



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



2022 WINTER NEWSLETTER

NATURAL HISTORY CENTER IS CLOSED FOR THE WINTER

- Opens April 1, 2023. Also open by special request. Call to schedule at 434.361.0271 or email contact@rockfishvalley.org.

RVF UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE – visit www.rockfishvalley.org

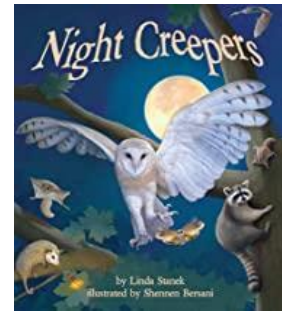
- Learn about our vision, mission, events, Rockfish Valley Trails, Spruce Creek Park (SCP), Natural History Center, Nelson Scenic Loop and how to become a volunteer and donate.



New RVF website is now live!

STORYWALKS- A NELSON LIBRARY COLLABORATION

Enjoy "A Rock is Lively" along the Rockfish Valley Trails, and "Night Creepers" at SCP on Children's Nature Trail. Each is now installed. A copy of every nature StoryWalk book is available from the RVF Lending Library.



One of the Winter StoryWalks

PLANT-A-THON WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

Farfields Farm donation of 878 plant plugs to SCP were planted in new sections of the park by 24 volunteers. Now let nature take her course.

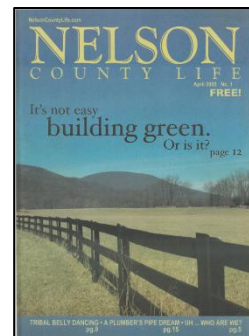
**SCP entrance
Plant-a-Thon site**



NELSON CULTURE & HISTORY RESOURCE TO BE UNVEILED

Imagine an index to 1000+ stories from Nelson County Life and Blue Ridge Life accessible from your home. Imagine a program with Nelson historians along with RVF, Afton Group LLC and others. This

resource will be revealed soon with a press release about this winter program.



**First issue
April 1, 2005**

MOUNTAIN APP DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES INTO 2023

William and Mary geology department and RVF continue to build an app that helps you learn about the Blue Ridge Mountains as you are driving along Rt. 151. It is meant to provide you with details of geology, trails, culture, and history along with more about the wonderful Nelson natural resources. See logo on page 4. THANKS CHUCK BAILEY.

There is more to report here and on the following pages.

- Date for the Nelson History and Culture Program
- Plein Air Paint Out 2022 was a success; PAPO 2023 is going to happen
- NHC Nature Lending Library has over 300 books and every RVF StoryWalk book
- Trails, parking, and entrance roads need investment
- Natural History Center should improve lighting of exhibits and building
- Natives and invasives are our thing; celebrate plants, shrubs, and trees.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE RVF NELSON CULTURE AND HISTORY PROGRAM

The program will be held at Tuckahoe Clubhouse on Sunday February 26, 2023, at 2 p.m. Any change in time and place will be announced along with contact for onsite reservations and zoom. The press release will be posted on the website and thru social media.

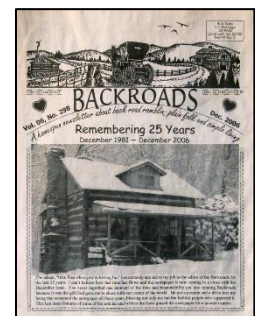
RVF was founded in August 2005. Our mission is to promote an environmentally literate community. Our educational focus is water, rocks, plants, and animals along with local culture and history. Below are links meant to build your knowledge of Nelson County and the Rockfish Valley. Comments also speak to RVF 2023 focus on Native and Invasive Plants. While awaiting the RVF program introducing the Nelson County Life and Blue Ridge Life resource program undertaken by RVF and others, learn about the significant resource's others have created, below.

1. NELSON CULTURE AND HISTORY RESOURCE LINKS

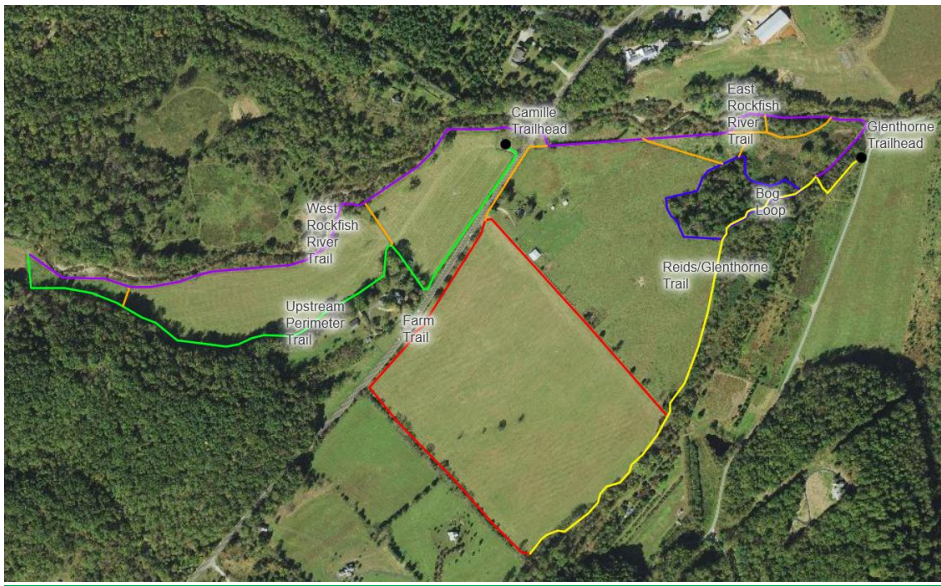
a. South Rockfish Valley Rural Historic District created by RVF in 2016 and registered at both state and federal levels. [CLICK HERE](#) for [SRVRHD](#).

b. [Rockfish Valley News](#) column by Mary Cunningham, resident of Afton, and a former Nelson School Board Chairman now a writer for the [Crozet Gazette](#) beginning in 2018. Go to **Columns** & click, scroll down to click on **Rockfish Valley News**. Find lots of stories about our valley. THANKS MARY.

c. [Backroads magazine](#) written and published monthly by Lynn Coffey. Years ago, Peter Agelasto facilitated her gift of all 300+ issues to such as Nelson County Historical Society, Nelson Memorial Library, UVA Special Collections and even the Smithsonian Folk Art Museum. The Waynesboro Library created an [index](#) to all. It is available from RVF website. All Backroads can be found, not digitized, at Nelson Memorial Library. Learn more about Lynn and what she did. [HERE](#)
THANKS LYNN COFFEY!



Backroads



Rockfish Valley Trails Map

2. HURRICANE CAMILLE RESOURCES

Woody Greenberg and Peter Agelasto initiated the Camille Resource Center for the Oakland Museum. Today the exhibits and resources are available in the Nelson County Historical Society exhibit and archives at Oakland. Of the 125 lives lost, two were lost in the Rockfish Valley. The Camille Trail Head on the Rockfish Valley Trails marks the site of the Ewing farmhouse from which they were swept away. The Daily Progress published an insert shortly after August 19-20, 1969, which can be found on the RVF website.

[Camille in the Daily Progress Newspaper – The Rockfish Valley Foundation: As Big As All Outdoors](#)



Camille Memorial Site

3. ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE FIGHT STORY

The saga of the multi years successful fight to stop the ACP provides lessons to us all and will live in our memories. Friends of Nelson is credited for interviews of prominent persons involved in the fight and has created a highly regarded video titled Lessons Learned. It can be viewed HERE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6eJsBswOz4&t=26s>



Wildflower Meadow

IN 2023, RVF WILL FOCUS ON NATIVES AND INVASIVES

“Without a worldwide effort to stem biodiversity loss, we’re on track to lose 1 million species in the coming decades.” Writes Tanya Sanerib from the Center of Biological Diversity. WOW! We love the NATURAL beauty of Nelson and RVF is really into natives and invasives. The State of Virginia supported the Stream Buffer Planting project along the Rockfish in which 570 native trees and shrubs were planted. Farfields Farm supported Plant-a-Thon with 878 native plant plugs donated; nearly 24 volunteers created three large areas at Spruce Creek Park. Learn about Farfields Farm [HERE](#).

- The State of Virginia undertook a Stream Buffer Planting project along the Rockfish River with 570 native trees and shrubs planted along the trails.
- Work was done on Still House Branch which improved flow and rid it of such horrors as the poisonous water hemlock plant. Better the habitat for salamanders and native plants.
- Camille Memorial Site where you park off RT 151 will see trees and plants added. **You can participate as a volunteer.**
- Kids in Park TRACK TRAIL sponsored by Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and the associates geocache needs to be refreshed. **You can help as a volunteer.**
- Volunteer will begin removal of invasives along the stream buffer. Such as Mile a Minute vine, Honeysuckle, Lespedeza, Garlic Mustard and more. **You can participate.**
- Daffodils from Camille impacted fields will be planted into the Camille triangle between the parking and bridge and highway. **You can help, as a volunteer.**
- Volunteers for an invasive plant “pull day” is a goal. Also Volunteers to create mowed areas around the native tree and shrub green tubes is a goal. **You can help.**
- RVF has put together a booklet about the dozen Nelson invasives of the most concern in Nelson. RVF sells for \$5. RVF also sells several native plant books in its shop.



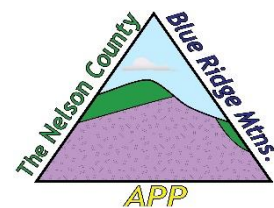
*Spruce Creek Park
Butterfly Garden*

PLEASE SUPPORT THE CURRENT FUND DRIVE & THE 2023 BUDGET

Since 2019 RVF has doubled its budget from its fund drive revenue and the number of donors has doubled. However, in the current year donors are down 20% in comparison with the previous year. Most nonprofits are experiencing the same. RVF goal is to increase donors from 350 to 500 in this fund drive. That is a challenge. We value your support. In 2023, we must repair our entrance roads and parking in 4 areas: Glenthorne Loop at Spruce Creek Park, Glenthorne Loop at Reids Creek, Camille Trail head and entrance off RT 151 that serves the Natural History Center. We have a grant of \$7000 but it will cost over \$12,000. **You can make a difference.**

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023! AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE

The RVF spring newsletter will introduce two added resources: the Nelson County Blue Ridge Mountain App along with ENLIT, our environmental literacy project. The App will showcase the mountains and their geology, roads, trails, natural resources, culture, and history as it unfolds along Blue Ridge west of RT 151. ENLIT will offer education modules along trails in Spruce Creek Park and the Rockfish River Trails thru Wi-Fi sourced educational modules accessed thru QR codes with a phone or tablet. The stories presented will be all about water, rocks, plants, animals, culture, and history. These two projects take RVF to another level.



THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

2022-2023 FUND DRIVE CONTINUES, PLEASE DONATE [HERE](#).