

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



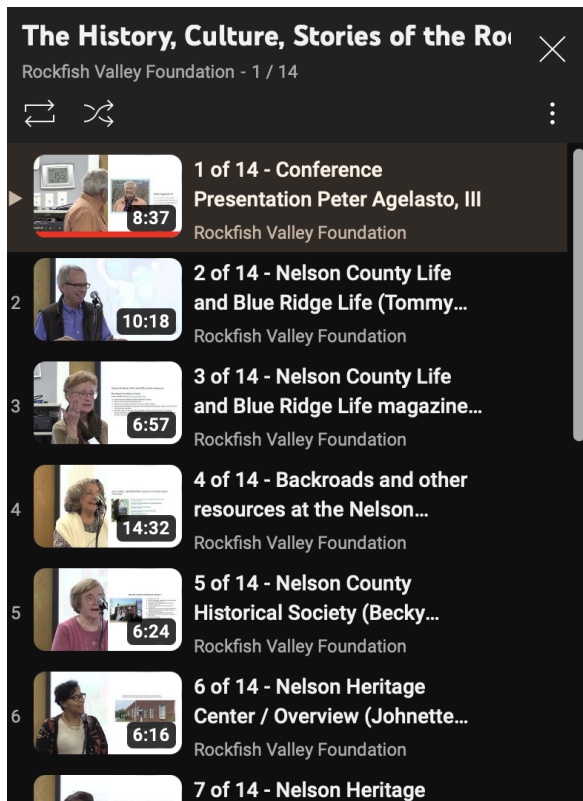
### Happy New Year!

As we eagerly step into the Chinese Year of the Dragon, bidding farewell to the Year of the Rabbit, **Rockfish Valley Foundation (RVF) is poised for a transformative journey ahead.** The dawn of 2024 marks the beginning of a new chapter, one that holds ambitious goals for the development of a strategic plan, enhanced governance, and a steadfast commitment to sustainability. **Join us on this exciting adventure** as we embark on a year filled with promise and possibilities. Like the April 8 solar eclipse!

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### Natural History Center is Closed for the Winter | Opens April 6, 2024

Also, **open by special request** for a group program and when flags are flying. Call to schedule at **434.361.0271** or email [contact@rockfishvalley.org](mailto:contact@rockfishvalley.org). Our goal is to grow hosting capacity so the flags will be flying more and more!



### Enjoy the RVF Culture and History searchable YouTube link

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!

### RVF Celebrates Rockfish Trails Environmental Literacy Grant Extension through 2024

More than \$25,000 of funds from the **Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation Trails Grants** are available to create education modules along the trails

within our Wi-Fi system. Work of hired grounds keepers, staff, volunteers, and outside contractors, will make this happen.

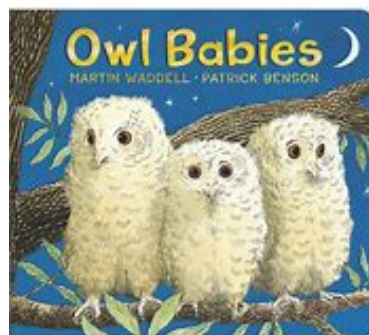
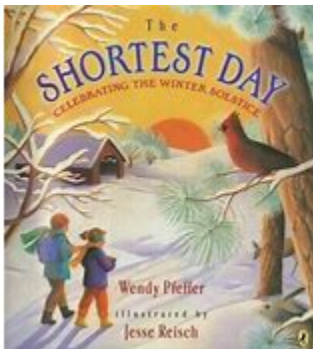
### Thank You, Super Volunteer Trailblazers!

RVF extends sincere appreciation to our dedicated volunteers at Rockfish Valley Trails: **Linda Roberts and Tina and Terry Thomas** who vigilantly monitor upstream and downstream Rockfish trails, **Norm Fenton** who efficiently maintains trail aesthetics with the RVF mower; behind the scenes, **Linda Hughes** and **Mary Voorees** led the amazing ENLIT-connected project mentioned below. Let's applaud these outstanding volunteers for their passion and contributions.



### Enjoy the Newly Installed Storywalks

**The Shortest Day** by Wendy Pfeffer and **Owl Babies** by Martin Waddell are now available for families to enjoy along the Spruce Creek Park (SCP) **Children's Nature Trail**. Every nature **StoryWalk** book is also available in the **RVF Lending Library**.



### ENLIT Education Modules on Plants has been created

Since 2005, RVF has achieved significant milestones in realizing its vision of environmental literacy by establishing three key facilities: Trails, Park, and the Natural History Center. The ENLIT project has three objectives; first, state-of-the-art infrastructure was developed on the trails.. As we step into 2024, our primary goal is the creation of modules that will feature QR codes, providing immersive insights into the realms of water, rocks, plants, animals, culture, and history. The installation of learning modules with QR Codes related to invasive plants and native trees and shrubs is set, thanks to the dedicated efforts of **Linda Hughes** and **Mary Voorees**, collaborating with the



Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) Photo: L. Hughes

Presented by Rockfish Valley Foundation  
Environmental Literacy Project: <http://www.rockfishvalley.org>

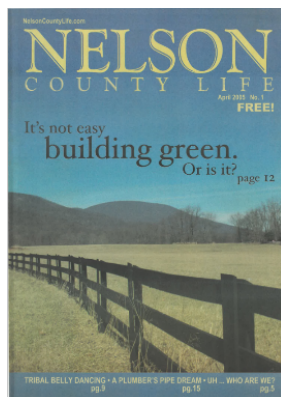
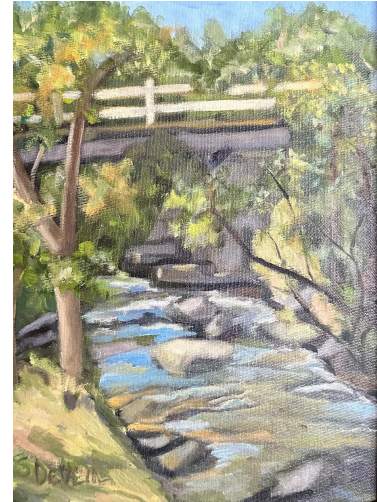


**Virginia Department of Forestry** and the **Virginia Blue Ridge Prism**, alongside the invaluable contributions of our **Master Naturalist members**. This collaborative project is a testament to RVF's commitment to environmental education and community enrichment. Expect more modules with stories and graphics in 2024.

### **A Canvas of Creativity Thrives in the Rockfish Valley**

The Rockfish Valley **Landscape Painting Gallery Show and Sale** was a **resounding success**, highlighted by the captivating artwork of **Steve Dogherty**, whom we were honored to recognize for his leadership and legacy. In addition, our two RVF Plein Air events showcased the vibrant talent within our community, prompting artists to encourage the **upcoming Plein Air Paint out (PAPO) IV in the fall**. The success of these events reflects the thriving artistic spirit in the Rockfish Valley, making it a canvas of creativity and celebration. Thanks to all who contributed to these remarkable gatherings.

*South Rockfish (pictured) was donated to RVF by Artist **Sharon Devlin** for visitors to enjoy for a lifetime! Thank you, Sharon!*



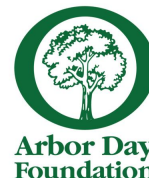
### **Unlocking Over 1,000 Local Stories through our New Searchable Index!**

Another amazing Nelson culture and history resource will become available to the community on line through RVF this Spring! Due to the collaboration of **Tommy and Yvette Stafford, Nathan Parrish, Nelson County Memorial Library, and RVF**, over 1,000 stories from every issue of **Blue Ridge Life** and **Nelson County Life** will become available through a searchable index.

### **Arbor & Earth Day Preparations**

During the 50th-anniversary celebration of Earth Day, RVF made a memorable mark. This spring, **we're gearing up to merge the festivities of Arbor Day and Earth Day in late April or early May**. To make this event a success, we need your interest and participation. If you're eager to be a part of it or want to encourage us, let us know.

**Help us explore the possibilities of EarthDay/Arbor day celebration!** Whether it's guided nature walks, informative workshops, engaging expo vendors, or fun-filled





activities, we want your input. Share your thoughts by participating in our **brief 3-question survey** ([CLICK HERE](#)) and help shape our upcoming community events!

### **Volunteer with RVF Advisory Committee**

We are thrilled to announce the establishment of the **RVF Advisory Committee** as we approach our 20th-anniversary milestone. This dynamic committee, comprised of 15-20 dedicated individuals, aims to shape the future of Rockfish Valley Foundation by addressing crucial questions surrounding community and RVF as to governance, volunteer engagement, marketing, and facility management. Chaired by **Peggy Watts Gup**, with highly regarded participants such as **Rick Winter** and **Jay Gamble**, the committee will play a vital role in crafting a strategic plan that ensures RVF's continued success.

We are **seeking 3 more advisors** to join this esteemed committee in support of setting the course for continued growth and increased public engagement. If interested, Email [\*\*Contact@RockfishValley.org\*\*](mailto:Contact@RockfishValley.org) by **February, 1, 2024**.

Interested in collaborating with our strategic advisors as a volunteer at-large? **Submit a volunteer interest form today at** [\*\*RockfishValley.org/Volunteer\*\*](https://www.rockfishvalley.org/Volunteer) ([CLICK HERE](#)).



[\*\*CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY!\*\*](#)

RVF Aspires for Future Sustainability Beyond its Founders' Legacy. We are committed to achieving this vision, and the key lies in expanding our support base.

Our goal is to increase our donors from the current 300 to 500, and your participation in the RVF 2023-24 annual fund drive can make a significant difference.

By contributing, you not only provide crucial support but become a lifeline for our mission. This isn't merely a donation; it's an investment in a brighter future for all. Stand with us and make a lasting impact!

**For more info visit [www.rockfishvalley.org](https://www.rockfishvalley.org)**

***Have a question or idea to share? Email [contact@rockfishvalley.org](mailto:contact@rockfishvalley.org)***