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February 26, 2015

*Below:* The big house, give our regards to Broadway, Fore!, treasures from trash, yes, Rocky, no, Bullwinkle, Living History, keep the love coming.  
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## Carolina Adventure Ayr Mount | Hillsborough, NC

### Looks can be Deceiving

Constructed in 1815, Ayr Mount is a Federal-era plantation house built by a Scotsman, William Kirkland. The name refers to his birthplace in Scotland, the village of Ayr. No doubt a showpiece in its day (a brick exterior was very unusual at the time), the inside is what makes this a home worth visiting. With ceilings that soar to 14 feet and remarkable Federal period woodwork and plasterwork, it gives a grand appearance. In fact, the house was considered one of the finest residential structures in the Piedmont area.

Richard H. Jenrette purchased the house in 1985, meticulously restored it to its original splendor, and gave it to Classic American Homes Preservation Trust as a house museum in 1993. Today, it's listed on the National Register of Historic Places, in a town that's one of the oldest communities in NC.

Inside the house museum,

the west parlor features a portrait of Thomas Jefferson, while the dining room showcases a portrait of the original owner. (It was a condition of sale that the portrait remain on display.) In another room, a portrait of composer Joseph Hopkinson adorns the wall. He composed Hail Columbia. The nursery holds a crib and small chair, crafted from local woods and setting for the infant life of many children of the family.

**WOW Factor:** On display are period furnishings that include examples by Duncan Phyfe, Charles-Honoré Lannuier, and John and Thomas Seymour. Also of special interest are portraits of William Kirkland by Jacob Marling and Thomas Jefferson by Ezra Ames, as well as a rare complete set of 51 etchings of North Carolina architecture by Louis Orr. Outside on the grounds, the Poets Walk covers about one mile, and wanders through the woodlands and meadows of the property (originally 500 acres, now about 60 acres). It runs parallel to the Old Indian Trading Path and passes by the ruins of an old tavern. Clearly, Mr. Kirkland was eager that all who passed see his creation. You will also have river views and see the family cemetery.

**Hint:** Open daily, check hours and times for group tours. Admission to the grounds are free. A ticket to the home is \$12. After you visit, take time for touring Hillsborough, with its many fine old homes. Call: 919.732.6886  
[classicalamericanhomes.org/ayr-mount](http://classicalamericanhomes.org/ayr-mount)

## Famous Faces

**William Ivey Long**

*Photo: Kate Pollard*

This remarkably talented designer was recently nominated for his 14th Tony Award and won the 2014 Drama Desk and Outer Circle Awards for his designs for *Bullets Over Broadway*. He is currently represented on Broadway with *Cabaret*, and *Chicago*, now in its 19th year! He also currently serves as Chairman of the Board for The American Theatre Wing.

Mr. Long was born in Seaborn, North Carolina, the son of a Winthrop University professor and stage director, William Ivey Long, Sr., and his wife, Mary, a high school theatre teacher, actress and playwright. Mr. Long, Sr., also founded Winthrop's theatre department, further insuring a childhood environment rich with the stage.

Mr. Long has a huge number of Broadway hits to his credit, including *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Hairspray*, *The Music Man*, *Cabaret*, *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *Grey Gardens* and dozens more.

He recently made his debut at the Metropolitan Opera with his designs for *The Merry Widow*. He's also designed for Mick Jagger, the late Joan Rivers, and Siegfried and Roy, among others.

Mr. Long serves as Production Designer for North Carolina's oldest running seasonal outdoor drama, *The Lost Colony*, which received the Tony Honor for excellence in the Theatre. He is returning in 2015 for his 45th season with the production.

He earned an undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary and a Master of Fine Arts degree in stage design from Yale University School of Drama. He holds honorary degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina at Asheville, and the College of William and Mary.

He's the recipient of many awards, and continues to shine creatively in every production with which he is involved. Simply put, the man is a creative genius!

Mr. Long has won six Tony Awards and was inducted into the Theatre Hall of fame in 2005.

## Good times ahead

Hello Tony,

Winter's almost finished here, and with Spring around the corner, it's time to make plans for adventure.

Find recommended trips, adventures, history tours, sports and one killer dessert.

A wonderful plantation home, restored to perfection;

A creative genius and Broadway legend – we're proud he's a local boy;

Treasures to hold your treasures – even better, made from trash!;

At home where golf is king – and oh-so-affordable;

Carolina creatures of the trees, cute, and in danger;

Learn more about the [Outer Banks](#), home of [The Lost Colony](#).

## Remote Golf Communities

### They're Closer Than You Think

Life is full of compromises, and nowhere is that more evident than in the choice of a golf community home in the Carolinas.

To be blunt, if you want a bargain-priced home and reasonable fees in a community with good golf, give up any notions of a high-end shopping mall nearby. You probably won't have a movie theater,

hospital or decent selection of restaurants within a few miles of your front gate either.

Our version of death by chocolate ... and what a way to go.

Now's the perfect time to make plans, perhaps especially because much of the country is hip deep in the white stuff. Festivals are already rolling and the glorious Carolinas weather will entice us all to spend more time outdoors.

You can find fabulous deals, here, and folks are looking to relocate, retire or acquire that Carolina vacation investment deal. Click here for links to [Retirement Living](#) & [Real Estate Tips](#) and check online for our best-in-the-nation tax bite – a sweet taste, for sure.

Then, there's always [CarolinaLiving.com](#) showcasing 89 town profiles & [Tax Facts](#) ... all guaranteed to guide you straight.

All the Best,

[Leyla & Patrick Mason](#)  
Co-Founders,

PS: Wishing you happy travels and just maybe, a new Carolina slice of heaven to call your own in 2015!

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**The New Guide is Here.**

But for those who, like Greta Garbo, *just want to get away*, some bargain-priced golf communities that appear to be in the middle of nowhere are actually hidden in plain sight, closer to the perquisites of civilization than most maps indicate.

[Learn more](#) about golf course living at Savannah Lakes Village, Dataw Island, Keowee Key, Scotch Hall Preserve and Wolf Laurel.

*Photo: Savannah Lakes Village*

## Carolina Creatives

### Treasures from Trash

It started by foraging in her best friend's frame shop trash. Now, Sarah Sanders creates exquisite treasure boxes from crown moulding, both old and new.

Today, Goat Island Treasure Boxes are sought-after gifts, found throughout Charleston and in a number of other locations in South Carolina, including the State Capitol Gift Shop in Columbia. (If you happen to live in Delaware, you can buy one of these beauties at Partners in Design, in Dover.)

Ms. Sanders is a retired teacher and coach who started woodworking as a relaxing hobby.

The flaws and imperfections in the wood and finish add to their beauty and authenticity and each box is signed by the artist, who transports her work from Goat Island\* (near the Isle of Palms, S.C.) across the intracoastal waterway by boat.

And the boxes are not only beautiful, but practical. In fact, *The Post and Courier* newspaper out of Charleston has called them one of the top ten gifts that say "Charleston." Quite an accomplishment for an artist who began this entire adventure as a way to relax.

Don't live in SC or Delaware? No problem. She sells her boxes online, at [www.GoatIslandTreasuresBoxes.com](http://www.GoatIslandTreasuresBoxes.com)

\*Goat Island is a tiny spit of land located between Mount Pleasant and Isles of Palms, near Charleston, SC. Accessible only by water, a few hardy families call it home (and also call it paradise).

Discover more about [Charleston](#).

## Carolina Animals at Risk

**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, retirement opportunities and town profiles.

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

## Facebook

### Stay with us.

We're putting together a great new guide that will help you find your perfect piece of Carolina paradise – and enjoy the outdoor lifestyle we all love.

What's your ideal outdoor amenity?

Outdoor kitchen, Jacuzzi, pool, zen garden, playground, veggie patch, hammock under the trees? Plz [share](#).

## Living History Day

**Take a Step Back in Time on Saturday, March 7, at Walnut Grove, near Spartanburg**

Historical fun, with colonial toys and games, militia drills, farm animals and craft demonstrations.

[SpartanburgHistory.org](http://SpartanburgHistory.org).

## NC Wildlife Federation

***Note:** A new feature will share 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!*

Carolina Northern Flying Squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus*): A remnant of the last ice age, northern flying squirrels adjusted easily to the high mountain tops and ridges that the glaciers left behind in North Carolina. Despite the name, flying squirrels don't actually fly. Instead, they use their powerful hindquarters to launch themselves off of treetops and then glide from tree to tree using loose skin flaps on either side of their body and using their tail as a rudder.

As they glide, for every one foot forward they lose three feet of height. Just like their ground squirrel relatives, northern flying squirrels spend most of their time on the ground foraging for food. They especially love mycorrhizal fungi, commonly known as truffles, which have a distinct smell that the squirrels seek out.

Mycorrhizal fungi have a symbiotic relationship with the trees they grow near. Each makes certain nutrients that the other cannot make on their own and they exchange these nutrients through a complex underground root system. The squirrels aid in spore dispersal for the fungi by eating them.

North Carolina logging and its resulting fires, however, have devastated large parts of the northern flying squirrel's habitat and population. Fortunately, they adapted easily to the northern hardwood and red spruce forests, but efforts are still underway to bring back the Carolina habitat and hopefully the northern flying squirrel.

Learn more on [NCWF](#) website.

## Carolina Cuisine

### Keep the love coming!

Valentine's Day is long gone, but there's always some occasion for a decadent chocolate dessert. The folks at the Lakeview Restaurant at Rumbling Bald, Lake Lure, provided this beyond-delicious recipe for [Molten Lava Cake](#). Take a look, because frankly, the result

looks a lot more difficult to prepare than it is.

If you like, stay-tuned for your next Compass eNews, which will have a super road trip to Rumbling Bald and Lake Lure – one of our favorites!

## Heading your way twice a month

- Let's Take a Road Trip!
- Carolina Famous Faces
- Insider Attractions
- [eNewsletter Archives](#).

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*Compiled by Katherine O. Pettit • Designed by Ann Dolin*

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