

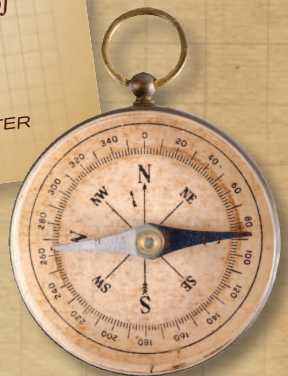
# 2013 Year In Review

**SHENANDOAH**  
National Park Trust



*"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..."*

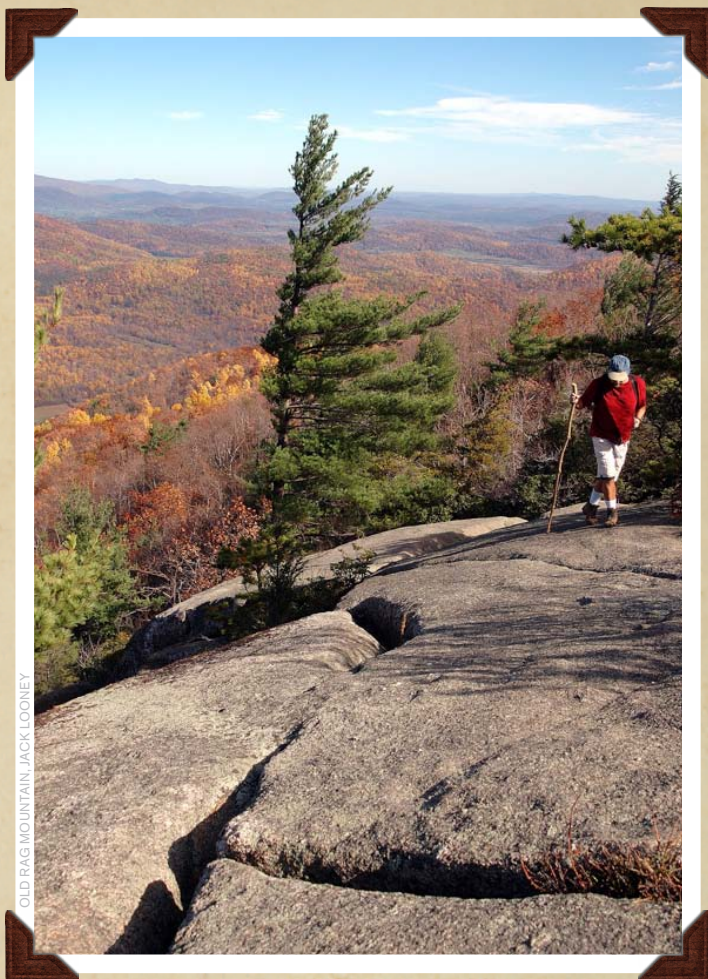
WALLACE STEGNER, THE SOUND OF MOUNTAIN WATER



Read more about us







OLD RAG MOUNTAIN, JACK LOONEY

## 2013 Park Snapshot

**1,000,000** visitors in 2013

**\$500,000** lost due to government shut-down

**675** native saplings planted

**300** acres treated for invasive plants

**3650** participants in education programs



# Priceless

*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.*

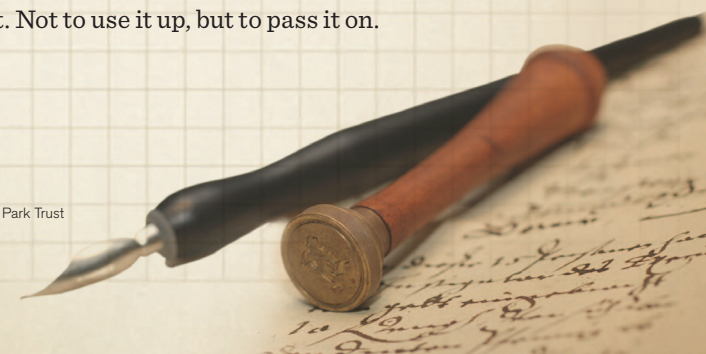
**Our Parks and our wilderness and our natural heritage are resources** too, but of a different kind—resources that can lead us away from the treadmill of commerce and toward a place where value springs from deeper sources. They are not for consumption, they are for being preserved and handed down, for 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.







A trust is a long-term commitment. It's a promise to future generations that we are thinking and working on their behalf. Here are the things we've been entrusted with, and how you're helping fulfill that trust.

*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***

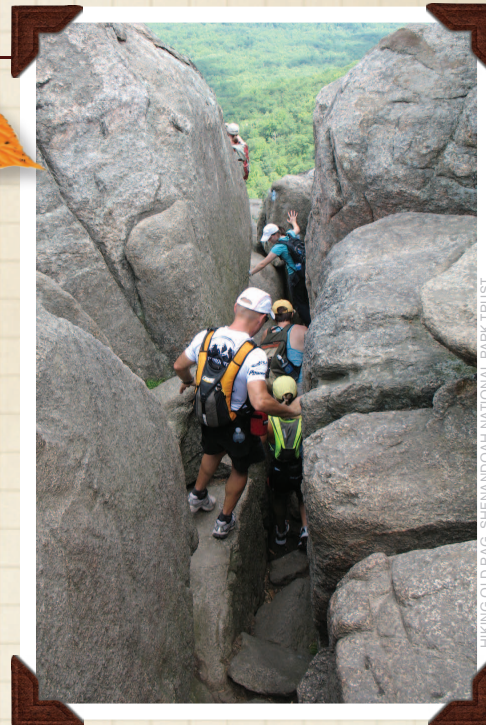
Where does the next cadre of young people going into the Park Service come from? How do they get the training and mentorship they need to help them choose a career in public service? With the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service just around the corner, those questions are more timely than ever. 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*

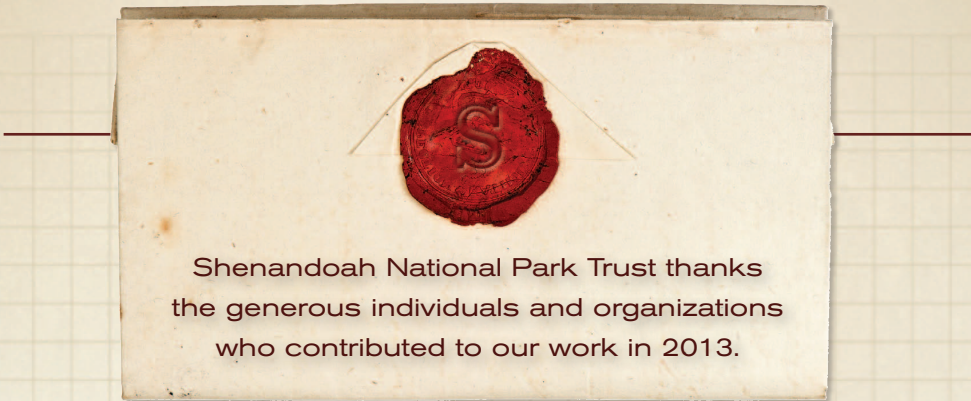
Like it or not, places like the Park have to compete for people's attention in a very crowded field of choices, options, and distractions. It is imperative that we continue to find new and engaging ways to reach visitors.

### ***Your Changing World***

The Trust funded the development, construction, and programming of this video education station in Byrd Visitor Center. The display uses touch-screen 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.







Shenandoah National Park Trust thanks  
the generous individuals and organizations  
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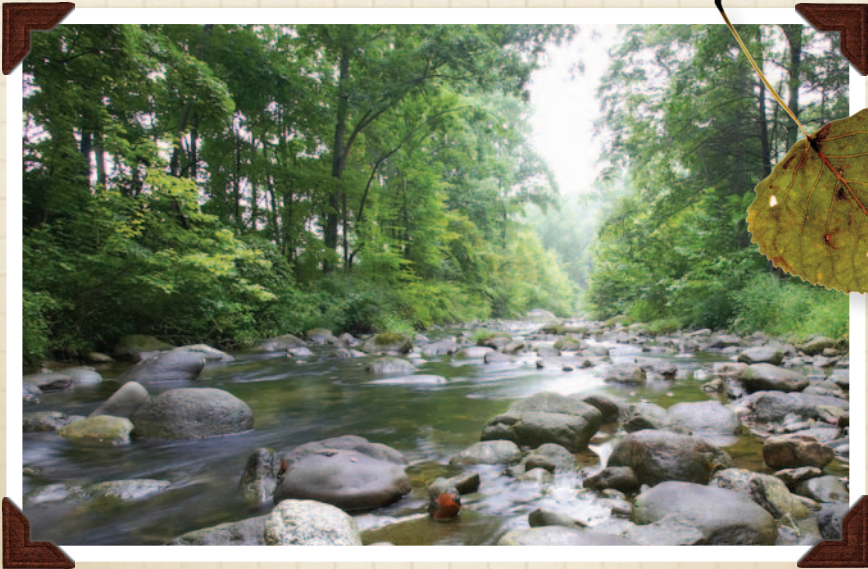
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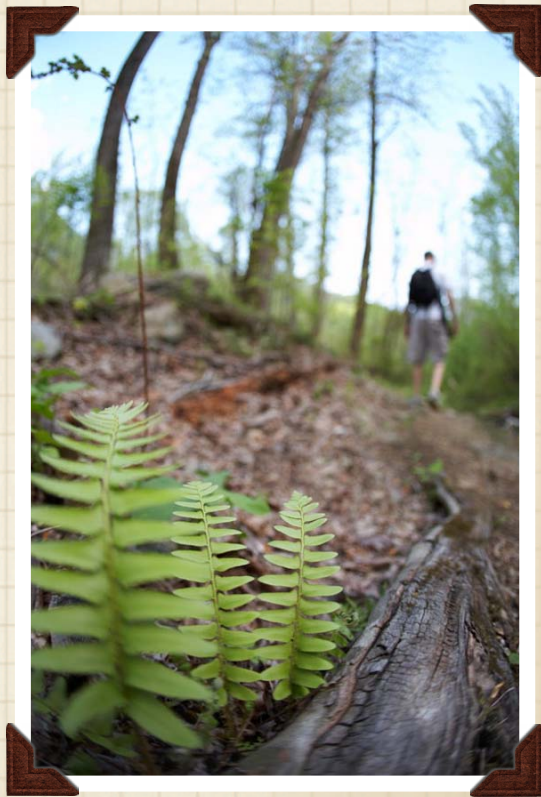
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Jo Ellen McNeal

## OUTGOING BOARD CHAIR PETER RICE HONORED BY PARK

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.



DEPUTY PARK SUPERINTENDENT JENNIFER FLYNN AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER KAREN BECK-HERZOG PRESENT THE AWARD TO PETER RICE.

"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



Above photo: Beagle Gap Sunrise ©David Anhold





Great Horned Owl



Opossum



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*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



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