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To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov

Date: 6/9/2016 9:52:44 AM

Subject: Showcasing: Hilton Head Island, Beaufort, Cashiers, National Parks, SC Ag-Art

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June 9, 2016

*Below: Intimately entertaining; Viva Italia; Bloom for me; Waterfully wonderful; In plein air; Lasso the Sun; Sleep under the stars; Dirty Dancing redux*

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## Take a Road Trip to Newberry, SC

Consider these FUN-filled possibilities. Why Newberry? Simply put, it's a little, accessible gem that's Southern to its core, and we mean that in a good way. Drive to Newberry on I-26.

It's about 45 minutes west of Columbia, and about an hour east of Greenville. Once you arrive, choose your accommodation. We suggest the Hampton Inn Newberry-Opera House. It's downtown, in the middle of the action, and frequently offers packages to entice visitors to enjoy the many charms of this remarkable town. Safely

ensconced, it's time to explore. [More.](#)

## Where in the Carolina World are You?

Who knew there were so many excellent wineries in North Carolina? Head for this valley and sample to your heart's content (with a designated driver, of course). Try to find time to stop here, where their wine has been enjoyed by White House guests, and the owners devote plenty of time and resources to helping homeless creatures. [Where are you?](#)

## 2016 Southeastern Piano Festival

The 2016 Southeastern Piano Festival—the region's only piano-focused arts event—begins Sunday, June 12 in Columbia, SC. The weeklong festival kicks off at the University of South Carolina with the highly anticipated Piano Extravaganza Gala Concert, a performance that showcases eight pianists, four Steinway grand pianos and multimedia, including the cutting-edge Steinway Spirio piano, known as the world's highest resolution player piano. World-renowned artists follow throughout the week. [More.](#)

## Ag + Art

### Welcome to the Tour!

What perfect family fun. Welcome to the [South Carolina Ag + Art](#)

**Tour**, a free, self-guided tour of designated farms in South Carolina featuring local artisans and farmer's markets. You will see, first-hand, where your food comes from, watch artists in action and purchase their works, dance to the melodies of bluegrass and folksongs, and learn more about rural life.

## Carolina Grown

### Delicate and Beautiful

by Robert F. Polomski, Ph.D.  
*Horticulturist/Lecturer • Clemson University*

Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) is a native southern aristocrat that has become a blooming sensation over the past 30 years. The large 8-12 inch wide fragrant flowers appear in May and early June. Although they open sporadically and are often scattered haphazardly throughout the canopy, I've learned to appreciate each individual flower's character and fragrance. I find the leaves to be attractive as well. The dark green, waxy leaves have the feel of plastic. The undersides of the leaves of the species are green, but some cultivars flaunt fuzzy, felt-like brown lower leaf surfaces.

Left to its own devices, a southern magnolia can attain gargantuan proportions, typically 60 to 80 ft. high and 30 to 50 ft. wide. However, with the introduction and availability of cultivars that come in a variety of habits, sizes, and leaf shapes, southern magnolia can fit quite easily into smaller landscapes. Use the heat- and drought-tolerant cultivars as accents, or plant them in groups, hedges, or large screens.

Several exceptional cultivars for the Carolinas include 'Bracken's Brown Beauty,' 'Claudia Wannamaker,' 'D.D. Blanchard,' 'Hasse,' 'Kay Parris,' 'Little Gem,' 'Mgtig' (Greenback®), 'Southern Charm' (Teddy Bear®), and 'TMGH' (Alta®).\*

*\*Names in parentheses are the commercially acceptable trade names for the true names of the plants listed before them.*

*Note: Magnolia grandiflora 'Kay Parris' is an upright, columnar southern magnolia that bears six-inch wide fragrant flowers and grows up to 25-30 ft. tall and 10-12 ft. wide after 15 years. Introduced by Kevin Parris in 1993, it is believed to be the result of a cross between M.g. 'Little Gem' and 'M.g. 'Bracken's Brown Beauty.'*

## The Outdoor Issue

Hello Tony,

Summertime graces the Carolinas with blooming gardenias and magnolias

that fill gardens with delicious aromas. Farmers Markets are lush with local produce, super fresh eggs and seafood. We now abandon the gym for the great outdoors: bike trails (we've been pedaling great trails), cool mountain hikes, challenging golf, swimmin' holes and Atlantic beaches.

With the hundredth anniversary of the birth of our National Parks just past, we invite you to enjoy *Lassoing the Sun*, a book that really tells a life-changing story. Then, plan to visit the National Parks in the Carolinas – more than a dozen strong. (*Info, right.*)

There are "beautiful places" at every turn. Witness the "smiling faces" DNA woven into the more relaxed Carolina culture. We love being in the midst of mountain drama views, or anywhere that gives us quality outdoor time.

Tony, thanks for sending your ideas as we continue to share with you the best of the Carolinas. Enjoy!

**Leyla & Patrick Mason**  
Co-Founders  
Center For Carolina  
Living *Showcasing Carolina Life  
& Adventures*

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**Water, Water, Everywhere**

## Beaufort Water Festival

**July 15-24, 2016**

[www.bftwaterfestival.com](http://www.bftwaterfestival.com)

We're providing a heads-up to give you time to get accommodations for this super good time in one of America's favorite southern towns.

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

Available wherever books are sold

*Photography: by Kevin Parris, Horticulture  
Instructor/ Arboretum Director, Spartanburg  
Community College*

## Our National Treasures

*Note: There are more than a dozen [national parks and sites](#) in the Carolinas. Visit them all, but before you go, read this inspiring book by one man who spent a year traveling.*

Mark Woods shares his account of his incredible, year-long journey visiting America's National Parks. In 2011, Woods won the Eugene C. Pulliam Fellowship, a \$75,000 award given annually to one writer in the country with a proposal to spend one year in America's national parks, looking ahead to the centennial and

beyond. In 2012, he visited one park a month, starting with a sunrise in Acadia and ending with a sunset in Haleakala.

What was intended to be a book about the future of the national parks turned into something much bigger. *Lassoing The Sun* is more than just a memoir – it is a book about family, the parks, the legacies we inherit, and the ones we leave behind. With the backdrop of America's parks, Woods has given readers an immensely profound story about life and what it truly means to be alive.

*"The guy is so good. And he has such a fresh way of looking at things. I was just thrilled by the way he plans to move the discussion forward."* —Jim Dwyer, Pulitzer Prize winner

Find online at Amazon and at fine bookstores everywhere, including [Amazon](#) | [Barnes & Noble](#) | [Indiebound](#)

## No Corners for Baby

**Hollywood Comes to Cashiers**

Races, entertainment, arts and crafts, celebrations on the waterfront, and lots of people watching will be on tap.

When it's time to retreat for a quiet meal, there are great restaurants.

Currently on our radar: Wren Bistro, Griffin Market and Saltus River Grill.

More about [Beaufort, SC](#).

## The New Guide is here!

Updated town information, six fun new Carolina Adventures, and one heck of a good-looking feature showcasing gardens. Order yours today.

[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

Summer ... in the city, or mountains, by a river, near a lake, or on a sandy beach. What's your pleasure? Please share with us on [Facebook](#).

## Heading your way

- [Let's Take a Road Trip!](#)
- [Carolina Famous Faces](#)
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Guests at [High Hampton Inn](#) may have a chance to glimpse stars on location at this recreation of "Kellerman's Resort." The ABC Television Production stars Debra Messing as the mom, Abigail Breslin as Baby, Sarah Hyland as Baby's sister Lisa, and Colt Prattes as Johnny.

Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, High Hampton Inn in Cashiers, North Carolina, was chosen as the location for the filming of the television series "Dirty Dancing."

The Inn, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has been in full preparation mode this spring to recreate the iconic places from the 1963 movie that was filmed in the Catskills.

Stepping onto the property is like a trip back in time, but with all the modern conveniences. High Hampton Inn embodies the spirit of the picturesque mountains surrounding it; each of the Inn's 116 rooms features rustic décor that captures the essence of a time gone by and transports guests to a simpler time. Don't expect televisions in your room, because the show is outside with activities from tennis to hiking.

More about [Cashiers](#).

*Photo: Jill Schwarzkopf*

## Glamping or Camping: It's all good, here

## Best Campgrounds in SC

Last issue, NC, today, our southern sister. It's not really roughing it when the campgrounds have great amenities and beautiful views.

Plus, the family togetherness time is nothing short of priceless. Mountain camping always guaranteed beautiful images for the family photo album.

Here are the top five, according to TripleBlaze.com

1. Edisto Beach State Park | Edisto Island, SC
2. Cherry Hill Recreation Area | Mountain Rest, SC
3. Cheraw State Park | Cheraw, SC
4. Leroy's Ferry Campground | McCormick, SC
5. Myrtle Beach State Park | Myrtle Beach, SC

[Additional SC State Park info.](#)

*Photo: Cheraw State Park; courtesy Olde English District*

## Carolina Cuisine

## Food fit for an Emperor

Tomatoes are ripening on our vines. Recipes are flowing among friends who know there's nothing better in the summer than any kind of homegrown beauty, from Better Boys to heirloom varieties.

In Little River, SC, (one of SC's most-preferred towns)

Brentwood Restaurant offers fantastic food from Chef Eric Masson, and this featured recipe, [Tomato Boursin Napoleon](#), showcases both his talent, and the tasty fruit. Extra bonus: when you dine there, and you should, because it's fabulous, take note of the beautifully restored old home. Story is, there are ghosts here, but only the friendly sort. Try the recipe today.

### *New Wilmington Community Introduced* RIVERLIGHTS

A new Wilmington community with 1,396 acres of sustainable connections – in, on and around the water. Riverfront, lakefront and waterfront homes – presales begin Summer, 2016. [RiverLightsLiving.com](#)

### *Value-Packed Vacation Package* SEA PINES

Available until Sept. 6, the [Inn & Club at Harbor Town Summer Special](#) starts at \$285 per day (four-day minimum) and features a \$50 resort credit and reduced golf rates. Included complimentary are daily transportation to the new, world-class Sea Pines Beach Club (with use of beach chairs, umbrellas, beach towels, and cooler of bottled water), valet parking, adult bikes (with reduced rates on children's bikes), two hours of court time at The Sea Pines Racquet Club, and full access to the Inn's luxurious pool. Feature unlimited use of the resort's fitness center and free wireless Internet service during the stay.

### *Edgefield Park's "Crow's Nest" & Pool* DANIEL ISLAND

Construction has begun on Daniel Island's newest amenity. Located in Edgefield Park, the last major neighborhood on the south end of the island, this much-anticipated facility will include an Olympic-sized pool with three 25-meter lap lanes, a beach entry and water feature. The playfully-named [Crow's Nest](#) will offer residents a fun new poolside venue for gatherings and events. In addition to a catering kitchen, bathrooms and large open-air area, a second-story screened porch will overlook some of the island's beautiful marsh vistas. The pool and Crow's Nest are currently in the framing phase of construction and are expected to be completed

in early fall.

*Jazz at a World-Class Hotel*  
THE WILCOX HOSTS 4 CATS

Enjoy jazz music by 4 Cats in the Dog House every Thursday evening at [The Wilcox](#), now through August 4. Good times and great music in an unforgettable setting – voted one of the best hotels in the world.

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