“Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed; if we permit the last virgin forests to be turned into comic books and plastic cigarette cases; if we drive the few remaining members of the wild species into zoos or to extinction; if we pollute the last clear air and dirty the last clean streams and push our paved roads through the last of the silence…”

WALLACE STEGNER, THE SOUND OF MOUNTAIN WATER
We tend to think of resources as things to be consumed, used up, burned through. If they’re renewable resources, so much the better—we get to consume them again, and again.

Our Parks and our wilderness and our natural heritage are resources too, but of a different kind—resources that can lead us away from the treadmill of commerce and toward a place where value springs from deeper sources. They are not for consumption, they are for being preserved and handed down, for being loved and used and kept whole. That’s a tricky balance sometimes. It often seems that the wild places we love might not survive our affection for them. But it’s a necessary balance to try to strike. How else can we get to know and appreciate what nature has to offer, unless we experience it?

There’s the reason so many writers and naturalists get a little mystical when talking about the value of wild landscapes. What they’re trying to express is value of a different kind than the one we’re used to—not the value of use, of cost, of the market, but the value of the timeless and essential things, things that can’t be bought or sold. Things whose virtue springs from knowing them, experiencing them, and not from using them up.

Seventy-five miles from Washington DC, spread over the crown of the Blue Ridge is a 200,000-acre anchor for our region’s biodiversity. It’s a place we leave nature to itself as much as is possible while still getting to use and enjoy and appreciate it for what it is. It’s a laboratory for studying and understanding the effects of climate change and invasive species. And it’s a place where people can go to catch a glimpse of what the world looks like when people don’t mess with it too much.

It’s a resource all right—of the best kind.

Preserving and enhancing that resource is what The Trust is for. 2013 was a challenging year for the National Park Service, and for our country. Maybe the best thought to take with us into the New Year, though, is to hold on to this idea of trust—A Trust—and what its unique purpose is. A Trust is a vehicle for helping to preserve a priceless resource. It’s a group effort, a communal commitment, a shared promise made to the future—that we are going to do the best we can to find best uses for this priceless thing, to enjoy it, to learn from it. Not to use it up, but to pass it on.
In 2013, we worked to....

**PRESERVE cultural and natural heritage**

The National Park Service’s mission statement places right up front its fundamental charge to “preserve unimpaired” the natural and cultural resources of the Parks. We take that commitment as seriously as they do, by supporting the following programs.

**Forest Restoration**

Trust funding through your donations, and matching gifts from partner organizations, are all helping to uproot (literally) threats to fragile ecosystems in the Park. In year one of this ambitious five-year program, Park workers eliminated invasive plant species from 300 acres of some of the most threatened parts of the Park, replacing them with native plants and trees that support and enrich the local habitat for native wildlife, and enhance the health of Shenandoah’s forests. By the end of year five, our goal is to have planted 4,600 native trees and an additional 10,000 native plants over 1,700 acres.

**Pinnacles Research Station**

Only two of the original camp structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the Park are still standing. The Pinnacles Research Station is one of them. But Pinnacles is important not just for its historical value. It is used heavily by researchers and volunteers as a temporary residence and training facility. Your donations funded repair to the foundation, the first phase of the rehabilitation of this venerable facility.

**EDUCATE and inspire**

With both the Park system and our local schools under enormous financial pressures, Trust programs can help to bear some of the costs of communicating the natural history of the Park to the next generation. Your gifts open doors to thousands of students, of all ages, to make the Park part of their learning experience.

**Shenandoah in the Classroom**

With budgets for field trips shrinking, there are fewer opportunities for students to visit the Park. So we’re bringing it to them. This program provides funding for Park staff and area teachers to collaborate on developing and field testing a curriculum that teaches Park geology and cultural and natural history in grade schools. In 2014, the second phase of the program will put Park Rangers in area classrooms to teach “Shenandoah National Park: Gem of the Blue Ridge” and “The Changing World of the Shenandoah Salamander” to elementary students.

**Climate Change Education**

You also helped fund the development and testing of a curriculum on climate change science for high school students. The program uses the Park as a living laboratory by drawing on current research that is actively underway on the potential effects of climate change on the Park’s high-elevation species and habitats.

**SCA Interns**

Where does the next cadre of young people going into the Park Service come from? How do they get the training and mentorship they need to help them choose a career in public service? With the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service just around the corner, those questions are more timely than ever. The Trust funding of Student Conservation Association internships for college aged students helps ensure that there are adequately trained and passionate young people ready to step up and serve.

**ENHANCE visitor experience**

Like it or not, places like the Park have to compete for people’s attention in a very crowded field of choices, options, and distractions. It is imperative that we continue to find new and engaging ways to reach visitors.

**Your Changing World**

The Trust funded the development, construction, and programming of this video education station in Byrd Visitor Center. The display uses touchscreen interactivity to allow visitors to explore air quality and climate change issues in Shenandoah. Up-to-the-moment technology meets up-to-the-moment science. The display will eventually be networked to the air quality monitoring station at Big Meadows to provide real-time air and climate data at the touch of a screen. That air quality station has itself been an ongoing funding project of the Trust. In 2014, new signs will identify the instruments in view and what they measure, and will point the way to the new education exhibit at the Byrd.

Above photo: Old Rag Trail ©Shenandoah National Park Trust
Left photo: ©Jack Looney
Zohar and Lisa Ben-Dov
Donna and Michael Bedwell
Sarah Bedford and Jay Scott
Charlie Beckum
Melissa Beaver
Katherine Beard
Don Baur and Phebe Jensch
William Balcke
SRA International, Inc.
William Balcke
Barbara Allen
Mary Clark
Torie Clark and Brian Graham
Henley Cleary
E. Fletcher Construction
Ellen Early
Janet Eden
Ann Edwards
Anne Edwards
Lucy Edwards
Sherry Edwards
Curt Eisenhower
Steven Eisenrauch
Robert and Nan Etel
Elk Run, LLC
Suzanne Engel
Marian English
Enterprise Rent a Car
Enterprise Resource
Performance, Inc.
Peggy Escobar
Joe Evans
Jean Everitt
Exxon Mobil Corp.
Matthew Fabutis
Laurie Falk
Russ Pant
Bob Farrell and Dave Dogan
Paul Farthing
Elaine and Ronald Faucher
John Faulconer
Gene Feller
Ameriprise Financial
Andrew and Barbara Ferrari
Robert Ferrier
Wendy Fewster
Wilson and Charlotte Fewster
Maureen Finnetty
Pamela Flynn
Niccolo Fiorentino
First Ascent Sales
Brian Fletcher
Eddie and Nora Fletcher
Kristine and Lou Florio
Pamela Flynn and Andrew Traynor
Mark Ford
Victoria Fortuna
Andrea and Lisa Forward
Diane and David Fosnacht
Penny Foster
Bob and Pat Foster
Tina Fox
GC Frank
Bob and Shirley French
Brian and Jennifer Friedman
Deborah Friedman
Emanuel Friedman
Leonard Friedman
Dee Dee and Chris Friend
Ralph and Patricia Frink
Elizabeth Fuller
James Fuller
and Catherine Porter
Bill and Aleta Galindo
Susan Gainer
Charlotte Gaither
Ann and William Gambrell
Mark and Jennifer Garman
Dolly Garrison
Carlin Gaylor
Betsy Gemmill
Bill and Kathy Gentry
Jamie and Therese Gibson
Garrick Gielbe
Charles and Jean Gilbert
Suzanne Gilman
Beryl Gilmore
Joan Gilrain
Nitin Goel
Priscilla Goldsmith
Ronald and Rosabel Goodman
David Gonsline
Terry Grant
Thomas and Gail Granucci
Doug Graves
Ben Greenberg
Galen Nursery
Anne Grenade
Joe and Marje Grills
Tara Groth
Sarah and Owen Guarin
Martha Guyon
and Frederick Crum
Charles and Ellen Haberlein
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Hack
Jason Halbert
and Kristin Tavena
Harvey and Cynthia Hale
Krystal Hall
Bunny and Liz Hamilton
Wanda Hamlin
Vicky Hamrick
Alice Handy and Peter Stoudt
Christine Hansen
Frank Hardy
Joyce Harman
Lauren and John Harmshefeger
Walter Harney
James and Constance
camping
Harrington
Charles and Charlotte Harrison
Scotti Harwood and Dan Dunlop
Julia Hauser
Thomas and Lisa Hayes
Seth and Caroline Heald
Jackie Heath
David Heeks
Barbara and Mark Heller
Anne Henderson
Thu Le and Michael Hendrick
Lori Hendrickson
Don and Kathryn Henry
Sigrid Hepp-Dax
Georgia Herbert
Highmark Matching Funds
Carl and Judith Hildebrand
John and Tracey Hild
Fred Hilton
Stuart and Daphne Himelfarb
Fred and Mary Burot Hitz
Cameron and Lisa Hodge
Richard Hoffman
Robert and Memphis Holland
Jeni Holme

A photo of a river: 7509 River © Jack Looney
When the Trust’s founding Board Chairman Peter Rice stepped down from his duties in October of 2013, Shenandoah National Park Superintendent Jim Northup wanted to find a fitting acknowledgement for Peter’s years of service and commitment to the Park and its future. So, at the first board meeting of 2014, Deputy Park Superintendent Jennifer Flynn, and Public Affairs Officer Karen Beck-Herzog announced that Northup had named Peter an Honorary National Park Ranger, and presented him with a plaque declaring the title along with a commemorative Ranger hat.

“The award was a total surprise,” says Rice. “I consider it a huge honor. Working with the Park staff (including three Superintendents), Susan, and the Trust Board has been one of the great privileges of my life. As a huge fan and user of Shenandoah and other National Parks, I have great respect and admiration for Park Rangers, so I am particularly pleased to have been given this status.”

The status of Honorary Park Ranger is a rare honor given by the Park Service to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the welfare of the National Park System. Other notable recipients include former Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, and filmmakers Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan.

“Over his nine years leading the organization that he helped found, Peter’s vision and dedication have been absolutely essential to helping the Trust grow into a substantial and meaningful partner for our National Park.”

SUSAN SHERMAN, TRUST’S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OUTGOING BOARD CHAIR
PETER RICE HONORED BY PARK

Above photo: Beagle Gap Sunrise ©David Anhold

T A N Printing

The Fresh Market

Julia Thieriot

Frank and Zan Thomas

John Thomas

Philip Thompson

Rab and George Thompson

Tillie

Charlie Tompkins

Trader Joe’s

Rebecca Trafford

James Treptow

Chris Trotter

Michele Trufant

Jeff Turner

Christina Tutterow

Sallie Twentymen

Ty and Dottie Tysinger

Peter and Susan Van Acker

David and Annie Van Roijen

Mike and Peggy Van Wary

Monique VanLandingham

Ruskell Riley

Jackie and Roderick Vawter

Ana Vazquez-Morina

Caroline Vennard

Verizon Foundation

Pamela and Gary Verno

Mary Jo Veverka

VF Services, Inc.

S. Andrew and Susan Vinisky

Mary Vinisky

Clarence and Frances Vinson

Virginia Eagle Distributing Co.

Virginia Tourism Corporation

Laurie Volk

Beatrice and Adie von Gontard

Elizabeth Von Hassell

Autumn Wade

Tina Wade

Charles Wakely

Christie and Paul Walker

Maggie and Rod Walker

Christopher Wall

LeRoy Wallace

Sarah and Bill Walton

Virginia Warner

Rita Warpeha

Mollie Watts

Michael Wayne

Kathleen Weatherly

Jessica Weber

Lynda and Bill Webster

Matthew and Katherine

Toney Wei

Christie Weiss

and Christopher Ritzert

Rosalie Wells

WestWind Foundation

Paul Whaley

Jennifer Whetzel

Casey White

Catherine and Richard White

Delores White

Grace White

John and Marty Whitlow

Susan and Keir Whiston

Whole Foods Market

James and Roni Wilkins

William and Mary Greve

Foundation

Williams Mullen Clark

& Dobbins

Williams Mullen Foundation

Raymond Williams

Alexander Wilson

and Joan Bailey-Wilson

John and Chris Wineinger

Edyce Winokur

Karin Wittenborg

Kate and Jeb Wofford

Tom and Jeanine Wolanski

Sheila Wolk

Thomas Woltz

Peter Wood

Martin and Cheri Woodard

Peter and Penny Work

David Worthington

Alan and Irene Wurtzel

Yates Properties

Greg and Liz Yates

Gary and Jene Younkin

Kim Yushko

Suzanne and Dennis Zimmerman

Craig Zunker and

Jo Ellen McNeal

Deputy Park Superintendent Jennifer Flynn and Public Affairs Officer Karen Beck-Herzog present the award to Peter Rice.
Seventy-five miles from Washington DC, spread over the crown of the Blue Ridge is a 200,000-acre anchor for our region’s biodiversity. Preserving and enhancing that resource is what the Shenandoah National Park Trust is for. Please help us continue...

Photo: Box turtle © Jack Looney