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To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 11/10/2015 9:54:05 AM
Subject: Spotighting: 8+ Towns in the Carolinas

November 10, 2015 *Below: Queenly & quirky, George was here, Pucker up, baby, Beatlemania, the way we were, Say cheese, happy holidays, do it your way.*

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Take a Road Trip to Charlotte

So many choices!

This road trip is a bit different from most. The sheer size of Charlotte, NC, means visitors can have a myriad of experiences, and we're offering you ideas to start your exploration.

Instead of suggesting this bistro for lunch, or that boutique for shopping, we're offering our best information on spectacular ways to enjoy this great city. During your visit, should you find more great destinations, let us know and we'll add them to an ever-growing list of what to see and do in Charlotte.

Arguably considered the capital of both Carolinas, Charlotte is known as the Queen City for good reason. In terms of sheer size, she reigns supreme over the region. Many folks who work in Charlotte live in South Carolina, and others have populated bedroom communities north of this international metropolis.

For our purposes, let's take a close look at what can be done over a long weekend or mid-week getaway. [More.](#)

Photo Credit: Douglas Edwards | www.douglasedwardsphotography.com

Where in the Carolina World Are You?

The father of our country visited this noble city on May 10-12, 1791 during his southern tour. The goal was to promote unity, and along the way, those with whom he met were astounded at his courtesies and statesmanship. Today, a statue of George Washington gazes serenely down Main Street, where shops, restaurants and pubs keep the capital city hopping.

Where are you?

Photo Courtesy of SCPRT

Carolina Home Grown

Persimmon Trees: *Landscaped Loveliness*

When it comes to choosing landscape trees, I look for trees that have multi-season interest. I've seen too many fleeting beauties that bear a fireworks display of flowers in the spring that lasts for a week or two, and then they disappear into the landscape.

I like trees that make you look twice. Spring flowers, lustrous green leaves in summer and yellowish to reddish-purple leaves in the fall.

When the leaves drop, brilliantly colored edible fruits hang from the limbs like Christmas ornaments. Then in winter, the thick, nearly black bark cut into neat squares looks like the back of an alligator.

I'm writing about persimmons. You're probably familiar with our native persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), which can reach a height of 35 to 60 feet, with a spread up to 35 feet. They're often found in abandoned fields, along highways, pastures and roadside ditches. It's prone to suckering wildly, so if you have one, chances are you'll have a grove in short time. The fruit is very small, seedy,

and astringent until the fruit is fully ripe.

I'm especially fond of the Oriental or Kaki persimmons (*Disopyros kaki*). The Latin name, which translates to "food of the gods," is apropos. There's nothing better than going out to the garden in early morning and eating the chilly, juicy and flavorful fruits.

Depending on the variety, fruit may range in size from a half dollar to the size of a small grapefruit, and in color from yellow to deep orange-red.

Native and Asian persimmons are attractive throughout the year, but most delectable this month.

Learn more about Carolina gardening from Dr. Polomski's new book, [Carolinas Month by Month Gardening](#). Available wherever books are sold.

All you need is Love

The Art of John Lennon comes to Raleigh

In his art, John Lennon, the legendary musician, songwriter, poet, philosopher and artist, delivered a consistent message – peace and love. Art was actually his first love, as he began drawing long before he owned a guitar.

John Lennon's artwork celebrates human love and communication – two themes at the heart of his contribution to the art of the twentieth century. His iconic Self-Portrait image has become the cornerstone of the collection. Offered through the Bag One Arts program, these posthumous, limited edition prints are adapted from Lennon's original drawings.

The [Mahler Fine Art](#), Raleigh's leading Fine Art Gallery, is honored to present an exhibition of the extraordinary artworks of John Lennon. All artwork is on exhibition and available for acquisition Friday, November 13th through Sunday, November 15th, 2015. All events are complimentary and open to the public.

The exhibition in Raleigh is the only one of its kind scheduled for the Southeast at this time.

Images:

*Left, Photo Credit Iain Macmillan Copyright © Yoko Ono
Right, Lennon Copyright © Yoko Ono*

More about [Raleigh](#).

Pack up your cameras

Colorful Carolinas

Hello Tony and friends,

As superlative colors fade in the highlands, the Carolina foothills are alive with fall's rainbow.

For most, it's still shorts weather here, even though our thoughts have turned to the Currier and Ives postcard image of snowy holidays (best viewed from afar).

As many Northern climes are already digging out from winter snowstorms, we enjoy the hint of crisp air. This, my friends, is perfect weather for golf, tennis, hiking and biking. It's also a great time of year to visit our 500-mile coastline, all the way down to Savannah, South Carolina's kissin' cousin.

Plan your getaway, soon, and if the thought of putting down roots has crossed your mind, do a bit of research on CarolinaLiving.com before you finalize travel plans.

Fresh new communities are sprouting everywhere and we've got great new tips to aid you in your quest for friendly faces and beautiful places.

Check out the [Retire-Unretire](#) trends article. As always, email us with adventures you've found memorable. We'll share.

All the best for a bountiful Thanksgiving in Columbia!

Leyla & Patrick Mason

Co-Founders

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The New Guide is here!

Nov. 17-19, 2015

Photography Workshop

Santee State Park, in South Carolina.

Cost includes two nights in a cabin, a boat tour with Fish Eagle Tours, and the chance to capture images of waterfowl, raptors, alligators and other creatures of the park.

The workshop will be led by Perry Baker, a photographer for the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism. He's been photographing nature since he was 12 years old, and has worked as a photojournalist for news agencies and magazines around the country.

[More information.](#)

Carolina Wildlife

West Indian Manatee

Trichechus manatus latirostris

Note: Our ongoing feature shares information about Carolinas endangered animals. Some are cuddly, others – not so much. All are important and the Wildlife Federations of both Carolinas are working hard to raise awareness of these important creature assets. Enjoy!

The West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) is a vegetarian mammal weighing between 440 and 1,300 pounds that lives primarily in Florida's natural freshwater springs but travels as far north as Massachusetts during the summer months.

Manatees have no natural predators and are only endangered due to increased human interactions. Since manatees move slowly along the water surface, their grey bodies camouflaging into the water, it is easy for boaters to never see them and therefore run right over them. Boats so often strike manatees that the white scars left behind on their bodies by propellers can be used to identify them. This, coupled with the low reproductive rate of manatees, has landed

these gentle giants on the endangered species list.

Areas that are home to manatees are subject to slow speed limits and specific areas are roped off completely as wildlife sanctuaries. There are also many groups that work to rescue and protect manatees, primarily in the Florida springs where manatees spend their winters.

Submitted by Liesel Hamilton, SC Wildlife Federation volunteer.

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The Way it Was

[Click here](#) for the official hold-in-your-hand Guide to Carolina lifestyle fun and adventure trips, plus real estate tips, tax & cost-of-living advantages, retirement opportunities and town profiles.

Just share your dream goals and we'll help lead you to smart Carolina life and times.

Facebook

We love a Carolina Fall

Where else can you enjoy gorgeous leaf color, while sitting outside on your deck for Thanksgiving dinner?

We agree, that's pretty special. (One year, I even served my own homegrown tomatoes as part of the Thanksgiving Feast – plucked that very morning from the winding-down garden.)

What are your Thanksgiving traditions? Favorite Southern recipes. (With apologies to my New York-born son-in-law, I've never learned to master his favorite stuffing, but I'll keep trying, in addition to our traditional cornbread dressing, of course.) Please [share](#).

Heading your way

- Let's Take a Road Trip!
- Carolina

Life on the Old Plantation

On November 14-15, Middleton Place offers visitors the opportunity to experience life on a bustling plantation during Plantation Days, a weekend-long re-creation of the rice harvest season with cooking, weaving, pottery, and candle making, cotton processing, and blacksmith demonstrations. For more information, visit www.middletonplace.org.

[More on Charleston.](#)

Carolina Cuisine

I did it myself!

There's a little bakery in Columbia, SC that turns out the most delicious, adorable cookies. The taste is divine, but the eye appeal is just as much fun. Blue Flour Bakery owner and chief baker Terri knows her way around a kitchen, and folks from all over order her specialty cookies, creatively decorated for the occasion. She's shared a how-to, step-by-step instruction manual with us (and you). Roll up your sleeves, invite a girlfriend over, pour a glass of bubbly for inspiration, and make some [Cupcake Sugar Cookies](#).

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