

**Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership
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Vision

The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership is respected and recognized for its leadership in sustaining one of the world's most cherished and protected cultures and landscapes.

Mission

The mission of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership is to protect, preserve, interpret and develop the unique natural, historical and cultural resources of Western North Carolina for the benefit of present and future generations, and in so doing, sustain our heritage and stimulate improved economic opportunity in our region.

We wish to thank our retiring board members
for their generous service to the
Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership:

John Cooper	Joyce Dugan	John Hunter
Harry Harrison	Elizabeth Russell	



**GATHER 'ROUND
THE BLUE RIDGE**

*Annual Meeting of the
Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
Partnership*

August 30, 2011
Lake Junaluska Conference Center
Waynesville, NC

Presenters

Gerard A. Baker—Keynote Speaker



Until his recent retirement, Mr. Baker was the highest ranking Native American in the National Park Service. He will share his views on the value of building partnerships to ensure the sustainability of special places and programs.

A full-blooded member of the Mandan-Hidatsa Tribe of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, Baker served as Assistant Director of American Indian Relations in the National Park Service. For the last six years of his career, he was Superintendent of Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Many know him from his role in the Ken Burns documentary, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*.

Rob Tiger—Grant Recipient

President of the Clay County Communities Revitalization Association, Rob led his organization's development of the Cherokee homestead exhibit, part of the Nelson Heritage Park in Hayesville, NC. The outdoor exhibit includes a winter house, funded in part by a grant from the BRNHA. Other exhibits include a summer house, corn crib, information kiosks, and public art related to Cherokee heritage and culture.

Teresa Ford—Grant Recipient

Teresa is Executive Director of the Friends of the W. Kerr Scott Lake in Wilkesboro, NC, an organization that developed a new Environmental Education Center. The Center includes exhibits relating to habitat conservation, wildlife, forestry and aquatic resources, and energy conservation/renewable energy and was partially funded by a grant from BRNHA.

Jay Leutze—Mountain Resources Commission

Jay is a Trustee of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy and serves on the NC Mountain Resources Commission. He will present an update on the work of the Commission as well as a multi-partner MRC initiative to develop an online "report card" on the health of the natural and cultural resources of our region.

Gather 'Round the Blue Ridge 2011

Harrell Center

Lake Junaluska Conference Center

Program

- 9:30** **Registration, Networking and Coffee**
Musical performance by old-time musicians
Trevor and Travis Stuart, natives of Bethel, NC.
- 10:00** **Welcome and Special Introductions**
Becky Anderson, Chair of the BRNHA Board
- 10:05** **Welcome from Jack Ewing**, Executive Director,
Lake Junaluska Conference Center
- 10:10** **State of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area**
Angie Chandler, Executive Director
- 10:25** **BRNHA Development/Marketing Report**
Cathy Robbins, Development Committee Chair
Jill Jones, Director of Marketing & Communications
- 10:40** **Special Recognitions**
- 10:50** **Partnership/Grantee Presentations**
Rob Bell, Director of Programs
Teresa Ford, Friends of the W. Kerr Scott Lake
Rob Tiger, CCCRA
- 11:10** **NC Mountain Resources Commission**
Jay Leutze, MRC Board Member
- 11:30** **Keynote Address: "Building Partnerships"**
Gerard Baker
- 12:15** **Adjourn for Lunch and Networking**