



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



WINTER NEWSLETTER

2021 WAS A PRODUCTIVE & SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR RVF

The community support was wonderful for RVF facilities including the Nelson Scenic Loop, Rockfish Valley Trail System, Spruce Creek Park, Natural History Center museum and educational resources on water, rocks, plants and animals. We held numerous community events (always free), improved our facilities and at year end began a hiring process of qualified staff and capacity building. Our vision and mission remains Environmental Literacy and enjoyment of Nelson County.

Please enjoy RVF Videos from 2021 Programs:

- **RVF Natural History Center Video Tour; w/ Betsy Agelasto (9min):** tinyurl.com/39uxuuuj. The NHC will be open 2 hours every day in 2022.
- **RVF Natural History Center Tour for Kids w/ Immanol Barragan (2min):** tinyurl.com/y8whwdz6. Nelson student Immanol Barragan presents a 2 minute intro for young people to the RVF Natural History Center.
- **Geology of the Rockfish Valley w/ Chuck Bailey (57min):** tinyurl.com/e7p532yw. Chuck Bailey, W&M geology chair, introduces the geologic landscape of the valley and the new RVF geological trifold available at Camille kiosks.
- **Regional Geologic History w/ Callan Bentley (5min):** tinyurl.com/bdh38mmj. Professor of Geology at PVCC, Callan Bentley gives a brief overview of the geologic history of the Rockfish Valley and surrounding areas.
- **Plein Air Paint Out Event Tour (2min):** tinyurl.com/ms76wh7b. Enjoy this recap of RVF's successful Plein Air Paint Out event. Thank you to Alexandre de Montbel for videography and production and to Bill Mauzy for additional photography.
- **Plein Air Paint Out Finale Program w/ Steve Doherty & Anthony Bowes (63min):** tinyurl.com/mvjzuxdk. Experienced painters Steve Doherty and Anthony Bowes discuss their art, plein air painting, inspiration, and more.



Chuck Bailey discussing Rockfish Valley Geology



Callan Bentley Discussing Rockfish Geology

Additional RVF Accomplishments from 2021 and Highlights of Plans for 2022:

- Old Wintergreen Day- successful event on July 4th at Spruce Creek Park that celebrated the history of the area with food trucks, exhibitors, live music, and a raffle for an antique fire truck ride and a glider ride. Expect the 2022 version in July.
- Hiring of EnLit Manager Paul Skalleberg- read further to learn more on how Paul is seeking content providers on water, rocks, plants and animals for the EnLit project. Additionally, you can view some of Paul's work and EnLit content at rockfishvalley.org/blog/enlit/.
- James River Buffer Program tree and shrub planting completed- RVF worked with the VDOF and others to plant 570 native trees and shrubs along the Rockfish River. Read more about it at tinyurl.com/yj2e6rma.
- Community Engagement and Facility Improvement through weekly volunteer work days. If you wish to volunteer in 2022 visit rockfishvalley.org/blog/volunteer on our website, file the application. Here is a link to the last Volunteer Newsletter: tinyurl.com/2ry5wd96.
- Installation of StoryWalk
- Completion of the Native Plant Walk, Jamestown Native Shed Beds and new Children's Wildflower working garden.
- Additional improvement of facilities: Reed's Creek Bridge repaired, Gaga pit resurfaced with new sand, Camille trailhead refreshed with new gravel, and more.



Rockfish StoryWalk Installed 12/30



New educational children's stories @ park & trails every two months!

Plans for 2022:

- Celebrate StoryWalks on Rockfish Trails and Spruce Creek Park
- Onboard in-house bookkeeper and part-time administrative assistant
- Undertake capacity building project facilitated by outside contractor
- Complete EnLit (environmental literacy) WiFi content project
- Celebrate RVF Natural History Center 10th Anniversary Celebration
- Hold Old Wintergreen Day at Spruce Creek Park in July
- Hold 2nd Plein Air Paint Out in October

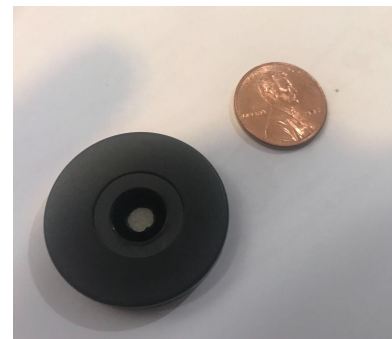


VOLUNTEERS IN 2022

Recruit, educate, retain and reward more volunteers. Provide a special opportunity to learn and to give back to the community at the same time. Tasks include looking after the trails and park and their infrastructure. Still House Branch, along the upstream Rockfish River trails, is pictured to the left.

COMPLETE ENLIT (Environmental Literacy) Program In 2022

ENLIT is a recreational trails project that will create accessible educational content that supports a fun experience for different age levels to enhance environmental literacy. It will be displayed thru signage, website and devices with digital connectivity along the trails and in the park. RVF will install NFC tags so content can be linked directly on visitor's mobile devices. We will create digital connectivity using Firefly fiber optic taken from existing electric lines and existing Verizon cellular. You can read more about it at rockfishvalley.org/blog/enlit.



NFC Tag



Chuck Bailey giving a talk on regional geology in the NHC

RVF NATURAL HISTORY CENTER

The NHC is closed until spring. Our plan is to reopen in April with a student outdoor painting class in Spruce Creek Park. Our commitment is to offer visitation hours each week day of at least two hours and to continue to be open on the weekend from 12 to 4 if we attract more volunteer hosts.

The NHC continued to be a center for education and learning within the

community in 2021. It also served as a venue for numerous programs and events. Pictured to the right (top) is Chuck Bailey, professor of geology at William & Mary, giving a talk on the geology of the Rockfish Valley. Below that, you can see an image of a troop of girl scouts earning their habitat badge.



Girl Scout Habitat Badge at NHC

RVF's ANNUAL DONOR APPEAL: PLEASE DONATE TODAY

RVF's annual donor appeal has reached 50%. The challenge is to increase donors from 300 in 2021 to 500 in 2022. Funds are needed to enhance facilities, education and operations. To read our full donor appeal letter, visit tinyurl.com/4uanht24. To learn how to donate to RVF, visit rockfishvalley.org/blog/donations. Your gift is important.



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Facebook Followers: RVF currently has 1535 followers on Facebook - you can help grow that number! Find us at [@RockfishValleyFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/RockfishValleyFoundation) and follow to stay up to date with everything RVF.



As we enter 2022, remember RVF for its growth since 2005, enjoyment of the three facilities and expect future capacity building and sustainability.

Thank You So Much, and
Happy New Year To All In 2022!

