



**A message from BRMCA Interim President
Bill Waite**

Spring is upon us and our BRMCA General Meeting is coming up on April 23rd. I hope to see all of you there.

Over the last several months we have had several changes on the BRMCA Board. Joe Donovan, the President for the last few years, is moving off the mountain. As a result, he has stepped down as President. The Board wants to thank Joe for his dedication and thoughtful guidance to bring this organization successfully through the difficult times over the last several years. Joe you will be sorely missed.

Before Joe left, he had the insight to bring on two new Board members. Lori DeHart who will chair the Communication Committee and Mick Newman will chair the Public Safety Committee (Firewise). Both Lori and Mick have hit the ground running and are making significant progress. Lori and her committee have improved our website and Facebook page, while Mick has secured the Firewise \$5,000 grant. Please join me in welcoming Lori and Mick.

The Board sent out a survey in March requesting input from each of you on what priorities should be established for 2022. It is important to get feedback from all our members, so I hope each of you have had an opportunity to complete and return this survey. Our goal is to communicate the results in May along with our plans for the rest of the year.

We recognize that our membership only represents a portion of our mountain residents. So please talk to your friends and neighbors about getting involved and joining the BRMCA.

Look forward to meeting all of you in 2022.

**Communications Committee
Lori DeHart**

The newly formed Communications Committee is working to keep our membership and residents aware of news and events that may impact our community.

Did you know that the BRMCA now has an updated website and a Facebook page? We hope that these online tools will enable us to more easily share the important work of the BRMCA, increasing both interest in membership and involvement within our community.

We hope you are able to visit both sites soon!

website: www.blueridge-mountain.org

facebook: BRMCA-Blue Ridge Mountain Civic Association

Special Thanks to Lisa Seeberger who is our Facebook and website administrator.



**2022 Membership is now due
\$30.00 per household
Send payments to
BRMCA PO Box 303 Bluemont, VA 20135**

www.blueridge-mountain.org

**Land Use / Commercialization Committee Spring Update:
- Scott Seeberger**

A Clarke County Board of Supervisor (BOS) Meeting was attended regarding proposed VDOT changes to the Rt 601/7 intersection. No proposed plan provides an adequate solution, as they shift risk from the intersection to U-turns along Rt 7 – at a cost ranging from \$1.7M to \$3.8M. The committee stressed that the root cause of the traffic problem (mainly Bear Chase) is not being addressed. A final decision on the intersection will be made by August.

The committee is supporting efforts with the current Loudoun zoning ordinance rewrite to further protect our mountains from commercialization. The rewrite will define and implement land use and design standards for unincorporated areas of the county. A number of public comment sessions will be held in the coming days. If you would like to assist the committee in this effort, please visit <https://www.loudoun.gov/zoningordinancerewrite>.

In concert with further protecting the mountain, the committee is monitoring a 150-acre parcel for sale along the south end of Rt 601. The property is being advertised as a commercial sale for a limited brewery, winery, etc. The committee has drafted a letter from the BRMCA to the Loudoun BOS addressing our concern with the county's liberal support of these types of businesses within the Blue Ridge mountains.

A letter was drafted and sent from the BRMCA to the Loudoun BOS supporting the Village of Philomont's effort to preserve their horse show grounds as a community park. Village citizens' propose renovating the existing firehouse, vice building a new one in the area of the park.

The committee is monitoring underground cable initiatives along Rt 601. We have requested Clarke County engage Dominion Power to determine if any of the projects can expedite high-speed fiber optic internet to the mountain. There is also an ongoing AT&T fiber optic cable project from Rt 7 to FEMA/Mt Weather. White and orange marker poles are being erected for this project and the committee is requesting AT&T consider less obtrusive markers along Rt 601 and in Bears Den Rural Historic District.

Social Committee
Paz Andrae

The social committee has been working hard to ensure that the general meeting, elections and social on April 23rd are well planned, informative, and fun. There will be games for kids of all ages, marshmallows to roast, delicious desserts, and a group of amazing musicians to keep us all entertained. We are looking forward to meeting new neighbors and visiting with friends.

If anyone is interested in joining the Social Committee, please let me know on the 23rd. We can always use fresh ideas.

Please don't forget to RSVP at theandraes5@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you to the social committee members;

Judy Whitehouse

Kim Larson

Lori Dehart

Kristen Marusich

Holly Scott

I couldn't do this without you.

Road Cleanup

This year the BRMCA road cleanup will be on May 14th (rain date is May 15th). As always, we will be handing out bags at the general meeting on the 23rd and you can also get them the day of the event.

This year's contest, DECORATE A T-SHIRT that you will wear on the 14th. The brightest, wildest, most creative t-shirt will win a gift card. Think outside the box. The object is to make sure that cars can see you while on the road. Last year's winner, Carol Weare won by making a fascinator (ladies' hat) out of trash that she had picked up.

After cleanup, Judy Whitehouse will be hosting our crew with coffee and her now famous and very delicious donuts. The winner of our t-shirt contest will be chosen then. Good Luck and I thank you in advance for helping us keep our mountain beautiful.

FIREWISE PICKUP
Mick Newman

Firewise brush pickup will occur Monday, May 9. Please remember that the brush should be gathered from within 100 feet of your home, consistent with Firewise home protection guidelines. Please place the piles by your nearest road, large ends facing outward to make it easier for the folks doing the work to feed it into their shredder.

IMPORTANT! If you have brush to pick up, please remember that you need to send an email to Mick Newman (mick@mandjnewman.com) no later than May 5 specifying the address, location and approximate amount of debris. Membership dues need to be up to date to participate.



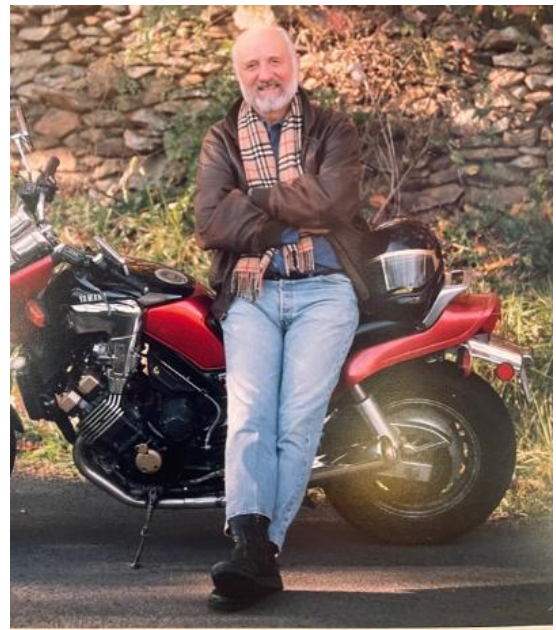
Membership Committee
Kim Larson

The establishment of the Membership Committee is now gaining momentum. After many months of Covid, our goal is to grow the membership and find ways to reach out and welcome everyone to the mountain.

The recent survey has been very instrumental in creating action plans and has generated interest in new membership. Thank you to everyone who responded. The board will discuss the results at our next meeting and provide an update soon after. We look forward to building on this momentum and resuming our face-to-face greetings, as well as more social gatherings!

The Mountain has lost a beloved friend and neighbor

Former BRMCA President Noel Randall Grove



Noel Randall Grove died on January 8, 2022, at his home in Paris, Virginia, from complications of progressive supranuclear palsy, a rare neurological disorder. He was born on January 25, 1938, in South English, Iowa. Grove grew up roaming the Iowa countryside around his family farm. His love of nature and the outdoors sprang from the green fields of his home state. He spent endless hours wandering the local streams and rivers, dreaming of a life of exploration and adventure, which he ultimately fulfilled when he joined the staff of the National Geographic magazine.

Grove graduated from McPherson College in McPherson, Kansas, in 1959, majoring in English. Following his graduation, he was an English and speech teacher at Inman High School, reporter and wire editor at the McPherson Daily Sentinel, and reporter and night editor at The Hutchison Daily News.

In 1969, he joined the National Geographic magazine staff—first as a legend writer, rising to the position of Africa area specialist and ultimately head of the environment department, a division created for him by then editor Wilbur Garrett. At the time, Grove said, “I was an outdoorsman long before I was a writer. It’s almost unbelievable that my personal concerns and professional responsibilities have merged.”

Grove wrote 28 bylined articles for the magazine, contributed chapters to several National Geographic books, and was the author of eight published books in addition to a plethora of magazine and newspaper articles. His favorite NGM articles included coverage of the Vestmannaeyjar volcano in Iceland, a country where he felt a kindred spirit to the people’s love of life and song; Iceland remained his most favorite place of all in a lifetime of worldwide travel. The Appalachian Trail, which he also covered for National Geographic, was another favorite; there he found the solace he always did in nature. And in the 1980s, while covering a story on the automobile, he delighted in another lifetime highlight—the Bob Bondurant School of High Performance, where he completed a competition on road racing, which left him enthralled with the sport of speed.

In 1990, Grove helped found the Society of Environmental Journalists, a non-profit national journalism organization created by and for journalists who report environmental topics in the news media. In 2010, he was honored at a special ceremony

for his key role in the organization's creation. He also had a successful career as a lecturer with a focus on the environment, and he served as a charter member of the Bicycle Federation, a leading advocate of bicycling in the United States.

For nearly 30 years, Grove and his wife, Barbara Payne, lived on a small farm near Middleburg, Virginia, having restored an 18th-century log cabin on the property. He would spend hours in the back fields on his vintage tractor, cutting walking pathsthroughout the property, fashioning rustic log seats on which to sit and contemplate. Each evening, he would walk the land, often with a drink in hand.

He was an active participant in the Middleburg Players, a community theater group in Middleburg, Virginia. A lifetime singer, he had a beautiful tenor voice and often played the lead in plays. Singing gave him great pleasure, whether in theater, jamming among friends, or serving as the lone tenor in Middleburg's Emmanuel Episcopal Church—a commitment he fulfilled for 30 years. In addition, he was an avid tennis player, bicyclist, and hiker. Overall, the written word remained his mantra—a constant source of pleasure and peace.

In 2005, the couple moved to Paris Mountain in the Blue Ridge to restore a cabin overlooking Noel's beloved Appalachian Trail and Sky Meadows State Park. He was reassured by the fact that the protected view would not change, that development would not tarnish the landscape. He served as president of the Blue Ridge Mountain Civic Association, an organization dedicated to preserving the unspoiled beauty of the mountain on which he lived.

Grove is survived by his wife and four daughters, whom he adored: Lisa Greening (Tom Greening), Amy Canby (Mac Canby), Beth Grove (Kirk Ebensteiner), and Eleni Grove (Carlos Bustamante). In addition, he had six grandsons: Dawson, Connor, Parker, Ben, Indigo, and Sage. His survivors also include siblings Maryl "Babe" Grove, George Grove, and Saralee Hawkinson. He was predeceased by his sister Marilee in 2020.

Noel lived with progressive supranuclear palsy for more than seven years, battling through misdiagnosis, swallowing and speech issues, immobility, and dependency—always with grace and courage.

Memorials may be given in his memory to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (appalachiantrail.org), Blue Ridge Hospice (brhospice.org), or Cure PSP (psp.org).

**Executive Committee of the
Blue Ridge
Mountain Civic Association
(BRMCA)**

Interim President

Bill Waite

Interim Vice President

Paz Andrae

Treasurer

Andrew Marusich

Secretary

Patty Craighill

Appointed Directors

Kim Larson

Scott Seeberger

Lori Dehart

Mick Newman



UPCOMING EVENTS

General Membership Meeting, Elections
and Social April 23, 2022
4PM until 8PM
20282 Blueridge Mountain Road
Paris, VA 20130

Road Cleanup
May 14, 2022
Rain Date May 15, 2020
Orange bags will be distributed
at the General Meeting and the
day of the event at 8AM at the
parking lot on Rt 7 and Rt 601

BRMCA
POST OFFICE BOX 303
BLUEMONT, VA 20135