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Trekking Through Time: A Look at Lewis Mountain's Past & Future



The Lewis Mountain Campground is Shenandoah National Park's smallest campground, but within this campsite, history runs deep. Opening in 1939, the site was constructed as the designated campsite for black visitors during the Jim Crow legislation era. While its establishment did not come without its fair share of obstacles, its addition to the Shenandoah experience would prove to be impactful in more ways than one.

Shenandoah National Park became the National Park Service's first location to fully integrate in the summer of 1950—more than a decade before anywhere else in the state followed similar protocols. Located in the park's Central District, this campsite happens to also be one of the most popular destinations for visitors. Throughout the year, members of the park's Interpretation & Education team remain committed to engaging with its weathered history, so every visitor can learn how Lewis Mountain came to be and how it defines Shenandoah today.

Anthony Bates, who assumed his duties as Chief of Interpretation and Education at Shenandoah National Park this past fall, has always been drawn to the stories and experiences of yesterday. His passion for history ultimately shaped his career journey with the National Park Service, along with a desire to help pay it forward for all park visitors.

"Prior to moving to the area, my family and I would pass through when traveling to other destinations, and we always loved seeing how beautiful things looked. After a few trips, I began wanting to learn what the park had to offer and its history. When I went to the park website, I started reading about the Lewis Mountain Campground and the history of families and facilities. I was shocked that this was the first

time I heard about the Lewis Mountain story and that it was not taught in my history classes while growing up. I was disappointed and felt that my son and his generation may have the same feeling one day," Bates said.

The Trust is proud to sustain the park's efforts to deepen visitors' historical knowledge, and the team in the Education and Interpretation Division is committed to this mission. In 2023, the Trust also worked with Shenandoah's team to elevate the accessibility of the park's significant history by providing online curriculum

to the National Park Service website. As Anthony Bates puts it, "The public deserves to know about the families and facilities at the campground ... Lewis Mountain was the first of many places to allow everyone to feel welcome, and the public deserves to know that it started before 1964." Ultimately, this collaboration highlights an important chapter in our nation's history for all visitors to Shenandoah.

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Dear friends,

Summer is in full swing here in Shenandoah, and with the longer days come more opportunities to take in all the beauty and wonder this Park has to offer. As we soak up the season, it's also a moment to reflect on Shenandoah's rich history and cultural legacy—both of which shape the Park's identity and our connection to it today.

Whether it's restoring historic landmarks or supporting projects that amplify the stories of those who've long called this region home, your support helps ensure Shenandoah remains a place of learning, inspiration, and belonging for generations to come.

At Shenandoah National Park Trust, we're proud to stand alongside the Park to help extend its capacity, enrich the visitor experience, and protect what makes this landscape such a treasured part of America's story.

Your continued generosity makes all the difference. As we look ahead to the work still to be done, we invite you to make a gift today to help preserve and protect Shenandoah's past, present, and future.

Hope to see you on the trails!



Jessica Cocciolone | Executive Director | Shenandoah National Park Trust



Inside Shenandoah

J. Tracy Stakely | Superintendent | Shenandoah National Park



Dear Park Supporters,

After arriving at Shenandoah earlier this year, I have been privileged to experience the park's natural landscape evolving over time. The resources are inspirational, from the ephemeral spring wildflowers

to the mature tree canopy on full display this summer. This constantly changing natural beauty is undoubtedly what draws many visitors to the park.

Equally inspiring is Shenandoah's extensive cultural history. The collection of park stories reminds us that this place has a vast history with significance to many different groups of people.

Along with protecting the park's natural features, protecting the cultural history is primary to the National Park Service mission. We could not do that work without engaged partners like the Trust. Historic designed viewsheds along Skyline Drive have been cleared and maintained and we are supporting research into Native American land use at Shenandoah to give us greater understanding of the region's history and help build better relationships with tribal partners.

It has been said that we cannot know where we are going unless we know where we have been. As we plan for the future of Shenandoah National Park, it is imperative that we know about our past, and work to engage current and future park supporters along the way. Many thanks to the Trust for continuing to partner with us in these efforts.

I hope to see you out in the park!

Labor, Learning, and Landscapes



There is nothing like experiencing the beautiful Shenandoah National Park, especially for the very first time.

From the expansive overlooks, vivid foliage, and amazing sights all around, making unforgettable memories in the park just comes easily.

Skyler Verloop, a high school teacher at John R. Lewis High School and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Program Coordinator now has some unforgettable memories of his own. He recently had an opportunity to take his students to Shenandoah thanks to support from the Trust's Access to the Outdoors fund. With the help of some amazing park staff, Skyler was able


to help his students learn what career opportunities might be waiting for them through the National Park Service. "We learned from a botanist, an interpretive ranger, a police officer, a communi-

cations specialist and a volunteer coordinator,"

Verloop said. "These are jobs that I know my students would never think of. One thing a lot of students pointed out was how much they like their jobs. That gives them hope for when they finish high school that they will find

something they enjoy doing," Verloop added. In addition to learning about career opportunities that the National Park Service has to offer, the group also hiked Fox Hollow Trail and visited several

awe-inspiring sites. "I knew they would enjoy the park but they really enjoyed it. I'm sure their Instagram was just full of photos from taking pictures all day... students were just happy to be there," Verloop recounted. This field trip and many others like it are made possible by the Access to the Outdoors Fund, ensuring everyone has the chance to experience the peace and beauty that nature offers. The Trust is proud to be a part of making that a reality in Shenandoah.


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Scan the QR Code or visit our website to learn more about the Access to the outdoor fund and it's impact:

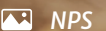
**[snptrust.org/
access-to-the-outdoors/](https://snptrust.org/access-to-the-outdoors/)**



Protecting Shenandoah's Past for the Future

For Shenandoah National Park's Historic Preservation team having the right tools, project plan, materials, and measurements are undoubtedly key components of the job. For Exhibits Specialist, AJ Lochart and Maintenance Worker, Shawn Bradley, there is more than meets the eye when it comes to the essentials of their work in Shenandoah.

Corbin Cabin



This work requires a level of creativity and strategic vision for telling each structure's story with integrity, minimal disturbance, and done in such a way that inspires visitors for a lifetime. The park is home to over 400 historic structures with some of the oldest dating back to before the park's opening in 1936. One of these notable structures includes the Massanutten Lodge at Skyland, which was constructed in 1911. Due to the antiquity of these structures, they all require a unique level of care and attention

to accomplish these goals. "These buildings reveal a much richer story than [what] can be told through texts or lectures. They represent a specific time in that period which still has relevance today," Shawn said. "If a historic structure was a book, our treatments would serve as an addendum to the story. Without our intervention, these stories would slowly vanish as the structures would continue to decline and decay," AJ said. This work plays a critical role in how visitors experience Shenandoah's story throughout the course of time. The Trust continues to support the Historic Preservation team's efforts by helping to provide critical resources that ensure these projects not only get completed but can tell their story in the most representative and impactful way.



Massanutten Lodge



Sneed Farm Root Cellar

Exploring the Interconnected Relationships between Land, People, and Preservation: A Cultural and Natural Resource Highlight

Imagine that you are in Shenandoah National Park 500 years ago. How do you live your daily life? What do you understand about your surroundings? Answering these questions in the present requires a keen awareness of the land's unique features as well as the context around park resources that live, adapt, and change over time.

With 460 historical structures, over 600 known archaeological sites, 130 historic family cemeteries from the pre-park era, and renowned Skyline Drive to experience it all, Shenandoah offers a rich experience for visitors and plays a vital role in preserving and interpreting the complex cultural and natural heritage within its boundaries. For Shenandoah National Park Landscape Architect, David Sheehan, and the Trust's Indigenous Cultural Resource Fellow, Shaleigh Howells, expanding our knowledge about these important resources inside of the park requires a deeper understanding of the people and communities extending beyond its borders.

"Our cultural and natural resources have trouble respecting our administrative boundaries," Sheehan said. "Bringing that perspective into our discussion of how we seek to manage land is greatly beneficial to everyone," Sheehan added. These blurred boundaries underscore the

importance of working closely with surrounding descendant communities, and particularly Native Nations, whose deep-rooted connections to the land transcend modern jurisdictional lines. Sheehan and Howells bring their expertise to facilitate both in-depth research and collaboration with the Monacan Indian Nation and other Indigenous communities, recognizing that the expansion of Traditional Knowledge in this work is essential to understanding and honoring the full cultural narrative of Shenandoah. "Within Shenandoah National Park, what are some spaces that the public looks at as

a swamp, mountain, or trail that may have greater cultural significance?" Howells shared. "And then, how does the National Park Service make sure these spaces are preserved and maintained for future generations?" Howells added.

This work supported by the Trust plays an essential role in elevating the park's capacity for innovative project work. The stewardship of our region's natural resources is a collective effort. By embracing collaboration, honoring the land's rich cultural tapestry, and integrating varied knowledge systems, Shenandoah National Park not only preserves the past but also ensures that stories and landscapes will continue to inspire and sustain generations to come.



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Tiny Heroes, Big Impact: Hemlock-Saving Beetles Found Exploring New Territory



Due to a reinfestation of invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) insects at a small hemlock site, Shenandoah National Park Biological Technician, Dale Meyerhoeffer, conducted field research on April 14th, 2025 to investigate the presence of *Laricobius* beetles through a process called beat sheet sampling.

This location originally was treated with soil injections in 2015 which effectively controls HWA for about 5 years; this site had not been controlled through chemical or biological means since the injections ran their course. Although these beetles had not been released at this site, 6 beetles were collected that day. The precise origins and movements of the collected beetles are unknown, but records show that a pair of *L. osakensis* beetles were released 3.8 miles away at Madison Run 9.5 years ago and 4.7 miles away at South Fork Moormans River 7.5 years ago, and several *L. nigrinus* beetles were released 4.2 miles away at Meadow Run 5.5 years ago.

"The establishment and dispersal of released *Laricobius* beetles has been remarkable," Meyerhoeffer said. "Sincere thanks to Shenandoah National Park Trust for purchasing *Laricobius* beetles for release in the park and to all who help with management, releases, monitoring, compliance, and public information and education," Meyerhoeffer added. In an effort to reduce the park's reliance on pesticide treatments, the Trust is honored to support this critical work happening in Shenandoah to continue preserving the park's natural resources for this and future generations.



Foraging in Shenandoah: Where Nature Meets Tradition

Did you know that you can forage responsibly in Shenandoah National Park?



Visitors to Shenandoah National Park **MAY** collect fruit, edible fungi and nuts *for personal use*. These items include:

APPLES, PEARS, AND PEACHES

(Up to 1 bushel per person, per day)

EDIBLE FRUITS, NUTS, AND MORELS

- Walnuts, Hazelnuts, and Hickory Nuts
- Grapes
- Edible Berries
- Morel Mushrooms

(Up to 1 gallon per person, per day)

EDIBLE FUNGI

- Chicken of the Woods
- Lion's Mane
- Black Trumpet

*(Total combined volume—
The maximum amount per day for all
collected edible fungi—except morels—
is 1 quart per person per day.)*



Items that **CANNOT** be collected include:

INEDIBLE, MEDICINAL, OR WOODY SHELF FUNGI:

**PLANTS OR ANY PARTS OF PLANTS
INCLUDING LEAVES, FLOWERS,
ROOTS, OR SEEDS:**

- Ginseng, Medicinal Plants, Sunflower, Ramps, Fern Fiddlehead



For more information on foraging responsibly in Shenandoah National Park and a complete list of edible fruit, nuts, and berries, **scan here** to view the Superintendent's Compendium.

The Shenandoah National Park Trust is not liable for injuries or death resulting from the consumption or use of fruit plants, or fungi. This content is for informational purposes only.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Join us for the third annual
Art in the Park:
Scenes of Shenandoah,
September 26th–27th!

Local artists will teach free workshops
all weekend, along with
public performances!

 SNPT



2025 Artists-in-Residence

Kris Grenier

FIBER ARTIST May 9th–30th

“This residency represents a chance to re-connect with a place I fell in love with during my Appalachian Trail thru-hike more than a decade ago. I’m looking forward to revisiting places of inspiration during the felting process, observing how changes in light and weather affect my subjects and developing a familiarity with the landscape. I’m looking forward to sketching, painting, photographing and felting from those reference materials for years to come. I can’t imagine a better time to visit Shenandoah.”

Michael Bidun

PHOTOGRAPHER June 9th–30th

“I’m looking forward to my public program with the Armed Services Arts Partnership where I’ll present more in-depth information about the photography process including composition, camera settings, and how to use the medium of photography to connect with wildlife. I’ll also be creating a photobook showcasing my favorite images and stories from the residency. Throughout the journey, I’ll be documenting everything on video, culminating in a short film about my time as an artist-in-residence.”

Nicki Allen

QUILT ARTIST July 11th–August 1st

“I’m eager to immerse myself in the natural beauty of the park and its unique history. I hope to capture the spirit of Shenandoah through the deeper lens of connection and legacy. Much of my work begins with a photograph, which I then transform into a painting made with fabric and thread. Finally, I’m excited to connect with park visitors. Hearing their impressions and experiences adds another layer of meaning to the way I see and interpret this special place.”

Chelsie Ruiz Rivera

WRITER August 4th–25th

“I’m grateful for the time this residency will give me to know the land more deeply, to learn the daily lives of the water, flowers, rocks, bugs, birds, mountains, and people, and write their stories to preserve and honor them. Not to mention the invaluable working time in a cabin deep in the woods, where no one can hear me scream (about writer’s block).”

Dani Davis

PRINT MAKER Sept. 12th–Oct. 3rd

“I’m so excited to get out to Shenandoah National Park as an Artist in Residence this fall. Being able to celebrate nature through my artwork is such a joy for me and it plays such a special role in my creative process. I’m also excited to share this experience with park visitors and learn more about what makes Shenandoah so special.”

Scan the QR Code or visit the link to learn more about the Artist-In-Residence program and how you can support this project:
<https://www.snptrust.org/project/artists-in-residence/>



The Honey DewDrops Laura Wortman and Kagey Parrish
FOLK MUSICIANS October 8th–October 29th

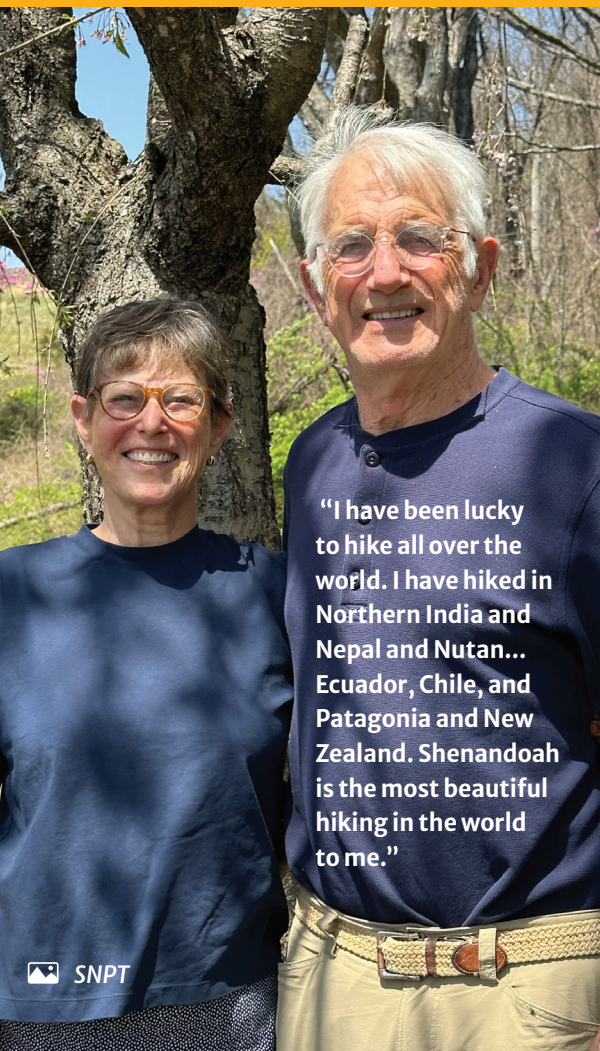
“When we first heard about this opportunity, we were immediately a big yes to applying. I (Laura) have spent the last several years backpacking through the park, always coming home inspired to make music from my experiences in the backcountry. As a collaborative duo for over 20 years, we have spent our time writing original music, usually with lyrics, but have always included an instrumental song or two in our live performances and records. During our years as a touring band, we’d gather inspiration from where we have visited and lived: Oregon, Virginia, Colorado, and Maryland. All those threads connect us back to this residency in the park, and we are so excited for the opportunity to dive into making new music inspired by the wilderness of Shenandoah.”



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"I have been lucky to hike all over the world. I have hiked in Northern India and Nepal and Nutan... Ecuador, Chile, and Patagonia and New Zealand. Shenandoah is the most beautiful hiking in the world to me."

SNPT



WHY WE GIVE:

JoAnn and Buzzy Hofheimer

They say home is where the heart is, and when it comes to donors JoAnn and Buzzy Hofheimer, it's safe to say that their hearts are with Shenandoah National Park. This active duo shares a great passion for travel, hiking, and being present in nature. And as the Hofheimer family grew over the years, the park continued to play an important role in their family activities and daily lives alike.

When it came to learning more about the Shenandoah National Park Trust and its mission, they were excited to be a part of the solution. They also love the opportunities to attend social gatherings and events with other Trust supporters and staff, which truly laid the groundwork for the couple's ongoing support.

"We didn't know anything about the Trust and our dear friends got us interested in the Rapidan Society. Learning

more about the work being done [in the park], and being introduced to Jessica and others is how the Trust got on our radar," JoAnn explained. "We really enjoy Wine on the Rooftop. It's easy to see friends there, meet new people, and we get to hear what's going on in the park. That really sustained our interest in wanting to support, because the more you know, the more you want to help," JoAnn and Buzzy added.

As the couple continued supporting the Trust, JoAnn and Buzzy's desire to make a bigger impact on Shenandoah's future grew stronger, leading them to include the Trust in their estate plans.

"We want to ensure that the Trust is around to fund the programs the Park needs, and we are confident that it will be," JoAnn answered. "We see there is demand for more people to have access to the Park and that's important [to us]," Buzzy shared.

Mark Your Calendar!

July 18-19

August 4

September 18

September 26-27

July Weekend in the Park

Fee-Free Day in the Park

Wine on the Rooftop

Art in the Park

September 27

October 12

October 16

November 11

Fee Free Day in the Park

Rapidan Lunch

Wine on the Rooftop

Fee Free Day in the Park

Visit snptrust.org/events to learn more and see our calendar.

Planned Giving



No matter how big or small, every planned gift lays a stronger foundation for the future of Shenandoah. Leave a legacy and ensure our park remains a place for all to enjoy by including the Trust in your estate plans.

If you are interested in learning more about planned giving, or if the Trust is already in your plans, let us know by emailing Jessica at jccocciolone@snptrust.org or calling the office at (434) 293-2728.

