

**The Blue Ridge Heritage Project**  
Upcoming Events – March, 2015

Greetings!

As winter slowly gives way to springtime the Blue Ridge Heritage Project is pleased to announce some very interesting events:

**Friday, March 20 - Stanardsville: Virginia Festival of the Book event – 7:00**

As a part of the Virginia Festival of the Book the Greene County Library in Stanardsville will host a two-author panel discussion called “Tales from the Appalachians: the Intersection of History and Beauty”. Authors Sue Eisenfeld (*Shenandoah: A Story of Conservation and Betrayal*) and Brian King (*The Appalachian Trail: Celebrating America’s Hiking Trail*) will discuss their books and “share stories of Appalachian families, life-long connections to the land, and the sheer beauty of the mountains and trails in our backyard.”



Brian King is a long time employee of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in Harpers Ferry, WV. He has used his knowledge of the AT to create a book that documents the significance of the Appalachian Trail through maps, historical essays and pictures, and hundreds of contemporary photographs of trail scenes.

In her book Sue Eisenfeld tells how her passion for hiking led her to discover the history of the people who formerly lived in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Eisenfeld intertwines descriptions of seeking home sites and other reminders of the mountain residents with the story of their displacement. Through her words and the words of the people whose lives were forever altered by the coming of the new park she helps her readers to see the human side to ‘the removals’ and to develop a greater appreciation for the land that is now Shenandoah National Park.

The event will be held in the library’s Community Room. There is no charge for this event. The authors will have books available for purchase.

For more information on the Virginia Festival of the Book:

[vabook.org/program/tales-from-the-appalachians-the-intersection-of-history-and-beauty/](http://vabook.org/program/tales-from-the-appalachians-the-intersection-of-history-and-beauty/)

**Sunday, March 29 – Front Royal: Blue Ridge Heritage Project public meeting – 2:00-4:00**

The first public meeting to form a committee to plan and create a Blue Ridge Heritage memorial for Front Royal and Warren County will be held at the Front Royal Administration Building, 102 East Main Street, in downtown Front Royal. The meeting will begin at 2:00. For more information contact Darryl Merchant ([Heritage@measure-map.com](mailto:Heritage@measure-map.com)) or Bill Henry ([onarock01@yahoo.com](mailto:onarock01@yahoo.com) or 434-985-7905). Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting, no matter where you live.

**Saturday, April 11 – Stanardsville: Mountain Heritage and Antique Festival - 9:00-5:00**

This festival will celebrate the heritage of the mountains with period crafts, displays, demonstrations, music, clogging, and food. Local antiques dealers will be a part of an Antique "crawl", and a flea market will be held in Ruckersville next to the area's newest antique shop, The Woolly Lamb. For more information visit [Discover Virginia Festivals - Mountain Heritage Festival](#)

**Saturday, April 11 – Sperryville: Open House at the Thornton Gap Primitive Baptist Church - 10:00 - 4:00**

The Piedmont Environmental Council and the Rappahannock County Historical Society are sponsoring a trip back in time to learn about the mountain culture of Virginia's Blue Ridge. This event will include tours of the church building, family photo displays, oral histories, and presentations on the history of the church and the area. The Open House is free, though pre-registration is required. Learn more and register at: [Rappahannock Mountain Heritage Open House](#)

**Monday, April 13 – Stanardsville: Children of Shenandoah meeting - 7:00-9:00**

This will be the second meeting of the reorganized COS group. Kandace Muller, archivist for Shenandoah National Park, will present “Shenandoah: The Former Park Residents”. The meeting is free and everyone is invited to attend. For more information call 434-270-4679. Children of Shenandoah is dedicated to preserving the heritage and culture of the people who once lived in Shenandoah National Park.

**Get Involved With The Blue Ridge Heritage Project**

There is a lot of work to be done! A priority this spring is to get a web site up and running, and we need someone to design and maintain it. We will need design suggestions for the monuments. We need people with expertise in finding and applying for grants that will provide support for the work that lies ahead. We need people to sprad the word to family members, friends, and anyone with an interest in the history of the Blue Ridge Mountains and Shenandoah National Park. And we need good ideas for fund raising to bring support from the communities around Shenandoah National Park. To become a part of the Blue Ridge Heritage Project contact Bill Henry.

**Support the Blue Ridge Heritage Project**

Money will be needed in order to realize our goal of establishing monuments in each of the eight counties where people were displaced when Shenandoah National Park was created. The Blue Ridge Heritage Association, the Project’s parent organization, is a 501c3 non-profit group, and donations are tax deductible. You may make a donation to the Project by sending a check to BRHA c/o Bill Henry, 437 Evergreen Church Rd., Stanardsville, VA 22973.

**What is the Blue Ridge Heritage Project?**

The BRHP is a grassroots effort to create a monument and related displays that will tell the story of and honor the sacrifices made by the people of the Blue Ridge Mountains whose land was acquired so that Shenandoah National Park could be established. Our goal is to develop monument site in each of the eight counties where land was acquired to create the Park.

The project hopes to accurately educate visitors about the people who lived in the mountains before the park; and, through living history presentations, programs of traditional music, exhibits of photographs, and displays and demonstrations of the tools and utensils of daily living we want to bring to life the day to day world of those who gave up so much to make Shenandoah National Park possible.

Thank you for your interest in the Blue Ridge Heritage Project. To become involved with or to support the Project, or if you need more information, you may contact me: Bill Henry (onarock01@yahoo.com or 434-985-7905)