

Shenandoah OVERLOOK

Shenandoah National Park Spring/Summer 2000



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EMERGENCY ONLY
(800) 732-0911



**PET
INFORMATION**

Pets are welcome in the park, if they are kept on a six-foot lead at all times. Pets are not permitted on guided programs because they can be distracting to hike leaders and participants. In addition, to ensure your pet's safety and the safety of others, pets are not permitted on the following trails:

- Fox Hollow Trail (mile 4.6)
- Traces Trail (mile 22.2)
- Stony Man Trail (mile 41.7)
- Dark Hollow Falls Trail (mile 50.7)
- Story of the Forest Trail (mile 51)
- Bearfence Mountain Trail (mile 56.4)
- Frazier Discovery Trail (mile 79.5)
- Old Rag Ridge Trail
- Old Rag Saddle Trail (above the Shelter)



"Hey, Ranger!"

Understanding the Mission of the

"Hey, Ranger!" The excited 12-year-old boy called from the forest's edge. "What IS this cool bug walking along the branch?" After some discussion and paging through the field guide, the young visitor asked the Ranger, "Why do you allow insects to eat the leaves? Why don't you just spray?"

"That's a really big question. Bigger than you know," answered the Ranger.

And indeed, it is a BIG question, central to the mission of Shenandoah National Park. It is a question applied in its many forms and variations about virtually all of the natural and cultural treasures protected in the National Park system. Why are insect

populations, considered by some to be pests, allowed to cycle through natural increases and decreases in National Parks? Why are wildland fires, deliberately set and controlled under strict prescriptions, used to improve habitat for plants and animals? Why do Park Rangers insist visitors not interfere with wild animals by feeding them, chasing them, or touching them? Why are historic buildings sometimes closed to the public for months or years while preservation work is accomplished?

In each of these questions lies the answer itself. The mission of the National Park Service, established by Congress in 1916, gave its future

Who's 50?

The Shenandoah Natural History Association (better known as SNHA), that's who.

Go ahead, ask the next question. Who's the Shenandoah Natural History Association? We at Shenandoah National Park are proud to recognize SNHA as one of our most valuable partners. We want you to know more about this unique organization.

The Shenandoah Natural History Association is a nonprofit organization that has supported interpretive and educational activities in Shenandoah National Park since May 13, 1950. SNHA plays an important part in your visitor experience.

SNHA was founded when the park needed resources to provide more information to the visitors here. Other parks, such as as Yellowstone and Yosemite, had been very successful in setting up such organizations. After Superintendent Edward D. Freeland sent out approximately 100 written invitations, the Shenandoah Natural History Association was organized on that Saturday morning of May 13. Over 30 interested persons met at Park Headquarters, adopted a constitution, and elected officers. On May 24, 1950, SNHA was designated by the Director of the National Park Service as a cooperating scientific and historical

association to further the educational and interpretive programs in Shenandoah National Park. This designation authorized the use of National Park Service appropriations for the services of its field employees in cooperation with the Association in the park, and for the use of



in the park. Total receipts for the remainder of the first year: \$410.98 with a net earning of—\$100.56! Seems small, but with these profits SNHA purchased stamps, envelopes, letter-head stationery, membership cards, and a ledger book; printed checks; published the first of its Bulletin series, *The List of Birds of the Shenandoah National Park* by Alexander Wetmore; and furnished 1000 printed covers for the August-September Naturalist Program schedule.

Look what has happened in the past 50 years! In 1999, SNHA sold over 350 various titles and items, had sales of \$537,212.00, and published three new titles: *A Pictorial History of the Civilian Conservation Corps* in

(Continued on page 11. See SNHA.)

space in government-owned buildings without charge.

The beginning seems small by today's standards! SNHA began its first year selling nine items in seven outlets, mostly ranger offices because as yet there were no visitor centers



Shenandoah National Park celebrated the 50th anniversary of its dedication on July 3, 1986. The SNHA staff greeted visitors from behind the desk at Byrd Visitor Center: l. to r., Executive Director Greta Miller, Karen Campbell, Patressa Kearns, Margaret Wakeman.

National Park Service

managers and decision makers very clear direction: "...shall promote and regulate... by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the parks, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

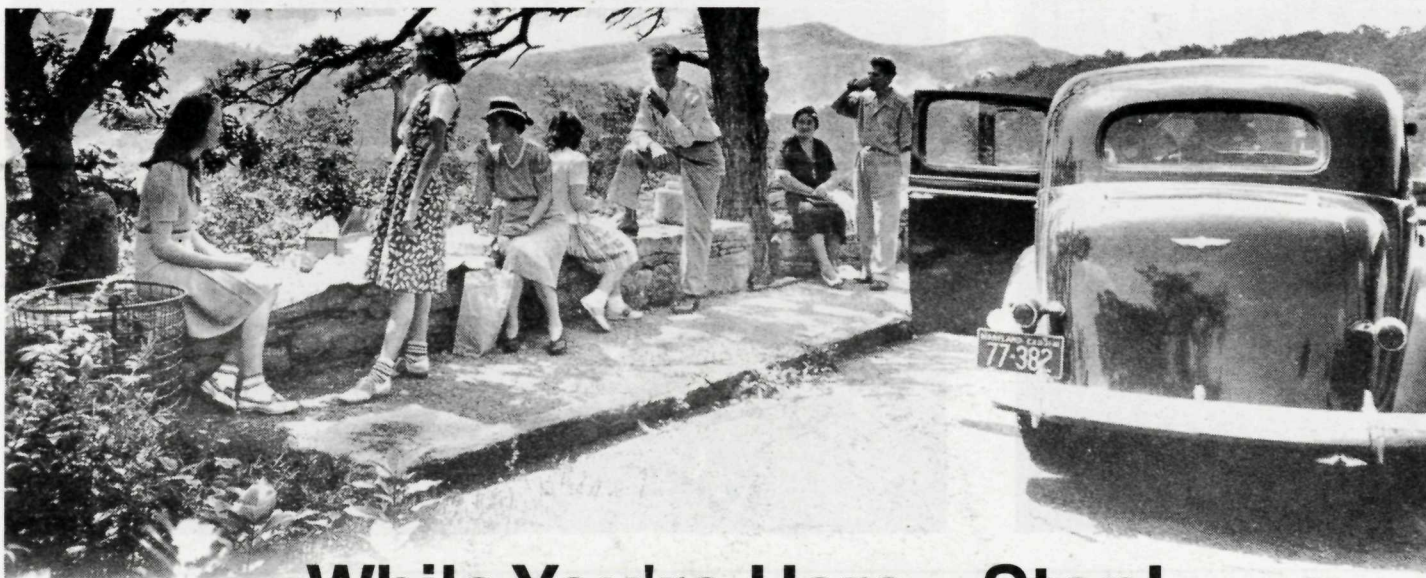
The National Park Service is charged with the management of the nation's most precious resources, inextricably woven into our national heritage. These natural and cultural treasures provide citizens the world over with invaluable opportunities for recrea-

tion, appreciation of beauty, historical reflection, cultural enrichment, and environmental education. Yet fulfilling this enormous responsibility is neither easy nor free of controversy.

The National Park Service cannot do it alone. Citizens become stewards of the land and its history every time they take the time and interest to learn the stories about its value and contribution to the American experience. The next time you see a Park Ranger, ask a question about "why" we do what we do to protect the resources. If you listen carefully, you should hear an answer that is grounded in the very purpose of the Service: preservation and protection of America's heritage.

"— to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

From the Act of Congress
of August 25, 1916,
establishing the National Park Service



While You're Here—Stop!

Welcome! Your experience at Shenandoah National Park has just begun—and believe it or not, it was *planned* that way! As you travel along Skyline Drive, notice the scenic overlooks. Park planners envisioned this road along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains and meticulously chose and landscaped the overlooks. They wanted to draw you in and hoped you would stop to experience the views of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley and the gently rolling hills of the Piedmont.

Park planners also built trails through the woods, down to waterfalls, and up to vistas. They wanted you to leave your vehicle and wander down a trail, or take an exhilarating hike to the top of Hawksbill. They hoped you would stop to experience the wilderness and all its wonders.

Later, with partners, they built lodges and campgrounds and renovated cabins. They hoped you'd stay a few days and go birdwatching or fishing, or sit by a stream.

Then came visitor centers and rangers who led walks and gave programs. They wanted you to share their enthusiasm and appreciation for the flowers, and birds, and rocks, and hikes.

Today, you'll still find outstanding vistas and wonderful hikes to secret and not-so-secret places. You'll find birds, and bears, and deer, and all kinds of beautiful and interesting creatures.

You'll also find park planners, just like those in the beginning days. Yes, they're still planning. They're planning how to preserve the experience the original planners created. You'll see restoration at Rapidan Camp, and renovation at Big Meadows Lodge, and rehabilitation along the trails. You'll see biologists and ecologists, botanists and rangers studying the past and planning the future. They all hope you'll stop. Walk the trails and gaze from the vistas and then join a ranger program to experience the past and envision the future.

What's New in Shenandoah

What's new this year at Shenandoah National Park? We've been sprucing things up for a new century of protecting our valuable resources and serving the public. You'll notice some projects right away—new lighting in a visitor center or new ramps at an entrance station. Other work is less visible—miles of repaired water and sewer lines.

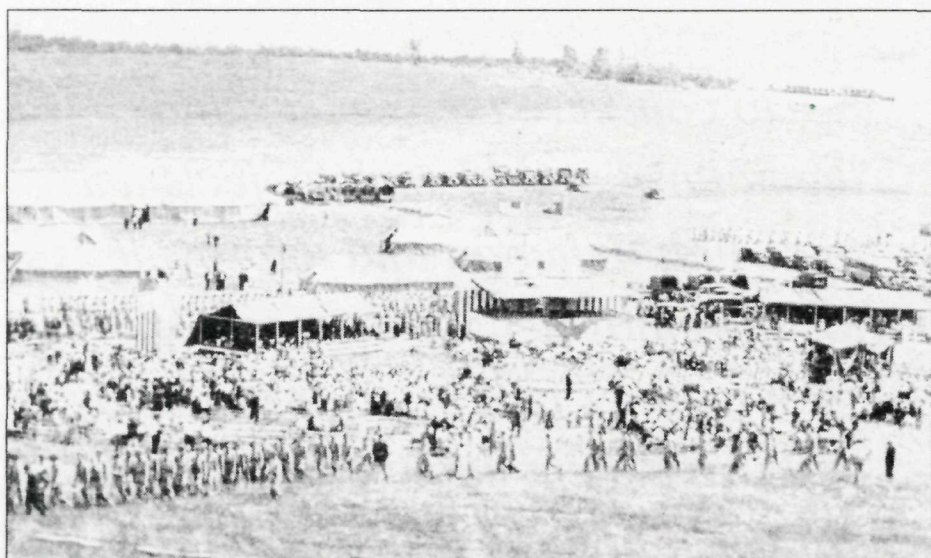
Funding for many of the projects came from the Fee Demonstration Program, through which 80% of the entrance and camping fees paid by

User Fee

When you see this logo, you know your entrance fee dollars are at work.

visitors in Shenandoah National Park is returned to the park.

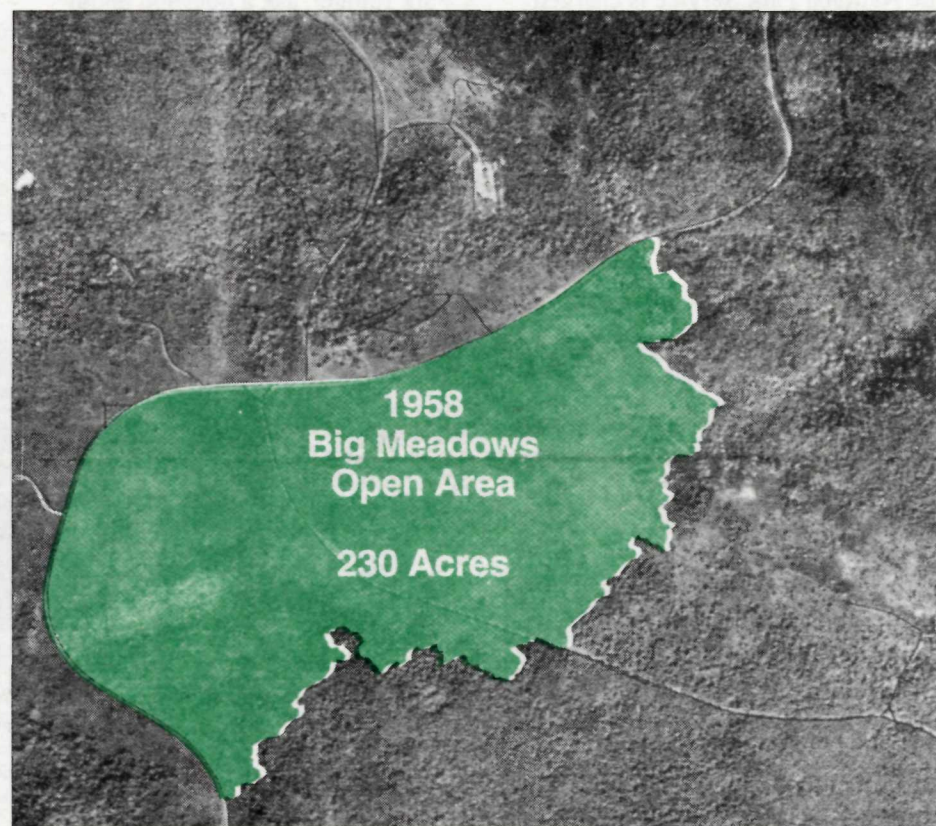
One of the largest rehabilitation projects in the park's history is underground. Over the past year and a half, contractors replaced more than 28,500 feet of water lines and replaced or repaired more than 12,800 feet of sewage lines at Big Meadows, Skyland, Lewis Mountain, and Loft Mountain. Many of the leaking or corroded lines were built in the 1930s and had outlived their intended use. At Big Meadows, new



The Changing Landscape

Several activities will be occurring in Big Meadows in 2000, as Shenandoah National Park starts to preserve and restore it. The first four years will focus on maintaining the open character of the meadow, preserving rare plants, and on continued natural and cultural research projects. If you visit the meadow, take a close look to see if you can see or hear some of the work in progress. Some of things you may notice are evidence of burning or cutting, botany research crews at work, or the sound of chainsaws. You may also see string, flags, stakes, and other markings, which should not be disturbed.

The 2000 meadow maintenance activities are being performed for two reasons. First, the culturally important open landscape of Big Meadows is being gradually lost. Big Meadows has been an open area for well over 200 years. However, today the meadow is less than half the size it was during the park's 1936 dedication ceremony. Loss of open area to forest encroachment will be halted by removing recently established black locust trees from the perimeter.



Air Quality: What Does It Mean for You?

Shenandoah National Park is located in a region with periodic high air pollution periods in summer when we get lots of sun and hot temperatures. Air pollution poses a significant threat to the scenic and ecological integrity of Shenandoah and other parks. Moreover, some of the same pollutants that harm park resources can affect the health of humans as well. Everyone is affected by air pollution, including residents, farmers, forest managers, medical practitioners, visitors, outdoor enthusiasts, children, and others whose livelihoods or hobbies depend on, or

who care about, public health and the environment.

Ozone is a colorless gas that occurs both in the earth's upper atmosphere—where it occurs naturally and shields us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays—and in the earth's lower atmosphere, where it forms when pollutants emitted by cars, power plants, chemical plants, and other sources react chemically in the presence of sunlight. Ozone is a summertime problem in urban areas and rural areas, at high elevations and low elevations. Visitors and employees should not assume that air quality is better in the park than in surrounding towns and cities.

Ozone can cause a number of respiratory effects, especially for people who are particularly sensitive

to ozone—including active children, active adults of all ages, people with asthma or other respiratory diseases, and people with unusual susceptibility to ozone. When ozone levels are very high, everyone should be concerned about ozone exposure. The best way to protect your health is to find out when ozone levels are elevated in your area and take simple precautions to minimize exposure even when you don't feel obvious symptoms. You can find out the current ozone level by monitoring the "Air Quality Index" broadcast by some television weather forecasters, paying particular attention to "Moderately Unhealthy" (meaning "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups"—Code Orange) ozone levels to "Unhealthy" (Code Red) ozone levels, and related health advisories.

There is information in air-quality related brochures also, including "Ozone and Your Health" and "Haze" put out by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). If you have access to the internet, you'll find that the EPA's AIRNOW site (www.epa.gov/airnow) gives daily information about regional ozone and how it may affect you. In addition, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality posts daily summertime ozone data for all EPA-approved ozone monitors in Virginia on its site (www.deq.state.va.us).

Air Quality information for Shenandoah National Park will be available this summer on the park's information number: (540) 999-3500. After dialing, choose option 4 (General Park Information) and then option 1 (Current Road/Weather/Air Quality Conditions).

of Big Meadows

An additional area of recently established black locust and pine trees near Skyline Drive will be cut to restore an historic vista of the meadow from the Drive. Shrubs are also a problem. Vegetation survey work completed in 1999 found that 65% of the meadow is covered with shrubs—a sharp increase over 1972, when there was less than 5% shrub cover. Park crews will reduce this shrub cover by burning the meadow in the early spring, then mowing the meadow in the fall.

Second, as the only large open area within the park, Big Meadows provides habitat for plants and animals uncommon elsewhere here, including two rare animal species and populations of 18% of the park's rare plant species. Rare plant habitat will be improved by controlling a population of Asiatic bitter-sweet, an aggressive non-native vine, and by selectively removing shrubs within the meadow's wetland center. These shrubs need to be reduced because they are using water and light once available for the rare wetland plants.



If we are to preserve the meadow, we need to more actively manage it. The decreasing size and increased shrub cover clearly demonstrate this need. True, the initial maintenance activities may at times seem drastic and unattractive; but the unattractive appearance will diminish with time as the system adjusts to a more regular disturbance schedule. Big Meadows is one of the most valuable resources within Shenandoah National Park, loved by visitor and park staff alike. We cannot afford to neglect it.

Located in the heart of Shenandoah National Park, Big Meadows is central to the history and the visitor experience here as well.

PHOTOGRAPHS: TOP LEFT: At Big Meadows on July 3, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the park. BOTTOM LEFT: The Civilian Conservation Corps camp at Big Meadows (NP-2), established on May 15, 1933, was one of the first two CCC camps in the National Park System. (The other was here also, at Skyland.) CENTER: Aerial photographs reveal how much the meadow has shrunk since 1958. BELOW: Park staff made intensive vegetation surveys before making plans for the restoration and preservation of the meadow.



Fire in the Meadow?

Does Big Meadows have to be burned? Yes, if we wish to preserve it as an open area and a habitat for certain plants and animals. A burn will recycle the nutrients from dead vegetation to the soil, stimulate the growth of grasses and herbs, and kill or stress the shrubs growing in the upland sections. Moreover, repeated burns are cost effective and environmentally sound. True, mowing Big Meadows would keep it open, but only at the loss of its biological nature. Also, the visual impact of mowing, and the cost and time involved, are strong negative factors.

The meadow is scheduled to be burned each spring through 2003.

Understand that these will be prescribed burns, pre-planned and controlled, under prescribed conditions of weather, fuel moisture, soil moisture, and so on. Each burn will be carefully prepared for, with boundaries defined well beforehand by the construction of a "black-line" around the perimeter. And results will be evident very soon: we expect to see the meadow start to green-up about two weeks after a burn. Since fire burns unevenly, it creates a mosaic of burn intensities throughout the area, which promotes plant diversity by ensuring the availability of many varied habitats.

In nature, it is rare for any area to remain free from disturbance for very long. Fires, floods, landslides, high winds, ice storms, and animal activity are among the natural phenomena which produce changes in vegetation

and create new habitats. These natural processes have continued to operate uncontrolled in Shenandoah National Park, except for fire: in the past, fires have been suppressed whenever and wherever possible, including at Big Meadows. Today,

however, we understand that prescribed burning, which is carefully planned and documented, actually simulates a natural situation that will help Big Meadows retain its unique cultural and biological character.



Backcountry and Wilderness Camping

Have you ever considered leaving the overnight comforts of a campground or a lodge room to camp in the wild backcountry of Shenandoah National Park? Backcountry camping, or back-packing, is not for everyone; it requires careful planning and woods-wise skills well beyond those needed to camp comfortably in a developed campground. It also requires an awareness of how backcountry camping can affect the park.

People camp in the backcountry to be closer to nature, enjoy the solitude, and test their woods skills. But this camping has consequences. Although trails are constructed to withstand the tramping of many thousands of human feet, off-trail areas for camping may contain sensitive plants, animals, and other resources easily damaged by hiking and camping activities. Why worry about these resources? Because Shenandoah National Park exists for far more than recreation use: the park has the mandate to protect and preserve its natural and historic resources for the enjoyment of future generations of visitors, including hikers and backpackers. Although we can't prevent all the changes that camping activities cause to backcountry resources, together the park and the backcountry campers can minimize the damage.

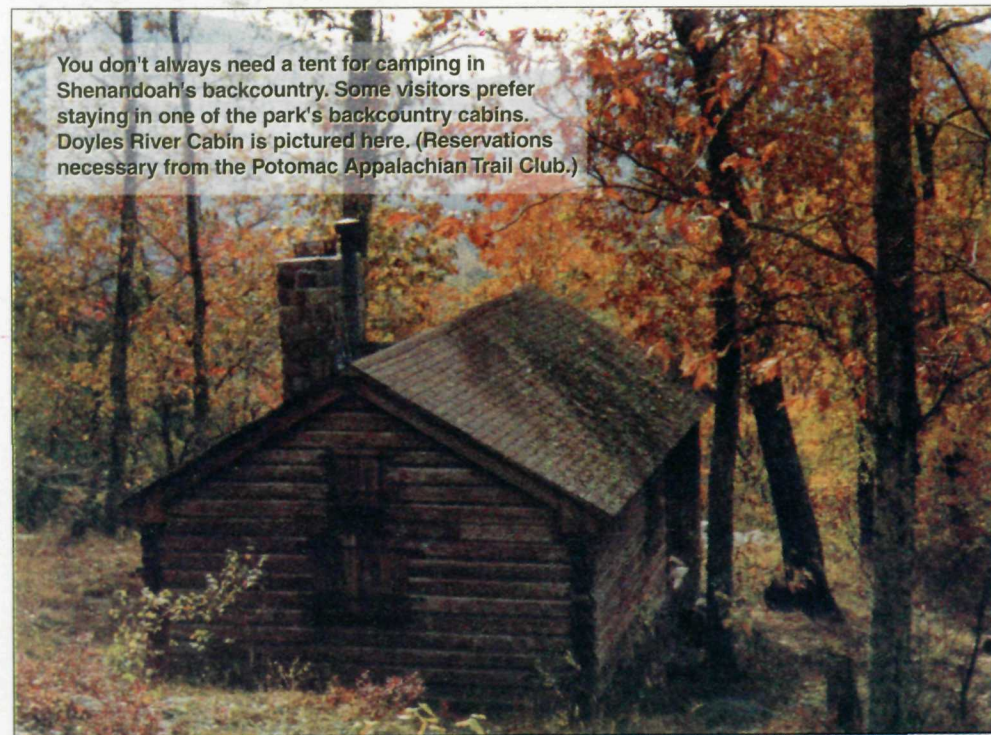
After many years of research and experience, the park has designed a new backcountry camping program. For its success, this new program depends upon your awareness of minimum impact hiking and camping and your willingness to follow camping regula-

tions. You are expected to follow the principles of Leave No Trace to protect backcountry resources and to show courtesy to other hikers.

Since most backcountry campers are attracted to the same scenic areas of the Shenandoah wilderness, much of the park's backcountry camping is concentrated in just a few places. To minimize the impacts of this concentration of use, campers are strongly encouraged to use obvious existing campsites created by previous campers. In addition, camping must occur at least 20 yards from trails and unpaved roads, at least 10 yards from streams or springs, and at least 1/4 mile from developed areas such as picnic areas, campgrounds, and the Skyline Drive. Campfires are not permitted, so a backpacking stove is necessary. You must hang your food high in a tree so that mice, raccoons, bears, and other wildlife can't get it.

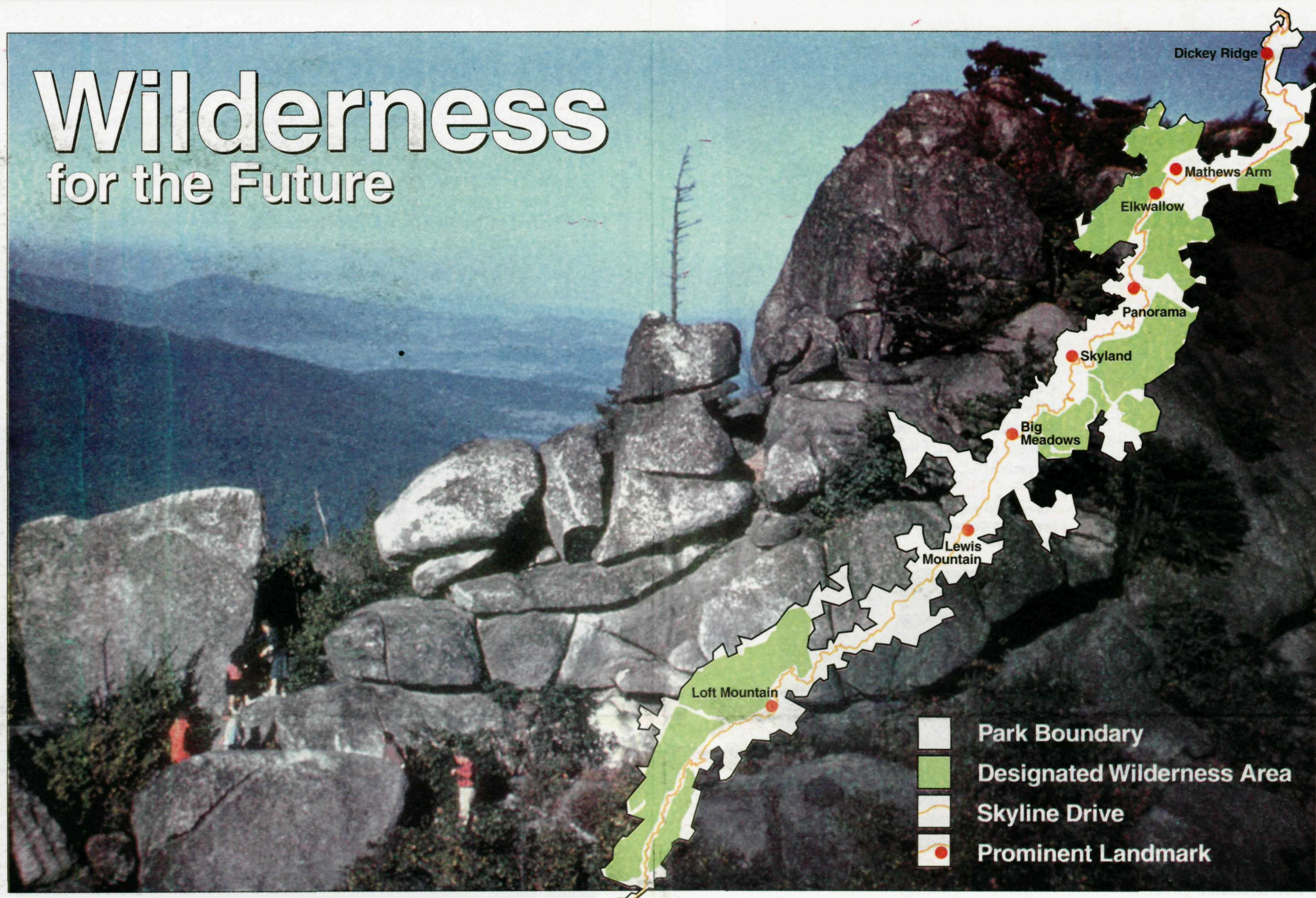
Information on backcountry camping, including camping regulations and safety tips, is available at visitor centers, at park headquarters, and at the Backcountry Office at Thornton Gap. You may also obtain the required Backcountry Camping Permit at these locations.

If you come to camp in Shenandoah with awareness and knowledge, and after careful preparation, you're going to have the time of your life. The sense of oneness with nature, the solitude, the beauty of the forest, and the exhilaration of acquiring new skills all make camping here an experience you'll never forget.



You don't always need a tent for camping in Shenandoah's backcountry. Some visitors prefer staying in one of the park's backcountry cabins. Doyles River Cabin is pictured here. (Reservations necessary from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club.)

Wilderness for the Future



Welcome to the future! Your visit to Shenandoah National Park may be more than you imagined because your visit here is a visit to the future. Shenandoah National Park holds much in store for you.... the opportunity to view beautiful scenery from Skyline Drive, the challenge of hiking a trail, the chance to see wildlife, the enjoyment of the solitude found in nature. Your visit here is also a journey into the future. While you may not see it at first, the future is preserved in this park through a unique resource—wilderness.

Since the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, parks across the country have preserved natural and historic pieces of our nation's heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. While national parks preserve places and things—geologic wonders, Civil War battlefields, Redwood trees—in 1964 the United States Congress considered a different kind of preservation. In that year, Congress passed a unique law known as the Wilderness Act.

The purpose of the Wilderness Act is simple: "In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States.... it is hereby declared to be a policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an *enduring resource of wilderness*."

With this law the United States became the first country in history to consciously preserve the nation's last remaining wild places from development of any kind. While national parks, forests, and other federal land were instrumental in preserving large tracts of land, even these areas saw the development of roads, lodges, restaurants, and visitor facilities to accommodate the large numbers of people who sought recreation there. The Wilderness Act preserved the wildest of the wild, without human improvements, for future generations to explore and enjoy.

What made the Wilderness Act unique was that it preserved not only a physical place but also the *experience* associated with these wild places. The Act defined wilderness with these words: "A wilderness in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape is hereby recognized as area where earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man... [a place]... affected primarily by the forces of nature...." The Act went on to define the experience that wilderness provided. Here you could find "outs:anding opportunities for solitude... [and experience]... a primitive and unconfined type of recreation...."

The passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964 created a National Wilderness Preservation System of nine million acres. Today that system has grown to over 104 million acres and includes areas in almost every state. That may sound like a lot of wilderness, but it represents only 4% of the land mass of the United States. When you consider that half of the wilderness areas are in Alaska, that leaves only 2% of the continental United States: as designated wilderness—an area about the size of the state of Kansas.

How, then, is your visit to Shenandoah National Park a visit to the future? When Congress passed the Wilderness Act in 1964, the year 2000 was a date in the faraway future. Now, the futuristic year 2000 is present time, and you can experience the promise of wilderness in Shenandoah National Park. Nearly 40% of the park is designated wilderness—the largest wilderness area in Virginia and one of the largest in the eastern United States. Aldo Leopold, a wilderness advocate, wrote, "The richest values of wilderness lie not in the days of Daniel Boone, or even in the present, rather in the future." Shenandoah National Park takes pride in preserving a wilderness heritage for future generations.

The park's wilderness areas are shaded on the map you received at the entrance station. If you wish to learn more, why not join a park ranger for a wilderness hike or program?

Protect the Park: Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace is simple. It's a set of seven principles which can be applied in any natural setting to minimize human impacts on the environment. Whether you're hiking and camping in the park's wilderness or driving the Skyline Drive for an afternoon, following Leave No Trace principles will help protect the park and preserve the park experience for you and for other visitors.

The Seven Principles of LEAVE NO TRACE:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare:

Planning ahead for your visit to the park is the first step in helping preserve the park and your experience here. Know your physical limitations and carry the proper equipment to ensure a safe and enjoyable hike. Know and follow park camping regulations.

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces:

Stay on trails to keep from trampling fragile vegetation. Avoid shortcutting trails; shortcuts create new trails and increase trail erosion. Surfaces like rocks and grass can handle more wear and tear than a hillside of wildflowers. Use durable surfaces like rocks and logs to place your backpack on or to rest while hiking.

3. Dispose of Waste Properly:

Keep the park clean! Properly dispose of all trash, including biodegradable material. At campgrounds and in the backcountry, protect wildlife by cleaning up all food scraps and store food so that wildlife can't access it. When backcountry camping, follow backcountry regulations and dispose of human waste properly.

4. Leave What You Find:

All plants, animals, rocks, and artifacts are protected in Shenandoah National Park. Preserve the sense of discovery for others by leaving all natural and cultural artifacts as you find them. Take pictures, write poetry, or draw pictures to help you remember what you discover here.

5. Minimize Campfire Impacts:

Use a camp stove for cooking. It's lightweight and provides fast, clean cooking. If you wish to build a fire, do so only where a fire is allowed and use

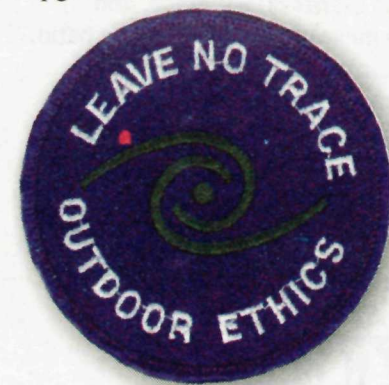
existing fire rings. Use only dead and downed wood for fires and never leave a fire unattended. Avoid burning trash and food scraps; animals are attracted to the smell of these items.

6. Respect Wildlife:

Shenandoah is home to many animals, and we are visitors to their home. Carry binoculars and observe wildlife from a distance. If an animal changes its behavior because of your presence, you are too close. Never approach animals; give them plenty of room. Wild animals find plenty of their natural food in the park; human food doesn't give them the proper nutrients to survive the winter, so keep animals healthy by not feeding them. When backcountry camping, follow proper food storage regulations to keep animals from accessing your food supply.

7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors:

People visit Shenandoah for different reasons. Preserve the park experience for all visitors by showing courtesy towards others. Excessive noise, unleashed pets, and damaged surroundings take away from everyone's experience. Preserve a sense of solitude by hiking in small groups. Keep the noise level down while hiking and camping. Observe "quiet hours" in park campgrounds.



Shenandoah National Park exists because people long ago sought to preserve places where we can escape the routine of daily life—places where we can discover and explore new things. Shenandoah has embraced the Leave No Trace program and its seven principles, which are now the common language of those who wish to minimize their impact on the environment. The job of protecting the park is everyone's job; every person who promotes Leave No Trace here is actively preserving our park's heritage.

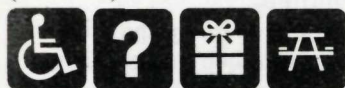
Additional information about Leave No Trace can be found at its website (<http://www.lnt.org>).

Facilities and Services

Core hours are listed below for the period from Memorial Day through Labor Day. **During peak visitation, hours are extended. Hours are posted at each facility.**

Dickey Ridge

(Mile 4.6)



Visitor Center

April 14 – November 26
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Mathews Arm

(Mile 22.2)



Campground

May 12 – November 5
No trailer hookups, but there is sewage disposal. First-come, first-served. \$14.

Elkwallow

(Mile 24.1)



Wayside

The Wayside offers a variety of selections for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, with seating outside on the patio or at picnic tables. Other services include sales of groceries, wood, ice, gifts, camper supplies, and gasoline.
April 14 – November 5
9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Panorama

(Mile 31.5)



Panorama is located at the base of the Marys Rock Trail and operates a dining room and gift shop.
April 15 – November 5
9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Restaurant

May 12 – November 5
11:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
(Weekends only May 12 – June 16 and September 5 – 29)

Pinnacles

(Mile 36.7)



Skyland

(Mile 41.7 and 42.5)



Skyland offers visitors a variety of lodging, from comfortable rooms overlooking the valley to rustic historic cabins to spacious suites.

Lodging and Services

April 6 – November 26

Dining Room

Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Lunch, Noon – 2:30 p.m.
Dinner, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Mountain Room

Cont'l. Breakfast, 10:30 a.m. – Noon
Lunch, 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Craft Shop

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Taproom

3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Stables

1-hour and 2½-hour rides are available. For reservations and schedule information, call (540) 999-2210.
April 22 – November 25

Big Meadows

(Mile 51 and 51.2)



Harry F. Byrd, Sr. Visitor Center
April 14 – November 26
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Campground

March 31 – November 27
No trailer hookups, but there is sewage disposal. Reservations can be made up to 5 months in advance by calling (800) 365-CAMP. \$17. You may also make reservations at <http://reservations.nps.gov>.

Wayside

The Wayside houses a full-service dining room with carryout service. Other services include a gift shop, a campstore, and gasoline.
Open daily, 9:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Lunch/Dinner, 11:00 a.m. – close

Shower/Laundry/Woodyard

March 31 – November 5
7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
November 6 – November 27
Friday – Sunday only

Lodging Reservations: (800) 999-4714 or (540) 743-5108

<http://www.visitshenandoah.com>

Big Meadows Lodge

Accommodations at Big Meadows range from rooms in the historic main lodge to rustic cabins, motel-type rooms, and modern suites. The original lodge was built in 1939 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Lodging and Services

April 21 – October 29

Dining Room

Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Lunch, Noon – 2:00 p.m.
Dinner, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Craft Shop

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Taproom

4:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.



Lewis Mountain

(Mile 57.6)



Lewis Mountain offers the only house-keeping cabins in the park. The cabins have covered patios with picnic tables and grills for outdoor cooking. Other services include groceries, camper supplies, souvenirs, wood, ice, and a shower/laundry.

Campground

May 19 – November 6
No trailer hookups or sewage disposal. First-come, first-served. \$14.

Lodging and Services

May 19 – November 5
9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

South River

(Mile 62.6)



Loft Mountain

(Mile 79.5)



Information Center

May 26 – November 5
Friday – Tuesday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Campground

May 19 – November 6
No trailer hookups, but there is sewage disposal. First-come, first-served. \$14.

For over 60 years, Big Meadows Lodge has been a comfortable home away from home for visitors.

Wayside and Campstore

The Loft Mountain Wayside has a dining room with counter service and seating indoors or outside on picnic tables. Other services include a gift shop and gasoline. The Campstore is located near the campground and offers camping supplies, groceries, wood, ice, and a shower/laundry.

Wayside

April 21 – November 6
9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Campstore

May 19 – November 5
9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Shower/Laundry

May 19 – November 5
7:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Dundo

(Mile 83.7)



Group Campground

Available by reservation only.
Call (540) 298-9625.

Discovering a Shenandoah Treasure

Also Available



Backcountry Camping

Most of Shenandoah National Park is open to backcountry camping. Permits are required and are available free from park headquarters, visitor centers, and entrance stations. Seven trailside huts along the Appalachian Trail are available for long distance hikers. These huts are operated by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. Other shelters are for day use only.

Backcountry Cabins

Six locked, primitive cabins, maintained by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), are located in the park. The cabins are equipped with mattresses, blankets, and cookware. To get additional information or to make reservations, call PATC at (703) 242-0693 or (703) 242-0315 between 7 and 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, or between 12 and 2 p.m. Thursday-Friday. Or write to:
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
118 Park Street, SE
Vienna, VA 22180
<http://patc.simplenet.com>

Park Accessibility



Restrooms and Buildings –

Most are accessible or accessible with help.

Lodging – Accessible overnight accommodations are available at Lewis Mountain, Skyland, and Big Meadows Lodge: (800) 999-4714.

Picnic Grounds and Campgrounds – Accessible sites are available at all park picnic grounds, campgrounds, and shower and laundry facilities. Restrooms at picnic grounds are accessible with assistance.

Trails – The Lumberlost Trail is an accessible trail, a gently sloping 1.3-mile loop featuring a 5'-wide greenstone surface. The trail circles through old-growth forest with magnificent hemlocks and includes a 65' bridge and 150' boardwalk.

For more information or assistance, telephone the Virginia Relay Center at (800) 828-1120 (TDD) or (800) 828-1140 (Voice) or write to:
Shenandoah National Park
3655 US Hwy 211 East
Luray, VA 22835

Shenandoah's forests and mountains fill you with wonder. But an intriguing architectural treasure also awaits your discovery. Strolling through historic Skyland, you might glimpse rustic Massanutten Lodge's massive greenstone piers, half-timbered walls, canted bark skirts, and red-shingled hipped roof.



But you might be surprised that the highly-educated scholar of world culture who independently built the Lodge in 1911, who had traveled much of the world, had lived in Paris, and had a considerable interest in medicine, was a woman.

Addie Nairn Pollock was a wealthy society woman who would marry Skyland founder George Pollock shortly after her Lodge's completion. But her money remained her own. She invested in additional cabins, land, and logging rights to prevent development and protect the old-growth Lumberlost hemlocks. She also financed her husband's Skyland projects for many years.

Imagine Massanutten Lodge surrounded by the terraced gardens of dahlias, cosmos, and day lilies that Addie planted. You can almost picture her discussing oriental philosophy, meditating under the pines, and riding her mare White Lady through Skyland. Or spending summer afternoons at Massanutten Lodge, playing poker and classical piano music, and developing photographs in the elaborate darkroom, while Hattie Robinson, Addie's maid, handled the housework.

Before women even had the right to vote, Addie was giving talks to Washington, D.C.'s Self-Revelation Church, an eastern religion to which she belonged. When she sold Massanutten Lodge to the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1930 for Shenandoah National Park, she used the proceeds toward their new temple.

Never heard this story before? You can join a ranger on a tour to explore these and other aspects of the dramatic architecture and real people who built their dreams at a resort called Skyland. Discover this treasure of Shenandoah's past today.

The Rustic Gem tour visits Massanutten Lodge. See the Ranger Programs on page 12 for times.



New

(Continued from page 3.)

fire hydrants and valves were installed. Dry weather and good cooperation among concessioners, contractors, and park staff helped the \$3.2 million project move along ahead of schedule.

Protection measures were enhanced in the park's historic buildings. Sprinkler systems and intrusion and fire alarms were installed at Dickey Ridge Visitor Center and at Rapidan Camp, former retreat of President Herbert Hoover. Dickey Ridge Visitor Center (built as a lodge in 1938) is a National Register property, and Rapidan Camp (1929) is a National Historic Landmark.

A new septic tank and drainfield were installed at Dickey Ridge. Money for this project came from the park's line-item construction budget.

Fee demonstration money was used at Dickey Ridge this year to rehabili-

tate the office area, expand the sales area, repair the lobby ceiling, replace the auditorium ceiling, and install new carpeting.

Harry F. Byrd, Sr. Visitor Center at Big Meadows was dressed up over the winter. The auditorium was transformed into a multi-purpose room with level floor, new seats, new ceiling and carpeting, and improved lighting and audio-visual/public address systems. The lobby and exhibit area were also upgraded. The ceiling was replaced, new lighting added, wall paneling removed, and new carpet installed. Money for ceiling replacement came from a budget for hazardous material removal (asbestos). The rest came from Fee Demonstration funding.

Entrance ramps at Thornton Gap have been repaired. Funding came from the Federal Lands Highways Program. Future plans include upgrading the entrance kiosks and office.

Plans for the rest of the year include road striping along Skyline Drive, rehabilitation of "Mission 66" comfort stations (built during a 10-year nationwide effort to upgrade National Park Service facilities by 1966), re-roofing of wastewater treatment plants at Mathews Arm and Loft Mountain, enlarging visitor restrooms at Dickey Ridge, and starting new outdoor comfort station development at Byrd Visitor Center. Some of these projects may not begin until next year.

Portions of Skyline Drive and the overlooks will be repaired to improve drainage, level pavement, fill potholes, and reinforce fill slopes. New log guardrails will be added in some places. Deep culverts will be repaired in the South District.

Bear with us as we work to improve our park facilities so you can better focus on enjoying the resources. As you travel through the park, watch for signs of continuing progress.

Of Zoos and Parks: Observations of a Park Ranger

The snake was only inches away. It stared right through me and I stared back. Having no eyelids with which to blink, the snake won the contest. Oh well, I was free to leave and it was not. Nyah-nyah, nyah-nyah-nyah. The ten-year old me walked out of the reptile house at the zoo and back into the sunshine.

As the thrill of freedom faded, my young sense of justice came into focus. To be nose to nose with an animal that I had only read about was exciting. At the same time I felt bad for the creature who had been taken from its home and put on display. From that first visit to a zoo, I have had mixed feelings about such places.

The snake was only inches away. It was two inches tall and three feet long. I almost stepped on it. I froze, heart pounding. Looking carefully around, I slowly walked behind the animal, allowing it room to leave. It did not. It lay in apparent contentment across the trail. I took a picture of it, my first copperhead in Shenandoah National Park.

As I continued up the trail, I grinned. I had seen and walked away from a poisonous snake. In the twenty years since, I have not seen another copperhead. It was a unique experience. Camouflage and sedentary snake behavior are real, not just ideas to study. For me, such moments with a wild animal in its own home are irreplaceable.

This may be the greatest difference between zoos and national parks. While a zoo can guarantee that we see particular animals, the settings are artificial. There are few such guarantees in a park. Animals here are in their natural habitats. They wander or slither without the barriers required in zoos. They feed on their own schedules, or, because they are part of an ecosystem, they are fed upon.

Zoos and parks are great places to learn. As an adult I visit zoos, emerging better informed about endangered species, adaptations, and other topics. Both zoos and parks can be enjoyed. I still prefer to see the animals in their own habitats, though. To catch a glimpse of a black bear running faster than I could across the Skyline Drive is exciting. I find joy in the great chorus of katydids on a wooded mountainside. So I will continue to spend more time in national parks. The experiences are seldom planned, but they are priceless.

Feeding Deer Is Wrong?

According to a recent study, the majority of groups at a park picnic area fed white-tailed deer (i.e., at least one person in each group fed deer). This finding is upsetting to those of us who strive to keep deer wild. **Here are compelling reasons why you should not feed the deer....**

White-tailed deer, herbivores with a complex digestive system, primarily eat twigs, buds, leaves, grasses, and acorns. Specialized microorganisms in their stomachs help digest these coarse foods. **Human food actually disrupts this balance and causes malnutrition or starvation.**

Deerfeeding can cause some deer to be dependent on humans **and thus unable to find natural foods.**

If deer are fed repeatedly, **they can lose their natural fear of humans and become an easy target for poachers and susceptible to being hit by cars.**

If you approach a deer too closely, you could **pick up a disease such as rabies** (by being bitten) **or Lyme Disease** (through a deer tick).

If you get too near, **you could be gored by pointed antlers, kicked by sharp hooves, or bitten by strong teeth.** Every year across the country careless people are killed by deer charging with slashing antlers and flailing hooves.

A deer that becomes too persistent or aggressive towards humans may have to be relocated or destroyed in order to protect visitors.

Feeding or harassing any wildlife in Shenandoah is prohibited by law.

Please help us protect your deer! Never feed deer or approach within 50 feet. If you see illegal wildlife feeding or harassment, please contact your nearest ranger or call the park's emergency line at (800) 732-0911.

Black Bears Need Respect

**How People's Actions....
Can Affect Bears....**

Visitors at Big Meadows Lodge feed junk food to a large male black bear at night.

- A 300-pound male black bear loses its fear of humans and begins raiding campsites at night.

Campers leave trash outside of the bear-proof trashcans.

- Yearling bears tear into trash bags, develop a taste for human food, and are destined to be nuisance bears for the rest of their lives.

Campers at Mathews Arm Campground leave coolers out on top of their picnic table overnight.

- A large male bear raids an occupied campsite during the day, consumes all the food that had been left out, and bluff-charges the occupants out of their site and into their car.

Campers at Big Meadows Campground throw food scraps out behind their tent to attract wildlife.

- A large male bear destroys tents, sleeping bags, coolers, and backpacks in its search for food, leaving \$350 of destroyed camping equipment for an irate visitor to discover.

Motorists along Skyline Drive throw apples to a mother bear with cubs, at the same time creating a traffic jam behind them.

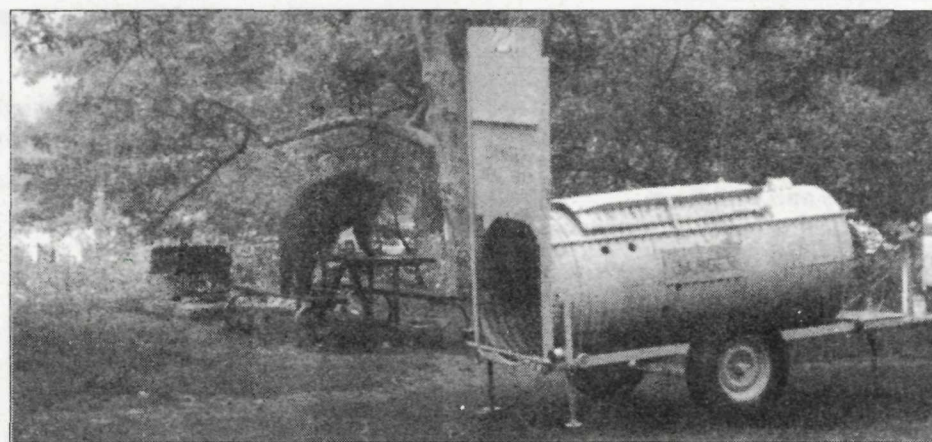
- A mother bear is run over by a car along Skyline Drive, her three-month-old cubs now motherless and virtually helpless.

Visitors at Loft Mountain Campground shoot video footage much too close to a curious young bear.

- A persistent yearling begs food from excited visitors at a popular campground. A nearby parent gives his six-year-old child a donut and encourages him to hand-feed the bear—an extremely dangerous practice.

As they're leaving, picnickers at South River Picnic Area leave garbage on the ground and unburned food scraps in the fire grate.

- A young female bear in a trap is soon to be relocated 50-100 miles from her home range.



A Lodge employee leaves ham scraps next to the dumpster to attract black bears at night in order to observe them up close.

- A 300-pound bear lies dead in the back of a pickup truck, a bear that had to be euthanized by park biologists because of its persistent panhandler and aggressive behavior.

Skyland Lodge visitors throw fried chicken from their room/balcony to a large panhandler bear below.

- A partially decomposed bear is found by rangers with its head, paws, and gall bladder missing—illegally shot by poachers.

We need your help!

- Be responsible in bear country.
- Respect black bears.
- Store food properly.
- Dispose of trash properly.
- Do not feed bears.
- View bears from a distance.
- Call the park emergency number—(800) 732-0911—if you see other visitors acting irresponsibly or illegally around bears.
- Call the park emergency number if you see bears exhibiting aggressive behavior.

SNHA

(Continued from page 2.)

Shenandoah National Park; Frazier Discovery Trail Guide; and Restoring a National Historic Landmark: President and Mrs. Hoover's Rapidan Camp brochure.



Each year SNHA publishes quality books and guides. Many of them have won publications awards, including three in the 1997-1998 National Park Service Interpretive Excellence Competition: *Hikes to Waterfalls in Shenandoah National Park*, *Birds of Shenandoah National Park: A Naturalist's View*, and *Auto Tour Along Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park*.



slide projectors, TVs, VCRs, backpacks, binoculars, library and reference materials, exhibit panels, trail maps, supplies and materials for programs, and archival items. In partnership with the park concessioner ARAMARK, SNHA funds the printing of this visitor guide, over 200,000 copies each year. SNHA also co-sponsors annual park events such as the Adult Seminars, the Butterfly Count, the Christmas Bird Count, and Wildflower Weekend, and special events such as the park's 50th Anniversary, Stony Man Camp Anniversary, Hoover Days, and SNP Symposiums.

What can you do to help SNHA help the park? First, as you stroll through a park visitor center, we hope you'll consider making a purchase in the bookstore. Besides getting informative and beautiful material, you'll be supporting the continuation of this visitor guide, the summer seminar you'd like to attend, and perhaps the exhibit you are about to view.

The Association has two goals. The first goal is to enhance the experience of you, the visitor, here in the park. Through the purchase of educational materials, SNHA hopes that you will gain an understanding and appreciation of this park and then share it with family, friends, and neighbors. The second goal is to provide financial support to the park's interpretive program through the profits from the sales in visitor centers.

Now you're probably asking—How has SNHA helped the park? To date, SNHA has spent over one million dollars to support Shenandoah National Park. Last year alone SNHA contributed over \$100,000.

SNHA works with the interpretive office to plan the use of the funds. Over the years, SNHA has purchased for the park many educational materials, including a slide file system,



Superintendent Doug Morris presented a plaque to the Shenandoah Natural History Association Board of Directors this spring. The plaque recognizes SNHA for 50 years of service to the park.

visitor centers, or contact:
SNHA
3655 US Highway 211 E
Luray, VA 22835
(540) 999-3582

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MICHAEL LESTER MARTIN

Michael Lester Martin loved Shenandoah National Park. The lawyer from Fairfax, Virginia—a member of the Shenandoah Natural History Association and an active worker for the Sierra Club and environmental causes—came to Shenandoah on his days off from work. Here he found his sanctuary, his home. And here his spirit lives on.

After his death in August, 1999, his family, friends, and co-workers at the Surface Transportation Board donated funds to SNHA for the benches on the patio at the Dickey Ridge Visitor Center. Flowers in planters nearby bloom in his memory.

No inscription at Dickey Ridge or elsewhere in Shenandoah National Park names him, but Mike Martin is here.

Ranger Programs

These programs run from May 26 through September 4, 2000. For more details and additional programs, inquire at the visitor centers and campgrounds. Programs will be canceled in the event of lightning or other extreme conditions.

Mathews Arm Campground (mile 22) Programs begin at the amphitheater.							
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Junior Ranger Program - Enjoy the fun and excitement of discovering in your national park. 1 hour.	9:00 a.m.						2:00 p.m.
Forest Links - Explore the changing forest and the link between forest health and you. 1.5 miles; 1.5 hours.	11:00 a.m.					5:00 p.m.	
Campfire Traditions - Relax under the night sky and experience the significance of Shenandoah National Park. 1 hour.						8:45 p.m.	8:45 p.m.
Skyland (mile 42) Programs begin at the amphitheater unless otherwise noted.							
Junior Ranger Program - Enjoy the fun and excitement of discovering in your national park. 1 hour.	9:30 a.m.			9:30 a.m.		9:30 a.m.	
Story of the Limberlost - There's beauty and there's hidden history in the ancient hemlock grove of the Limberlost. The tale of this incredible area continues to unfold. Meet at the Limberlost trailhead (mile 43). 1.2 miles; 2 hours.			10:00 a.m.		10:00 a.m.		10:00 a.m.
Birds Of Prey - A live hawk and other birds of prey are the "stars" of this program. 1 hour.	11:00 a.m.						
The Rustic Gem of the Blue Ridge—Historic Skyland - The figures and forces that helped shape Shenandoah National Park come to life during this stroll through historic Skyland. 1 mile; 1.5 hours.		1:30 p.m.			1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.
Older Than Dirt - Shenandoah's rocks aren't getting any younger, but they're still creating a habitat for plants and wildlife. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water for this hike to a great view. Meet at Millers Head trailhead, Skyland (mile 42.5). 1.7 miles; 2 hours.			2:00 p.m.				
The View from Here - Shenandoah National Park was created because of spectacular vistas, but some incredible sights are closer than you think. Meet at Stony Man trailhead (mile 41.7). 1.6 miles; 2 hours.	2:00 p.m.					2:00 p.m.	
At Home in the Wild - Discover the wilderness on an easy walk. Meet at Limberlost trailhead (mile 43). 1.2 miles; 2 hours.					3:30 p.m.		
Shenandoah Appetizer - A short program on the park will whet your appetite. Meet at the dining room terrace. 30 minutes.	5:00 p.m.						5:00 p.m.
Shenandoah Sunset - This twilight hike explores the changes in Shenandoah. Sturdy shoes and a flashlight are recommended! Meet at Stony Man trailhead (mile 41.7). 1.6 miles; 2 hours.		7:00 p.m.					
Campfire Traditions - Relax under the night sky and experience the significance of Shenandoah National Park. 1 hour.	8:45 p.m.						8:45 p.m.
Big Meadows (mile 51) Programs begin at the visitor center unless otherwise noted.							
Ranger Mornings - Bring your coffee for a chat with a ranger. Meet in the great room at the lodge. 30 minutes.	8:30 a.m.						
Lasting Impressions - Want something different? This short program prepares you for a daylong Shenandoah adventure, exploring at your leisure the great places in the park. Meet in the Byrd Visitor Center auditorium. 20 minutes.							9:30 a.m.
A Walk on the Wild Side - The Rose River Trail has beautiful waterfalls, diverse plant life, and designated wilderness. Strenuous hike! Bring drinking water. Meet at Fishers Gap Overlook (mile 49.4). 3.5 hours; 4 miles.						9:00 a.m.	
Junior Ranger Program - Enjoy the fun and excitement of discovering in your national park. 1.5 hours.	10:00 a.m.		4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.		10:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
Birds Of Prey - A live hawk and other birds of prey are the "stars" of this program. Meet at the amphitheater. 1 hour.			10:00 a.m.		10:00 a.m.		10:00 a.m.
Presidential Outing - Travel by van to see the restoration of a National Historic Landmark—Rapidan Camp, summer retreat of President Herbert and First Lady Lou Henry Hoover. 11 person limit. Advance reservations taken for the 9:00 a.m. tour (540-999-3283). Sign up for the 1:30 p.m. tour the day of the program at Byrd Visitor Center. 3 hours.	9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.			9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
Your Place Naturally - On this walk you may find your favorite place in Shenandoah National Park. 1.5 miles; 2 hours.							2:00 p.m.
Fire on the Mountain - See how a recent fire affected the park. Meet at Bootens Gap parking area (mile 55.1). 2 miles; 2 hours.				2:00 p.m.			
For the Love of Bears - The park's bear population "bears" talking about. Meet at the visitor center auditorium. 30 minutes.			3:00 p.m.		3:00 p.m.		3:00 p.m.
Would You Like Fries With That? - No, thanks! If you were a deer for a day, what would you like to eat? What bad habits would you avoid? Meet at the visitor center auditorium. 30 minutes.	3:00 p.m.			3:00 p.m.		3:00 p.m.	
Featuring Big Meadows - Discover how research and planning help the park manage the meadow's future. 1 mile; 1.5 hours.	4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
Backyard Wilderness - Find your meaning of wilderness on this stroll. Meet at Big Meadows Lodge entrance. .5 mile; 1 hour.						4:00 p.m.	
Shenandoah Appetizer - A short program on the park will whet your appetite. Meet at the lodge terrace. 30 minutes.	5:00 p.m.						5:00 p.m.
Twilight in Big Meadows - See the changes at twilight in the meadow. A flashlight is recommended. 1 mile; 1.5 hours.	7:00 p.m.						
Campfire Traditions - Relax under the night sky and experience the significance of the park. Meet at the amphitheater. 1 hour.			8:45 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	8:45 p.m.
Loft Mountain (mile 79.5) Programs begin at the amphitheater unless otherwise noted.							
Junior Ranger Program - Enjoy the fun and excitement of discovering in your national park. 1 hour.		9:00 a.m.	4:30 p.m.			4:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
Fire on the Mountain - See how fire has changed the landscape here. Meet at Riprap parking area (mile 90). 3 miles; 3 hours.	10:00 a.m.						
Blackrock: A Great Destination in Two Centuries - This magnificent pile of quartzite has attracted people for a long time. Check it out for yourself. Meet at Blackrock parking area (mile 84.8). 1 mile; 1.5 hours.		11:00 a.m.					10:00 a.m.
Shenandoah Deer - Brown-eyed beauties with sharp hooves: the park's deer are a treat to observe—at a distance. 45 minutes.	1:30 p.m.						
Community Relations - The park's wildlife community is diverse. Each animal, even the ones you rarely see, has a function here. Check at the information center or campground station to find out which animal we'll highlight in the program. 45 minutes.		1:30 p.m.					4:00 p.m.
An Evening Walk - See the changes in Shenandoah at twilight. A flashlight is recommended. 1.5 miles, 1.5 hours.	7:00 p.m.		7:00 p.m.				
Campfire Traditions - Relax under the night sky and experience the significance of Shenandoah National Park. 1 hour.						8:45 p.m.	8:45 p.m.