



## ***Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains***



**Annual Report 2010-2011**

*"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."*

~ John Muir

## Letter from the President

A key element of the founding vision for Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains was our intention to join with like-minded organizations to create synergies and to optimize impact in pursuing our mission of preserving, enhancing, and celebrating the Blue Ridge. Over the past year we continued to build meaningful relationships and working partnerships with such organizations as the National Wildlife Federation, the Piedmont Environmental Council, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, the Land Trust of Virginia, the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, the Virginia Native Plant Society, and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. We have deeply appreciated their interest and collaboration – which has allowed us to make progress, for example, on restoration of the Blue Ridge Regional Park and to press forward with our ambitious initiative to create a Conservation Corridor on the Blue Ridge.



As our work has evolved, so, too, has our working Board of Directors. I want to publicly extend my thanks and profound gratitude to Jane Pratt and Tom Pratt who have stepped down from the Board but have graciously agreed to contribute their talents and resources to the Land Use and Celebrations Committees respectively. We have also gained two new Board members: Austin Kane, who now heads the Land Use Committee, and Peter Weeks who has served as a benefactor to *Friends* by providing not only our new office space, but also mugs and hats to create additional visibility for our work.

Two things warrant special note in our work over the past year:

- in June we celebrated the grand opening of our new space located in the heart of Bluemont. We are especially excited about having a presence in so fitting a place – in the foothills of the mountains and in the center of the village that is named for the Blue Ridge;
- and, in support of the Conservation Corridor initiative, we took an important step in funding a summer intern, Gina Claeys, to develop the first phase of a baseline study of the Blue Ridge including collating information about biological, geological, historical and cultural features as well as regulatory data. Gina's work will help shape our implementation plans and will serve as the basis for a workshop we plan to convene in 2012 for key stakeholders and community leaders.

We look to an strong finish in 2011 as we anticipate our September picnic where we will present the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual *Friends of the Mountain* award, our second 2011 Volunteer Day to work on the Blue Ridge Regional Park, and a very special fund-raising event in November co-hosted by *Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains* and the National Wildlife Federation to support the Conservation Corridor initiative. I encourage you to participate in these member events . . . and I thank you for your continued support. The strength of our organization and our work depends on it!

Sincerely,

Alfred P. Van Huyck  
President  
phone: 540-338-3524

**Mission:** To preserve, enhance, and celebrate the Blue Ridge Mountains as a valuable resource and treasured space for present and future generations.

**Vision:** The Blue Ridge Mountains stand secure as a national treasure for all time... ancient and sacred space that is maintained as a model of natural and cultural preservation – a free and accessible destination for recreation, discovery, and renewal that inspires others to join us.

## Major Accomplishments

We are proud to report major accomplishments by ***Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains*** over the last year.

### In pursuit of our mission and vision . . .

- We coordinated two Volunteer Days with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and the Native Virginia Plant Society to sustain progress in restoring the Blue Ridge Regional Park. As part of this effort *FBRM* worked with Loudoun State Forester Bryant Bays to get a forest management plan for the park in place.



- We continue to monitor development on the mountain.
- We funded a summer intern, Gina Claeys, who worked under the supervision of National Wildlife Federation to conduct the first phase of a comprehensive baseline study of features of the Blue Ridge, ranging from ecological to cultural. Gina's study, presented at NWF in early August, included data about regulations governing the mountain as well as recommendations for subsequent research.
- As part of the baseline study Gina, along with President Al van Huyck, deepened our outreach to Clarke and Fauquier Counties in Virginia, and Jefferson County in West Virginia through an extensive interviewing process to develop data for the study.



- We awarded the second annual ***Friend of the Mountains*** plaque to the Jefferson County Planning Commission in recognition of their initiation of the watershed management study of their section of the Blue Ridge.

## To build our organization . . .

- We hosted our annual meeting at Bears Den featuring the Old Dominion Chorus and including a briefing by John Maxey on the Jefferson County watershed initiative.
- We hosted our member picnic in June at the Van Huyck farm in the foothills of the Blue Ridge.
- We conducted a winter retreat for FBRM Board members to refresh our vision, revisit our strategic plan, and lay the groundwork for the expansion of our Board and committee structure and the plan each committee has produced.
- We made changes to the committee structure by expanding the mission of the Celebration Committee to include Outreach and Communications, and by instituting a Development Committee. In addition, we wrote up roles and expectations to enhance the interface between the committees and the Board.
- We added two new members to the Board.
- We opened our new office space in Bluemont and hosted an open house to which all Bluemont residents and *FBRM* members were invited.



## Plans for 2012

The ***Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains*** anticipates an active year as we finish out 2011 and enter 2012. In terms of our plans, here are some of the highlights:

- We are gearing up for a large presence at the Bluemont Fair where we are looking forward to engaging fairgoers in learning who we are and what we are about.
- In November we will co-host a fund-raising event with the National Wildlife Federation to support continued work on the Conservation Corridor.
- We will host our annual member picnic at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship at which we will present our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Friends of the Mountain award.
- We hope to host a workshop in the coming year for key stakeholders and community leaders to share the results of our baseline study on the Blue Ridge and to explore implementation plans for the Conservation Corridor.
- We are looking to develop a report and presentation, based on the baseline study findings, to offer to a variety of civic and community organizations as a way to raise consciousness about the Blue Ridge – the features that distinguish it and the threats to its sustainability.



## Please Join Us!

***Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains*** is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

<http://www.blueridgemountains-friends.org>

[blueridgemountains@earthlink.net](mailto:blueridgemountains@earthlink.net)

Taxpayer Identification Number: 22-3970963

**Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains**  
**Annual Income Statements**  
**9/1/2010 Through 8/31/2011**

	<b>12 mo ending 8/31/2010</b>	<b>12 mo ending 8/31/2011</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Charitable Contributions	1,465.00	500.00
Charitable Contributions / Intern	-	4,750.00
Membership Fees		
Annual - Family	950.00	1,250.00
Annual - Individual	525.00	385.00
Annual - Sustainer	-	100.00
Lifetime	735.00	350.00
Other	-	90.00
Total Membership Fees	2,210.00	2,175.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,675.00</b>	<b>7,425.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Charitable Donations	-	50.00
Conferences & Seminars	195.00	-
Fundraising Expenses		
Brochures	-	688.50
Postage	17.60	51.04
Stationary	2.90	698.65
Website	29.95	988.75
Total Fundraising Expenses	50.45	2,426.94
Incorporation Fees	25.00	25.00
Insurance	-	157.00
Miscellaneous	79.95	104.94
Program Services		
Intern Expenses	-	5,800.00
Annual Meeting	1,046.11	527.25
Other	420.00	187.95
Special Events	85.09	49.13
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>1,551.20</b>	<b>6,564.33</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,901.60</b>	<b>9,328.21</b>
<b>Income less Expenses</b>	<b>1,773.40</b>	<b>(1,903.21)</b>

## List of Donors

***Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains*** is grateful for the financial contributions of all members.

We wish to offer special recognition to the following individuals for their generous support between September 1, 2010 and August 31, 2011.

Jill Beach  
Ann & Stanley Dees  
Goose Creek Friends Meeting  
Judith Randal Hines, The Mousetrap Foundation  
Schuyler Richardson  
Marie Uehling  
Peter Weeks  
Al Van Huyck



Pictured from left: Board members Suellen Beverly, Carole Napolitano, Marie Uehling, Austin Kane, Al Van Huyck, Katie Conaway, and former Board members Tom Pratt and Jane Pratt

## Board of Directors Members as of August 31, 2011

Alfred P. Van Huyck, President  
Carole Napolitano, Vice President & Acting Chair of the Celebrations Committee  
Suellen Beverly, Secretary  
Katie Conaway, Treasurer  
Austin Kane, Chair of the Land Use Committee  
Marie Uehling, Chair of the Development Committee  
Mike Alter  
Peter Weeks



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**Committed to preserving, enhancing and celebrating the**  
***Blue Ridge Mountains***

**Membership Form**

**YES! I (we) support the mission and vision of the**  
***Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains***

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 (individual) \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 (family)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ I would like to make special gift to the Blue Ridge Conservation Corridor

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

***Mail to:***

P.O. Box 1002  
Purcellville, VA 20134

Blueridgemountain@earthlink.net  
www.blueridgemountains-friends.org