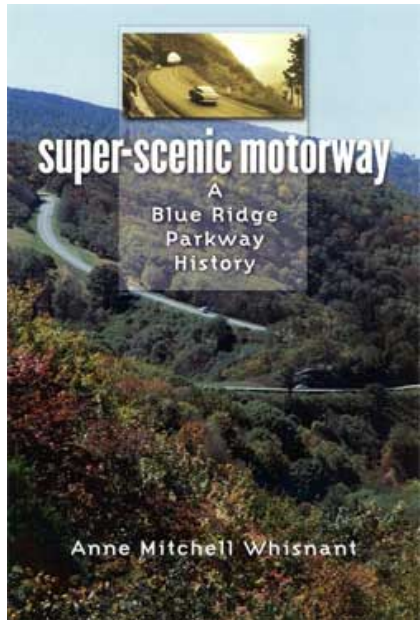


## Super-Scenic Motorway: The Blue Ridge Parkway Nobody Knows

A Public Lecture by Dr. Anne Mitchell Whisnant, March 25, 2010

Burns Auditorium, Kamphoefner Hall, NCSU



Please join **Preservation North Carolina** and the **NCSU College of Design Landscape Architecture Program** as we host Dr. Anne Whisnant in presenting a public lecture, "Super-Scenic Motorway: The Blue Ridge Parkway Nobody Knows" in Burns Auditorium at NCSU. In Dr. Whisnant's words, "This new journey along the beloved scenic corridor -- since 1946 the most visited site in the National Park system -- introduces the conflicts that surrounded the park's birth and shaped the road's development. While engineers and landscape architects sought to maximize the road's scenic qualities, routing disputes, land battles, and differing visions for what the parkway should be revealed that "The Scenic," as locals termed the Parkway when construction began in the 1930s, was from its beginnings highly political. This is a valuable lesson as we celebrate the parkway's 75th anniversary this year and look toward its future preservation and enhancement."

This lecture is being underwritten in part by a grant from the **Marion Stedman Covington Foundation**.

Dr. Anne Mitchell Whisnant is an author, lecturer, researcher, administrator and history professor. Her first book, *Super-Scenic Motorway: A Blue Ridge Parkway History*, was published in 2006 by the University of North Carolina Press. Anne's study of the history of the Blue Ridge Parkway began in 1991, spurred by a love of the mountains nurtured during her youth, when she spent many summers at Lake Junaluska United Methodist Assembly in western North Carolina.

*Super-Scenic Motorway* is based on thorough research in more than twenty repositories containing the extensive archival record of the road's development. It is the first serious history of the park that situates it in a broad national and regional context and takes advantage of new perspectives offered by thirty years of scholarly research on the National Parks, the Appalachian region, and the New Deal.

Based on *Super-Scenic Motorway* and extensive new photographic research, Anne and her husband David Whisnant published the first-ever Blue Ridge Parkway book for children in early 2010. Titled *When the Parkway Came*, the book tells the story of what happened to one rural family when the Parkway was built through their farm during the Great Depression.

Anne has also published two articles and delivered numerous public talks on the Parkway's history, and has served as a consultant to the National Park Service. She is a member of the Board of Trustees for both the [Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation](#) and [Blue Ridge Parkway 75, Inc.](#), a nonprofit organization that is planning the celebration for the Parkway's 75th anniversary in 2010.

She presently chairs a team of scholars from the [Organization of American Historians](#) who are conducting a major new study of the state of history in the National Parks for the office of the

Anne received her B.A. in history from Birmingham-Southern College, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While at UNC, she specialized in the history of the American South. She lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina with David and two sons.