

# Hurricane Frances

## Parkway Wrecker

As this magazine goes to press in mid-September, the **Blue Ridge Parkway** is still recovering from the rampage of the remnants of Hurricane Frances. Up to 16 inches of rain fell in parts of the Southern Appalachians on September 8-9, causing some \$11 million in damage. As this is written, Virginia's miles of the parkway are back to normal, but several sections in North Carolina remain closed. Just days after Frances, Hurricane Ivan's remnants also visited the Southern mountains, though apparently with less damage to the parkway area than the first storm.



Milepost 322. This section of the roadway may be closed for up to a year, according to parkway officials.



Milepost 348.6. Officials inspect the unprecedented damage of more than a full lane being washed away.



Entrance to the Biltmore Estate. The gas station and shops just across the street from the entrance were also engulfed.

### CLOSED

Till Further Notice  
CALL AHEAD  
Before You Visit

Anyone planning to travel the Blue Ridge Parkway this fall should first check on closures: 828/298-0398.

At least two sections of the parkway are not expected to reopen at all this year:

- **MP 317** (U.S. 221) at Linville Falls to at least MP 325 (Bear Den Mountain Road).

- **MP 344.1** (Buck Creek Gap) to MP 355.



Milepost 413. This was the site of several major landslides along the parkway.



Linville Falls Amphitheater. Elsewhere at Linville Falls, there is uncertainty as to whether the visitor center will be rebuilt or relocated.



An angry Linville Falls. The flooded Linville River crashes into the gorge.