

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

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May 23, 2019 Below: Step back in time; Old Hickory; Sweetgrass baskets plus; Clean Sweep; Glamping; Bonsai; One great cake; Shopping in Asheville; Living History

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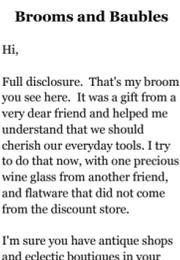
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Brooms and Baubles
Hi,
Full disclosure. That's my broom you see here. It was a gift from a very dear friend and helped me understand that we should cherish our everyday tools. I try to do that now, with one precious wine glass from another friend, and flatware that did not come from the discount store.
I'm sure you have antique shops and eclectic boutiques in your area, but we've picked out some real gems to consider for your summer vacation and your own treasure hunting.
Asheville is always amazing and you can do all your Christmas shopping with a few items thrown in to gift yourself. Our **Carolina Adventure** takes you to the Piedmont, where you'll step back in time with hundreds of nostalgic items for viewing (and some for buying).
Our other theme is history and we've got plenty of that as well. If you loved history class (math majors need not apply), take a journey through the beginnings of this region.
And one more note: never thought camping was your thing? Me neither. Try glamping and you may sing a different tune.
It's summertime, my friends and we're all ready for a bit of downtime. You'll find ideas that will keep everyone happy at [www.CarolinaLiving.com](#) so start browsing and planning.
Til next time,



Katherine Pettit
Executive Editor
[CarolinaLiving.com](#)
Showcasing
Carolina Life & Adventures

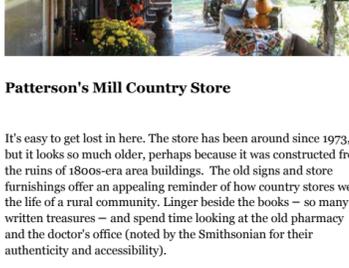
Bonsai Exhibition Garden
If you haven't visited the North Carolina Arboretum, near Asheville, you really should plan a visit this summer. There are always special exhibits, but for our money, it's hard to beat their Bonsai Garden. In this exhibit, smaller is better – and certainly more amazing.
It can host up to 50 bonsai specimens at a time and includes traditional Asian bonsai subjects such as Japanese maple and Chinese elm, tropical plants such as willow-leaf fig and bongaivillea, and American species such as bald cypress and limber pine.
I have taken a bonsai class before and it isn't easy to keep trimming away perfectly healthy tiny branches. But, at the end, the results are exquisite and I would swear that the plant is smiling.
[More about the gardens.](#)
Photo courtesy The North Carolina Arboretum



Get the Guide.

Register and get the latest edition of [CarolinaLiving.com](#) Guide and the fun-filled **Compass eNews** twice a month. Learn all about the Carolinas thrills and frills.
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Post your comments and pictures from your travels in the Carolinas, talk to other fans, and stay up to date on fun festivals and events across our two great states. We can't wait to hear from you CarolinaLiving on Facebook!
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Carolina Adventure in Chapel Hill, NC
It's easy to get lost in here. The store has been around since 1973, but it looks so much older, perhaps because it was constructed from the ruins of 1800s-era area buildings. The old signs and store furnishings offer an appealing reminder of how country stores were the life of a rural community. Linger beside the books – so many written treasures – and spend time looking at the old pharmacy and the doctor's office (noted by the Smithsonian for their authenticity and accessibility).
Be sure to buy a jar of homemade apple butter, as well as watermelon rind pickle. The latter is a family favorite, and the art of making crisp, sweet and tangy pickles starts with an almost lost art of thumping the fruit to find the perfect melon. There are many trinkets to buy, including jewelry and soap, plus toys and lamps. Watch the little ones around the candy jars, but be sure to let them try a taste of yesterday.
An added bonus is the Civil War connection. The store/union is positioned along a North Carolina Civil War Trail, where the Mexican forces burned a cotton mill in the waning days of the war. Nothing remains of the mill, but the historical information is fascinating and there is a family connection between the mill and the current country store.
WOW Factor: It sits on a green grassy hill, overlooking undulating meadows and forests of hardwoods and pines. You're very close to I-40, but you'd never know it, especially once you enter the maze of roads. You'll see antiques used in your grandmother's day. You will walk out with treasures, and you'll have a wonderful time.
Hint: Plan to spend at least an hour going through rooms. Enjoy the thousands of vintage postcards for sale. Admire the antique buttons and the books. Chat with owners Gail and Curtis Booker. (Mr. Booker's mother, the late Elsie Booker, was the retired pharmacist who, with her husband John, began the collection.) Plan to have lunch at the nearby Nantucket Grill and Bar (and yes, you can find a mighty tasty Maine lobster roll or New England fish sandwich in the heart of North Carolina). Return to I-40, or meander along country roads for just a little longer.
On Facebook: [Patterson's Mill Country Store](#)
Read about [75 more great adventures.](#)
Photo courtesy Patterson's Mill Country Store

Famous Faces
Andrew Jackson
March 15, 1767 - June 8, 1845
Our nation's 7th president, Andrew Jackson, may be leaving the front side of the \$20, but that's ok. We're delighted with Harriet Tubman's recognition.
Having Old Hickory in the news reminded us that the man is one of our own. 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 is 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.
David Feller, contributor to a *U.S. News and World Report* article on our seventh president said, "Jackson's importance in American history is beyond question. He dominated his times so thoroughly that they came to bear his name: the Age of Jackson, or the Jacksonian Era. He is the only president, indeed the only person, to have a whole period of American history named for him."
[Read more interesting facts.](#)



Carolina Creatives

Who Made Your Broom? The Broom Place
Susan Simpson works in an old Carolina settler's home, using antique machinery to make beautiful brooms, just as they were created years ago. She dyes the broomcorn herself in bright colors of red and green, blue and yellow. After the straw dries, she cuts it and soaks it so that it is flexible, and can be wrapped in layers around carved wooden handles and then sewn securely.
Think about it. The humble broom is used every day and why shouldn't it be a work of art as well as a utilitarian cleaning tool?
Large or small, they are as lovely as they are perfectly made.
Check it out. Gifts and crafts by local artisans are also sold in the Broom Place. Hours are 10:30am- 5pm, Tuesday through Friday, and 10:30 until 3:00 on Saturdays. 803.425.0933. (Located near Camden and Columbia.)
Mill Address:
73 Boykin Mill Road | Rembert, South Carolina 29128
[More about Camden.](#)
[More about Columbia.](#)
Photo Credit : www.boykinmillfarms.com

Now this is some very Sweet Grass.

Sweetgrass Culture and Arts Festival
July 13, 2019
Mount Pleasant Waterfront Memorial Park (next door to Charleston)
When I was a child, a relative showed me a beautiful woven grass basket and made me promise never to give it away. "This is a special basket," Aunt Hazel shared. "It took somebody a very long time to make it."
We still have the basket, but there are fewer artisans who have the skill and patience to make these creations. These are investment pieces, with great functionality. Learn more about the art and science of sweet grass at the Sweetgrass Festival. Watch the baskets being made, and buy a finished piece to adorn your home (and keep your bread warm).
Arts and crafts vendors, live entertainment, music and dance performances, storytelling and children's activities will also be featured.
[Learn more about Charleston.](#)
Photo courtesy of ExploreCharleston.com

Let's Go Glamping

Best Campgrounds in NC
It's not really roughing it when the campgrounds have great amenities and beautiful views. Plus, the family togetherness time is nothing short of priceless. We used to take our children camping on an island in the middle of Lake Murray, near Columbia. They had the run of the place and we knew they were safe in the midst of their explorations.
Thinking about those days, we began to search for some great campgrounds in the Carolinas. For this issue, we're staying in North Carolina. Look for South Carolina next issue. Here are the top five, according to TripleBlaze.com
Rank | Campground | Location
1. Carolina Hemlocks | Burnsville, North Carolina
2. Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park | Marion, North Carolina
3. Standing Indian | Franklin, North Carolina
4. Badin Lake Campground | Troy, North Carolina
5. Cheoah Point | Fontana Village, North Carolina
Find out what makes these (and more!) so special. You may just want to dig out your sleeping bags, and head for the country.
Photo courtesy Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park

Carolina Cuisine

Leyla Mason, our co-founder, shared this month's recipe and it's got all the right elements for my family – easy to make, coconut and chocolate, tastes fabulous. File this one away until the next time you need a quick cake that makes a tasty impression. Better yet, make it this weekend, just because. You'll make everyone happy with **Upside Down German Chocolate Cake**.
Enjoy Our Tasty Collection of [Carolina Recipes](#):
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Shop 'Til You Drop In Asheville.
If you're into quirky outdoor art, paintings, one of a kind jewelry, pottery, vases, toys and *objets d'art*, you can do no wrong in Asheville.
Unique shopping districts, wonderfully talented artists who love Asheville for its creative vibe, and great restaurants and chocolate shops to keep you fueled for the hunt.
Go there soon. It's that much fun.
[Shopping in Asheville.](#)
Photo courtesy ExploreAsheville.com

For History Enthusiasts!

The indigenous people who thrived in what became the Carolinas knew what rich and remarkable land they were living on – or passing through. Hernando de Soto discovered it too, in 1540, and from then on they just kept coming.
Discover all the intrepid explorers and settlers who called the Carolinas home. They left behind Colonial structures, Indian mounds and battlefields, plus stories that traveled down the centuries. Modern day explorers have much to enjoy. First, learn the story of how and why the Carolinas came to be what they are today.
[Read more at CarolinaLiving.com/traveling/history](#)
Photo: Civil War Reenactment at Historic Brattonsville
Photo Courtesy: Culture & Heritage Museums of York County SC

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