

## *Began in Alleghany County*

With Stone Mountain State Park on the county's southeastern border, New River State Park in the northwest, and the Blue Ridge Parkway winding through the county, outdoor adventure abounds. Bird watchers flock to the fall hawk watch at Mahogany Rock. Others find it hard to resist the challenge of five mountain golf courses - three open to the public. At day's end a mountain fiddle will have your toe tapping or lure you into a barn dance.

At the center of the county, the small-town of Sparta bustles with hospitality. Whether you prefer a modern motel, quaint bed and breakfast inn, a cabin in the woods or a well-appointed vacation retreat, the choice is yours. When you visit, be sure to drop in the Alleghany Chamber of Commerce and Visitors' Center and see our display of Parkway memorabilia. We are in the rock building with the green awning on Main Street, in the heart of downtown Sparta. You are always welcome.

Alleghany Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center  
58 South Main Street • P.O. Box 1237  
Sparta, NC 28675

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
SPARTA NC  
PERMIT NO2



# ALLEGHANY COUNTY

## Blue Ridge Parkway Heritage

1935 - 2010



Alleghany Chamber of Commerce  
& Visitors Center

58 South Main Street • P.O. Box 1237 • Sparta, NC 28675  
336-372-5473 • 800-372-5473  
www.sparta-nc.com

## *The Blue Ridge Parkway*

September 11, 1935, Blue Ridge Parkway construction began in Alleghany County. This was the culmination of a dream of Congressman Bob Doughton and no one worked harder to make the Parkway a reality than this native son who earned the title "Father of the Blue Ridge Parkway."

You will not want to miss the Parkway's 75th Anniversary Celebration, Sept. 10-12, 2010, but anytime is a good time to visit our neck of the woods. Because if you like the Parkway, you'll love Alleghany County.

Our back roads still wind through pastoral splendor that reflect an unchanged natural beauty. The New River winds its way along the county's western and northern border. Whether in a canoe or floating lazily along in a tube, it's cool waters are a fun respite from summer's heat. Beneath its surface, fish challenge the able angler.

# Alleghany County

As North Carolina's eastern-most mountain county, Alleghany County and Sparta are close enough to Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Raleigh, and Charlotte to provide a weekend getaway for their residents. From I-77, it is but a short drive up the mountain into the land of the Parkway's beginning.

With an average elevation just under 3,000 feet, the area offers a cool respite from the summer heat and a convenient retreat from the frenetic pace of modern life. With an average July temperature of just under 70 degrees, you'll never sleep more soundly than snuggled under covers during a cool mountain night.

As you wind through mountain valleys, the cattle grazing on pastured hills and the Christmas tree fields reflect an agricultural tradition that is more than a century old.

The town of Sparta is the center of this mountain community and is a mix of small-town charm and modern amenities. Visitors may feel they've left the rest of the world behind. Hard to believe it's right next door.



## What's Happening

Almost anytime is a good time to visit Alleghany County and Sparta. Summer and fall, the New River beckons sportsmen as well as families canoeing downstream. Opportunities for outdoor adventure abound along the Blue Ridge Parkway and at New River and Stone Mountain State Parks. During the year, festivals and celebrations offer added excitement. The following list is an overview of activities. For details about these activities go to [Sparta-NC.com](http://Sparta-NC.com) or call the Chamber at 800-372-5473 or 336-372-5473.

**Crouse House Pickers:** Come to listen or sit in on this informal bluegrass and old-time music jam. **6p each Monday** at Crouse Park.

**Alleghany Jubilee:** Dance or listen to live mountain bands **every Tuesday (7p) and Saturday (8p)**. 25 N. Main St. (336-372-4591)

**The Blue Ridge Parkway Motorcycle Capital:** **May through October** riders gather for free concerts and good food at Freebornes Eatery & Lodge and at the Station's Inn in Laurel Springs., Parkway Mile Post 248. [Freebornes.com](http://Freebornes.com) (877-528-7356) and [www.StationsInn.com](http://www.StationsInn.com) (336-359-2888)

**Blue Ridge Music Center:** Saturday and Sunday concerts, and weekly programs **June through mid-October** (Parkway Mile Post 213). [www.BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org](http://www.BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org) (276-236-5309)

**Parkway Ranger Programs:** **June through October**, craft demonstrations at Brinegar Cabin (Parkway Mile Post 238.5), Friday, Saturday and Sunday; Ranger programs at the campground (Mile Post 239), Friday and Saturday; and Ranger programs at Bluffs Lodge (Mile Post 241), Friday. Call 540-745-9680 for times

**Silver Dollar Music Park:** Local bands and other weekend entertainment. Full restaurant. [SilverDollarMusicPark.com](http://SilverDollarMusicPark.com) 336-372-6874.

**Lawn Mower Racing:** Locals experience NASCAR thrills on a smaller, less expensive scale. All races held at the County Fairgrounds. **5p on May 8; 5p June 19; & 7p Aug. 21**. 336-372-5597

**Wine Festivals:** Amateur winemakers showcase their talent at the Grapestompers/Thistle Meadow Winery in Laurel Springs, **Sunday, May 30, 12n-5p**. In the fall, the annual Wine Tasting features area vintners, **Sunday, Oct. 3, 12n-5p**. [www.ThistleMeadowWinery.com](http://www.ThistleMeadowWinery.com) 800-233-1505

**June Jamboree & July 4th:** Memorial Day weekend through July 4th, there are special activities every weekend. Call the Chamber for details closer to May. The big parade celebrating the country's independence winds down Main Street beginning at **2p, Saturday, July 3**. Everyone is invited to tailgate at Alleghany High School beginning at **6p on July 4** and stay for fireworks at dusk. Music provided. Concessions available. 800-372-5473

**Lions Club Rodeo:** Horsemen compete at the County Fairgrounds, **Friday and Saturday, July 2-3**. 336-372-5557

**Alleghany Fiddlers Convention:** Mountain music in competition, **July 16-17**, County Fairgrounds. [AlleghanyFiddlers.com](http://AlleghanyFiddlers.com)

**Craft, Car and Quilting Weekend:** These triple events offer something for everyone. The Alleghany Quilters' Guild Show is at the Black Building of the County Fairgrounds, **Friday & Saturday, July 23-24, 10a-4p** (336-372-5838). The Blue Ridge Mountain Fair at Crouse Park in downtown Sparta **Friday, 3-6p, & Saturday, 9a-5p** (336-363-3099). The VFW Car Show in the NAPCO parking lot, **Saturday, 7a-4p** (336-372-5573).

**Alleghany County Fair:** This traditional agricultural fair features everything from blue ribbons for prize cows and the best canned beans, to cotton candy and carnival rides. County Fairgrounds. Agricultural competition **begins Aug. 23**. The **carnival arrives Aug. 26**. The Fair closes with a lawn mower race and **fireworks Aug. 28**. 336-372-5597

**Blue Ridge Photography Display:** During the month of September, exhibit of photographs at the Alleghany Library. 336-372-5573

**Blue Ridge Parkway 75th Anniversary Celebration:** Musical entertainment, displays, historic demonstrations, Friday through **Sunday, Sept. 10-12**, celebrate the Parkway's anniversary at Cumberland Knob, Mile Post 217.5, and at the Blue Ridge Music Center, MP 213. [www.BlueRidgeParkway75.org](http://www.BlueRidgeParkway75.org).

**Mountain Heritage Festival:** Some 100 food and craft vendors & demonstrators on Main Street for this celebration of mountain life **Sat., September 18**. Music and dance entertainment. [Sparta-NC.com/heritage](http://Sparta-NC.com/heritage) (800-372-5473)

**Christmas in the Mountains:** **Beginning Nov. 15 and continuing until Dec. 20**, local farms open their fields to let visitors choose the perfect Christmas tree to be fresh cut, baled and secured to their vehicle for the ride home. Local artisans open their workshops for a studio crawl **Saturday, Nov. 27, and Dec. 4**. The Christmas parade always draws a crowd down Main Street, beginning at **2p on Saturday, Nov. 27**. The annual Christmas Craft Fair is **Saturday, Dec. 4**, in the Black Building at the County Fairgrounds.



## Perfect Relocation

Beyond a weekend getaway or a longer vacation, the mountains and valleys of Alleghany County and Sparta, North Carolina, increasingly are a venue for couples and families relocating to more amenable surroundings or seeking value in a second home or retirement community. The area offers unparalleled beauty and convenience and a quality of life that is becoming increasingly rare.

The community offers more than natural beauty, mild climate and escape from urban stress. A modern wellness center, hospital and medical professionals provide increasingly important health and wellness services. Add to that high-speed Internet and technology availability.

A right-sized public school system achieves excellence with dedicated professionals and individual attention. Civic clubs and the non-profit community welcome new-comers who are eager to become involved.

Real estate and home building professionals are waiting to serve you. Plan to pay them a visit.

