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To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 4/12/2016 10:23:10 AM
Subject: Showcasing: Myrtle Beach, Cashiers, Charleston, Blue Ridge Parkway, Grandfather Mountain

April 12, 2016

Below: So incredibly Grand; all these pretties; llama llama; Passport, please; snowball beauties; Say Cheese; shortcakes for everyone; spring cuisine

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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 in 2013 as one of the country's top boardwalks for food.

More recently, *Trip Advisor* chose 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.

[Discover more.](#)

Photo courtesy Visit Myrtle Beach

Where in the Carolina world are you?

Be careful or you'll miss this treasure in a second. There's so much to drink in, starting with incredible views. Catch the turn and walk inside, where you'll find some of the most creative artists ever! Hint: Find the perfect gift in this exquisite gallery.

Where are you?

Cuddly as can be

These caddies won't laugh at your shot

As if you needed another reason to plan a visit to High Hampton Inn and Country Club.

These lovelies have been available to caddy your golf game for several years. They're branching out with more llama-like good times for guests. How about the Llama Olympics? Llama races? Carrying picnic baskets, blankets and provisions for an outdoor feast? Hiking with the children? And still, caddying your golf game.

When they're not delighting all ages, these cute creatures do therapy work for special needs children, thanks to Mark English, the llama wrangler.

Never been to High Hampton Inn and Country Club? It's an

historic, family-friendly NC mountain inn that's been bringing folks together for generations. Put it on your radar. And when Llama fun is done, consider fly fishing, tennis, or perhaps a European spa for utter relaxation. www.highhamptoninn.com

Read about the [Highlands](#) and [Cashiers](#).

Just in time for Spring Picking!

Let's go Back to the Farm.

Pick up your passport to SC Farm Fun at participating farms across the state! Start collecting farm stamps today to win Certified SC prizes!

Check out U-Pick-em strawberry farms and take the kids. Discover festivals, special events and all kinds of great times for the entire family.

For more information visit [www.](http://www.scagritourism.org)

[scagritourism.org](http://www.scagritourism.org)

Carolina Home Grown

No Snow Required

When I think of Chinese snowball viburnum, I think about the opening lines of The Adventures of Superman (1952–1958) television series: “Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird. It's a plane. It's Superman!”

When Chinese snowball viburnum blooms, I sometimes hear passersby tell me: “Look! Those enormous puffball flowers. It's a hydrangea!” Most of the time they ask me: “What is it?”

Sometimes I jokingly tell them that it's a hydrangea on steroids, but all of the time I tell them that it's a viburnum. Technically, it's Viburnum

Let the Blooms Begin!

Hello Tony,

Is full of blooming flowers and vegetable gardens sprouting

everywhere? From the Blue Ridge to the Atlantic, Carolina spring has sprung.

Planning your 2016 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, including picnics with Llamas, hanging out on the farm, hitting the beach, and capturing it all for posterity.

An upswing economy, tons of job listings, thousands of new companies launching, low taxes and real estate bonanzas sweeten the lifestyle incentives to live here. Click to: Retirement Living & Real Estate Tips.

Click to: [Retirement Living & Real Estate Tips](#).

Use the 370 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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Updated town information, six fun new Carolina Adventures, and one heck of a good-looking feature

macrocephalum, but most folks call it snowball viburnum.

Like the "Man of Steel," Chinese snowball viburnum is a tough, durable, and awe-inspiring vase-shaped shrub. It tolerates drought and has no pest problems. Expect Chinese snowball viburnum to grow to a robust height of 12 to 15 ft. with a comparable spread. I enjoy watching the small cauliflower-like flower buds give rise to Granny Smith green inflorescences that turn bright white as they open to 5-8 inch diameter puffballs. Sadly, they lack any fragrance, and they are sterile so expect no fruit.

For six to eight weeks Chinese snowball viburnum upstages other shrubs and trees in the landscape as a stand-alone specimen or in a shrub border. In the fall, this shrub produces a smattering of flowers, almost like a movie trailer that fuels your anticipation for next Spring's floral performance.

Chinese snowball viburnum should be sited in a prominent well-drained location in full sun to part shade. I hope you consider growing or simply admiring this super shrub.

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

LowCountry Strawberry Festival

Good times at Boone Hall Plantation.

**4/21, 6-10PM - Festival Rides Only;
4/22, 3-7pm; 4/23, 10am-7pm; 4/24, 12-7pm**

- Pick your own strawberries! Strawberry u-pick fields during event until 5pm. Enjoy tractor rides, to and from u-pick fields.
- Family Attractions: K9s in flight, acrobatic dog shows return for 2016, petting zoo, pig races return. New exciting giant inflatables include Human Velero Wall and Tiki Island Obstacle Course."
- Interactive games about farming presented by SC Department of Agriculture. Playground fun - Costume characters - Live music - Contests
- Festival Rides: Exciting Rides for All Ages. New thrill rides - only for the brave!!

Boone Hall Plantation & Gardens
1235 Long Point Rd. | Mt. Pleasant, SC
843.884.4371 | boonehallplantation.com

Learn more about [Charleston](#).

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Grandfather Mountain

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

The perfect springtime brunch

What says spring to you?

Ham, slow-cooked for hours? The freshest asparagus spears?

Strawberry shortcake? Your Mama's best deviled egg recipe?

It's time to bring family and friends together.

Please share with us on [Facebook](#).

Heading your way

- **Let's Take a Road Trip!**
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Photography Weekend

Online registration is underway for Grandfather Mountain's annual Nature Photography Weekend, an exciting workshop for photographers planned for June 3 to 5. The event features presentations from renowned photographers, spectacular shooting opportunities on the mountain and a friendly but competitive photo contest.

Presentations take place in the afternoons and evenings, allowing participants to explore Grandfather Mountain and take their own shots during the day. Opportunities for sunrise and sunset photography also will be offered. Participants are invited to camp free at the Woods Walk Picnic Area during the weekend, taking advantage of one of few opportunities to stay overnight inside the attraction.

Admission to Nature Photography Weekend is \$115 and covers three-day park admission, a Saturday evening meal, entry to all presentations and a flash drive for submitting contest entries. Photographers should act fast — the event usually fills within a matter of days.

For more information, visit www.grandfather.com, or call 828.733.2013

Carolina Cuisine

Strawberry Fields Forever

No fancy recipe for this issue, because Carolina strawberries need no adornment. Plump, juicy and perfectly ripe during April. Pick them at a local farm, or find roadside stands with pre-picked buckets just begging for a bowl and a sprinkle of sugar. Slice 'em over salad, make a

pink smoothie, or enjoy with a slice of toasted pound cake. What about a yummy [strawberry parfait](#)?

Classic Excellence

Classic (Home Building) has been chosen as Southern Living Custom Builder for the 8th Year. Classic is one of only 100 builders throughout the US, hand-picked by Southern Living. This invitation-only program selects custom builders acclaimed for their detailed craftsmanship, excellence in customer service, financial stability, and use of quality building materials. www.classichomebuilding.com

Fish Tale Island

Daniel Island Real Estate, the exclusive source for new homesites in Charleston's award-winning master planned community of Daniel Island, has introduced the deepwater-oriented homesites of Fish Tale Island, along with a collection of homesites within in neighboring Ralston Grove. With private settings on the island's northern edge, and close proximity to the clubhouse and other Daniel Island Club amenities, these two new neighborhoods within Daniel Island Park represent among the best and last homesites on Daniel Island. danielisland.com/lp/daniel-island-park

Start Those Engines

Kiawah Island Motoring Retreat features an entire weekend of events April 15-17 - think 100+ antique and classic cars on display at the entrance to the Ocean Course. This is not your dad's car show - these are top-of-the-line automobiles. Carolinians can make it a day trip or entire weekend getaway. KiawahConcours.com

Ale Dedication

For a lively discussion about the state's best brews, locals and guests may join the **Umstead Hotel and Spa** on April 28 for an ale-dedicated Umstead Uncorked. Sommelier Tran will explore how beer and food can work together, and discuss unique pairing situations when beer might be the better choice, even for a wine lover. The one-hour class begins at 6pm. The Umstead Hotel and Spa is a singular, sophisticated triumph in North Carolina's northeastern Piedmont region, an area rich in beauty and rooted in innovation. Reservations required: 919.447.4050. www.theumstead.com

April 14-17

Blowing Rock, NC. Savor Blowing Rock features classes, tastings, food and wine pairings and good times to spare in this more charming of small mountain villages. savorblowingrock.com

A good time in a small town.

Artfields: in Lake City, SC showcases more than 400 masterpieces by artists from the 12 Southeastern states, exhibited in one of the historic downtown venues. April 22-30, 2016. www.artfieldssc.org

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