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**April 18, 2017**

*Below: Hit the Grand Strand; Just Look Up (or Down); Bodacious Beauty; Food and Wine; A Rose by Any Other Name; Around the Holy City; This is Living History; All the Pretties; Check 'em Out.*

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## Take a Road Trip to Myrtle Beach & 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 as one of the country's top boardwalks for food.

More recently, *Trip Advisor* picked the area as the #1 summer destination.

It's all true, but there are also insider attractions that are off the beaten path once you want a little break from the

sun. And the restaurants!

[Discover more.](#)

*Photography courtesy [www.VisitMyrtleBeach.com](http://www.VisitMyrtleBeach.com)*

## Where in the Carolina World are You?

Drive down a winding road and suddenly, you look up to see one magnificent rock. The obvious next step? Head for the top where you can see forever and a day. Long a hideaway for those in the know, today, there are lovely homes sprinkled around and one beautiful playground in the valley.

Where are you?

## Carolina Grown

### Red Buckeye

*by Bob Polonski, Ph.D.*

Although red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) lacks the refined and symmetrical stature of commercially successful small ornamental trees, it makes up for it with an impressive show of 6- to 10-inch long salmon- to cherry-red flower spikes borne at the ends of its branches. These hummingbird magnets emerge in April and coincide with the spring migration of ruby-throated hummingbirds. The nectar also fortifies other pollinators including eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies, bumblebees, and carpenter bees.

In nature this large shrub to small tree (10 to 20 ft.) grows wild in

floodplains and swamp forests throughout the southeast; however, I've seen it successfully cultivated en masse in woodland gardens, as accent or specimen plants in landscapes, and in downtown city parks.

Once the flowers have faded I enjoy the dark green palmately compound leaves and smooth gray bark. Later in the season potato-shaped husks that arose from the flowers mature and split open in September and October to reveal 1 to 3 shiny brown nut-like seeds. The seeds are poisonous and avoided by most wildlife, but relished by squirrels.

Red buckeye checks out and goes dormant by September with no colorful fanfare. However, when provided with moist, partially shaded conditions, the leaves will turn yellow.

I accept the early departure of red buckeye as it disappears in my landscape. Its leafless branches receive quizzical looks from friends and passersby who typically ask: "Is it dead?" Despite its forlorn look in the fall and winter months, red buckeye will always have a place in my garden. Its flowers sustain my spirit and they nourish the bodies of well-travelled, winged pollinators.

*Photo by Bob Polonski, Ph.D.*

#### OTHER CAROLINA GROWN PLANTS

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

Available wherever books are sold.

### A Rose by any other Name ...

#### Outdoors All Year

Hello Tony,

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

Planning your 2017 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 favorites on the Grand Strand, two great festivals, ways to keep moving and history for the ages.

#### 46th Annual Orangeburg Festival of Roses

**May 5, 6, 7, 2017**

A celebration of blooming roses and a friendly welcome to Edisto Memorial Gardens, along the banks of the Edisto River (longest black water river in the world).

The Edisto Memorial Gardens, in Orangeburg, SC now cover 175 acres, complete with azaleas, camellias, roses and other flowering trees and plants among giant, centuries-old cypress and other varieties of native trees. It also contains several special gardens, parks and features. More than 600,000 people visit each year.

Aviation enthusiasts will have an extra reason to attend. For

New Guide on the way. Order yours for six new adventures, and the reason towns are making changes for walkability's sake.

It's a great time to consider the Carolinas for vacation and beyond. Real estate bonanzas sweeten the lifestyle incentives to live here. Click to: [Retirement Living & Real Estate Tips](#).

Use the 400+ pages at [CarolinaLiving.com](#) as your resource for Carolina facts 'n fun that lead to stories 'n memories!

[Leyla & Patrick Mason](#)

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## An Exquisite Culinary Pairing

**May 11-14 | Wilmington, NC**

The [Wilmington Wine & Food Festival](#) brings together top area chefs with the best of the wine, beer, and spirits industry to celebrate and advance public appreciation for great food and drink. (And if you haven't been to Wilmington, their culinary scene is superb.)

The festival provides a diverse range of epicurean experiences, showcasing the area's unique and rich culture and history. It's a great opportunity to sample hundreds of different wines and beers throughout the weekend, paired with scrumptious bites from many locally owned restaurants, caterers, and food trucks! Proceeds from the 2017 events will benefit local charities.

donations of \$100, visitors can enjoy single passenger rides in a vintage 1942 Navy Stearman. The Stearman is powered by a Pratt and Whitney 450 horsepower radial engine. This open cockpit bi-wing aircraft is similar to the machines used to train 5000 French and American pilots in Orangeburg during WWII. And the roses. Beautiful!

FYI: Even the land underneath the Gardens is sacred. In early 1865, approximately six hundred Confederate soldiers gathered on the land to defend the Edisto River Bridge from advancing Union troops. Occupying rifle pits, these soldiers temporarily halted the Yankees. However, on February 12, 1865, outflanked by a much larger force, these defenders were compelled to withdraw for Columbia.

Details: [festivalofroses.com](#)  
More about [Orangeburg](#).

## Another side to Charleston

### Outdoor Adventure

Yes, Charleston's culinary scene is buzzworthy. Absolutely, the city's historical vibe is fascinating, and the shopping, arts and culture are beyond reproach. But there's more.

For a day outside, consider Coastal Expeditions, which specializes in custom-tailored powerboat, kayak and paddleboard tours. Owner and noted naturalist Chris Crolley or one of 27 staff members (including environmental advocates, kayakers, birders, explorers and paddle boarders) will take you on a trip through saltwater estuaries and blackwater rivers.

You'll enjoy a great time, no matter what your skill level. Guests can book a powerboat tour on a regular outing such as to Bull Island, or book a charter and create a unique adventure. Popular options include dolphin watching, birding, history, photography and the natural beauty of the Charleston area.

Feeling ready for a true back-to-nature experience? Multi-day camping tours are available.

More at [coastalexpeditions.com](#)  
Discover the charms of [Charleston](#).

## The Way We Were



Main Event: Bellamy Mansion  
Friday, May 12th - Sunday, May 13th

More about [Wilmington](#).

## The New Guide is Here.

Updated town information, six fun new Carolina Adventures, and Pedestrian Power. 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

Find the perfect unique gift for your BFF, special someone, and all the family. The Carolinas are abundant with artists and craftspeople. Folks drawn to the beauty and livability here. Looking for that certain something? How about a perfect pot from Seagrove, or specialty foods from Charleston? Feather bowtie? Keepsake box? Earrings to die for? All here. Please share your greatest find with us on [Facebook](#).

## Heading your way

• Let's Take a [Road Trip](#)

## Hickory Ridge Living History Museum

It's next door to the Horn of the West drama, in Boone, NC and as one Trip Advisor reviewer put it, "My son loved the hatchet throwers and it was a great attraction before the performance began."

With guides in period dress, and demonstrations of the way folks used to make what they needed to survive and thrive, it's a great experience for all ages. Cabins have been furnished authentically. Try to visit on a day with lots happening.

[Horn in the West](#) is the nation's oldest Revolutionary War drama, and portrays the life of Daniel Boone and other settlers of this region before and during the War for Independence.

The [Hickory Ridge Living History Museum](#).

## Carolina Cuisine

## Strawberry Fields Forever

Our grandchildren love to pick strawberries. Most of the fruit ends up in their mouths, but the experience is priceless for youngsters with little awareness of where food comes from and how scrumptious it tastes when perfectly ripe.

The North Carolina Strawberry Association works to support NC strawberry farmers and brings producers and consumers together. Their website offers news of events and recipes that make the most of the delicate fruit.

Here's one that will be on my table next weekend. [Strawberry Chai](#)

### *Discover Haig Point*

A weekend away on Daufuskie Island introduces the island lifestyle in remarkable accommodations. Depending on availability, a guest can stay at either the Strachan Mansion or the 1873 Lighthouse.

The community of Haig Point offers amenities and so many experiences during the weekend, including:

- One round of golf on their Rees Jones course;
- One breakfast and lunch for two at the Clubhouse;
- One dinner for two at the Calibogue club;
- Parking, ferry passes and water taxis
- A tour of the Haig Point Community.

For more information, [haigpoint.com/lifestyle/discovery](http://haigpoint.com/lifestyle/discovery)  
Nearby: [Hilton Head Island](#)

### *RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing Stay at Sea Pines Resort*

The Sea Pines Resort on [Hilton Head Island](#) announces up to 15% off select accommodations for stays during the PGA TOUR's RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing held on its famed Harbour Town Golf Links, April 10-16.

Valid from April 8 (Sat.) to April 17 (Mon.), the offer features discounted rates for five- to nine-nights' lodging in select one-, two- and three-bedroom villa accommodations within easy

walking distance of the action on famed Harbour Town Golf Links. One complimentary badge for access to the Harbour Town Clubhouse during the tournament is included for one-week rentals.

Free daily trolley service throughout Sea Pines is additionally available as well as stress-free parking at the homes or villas. Guests enjoy access to world-class amenities including the Sea Pines Beach Club, Plantation Golf Club with its acclaimed Live Oak restaurant, and reduced rates at the resort's Heron Point by Pete Dye and new Atlantic Dunes by Davis Love III golf courses.

When [booking online](#), enter the promotion code HERITAGE.  
For more information: [www.seapines.com](http://www.seapines.com).

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