

Blue Ridge Parkway's 75th Anniversary Celebration at Skylark Farm

Celebration of the Blue Ridge Parkway's 75th anniversary took place on June 13 at Skylark Farm. The event was sponsored by Washington and Lee University, owner of Skylark Farm, FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway including Oakland (Nelson County's Museum of Rural History) and the Rockfish Valley Foundation.

Attendees enjoyed mountain music by Jimbo Cary, Benny Dodd, Curtis Matthews and their musician friends. Lowell Humphries and Scott Beebe told stories of Skylark and mountain life. Carlton Abbott, artist, architect and landscape designer of many parkway projects, shared information on his projects and those of his father, Stanley Abbott, original designer of the Blue Ridge Parkway. He also talked about how the parkway was conceived. Local author Marshall Faintich introduced his book, *Birds of Wintergreen*, and Lynn Coffee presented her book, *Backroads*. Jeffrey B. Trollinger, C.W.B., Watchable Wildlife Program Manager, Wildlife Resources Bureau, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the 75th Blue Ridge Parkway Board, also spoke. He provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Blue Ridge Parkway followed by informal discussion. Pat Saunders presented her poster on the Nelson Scenic Loop.

Visitors were encouraged to enjoy panoramic views all the way to West Virginia with the use of a telescope provided by The Charlottesville Astronomical Society.

FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Inc. is a nonprofit membership organization that has served the parkway for over 20 years. Individuals or organizations interested in learning about volunteer opportunities or ways to financially support parkway programs should call, write, call or email: FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Inc. P.O. Box 20986, Roanoke, VA 24018 ; (540) 772-2992 or (800) 228-PARK; or Staff@FriendsBRP.org.

Skylark Farm, the 365-acre mountaintop retreat along the Blue Ridge Parkway, was conceived, designed and built in the late 1960s by Mr. Leslie Cheek, Jr., director of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts from 1948-1969. It is currently owned by Washington and Lee University and is for sale. For information contact Stevens and Company, (434) 296-6104 or Virginia Realty, (804) 282-3136.