

SPRING 2024

# ROCKFISH VALLEY FOUNDATION

QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER



Rockfish Valley Trails | Natural History Center | Spruce Creek Park



## Join us for the Natural History Center Spring Season Opening!

**Saturday, April 6 | 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

In preparation for our opening month, RVF is seeking dedicated volunteers like you to help us in various aspects of our mission.

**Hosting at the Museum:** Share your love for learning with visitors by assisting as a host at our museum.

Engage with guests, answer questions, and help create memorable experiences for all who visit.

Email [Contact@RockfishValley.org](mailto:Contact@RockfishValley.org) to schedule a visit prior to opening day so that you can become familiar with the new Monacan exhibit. For more information about the Natural History Center, [CLICK HERE](#).

**Event Assistance:** Lend a hand during our events! From educational workshops to community gatherings, your support will ensure that everything runs smoothly and that our attendees have a fantastic time.

Let's join hands with **Nelson's homeschooling community** for a **tree planting event at Spruce Creek Park**, in the afternoon around **2:30/3:30 PM on April 1**.

Join us for the Virginia Discovery Museum's annual family science festival, **Kid Vention** on **April 27** from **9:30 AM to 1:00 PM**. Several volunteers are needed to manage the RVF table and share our interactive resources with families.



Email [Contact@RockfishValley.org](mailto:Contact@RockfishValley.org) to volunteer with us!

**Trail and Park Preparation:** Join us on work days to prepare our trails and park for the upcoming season. Whether it's clearing debris, maintaining paths, or planting native species, your efforts will directly contribute to the preservation of our natural spaces.

**Invasive Plant Workshop**, hosted by Blue Ridge PRISM & RVF will take place on **Friday, April 5 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**. Meet at the Camille Trailhead located at 721 Rockfish Valley Hwy, Nellysford. Space is limited to 25 participants. [Click HERE to register](#) (\$25 per person). Dress for the weather as this workshop will take place rain or shine.

**Invasive Plant Workday**, hosted by RVF and Area Virginia Naturalists will take place on **Wednesday, April 17 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM**. Meet at the Camille Trailhead, located at 721 Rockfish Valley Hwy, Nellysford. This event is free to attend. Dress to fight invasives: long pants, closed-toe shoes, and bring gloves. To RSVP, please contact: Linda Hughes, linda.hughes711@gmail.com (410-703- 8352) | Mary Voorhees, mdv1952@aol.com (540-471-6929).

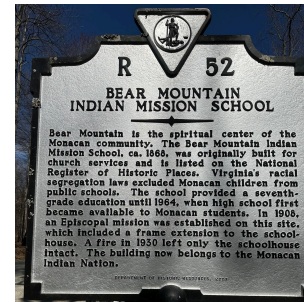


**Celebrate Earth Day & Arbor Day in the Rockfish Valley!**

Let's unite for Earth Day (April 22) and Arbor Day (April 26)! Join us in celebrating these important days by coming together as a community to plant trees, clean up our neighborhoods, and promote sustainable practices. Together we can make a difference for our planet and future

generations. Visit [earthday.org](http://earthday.org) and [arborday.org](http://arborday.org) to learn more about actions you can take to make an impact **Share your Earth Day and Arbor Day activities with us in social media using #RockfishValley.**

**31st Annual Monacan Indian Nation Powwow** will take place on June 1 and 2 at 225 Laurel Cliff Rd, Monroe, VA. For ticket and event details, visit [www.monacannation.com](http://www.monacannation.com)



**Read All 'About It!** Native and Invasive Plant Legislation in the 2024 General Assembly ([Click HERE](#) to learn more about mandates around retail sales of invasive plant species listed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

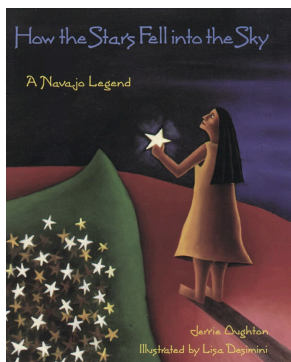
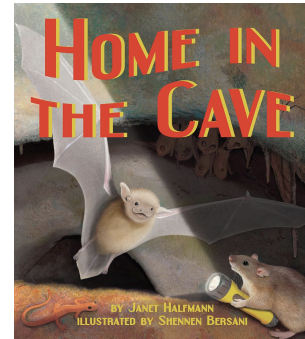
**RVF Launches ENLIT Outdoor Classroom: Dive into Nature's Classroom with Interactive Factsheets!**

This exciting initiative features 12 engaging factsheets on invasive plants and 25 factsheets on native plants and trees along the Rockfish River Trail, accessible via QR codes from the Camille trailhead. A special thanks to the Department of Forestry, Blue Ridge Prism, and the Central Blue Ridge and Rivanna Master Naturalist chapters, along

with our dedicated volunteers Linda Hughes and Mary Voorhees, for their invaluable contributions to this project. Join us as we embark on an educational journey through the beauty of our natural surroundings!

## **Two New StoryWalks Installed Along the Rockfish Valley Trails**

***Home in the Cave* by Janet Halfmann (Author) and Shennen Bersani (Illustrator).** Reading Level Ages 4-7 | *Gellet Burgess Award in the Growing Up category.* In "Baby Bat's Cave Adventure," Baby Bat discovers the wonders of his cave home with the help of Pluribus Packrat. As they journey through the depths, they encounter fascinating creatures and learn about the vital role bats play in their habitat. Will Baby Bat overcome his fear and venture outside to aid his fellow cave dwellers?



***How the Stars Fell into the Sky: A Navajo Legend* by Jerrie Oughton.** Reading Level Ages 3-9 | This retelling of a Navajo folktale explains how First Woman tried to write the laws of the land using stars in the sky, only to be thwarted by the trickster Coyote.

*Stories are made available for family reading along the Rockfish Valley Trails in partnership with The Nelson County Memorial Library.*

## **We Are Reaching Out!**

You may be one of the lucky 2,000 local households to have received a copy of the RVF flier in your mailbox recently. If you missed out, don't worry! [CLICK HERE](#) to catch up on this informative flier so you can stay connected and join us for community initiatives. We appreciate your support!



## **We Want to Hear from You:** **Take the RVF Community Interest Survey**

The online survey may also be completed at our trailhead with the help of our volunteers. Your input will become a valuable resource for our advisory committee when setting the course for the future of RVF. Use the QR code or [CLICK HERE](#), to take the survey.

### **RVF Advisory Committee | Planning for the Future**

The Rockfish Valley Foundation (RVF) is undergoing a transition planning effort during Spring 2024. The RVF mission supports conservation, recreation, and environmental education in the Rockfish Valley. We preserve the natural, cultural and historic, ecological and agricultural resources. We look forward to your input as RVF moves forward!



### **Culture and History Resource**

We're excited to share the **YouTube video playlist ([CLICK HERE](#))** including **14 live presentations from the two-hour culture and history program** presented on February 26, 2023. Use the searchable index to explore these and 50 individual slides highlighting resources in Nelson. Dive into these valuable resources to discover the richness of our community. Listen to the best and brightest of Nelson Historians and Writers. There is nothing like this!



### **Support Rockfish Valley Foundation**

We're halfway towards reaching our target of 500 individual donors, but we still need your support to make it happen. Your donation is crucial in helping us achieve our mission, so please consider contributing today to help us reach our goal and make a meaningful impact. **Use the QR code or [CLICK HERE](#), to donate today!**

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[Contact@RockfishValley.org](mailto:Contact@RockfishValley.org)