at the museum and at the Plein Air Paint Out event.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS, DONORS, AND VISITORS. CELEBRATE THE ROCKFISH VALLEY!