

Now's the time for fun getaways and the great outdoors - Welcome!



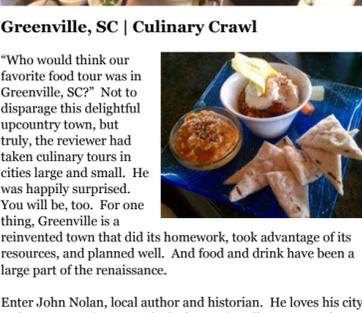
December 14, 2017 Below: Food Glorious Food; Andie, we love ya; Quirky and adorable; Santa's little helpers; Welcome 2018; A better broccoli; Head for the beach; Dataw discovery.

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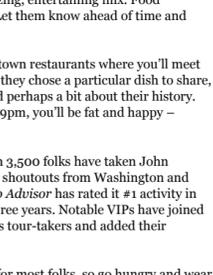


Adventure: Chef's Table Culinary Tour



Greenville, SC | Culinary Crawl

"Who would think our favorite food tour was in Greenville, SC?" Not to disparage this delightful upcountry town, but truly, the reviewer had taken culinary tours in cities large and small. He was happily surprised. You will be, too. For one thing, Greenville is a reinvented town that did its homework, took advantage of its resources, and planned well. And food and drink have been a large part of the renaissance.



Enter John Nolan, local author and historian. He loves his city and, even more importantly, he knows it well. You reap the rewards. Folks love the mix of food, drink and history. A little of everything in one appetizing, entertaining mix. Food allergies? Not a problem. Let them know ahead of time and they will accommodate.

You'll be visiting five downtown restaurants where you'll meet the chefs and discover why they chose a particular dish to share, the pairing of beverage, and perhaps a bit about their history. Three hours later, at about 9pm, you'll be fat and happy - figuratively, of course.

WOW Factor: More than 3,500 folks have taken John Nolan's tour and it's gotten shoutouts from Washington and throughout the South. *Trip Advisor* has rated it #1 activity in Greenville for more than three years. Notable VIPs have joined the ranks of the rest of us as tour-takers and added their accolades to ours.

Hint: This will be dinner for most folks, so go hungry and wear comfortable shoes and layers for multiple inside/outside traversing. If you're thinking about moving to Greenville, it's a great way to learn about the city and its food and drink. You will be impressed. You will tell your friends. And, if there's time, you'll want to try Greenville History Tours' other offerings, including a barbecue trail tour, Old Masters Paintings Tour, West End Talking, Architecture Driving, and Historic Neighborhoods and Downtown.

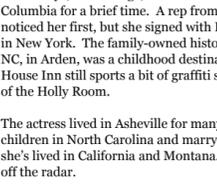
greenvillehistorytours.com

[More Carolina Adventures.](http://MoreCarolinaAdventures.com)

Photo courtesy greenvillehistorytours.com

Adventure: Chef's Table Culinary Tour links:
<https://greenvillehistorytours.com/>
<https://carolinainliving.com/adventures>

Famous Faces



Andie MacDowell

Actor, producer, philanthropist and mother of three amazing kids.

Both states have a legitimate claim to this ageless, charming and very talented actress, making Andie MacDowell doubly qualified as a Carolina Famous Face.

Born in Gaffney, SC, she attended Winthrop University (then College) in Rock Hill and also lived in Columbia for a brief time. A rep from Wilhelmina actually noticed her first, but she signed with Elite Model Management in New York. The family-owned historic home near Asheville, NC, in Arden, was a childhood destination, and today, the Blake House Inn still sports a bit of graffiti she scribbled in the closet of the Holly Room.

The actress lived in Asheville for many years, raising her three children in North Carolina and marrying twice. Since then, she's lived in California and Montana. Today, she enjoys being off the radar.

Embodying the best of Southern culture, grace and style, Ms. McDowell moved her family to Asheville at least in part to provide a southern upbringing away from the limelight. Her daughter, Rainey Qualley, reminisced about her mother in an article in the *Charlotte Observer*, saying that Andie McDowell taught her the Southern qualities of looking someone in the eye and giving the full attention.

Her twitter account lists her personal interests as: horseback riding, Spending time with family and pets. Traveling, Yoga. Long walks on the beach. Making the world a better place.

Her career began as a very successful model but most of us remember her for performances in *Groundhog Day* (my personal favorite), and *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, for which she received a Golden Globe® nomination. A spokesperson for L'Oreal for 30 years, she currently stars as Gray Chandra Murray on the TV series *Jane By Design* and as Jade Olivia Lockart on *Cedar Cove*.

In another Carolina connection, Ms. McDowell was presented with an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Lander University in Greenwood, SC, and an "Honor of the Arts" from Winthrop University.

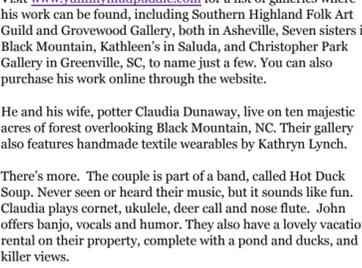
Learn more about [Gaffney](http://Gaffney.com) and [Asheville](http://Asheville.com).

So many [Famous Faces](http://FamousFaces.com) from the Carolinas! Great Stories

Famous Faces links:
<https://carolinainliving.com/foothills/gaffney-sc>
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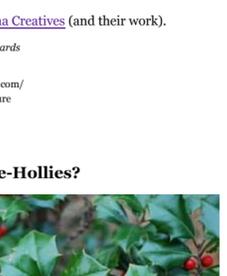
Carolina Creative

Perfect gift for all ages!



Whimsical & Charming works created by John D. Richards

This Wisconsin native spent his formative years in locations as far-flung as Chicago, Glen Falls, New York, and Puerto Rico. His degree is in English, from Union College in Schenectady, NY, but the teaching life wasn't for him, so he took courses at Pratt Institute and his work has been seen at Tiffany & Co., Neiman Marcus, and The Museum of Contemporary Art, among others. He's been profiled in *House and Garden*, *Southern Living*, *The London Times* and the *New York Times* to name a few.



Visit www.yummyudpuddle.com for a list of galleries where his work can be found, including Southern Highland Folk Art Guild and Grovedoor Gallery, both in Asheville, Seven Sisters Black Mountain, Kathleen's in Saluda, and Christopher Park Gallery in Greenville, SC, to name just a few. You can also purchase his work online through the website.

He and his wife, potter Claudia Dunaway, live on ten majestic acres of forest overlooking Black Mountain, NC. Their gallery also features handmade textile wearables by Kathryn Lynch.

There's more. The couple is part of a band, called Hot Duck Soup. Never seen or heard their music, but it sounds like fun. Claudia plays cornet, ukulele, deer call and nose flute. John offers banjo, vocals and humor. They also have a lovely vacation rental on their property, complete with a pond and ducks, and killer views.

Read about more [Carolina Creatives](http://CarolinaCreatives.com) (and their work).

Photos courtesy of John D. Richards

Carolina Creative links:
<http://www.yummyudpuddle.com/>
<https://carolinainliving.com/culture>

Carolina Grown: He-Hollies or She-Hollies?



Deck the Halls

I consider our American (or *Ilex opaca*) - not the English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) - our signature holly of Christmas. It can be found growing wild from Massachusetts south to Florida and west to Texas and Missouri and north to Tennessee and Indiana. It's commonly found as an understory tree, growing in mixed hardwood forests in a variety of habitats that include dry woodlands, stream and creek banks, and even swamps.

American holly grows slowly, which is unfortunate for nursery producers and consumers. Nevertheless, it was introduced into the trade in 1744 and presently, there are more than 1,000 cultivars. Some cultivars will exceed 50 ft. in height, while others, such as 'Mayland Dwarf,' grows 3-5 ft. high and 8 ft. wide. The fruit on female American hollies is commonly red, but some cultivars bear orange or yellow berries.

In the past, people in Germany and England called the prickly holly varieties "he-hollies" and the smooth-leaved kinds "she-hollies." (Interestingly, English hollies produce out-of-reach, smooth-margined adult leaves at the top of mature trees.) The type of leaf brought indoors determined who was to dominate the home in the upcoming year. If the holly leaf had a smooth margin, the wife was in charge. (She should be if she was able to reach the spineless leaves in the uppermost reaches of the tree.) If the holly was prickly, the husband ruled the roost for the year.

So, while some of you are contemplating the gender of the hollies in your landscape or neighborhood, I am heading outside to remove a few of the lower branches of my American hollies in the backyard. It's not too late to deck the halls with boughs of prickly he-holly sprigs.

Photo info: *Ilex opaca* 'Merry Christmas' which grows up to 40-50 ft. high x 18-40 ft. wide. Photography by Bob Polomski

Best of Carolina Grown Beauties

Learn more about Carolina gardening from Dr. Polomski's new book, [Carolinias Month by Month Gardening](http://CaroliniasMonthbyMonthGardening.com).

Available wherever books are sold.

Carolina Grown: He-Hollies or She-Hollies? links:
<https://carolinainliving.com/lifestyle/garden-carolina-grown>
<https://www.quartoknows.com/books/9781591865865/Carolinias-Month-by-Month-Gardening.html>

Facebook

Have We Got a Tip for You.

Stuck on what to give Aunt Alice or Cousin Scott? No more. Check out your local museum gift shops. You'll find unique and wonderful items, from locally produced edibles to children's toys guaranteed to please.

One more suggestion: If you've got a zoo or other attraction nearby, they're usually great resources for presents. Let's make gift-buying fun again!

Share your secret finds on [Facebook](http://Facebook.com). We've all got to help one another find that perfect gift!

Facebook link:
<https://www.facebook.com/Carolina-Living-33101591422/?ref=search>



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