



First RV Trip - Fall 2018



First stop after leaving the campground

Hello to Family

I spent part of the morning planning the day. Not being sure how far I would get each day, I was surprised to find that after 6 ½ hours on the road, I only went 57 miles. At this rate Morgan, it may be November by the time I get there. JK

But it was a really good day. Immensely satisfying with lots of good pictures.

Enjoy!!



Day 3

Wednesday

September 26th

On the
Blue Ridge Parkway
From
Mile Post 258
To
Mile Post 305

Weather

Cool
Misty
Foggy
Rain

At the Jumpinoff Rock trail I caught up to an elderly gentleman. His waist was so skinny I thought I might have been able to encircle it with both my hands. But he followed me up the trail, showed me a picture of a flower on his flip phone, we talked about mushrooms, weather, his knees and hips, my back and Stone Mountain. At the end he continued on and I went back to the parking area.

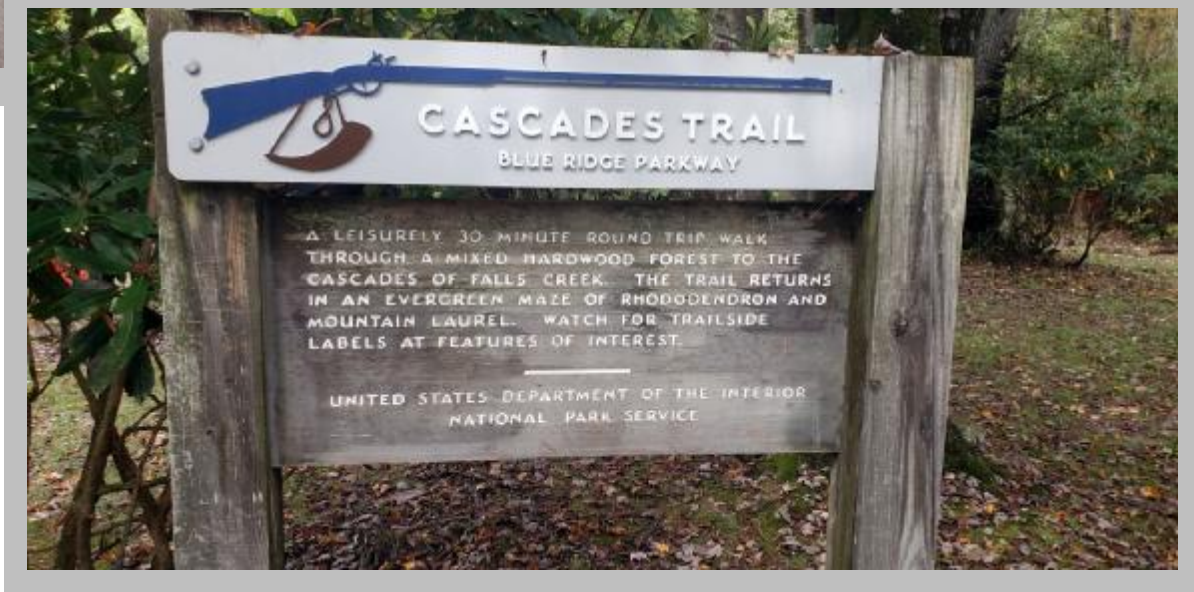


I always thought it was Tom Dooley, not Dula. Oh well, interesting to find out the story behind the ballad.





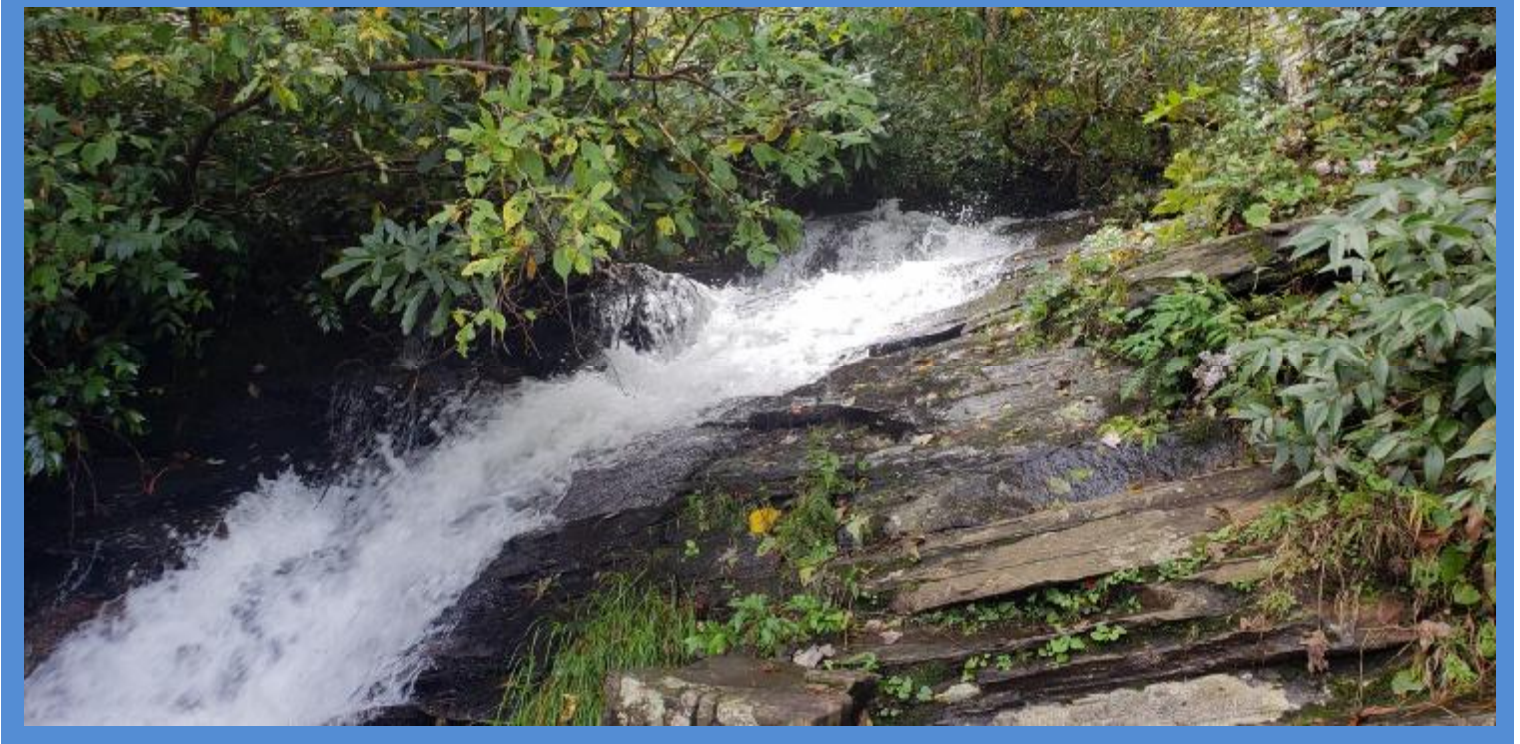
The view from my dinette window as I ate lunch at the Jeffress Park parking lot





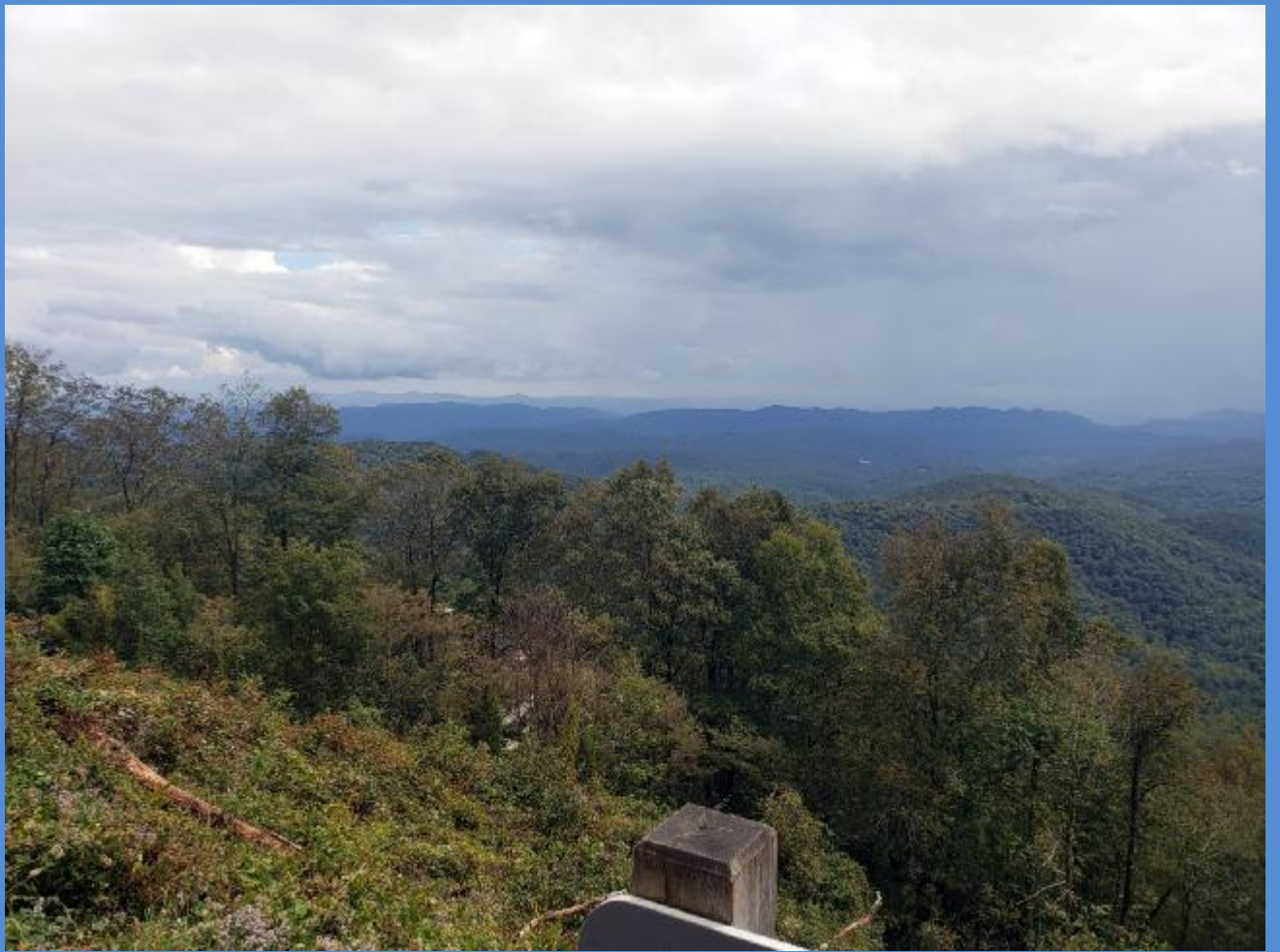
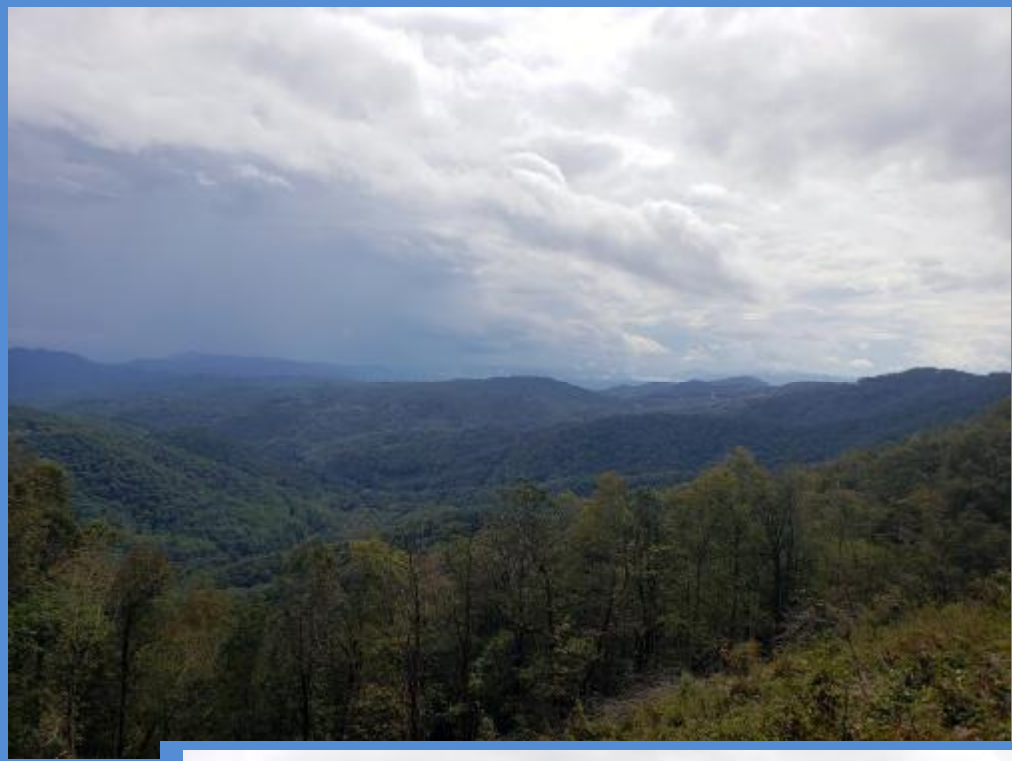
I think you all know I love the sound of running water so, hiking along a rushing mountain stream was great. This trail is a loop and I actually took the wrong fork when I started out, but I am glad I did. You can distantly hear the stream from the upper trail, but not like you can on the lower trail. Watching the stream get louder and faster as you hike along it only builds the anticipation of what you will find at the end of the trail. I was not disappointed. With all the recent rain the water was cascading down the streambed. No wonder they named it Cascade Falls.





This is the problem with panoramic photos. Unless you have a wide place to display it, the photo does not get the justice it deserves.

Below is a thunderstorm rolling in from the Yadkin Valley Overlook. I heard thunder and saw lightning just as I was getting out of the RV.





Moses Cone. Never heard of the guy. But wow!! His house below is rivaled in North Carolina only by the Biltmore. Moses was in textiles. His plant was the largest in the world that produced denim. In other words, Levi Strauss was his major customer. He built schools and churches. The Flat Top Manor below was his summer home. 3600 acres! He died young in 1908 at 52, but his wife continued to live there and continued his philanthropy until her death 40 years later.

Morgan has probably heard of the Cone medical network. The trust at her death set that all in motion. No one was turned away, even if they could not pay.



View of Flat Top Manor (it is on Flat Top Mountain)



The view from the porch



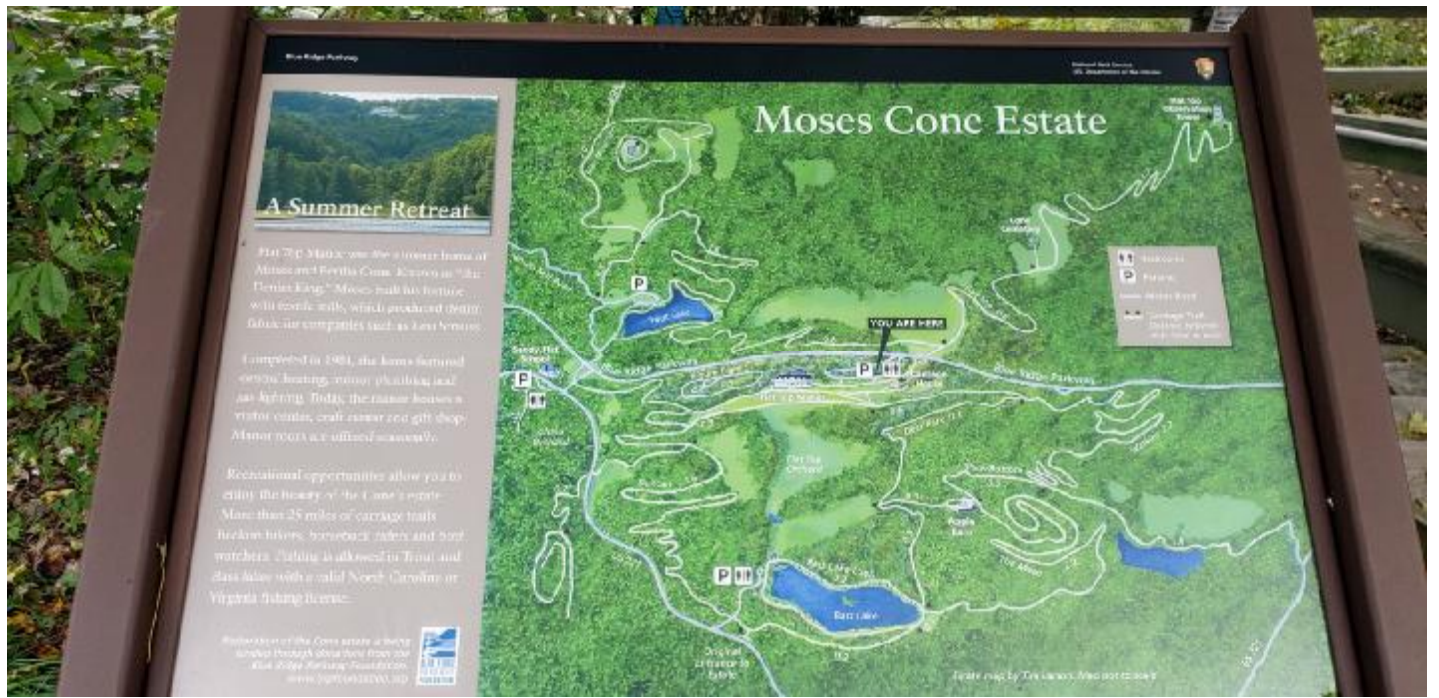
After checking out the inside I took a seat in a rocking chair on the porch. The view, because of the clouds, is constantly changing



The Carriage House

Inside the Carriage house






I was planning on doing some of the hikes here because all the trails are made for people, carriages and horses, which means they are wide, graveled and not steep. I especially wanted to do the Flat Top Mountain trail which leads up to a lookout tower. However, the radar showed thunderstorms on the way, and I did not want to get caught half way through a 5+ mile hike by a thunderstorm. It also might not have been such a good idea to climb a metal lookout tower on top of a mountain in a thunderstorm. YEE HAWWW!!



Ok

Stopped by a dam under the Parkway, which created a lake. This is the spillway on the other side. There were 2 deer, but the mommy took off into the trees

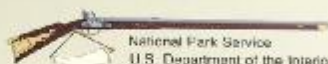




Linn Cove Viaduct


The first bridge of its type in the United States, the Linn Cove Viaduct is a product of design and construction techniques developed in Europe. The S-shaped structure contains 153 concrete segments, only one of which is straight. Weighing 50 tons each and joined by epoxy and massive steel tendons, the segments form a deck nearly one-quarter mile long that is supported by seven piers.

Computer technology enabled engineers to design and construct this geometrically complex structure. The technique used in building the viaduct




National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

allowed the rugged terrain and the forest of this ancient mountain to be preserved. Conventional construction methods would have obliterated Linn Cove's massive boulder field and severely altered the steep mountain profile.



The Linn Cove Viaduct traverses Grandfather Mountain's boulder field.



The viaduct was constructed "from the top down," starting from the north end, a crane lowered each segment into place. Once a segment was secured, the crane then moved over the completed section to add the next segment. The components were lowered into place from the bridge deck.

The Linn Cove Viaduct from the Parkway. Then below are photos from the path under the viaduct. Pretty cool.





I think this is a better view than just up ahead where they have the viewing sign



This was my last stop for the day. I started out on the wrong path, turned around, then found the right one. Part of this is the MST Trail – Mountains to the Sea – which I hiked on up to House rock in Hanging Rock State Park.

A cave along
the trail



A very rocky trail

Below is another panoramic. You can tell the difference between holding the camera vertically or horizontally. This is vertically and I think it is much better than the other one.



There was a young couple at the top, so I asked them to take my picture, and they asked me to take their picture. How touristy.



Trying to emulate that great photo of Morgan's, but the sky is not up to the task. No Beau either L



Ok, that's it for today. From here I went to Grandfather Mountain RV Park. This should be memorable. The town is Banner Elk, home of Lees-McRae College. Morgan, Gpops and I have been there several times. Erin, I think this was your jumping off for home point when you and David came down. Watched the game, ate dinner, then you guys took off for home.

Asheville is still 80 miles away. Not sure if I will even make it there tomorrow. But I truly am enjoying the trip. It sure beats sitting in the campground doing nothing, like I was last week.

Until tomorrow.....



Ok, ok, here is the deer picture I forgot to insert above.

Goodnight!!

Go Brewers!!!!