



SIMPLY PATRICK COUNTY



DECEMBER 2012

NEWSLETTER

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How to contact us:

Patrick County Tourism
106 Rucker Street
P.O. Box 466
Stuart, VA 24171
276.694.6094

Or visit our website:

www.visitpatrickcounty.org

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SIMPLY PATRICK COUNTY



PHASE I DAN RIVER PARK TRAIL ALMOST COMPLETE



After years of planning and the award of a Transportation Enhancement Grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation, Phase 1 of the Dan River Park Trail began with a Ground-Breaking Ceremony in mid-September. Now, it's early December, and it seems that Santa has come early. Benchmark Surveying & Design, LLC, and JC Joyce Trucking & Paving have been diligently working to complete Phase I Paving of the Trail that connects to the Blue Ridge Elementary School.

The Dan River Park itself is spread over 14 acres of land in the beautiful mountain town of Ararat, Virginia. The park offers a fully functional baseball diamond with a score board, lights, restrooms and concessions, a brand new playground set, horse shoe pits, a soccer field, and a newly constructed pavilion filled with picnic tables for parties and reunions. The Park is located at 419 Rock Raven Road in Ararat. For more information or to schedule an event, visit: www.danriverpark.com.

EXPLORE THE CROOKED ROAD



Follow the Crooked Road signs and explore the 300 mile route as it winds through the scenic terrain of the region focusing on the uniqueness and vitality of the region's heritage music. Enjoy recreational activities, museums, crafts, and historical & cultural programs along the way. The Crooked Road includes 15 counties, 30 towns, and 4 cities.

A few December events happening along Patrick County's Crooked Road include:

- Willis Gap Community Center Open Jam Sessions in Ararat, VA-Dec, 14th, 21st, & 28th
- Music Extravaganza in Stuart, VA-Dec. 8th
- Patrick County Music Association Monthly Jam Session in Stuart, VA -Dec 15th

For a map of the Crooked Road, click here: <http://thecrookedroad.org/map/mapfl.asp>

ROCKY KNOB'S ROCK CASTLE GORGE IS IN THE NEWS

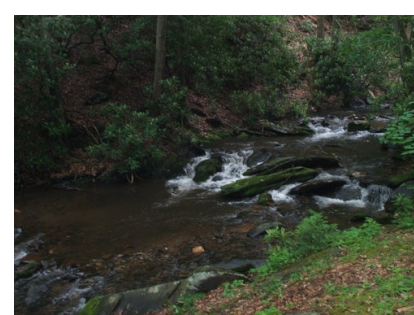
Kevin Myatt with The Roanoke Times gives a nice report on what he quotes as "An up-and-down hike that will give you a Blue Ridge mountain high." Kevin is talking about Rocky Knob's Rock Castle Gorge.

"The Rock Castle Gorge Trail is pretty simple, made up of three roughly equal parts: It's one part following a ridgeline at over 3,000 feet with spectacular views, one part following a gurgling stream through a thickly forested hollow at 1,700 feet, and one part straining knees, ankles or lungs on steep descending or climbing to get between the two.

But the sights make it worth the gasps. Much of trail on the ridge near the Blue Ridge Parkway traverses grassy fields, opening up magnificent vistas west toward the lopsided hump of Buffalo Mountain and east toward the tamer hills and valleys of the Piedmont. The creekside portion in the gorge is an enchanting saunter along a creek that sings a melody as it washes through boulders and rocks.

Rock Castle Creek tumbles over numerous rocks and forms many small waterfalls as it parallels the Rock Castle Gorge Trail. It's this little creek that over the course of many eons has cut this 1,800-foot deep gorge along the Floyd-Patrick county line. "

To read Kevin's article in it's entirety, click here: www.roanoke.com



Rock Castle Gorge Creek
Photo by Tom Bishop

INTRODUCING -PATRICK COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT



Patrick County Chamber of Commerce announces the release of the 2012 Patrick County Christmas Ornament which is a picture of Glen and Leonard Wood of the famous No. 21 Racing Team. The Wood Brothers Racing Team holds the unique distinction of being the oldest active team in NASCAR, having fielded cars since 1950. Glen Wood was inducted into the Nascar Hall of Fame in 2012 and Leonard will be inducted in 2013. Patrick County is so proud that these legendary gentlemen call Patrick County home. The ornaments sell for \$10 each, the matching collector mug sells for \$8.

Ornaments and mugs can be purchased at these locations: [Surry Bank and Trust-Stuart](#), [SunTrust Bank- Stuart](#), [Wanda's Estate Jewelry- Christmas In The Meadows](#), [River Community Bank-Stuart](#), [BB&T Bank- Stuart and Meadows of Dan](#), [Granny's Attic](#), [Four Rivers Realty](#), [Patrick County Chamber of Commerce](#).

THIS MONTHS FEATURED ARTISAN, MUSICIAN AND BUSINESS



DEANA CLARK PHOTOGRAPHY

Freelance Commercial & Lifestyle Portrait photographer. 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place wins in shows and competitions in both VA and NC. Published in the Wall Street Journal & local magazines. Taught at Spencer Penn Ctr. and judges photography competitions. For more information, visit: www.dhcprints.com



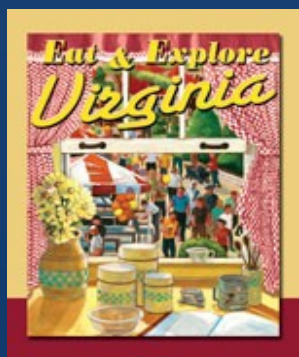
CHRISTMAS IN THE MEADOWS

Located off the Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 177.7 on Hwy 58 Business is the quaint specialty shop *Christmas in The Meadows*. They carry specialty ornaments, decorations, wreaths, garland, trees, nativity scenes, table linens, gifts & toys for all ages. For more information, visit: <http://www.brpk.com/christmas>



TOMMY MORSE

Tommy Morse of Stuart, plays banjo, guitar, mandolin, and bass. Tommy started playing when he was six years old, performing with local bands. He also traveled and performed with Jeanette Williams. Tommy is often asked to fill in with several groups and he plays in Jam Sessions with various groups throughout Patrick County. For information, banjerhead@hotmail.com.



Eat & Explore Cookbook is available for purchase at the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce office located at 20475 Jeb Stuart Highway in Stuart, VA.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Dec. 1st, 2pm - Stuart Christmas Parade "A Smokey Bear Christmas." Main Street, Stuart. 276.694.4342

Dec. 1st, 8am-12Noon- Mistletoe Market @ Stuart Farmers Market - Fall greens, baked goods, crafts, fresh meat & eggs.

Dec. 4th, 7pm- "One Appalachian Christmas" @ The Reynolds Homestead. www.reynoldshomesteadvt.edu, 276.694.7181

Dec 7-8th-Stargazing weekend @ the Observatory at Primland. www.primland.com or 276.222.3800

Dec. 8th-3pm. Music Extravaganza @ Rotary Bldg. Food, friends, & music. Woodland Dr, Stuart. chmail@caringheartsclicnig.org

Dec. 8th, 2-5pm. Christmas at Rock Springs Plantation at Reynolds Homestead. www.reynoldshomesteadvt.edu, 276.694.7181

Dec. 8th-1-5pm. Christmas Hospice Tour of Homes. Tour five beautifully decorated homes for the holiday. 276.694.4416

Dec 31st, 9pm-1am-New Year's Eve Party @ Fairy Stone State Park. \$25 pp. 800.933.7275. www.fairystonestatepark.com

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

AUNT MYRTLE'S PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE

2 cups brown sugar 1 cup evaporated milk
2 cups white sugar 1 cup peanut butter
1/4 pound butter 1 tsp vanilla



Cook sugars, butter and evaporated milk till soft ball forms in cold water. Add peanut butter. Cool some, then beat and add vanilla. Beat until batter stiffens but is still pourable Put in 7 x 11 inch pan. Cut when cool.
Recipe compliments of Sandee Burt



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