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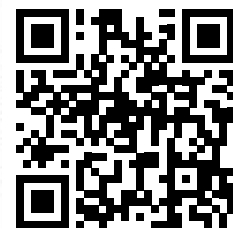


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## DEAR READERS

Having hoped to nudge you toward supporting the tourist-based economy of Western North Carolina with the spring edition, we have returned to our base this summer, focusing our efforts on great ways to have fun on the lakes that are refreshing to both our bodies and our minds.

That doesn't mean we want you to forget that the needs of the Appalachian area are still great. Business is not "as usual," and many people and businesses continue to need the economic boost we — neighboring Upstaters — can help provide. Besides, if it gets as hot as weather forecasters claim it may get, heading to the hills might be a "cool" thing to do.

But we do have lakes and, in this edition, we are shining the light on an avid group of boaters who have a lot in common — sailors. Why do all those folks like to sail? It's certainly more work than just turning a key and dropping anchor in the shallows. A few answers can be found starting on page 8.

Bill Bauer and Vanessa Infanzon both found themselves along the Atlantic shoreline for this issue. Bill checked out some great golfing opportunities on Jekyll Island and then traveled up the coast to Wilmington, NC, where he

found all the ABCs of good vacationing. Meanwhile, Vanessa also visited the North Carolina coast, focusing her attention on the Outer Banks where history, natural wonders and good food all seem to be at home.

A couple of new writers have joined us for this issue. Piper Peters Aheron is a published author, historian extraordinaire and Upstate native. She recently returned to her roots near Walhalla and checks in with a nifty piece about how Appalachian pottery is making a comeback in our increasingly eclectic society. Many of you may also recognize Chanda Morrison's talent for turning a phrase. She spent several years with Visit Oconee and now has her own enterprise. I suspect you may follow her advice and visit Crave Kitchen after reading her review!

And, as usual, there are plenty of other features inside, including a story about an amazing young woman who has put a crimp in her cancer diagnosis and is working hard to raise funds so that others can receive the same great care she received right here at home.

Please stay safe and enjoy your summer. It's always fun to be an Upstater.

Brett McLaughlin, editor



SUMMER 2025

Volume 20 • Issue 2

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## THE JOURNAL

### UPSTATE LAKE LIVING™

is published quarterly by The Journal

(March, June, September and December)

210 W. N. 1st Street, Seneca, SC 29678, USA

Ph: 864.882.2375, Fax: 864.882.2381

U.S. Postal Permit #18

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Upstate Lake Living™ is produced by Oconee Publishing which also produces the primary paid daily newspaper for Oconee County, Clemson and Central in Pickens County.

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# WHEN THE WIND IS RIGHT ... SAILING IS WHERE THEY WANT TO BE

story by Brett McLaughlin  
photos courtesy of Dave Emanuel

Tempus, owned by Joe and Donna Mayeur, is one of the larger sailboats on Lake Keowee. Its owners can race the craft but prefer easy, afternoon and evening sails.

## 129,864,880.

That's the number of books about sailing that were published between 1440 — when Gutenberg invented the printing press — and 2010 — the year Google, for whatever reason, decided to quit counting. Anyway, there have been a lot of sailing books published.

Likewise, 150,000,000 is the arbitrary number of songs some claim have been written about sailing. Again, a lot of songs.

And, finally, 4,100,000 is the AI generated number floating in cyberspace for the number of individuals who participated in sailing in the United State in 2023. A lot of people.

What's important for Upstate residents to realize is that a good number of these sailors, who have been the subjects of so many books and songs, are your neighbors. And, also important to know is that they all seem to be enjoying the sailing life for the same half-dozen — a not so big number — reasons.

Tops on that list is the relaxing and peaceful nature of sailing.

"It's just being out there. It's just you, the water and the wind," said Sharon Hamilton.

"It's quiet ... usually," quipped Terry Keane.

"We like the quiet when you're on or in the water," said Joe Mayeur. "You can put on a little music, or you can just sit and listen to the water lap against the side of the boat."

"Sailing is my happy place," added Mayeur's wife, Donna.

The Mayeurs, Keane and Hamilton are all lakeside neighbors of Dave Emanuel. A veteran journalist/photographer who moved cross country 14 years ago. His sailing history ranges from an ocean-worthy 39-foot McGregor cruiser to smaller catamarans more at home on inland lakes. Today, most of his time on the water is spent in a kayak, paddling, drifting in the wind and paddling some more, often photographing sailboats because, he noted, "taking photos from a jet ski is definitely a challenge."

"It occurred to me that a potential slant on (a sailing story) might be to focus on the serenity of enjoying the lake without engine noise rattling your brains," Emanuel wrote in an email that accompanied several of the photos found here.

"Much of the sailing activity on Keowee consists of the weekly races held by the sailing club. However, you'll also find a number of individual sailboats out on leisurely cruises ... The fact that you're relying on the wind to propel you through the water indicates your goal is to enjoy the trip, not to reach a particular destination. In fact, you may not have a destination other than to return to your point of departure," he continued.

No doubt sailing can produce a sense of serenity and calm that can't always be found on land. Away from the hustle and bustle,



Terry Keane is pictured at the helm of his J/22 boat. J series boats are not just race boats, but are used for harbor sails, weekend cruises and long-distance adventures. Photo courtesy of Terry Keane

The club races and regattas coordinated by the race and regatta committees of the Keowee Sailing Club typically bring out some of the finest vessels to be found on the lake.







sailors have an opportunity to soak up silence, sun and waves. To a person, local devotees attest that the sounds of water hitting the sides of a boat and wind passing through the sails can create one of life's most soothing soundtracks.

And yet, there is a certain conformity of other, less soothing but more thrilling, reasons that the Lake Keowee sailors we interviewed enjoy sailing.

"It's peaceful and yet terrifying occasionally," said Keane, who is also a licensed pilot. "Flying and sailing push all the same buttons. Just one's on the water and the other is in the air."

When we first reached out to Hamilton, she was on a chair lift at a ski resort in Utah.

Ski-bootless and back on the ground, she said, "In sailing it's you versus the water and the wind. In snow skiing it's you versus gravity."

The Mayeurs bought a house on Lake Keowee in 2007 and moved from New Orleans two years later, bringing with them a 32-foot, 16,000-pound sailboat they purchased after losing their previous boat to Hurricane Katrina.

"We were looking for an inland lake (with deep water) that had a sailing club," Joe said. "When we got here, I jumped in the water and said, 'I can see my feet; we're moving here.'"

Their boat, which sports a 50-foot mast, is one of the bigger ones on Lake Keowee, and they prefer quiet sails and entertaining friends (It can accommodate 8-10 people.), only occasionally engaging in club regattas.

"We're pretty conservative," Joe said. "If we get this boat up to 15-17 knots, there's a lot of heeling. Ten knots is perfect for us. We used to race more, but now it's more about pleasure."

"It's nice to go out and just park," Donna added. "Find a dark cove and see a meteor



{clockwise from top left}  
When a smaller sail is called for, Joe and Donna Mayeur can break out their Hobie Island Adventure paddle kayaks. Photo courtesy of Joe & Donna Mayeur • Sharon Hamilton enjoys the sunshine and her personal-sized, 13-foot Sunfish, which features simple rigging and two-line sail control. Photo courtesy of Sharon Hamilton • Heeling — the tilting or leaning to one side due to the force of the wind on its sails — is something all sailors must deal with, particularly in race mode. • Most sailors enjoy passing the art of sailing on to the next generation. That's what happens at the Keowee Sailing Club's summer camp each year. Photo courtesy of Sharon Hamilton



*Well, it's not far down to paradise  
At least it's not for me.  
And if the wind is right, you can sail away  
And find tranquility.  
Oh, the canvas can do miracles  
Just you wait and see.  
Believe me.*

*It's not far to never never land,  
No reason to pretend.  
And if the wind is right, you can find the joy  
Of innocence again.  
Oh, the canvas can do miracles,  
Just you wait and see.  
Believe me.*

*Sailing takes me away to where I've always  
heard it could be,  
Just a dream and the wind to carry me.  
Soon I will be free.*

#### Sailing

Christopher Cross, 1979

shower ... If you're racing, it's always different. On this lake the winds can get a little squirrely."

The couple also owns a pair of smaller Hobie Island Adventure paddle kayaks with sailing kits.

"I like the little boats," Donna said. "It's like a race car. It's got a single seat, and you get a puff of wind and zoom!"

Another commonality these neighbors share is they were all introduced to sailing as youngsters, most by their parents, and they remain focused on teaching the art to future generations.

Keane grew up in Minnesota lake country and set sail when he was 10 in a plywood dinghy crafted by his father.

"I really enjoyed it," he recalled, "but I lived in a place where we had two weeks of summer so I ended up spending a lot of years away from sailing."

In 1967 he moved to Atlanta, discovered Lake Altoona and set sail once again. He taught his wife to sail and, while living 40 years on Hilton Head Island, they spent a good deal of time on the water. Twice they sailed to the Bahamas, and another adventure took them down the Intercoastal from Norfolk to Key West.

"We wanted to retire someplace else, and this place seemed to have the best combination of everything, and one of the most active (sailing) clubs in the country," he said. "It's very low key and family-oriented."

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{left} "Aye, aye captain." Like many sailing enthusiasts, the Mayeurs are supporting a next generation of sailors, in this case their grandchildren, (l to r) Scarlett, Sophia, Cooper and Emma. {above} Donna Mayeur is the helmsman these days, with husband, Joe, working the sails of their 22-foot Catalina. "There's no more arguing about sail trim," he quipped. "I'm 50 pounds heavier." Photos courtesy of Joe & Donna Mayeur



"I was 12 the first time I sailed alone," she recalled. "These kids are going solo the first day, and they're eight years old!" When the Mayeurs were first dating, they learned to sail at the "hoity-toity" Southern Yacht Club in New Orleans. "We had a blast, flying along on Lake Pontchartrain in a boat whose helm was 'taller than Joey,'" she chuckled. Their children learned to sail, and now the Mayeurs are focused on their grandchildren and this year's sailing camp. Joe retired from his job as a software and database developer this spring and is looking forward to more leisurely sails. "We don't race much. We can't win even with a handicap," he laughed, noting the cruiser-class size of their boat. "We may sail more during the week when the tubers aren't there, right in front of us. Maybe we'll take dinner. If we get a good wind, we can float along at 6-7 knots. It's perfect." ■

The winds of Lake Keowee can be fickle but if you catch them just right, they will fill a sail and set you on a quick course across the water.

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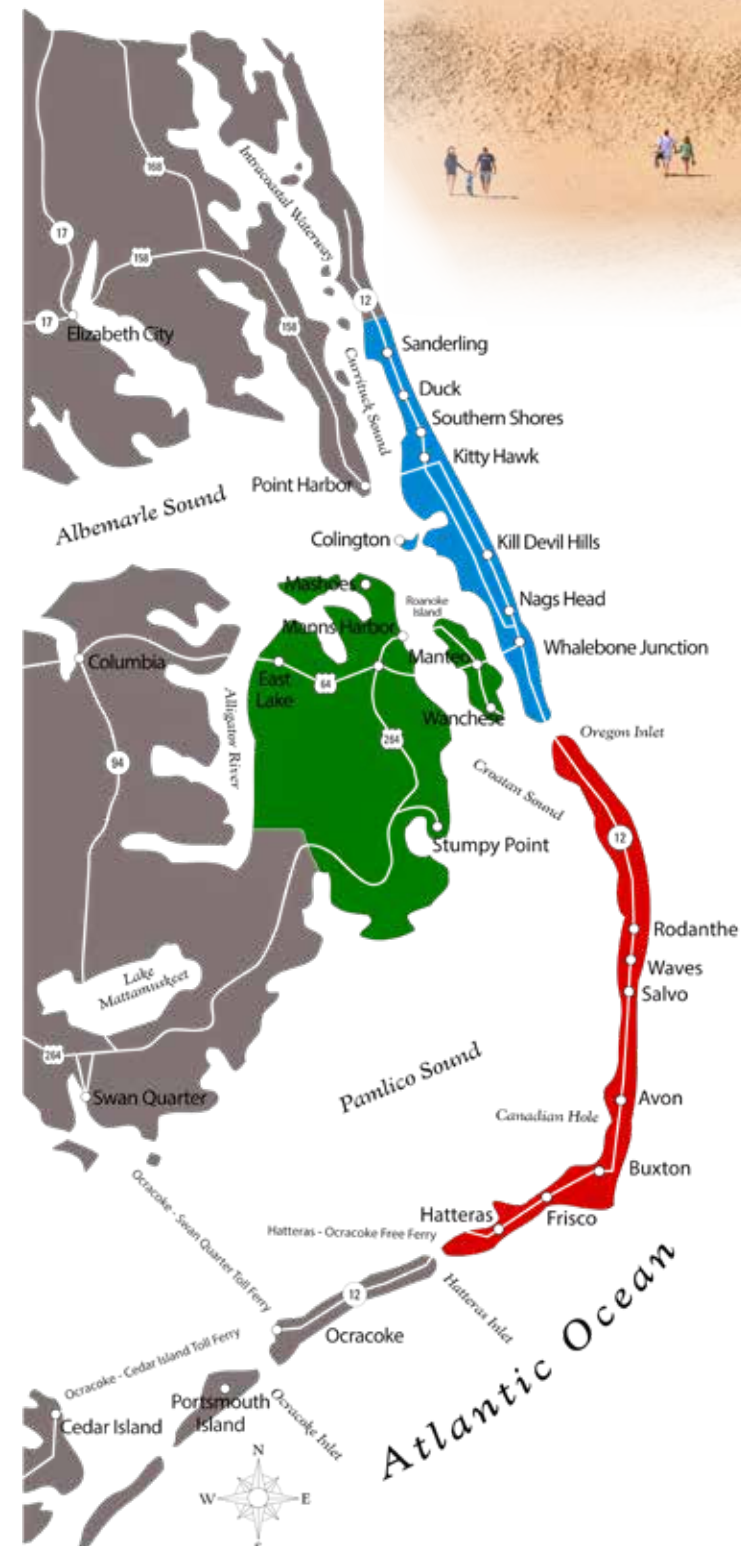
# A COASTAL ESCAPE

*Your Guide to Outer Banks' Gems*

story by Vanessa Infanzon | photos courtesy of OBX Photos

An elevated viewing area provides a great perspective of the Bodie Island Light House. It may be reached by walking or rolling on an accessible boardwalk through marshland.

The sand dune system at Jockey's Ridge State Park in Nags Head is breathtaking and is the largest such system in the Eastern United States.



There may be beautiful beaches closer to Upstate South Carolina, but the history and unique features of North Carolina's Outer Banks are hard to beat. And you can experience the attractions in Hatteras Island, Northern Beaches and Roanoke Island with a one- or two-week stay.

Between Duck in the north and Hatteras Village in the south, there are 100 miles of coastline featuring small towns, museums, nature trails and, of course, beaches. Plan to make your homebase in Manteo, which is somewhat in the center, or stay north or south and plan day trips to the places you want to see.

## HATTERAS ISLAND

Fans of Richard Gere, Diane Lane and Nicholas Sparks might enjoy renting the Inn at Rodanthe, the six-bedroom house with blue shutters featured in the movie "Nights in Rodanthe." Some of the iconic props and touches, such as the swinging kitchen doors and the blue room, remain in the house for guests to appreciate.

Last summer, Edgcamp Pamlico Station opened with 14 suites, each designed by potter and designer Jonathan Adler. A fully stocked kitchen, living and dining areas, gas fireplace and access to the Wellness Deck provide space for a lengthy stay. The Wellness Deck features cold plunges, a hot tub, sauna and a lounging area overlooking Pamlico Sound. Private chef-prepared meals, massage therapy and yoga instruction are a few of the amenities available to guests through Pamlico Station's concierge services.

A hike in Buxton Woods Coastal Reserve in Buxton offers views of a maritime evergreen forest, swamp and wetlands. Look for birds such as bald eagles, osprey and peregrine falcons and rare butterflies such as the giant swallowtail and northern hairstreak.

Watermen's Bar & Grill at REAL Watersports in Waves (Yes, that is the name of the town.), is minutes from Rodanthe. Order burgers, salads and seafood inside and enjoy dining on the outdoor deck overlooking Pamlico Sound. For picnic supplies, sandwiches and drinks, head to Waves Market.



**NORTHERN BEACHES**

You don't have to climb the 214 steps to the top of Bodie (pronounced body) Island Light House to appreciate its beauty. An elevated viewing area may be reached by walking or rolling on an accessible boardwalk through marshland. If you decide to traverse those steps, you do need a ticket.

The first visit to Jockey's Ridge State Park in Nags Head is breathtaking — it's so unusual to see a sand dune system, the largest in the Eastern United States. Fly a kite or sign up for a hang gliding lesson with Kitty Hawk Kites. See the ocean and sound from the top of the dunes. In celebration of the park's 50th anniversary, its accessible boardwalk will be lengthened this fall, reaching the base of the sand dunes and featuring covered benches and a gazebo.

For people with mobility issues, beach wheelchairs are available to use for free at Jockey's Ridge. Another option for people with mobility needs, depending on weather and staff availability, is to reserve a ride with a ranger in an all-terrain vehicle to the top of the 80-foot dunes. The ATV may be reserved 24 hours in advance, and the person with mobility challenges must be older than 8.

Kayak through the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge with a guide from Stoke Dispensary in Kitty Hawk. Look for alligators, bears, great blue herons and turtles while on the two-and-a-half-hour trip.



{above} The Lost Colony production at the theater of the same name is the longest continuously running outdoor play in the country, having begun in 1937. Tickets are required to see the show, which depicts England's first attempt at setting up a colony.

{below} This seaside amphitheater at The Lost Colony theater is just one of many attractions to be enjoyed in what can easily be a one- or two-week stay on North Carolina's Outer Banks.



The photo of Orville Wright and Wilbur Wright's first flight in Kill Devil Hills on Dec. 17, 1903, hangs in the Wright Brothers National Memorial's museum, and a replica of the original glider sits in the flight room. Via interactive and engaging exhibits, the museum traces the brothers' childhood and achievements. Rangers give tours at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. each day. The museum and the paths to the monument are ADA accessible.

**ROANOKE ISLAND**

The Pearl Hotel in Manteo is within walking distance of the town's sights, shops and restaurants. Its 16 double-occupancy rooms and two family suites (One is pet friendly.) opened for the 2024 season in a new building with a rooftop green space.



{left} The boardwalk in Manteo is within walking distance of the town's sights, shops and restaurants.

{above} If you are looking for good pub food, look no further than the Lost Colony Tavern on Roanoke Island.



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Put aside a few hours to visit Fort Raleigh, The Lost Colony theater and the Elizabethan Gardens; all are in the same area. Tickets for The Lost Colony performance are required to see the show about England’s first attempt at setting up a colony. The show started in 1937 and has the designation of being the longest continuously running outdoor play in the country.

The North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island features discovery stations throughout the center. They are staffed by volunteers who can discuss bones, ribs and vertebrae, and who have been known to bring live animals to meet. A touch tank, many themed exhibits, outdoor trails and gardens bring island life into focus. Reserve tickets before you arrive.

Getting there: The 8-hour drive to the Outer Banks is on major highways through North Carolina. Flying to one of the regional airports is an option but still requires a one-to three-hour car ride. ■

For more information about the Outer Banks, visit: [outerbanks.org](http://outerbanks.org)



The Elizabethan Gardens, Fort Raleigh and The Lost Colony theater are in the same area of Roanoke Island.



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# The City & The Sea

Wilmington and its beaches await

story by Bill Bauer | photos courtesy of Wilmington and Beaches CVB

From the balconies of Ballast Hotel or from a boat on the Cape Fear River one can gain a peek at Wilmington's celebrated 1.75-mile Riverwalk.

*Travel & Leisure* has named Wilmington one of the "25 Best Weekend Getaways in the South," but an equally good time can be had during the week.

**"T**he ABC's of Travel" are adventure, beauty and culture. If you want a vacation that spans those alphabetic offerings, do your homework and find a destination that fits the phrase.

Or you could simply head to Wilmington, NC.

Thanks to the completion of 2,554-mile I-40 in the 1990s and the boon associated with becoming one of Hollywood's go-to film sites, Wilmington is North Carolina's eighth largest city. From its vibrant downtown along the Cape Fear River to its island beaches Wilmington has become a certified vacation destination.

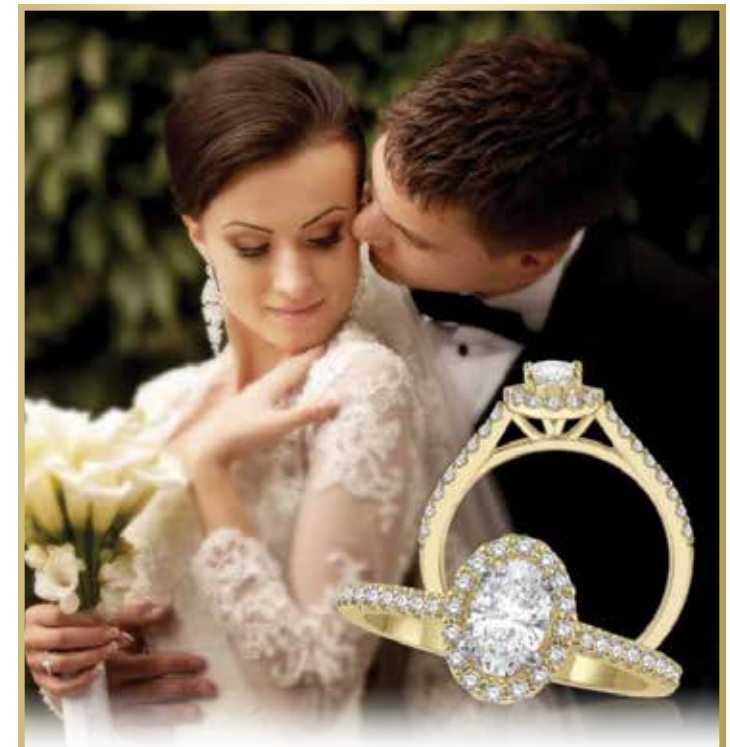
#### THE CITY

*Travel & Leisure* has named Wilmington one of the "25 Best Weekend Getaways in the South," but an equally good time can be had during the week by engaging both the city and the sea. Each setting is unique and well worth the 5-hour drive from Upstate, SC.

Consider starting at the Hotel Ballast, a centrally located hotel on the Cape Fear River. As part of the Hilton Tapestry Collection, its quiet and comfortable rooms feature upscale bedding and amenities. A cordial and helpful staff and concierge, and private parking add to a wonderful stay. Riverfront views overlook the USS North Carolina, a battleship that arrived at its final dry dock destination in April 1962 and is a must-see during any visit. From the Ballast one can also gain a peek at Wilmington's celebrated 1.75-mile Riverwalk.



Hotel Ballast, a centrally located hotel on the Cape Fear River, is part of the Hilton Tapestry Collection, offering quiet and comfortable rooms featuring upscale bedding and amenities.



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THE WILMINGTON ALE TRAIL

Wilmington has a reputation for being among “America’s Beeriest Beach Towns,” so it’s only fitting that the city has a trail of beers featuring some 20 breweries stretching from the city to the beach. Front Street Brewery is Wilmington’s first brewery and the flagship of the Wilmington Ale Trail. It’s a great first stop should you decide to venture out on your own using an interactive map and passport that can be obtained from the Trail’s website [www.wilmingtonaletrail.com](http://www.wilmingtonaletrail.com). For 30 years Front Street has earned 121 craft beer awards while also being home to Eastern North Carolina’s largest collection of bourbons and whiskeys.

You can also book a private trail tour with the Port City Brew Bus (910.679.6586), or another option is hopping on a 1972 VW Bus with Roadies Local for a customized tour for up to seven passengers (888.651.9785).

Back at the Ballast, be sure to leave room for dinner at Sugo Italian Steak House where a wide selection of prime steaks, pasta creations, seafood, chicken, veal and lamb creations makes for a difficult dinner selection. A couple of personal favorites are the Al Turforo handmade mushroom ravioli in a cream sauce, with bacon and truffle oil, and the lasagna, which is served with house Bolognese, béchamel, mozzarella and ricotta. Of course, a fried green tomato starter pairs well with a Riptide Wheat beer, followed by Low Country Grit Cakes and a Port City IPA.

There are over 600 homes and sites on the National Register of Historic Places in Wilmington.



Front Street Brewery is Wilmington’s first brewery and the flagship of the Wilmington Ale Trail.



From its vibrant downtown along the Cape Fear River to its island beaches, Wilmington has become a certified vacation destination.

THE BELLAMY MANSION

Wilmington is not only about food and drink. It is also steeped in history. To learn more about the Port City visitors can pair a guided tour of the Bellamy Mansion with a carriage ride through the historic district.

There are over 600 homes and sites on the National Register of Historic Places in Wilmington and the Bellamy Mansion, built in the 1800s, offers both guided and self-guided tours of the original slave quarters, the carriage house and the restored home of Dr. John Bellamy, his wife Eliza and their 10 children. [www.bellamymansion.org](http://www.bellamymansion.org).

The carriage ride location on Market Street is only three blocks from the Ballast. No reservations are needed and historical tours begin at 10 a.m. with no set schedule. A knowledgeable, and sometimes humorous, guide provides an interesting tour of homes, churches and buildings in Wilmington’s historic district.

The carriage ride completed, consider strolling to The Pilot House at the southern end of the Riverwalk. A Wilmington staple since 1978, it overlooks the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, and the restaurant’s views, service and ambience live up to its reputation.

CRUISING CAPE FEAR

A sunset cruise on the Cape Fear River is a fantastic way to finish the day. Aboard the two-deck Henrietta, guests can enjoy a glass of wine as the sun disappears over the horizon. Between the captain and the information-laden bartender one can learn about the history of the Cape Fear River and what it brings to Wilmington.

Since 1987, Cape Fear Riverboats has been running both daytime and evening cruises on the Cape Fear, affording guests the opportunity to see Wilmington from the water and consider an exclusive nature tour on the Black River. Narrated by local ecologist Andy Wood, monthly tours between April and October take visitors to some of the oldest forests in North America. [www.capefearriverboats.com](http://www.capefearriverboats.com).



Bellamy Mansion, built in the 1800s, offers both guided and self-guided tours of the original slave quarters, the carriage house and the restored home of Dr. John Bellamy.

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Charming English Cottage-style home on nearly 13 acres. Built in 1990 this home is full of custom styling, including herringbone wood floor in the dining room, a wood stove from England and gas cooktop island. Outside offers a detached heated two-car garage with half bath and shop/office space. This property offers much more and is ready for your personal touch.



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**OTHER CITY HIGHLIGHTS**

Cameron Art Museum is a cultural meeting place that enriches the lives of visitors through its exhibitions and public programs. In addition to historical and contemporary collections, the property includes an historic Civil War site. It's here that visitors will find Boundless, a life-size, bronze sculpture made of 11 African American men connected to the storied Battle of Forks Road, won by United States Colored Troops (USCT).

Inside, the CAM Café serves locally sourced, hand crafted food and drink for lunch and dinner. To enhance your visit, schedule a guided tour by calling 910.395.5999 or reaching out via [www.cameronartmuseum.org](http://www.cameronartmuseum.org).

And, finally, no city tour is complete without a visit to a former pharmacy turned restaurant, aptly named Rx Chicken and Oysters. There's nothing fancy here, but the food offerings and service are savory as it is literally a sea-to-table restaurant that farms its own oysters and spears its own fish. And the collards are pretty good, too!

**THE SEA**

Three island beach towns are just minutes from historic downtown Wilmington. From north to south, Wrightsville, Carolina and Kure beaches provide three different surf and sand settings among the Atlantic's barrier islands shoreline.

Before checking in for the night, consider stopping at the 67-acre Airlie Gardens. Guided tours are available, as well as a birding tour by tram. Afterwards, you might want to grab some fresh seafood at The Fish House and take a "windshield tour" of Wrightsville Beach.

Among many fine lodgings is the centrally located Trailborn Surf & Sound at Wrightsville Beach. The historic property dates to 1964. It has been made into a more elegant and livelier resort but still maintains its charm and character. All 151 guest rooms have been renovated and have ocean or water view balconies. It features LaDuna Paradiso, a coastal Italian and Mediterranean restaurant and bar, Bar Duna in the Lobby, and the seasonal Blockade Surf Bar that serves pub food and drinks.



**NORTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM AT FORT FISHER**

Morning sightseeing can begin with a trip down the coast through Carolina Beach (Grab some tasty biscuits at The Southerly Biscuit Co.) to Kure Beach and the North Carolina Aquarium and Fort Fisher State Historic Site.

Fort Fisher, the scene of the largest land-sea battle of the Civil War, is an historic site and home to the largest earthen fort in the South. Tour the fort for free and head over to the NC Aquarium to enjoy sharks, turtles, sting rays,

{top} Capt. Joe Abbate, locally known as The Birdman, offers his passengers amazing and educational cruises of the marshes and inland waterways around Masonboro Island. Photo courtesy of Captain Joe Abbate • {middle} With the Atlantic Ocean nearby and the Cape Fear River at the heart of the city, Wilmington routinely has both glorious sunrises and sunsets. • {bottom} The Trailborn Surf & Sound at Wrightsville Beach. has been renovated into an elegant and lively resort but still maintains the charm and character of its mid-20th century beginnings.

an Asian small-clawed otter pair and an albino alligator. [www.ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher](http://www.ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher).

The afternoon can be spent at Carolina Beach. Begin with lunch at Stoked overlooking the marina, and end with a stop in The Fat Pelican, a notorious dive bar rated #1 in NC and #25 in the nation.

King Neptune, the oldest restaurant in Wrightsville Beach (1947), is a great dinner choice that takes pride in not only using locally sourced ingredients on its menu of seafood, chicken and beef, but also in maintaining a seed oil free kitchen.

**NO TRIP IS COMPLETE WITHOUT ....**

... a visit to Joe Abbate, locally known as The Birdman. Aboard his boat, guests cruise the marshes and inland waterways around Masonboro Island for two hours viewing and learning about birds — bald eagles, terns, seagulls, cormorants, pelicans, plovers and ospreys — all in action diving, mating and just being birds. Simply put, Joe knows birds, and as a Cape Fear naturalist and a local Wrightsville Beach bird watcher for over 20 years, his passion is evident.

Capt. Joe also offers a variety of tours in the Wrightsville Beach waterways — The Masonboro Birding Tour, Dolphin Sunset Cruise and Inshore Bottom Fishing. In addition, he operates the Masonboro Island Shuttle Ferry for those wanting to spend a day on the island. Visit <https://wrightsville-beachscenictours.com/> or call 910.200.4002 for information and reservations. ■

*For more on the beauty and culture of the Wilmington River District and its Island Beaches, get your Official Visitors Guide or search online at [www.WilmingtonAndBeaches.com](http://www.WilmingtonAndBeaches.com) or call the Wilmington CVB at 866.534.0845.*

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# CANCER SURVIVOR JOINS CRUSADE *to help others*

story by Brett McLaughlin | photos courtesy of Oconee Memorial Hospital Foundation



Friends and family were on hand Nov. 28, 2023, when Emily Cutler rang the bell signifying that she was cancer free, having beaten stage 3 ovarian cancer.

If Emily Holleman Cutler never wanted to see the inside of Prisma Health's Cancer Institute in Seneca again, one could hardly blame her. After all, it isn't fair that a happily married, 35-year-old schoolteacher has had to spend a good part of the past two years tethered to an IV pole, perusing magazines and watching birds feed outside the window by her chair. A certain amount of cynicism would be reasonable. But Cutler knows all too well that cancer doesn't follow any particular script. It doesn't toe the line of life's perceived set of rules. It is maddingly random and, in one of its worst possible forms, it found Emily. But Emily is a good-natured soul with a perceivably happy personality. And now she is intent on making other random cancer victims as happy as they can possibly be. She knows what it takes. She has experienced the difference a place like Prisma's Cancer Institute in Seneca can make.

Nurtured by the love of her family and friends and buoyed by the expertise and compassion of the Institute's professional staff, Emily has not only beaten back the disease that threatened her life, but she has thrown herself into the crusade to help others fight the good fight.

Emily rang the bell — a symbol of a cancer battle successfully waged — on Nov. 28, 2023, six months after learning she had stage 3 ovarian cancer.

"They call it the 'silent killer' because there are no symptoms," Emily said. "It's a miraculous thing that we found it."

The diagnosis came about after Emily and her husband Kyle decided to start a family but had difficulty conceiving. They turned to Dr. Paul Miller at the Prisma Health Fertility Center of the Carolinas in Greenville.

"He was one of the first I owe everything to," Emily said, explaining how, during an ultrasound, Dr. Miller found an abnormality and ordered a second ultrasound. "That one was very painful. I knew immediately that it was not normal."

"Before the surgery though I had to consent to the additional removal of a long list of things," she said, adding that she declined having eggs harvested. "I just told them 'Do whatever you need to do' (to get rid of the cancer)."

Kyle, her parents and her cousin, Alisa, an Atlanta-based OB-GYN specialist, accompanied her for surgery. Afterwards, Dr. Elder met with the entire family and told them he was confident he had gotten all the cancer.

Although there was a "rocky ride home" and some uncomfortable moments the first couple of weeks, it wasn't long before Emily was displaying the spunk and optimistic spirit that would characterize the remainder of her treatment.

"I convinced Dr. Elder to let me go to the beach with Kyle's family in July," she said with a smile, "and I ended up going a second time with my family."

Emily was introduced to the Cancer Institute in Seneca when a round of six chemotherapy treatments began at the end of



Emily Holleman Cutler

## THE 'SILENT KILLER'

Ovarian cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer deaths among women. About 20,890 women in the U.S. are expected to receive a new diagnosis of ovarian cancer in 2025, and, of that number, 12,730 women will die.

A woman's risk of getting ovarian cancer during her lifetime is about 1 in 91. Her lifetime chance of dying from ovarian cancer is about 1 in 143.

This cancer mainly develops in older women. About half of the women who are diagnosed with ovarian cancer are 63 years or older.

Dr. Miller referred her to Dr. Jeffrey Elder, a specialist in gynecologic oncology with the Prisma Health Cancer Institute. He quickly ordered a battery of blood work, an MRI and a CT scan.

"They moved very quickly," Emily said, remembering that she and Kyle were driving home from Greenville after the CT scan when the call came, confirming there was a cancerous mass in at least the right ovary and indications of possible tumors in other locations.

"I felt terrible, especially for my parents," she said, explaining that they had not shared with her parents their attempts to get pregnant and now needed to tell them about a cancer diagnosis as well.

On June 16, 2023, Emily underwent a complete hysterectomy and removal of a portion of the omentum, an apron-like sheet of tissue that hangs down from the stomach and drapes over the intestines and other abdominal organs.

July. Accompanied by family she would go every 21 days for an entire day.

"There were some rough days," she admitted. "Each treatment gets worse, but I timed them so that the bad days were on Saturday and Sunday. Other than the days I had treatments, I only missed one day of school for being sick."

In the middle of the treatments and accompanying bloodwork and associated CTs, she even managed to convince Dr. Elder to let her attend Clemson football games.

"Having this center here was wonderful," she said. "It meant that my family could rotate who would bring me, and my grandmother brought me lunch ...

"... The staff is fantastic. You get to know them and their families, and they get to know you," she continued. "They knew I was an elementary teacher so they would play Disney music when I showed up ...

"... I was among the youngest here on most days. A lot of the patients are older breast



Emily refers to her husband Kyle as her rock. He didn't miss an appointment and was by her side throughout her battle with cancer.



cancer survivors. Having some normalcy in your life is important, and the staff here became my friends and helped make my life normal.”

In December 2023 Emily began a maintenance program that has required her to come in for an infusion every four weeks. She hopes to wrap that up this July.

She knows, however, that she will miss the center and its people which is why she has become actively engaged in efforts to raise funds for a \$9-\$12 million expansion and renovation of the 24-year-old Cancer Institute.

“We announced our Building Hope Capital Campaign last year at the Pass the Purse event,” said Oconee Hospital Foundation Manager Cortni Nations. “Emily was involved, and her friends came out to support her and other cancer patients as we raised \$156,000 at that event.”

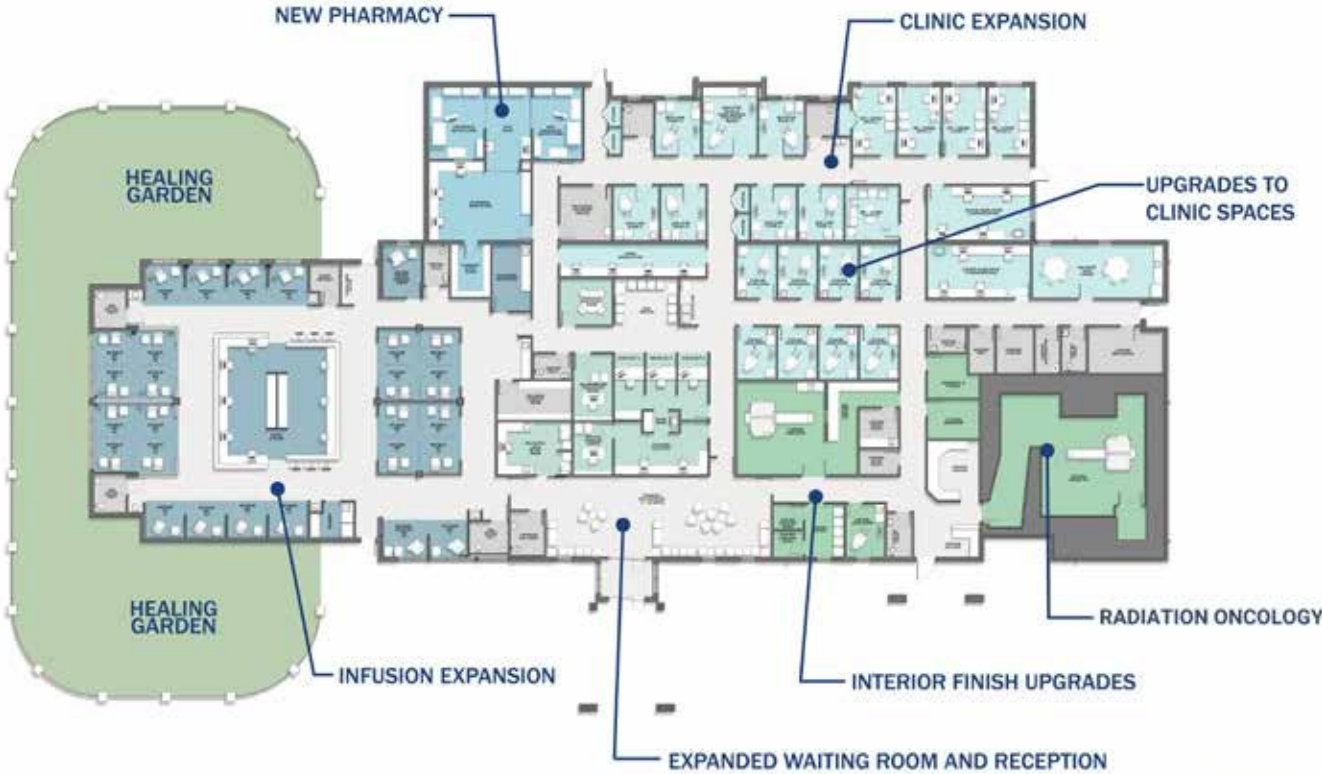
Nations said the Foundation’s goal is to contribute \$4.25 million to the undertaking. With an event-record \$193,000+ having been raised at this year’s Pass the Purse event, the campaign had surpassed \$3.6 million this spring, primarily through individual and multi-year pledges.

The project will expand the facility from 11,000- to 19,500-square feet, increase the number of infusion bays, add exam rooms and workspace for additional providers, and construct a Healing Garden. (For more on the Building Hope Campaign visit: [www.prismahealth.org/buldinghope](http://www.prismahealth.org/buldinghope).) ■



{above} Emily (third from left) had a group of friends join her at the 2024 Pass the Purse event, which raised more than \$156,000 for the hospital foundation’s Building Hope Campaign to expand the Cancer Institute in Seneca

{Below} This is the architect’s rendering of a planned \$9-\$12 million expansion and renovation of Prisma Health’s Cancer Institute in Seneca. The project will add more than 8,000-square feet to the 24-year-old facility.



PRISMA HEALTH CANCER INSTITUTE - SENECA  
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We cannot say enough great things about Greg Coutu and his entire team, Trisha in particular. From the very beginning of our home search all the way through closing (and even after!), Greg was an absolute professional—responsive, knowledgeable, and incredibly supportive every step of the way. What really sets Greg apart is how he makes you feel like his top priority, no matter how busy he is. Every question was answered promptly, every detail was handled with care, and his guidance gave us total confidence throughout what can otherwise be a stressful process. Trisha on his team was equally fantastic—organized, attentive, and always one step ahead. Thanks to Greg, we not only found the perfect home, but we had a seamless experience getting there. We would recommend him without hesitation to anyone looking to buy or sell on or around Lake Keowee. Truly outstanding.  
Scott Tannen

When we were ready to sell our home, we checked with several local residents for recommendations for the 'best' realtor for selling a Lake Keowee home. All of the people referred us to Greg! He is super easy to talk to and it was obvious from the start he knew his business! From the advice on pricing, to the beautiful online advertisement/photo layout, everything was above our expectations. Greg also has the BEST assistant (Trisha) who made everything run smoothly. I recommend Greg Coutu to anyone needing to sell a home on Lake Keowee.  
Mark and Linda

Greg was a pleasure to work with due to his product expertise, timely communication, and leadership. He is very knowledgeable about this area because he is from here; he knows every neighborhood. Greg met and took ample time in assessing our needs, he anticipated our questions, he focused on fairness and making the best deal possible for both parties. He helped guide us through some dock issues with Duke. He always demonstrated a calm demeanor and has a personality that makes him a joy to work with.  
Lou and Deb

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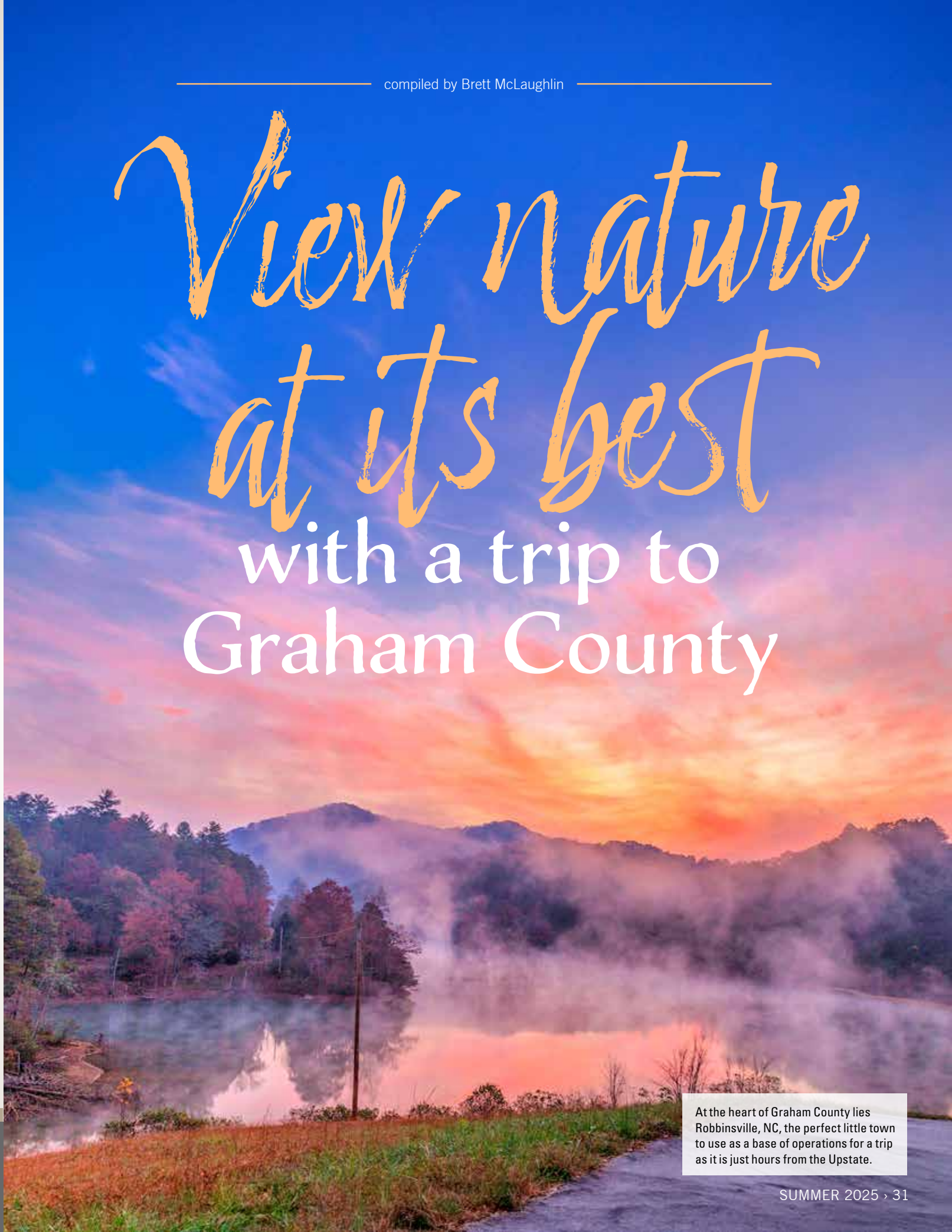
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With the Foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains enveloping us, the Blue Ridge Parkway and Cherokee Skyways weaving in and out of our pristine environs and the Great Smoky Mountains just up the road, opportunities to immerse ourselves in nature are but a short drive away.

With summer just around the corner (June 20), it's worth remembering that it doesn't always take a lot of time, or money, to make memories close to home.

This may be the best summer ever to carve out a few days of leisurely travel and enjoy some music, Appalachian cuisine and history along the way. Or perhaps a day trip (maybe a short overnight) is more to your liking. If that's the case, Graham County, NC, is just a few hours away and, if it's nature you seek, it's nature you'll find in and around the quaint towns of Robbinsville, Fontana Dam and Lake Santeetlah.

Here are a few suggestions:

#### JOYCE KILMER MEMORIAL FOREST

One of the most beautiful, isolated and historic places to hike is the 3,800-acre Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, which features

It doesn't  
always take  
a lot of time,  
or money,  
to make  
memories  
close to home.

one of the most impressive examples of old-growth forest in the country. There are over 100 different tree species, many of which are over 400 years old and some of which are more than 100 feet tall. The forest was named as a memorial to (Alfred) Joyce Kilmer, the author

of the poem "Trees," who was killed in action during World War I.

The only way to access the forest part of the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness is by foot on trails that loop through the huge trees. A restroom and picnic tables are located at the trailhead. For trail descriptions, maps and other information, visit: [www.blueridgeheritage.com/destinations/joyce-kilmer-memorial-forest/](http://www.blueridgeheritage.com/destinations/joyce-kilmer-memorial-forest/)

Location: From Robbinsville, take NC 143 West. After about 12 miles, turn right on Joyce Kilmer Road (SR1134). Go two miles and turn left at the signs for the Forest.

#### TSALI RECREATION AREA

This recreation area offers seemingly limitless options for fun. Visitors can learn a new skill like flat-water paddle boarding, or take advantage of hiking, camping, fishing, horseback riding, boating and bicycling amid surroundings that include glorious mountains and crystal clear lakes.

Bikers can enjoy 40 miles of off-road trails that skirt Fontana Lake at the base of the Smoky Mountains. Rated as a Top 10 place to ride in the U.S., Tsali is listed on the International Mountain Bicycling Association Epics list.

» CONTINUED ON PG. 34



Fontana Dam is the tallest dam east of the Rocky Mountains and is known to be one of the most beautiful dams in the country. It is nestled between the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Nantahala National Forest.

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A woman with blonde hair, wearing a brown button-down shirt, stands by a large window, smiling. She is holding the window handle with her left hand. The background shows a view of a lake and trees.

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More information: Visit the USDA Forest Service website, [www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/nfsnc/recarea/?recid=48922](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/nfsnc/recarea/?recid=48922), to plan a ride. They also post comprehensive information on fees, weather, camping, amenities, directions and activities.

**FONTANA DAM AND VISITOR CENTER**

At 480 feet in height, Fontana Dam is the tallest dam east of the Rocky Mountains. It was built by the Tennessee Valley Authority to answer a growing need for electric power during World War II. Known to be one of the most beautiful dams in the country, Fontana Dam is nestled between the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Nantahala National Forest and offers scenic views and a multitude of outdoor activities.

The world-famous Appalachian Trail crosses over the dam, and visitors are welcome to walk or drive it. On the far side, you will find an Information Center and gift shop.

Insider Tip: For an astounding experience, take the funicular — or cable car — from the Visitor Center to the base of the Fontana Dam. The Visitor Center is off NC Highway 28 and is open daily, May through October, except on major holidays.

**STECOAH VALLEY CULTURAL ARTS CENTER**

Any visit to Graham County should include this cultural center. Originally an old stone schoolhouse, the center now includes an artists' gallery offering unique local crafts and artwork and offers mountain music through its An Appalachian Evening concert series. The center is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For ticketing information, visit: <https://stecoahvalleycenter.com/product/season-tickets/>

» CONTINUED ON PG. 36



Some of the best whitewater kayakers in the country come to the Cheoah River in Graham County for what is considered the ultimate Class IV-V whitewater rafting experience in the Southeast. Water releases on the Cheoah River are scheduled June 21-22.



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**CHEROHALA SKYWAY & THE TAIL OF THE DRAGON**

The Skyway is a 40-mile-long, two-lane drive that crosses through the Nantahala National Forest near Robbinsville and into the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee. It took 34 years to plan and build, so it's worth a drive.

The Tail of the Dragon has become world famous among motorcyclists and sports car drivers, who come from all over the world to test their grit on a road with over 300 tight curves in just 11 miles. While drivers will be occupied behind the wheel, passengers will certainly enjoy the untouched scenery lining the Tail of the Dragon.

**WHERE TO STAY**

There are at least 40 options for lodging in the Graham County area, ranging from inns, hotels and motels, to houses and B&Bs. Cabins and cottage rentals also abound. Here are just a few suggestions:

Fontana Village Resort offers a variety of accommodations as well as a seasonal menu at its Mountainview Bistro. There's also an ice cream parlor, general store and other destinations throughout the village for snacks and sundries. Guests can enjoy a fitness center, the Stone Creek pool and lazy river and 20 miles of hiking and biking trails, tennis and basketball courts and disc and mini golf.

River's Edge Treehouse Resort features six individual treehouse units, each offering luxury linens on a king-size bed with memory foam. Enjoy morning coffee in a rocking chair on your private deck or a glass of wine while you fire up your gas grill. If you want to hike and fish, they will even lend you walking sticks and fishing gear.

The Tapoco Lodge, featured in the spring 2024 edition of *Upstate Lake Living*, was estab-



{above} Whether it's the thrill of the Tail of the Dragon or the beauty and serenity to be found on the Cherohala Skyway, plenty of beautiful vistas abound from roadways within a few hours of Upstate South Carolina.

{left} The Stecoah Valley Cultural Arts Center near Robbinsville is a mecca for talented artists and craftsmen as well as a great resource for enjoying some traditional mountain music.

lished in 1930 and is included on the National Register of Historic Places. Enjoy a colorful weekend while staying in a newly renovated cabin or book a luxury suite or room with a king-size bed and hot tub.

Each unit at 129 Cabins includes a private gear garage, microwave, toaster, mini-refrigerator, coffee maker, linens, private bathroom with shower, front porch, access to campfire ring, flatscreen TV and grill access. There are six cottages in total with a variety of bedding arrangements.

**WHERE TO DINE**

A trip to Graham County begs uniquely Appalachian dining fare. Here are just a few options:

In addition to Tapoco Tavern at the Tapoco Lodge and The Mountview Restaurant and Wildwood Grill & Bar at Fontana Village

Resort, the Deal's Gap Motorcycle Resort provides an interesting dining option at its Dragon's Den Pub and Grill.

Food trucks abound in the Robbinsville area, offering a wide variety of Southern and Appalachian cuisine. Café de Olla Italian is a good bet for lunch or dinner, as is El Pacifico Mexican Restaurant. Snowbird Lodge offers upscale fare by reservation (828.479.9405).

For a complete list of dining options in the area, visit: [grahamchamber.com/wp-content/uploads/Robbinsville-Eats.pdf](http://grahamchamber.com/wp-content/uploads/Robbinsville-Eats.pdf) ■

*For more help arranging a visit to Graham County, the Visitor Center is located on US Highway 129 (387 Rodney Orr Bypass) and is staffed by volunteers Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. You can also call them with questions at 828.479.3790 or visit the website, [grahamcountytravel.com](http://grahamcountytravel.com)*

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# OLLI charts its course at Clemson

## Programming seeks to engage even more seniors

story by Brett McLaughlin | photos courtesy of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Clemson University



“Our goal is to give purpose and connection to as many people in our community as possible.”

Mary Brock  
Director of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Clemson University

Freshening is the act of making something “newer, cleaner or more attractive.” Mary Brock was hired last fall to be a freshening agent at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Clemson University.

“... Mary’s character — a unique blend of patient diligence, optimism and empathy — has, in a very short time, inspired new energy among our members and volunteers,” commented CU Provost Sharon Nagy in an email earlier this spring.

Freshening is almost always a good thing, and with lifelong learning at Clemson University embarking on its 25th anniversary and the previous director having retired, the timing for new leadership was perfect.

Who better than a hometown girl with a profusion of experience working with older adults?

“It’s not very often that one has an opportunity to come home to culminate a career in a job like this,” said Brock, who graduated from Daniel High School, left the area for two decades and returned in 2021 to work as recruitment and retention coordinator and manager of Clemson’s Institute for Engaged Aging.

“OLLI at Clemson is incredibly fortunate to have found Mary Brock. After a national search, we found someone who not only has extensive professional experience working with older adults, but knows the area, the community and the university,” said Nagy.

Prior to her return, Brock’s professional career included a directorship with the Sanford Center for Aging at the University of Nevada, Reno, and as executive director of Seniors in Service, a non-profit organization focused on foster grandparent and senior companion programs.

In her new role, she inherits a program that is, and always has been, driven by member participants.

### A SHORT HISTORY

“The organization known as OLLI at Clemson University was conceptualized in 2000,” explained Kim Warne, a current member of the OLLI at Clemson Board of Advisors.

“In order to provide Upstate residents with intellectual enrichment, Keowee Key resident Donald Fuller reached out to then-Clemson professor Fran McGuire, who also had an interest in a project to establish a university-associated ‘learning in retirement’ program.

“Volunteer members were recruited, a Clemson graduate student was selected as program coordinator and the first semester of ‘Clemson University Learning in Retirement’ was launched with 13 classes and 85 members.

“Over the years,” Warne continued, “the program grew, a director was hired and the name changed to Clemson University Lifelong Learning.”

By 2005, the organization had the support of the National Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and membership in the newly

{top to bottom} Many activities at OLLI, such as hiking, promote physical activity and coordination, often leading to better overall health habits among members. • Cooking classes have become very popular. This one produced ample quantities of gnocchi. • Just ask backgammon enthusiasts Glen Moulder (left) and Dave Sabo (right) if OLLI isn’t a great place to engage in joyful interaction and build new friendships.



minted OLLI at Clemson University grew to almost 600. In 2011, the Charles K. Cheezem Education Center in Patrick Square was transferred to Clemson University to become OLLI’s permanent home for educational experiences and lifelong learning.

Today, over 700 members, aged 50+, are spread across three counties, enjoying classes, social events, special interest groups, local excursions, travel and more.

### BUILDING ON TRADITION

“I’m excited working with these people and seeing the positive impacts and outreach we do,” the new director said. “It is everything I expected and more. “(Operations Director) Amanda (Turner) and the members of the advisory board are amazing, and the membership is very involved.”

### BENEFITS OF LIFELONG LEARNING

#### Personal Growth

- Encourages seniors to explore new interests and passions.
- Provides opportunities for self-discovery and personal development.
- Enhances creativity and critical thinking skills.

#### Social Engagement

- Offers opportunities to connect with others who share similar interests.
- Provides Special Interest Group structure to strengthen existing skills, build new skills and engage in joyful interaction.
- Creates environment to build new friendships and support networks.
- Promotes community involvement and reduces social isolation.

#### Enhanced Quality of Life

- Contributes to a more fulfilling and meaningful life.
- Can increase overall enjoyment and engagement with life.

#### Cognitive Health

- Maintains and enhances cognitive function, memory and problem-solving skills.
- Stimulates the brain and may encourage neuroplasticity.

#### Mental Well-being

- Boosts self-esteem and confidence.
- Provides a sense of purpose and accomplishment.

#### Physical Health

- Offers activities that promote physical activity and coordination.
- May lead to better overall health habits.





Turner, who has been with the organization for 18 years, explained that a curriculum committee has always overseen the course offerings and activities that are offered over four semesters each year.

“We have always had a dedicated curriculum team, but it kind of aged out at one point. Now we have seven members and are growing it,” Turner said.

Course offerings are often “crowd-sourced,” Brock added. “They are their (members’) own brilliant ideas.”

Every OLLI (There are 124 lifelong learning programs on university and college campuses across the country.) is different, the director noted. However, all share the commonality of being both centers for continued learning as well as places for social engagement.

“Very often people who have just moved here find a special interest group, such as euchre, to meet people, or a widow sees this as a nice gathering place,” she continued. “Then they find a class they would like to take.”

Virtual learning boomed during the Covid Pandemic and remains a key element in OLLI programing, especially among the homebound. Free classes are also popular, covering a range of topics from dementia and fall prevention to insurance and investments. Special interests are as diverse as the membership, including cards, board games, book clubs, trivia, writing clubs, even an acoustics group.

OLLI offers a variety of outdoor activities including the occasional zipline run being enjoyed here by Dave Sabo.

Many class offerings are taught by members, but not always in their career field.

“We have a retired astro physicist who teaches some of our history classes,” Turner noted.

Brock said one of her primary goals is to increase the visibility and footprint of OLLI at Clemson, in the process hopefully lowering the average member age from the present 72.

“We want to have more collaborations with the community and the university,” she said.

“We are getting excellent support from the provost, who sees OLLI as an extension of our Land Grant mission and we want to engage even more active seniors.”

Collaborating with the university orchestra, engaging Friends of Lake Keowee as that organization marks 50 years, inviting South Carolina authors — some local — to hold readings, expanding cooking and craft class offerings and initiating a series of “train the trainers” classes for local first responders are just a few of the ideas Brock is pursuing.

“Our goal is to give purpose and connection to as many people in our community as possible,” she said. ■

Nothing makes a cooking class more popular than offering members an opportunity to make their own pizza.



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# What a Dish!



## REMINISCING MEETS RECYCLING

story by Piper Peters Aheron

{above} Hosts now serve farm-to-table meals on vintage chinaware like Southern Potteries' Blue Ridge.

{right} The Little White House in Erwin, TN, has over 8,000 pieces of locally made pottery for sale.

{below} Southern Potteries was established in 1916 by the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio Railway to fill the need for affordable dishes and create jobs in poverty-stricken Appalachia.



September 2024 Hurricane Helene swept through the Southern Appalachian Mountains swamping hundreds of villages including Erwin, TN, located along I-26 and the Nolichucky River. Helicopters liberated patients and medical personnel stranded on the Unicoi County Hospital rooftop as debris-filled rapids surrounded the building. This televised rescue introduced millions to Unicoi County's seat but, at the time, few viewers knew this railroad town's fortune relies on the reputation of the defunct, yet everlasting, Southern Potteries.

Books detail the 1916 establishment of Southern Potteries by the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio Railway. Mid-century wars ruined European imports to the United States. So, to fill the need for affordable dishes and create jobs in poverty-stricken Appalachia, the railroad developed a factory with seven bee-hive ovens. By 1948, when Southern Potteries modernized to gas-heated

kilns, the company employed about 1,200 people, including 500 women. Its workforce of artists, inspectors, packers and haulers insured that over 300,000 pieces of hand-decorated utilitarian ware were shipped weekly to big and small retailers.

In 1938, Southern Potteries created Blue Ridge, a tableware series featuring brushstrokes of flowers and berries underglaze. Hillside minerals of feldspar, flint, clay and talc mixed with local water, created a liquid called slip. Utilized in various molds, slip allowed the company to offer about 11 shapes. Hand-painted patterns — more than 800 designs — completed the portfolio of the versatile stoneware. Blue Ridge became the public's favorite, catapulting Southern Potteries into one of the most successful manufacturers in the nation.

Then, peace arrived post-World War II, and European imports returned along with waves of cheaper Japanese chinaware. The Tennessee firm floated until 1953 when

Swanson introduced pre-packaged frozen food in aluminum trays. Only 5,000 sold that year, but the public's appetite was whetted for convenience over traditional sit-down dinners. The next year Swanson sold 10 million TV dinners. Unyielding competition finally torpedoed Blue Ridge sales, sinking an era of warm etiquette and domestic craftsmanship.

The factory shuttered operations in 1957 ... never to reopen.

Liquidation of the firm produced several unexpected consequences. Mountain women gained skills, then earned respectable wages as decorators, painters and finishers. Few returned to homemaking. Men also prospered with other companies. The third outcome was not immediately apparent, but like the Nolichucky River, it would inundate the 21st century landscape.

Southern Potteries featured no-two-alike products. Penny-pinchers collected it one beautiful piece at a time, usually as a store premium. With supplies terminated, ardent fans rummaged yard sales. Blue Ridge wasn't 100+ years old, so antique stores declined to sell the "out-of-style" goods. The same rang true for other domestic whiteware producers like Lenox and Pfaltzgraff. All nearly succumbed to the gush of mass-produced disposables until scientists discovered throw-aways had lingering deterioration rates in the environment. Sixteen years after first being introduced, disposable cups and dishes so polluted the world that Baby Boomers, along with their children, became determined to organize a massive clean-up that created Earth Day.



First held on April 22, 1970, Earth Day continues to be an annual event with programs coordinated globally through [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org). The environmental protection movement inspired substantial legislation like the Clean Water Act and the Toxic Substances Control Act. Motivated teens yearning for a cleaner countryside as recollected by their grandparents buoyed recycling.

Television depicted this attitude shift. Programs like “The Waltons,” “Happy Days” and “Different Strokes” projected the family and dilemmas were discussed around a dinner table decorated with stoneware. Few table settings were formal. None were disposable. Viewers took note.

Antique and thrift stores noticed, too. They slowly added heirlooms like Depression glass, pewter mugs, silver julep cups, oyster or deviled egg servers, gravy boats and candlesticks, to their inventory. When the Public Broadcasting Service premiered a U.S. version of the British TV show “Antiques Roadshow” in 1997, nostalgia became in vogue, not for merely reminiscing, but for its ability to improve financial, individual and environmental health in a sustainable manner dubbed “green.”

Rooted in Earth Day, the green movement has retained national momentum by supporting proactive purchasing efforts born of ecological wisdom. “Reduce, reuse and recycle” is a lifestyle, not just a slogan.

And what could be “greener” or more resourceful than purchasing or recycling secondhand items or antiques?

With renewed



{top} When it comes to tableware today, old is chic if it isn’t matchy-matchy, and timelessness seems to be the theme of many get-togethers.

{right} With renewed respect for the planet and the past, a prudent generation of clever entrepreneurs presently offer 21st-century hospitality befitting their grandparents.

{inset} By 1948, Southern Potteries employees insured that over 300,000 pieces of hand-decorated utilitarian ware were shipped weekly to big and small retailers across the country.



respect for the planet and the past, a prudent generation of clever entrepreneurs presently offer a 21st-century hospitality befitting their grandparents. Hosts now serve nutritious farm-to-table meals on vintage chinaware like Southern Potteries’ Blue Ridge. Some individuals prefer more formal settings from Lenox or Pfaltzgraff, depending on their event or budget, but if the whiteware is domestic and 20th century, it’s in demand for festive weddings, office parties and family reunions. Old is chic if it isn’t matchy-matchy, and timelessness seems to be the theme of many get-togethers. These gatherings are environmentally friendly, and there are numerous resources available for novice collectors and green supporters alike.

One of the best resources for collectors are fan festivals, and secondhand enthusiasts around the world revel in the Southern granddaddy of them all, the 46-year-old Blue Ridge/Southern Potteries Show. This year it will be held the first weekend in October at Love Chapel Elementary School in Erwin, TN, during the Unicoi County Apple Festival 2025 ([www.unicoicounty.org](http://www.unicoicounty.org)).

Another resource is Replacements, LTD in McLeansville, NC (<https://www.replacements.com>). It has a variety of suppliers scouring estates for their offerings. It will also identify individual plate patterns for free and can assist in researching and evaluating patterns regarding rar-

If the whiteware is domestic and 20th century, it’s in demand for festive holiday get-togethers, office parties and family reunions.



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Beginning collectors can always visit their local library for books on collecting.

ity. The firm counts Barbra Streisand and The Vatican among its customers.

Beginners can always visit their local library for books on collecting, but only one museum in the world is devoted exclusively to dinnerware. It is the International Museum of Dinnerware Design in Kingston, NY. (<https://dinnerwaremuseum.org>.) With over 9,000 curated objects, the museum delights collectors, foodies and visitors worldwide.

For non-collectors, “vintage green” suppliers, such as Southern Vintage Table in Hillsborough, NC, (<https://southernvintagetable.com>) can satisfy and personalize carefully curated settings for parties or gatherings by renting tableware. ■

## A FALL TRIP PERHAPS?

The annual Blue Ridge Pottery Club Show & Sale coincides with the Unicoi County Apple Festival in Erwin, TN, the first weekend in October. The Apple Festival features hundreds of craft vendors from around the country lining the downtown streets, music stages featuring top bluegrass and gospel performers, and all types of food to satisfy any appetite. The show and Apple Festival occur the same weekend as the National Storytelling Festival in nearby Jonesborough. Hotel rooms can be difficult to find. It pays to book a room early if travelling.

For a listing of accommodations, visit: <https://visitunicoicounty.com/hotels/>

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# BACKYARD HISTORY

Stroll through a park built by a generation of bachelors

story by Brett McLaughlin | photos courtesy of SC Dept. of Archives & History

This is the superintendent's residence at Oconee State Park. It is just one of dozens of structures and features CCC workers produced as the park was developed in the 1930s.

Upstate residents need not go far to escape summer's heat and enjoy a quick history lesson at the same time.

Like some 800 state parks across the country, Oconee State Park was crafted by a contingent of young men — mostly unemployed and single — recruited into the depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps. Many of the structures and features created by these men remain in use today.

The CCC began in 1933 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Federal Unemployment Relief Act. The men recruited to participate lived in segregated camps that operated under military-style rules. They received shelter, clothing, food, and were paid \$30 a month, of which \$25 was sent directly home to their families.

In South Carolina, the CCC created 16 state parks. In the process they restored the landscape by planting over 56 million tree seedlings and building hundreds of miles of terraces to help restore forests destroyed during decades of logging and cotton farming. They also built roads, created trails, formed campgrounds, created lakes for swimming and fishing, and built cabins, office buildings, boathouses and picnic shelters.

At Oconee State Park, the CCC built the superintendent's residence and garage, several shelters, vacation cabins, the bathhouse, a central administrative building and two residences. Many are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## CCC STATE PARKS

The Civilian Conservation Corps developed these state parks in South Carolina: Aiken, Barnwell, Cheraw, Chester, Colleton, Edisto Beach, Givhans Ferry, Hunting Island, Lake Greenwood, Lee, Myrtle Beach, Oconee, Paris Mountain, Poinsett, Sesquicentennial and Table Rock.



This is a replica of the Oconee Waterwheel that was erected close to the bathhouse. The metal wheel is original, but the structure is new.



At first glance, it appears that the rock wall at the Lake Greenwood State Park entrance is in the midst of being built or perhaps even damaged. However, the wall was intentionally left in this manner as a reminder of our history. The Civilian Conservation Corps ended abruptly in 1941 with the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and the men of the CCC dropped everything to leave and fight in World War II.



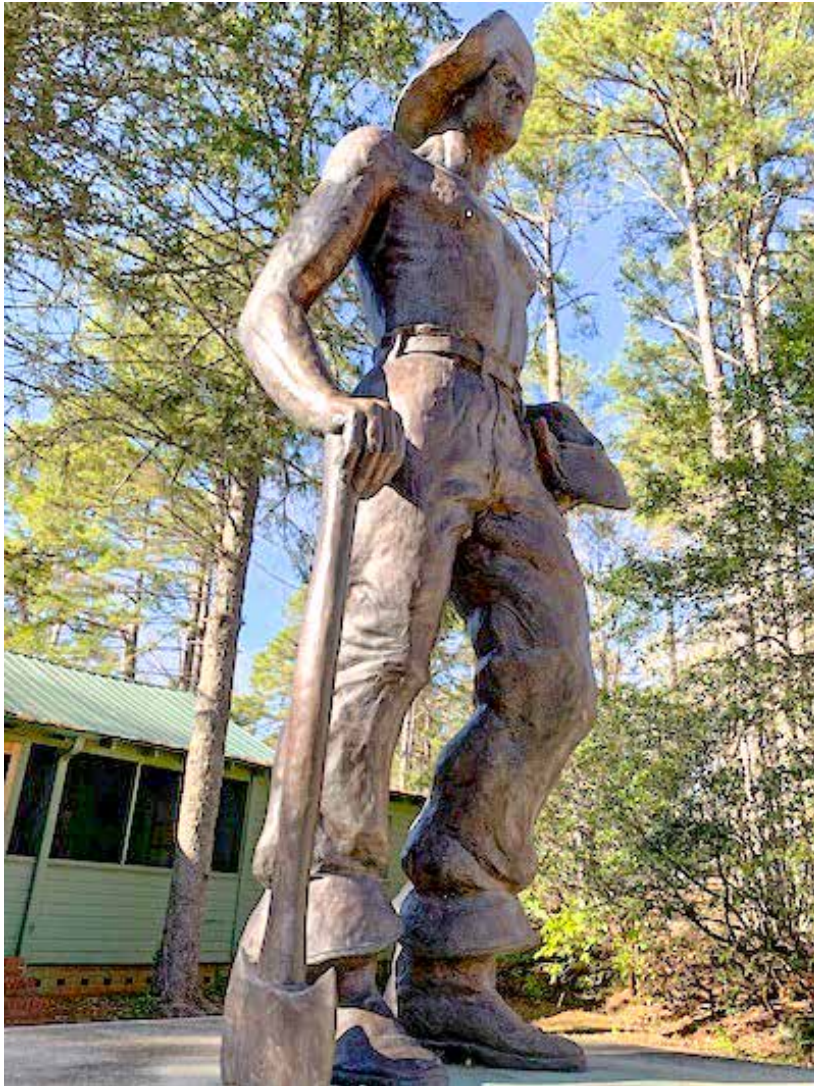
Interestingly, much of the rock used in these structures came from Stumphouse Tunnel, and wood came from American Chestnut trees. (Not long afterward, this tree species died out in the Southern U.S.)

In total, the park's historic district contains over 120 CCC buildings or features, 63 of which remain in use including the lake.

Evidence of the CCC's role in creating Oconee State Park is apparent in the park itself and in authentic CCC artifacts on display in the retail store. A waterwheel that was used to generate power for the workers and supplied their drinking water remains, but the structure itself is a replica of the original. Like many of the buildings, stacked stone rockwork along the Old Waterwheel Trail has stood the test of time. Yellow emblems on buildings signify that they were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.



This elaborate pumphouse near Shelter 3 at Oconee State Park is another example of the craftsmanship CCC workers brought to their work.



This bronze statue of a young man commemorates the work of the CCC in front of the Oconee State Park office.

## AND ... AT TABLE ROCK STATE PARK

Constructed in 1938 and meticulously restored in 2005, the Lodge at Table Rock State Park is an exceptional CCC-era building. Situated above Pinnacle Lake with phenomenal views of Table Rock Mountain, the Lodge is a remarkable example of CCC craftsmanship. The timeless materials of the Lodge blend beautifully with the surrounding scenery.

Park visitors can view CCC work including the Table Rock State Park Dam, bathhouse, cabins, concession building, fish-rearing pools, picnic shelters, trails and warden's building. All through the park, there are examples of the hard work, dedication and spirit of the CCC.



The Lodge at Table Rock State Park is an exceptional example of CCC construction.

The park itself is a forest dominated by hardwoods and pine. The existing layout remains faithful to the original design created by the CCC between 1936 and 1942.

While there is no set schedule of hikes, Oconee State Park rangers occasionally offer history strolls or, during guided walks around the lake, will mention the bathhouse and the park cabins that were built by CCC participants. Park Manager Bryn Harmer noted that two-thirds of the park cabins sit on the lake so visitors see them as they walk the lake trail, which is the shortest and easiest trail in the park.

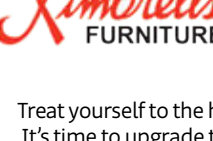
All park trails are available to visitors, so self-guided hikes are an option.

"I invite your readers to visit the park at their leisure," Harmer said. "We do post all our park programs on our website ([southcarolinapark.com](http://southcarolinapark.com)), so if we did have a scheduled hike that worked into their visit they could sign up and join in." ■

*Materials in this article were provided by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and the state park website.*



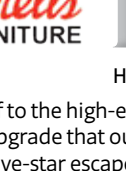
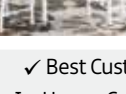

CCC workers built this bench into a wall of picnic Shelter 1, which also featured a fireplace made with stone obtained from Stumphouse Tunnel.



# LUXURY

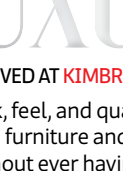
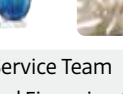

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# Spirits & spirited giving

## BEING DISTILLED IN PENDLETON

story by Bill Bauer | photos courtesy of Swamp Fox Distilling



Everyone in the Wagner family — l to r, daughters Stefanie Pittman and Kristen Wagner, father Ernie, daughter Jenna Tryon and mother Peg — contributes to the success of Swamp Fox Distilling.

*"Yo-ho-ho,  
and a bottle of rum."*

— from Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, 1883

But even Stevenson was four centuries late recognizing the spirited potential of rum. Rum's sugar cane roots date to the 1400s when, during the Age of Exploration, sugar cane was discovered on remote islands in the Caribbean. Soon, cane and molasses, the key ingredients in the distillation of rum, anchored the triangular trade routes between New England, Europe and the Caribbean.

Today, rum remains a magic elixir for ever-popular drinks such as the piña colada, mojito and "dark and stormy" cocktails. It even claims a certain synonymy with Coke™. Distillers produce light, dark, spiced and flavored varieties for countless cocktails as well as simply sipping alone with a little ice.

And now, one man's love affair with rum has brought one of only a handful of South Carolina distilleries, dedicated solely to making rum, to the historic town of Pendleton.

In its sixth year of operation, Swamp Fox Distilling has become a dream come true for Ernie Wagner, his wife Peg and daughters, Kristen, Stefanie and Jenna.

As the CRO (Chief Rum Officer) Ernie doesn't hesitate to claim that Swamp Fox is making "some of the finest, smoothest rum in the country."

In his younger days, Ernie enjoyed a little rum now and then but inexplicably took a 25-year hiatus from the beverage. That was a long time ago. Reintroduced to the spirit at a family gathering, he exclaimed "I love this stuff!" and set about with Peg to travel the Caribbean, sampling varieties and visiting distilleries.

With semi-retirement looming, Ernie, a home brewer of beer for over 40 years, developed what he now refers to as "plan A."

"The plan was to open a brewery in Maryland, but there were breweries opening everywhere, so I decided to make rum. All I had to do was learn how to distill," he said.

It was while sitting with friends, tossing around names for his distillery that someone suggested Swamp Fox, the nickname for legendary Revolutionary War hero Francis Marion, who hailed from South Carolina. Ernie knew nothing about the man but he liked the name.

The next step was to come up with a brand name for the rum he planned to distill and age in white oak barrels.

"It sounds funny, but I was looking for something catchy with a 'k' sound, as in captain and Coke or kraken and Coke — popular rum drinks — when my nephew said, 'I had a boat named Corruption,' and that was it."

Corruption, however, was already trademarked so Ernie added 'pure' and Pure Corruption® was born.

Plan B, as it turned out, involved more than choosing to make rum.

"When our middle daughter became preg-



nant, Peg informed me that we were moving to South Carolina, to be near our daughter and grandchildren in Clemson," Ernie laughed.

After relocating, he quickly found a building on Pendleton's Main Street that was perfect for the new venture and, using skills honed as a mechanical engineer in the automotive industry, went to work creating a distillery. Armed with ability, research and knowledge, Swamp Fox Distilling opened Nov. 1, 2019.

Some rums take two years of barrel-aging once distilled. Behind the Swamp Fox tasting room, sits a giant copper distillation tank and racks of barrels filled with aging rum.

"This is a hobby gone wild, sort of a labor of love," he said, explaining his seven-day, retired workweek. "I distill and bottle Monday through Wednesday, operate the tasting room Thursday thru Saturday and catch up on paperwork on Sunday."

Peg is also retired but works in the tasting room from 2-7 p.m. Together, they are wonderful hosts whether conjuring up unique cocktails, setting up a tasting or preparing delicious pretzels. Daughter Stefanie helps on weekends and when they all gather to bottle.

With 13 varieties of Pure Corruption®, all using a white rum as a base, there is a blend for every palate.



{top} It may be a copper pot and not a golden egg, but this still is still the heart of a very successful rum distillery in downtown Pendleton.

{above} Several of Swamp Fox Distilling's 13 brands of rum have proven to be award winners.



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Philanthropy is big at Swamp Fox Distilling in Pendleton. Here, owners Peg (left) and Ernie Wagner are pictured with Hannah Massey from ROAR FM, who is accepting a check for \$8,462 to Clemson Football Coach Dabo Swinney's Tigers for Tatas campaign. ROAR is the main sponsor of TFT.

"Our rum is made from Louisiana raw sugar and blackstrap molasses, combined with a proprietary yeast from the Caribbean and distilled in a handmade alembic copper pot still," Ernie explained, proudly pointing to the huge copper pot.

Swamp Fox produces both unaged and barrel-aged rum. The flavored rums, like "All In" or "Toasted Coconut," are made by simply taking the white rum and adding ingredients after a 2-3 week fermentation process.

"We use all natural ingredients and no artificial flavoring. 'All In' is infused with two cases of oranges from which we extract the zest, and year-old, whole Madagascar vanilla beans. Twenty-five pounds of organic coconut that we toast by hand, goes into our Toasted Coconut Rum," Ernie said.

"Dead Center XO" and "Dead Center XO Cask Strength" are two barrel-aged rums. The white rum is stored in American oak charred barrels for two years. Ernie points out that 30-gallon barrels are used to increase the char surface area and shorten the aging process. He single bottles each batch at 93 and 126-130 proof respectively. Both are excellent sippers, neat or on ice, but also make fantastic old fashioned cocktails.

Without a doubt, the most unique Pure Corruption® Rum is the "Two-Timer." Ernie explained that he ships empty Dead Center XO barrels to local breweries and wineries or a nearby meadery so their products pick up the barrel's rum notes while aging. When emptied, the barrels are returned and filled with aged Dead Center XO and aged a second time (hence the name Two-Timer) picking up new flavor notes. Each is a single edition and no two are alike.

The Wagners are proud of their rum and Swamp Fox Distilling's success is off the charts.

"I can't make rum fast enough," said Ernie. "We had to close in January and are closing one week a month just to keep up!"

But there is another side to the endeavor that perhaps the Wagners are even prouder of ... giving back to the community they have grown to love.

Just about every month their philanthropic spirit shows up as they donate a percentage of their proceeds to charity. They also, routinely, offer discounts to first responders and veterans.

» CONTINUED ON PG. 56

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» CONTINUED FROM PG. 54

On the wall in the tasting room is a pink football signed by Clemson Football Coach Dabo Swinney whose The All In Team Foundation supports breast cancer victims and research.

“Dabo gave us that ball in October when Peg was diagnosed with breast cancer,” an emotional Ernie explained. “In October we donated \$8,461 to his Tigers for Tatas campaign.”

Last November was “Shop with a Cop” month, and the Pendleton Rhinos received \$2,265 so deserving kids could shop with Pendleton police officers. Add \$840 to local wildlife rescue Izzie’s

Pond in December, over \$1,000 in February to the Pendleton Firefighters and donations to over 20 more charities and events, and the Wagners’ recent giving exceeds \$15,000 ... all from the sale of Ernie’s favorite spirit.

Currently, Swamp Fox Distilling, 128 Exchange St., Pendleton, is open Thursday thru Saturday, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m. Closings, mostly due to increased demand, will be the last week of the month through September. Exact dates and all 13 varieties of Pure Corruption™ can be found online at [www.swampfoxdistilling.com](http://www.swampfoxdistilling.com). ■



{left} A donation of over \$2,200 from Swamp Fox Distilling to Pendleton’s Shop with a Cop program made Christmas much merrier for a lot of needy students last year. Here, owners Ernie and Peg Wagner, present the check to Police Chief Robert Crosbie (left) and Officer Joel Murray.

{right} The Swamp Fox Distilling tasting room in downtown Pendleton has proven so successful that the business has had to routinely close for a week just to distill more rum.



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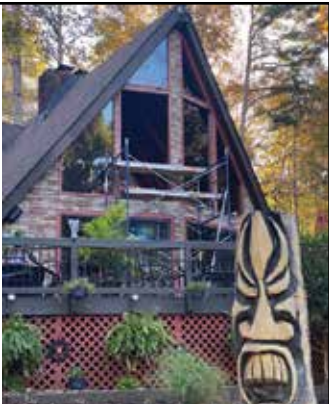
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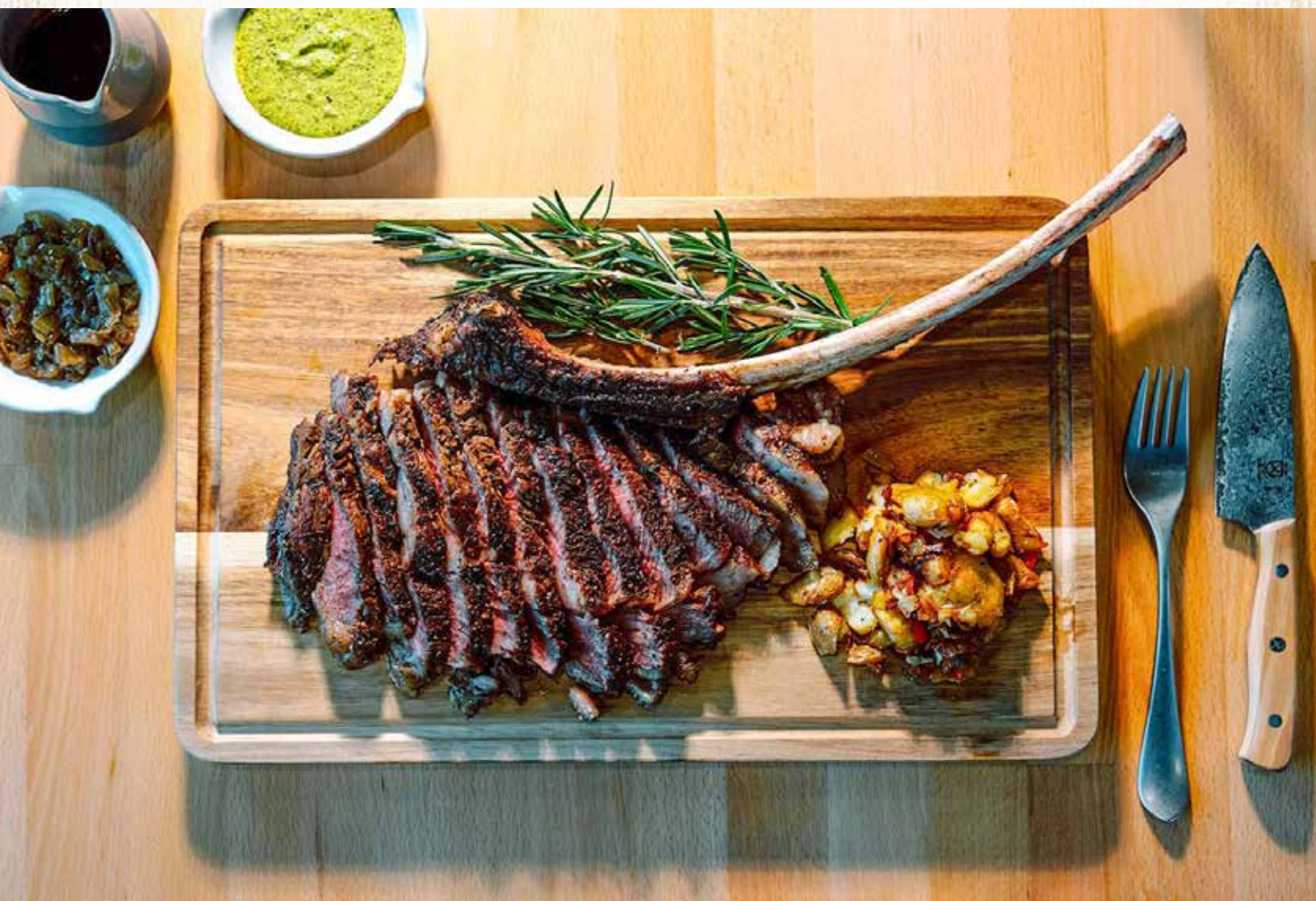




# Savoring the Season at Crave Kitchen

story by Chanda Morrison

photos courtesy of Crave Kitchen



This 32-ounce Wagyu long bone ribeye is served with Cognac braised onions, perigord truffle demi, salsa verde and roasted fingerling potatoes.

In a corner of Upstate South Carolina where the mountains meet the lake, a new restaurant has energized the local dining scene with thoughtful menus and inventive dishes.

Set against the backdrop of the Blue Ridge Foothills near the Pickens County line, Crave Kitchen has brought a vibrant culinary destination to the northern edge of Oconee County. For those living in the lakefront communities along Highway 11, it's a welcome option — offering refined dining without the long drive. With its open layout and understated elegance, the space feels both polished and inviting. It's an ideal setting for evenings that begin with a sunset boat ride and end with inspired cocktails and memorable meals.

We visited in early April and were surprised — and delighted — to find every table full. Clearly, word has gotten out. The dining room buzzed with conversation and the soft clink of cocktail glasses. Our server, Evelyn, brought warmth and professionalism, guiding us through the seasonal spring menu and curated beverage selections with ease.

## FLAVORS THAT REFLECT THE REGION

At the heart of Crave Kitchen's philosophy is a commitment to fresh, seasonal and locally sourced ingredients. The spring menu, running through July 4, reflects what's at its peak — from bright heirloom tomatoes to tender spring peas. Summer promises an even more bountiful harvest, with corn, peaches, squash and melons from nearby farms taking center stage.

From the very first bite, it was clear the kitchen puts as much thought into the experience as it does the ingredients.

Before the meal arrived, we were presented with an amuse-bouche: a delicate bite of puff pastry layered with truffle brie and shaved fennel salami. It was a delightful nod to the experience to come — elegant, unexpected and perfectly balanced.

Pasta and puff pastry are crafted in-house, ensuring freshness and quality. Standouts include the Cavatelli with lobster, peas and heirloom tomatoes in a rich alla vodka sauce, finished with a surprising crunch of Calabrian chili breadcrumbs. The "Wellington" Pop Tart was a clever twist on tradition featuring braised short rib, mushroom duxelles and horseradish cream wrapped in golden puff pastry and topped with truffle demi.

The Lump Crab Cakes, served with a tangy remoulade and hand-cut fries, were golden on the outside and rich with fresh crab inside. Our table also shared the 28-Hour Short Rib, which arrived under a glass dome filled with rosemary smoke. As our server lifted the cover, a fragrant cloud enveloped the table, turning

the heads of nearby diners. The beef was fork tender and accented with a red wine demi and herb persillade.

Equally memorable was the Faroe Island salmon — a filet seared to perfection and served with lemon purée and leek oil vichyssoise.

Each dish was as beautifully presented as it was flavorful, showcasing the kitchen's attention to detail and flair for creativity.

## SIP AND SAVOR

Crave's beverage selections are as thoughtfully crafted as its food. The cocktail menu includes inventive pairings alongside zero-proof mocktails that offer an option for everyone. House-made syrups are infused with seasonal fruits, with the bar team taking pride in the balance and flavor of each drink.

The wine list spans the globe, from Old World European classics to expressive bottles from Washington and Oregon. It includes both recognizable labels and hidden gems, curated to pair harmoniously with the restaurant's seasonal offerings.

## THE CRAVE TEAM

Behind the scenes, Crave Kitchen is led by a team whose collective passion for hospitality and culinary excellence is evident in every aspect of the dining experience. COO Troy Smith, who also oversees menu creation, and General Manager Lynn Rinaldi, are the driving forces behind Crave's success. Their goal is to create a value-added experience, complete with thoughtful touches like infused water and an amuse-bouche to welcome guests.

Executive Chef Edgar Santiago "Santi" Pacheco and Executive Sous Chef Addison Stone lead the kitchen with creative precision. Their backgrounds and reputations helped attract a talented team that works seamlessly to create a memorable atmosphere. Whether you're celebrating a special occasion or simply enjoying a night out, Crave feels both elevated and inviting.

Inside, the ambiance is modern and comfortable — ideal for a date night or a relaxed dinner with friends. The outdoor patio offers additional seating with shaded tables, soft lounge furniture



Chief Operating Officer Troy Smith (right) oversees creation of the menu, which is brought to life by Executive Sous Chef Addison Stone (left) and Chef Edgar Santiago "Santi" Pacheco (not pictured). Photo by Chanda Morrison

The strawberry and arugula salad features fresh greens, local strawberries, herb whipped goat cheese, spiced pecan crumbles and red wine gel topped with champagne vinaigrette. Photo by Chanda Morrison







and a cozy fire pit, perfect for casual conversations. Whether you're toasting a special occasion or winding down after an active day, Crave Kitchen offers a setting that blends comfort and sophistication.

#### A CULINARY REVIVAL

The location occupies the former home of Keowee Towne Market, a longtime local spot known more for its grocery offerings and casual buffet than fine dining. The market closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the building sat vacant for four years.

Enter Bill Freeman, CEO of E4 Concepts and a longtime Cliffs community resident. Recognizing the need for upscale, convenient dining options in the area, Freeman partnered with Smith, now COO of E4 Concepts, to



bring new life to the building. Together, they reimagined the space, converting the interior into two separate businesses: Crave Kitchen, a full-service restaurant, and iL Mercato, a neighboring market and café.

Their vision was clear — to create a place where neighbors, visitors and lake dwellers could gather over curated menus, specially selected wines and great company. With Crave Kitchen, that vision has been realized in every sense.

#### FINAL COURSE

We ended our meal with two standout desserts: the Chocolate Crèmeux, a velvety mocha custard topped with red wine gel and white chocolate crispearls; and the warm Butter Cake, crowned with strawberry-elderflower

#### IL MERCATO

Just next door, iL Mercato complements Crave Kitchen with a thoughtfully curated selection of gourmet offerings. This modern specialty market features ready-to-cook meals, grab-and-go sandwiches, and an array of fresh, high-quality ingredients. Inside, guests will find a full-service butcher, fresh seafood counter, artisanal charcuterie station, boutique wine shop, and a coffee and pastry bar.

Hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

coulis, yuzu crème anglaise and a scoop of miso caramel vanilla gelato. Each bite was indulgent and artful, a fitting finale to an unforgettable meal.

Crave Kitchen is positioning itself as a must-visit destination for those seeking refined, seasonal cuisine in a welcoming setting. It's a place that will leave you planning your next visit before the final fork is set down. ■

*Crave Kitchen, 15740 Hwy. 11, Salem, is open Tuesday through Saturday, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Sunday for brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and dinner from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. Reservations are recommended and may be made by calling 864.719.0115.*



The open layout and understated elegance of Crave Kitchen feels both polished and inviting. In this photo the dining area is arranged for one of the eatery's popular wine dinners.



{clockwise from top left} The cocktail menu at Crave Kitchen includes inventive pairings such as this lemon creation, alongside with zero-proof mocktails that offer an option for everyone. • Among the popular starters at Crave Kitchen are these Lump Crab Cakes, served with a tangy remoulade and lemon. • This Chocolate Crèmeux is a velvety mocha custard, topped with red wine gel and white chocolate crispearls. Photo by Chanda Morrison • The "Wellington" Pop Tart is a clever twist on tradition featuring braised short rib, mushroom duxelles and horseradish cream wrapped in golden puff pastry. Photo by Chanda Morrison

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# HISTORY, HOSPITALITY & HOME COOKIN’ AWAIT IN NEWRY

story by Bill Bauer | photos courtesy of Newry General Store and Cafe

In a corner of Upstate South Carolina where the mountains meet the lake, a new restaurant has energized the local dining scene with thoughtful menus and inventive dishes. When Brenda and I moved to South Carolina in 2003 we spent a lot of time driving around Oconee and Pickens counties, visiting small towns and attending festivals. One Saturday we saw a sign for an event in Newry, turned off on a few back roads and eventually found a little gem of a community. If I recall correctly, Newry was having a very small gathering with a few food and craft vendors. Walking around there was evidence of a once-bustling cotton mill that was dilapidated and crumbling, having shut down like many other textile mills across South Carolina. Having never been up close and personal to a cotton mill, we took a stroll, carefully stepping over broken bricks, concrete and glass. As we neared the mill, two young boys mischievously meandering around the mill, offered us a tour! Adventurous as we were back in the day, we accepted and spent an hour or so with our “guides,” poking among the ruins and wondering what it had been like in 1893 when the mill first began to spin, dye, print and sell cotton and wool textiles.

At the heart of the revitalization of the Newry community is the renovated Newry General Store & Café. Courtesy of Jack Robert Photography

The Newry Mill, established by William Ashmead Courtenay, the son of an immigrant from Newry, Ireland, was the first cotton factory in Oconee County and a typical mill town sprang up around it. The company owned the houses — originally 50 but eventually 85 cottages — two churches and a combined post office and company store from 1893 to 1910. The homes were sold to the residents in 1959, but 13 years later the mill shut down and Newry became a ghost town of sorts. Some folks stayed, but without employment, many moved away.

Fast forward to today where the Newry Mill site has been converted into 197 modern apartments, 79 on the exact mill site and 118 where the mill warehouse was formerly located. But that’s not all. The original company store, in its prime the heart and soul of the mill village, also has been restored.

The Newry General Store and Café is still the gathering place for folks in Newry as well as curious visitors looking for a bite to eat.

Some 20 years after our first visit to Newry, my wife and I got wind of the recently reopened Café and made a return visit.



This undated photo depicts the original, company-owned General Store and post office in Newry. Photo courtesy of the Clemson Library



A delicious lunch, accompanied by a craft beer and glass of wine, was made even better when Café owner Candace Spradlin joined us at our table. Her enthusiasm for the revitalization of Newry and the general store and the area’s history was evident, prompting me to leave with Michael Hembree’s book “Newry – A Place Apart”, which “tells the story of this unique part of the world ...”

The new Mill apartments and the general store opened in 2023 but, unfortunately, the store closed last year. Enter Spradlin, who was born and raised in the Upstate. She is part of a long line of Clemson alumni, but she ditched the corporate world and bought the Newry General Store and Café in summer 2024.

“By the time we closed (the purchase) and opened the store it was August, and shortly thereafter Hurricane Helene rolled in and we lost power and closed for a few days,” she said. “It’s a seasonal business, and we opened towards the end of the lake season.”

Still, she weathered last winter, determined to provide great food and entertainment in what she calls “the most beautiful valley in South Carolina.”

The spicy chicken and pimento sandwich is among the “Sammie” favorites at the Newry General Store & Café.



“I want people to come to Newry and realize what a special place it is and understand its historical place in the Upstate.”

Café owner  
Candace Spradlin

The entrepreneur’s love affair with Newry dates to her childhood but reading “Red Hills and Cotton” as a student at Clemson endeared the community to her even more. “That is best book I’ve ever read,” she said. “It’s a beautiful story of the South around the time of my grandfather’s adolescence and the textile boom, and it is refreshing to find out what a wonderful time it was.” Spradlin lives in Newry and envisions the community becoming a destination and the Newry General Store once again being the gathering place it was when Newry was a mill town. “I want people to come to Newry and realize what a special place it is and understand its historical place in the Upstate.”

» CONTINUED ON PG. 66



{above} A variety of sandwiches with sides, as well as “grab and go” entrees are available at The Newry General Store & Café. • {below} The second floor of the Newry General Store & Café has been outfitted to host wedding receptions, family reunions and public meetings of all kinds with meals catered by the store itself.



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Pickin' on the Porch, a bluegrass jam on Thursdays, and Music at the Mill, local artists on Fridays, are two additional reasons to head to Newry, but the best reason may be to feast on the food and drink served with a smile at the Newry General Store and Café. Homemade breakfasts and lunches are made with as many local ingredients as Spradlin can get her hands on. The store also features local crafts and honey. Coming soon are homemade meal kits for folks on the run.

The Newry General Store and Café has an event space on the second floor that is perfect for parties, reunions and weddings, and can cater events offsite as well. ■


*Take SC 130, turn on Stanton Road and follow the signage to Historic Newry. The store is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Thursday thru Saturday until 10 p.m. Sunday brunch is served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. View their website at [www.newrygeneralstore.com](http://www.newrygeneralstore.com) for info on special events and entertainment.*

The Newry General Store & Café, now under the ownership of Candace Spradlin, is quickly returning to its historic roots as the gathering place for folks in Newry as well as curious visitors looking for a bite to eat.





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# PICK YOUR PLEASURE FOR A JEKYLL ISLAND GOLF GETAWAY

story by Bill Bauer | photos courtesy of Jekyll Island Authority

Pine Lakes has been renovated several times, the latest being a recent redesign and restoration of the greens to their original size. Bunkers also have been rebuilt with concrete bottoms, new drainage and new crystalline sand.

They were some of the wealthiest men in America. They played golf in suits and ties, using hickory stick clubs and gutta percha golf balls. But it was the 1890s and what they really needed at their private

retreat on Jekyll Island was a golf course. So, members of the exclusive Jekyll Island Club hired renowned architect Walter Travis to build them Great Dunes, an 18-hole masterpiece stretching among the dunes on the Atlantic coastline.

That was then and this is now, and Great Dunes is currently part of the Jekyll Island Authority's renovation project. (See related Great Dunes story.) The island courses of Indian Mound and Pine Lakes continue to make Jekyll a destination for golf — amassing 70,000+ rounds annually — but rounds will grow exponentially with the completion of the Great Dunes renovation this November, offering golfers 54 holes in three unique settings.

While Great Dunes promises to be a unique semi-links design complete with sand dunes and ocean views, Indian Mound and Pine Lakes provide challenging golf inland on relatively flat topography. Natural settings and fairways defined by lakes, live oaks and towering pines typify both courses, but with contrasting designs each has its own personality.

Pine Lakes was originally built in 1968 by Clyde Johnson. It has been renovated several times, the latest being a recent redesign and restoration of the green complexes.

“The greens are Tiff Eagle and restored to their original size, and the bunkers have been rebuilt with concrete bottoms, new drainage and new crystalline sand,” said Doug Ballenger, director of golf at the Jekyll Island Golf Club. “We have also improved the fairways ...”

Indian Mound is a Joe Lee design, built in 2002. It plays 6,400 yards and has generous landing areas and fewer water hazards. However, being a typical Lee design, fairway bunkers must be avoided from the tee. While you can run the ball up to most greens and not have to fly bunkers, you can get caught short if you don't use enough club. Slight rises around the greens and soft Bermuda call for a healthy pitch and run.

Pine Lakes is a little longer (6,589 yards) and narrower than Indian Mound as it meanders through the ocean forests and marshlands. Ballenger thinks Indian Mound is the easier of the two as it is wider open off the tee. Water comes into play on both courses on several holes and, while it will catch an errant tee shot, it does not have to be carried to reach the greens. In general, find the fairway and don't overshoot the greens and you'll be okay.



Indian Mound has generous landing areas but fairway bunkers must be avoided from the tee. Golfers can run the ball up to most greens but can get caught short if they don't use enough club.



“I advise golfers to use an extra club. We are at sea level and the ball doesn’t travel as far,” Ballenger noted.

Gettable par-5s and picturesque par-3s share the signature hole label with each course playing to a traditional par 72. The 15th hole, a short par-5 on Pine Lakes and the 10th hole at Indian Mounds, a dogleg par-5, are excellent risk and reward opportunities.

“You can get there in two,” said Ballenger, who thinks the 17th hole at Pine Lakes, and the 16th hole at Indian Mound are signature par-3s.

Both courses offer significant challenges but with the spacing of tee boxes, both designs are golfer friendly. Young and old, and low and high handicappers can enjoy a round together and play at a good pace.

Void of residential or commercial development, you can expect a serene golf experience playing among alligators, deer, ospreys and a host of shore birds.

The Jekyll Island Golf Club is a full service facility with a well-appointed pro shop, driving range and putting green, and Tribuzio’s Grille for breakfast, lunch or dinner. GPS golf carts will get you around with ease, but if you like to walk, both courses are easily walkable and pull carts are available.

“We have beautiful beaches, lots of great restaurants and great golf in a family atmosphere,” said Ballenger.



With the Jekyll Island Club Resort on the river, its sister hotel, The Ocean Club, on the oceanfront and a string of other lodging options, Jekyll Island is wonderful for a golf getaway.

Tee times and golf packages can be arranged through the concierge at The Jekyll Island Club Resort and The Ocean Club as well as all the area hotels and villas. ■

*For more information or to contact the club call 912.635.2368 or visit [www.jekyllisland.com/club](http://www.jekyllisland.com/club).*

Water comes into play on several holes at Indian Mound and, while it will catch an errant tee shot, it does not have to be carried to reach the greens.

Pine Lakes plays 6,589 yards and is narrower than the nearby Indian Mound course as it meanders through the ocean forests and marshlands.



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# Get ready!

## *The Great Dunes course is coming back!*

story by Bill Bauer | photos courtesy of Jekyll Island Authority

The 19th century millionaires who built the Jekyll Island Club knew how to work, play and enjoy their leisure time. Apparently, they also knew how to hire a good golf course designer.

It was the late 1890s when they found Walter Travis, an amateur golfer, golf journalist and publisher, golf instructor and golf course architect. Travis was fascinated by golf courses in Great Britain, and he brought those innovative designs — some called them “penal” but he called them “strategic” — to America. He would build the Great Dunes on Jekyll Island and go on to attach his name to over 50 courses across the country.

For years Great Dunes was the playground of the rich and famous.

After the Depression, however, Jekyll Island was sold to Georgia and became a state park. When three other courses arrived on the scene — Oleander, Indian Mound and Pine Lakes — and the island needed more space for its growing population and increased visitors, Great Dunes was reduced from 18 to nine holes.

In 2023, the Jekyll Island Authority hired architects Brian Ross and Jeff Stein to develop a master plan that will restore the 18-hole Great Dunes course by creating nine new Travis-inspired holes on a portion of the Oleander course. The project, which is expected to be completed this fall, promises to be a spectacular layout and a fitting legacy for Walter Travis.

“We are taking the front nine of Oleander to become holes 1-3 and 13-18 in the new routing,” said Jekyll Island Authority deputy director and design manager Noel Jensen, “and the original nine from Great Dunes will be in between.”

The remaining holes from Oleander will become part of an even larger nature conservancy.



The new golf footprint will switch to sea-shore paspalum grass, taking the Great Dunes off the current aquifer and utilizing brackish water to irrigate. Native dune habitats will also be restored to protect wetland areas. All existing asphalt cart paths are being removed and natural paths will weave through native areas and limestone screenings that blend with the sandy subgrades for a more natural look.

According to Ross, the blending of the two courses will create “a more compact routing that feels more intimate and less cart golf oriented.”

Come November, the Jekyll Island Golf Club will be a three-course, 54-hole golf destination. Golfers will not only see the magic that Travis created along the Atlantic but will also hone their games or warm up on

The historic Great Dunes course on Jekyll Island is being restored to its natural, 18-hole turn-of-the-century splendor by designers who promise a course that “feels more intimate and less cart golf oriented.”

a new driving range and a Himalayas-style putting green near the clubhouse. A new short game area and smaller putting green will also be by the first tee.

So, when you get around to booking your next winter golf trip to Jekyll Island, add an extra day or two to your itinerary and be sure to take in Great Dunes. ■

*Contact the Jekyll Island Authority at 912.635.3636, or the Jekyll Island Golf Club at 912.635.2368 for updates on the opening.*

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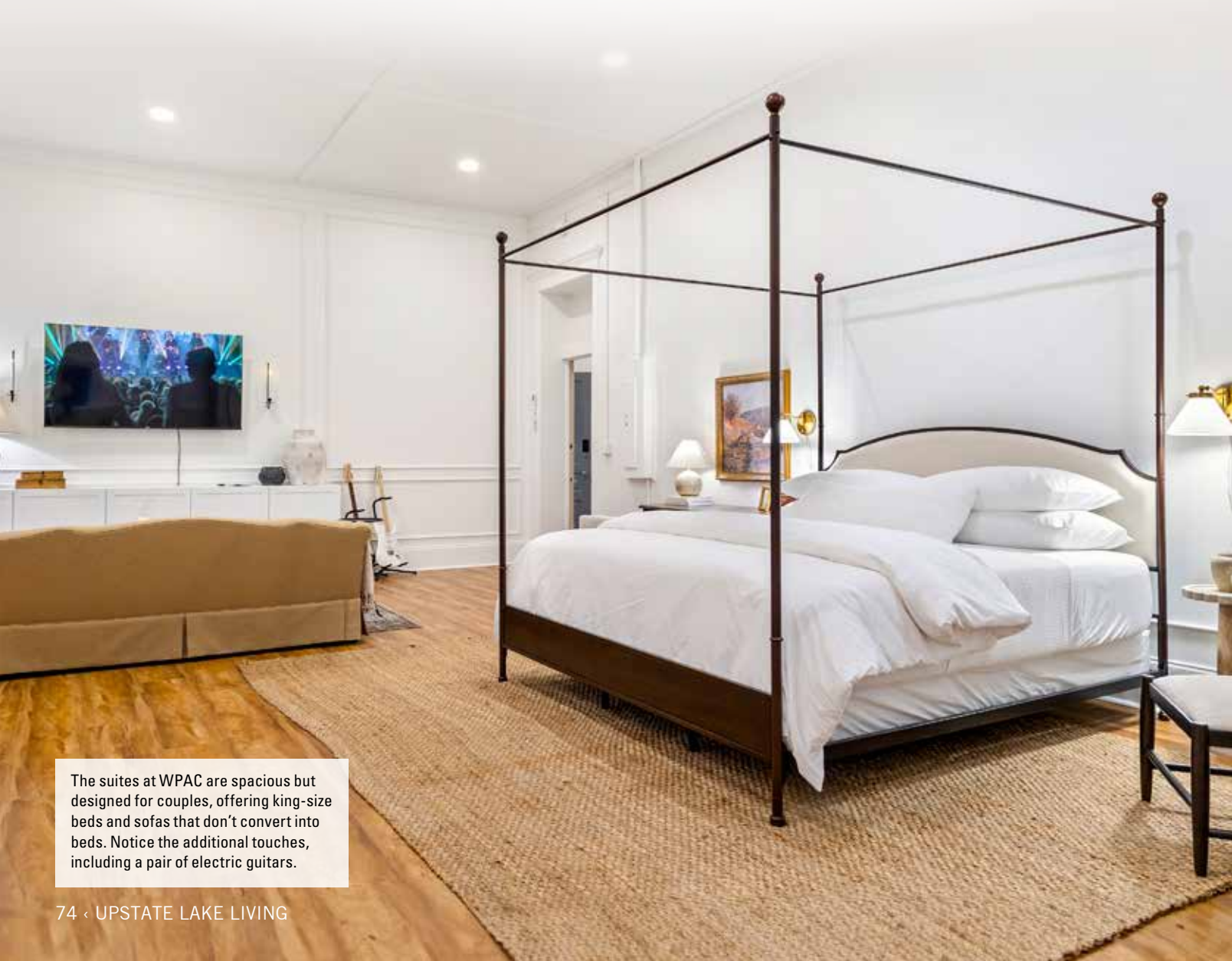
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# Take a course in hospitality at WPAC

story by Brett McLaughlin | photos courtesy of Keowee Creative



The suites at WPAC are spacious but designed for couples, offering king-size beds and sofas that don't convert into beds. Notice the additional touches, including a pair of electric guitars.

There's a *very* long history of education at the corner of College and North Broad streets in Walhalla. That's why it should come as no surprise that visitors — and locals alike — can now take hospitality classes at that corner ... well, sort of.

The Walhalla Performing Arts Center, a destination for thousands of music, comedy and entertainment patrons each year, is now offering its own, unique form of overnight accommodations.

From former student classrooms on the second floor of the historic facility, the WPAC has created a pair of 750-square foot suites complete with master bathrooms and full kitchenettes.

"The real beauty of this is that, if you're coming for a performance, you don't have to worry about transportation or parking. Your room is literally steps away from the theater," said WPAC Executive Director Mark Thompson. "You can even book two nights and spend the day hiking trails, visiting waterfalls or shopping two or three blocks away."

While the White and Green Suites are different in design and décor, they are identical in that they are spacious (32 x 24 feet) but crafted for couples. Each has a king-size bed and a comfortable sofa that, as Thompson notes, does not pull out. There are flat screen TVs, internet connections, desks and a host of small amenities usually reserved for accommodations costing much more.

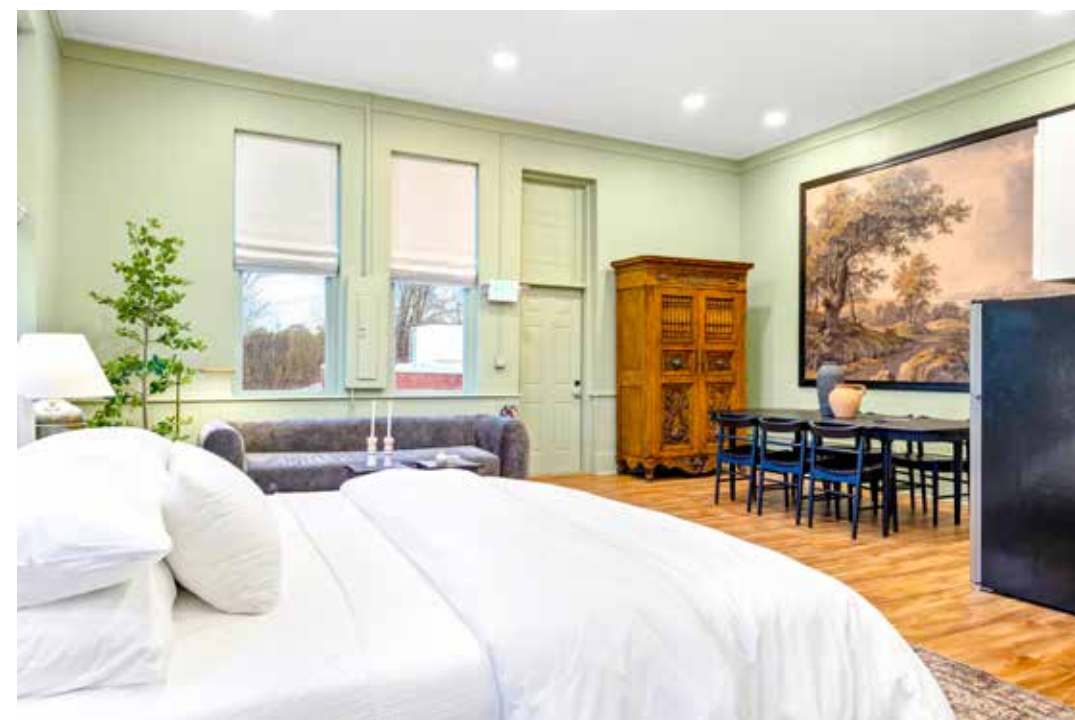
"We're not affiliated with any booking sites," Thompson noted. "That means we don't have a lot of added fees. We charge \$275. There are no cleaning fees or third-party fees, and the state and local taxes are included."

The rooms are made unique by the attention that was given to maintaining the historic character of the building despite the sometimes radical renovations the 123-year-old former grade school required.

## EDUCATION ON THE CORNER

Even before the current structure was built in 1903, another building near the corner of College and North Broad streets was home to Newberry College during most of its 9-year hiatus from the city whose name it bears.

The college had been established by German



Lutherans in 1856. However, during the Civil War and in its aftermath, enrollment fell and debts mounted. Attracted by the heavily German population of Walhalla, the school moved but retained its name in 1868. The following year it sold its Newberry building and other property at auction to pay off its debts. In 1877, the Lutheran Synod of S.C. and Adjacent States voted to move the college back to Newberry.

Originally, the current structure was a grade school. Additions were made over the years, including an eastern wing and the auditorium, built between 1913 and 1914. In the 1950s, a

{top} The Green Suite features modern décor with classic historic touches such as chair rail, a beadboard ceiling and traces of transoms over the fire exit.

{above} The new suites at Walhalla Performing Arts Center are loaded with amenities, including complete kitchenettes and full baths.



classroom was added to the rear of the auditorium to provide more educational space.

The building operated as a school until 1980 and then served as the offices for the school district from 1981 through 1992, when it was abandoned.

Led by a pair of former educators — Jean Phillips and Maxie Duke — a group of citizens quickly began discussing how to save the historic facility. In 1993, the Walhalla Auditorium Restoration Committee was created, obtained a lease from the school and a 501(c)3 designation from the IRS. The arduous process of fundraising and restoration began and continued for 10 years. In August 2003, pianist Emile Pandolfi played the Center's first performance to a full house.

**TODAY'S PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

The past two decades have witnessed countless other improvements resulting in a state-of-the-art music and entertainment venue as well as a spacious welcoming center/conference room (The Founders Room) that hosts community groups and non-profits at no cost.

However, the most recent renovations on the previously untouched second floor proved

» CONTINUED ON PG. 78



Walhalla Performing Arts Center now offers overnight accommodations for patrons coming to take in music, comedy and entertainment performances.



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**104 Mountain Shore Trail**  
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**211 Vineyard Park**  
The Cliffs at Keowee Vineyards  
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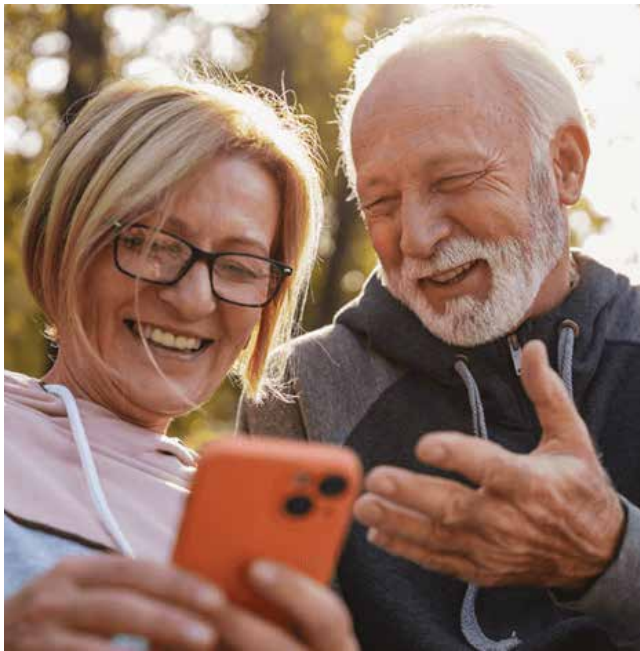
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For more than two decades, WPAC has been a state-of-the-art venue for a wide variety of talented performers.

» CONTINUED FROM PG. 76

to be a \$1 million undertaking.  
“The fact we were able to become listed on the National Register of Historic Places, made it possible for us to obtain some matching grants (25 percent raised locally) that we really needed for flooring, windows, and electrical and plumbing work,” Thompson said.  
Originally, the second floor contained five classrooms and one small bath. After the students left, the classrooms were further divided. Converting the space into two suites for start-up businesses and two guest suites, each with a bath, was no small undertaking.  
“There were layers of vinyl flooring, paint and wall coverings. We wanted to stay true to the period in which the building was built, but it wasn’t easy,” Thompson said, noting retained beadboard ceilings, chair rails and transoms over the doors.  
The new suites are not only a dramatic addition to an historic venue, but a great place to experience a course in hospitality. ■

*Because WPAC does not use third-party booking sites, reservations for the new guest rooms can only be made through the venue’s website, [walhallapac.com](http://walhallapac.com).*



Built at the turn of the century as a grade school, this is now the Walhalla Performing Arts Center, an entertainment venue that just expanded to include overnight accommodations.

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## Come sail away BY DARI MCBRIDE

A few weeks ago, I finally had the chance to do something I've dreamed about for years ... go sailing! Although I've spent over 50 years around boats of all kinds, I had never experienced the unique thrill of being on a true sailing vessel. This was an adventure I had long hoped to check off my list.

Thanks to Joe and Donna Mayeur, that long-awaited moment finally arrived, and it was absolutely amazing. I met them at noon on a warm, breezy day that proved perfect for setting sail. Joining us was a remarkable woman named Sonny Duncan, a seasoned sailor who has traveled the world by sailboat and even started her own company to build sailboats. It was an honor to be on board with such knowledgeable and passionate sailors.

The Mayeurs' boat, a Catalina 320, is one of the largest vessels on Lake Keowee. It boasts a beautiful, well-kept cabin, and Joe takes great pride in keeping it spotless.

Once we motored out of their cove and into open water, the sails were unfurled, the engine cut off and we were carried by the wind. The sound of the boat gliding through the water was one of the most relaxing sensations I've ever experienced. Sitting at the stern, watching Sonny at the helm and Jon and Donna working the sails as the boat tacked (turned), I couldn't help but reflect on how much there is to still learn in life.

I asked lots of questions, picked up a ton of new vocabulary and heard some incredible stories of their sailing adventures.

Joe and Donna are members of the Keowee Sailing Club, where they regularly participate in races and events. For a few hours, I had a glimpse into their world — truly a world of its own. Sailing offers a completely different way to enjoy the water. It invites quiet reflection,

deeper connection with nature and a slower pace that encourages taking in all life has to offer.

We were on the water for about two hours, and a few times the wind picked up,



*Editor's Note: Photos accompanying this column were taken by Dave Emanuel, local resident and well known photographer of Lake Keowee sailing events.*

{top to bottom} Writer Dari McBride (in the stern) was locked in to her first sail, which she called "a completely different way to enjoy the water." Her maiden sail was made possible by Tempus owners Joe and Donna Mayeur.

The Tempus was under full sail as it glided across Lake Keowee, offering the author a first-ever taste of the sailing life.

Sonny Duncan, a Keowee Sailing Club member and sailor who has traveled across waters around the world, handled the helm as Joe and Donna Mayeur skipped the author's first sail. Photo by Dari McBride

sending the boat heeling (tipping) to the side. Sailing at an angle, skimming across the lake proved to be my favorite part of the ride. It was also fun to listen as they discussed techniques and strategies, always looking for ways to improve the experience. Sonny offered some suggestions and demonstrated small adjustments that might give Joe and Donna an edge in future races.

As we made our way back to the dock, I found myself reflecting on the many wonderful ways people enjoy our beautiful lakes. While I still love my fast-paced water sports, I'll now smile a little bigger and wave a little harder at the sailboats I pass, having experienced, even briefly, the grace and magic of sailing.

The water is a happy place for many of us, and while we may choose different ways to enjoy it, we're all drawn to its beauty just the same.



Dari McBride is the president of the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce. An avid boater since childhood, Dari enjoys living on the lake and sharing her love of boating and water sports with all ages.



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## Plug in for fishing BY PHILLIP GENTRY

Amid all the talk of clean and green energy alternatives, it may come as a surprise to know that electric motors have been a mainstay in the fishing industry for years.

The caveat to that statement is that, while most anglers rely on an electric motor when actively fishing, they still use gas powered motors for launching, loading and propelling their boats from one place to another. In fishing terms, an electric motor is commonly referred to as a trolling motor.

Fishing boats come equipped with trolling motors as standard equipment mounted to the bow of the boat. These motors are typically used on a “stop and go” basis to work shoreline structures or move over underwater contours. Most anglers don’t “troll,” per se, but use the trolling motor to position the boat.

Some crappie, striper and a few catfish anglers do troll in the true sense of the word, using an electric motor mounted to the bow of the boat to move at a slower, continuous pace. The defining difference is that these anglers are trolling live or artificial baits at approximately the same speeds that casting anglers use to retrieve their offerings.

Modern technology built into some upper-end electric trolling motors allows for integration between GPS systems and chart plotters. This technology allows the electric motor to key in on a GPS location to “lock” the boat’s position in one spot. This feature allows anglers to position the boat without having to drop anchor to hold the boat in position.

Another feature connects the trolling motor either by ethernet cable or wireless Bluetooth,



The fishing industry has long embraced electric fishing motors for fishing applications but has been reluctant to give up gas powered outboard motors.

allowing anglers to chart the forward path of the boat on a prescribed course via the chart plotter. The plotter then guides the trolling motor through a continuous series of commands to hold it on course. This is especially useful when fishing along a continuous drop-off or creek channel edge.

The “horsepower” of an electric trolling motor is measured in pounds of thrust, ranging from 36 pounds on the low end to over 100 pounds on the upper end. To supply power to these motors, large trolling motor batteries are required. These batteries take up considerable space and weight in the boat,

although there is movement to lighter and smaller lithium batteries.

Lower power trolling motors operate on one 12-volt battery and can power a trolling motor up to around 50 pounds of thrust. Motors producing higher thrust require batteries wired “in series,” which connects one battery’s negative pole to the second battery’s positive pole, increasing the overall voltage output to 24. Once the thrust needs reach around 90 pounds (36 volts), the output requires yet another battery, again with the polarity reversed.

It is recommended that the trolling motor system be wired to a separate designated battery system. Using trolling motor batteries to supply power to depth finders, marine radios, electric winches or downriggers, or to crank the big motor, can put a drain on trolling batteries. It also compounds electrical interference between sensitive electronics. Make sure each system is properly

grounded separately from the others to reduce interference, especially in sonar devices.

Replacing the main, transom-mounted gasoline outboard motor with an electric outboard motor might be a harder sell in the marine industry than the automotive industry but some manufacturers are “testing the waters” with EV-type outboards.

Time will tell if they gain a foothold.



Phillip Gentry is a freelance outdoor writer who has been writing a wide variety of outdoor articles across the Southeast since 2004.

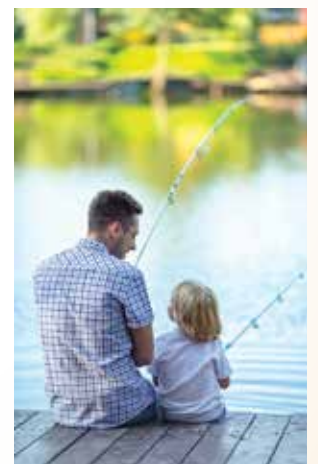


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**JUNE 20-29**  
**MURDER, PLAIN AND SIMPLE**  
Eleanor is old, very old. Not to mention rich, very rich. When she plans to revise her will, her devious nephew, Robert, has other deadlier and poisonous plans! After the deed is done (or so he thinks!), Robert tries to avoid suspicion as he plots his next move. Unfortunately for Robert, a conniving niece, a noble lawyer, an uncouth doctor and a scheming gangster all threaten to rob him of his inheritance. Will he be able to outwit them and get away with murder and the old lady’s fortune? Full of witty banter, zany characters, and hilarious twists and complications, this murder mystery farce will keep you guessing and laughing at every turn.



**JULY 24 – AUG. 10**  
**MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET**  
A Tuesday night, shortly before Christmas 1956, four legends — Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley — gathered at the Sun Record recording studio in Memphis, TN, where they’d launched their careers. This was their only performance, a cultural flashpoint that caught rock ‘n’ roll at the moment of creation. Million Dollar Quartet brings that legendary December night to life with an irresistible tale of broken promises, secrets, betrayal and celebrations that is both poignant and funny. Relive the era with this smash-hit sensation featuring an incredible score of rock ‘n’ roll,

gospel, R&B and country hits, performed live onstage by world-class actors and musicians.

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**JUNE 10-15**  
**SOME LIKE IT HOT**  
Set in Chicago when Prohibition has everyone thirsty for a little excitement, Some Like It Hot is the “glorious, big, high-kicking” story of two musicians forced to flee the Windy City after witnessing a mob hit. With gangsters hot on their heels, they catch a cross-country train for the life-chasing, life-changing trip of a lifetime.



**JULY 8-13**  
**LIFE OF PI**  
After a shipwreck in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, a 16-year-old boy named Pi survives on a lifeboat with four companions — a hyena, a zebra, an orangutan and a Royal Bengal tiger. Told with jaw-dropping visuals, world class puppetry and exquisite stagecraft, Life of Pi creates a breathtaking journey that will leave you filled with awe and joy.

**AUGUST 5-10**  
**KIMBERLY AKIMBO**  
Kimberly is about to turn 16 and recently moved with her family to a new town in suburban New Jersey. In this “howlingly funny heartbreaker of a show” (The New Yorker), Kim is forced to navigate family dysfunction, a rare genetic condition, her first crush . . . and possible felony charges. Ever the optimist, she is determined to find happiness against all odds and embark on

a great adventure. Kimberly Akimbo is the winner of five Tony Awards including Best Musical.

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**WWW.GREENVILLELITTLETHEATRE.ORG**  
**THURS. 7:30 P.M., FRI. & SAT. 8 P.M.,**  
**MATINEES SAT., 2 P.M.; SUN., 3 P.M.**



**JUNE 5-29**  
**SISTER ACT**  
Based on the hit comedy film starring Whoopi Goldberg, this divine new musical Sister Act is sure to “Raise Your Voice” and let everyone’s heart sing. When disco singer Deloris must go undercover as a nun in a convent, the two worlds combine to create what can only be described as a miracle. With original music from Beauty and the Beast’s Alan Menken, this story celebrates the power of friendship, music and sisterhood.

**FOOTHILLS PLAYHOUSE**  
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**FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M.;**  
**SUNDAYS, 3 P.M.**

**THRU JUNE 8**  
**THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE**  
Step through the wardrobe and into the magical land of Narnia. This beloved tale by C.S. Lewis is brought to life by talented young actors under the direction of Suzi Harmon. Follow the adventures of the Pevensie siblings as they encounter talking animals, mythical creatures and an epic battle of good versus evil.

**AUG. 28 – SEPT. 7**  
**SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN HOMECOMING**  
It’s October 1945, and the gospelsinging Sanders Family is back together again. Join them as they send Reverend Mervin Oglethorpe and his wife June off in style, with hilarious and touching stories and 25 toetapping bluegrass gospel favorites.

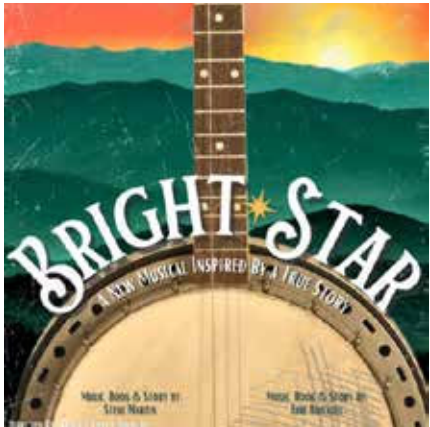
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**FRI. & SAT., 7:30 P.M.; SUNDAYS, 3 P.M.**



**AUGUST 8-24**  
**HAIRSPRAY**  
It’s 1962 in Baltimore, and the lovable plus-size teen, Tracy Turnblad, has only one desire — to dance on the popular “Corny Collins Show.” When her dream comes true, Tracy is transformed from social outcast to sudden star. She must use her newfound power to dethrone the reigning Teen Queen, win the affections of heartthrob, Link Larkin, and integrate a TV network ... all without denting her ‘do!

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**FRI.-SAT., 7:30 P.M.; SUNDAY MATINEES, 3 P.M.**

**OPENING SEPT. 5**  
**BRIGHT STAR**  
This musical, with a score by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, blends heartfelt storytelling with an energetic bluegrass sound. Set in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, the story unfolds in 1945-46 when Alice, a literary editor haunted by a past secret, meets Billy, a young soldier just home from WWII. Their connection stirs long-buried emotions that inspire Alice to confront her past and search for the child she lost years ago. Along the way it explores themes of love, loss, redemption, forgiveness and the enduring nature of hope.



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**SUNDAY, JUNE 8**  
*Timeless Rock & Roll*

**CHI-TOWN  
TRANSIT AUTHORITY**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 14**  
*A Tribute To The Music of  
Chicago 2025*

**SAMMY KERSHAW**  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 20**  
*Iconic Country Legend*

**JOSH TURNER**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 10**  
*This Country Music Thing Tour*

**ZOSO**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 19**  
*The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience*

**INTERSTELLAR ECHOES**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 26**  
*A Tribute To Pink Floyd*

**SWEET BABY JAMES**  
**FRIDAY, AUGUST 15**  
*#1 James Taylor Tribute*

**BLACK JACKET SYMPHONY**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 16**  
*The Era Of Yacht Rock*

Tickets & Information: WalhallaPAC.com | 864-638-5277

#WalhallaPAC



# calendar of events

## JUNE

### THRU JUNE 20

Blue Ridge Arts Center, 111 E. South 2nd St., Seneca hosts its Annual Juried Show with public opening and closing receptions from 5:30-7 p.m.; regular gallery hours are Wed. – Fri. 1-4 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.; blueridgeartscenter.com

Clemson summer music series, On the Ave, features free live music on College Avenue every Tuesday, 5:30 to 9 p.m.; visit [www.clemson.edu/centers-institutes/brooks/](http://www.clemson.edu/centers-institutes/brooks/)

### JUNE 2-6

Hart County Community Theater Teen Camp for ages 12-17 is a hands-on workshop into all aspects of a production — sound, lighting, set and costume design, acting and singing. Participants showcase learned skills at a June 7 performance of Beetlejuice; for more information visit: [www.hhcct.org](http://www.hhcct.org)

Earth Art Camp at Eagles Nest Art Center, 4 Eagle Lane, Salem, is for ages 6-12; 9 a.m. to noon; cost \$50; children learn to express care of creation through multiple types of art; children must be able to follow instructions and show interest in learning; to register or volunteer, call 864.280.1258

### JUNE 6-15

Chautauqua History Comes Alive Festival at various locations throughout Greenville; more information at: [www.visitgreenvillesc.com/event/chautauqua-history-comes-alive-festival-american-celebrity/46627/](http://www.visitgreenvillesc.com/event/chautauqua-history-comes-alive-festival-american-celebrity/46627/)

### JUNE 7

National Get Outdoors Day at Stumphouse Mountain Park is an annual event intended to inspire and motivate Americans to get outside for a healthy, fun day of outdoor adventure; 8:30 a.m. to noon; for more information visit: [www.cityofwalhalla.com/events/](http://www.cityofwalhalla.com/events/)

### JUNE 8

Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 East North Broad St., Walhalla, presents The Allman Betts Band 2025; 7:30 p.m.; for more information, visit: <https://walhallapac.com>

### JUNE 9-13

Hart County Community Theater Children’s Theater FUNdamentals Camp for ages 6-12. Participants will showcase learned skills in a

June 14 production of Madagascar; for more information visit: [www.hhcct.org](http://www.hhcct.org)

### JUNE 11-30

Duke’s World of Energy hosts “Wednesdays at the World of Energy;” free activities geared to children ages 5-12; all programs begin at 10 a.m. and last approximately one hour; adult supervision required; see [duke-energy.com/worldofenergy](http://duke-energy.com/worldofenergy) for event dates and details. The first program is June 11 and will feature face painters, balloon twisters, popcorn and more.

### JUNE 14

Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 East North Broad St., Walhalla, presents Chi-Town Transit Authority, The Premier Chicago Tribute Band; 7:30 p.m.; for more information, visit: <https://walhallapac.com>

### JUNE 19-21

Seneca hosts Juneteenth Celebration; for more information visit <https://seneca.sc.us/>

### JUNE 20

Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 East North Broad St., Walhalla, presents iconic entertainer, Sammy Kershaw; 7:30 p.m.; for more information, visit: <https://walhallapac.com>

### JUNE 21

Hagood Mill Historic Site, 138 Hagood Mill Road, Pickens, presents Americana Folk Festival1; 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; shop artisan merchants; mill will be operating; \$5 admission for 10 and older; 864.898.2936.

### JUNE 27-28

Lake & Mountain Quilters Guild Show; Seneca Middle School, 15440 Wells Hwy; 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day; 22 categories of quilts on display, vendors, handmade and consignments items for sale, silent auction and a raffle for Japanese Fan quilt; more information at [LMQG.org](http://LMQG.org), and Facebook Lake & Mountain Quilters Guild.

## JULY

### JULY 1-31

Duke’s World of Energy hosts “Wednesdays at the World of Energy;” free activities geared to children ages 5-12; all programs begin at 10 a.m. and last approximately one hour; adult supervision required; see [duke-energy.com/worldofenergy](http://duke-energy.com/worldofenergy) for event dates and details.

[duke-energy.com/worldofenergy](http://duke-energy.com/worldofenergy) for event dates and details.

### JULY 3

Independence Fest on Main Street in downtown Walhalla; music on the green, family excitement and fireworks; 6-10 p.m.

### JULY 4

Seneca Independence Day celebration; Gignilliat Field begins at 6 p.m.; variety of activities, including live music, food and beverages, bounce houses, and waterslides and gaming trucks for kids; fireworks at dusk; no pets or tents

### JULY 10

Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 East North Broad St., Walhalla, presents country music star Josh Turner; 7:30 p.m.; for more information, visit: <https://walhallapac.com>

### JULY 18 – AUG. 22

Blue Ridge Arts Center, 111 E. South 2nd St., Seneca features “Carolina on My Mind” as well as an exhibit of the Golden Corner Pastel Society. Public opening and closing receptions from 5:30-7 p.m.; regular gallery hours are Wed. – Fri. 1-4 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.; blueridgeartscenter.com

### JULY 19

Eagles Nest Art Center, 4 Eagle Lane, Salem, presents Oconee Mountain Opry: 7 p.m.; tickets \$10; variety show of local and regional talent. Come early to visit the OPUS Museum of artifacts and enjoy homemade concessions; eaglesnestartcenter.org

Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 East North Broad St., Walhalla, presents ZOSO: the ultimate Led Zeppelin experience; 7:30 p.m.; for more information, visit: <https://walhallapac.com>

Hagood Mill Historic Site, 138 Hagood Mill Road, Pickens, presents Banjo Extravaganza; 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; shop artisan merchants; mill will be operating; \$5 admission for 10 and older; 864.898.2936.

### JULY 26

Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 East North Broad St., Walhalla, presents Interstellar Echoes: a tribute to Pink Floyd; 7:30 p.m.; for more information, visit: <https://walhallapac.com>



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# calendar of events

**AUGUST**  
**AUGUST 15**  
Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 East North Broad St., Walhalla, presents America's number one James Taylor tribute Sweet Baby James with Nashville musician Bill Gries performing the songs of the legendary JT; 7:30 p.m.; for more information, visit: <https://walhallapac.com>

**AUGUST 16**  
Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 East North Broad St., Walhalla, presents the Black Jacket Symphony performing the Yacht Rock Revue featuring the greatest hits of the '70s and '80s; 7:30 p.m.; for more information, visit: <https://walhallapac.com>

Hagood Mill Historic Site, 138 Hagood Mill Road, Pickens, presents Rolling Waterwheel Gospel Revue; 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; shop artisan merchants; mill will be operating; \$5 admission for 10 and older; 864.898.2936.

**AUGUST 22-23**  
Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101

East North Broad St., Walhalla, presents 7 Bridges: The Ultimate EAGLES Experience; 7:30 p.m. each evening; for more information, visit: <https://walhallapac.com>

**AUGUST 23**  
Walhalla hosts Holler in Walhalla, a Gravel Roll Bike Race; 8 a.m.; discount for online registration before August 8; day-of-event registration available; for more information visit: [www.gravelroll.com](http://www.gravelroll.com)

**AUGUST 29**  
Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 East North Broad St., Walhalla, presents Harvest Moon – the music of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young; 7:30 p.m.; for more information, visit: <https://walhallapac.com>

**SEPTEMBER 6**  
Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 East North Broad St., Walhalla, presents Sean Dietrich, a multi-instrumentalist, novelist and stand-up storyteller known for his

commentary on life in the American South; 7:30 p.m.; for more information, visit: <https://walhallapac.com>

**ONGOING**  
Crusin' on Main featuring classic cars and trucks, music and food; Norton-Thompson Park, Seneca, first Saturday of the month through October.


Jazz on the Alley, Ram Cat Alley in Seneca; every Thursday thru October; 7-9 p.m.

The Lunney House Museum, 211 W. South 1st St., Seneca, is open Thursday through Sunday, 1-5 p.m.; admission by donation.

The Bertha Lee Strickland Cultural Museum, 208 W. South 2nd St., Seneca, is open Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; admission by donation.

Silver Dollar Music Hall in Westminster features open mic Fridays at 7 p.m. with regular pickers performing at 8 p.m. 864.973.8781.





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**FRIDAY, JULY 4 | GIGNILLIAT FIELD**

**LIVE MUSIC ON STAGE!**



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**8PM**

**SATISFACTION**  
Rolling Stones Tribute Band

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## Graveyard Fields Falls

**A**micalola Falls is Georgia's tallest waterfall, dropping over 730 feet and cascading in multiple tiers of misty water from a towering cliff in Georgia's Chattahoochee National Forest.

If your search for a lovely waterfall takes you anywhere near the southern portion of the Blue Ridge Parkway, you may want to consider spending a little time in Graveyard Fields. It's not at all scary, but it is beautiful. Here — with relative ease — you can enjoy colorful vistas, wildflower-filled fields and a pair of lovely waterfalls.

The Yellowstone Prong is the source for two waterfalls in this mile-high valley filled with wildflowers and surrounded by the 6,000-foot peaks of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The area, located near milepost 418.8 south of Asheville, got its name years ago from tree stumps that looked like gravestones.

A short, 1/3-mile hike from the parking area leads to the 40-foot Lower (or Second) Graveyard Fields Falls. Although short, the hike does have quite a few steps and uphill sections on the return trip. There is a map in the parking area where a trail at the lower end of the lot leads through a thick patch of rhododendron and down some steps to a bridge. Cross the bridge, turn right along the trail until you come to the first intersection to the right. From there you can descend a long flight of steps to the viewing platform for Lower Falls.

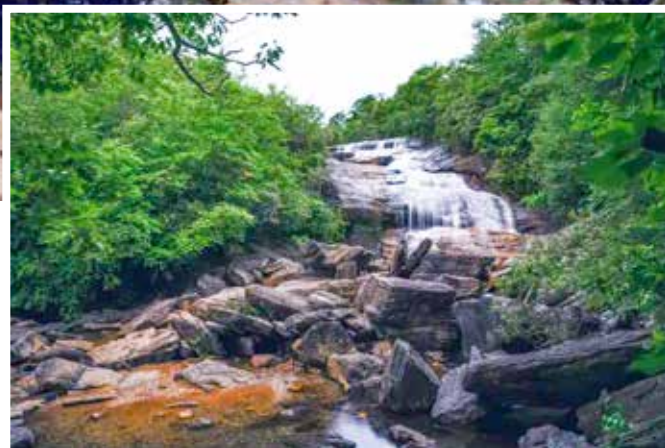
From the Lower Falls, you can continue on the Graveyard Fields Loop. To do so, do not recross the river on the way back to the car. Continue straight ahead. The next waterfall is just over a mile ahead. Most of this hike is fairly level. The last section has a bit of a climb. The trail splits just before the Upper Falls. Keep right to reach the main drop of the falls.

Because this is a multi-level, 55-foot waterfall, it is an amazing place to have a picnic and still have your own little piece of the waterfall. The base also has a very small swimming hole for those inclined to take a dip.

After about three-quarters of a mile on the return trip, turn right off the trail to cross the river on a wooden bridge. Continue on this trail to the exit at the upper end of the parking area.

### DIRECTIONS

Do not rely on GPS. Simply drive the Blue Ridge Parkway to milepost 418.8. It's about 10 miles past Mt. Pisgah.



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