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To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
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Subject: Spotlighting: Hilton Head Island, Lake Lure, Camden, Greenville, SC, Aiken

October 6, 2016

Below: Art Masters; Revolutionary Retreat; The Sport of Kings; Holiday Holly; Awesome Autumn; School Daze; An Apple a Day

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Carolina Adventure

Greenville County (SC) Museum of Art

*Courtesy
Greenville
County
Museum of Art
William Henry
Johnson
(1901-1970)
Flowering
Trees, Norway,
circa 1937*

***“Art is much less important than life,
but what a poor life without it.” Jasper Johns***

When I first turned a corner in the Museum of Modern Art in New York and came upon “Christina’s World,” arguably Andrew Wyeth’s most famous painting, it literally stopped me cold. He was a visual artist, becoming one of the best known U.S. artists in the 20th Century, with his focus on the countryside and romance. Taught by his father, he achieved an amazing mastery of watercolor and figure study. The Greenville County Museum of Art (GCMA) is home to the largest collection of his watercolors in the world and although you’ll still have to travel to Manhattan to visit Christina, there are magnificent paintings to be found here.

An impressive collection of the work of Jasper Johns is also on display. Born in Augusta, Georgia and raised in Adelaide, SC. The artist began painting at an early age, and attended the University of South Carolina for several semesters before moving to New York, at the encouragement of several professors. During his 50-year career,

he created his own style, evolving and becoming extremely successful.

That's two of more than a hundred artists showcased at GCMA, including a number with strong southern roots. Entering the museum, a vast skylit area showcases the award-winning architecture and two expansive galleries.

WOW Factor: The art is nothing short of amazing. It is worth blocking out several hours to fully appreciate the collections housed here. Even the trapezoid structure adds to the feel. Explore The Salon gift shop, which specializes in art books related to their collections. The Salon also offers a selection of jewelry, scarves and home accessories from the New York store Chaos.

Hint: Special events are held frequently, so as you're planning your visit, go to their website and see what is planned. If you are particularly interested in one artist, contact them to make sure a collection isn't traveling. Afterwards, plan to eat lunch at a nearby café. The museum is about two blocks from Main Street. Roost, which connects to the Hyatt Hotel, has indoor and outdoor dining, and there are many more options, including The Green Room, the Lazy Goat, Soby's and dozens more. If you can, spend a day or two in Greenville. This upstate town has done an amazing job of creating an urban oasis, designed for strolling, dining, shopping and entertainment.

Read about more [Carolina Adventures](#).

Where in the Carolina world are you?

This beautiful inn is an award-winning delight, filled with history and antiques around every corner. It's a perfect destination for business or pleasure and you'll be treated royally at every turn. On second thought, you'll be treated with every courtesy due a favorite guest in the South. After all, this town was a hotbed during the Revolutionary War, when town fathers fought against king and crown. [Where are you?](#)

Carolina Home Grown

Cool and Colorful

Hello Tony,

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

One look at this COMPASS eNews and you'll know Fall is here. Apples, leaf season, it's all good.

A new Carolina resident once told us that she now knew why there were so many colors in her child's Crayola box – all those colors live in Carolina foliage. Read "Nature's Crayolas" in this newsletter.

Blue Ridge mountains are especially appealing now til December. Then, so is the coast. And the heartland lakes and rivers.

Seems like yesterday (1983) when we were recruited to the Carolinas. To this day, the charms and easy living continue to beguile us and so many friends who've made the move.

Explore the memorable and affordable getaways. Consider an enhanced lifestyle, courtesy colleges and universities, featured in the next CarolinaLiving.com GUIDE – at the printer now. Put down roots with super real estate values (and we've got insider tips to help). Time to build your small palace, or secluded retreat. The next phase of life begins now – Retire? Unretire? Whatever the mode, enjoy the ride.

Join us in loving the Carolinas!

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The High-impact Holly

by Dr. Robert Polomski

Unlike its evergreen cousins, the deciduous winterberry holly wallows in obscurity. It remains unnoticed in the landscape for most of the year. In the spring and summer, its two- to three-inch long serrated green leaves change to yellow-green, and then to purplish-bronze before they're shed in the fall. Depending on the gender, the holly either disappears into the winter landscape, or if it's a female winterberry holly (hollies are dioecious – male and female flowers occur on separate plants), expect a lavish display of berries.

Even after the leaves drop, the clusters of bird-attracting fruit enliven the autumn landscape. Numerous selections have been made, but some of the best red-fruited cultivars are 'Winter Red,' 'Red Sprite' (dwarf; grows slowly to 3 1/2 ft. high and 4 ft. wide), and 'Sunset.' *Ilex verticillata f. aurantiaca* bears orange fruit.

Female hollies need male plants nearby for fruiting to occur. Interestingly, not any male will do. You need to select the appropriate male cultivar whose flowering period coincides with the female. Good male cultivars include 'Southern Gentleman,' 'Jim Dandy,' 'Apollo,' and 'Raritan Chief.' However, other male hollies – evergreen and deciduous, assuming they flower at the same time – can be effective pollinators.

Deciduous hollies make their greatest impact when planted *en masse*. Since winterberry hollies can grow 6 to 10 ft. high with a similar spread, space them accordingly. They will colonize or sucker and produce large thickets in average. They like medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade.

Visit your favorite garden center or nursery now when the figs are fruiting. Let your palette decide which variety deserves to be in your landscape.

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

Available wherever books are sold.

Photos: Dr. Robert Polomski

Nature's Crayolas

Forward this email to a friend.

The Corey Cup 4 Goal

It's happening right now in Aiken, SC and runs until October 16. Those who love polo will want to support this four chukker* tournament, played in honor of Alan Lyle Corey, III, an esteemed member of the Aiken Polo Club (which was launched in 1882) for almost half a century.

Polo is wildly popular in Aiken, which is – not coincidentally – home to some of the world's top players and horses. There are six polo field locations, many with multiple fields. Now, the sport, which is co-ed at every level, but traditionally male-dominated, is seeing women give the men a run for their money. Cristina Fernandez, a professional polo player who lives in Aiken, is playing in the Corey Cup on the world-famous Whitney field in Aiken. You can find her by her ponytail – or her skill at the game.

[More information.](#)

Shown: Theresa King (white helmet) and Cristina Fernandez, mother-daughter duo, participating in an Aiken Ladies Tournament held in Aiken SC. Photo credit David Lominska Polographics.

**timed periods of play*

[Request the Guide](#)

Western North Carolina's Leaf Season

Lake Lure and the Blue Ridge Foothills offer one of the most spectacular destinations to view the leaves. Flaming golds, deep purples, vibrant reds – all hues spread with abandon all over Rutherford County.

With literally hundreds of tree species growing in the state, the Western North Carolina mountains are rich in hardwood forests populated by trees known for their bright fall colors.

To truly relish the autumn leaf color, follow the lead of the many photographers and leaf-peepers who flock to the area during this time of year: park the car and go exploring. Be prepared to engage all of your senses in the beauty that is reflected by autumn in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The peak time to view our vibrant hues of gold, rust and red is October 18 through 26 for elevations of 2,000-3,000 feet. Be sure to visit Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park for a blanket of fall color panorama during this time.

The foothills peak season is from October 23 through November 3 for elevations of 1,000 - 1,500 feet. Reserve your spot on a Lake Lure pontoon boat tour to experience a picture perfect view. Or take a scenic drive from Rutherfordton to Golden Valley and soak in the stunning backdrop that is the South Mountains.

Learn more at www.visitBlueRidgeNC.com

Discover [Lake Lure](#)

Exotic Apples Down on the Farm

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

Where do you leaf peep? Share your favorite locations to see Carolina leaf season at its most gorgeous.

We promise. We won't tell a soul. Shhhhh. CarolinaLiving on [Facebook](#).

Heading your way

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You Betcha!

It's apple-picking time in the upstate of South Carolina. You can find lots of roadside stands, but why not head to the source and see what's available for picking? Here is one great option.

Chattooga Belle Farm is a 138-acre working farm & event destination in Longcreek, SC at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains. In addition to other fruits, they feature lots of apples – including some you've never heard of. We can't tell you which ones will be ripe on the day you go, but contact them and they'll let you know.

Apple varieties include Liberty, Golden Delicious, Pink Lady, Granny Smith, Gale Gala, Ginger Gold, Honey Crisp, Yates, Winesap, Mutsu, Arkansas Black, Fuji, Gibson Golden, Crimson Crisp, Grimes Golden, Hardy Cumberland, Freedom, Gold Rush, Ultima Gala, Pristine, Crimson Gold, Royal Empire, Caudle Cameo, and Royal Gala. (Are you familiar with all of these varieties? We weren't.)

Take time to visit the farm store, with all types of local products, including wine made from fruit grown on the farm.

Another option is their distillery. They grow the fruit, ferment it, distill it, bottle it, label it and sell it. Now featuring four brandies and one whiskey:

MuscaShine: Muscadine Brandy

Cinnamon Stick: Apple/Muscadine Brandy aged in oak barrel with cinnamon sticks.

Oconee Belle: Apple/Muscadine Brandy aged in oak barrel with Madagascar Vanilla Bourbon Beans.

Camp Fire: Charcoal Filtered Apple/Muscadine Brandy aged in once used Jack Daniels Barrel with Charred White Oak Chips.

Block and Tackle: Corn, Wheat and Barley Whiskey aged in once used Jack Daniels Barrel.

Image courtesy SC National Heritage Corridor

Carolina Cuisine

Take a Bite!

Apples Some say they're the fruits of love – others insist these beauties are among nature's finest medicines.

We say, it's time to pick these fruits from their heavy-laden trees, and get creative in the way you cook 'em, serve 'em and save 'em.

We've found close to 100 orchards in the Carolinas, with every variety of apple you can imagine. For this ambassador of autumn, Sky Top Orchards, near Flat Rock, share a favorite recipe with us.

[Chicken and Apple Hash with Cider Cream](#) is spectacular. Try it

soon, and if you like, add a dollop of brandy to the sauce before serving as we did. Delicious.

Deep Run Roots

The talented chef and storyteller of “A Chef’s Life” on PBS has written a cookbook.

We can’t wait. “Part story, part history, part recipes, I’d like to think Deep Run Roots is much more than a cookbook,” says Chef Howard.

She and her big, colorful food truck will be traveling to 40 cities in the Southeast and beyond. I can’t wait to try the watermelon rind pickles wrapped in bacon. Check out her [website](#).

Best Escapes in the USA

Luxury Travel Magazine has named The Sea Pines Resort one of the “Best Escapes in the USA.”

The Sea Pines Resort has delighted generations of travelers and guest for more than 50 years. Amenities include award-winning tennis and fabulous golf, plus luxury accommodations and excellent restaurants. [Learn more](#).

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