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To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 4/14/2015 10:52:34 AM
Subject: Spotlighting: Great Destinations, Myrtle Beach, Asheville, Landrum, The Blue Ridge

April 14, 2015

Below: There's a reason they call it Grand, fly through the air, spring beauty, birds in danger, this Bud's for you, play that mountain music, down on the farm, have it your way.
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Take a Road Trip to Myrtle Beach and the Grand Strand

Those coming to the Myrtle Beach area will find 60 miles of beautiful, sandy beaches, a wealth of fun water activities like parasailing and a 1.2-mile boardwalk that *USA Today* chose in 2013 as one of the country's top boardwalks for food. *Trip Advisor* chose it as the #1 summer destination in 2014.

Even better, there are a wealth of opportunities for fun that are off the beaten path once you want a little break from the sun.

Read on to discover hidden gems shared by the locals, as well as updates on the attractions that everyone loves. And as for food, we've found great options for every taste and budget.

[More.](#)

Where in the Carolina World Are You?

Zip-a-dee-doo-dah

Flying high through the trees, it's hard to imagine that you are just minutes away from one of America's favorite mountain towns. Get your adventure vibe on, then hurry back for strolling, world-class dining, and in season, a bit of drumming.

Where are you?

Carolina Home Grown

Year-round Beauty Delights in Spring

by Robert F. Polomski, Ph.D.

Horticulturist/Lecturer • Clemson University

Whether alone or in a group, flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) never disappoints me with its sublime springtime floral display. In late March to April the showy white "flowers" appear before the leaves unfold. These gorgeous, 3- to 4-inch wide showy white petal-like bracts lure me like the Sirens from Greek mythology. (A botanist will gleefully inform you that the "flowers" of flowering dogwood are not actually flowers, but bracts, which are modified leaves that look like petals; the true yellowish-green flowers are clustered in the

center of these bracts).

These lovely floral bracts give rise to showy red berries in the fall. The fruit are complemented, if not upstaged, by the leaves that turn a stunning red to reddish-purple, which secures its place in the landscape as an essential spring and fall ornamental tree. However, I would argue that the horizontal branches and flat-topped crown of flowering dogwood provide year-round interest.

Numerous flowering dogwood cultivars exist from white to pink to red “flowered” forms. Although plagued by a few prominent insects and diseases (notably dogwood borer, dogwood canker anthracnose, and powdery mildew), there’s been a strong push at breeding disease-resistant dogwoods.

Site flowering dogwood in the right location: partial shade (shade from afternoon sun) and the edge of woodlands. When growing in a relatively stress-free environment, this exceptional native American understory tree will captivate you year-round.

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

Visit These Gentle Giants

Clydesdales Coming to Horse Country

“Week of the Horse” Leads up to Block House Steeplechase

The world-famous eight-horse Budweiser Clydesdale hitch will make a special appearance in Landrum, SC, on Wednesday, April 29, as part of a “Week of the Horse” celebration leading up to the 69th running of the Block House Steeplechase on Saturday, May 2, at FENCE (the Foothills Equestrian Nature Center).

The Budweiser Clydesdales make hundreds of appearances a year, but not usually in a town of Landrum’s size. Their visit here was the brainchild of Patty Otto, owner of The Hare

& Hound Restaurant in Landrum, who was able to organize the visit with the help of area distributor Budweiser of Spartanburg.

The Clydesdales will be on North Trade Street in Landrum starting at 5pm, available for viewing and visits from the public. The parade will start at 6pm and feature, in addition to the Clydesdale hitch, members of local military groups and representatives of other horse breeds from the area. Groups of dramatic black Friesians, lively gaited Paso Finos, and mini-donkeys pulling carts, among other equines, will appear.

The parade and additional “Week of the Horse” activities are being

Good times ahead

Hello Tony,

Is Columbia full of blooming flowers and vegetable gardens sprouting everywhere? From the Blue Ridge to the Atlantic, Carolina spring has sprung.

Planning your 2015 vacation escapes? Add some fresh adventure vacations to your life! Let the Carolinas nurture your soul. Reserve soon to get preferred dates.

Read on ... about affordable restaurants, inns, shops, festivals, special events and a few quirky ideas to amuse and intrigue:

Road trip to Myrtle Beach and Grand Strand with insider hints.

One of our most cherished trees – perfect for your backyard paradise.

Birds in danger – the back story.

The way we were, from a pint-sized perspective.

These Bud-beauties, up close and very personal.

Healthy food the whole (picky) family will love.

That ole-time mountain music

An upswing economy, low taxes and real estate bonanzas sweeten the lifestyle incentives to live here. Click to: [Retirement Living & Real Estate Tips](#).

Click to 370 pages at CarolinaLiving.com your resource for Carolina facts 'n fun ... stories 'n memories!

All the Best,

Leyla & Patrick Mason
Co-Founders,

[Forward this email to a friend.](#)

Carolina Cuisine

coordinated by the Town of Landrum, the Landrum Area Business Association, The Hare & Hound Restaurant, and the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club, which has hosted the annual Block House Steeplechase every year since 1947.

www.blockhouseraces.com

About Budweiser's "Gentle Giants"

Horses chosen for the Budweiser Clydesdale hitch must be at least three years of age, stand approximately 18 hands – or six feet – at the shoulder, and weigh an average of 2,000 pounds. They must be bay in color, have a blaze of white on the face, and have four white legs and a black mane and tail. A gentle temperament is very important as hitch horses meet millions of people each year.

Each Budweiser hitch travels with a Dalmatian, a tradition that dates back to the early days of brewing, when the dogs were trained to protect the horses and guard the wagon while the driver was inside making deliveries.

Fiddlin' and Grinnin'

Fiddler's Grove Festival

May 22-24, Union Grove, North Carolina

The Van Hoy family presents the oldest continuous old-time fiddlers' convention in North America with a barn dance Friday night, stage shows and children's shows, musicians' workshops and lots of campsite picking. Band and musicians' competitions dropped in 2013 are back in 2015, including a new session for First Time Fiddlers (very young to very old), Hot Licks contests for age 17 and younger, and for older players, and a Junior Band Competition.

Artists

Wicker and Jones, Shiver Show, Wayne Henderson and Helen White, Lissy Rosemont and Friends, Dustin Sechrest, Spirit Fiddle, Don Pedi, Bobby Martin, The Cockman Family, storyteller ReVonda Crow, competitors and more.

Festival site: Fiddler's Grove Campground

[More Info](#)

This is the Granddaddy of them all, but for those whose tastes run to blues or beach music, folk songs or rock, you'll find 23 music festivals held in May in North Carolina. [Check it out.](#)

Children's Day on the Farm

Something for Everyone

I love this idea for customizing your breakfast. Don't like broccoli or onions? Skip 'em, but let your brother add those bad boys to his heart's delight.

Jan Pinnington is a consultant on a crusade to make eating healthy and fun for children – and it's working.

Headquartered in Columbia South Carolina, she's creating converts all over the U.S. We'll be sharing her good stuff occasionally.

Enjoy these [Baked Egg Frittatas](#) for a weekend brunch the whole family will love.

The New Guide is nearly here.

Updated town information, six fun new Carolina Adventures, and one heck of a good-looking water story. 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,

Historic Brattonsville

Celebrating farm life in the 18th and 19th centuries, "Children's Day on the Farm" is a fun, annual family event at Historic Brattonsville. Hands-on activities include candle-dipping, blacksmithing, and food preparations in the way of the early settlers of the Carolina Backcountry. Children will enjoy toys and games of long ago. Springtime brings newborn lambs and other farm friends to pet and cuddle.

Professional storyteller Sharon Cooper-Murray, also known as the Gullah Lady, will be delighting folks of all ages with her South Carolina sea-island tales. Visitors can join the Gullah Lady in the hands-on activity of community rag quilting as she shares the rich traditions of the Gullah culture. A team of draft horses will be plowing out in the field. Pony and tractor-drawn wagon rides will be available for a small fee. The 778-acre plantation offers a nature preserve with

miles of walking trails, over thirty colonial and antebellum structures, and a Revolutionary War battlefield site and interpretive trail.

(Learn more about Brattonsville in an upcoming Carolina Adventure, available in the new issue of [CarolinaLiving.com](#))

Saturday, March 28 from 10am – 4pm
Historic Brattonsville is located at
1444 Brattonsville Road, McConnells, SC.
www.chmuseums.org

Carolina Animals at Risk

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!

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*)

Grasshopper sparrows have distinctive orange feathers at the bend

retirement opportunities and town profiles.

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

Facebook

Ever been to an old-fashioned fiddlers' "convention"?

What about a soulful Blues bash?

Even if you're a rock and roller at heart, expand your musical horizons and vow to try a new beat in 2015.

We'll be looking for your [post](#) on Facebook.

of the wings and got their name from the grasshopper-like trill they make when singing. The breeding range of these sparrows spans southern Canada all the way to Central America and across most of the U.S. They winter in the southern U.S., including North Carolina down to Florida and all the way west to Arizona and Mexico.

Grasshopper sparrows need large open grassland with a few woody perches to defend their territory. Territories can be as large as 250 acres. These birds are highly sensitive to habitat changes and will abandon nesting areas with the slightest disturbance. These disturbances are typically habitat fragmentation and loss due to farming zones, urban sprawl, and reforestation efforts. High predation from domestic and feral cats has also impacted the population.

They are a very illusive and secretive species that build well-hidden nests at the bases of grass clumps. Females are known to run in imitation of a rodent and then feign wing injury as a distraction after being flushed from the nest.

NC Wildlife Federation

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