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To: [Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov](mailto:Kester,Tonykester@aging.sc.gov)
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Subject: Spotighting -- Charlotte, Columbia, Travelers Rest, Outer Banks, Newberry

June 17, 2015

Below: Much more than an opera house; guardian of the ships; African artists; dance to the music; liars, villains and thieves, oh my; scintillating scents; howl at the moon.

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Take a Road Trip to Newberry SC

It's a small college town with great big charm and world-class entertainment.

Newberry, about halfway between the capital city of Columbia and upstate Greenville, is a destination worth a pause to refresh and be entertained in royal fashion.

Lots to do here, from outdoor sports, to Main Street shopping, anchored by one of the most appealing performance venues you will ever enjoy.

You can stroll the street and drive through amazing neighborhoods filled with palatial homes that are still lovingly tended and happily inhabited.

One of the world's finest orchid companies is here, as well as two amazing lakes nearby.

Of course the crowning glory is the Newberry Opera House, which provides fabulous entertainment year round. But there's more and you can easily find it all, while meeting delightful people who've decided this is the perfect town to call home.

[Learn more.](#)

*Top photo: Newberry Opera House in background
Bottom photo: DeWalt House*

Where in the Carolina World is this?

Acrophobics, beware.

More than 200 steps take you to one gorgeous lookout over the Atlantic Ocean and surrounding countryside. Completed in 1875, it's done a great job alerting passing vessels to the dangers near land. Today, this rustic beauty has been renovated and houses exhibits that help tell a mighty story. At any given time, weddings are held on the grounds. And perhaps most important for seafaring travelers, this beacon is a visible warning for 18 nautical miles out to sea.

Where are you?

Carolina Home Grown

Irresistibly Intoxicating

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

I love gardenias. Their perfectly sculpted waxy-white flowers and sweet fragrance are irresistible. Native to China, Taiwan, and Japan, gardenias have been in North America for more than 250 years. Named after Dr. Alexander

Garden (1728-1791), a Scottish naturalist, physician and planter, gardenias first arrived at Garden's Yeshoe Plantation in Charleston ("Charles Towne"). In short time, their popularity spread throughout the colonies and across to Europe.

Gardenias may reach a height and spread of 4 to 6 ft., although I've seen 8 ft. high specimens. Their polished evergreen leaves provide an attractive canvas for their bountiful floral display, which is heaviest in late April to June and intermittent thereafter. Since Dr. Garden's time, gardenias have come a long way, with so many delectable choices.

Cultivars with double-white flowers include First Love®, 'August Beauty,' and 'Mystery.' 'Chuck Hayes' bears jaw-dropping semi-double flowers, and 'Grif's Select,' 'Kleim's Hardy,' 'Shooting Star,' and 'Variegata' have single-white flowers. Heaven Scent™ is a compact columnar-shaped gardenia with a height and spread of 3 to 4 ft. It produces a blizzard of single white flowers in June and reblooms through August and September. In the fall, the flowers give rise to attractive orange-red fruits that persist in winter.

I'm especially enchanted by the double-flowered gardenias. Often, when I admire an exquisitely designed flower, time stands still – and for a brief moment everything seems right with the world.

Perhaps that's why gardenias have been cultivated for over a thousand years.

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

ZymSculpt

One-of-a-kind international exhibit

Through July 12, the only U.S. venue to showcase the finest talents of Zimbabwean sculptors will be at Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens, in Belmont, NC, near Charlotte.

Set in the magnificent summertime, tropical background, visitors will enjoy more than 100 large sculptures and more than 200 small pieces, crafting artwork on site, and offering some pieces for sale. Residents artists will be on site as well.

Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden is the Carolinas' Garden for all seasons, providing guests a chance to reconnect with nature and to create lifelong memories with friends and family. Located within 380 acres on the banks of Lake Wylie, spectacular gardens,

sparkling fountains, a conservatory dedicated to the display of tropical plants and orchids, a visitor pavilion, a garden store and nature trails await the visitor.

Hours: 9am-5pm daily

Price: \$12/adults

Learn more about [Charlotte](#).

**Greetings! From your
CarolinaLiving.com pals**

Hello Tony,

Summertime graces the Carolinas with blooming gardenias (see below) and magnolias that grace 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.

Below, you'll find ideas for vacation adventures, relocation, or perhaps a second home for retirement:

A delicious little road trip to small town delightfulness – Newberry;

That heavenly scent will be in your Carolina garden – we promise;

Our editor swears it's fun. We believe her. Square dancing, anyone?

Howling at the moon. The Red Wolf is battling back from endangerment;

Wickedly fun reading brings the bad guys up close and personal

You can't see this elsewhere in the U.S., and it's just for a bit longer.

Grab your Partner and Do-si-do

Oconee State Park

Full Disclosure: In college, we were required to take one dance class. It was an all-girls school. That meant ballroom was definitely out of the question. Square dancing seemed less – weird. Surprise! It wasn't hard and it was fun (especially the movements and even the music).

So before you politely decline, put this in your "maybe" file. Head for The Barn, and take the partner of your choice (or find one there). No experience is necessary to have great fun and learn a bit about what brought couples together in the old days. Bluegrass music from the Dixie Bluegrass Boys, led by Georgia Music Hall of Famer Curtis Blackwell, gets the dancing going in style.

Bluegrass Music and Square Dancing

Every Friday night until September 4, from 8pm-10pm
Oconee State Park, Mountain Rest, SC

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!

Red Wolf (*Canis rufus*)

In the 1800s, the red wolf flourished throughout the southeastern United States. By 1920, however, only a few of these medium-sized wild canines were left due to predation control and habitat loss. The species was officially declared endangered in the 1970s and 17 wild red wolves were captured for a breeding

program. By 1987, enough captive wolves had been successfully bred to begin the first restoration program in northeastern North Carolina. Now, 100 red wolves roam 1.7 million protected acres of their native habitat.

There are currently 43 sites across the U.S. still involved in the red wolf captive breeding program with a total of 200 wolves. Nevertheless, accidental killing of red wolves during nighttime coyote hunting continues to pose a grave threat to this endangered species.

Red wolves are slightly smaller with more slender heads and shorter coats than their grey wolf relatives, but are very similar in shape and appearance to the non-native coyote species of North Carolina. Currently, the North Carolina Wildlife Federation is working to make nighttime hunting of coyotes illegal in the state so as to prevent future accidental killings of red wolves.

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All the Best,

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

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P.S. The spring/summer edition is flying off the shelves. The Beyond the Porch outdoor living article is inspiring. New Carolina Adventures, pure fun. [Get yours today.](#)

Backstreet Badness

Simply wicked!

It wasn't all good manners and blue blood behavior in South Carolina's Capital City. In the good old days, Columbia had its share of feuds, murders, ladies of the evening, and dastardly deeds. Yes, indeed, one of America's most livable cities had its darker side.

CarolinaLiving's own resident historian, Alexia Jones Helsley, has

Everyone needs a Pick-Me-Up!

OK, it's not a Carolina invention, but [Tiramisu](#) is on the menu of many fine Southern restaurants. Makes sense. We love our coffee –

written *Wicked Columbia* and we think you'll be intrigued by the cast of characters that populated those wide avenues and back alleys back in the day. Subtitled *Vice and Vitality in the Capital* the book contains 11 sometimes funny, occasionally tragic stories. You will be fascinated!

Learn more about
[Alexia Jones Helsley](#)

144 pages, \$19.99
Available online at [Historypress.net](#), in local stores and as an e-book via Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple's I-bookstore, Google's E-bookstore and Overdrive.

Read more about [Columbia](#) and the lovely people descended from some of those rapsallions.

The New Guide is here.

Updated town information, six fun new Carolina Adventures, and info about living "Beyond the Porch."

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.

and chocolate. And isn't it a glorified and highly refined type of bread pudding? We think so.

When our co-founder was given a taste of this version, she fell in love. Many thanks to her Italian friend, Paola Maoli, who shared the family secret touches. Receiving the recipe was "added dusting on the ladyfingers," so to speak.

Italians know that Tiramisu means Pick-Me-Up, but here in the South, we know it as one *splendido* dessert, y'all. Trust us. This recipe is worth

the effort.

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