

FRANKLIN COUNTY

MOONSHINE CAPITAL OF
THE WORLD



WELCOME TO BOONES MILL



Developed around the site of a mill built by the Boone family in 1786, the small town of Boones Mill, just 525 acres total, is the gateway into Franklin County from Roanoke, VA.





DEEP ROOTS: THE PROHIBITION

Franklin County has a deep rooted history in moonshine; it was the subject of Matt Bondurant's book, "The Wettest County in the World" and the 2012 movie Lawless.

It is said that more sugar (a key ingredient for making hooch) was delivered to Boones Mill during Prohibition than to New York City!



EARLY MOONSHINERS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

Moonshining was a way of earning a living during the Great Depression. 99 out of every 100 residents were believed to play a part in the industry during the 1920s.

By the 1930s, folks were so intertwined with moonshine that it brought a national spotlight to the county.





The federal government suggested it had been defrauded \$5.5 million in excise whisky taxes (\$95 million today), and thus brought forth the “Great Moonshine Conspiracy” trial of 1935.



LEARN ALL ABOUT THE HISTORY OF FRANKLIN COUNTY - ONLINE MOONSHINE HISTORY EXHIBIT

Check out the nearby Blue Ridge Institute & Farm Museum. Find an extensive online moonshine exhibit to get the full story and hear how the Great Moonshine Conspiracy Trial of 1935 ended. (See media kit)





FRANKLIN COUNTY DISTILLERIES

Start your small town tour at Franklin County Distilleries in Boones Mill, the first legal distillery in Franklin County since Prohibition.

Get a taste of history for yourself while checking out the historic black and white photographs of stills and 'shiners that line the walls.



CHAOS MOUNTAIN BREWING

VBR CHEERS TRAIL

Prefer local craft beer? No problem. Enjoy Chaos Mountain Brewing and Hammer & Forge Brewing Co. which are both close by and a part of the larger VBR Cheers Trail of 30+ craft beverage producers.



NEXT STOP: TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNT

Since 1786, Rocky Mount has been the hub of industry and culture for Franklin County. With a farmers market, music venue, and local restaurants and shops, it's a must-see main street in Virginia's Blue Ridge.



Stop by Twin Creeks Distillery's tasting room and try a flight of seasonal moonshine cocktails.



TWIN CREEKS DISTILLERY

Chris Prillaman (below, right), a direct descendent of bootleggers who earned a living making spirits in the hills and hollers of Franklin County, uses age-old distilling methods passed down from his Grandpap Peg (left).



PRILLAMAN FAMILY TRADITION

Twin Creeks works to preserve what's been called a "dying art" – the hands-on, woodsy ways of distilling in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Chris has a deep passion for the craft and the stories surrounding it that still impact the community today.

Pictured is a major still operation bust in Franklin County in 1992.



Continue on with a stroll down Main Street where the local farmers market, restaurants, shops and fine antiques await.





Please
DO NOT
BLOCK
EXIT

Discover 50 festive displays by local businesses that make their own scarecrows in this annual community competition.



Downtown Rocky Mount Scarecrow Trail

ROCKY MOUNT BURGER COMPANY



THE HARVESTER PERFORMANCE CENTER

Acts at this mid-sized venue are worthy of planning an entire trip around. The Harvester brings in national artists like Old Crow Medicine Show, Gov't Mule, The Black Lillies and more.






Local bed and breakfasts provide charming hospitality for a restful stay.

**EARLY INN
AT THE GROVE**



**Follow the autumn hues
beyond these town limits for
some serious leaf peeping on
the water.**

A person with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a dark t-shirt and a cap, sits on a large, mossy log. They are looking towards a waterfall cascading over rocks in a forest with vibrant autumn foliage. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light.

This park offers multi-use trails and nearby river paths for stunning views during the fall season.

WAID RECREATION PARK

With 500 acres and 15 miles of trails that continue to grow, Waid Park is an excellent spot to experience why Virginia's Blue Ridge is America's East Coast Mountain Biking Capital.





The lake covers 3,000 acres with 100 miles of shoreline. Known for excellent fishing and considered Virginia's best smallmouth bass and trout lake.

PHILPOTT LAKE





SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE

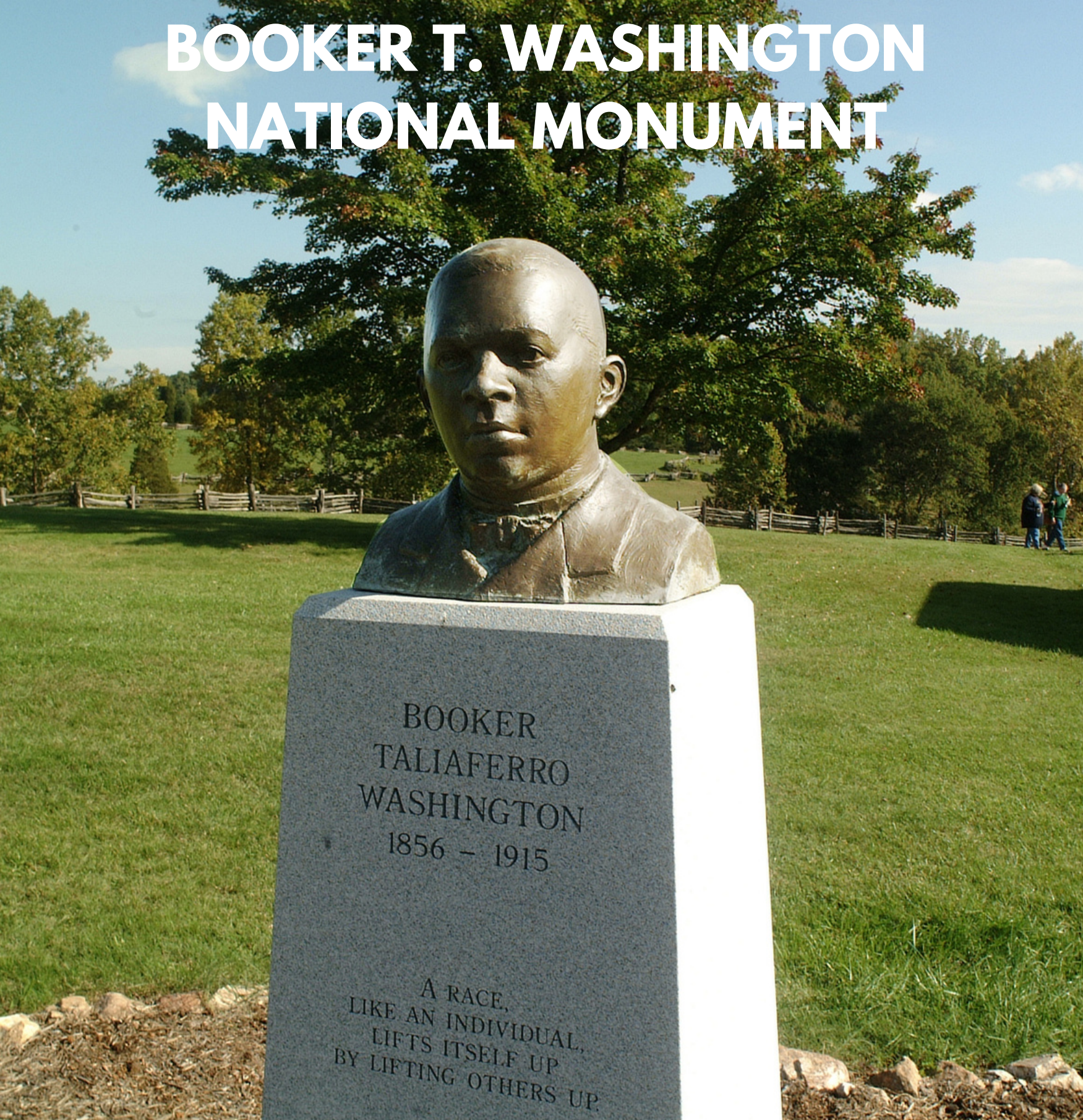


Smith Mountain Lake is known as "The Jewel of the Blue Ridge." As the second largest lake in Virginia, it's a popular destination for visitors looking for world-class fishing and recreational boating activities.

Connect with a local marina and fishing guide to plan a complete lake-cation.



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT



BOOKER
TALIAFERRO
WASHINGTON
1856 - 1915

A RACE,
LIKE AN INDIVIDUAL,
LIFTS ITSELF UP
BY LIFTING OTHERS UP.

This monument commemorates the life of the remarkable educator, writer, orator and presidential advisor. See portions of the 200-acre tobacco farm where the famous leader and educator was born a slave and later freed.



Finish with dessert at this local farm market and creamery.



THE HOMESTEAD CREAMERY



A sweet Southern destination distributing to over 200 stores in the Southern and Mid-Atlantic states while still serving the local community through farm tours and an expansive home milk delivery service.



Find fresh seasonal produce, dairy products – including 16 flavors of milk – and canned goods as a treat or souvenir from your visit to Virginia’s Blue Ridge!





**THANK YOU FOR VISITING FRANKLIN COUNTY IN
VIRGINIA'S BLUE RIDGE!**



MUST-SEE MAIN STREETS

Check out the blog post [here](#).

LOCAL HISTORY: FRANKLIN CO. - THE MOONSHINE CAPITAL

Check out the blog post [here](#).

ONLINE MOONSHINE EXHIBIT

The Blue Ridge Institute's extensive virtual moonshine history [here](#).

CHRIS IN HIS OWN WORDS

The story of Twin Creeks Distillery from the head distiller himself, in [this video](#).

MORE ON SML [HERE](#).

VIRGINIA'S BLUE RIDGE

We hope this virtual series inspires you! If you'd like any of these images for your editorial use, or if you're interested in experiencing our small towns in person, please contact Visit VBR directly.

