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**Subject:** Showcasing: Unique Carolina value-packed good times

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October 22, 2015

*Below:* History in action, The next Big Thing, soulful creations, singing the blues, play like the pros, take a hike, fight like a girl, feeding the minions

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## Carolina Adventure

### Historic Brattonsville - York County, SC

#### *The Past Speaks*

It's been compared favorably with Williamsburg and Charleston for those who love immersing themselves in history. Historic Brattonsville is a 775-acre living history site which dates from the Revolutionary War period. (Try to visit when they're presenting a reenactment of the Battle of Huck's Defeat, which occurred on these ground approximately 225 years ago.)

It's listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and showcases more than 30 historic structures that are open to the public. Called "house museums," they take visitors from the 1750s through the 1840s.

And there's more. Historic Brattonsville is a living history site with African-American interpretations – very unusual in the Southeast.

Recent visitors applaud the interactive events that can be found there. (One family found children in period clothing, playing games that would have been played during the plantation's active period.

The re-enactors encouraged visiting children to join in the play, which made fun for all.)

Among the structures on site:

Colonel William Bratton House, from 1760s. The plantation home built on 200 acres of land in what was Mecklenburg County (Charlotte, NC is in Mecklenburg County). This was the frontier, and the family may have immigrated from Ulster, in Ireland.

Colonel Bratton is a fascinating figure – well worth learning about, from his early military service to his years in politics.

McConnell House, early 1800s. Moved to the site, it represents a fairly common house used during those times. The ceramics on display are worthy of attention.

The Homestead, from the 1820s, was built by the youngest son of Colonel Bratton, at least partially to reflect the family's growing status. The design is quite striking -- Federal style with curved staircases. Wings added later added more elegance.

The Slave House, a replica of an original home. It's a bit unusual in that the structure is patterned after the slave houses on the property, and is made of brick. (When Dr. Bratton died in 1843, records indicate that he had about 140 slaves living on the property.)

Hightower Hall, dating from the 1850s. This white frame Italian Villa mansion was built for one of the next generation of Brattons.

This home was considered quite grand and is very striking today.

**WOW Factor:** The sheer size of the property and number of buildings make it a wonderful outing. An on-site Heritage Farm program adds to the historic fun, with Devon cattle, Gulf Coast sheep, Ossabaw Island hogs, and rare Dominique chickens. And for Mel Gibson fans, parts of [The Patriot] were filmed here.

**Hint:** Take a picnic. Drinks are available. With special events occurring throughout the year, choose a time when something extra is happening. It just adds to the general excitement.

Find out more at the [Culture and Heritage Museums of York County](#).

## Carolina Famous Faces

### Teyonah Parris “The Next Big Thing”

That's what The Hollywood Reporter has called Columbia, SC native Teyonah Parris, after seeing her impact in TV's *Mad Men*, and the buzz she created in the Sundance hit, *Dear White People*. Next up is a leading role opposite Samuel L. Jackson and Jennifer Hudson in Spike Lee's film, *Chiraq*, and she's also starring in the Starz comedy *Survivor's Remorse*.

Ms. Parris, the middle child and only girl in her family, attended Lower Richland High

School in Columbia, where she played softball, modeled, and was a cheerleader. Her drama teacher, Rachel Cooper, was a great influence and helped her decide to attend SC Governor's School for the Arts. Upon graduation, she enrolled at Julliard and moved to New York.

Her debut on the silver screen came in 2010, opposite Reese Witherspoon and Jack Nicholson in the romantic comedy *How Do You Know*. That was followed by a stint on Broadway and the roles

kept coming, and getting larger. She was noticed and applauded for her skills and now Ms. Parris is well on her way to becoming another Carolina Famous Face.

We caught up with her by phone and she talked about Columbia. “I love to come back home and see my family,” she said, adding that there are two babies in the family that help to draw her back. What about that non-existent Southern accent? “Dialect classes helped me lose the accent, but it returns when I come home,” she laughed.

And what advice does she have for others seeking a career in theater? “Focus on your craft,” she said. “When you study the character, you peel away the layers for the character and yourself, and then it all comes together in the role.”

[www.teyonahparris.com](http://www.teyonahparris.com)

*Teyona Parris Photography:*

*PHOTOGRAPHER: Ben Miller; HAIR: Felicia Leatherwood; MAKEUP: Beatrice Sandoval; STYLING: Toye Adedipe*

## Carolina Creative

### Wooden Souls

Todd Sanders is currently woodworking as a hobby, but we suspect the demand for his creative skills will interfere with his day job in the coming months.

His home is in Lancaster, SC, and he works in electronics in Charlotte, NC. His free time is spent doing what he loves – making creative objects from nothing but a piece of log from a tree. (When he would give his late grandmother one of his pieces, she would ask him how he got that out of a tree.)

“I guess my favorite wood is Black Walnut,” he said, “however, I also work with Tulip Poplar, Red Oak, White Oak and Black Cherry.”

He doesn’t cut down trees to obtain his materials. Rather, these are trees that have fallen, or are being cleared for some other purpose. His designs are somewhat dictated by the tree and how it’s cut.

Each piece is meticulously cut on a lathe and the process can take as much as eight months, from acquiring the wood, to the curing (which sometimes takes years), to the actual turning of the wood and finally, the sanding, finishing and polishing. “Even after the piece is completed, it continues to change and move with the seasons, as it becomes acclimated to its new environment.”

He started along his creative journey while he was in grade school, mentored by Mr. Wilburn, who owned a body shop in Charlotte.

And he’s been creating ever since. Today, he creates bowls, boxes, salt and pepper grinders – just about anything he can think of. A

local forester appreciates his work and seeks out burls to save for him when trees are being cleared. And then he goes to work, with chain and band saws, cutting, then molding, shaping, drying, finishing. He uses turquoise inlays to add interest and fill holes in the bowls. He donates many of his creations for fund raisers, and his wife claims many for herself.

Those lucky enough to own one of these beauties echo the words of his beloved grandmother: "How did you get this out of a tree?"

Reach him at [toddsanders@woodensouls.com](mailto:toddsanders@woodensouls.com)  
[www.woodensouls.com](http://www.woodensouls.com)

*Wooden Soul Image: Black Walnut with turquoise inlay*

## Out and About

### Fall Into the Carolinas

Hello Tony,

Hope all is well with you and yours in the Columbia region these days.

One look at this COMPASS eNews and you'll know that Carolina folks get out and play this time of year. From hikes in our incomparable Blue Ridge Mountains, to historic re-enactments (and movie pretend-combat), there's so much to do. Festivals are everywhere – any pretense is enough to have a party and invite several thousand like-minded souls to join in.

The Blue Ridge Mountains are magnificent in colors. Heartlands and coastal folks are still in shorts and deck shoes ... a perfect time to get outdoors and explore the Carolinas.

And despite the blow dealt by the Joaquin storm, and with much thanks to our valiant first responders, the Carolinas are open for good times – from mountains to shore. In fact, we've been reminded again that the people are our strongest assets here.

Neighbors helping one another, folks volunteering tirelessly – it's a wonderful place to call home.

As oldtimers here now, with roots extending back for 30 years ... glad we found it when we did. Still charming – an easy lifestyle, chock full of culture that ticks all our boxes.

Explore the memorable and affordable getaways. Hike and bike the fascinating geography. Super real estate values abound. Time to build your small palace.

Join us in Loving the Carolinas!

### *The right trail can put you on a new path.*

There may be no other place with the variety and ease of access to hiking trails you'll find in North Carolina. Take an hour-long walk to a waterfall or a day hike in a state park. If you're looking for more extreme adventure, plan a through-hike on the Appalachian Trail or trek the 1,000-mile Mountains-to-Sea Trail, which stretches from the Great Smoky Mountains to the Outer Banks.

These will get you started:

- Pisgah National Forest with its beautiful waterfalls
- Grandfather Mountain is always spectacular.
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest to see 400-year-old towering trees.

*Photo: ExploreAsheville.com*

## Carolina Golf

Leyla & Patrick Mason  
Co-Founders  
Center For Carolina  
Living *Showcasing Carolina Life  
& Adventures*

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### Got The Need-to-Read, Page-Turning Blues

### Stories of Singers, Musicians and Songs

The history of South Carolina blues is a long, deep – and sometimes painful – story. However, it's a narrative that is so interesting. Readers of *South Carolina Blues* will learn about early SC bluesmen, including Cootie Stark, Simmie Dooley, Peg Leg Sam and Pink Anderson, who entertained for medicine shows by selling tonic or “snake oil.” They created a unique style of blues music that went on to influence the blues revival of the 1960s.

The book is full of images – many from private collections that have never been published – that are fascinating and oh-so-revealing. My favorite anecdote? The Carolinas provided inspiration for British blues bands such as Pink Floyd, who named their group in honor of Pink Anderson from South Carolina and Floyd Council from North Carolina.

*Author Clair DeLune is a music history professor and blues radio host.  
South Carolina Blues | \$21.99/128 pages*

*Available at area bookstores, independent retailers and online retailers, or directly from [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com).*

### Community Courses: Good Enough for the Pros ... and You

In North and South Carolina, it's easy to find a place to live and golf where the pros play. All three men's professional tours – Champions, PGA and Web.com – make at least one stop annually at a Carolina golf course. Only the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) does not use a Carolina golf course for a tour event, although the LPGA has a rich history of annual stops in such places as Aiken, SC, and Bluffton, SC; and, of course, the U.S. Women's Open was played at Pinehurst #2 in 2014. As for other future major events, the PGA Championship will return to Kiawah Island's Ocean Course in 2021 and the U.S. Open to Pinehurst in 2024 after its own successful run there in 2014.

Discover more.

*Photo: Wells Fargo Championship  
Quail Hollow Country Club | Charlotte, NC  
Photo courtesy of Wells Fargo Championship*

### Hunger Games™

### The Unofficial Fan Tour

See *Hunger Games* filming locations, take survival classes including archery, sling shot, shelter & fire building and orienteering, nighttime zip lining & compete in a *Hunger Games* simulation.

## The New Guide is here!

[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

### Read 'em.

Read any good Carolina books lately? Let us know what to pick up (and throw away). Please [share](#).

## Heading your way

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

Join movie fans for the ultimate Hunger Games™ Unofficial Fan Tours' day tour – as featured on *Good Morning America*, *The Today Show*, *Hollywood Treasures*, *the NY Times* and *USA Today*. Walk in the footsteps of your favorite characters by touring filming locations from the original hit film, *The Hunger Games*™. Tours include film locations, tour guides, hands-on activities - including archery lessons, special effects make up camouflage and Archery Tag™, photo opportunities and bonding with other fans.

You'll also be treated to a lunch featuring foods that your favorite characters would have eaten in *The Hunger Games*™ books and *The Hunger Games*™ movie. They offer Day Tours in Henry River Mill Village and DuPont State Forest. Gift certificates are available.

Note: These are seasonal tours so check the [website](#) for dates and times.

Special discount for Compass eNews readers: 15% off tickets this fall season and next year (2016). Code: CAROLINALIVING

## Carolina Cuisine

### Feeding a Crowd

So, what do you feed an unknown number of men who will arrive at your home for dinner, conversation and a friendly game of cards?

That was my recent dilemma.

What would go well with grilled Moroccan Chicken and assorted vegetables? Some kind of filling salad, room temperature, good as leftovers. (Have you noticed that people don't RSVP anymore?)

Fifteen minutes of intensive Internet research led me to some ideas, and so I combined ingredients and created [Orange Rice Salad](#). Ah, perfect! It doubles, or even triples, well, and tastes even better the next day. Try it for a crowd, or the family.

[www.carolinaliving.com](http://www.carolinaliving.com) phone 803.782.7466  
4201 Blossom Street Columbia, SC 29205-2850

Compiled by Katherine O. Pettit • Designed by Ann Dolin

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