

Learn about the best North Carolina and South Carolina adventures, destinations, attractions and communities. Visit and explore!

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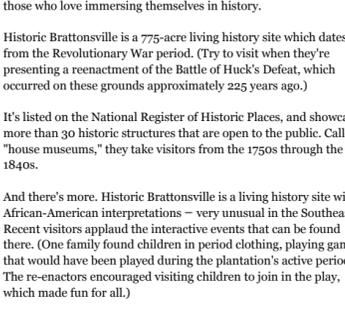


February 14, 2019 Below: Muskets and More; Bloomin' Beauty; Virginia, we Love it; Our Musical Treasures; Mr. President; Sweets for our Sweetie; Sugarcoat these Babies; Discover Dataw Island; Explore Wild Dunes.

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Carolina Adventures | Historic Brattonville | York County, SC



The Past Speaks It's been loved favorably with Williamsburg and Charleston for those who compare with Williamsburg and Charleston for those who love immersing themselves in history.

Historic Brattonville 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 grounds 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 Brattonville 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.)

Lightower 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.

Learn More: Culture and Heritage Museums of York County So many Carolina Adventures await. What's your pleasure?

Photo credit: Historic Brattonville | Culture & Heritage Museums of York County SC

Home Grown



Titillate Me! When it's chilly outside Before the long-awaited deluge of springtime flowers next month, there are a handful of shrubs and trees that vie for our attention in mid-winter. These flowering stalwarts of the winter landscape must withstand the vagaries of winter that wreak havoc on blooming camellias and wintersweet. Japanese flowering apricot (Prunus mume) beautifully rises to these challenging conditions.

Japanese flowering apricot is an extremely popular small tree in its native countries of China and Japan. I last counted 323 named cultivars that produce single or double flowers in white through shades of pink to red.

Because it blooms even earlier than peaches, the open flowers and swelling buds can be killed by hard freezes. However, this tree produces so many flower buds on its bare branches that unopened buds usually replace those lost to cold.

Japanese flowering apricot aficionados mention the spicy fragrance of the one-inch blooms. When it's cold, the flowers smell like lip balm to me. During a warm spell or when I bring a few flowering twigs indoors, I am embraced by a rosy-cinnamon scent.

During the growing season you may notice a few green to yellow inedible apricots interspersed among the green leaves. While Japanese apricot is kin to the commercially important common apricot (Prunus armeniaca), Prunus mume has no culinary value. This ornamental offers a second season of interest when the leaves turn an attractive light yellow in the fall.

A mature Japanese flowering apricot sports a vase-shape with a rounded canopy. Expect a height and spread of 25 ft. For a spectacular floral display, choose a location in full sun, although partial sun is tolerable. Consider a spot near a walkway or patio where Japanese apricot can titillate your visual and olfactory senses when you need it most: in the dead of winter.

Discover 50 luscious and lovely plants.

Learn more about Carolina gardening from Dr. Polomski's new book, Carolinas Month by Month Gardening. Available wherever books are sold. Photo by Robert F. Polomski, Ph.D

WATERWAYS Discover Your Next Adventure Get a feel for the Waterways experience through this immersive three day two night getaway in Savannah, GA.

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#vacay Myrtle Beach Spring Deals

Our Favorite Things

Hi, Every town has its own claim to fame. Here in the Carolina world with so many noteworthy attractions, folks love to visit them and eventually to put down roots.

This edition of COMPASS is a miniature snapshot of what makes the Carolinas appealing to so many. Herein lies info on our history, arts and road maps (literally and figuratively) to enjoy them all.

And then there's the food. Well that's another plus, from our Lowcountry seafood dishes to our urban eclectic gastropubs, and the farm to fork Appalachian artisan amazelements.

This is the time to plan your 2019 travels. Visit Charleston, Myrtle Beach and Asheville, of course, but don't be afraid to explore the unknown treasures you'll also find everywhere.

Check out our Adventures and Road Trips for inspiration. You'll find plenty. Never tasted sonker, or a hushpuppy? This is the year to tantalize those taste buds for sure.

And finally, Happy Valentine's Day and love to all of you. We delight in your enthusiasms for the Carolinas and we're constantly amazed at what even the natives find down our country roads and in the middle of our urban villages.

Join us soon. Til next time.

Katherine Pettit Executive Editor CarolinaLiving.com Showcasing Carolina Life & Adventures

Music Travel Guide

African American Music Trails of Eastern North Carolina

The African American Music Trails of Eastern North Carolina By Sarah Bryan, Beverly Patterson, Michelle Lanier Photographs by Titus Brooks Heagins and Cedric N. Chatterley

This first-of-its-kind travel guide will take you on a fascinating journey to music venues, events, and museums that illuminate the lives of the musicians and reveal the deep ties between music and community. Interviews with more than 90 artists open doors to a world of music, especially jazz, rhythm and blues, funk, gospel and church music, blues, rap, marching band music, and beach music. New and historical photographs, maps and travel information help you plan your trip.

Order with 17C tracks. Includes a CD with music press. Distributed for the North Carolina Arts Council.

Famous Faces

Andrew Jackson in the White House: An American Lion

Andrew Jackson March 15, 1767 - June 8, 1845 Our nation's 7th president, Andrew Jackson, has left the front side of the \$20, but he's still a transformative presence in our nation's history.

The native of South Carolina was born to Irish immigrants near Lancaster, South Carolina and was orphaned by 14, a year after he volunteered to fight the British in the Revolutionary War. He was known as a true Washington outsider, even as he was elected president on the strength of his reputation as a war hero for his exploits during the 1812 war against the British.

Want to know more? We thought so. He's quite an interesting figure. Andrew Jackson. More Famous Faces.

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Carolina Creatives



Ceramics | Virginia Scotchie Virginia Scotchie's art has been displayed in exhibits across the world - from Taipei, Taiwan, to Sidne, Australia - and has received some of the international art community's most prestigious awards. But it is the process of making, not the finished product that fascinates her the most.

"For many of us, we go to a museum or a gallery and we see the finished work," she says. "We don't see how the work got to that point."

While becoming an internationally acclaimed artist, Scotchie has also been the head of the University of South Carolina's ceramics department. Since 1992, she has overseen its growth from one dough mixer and a few kilns to the robust, 21 kiln department that it is today.

There, it has always been her goal to help students understand the great things they can produce with clay and the satisfaction they can gain from the making process.

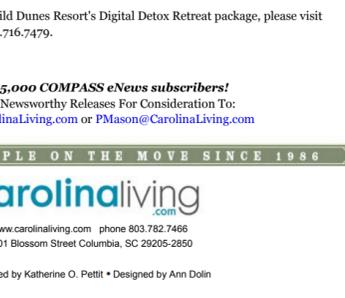
"As one famous artist said, art just doesn't jump out of the head of Zeus," she says. "You have to work. I think that the students leave knowing that this is what it is like to make something. This is the different stages that you have to go through to have a completed piece in ceramics."

She says she often has students ask her about the value of their degree, and her response to them is simple. She says, "Do you like this? Is this your life? Then you'll be fine! And it's true. As long as you practice and study what you're passionate about, you'll have a happy life."

Her work is typically characterized by its unique forms and detailed surfaces and can be seen at the Hidel Brooks Gallery in Charlotte during the month of March.

Discover painters, jewelry designers, woodworkers, sculptors, fiber artists, potters and more Carolina Creatives. Story written by Abe Danaher Photo courtesy Virginia Scotchie | www.virginiascotchie.com

Carolina Cuisine



The Ultimate Sugar Cookie Now here's an idea. Gather your friends together for an afternoon of fun as you learn how to make and decorate sugar cookies.

Imagine surprising a friend with personalized goodies, or congratulating the newest soccer star in your family. We suggest a bit of bubbly to add to the ambiance, but if art wasn't your best subject in school, never fear. Blue Flour Bakery, on Main Street near the Capitol in Columbia, SC will accommodate. Ask them about their ginger lemon cookies, too. Beyond delicious and big enough to share!

Recipe and photography courtesy Blue Flour Bakery, Columbia, SC

Enjoy Our Tasty Collection of Local Recipes: Breads | Beverages | Breakfast | Appetizers | Sides & Salads | Soup | Seafood | Meat and Poultry | Desserts

Facebook What's Love got to do with it? Everything! The Carolinas are delightfully dotted with artisan chocolate shops - tasty year round, but especially useful around Valentine's Day.

We're sharing several of our favorites, but there are many more and we'd love for you to add to the list. Many will ship so order something delicious for someone you love. It will be even more appreciated on an ordinary winter's day.

- The Secret Chocolatier, Charlotte, NC The Chocolate Fetish, Asheville, NC Escazu Chocolates, Raleigh, NC Bruges Chocolaterie, Columbia, SC Christophe Artisan Chocolatier and Patisserie, Charleston, SC The Chocolate Tree, Beaufort, SC

Your favorite chocolate resources? Do share.

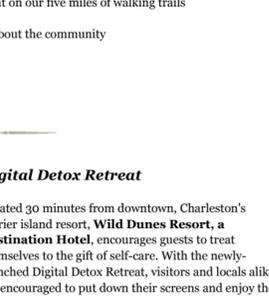
NewsWorthy Timely Events & Promotions Planning a trip? Looking for fun & deals?

Visit Dataw Island Beaufort, SC

To truly appreciate Dataw Island, we suggest you visit us with our Experience Dataw package. You will enjoy a discovery tour package that includes:

- A two-night three-day stay in the scenic Bluff Villas Unlimited golf on our two championship courses Unlimited tennis on our Har-Tru courts A complimentary meal in our newly-renovated Clubhouse Full access to the Fitness Center, featuring a gym, yoga studio, and indoor lap pool Tour the island by golf cart or take to the pavement on our five miles of walking trails Introduction to a Member Ambassador Meet with a local real estate agent to learn more about the community

Visit Dataw Island. Photo courtesy Dataw Island



Digital Detox Retreat

Located 30 minutes from downtown, Charleston's barrier island resort, Wild Dunes Resort, a Destination Hotel, encourages guests to treat themselves to the gift of self-care. With the newly-launched Digital Detox Retreat, visitors and locals alike are encouraged to put down their screens and enjoy the nature, beauty and tranquil atmosphere of the Charleston Lowcountry. This four-day, three-night retreat provides guests with a deeply immersive experience to nourish the body and soul. A collection of outdoor activities paired with relaxing spa treatments together create the perfect itinerary to relax and recharge.

Included are opportunities for: Bike rentals, fitness class, kayak excursions, golf or tennis clinics, massage, great food, beautiful surroundings. You won't miss the digital at all!

For more information or to book Wild Dunes Resort's Digital Detox Retreat package, please visit www.wilddunes.com or call 855.716.7479. Photo courtesy Wild Dunes

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