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Zehra hides under a blanket in an impromptu game of hide and seek with sister Mazie during their painting enrichment.

Wild About Lions and Heart-melting Caracal Kittens

Story by Jessica Dougherty

Photos by Donald Komondy (www.donaldkomondy.com)

This year has been one for the history books, as we all know. The ripple effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic have been felt throughout the world, and the Animal Park at the Conservators Center is no exception. The readers of *Hyco Lake Magazine* are becoming old friends now, and we wanted to catch you up on how we are managing the challenges of 2020.

While we closed our doors to the public for a few months in the spring, behind the scenes we were working up a storm: taking care of the park's animals, looking for new ways to fulfill our educational mission, filming a fun video piece for BuzzFeed, and welcoming some new additions.

Weeks passed as the parking lot remained empty and the sound of children's "oohs" and "aahs" became what felt like a distant memory. Our zookeepers and educators were ready for a good pick-me-up when BuzzFeed reached out, wanting to show life at a small zoo during COVID-19. We were delighted to produce a piece for them, sharing a look at zoo life in Caswell County when all the visitors are gone. Reflecting on how we keep animals busy and engaged when their walking, talking visitor entertainment is missing was a lot of fun for us, and we hope we conveyed it well to viewers. The video may be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4U438s9Vig>.

Following the video, we received some exciting news that lifted our spirits. We were bringing in a new family of lions!

In early May, the Animal Park welcomed four new lions -- Naomi and her three young sons. These three brothers, named Omot, Kabaka, and Jabari, have been growing into their home enthusiastically. They're always busy jumping around on their hammocks and chasing each other and their lion-sized soccer balls around their space. Seeing them brought smiles back to the faces of our staff and volunteers.

With their addition to the Park, we are excited to launch our Wild About Lions program, which allows anyone over age 14 to have a up-close look as we chronicle these lions' second year of life. Members will get to watch the lions grow into their adulthood -- and their manes -- from August 2020 until July 2021. This is an exclusive, limited membership program, with activities focused on a small group intensive experience. If you are Wild About Lions, be sure to visit our website to learn more about joining us for this once in a lifetime opportunity to grow up with three lion brothers.

We are welcoming visitors back to the Animal Park in small tour groups of eight to 12 people. Visitors and staff are wearing masks, socially distancing, and remaining in the outdoor areas of the park. The animals seem interested in the change to their regular traffic, and have been showing off a bit for visitors, except under the midday sun. A select group of summer campers have attended themed, week-long events both in person and by video, enjoying the focused attention of our camp counselors (educators in disguise). And some clever visitors avoided the whole sunshine issue by attending our Wild Under the Stars event, watching the Perseid meteor shower in our exceptionally dark meadow one evening. A few brave souls chose to camp all night, listening to the wolves howl.

We were pleasantly surprised in mid-May by the birth of two caracal kittens. Their mother had us believing there would be no kittens this year, and then suddenly, there they were. After sisters Mazie and Zehra grew up a bit, we moved them into a space where visitors can get a good look at them through a huge window into their world. We are excited not only for these cute

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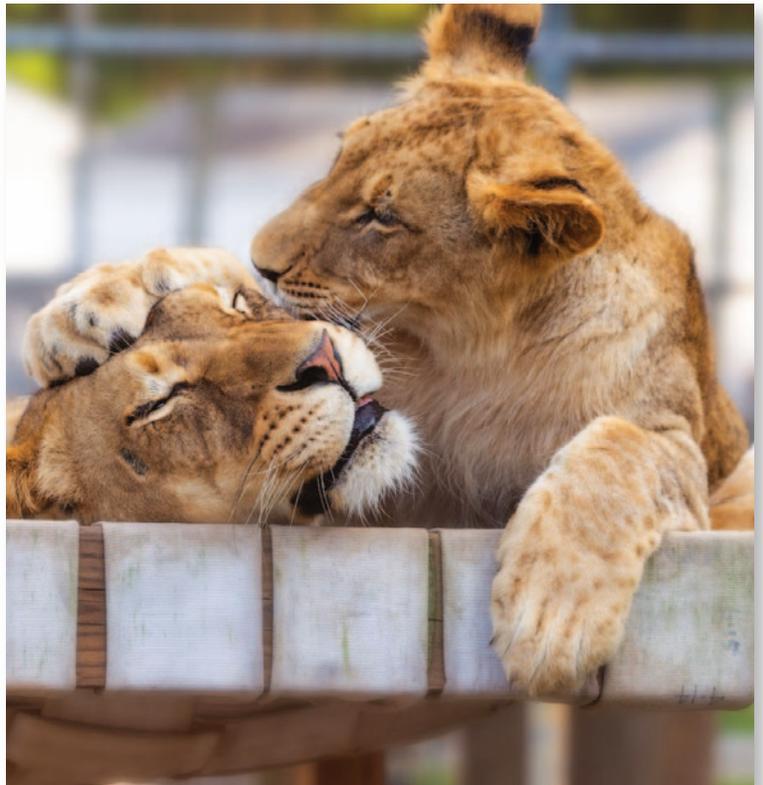
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We hope you are all staying safe, and we can't wait to see you all out here at the Animal Park!

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The Animal Park at the Conservators Center (formerly known as The Conservators Center) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located at 676 E. Hughes Mill Road, Burlington, NC. More information about the Center and its tours can be found at <https://www.AnimalParkNC.org>



The new lion cubs enjoy lying on their hammocks with their mother, Naomi

moments and photos, but also for the amazing educational opportunities these kittens bring to the Animal Park. Caracals are a fascinating species, with large golden-green eyes and black tufted ears... and now they are here in heart-melting kitten form. We share fun photos and videos of these kittens, the young lion brothers, and our other animals on our social media pages, so please join us there to see and learn more.

We look forward to fall with hope in our hearts. We are still planning to hold autumn events in a modified way, ensuring mask-wearing, social distancing, and other safety measures are in place to keep our visitors, staff and animals safe. We are constantly reviewing our policies and procedures regarding COVID-19 safety and will continue to follow the direction of our state and local leadership. Watch our website and social media to keep up with Animal Park activities.

Add these events to your calendar now:

- September 12 - Girl Scout Day
- September 18 - Lions, Tigers, and Beer
- November 14 - Pumpkin Prowl

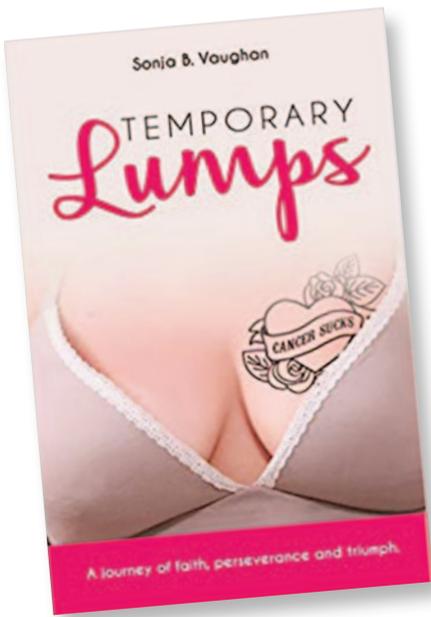
We also plan to host many smaller events, like outdoor picnic movie nights, twilight tours, daytime educational activities for kids, and much more. Keep checking back so you don't miss out.



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TEMPORARY LUMPS

A Journey of Faith, Perseverance and Triumph by Sonja B. Vaughan

Book review by Phylliss Boatwright

Reading this Book is Like Sitting on the Porch, Chatting with the Author

Every now and then, I find a book that touches my heart in a way that is hard to describe. That's exactly what happened when I read Person County native Sonja Blanks Vaughan's story about her journey with breast cancer. We all know someone who has battled or is battling the disease. Many of us have fought it ourselves. Sonja offers her own story in a way that is completely relatable, and also inspiring.

A couple of years ago, after Sonja was diagnosed with breast cancer, she decided to document her journey via a blog. She said many folks told her they loved the blog and encouraged her to turn it into book form so that people who don't use the Internet, and more people period, could read about her diagnosis, treatment, faith, and the incredibly positive attitude with which she faced the fight with cancer. The result is *Temporary Lumps, a Journey of Faith, Perseverance and Triumph*.

Sonja told me that several times, people said, "I felt like you were sitting in my living room talking to me personally" while reading the blog. And after reading the book, I feel the same way.

Over time, Sonja said, as more people told her they thought she should make the blog a book, she believes God began working on her. She said, "It seemed crazy to me that my story would be interesting to anyone other than folks that knew me or knew of me.....but I kept thinkingWHAT IF.....WHAT IF that's what this whole cancer is about. WHAT IF God has given me this

platform and this voice to share with the world how awesome He has been to me?"

WHAT IF God cured me of this cancer so that I could tell others of that miracle?"

She said a Bible verse, Esther 4:14, kept running through her mind:

14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

"How could I argue?" Sonja told me.

Another thing, she said, is the fact that she majored in English and Public Relations in college and it's been a running joke in her family that she's never had a job that truly made use of her degree.

"That's just like God -- to wait until I was 50 plus years old and finally fully use my gifts and talents," she said.

When I asked, she said her first advice to anyone diagnosed with cancer, "would be to understand that you are NOT alone -- to lean heavily on God and surround yourself with a tribe of POSITIVE people."

She said, while going through treatment, she kept a journal with her, whether to write down what the doctors said that day, or record her random thoughts, or conversations with new friends, or a to-do list to help with "chemo brain."

She said another "must have" for her was a Scout Bag in which she kept a blanket, wipes, phone charger, journal, book, dry mouth lozenges, snacks, candy, and other supplies needed for the hospital and treatment days. She said she and her family still call it her "chemo bag" whenever she gets it out now for trips.

Along with good advice for dealing with all the "temporary lumps" that go along with cancer diagnosis and treatment, the book is highly entertaining. It truly feels like the author is sitting by you on the porch, sipping a glass of tea and chatting, building you up to face your own battles, whatever they may be.

This inspiring book is available on Amazon, as a paperback only. You can also pick it up in Roxboro at Truth Books and Gifts. If you haven't read it yet, go right now to Truth Books and Gifts and grab a copy of *Temporary Lumps*.

Temporary Lumps, A Journey of Faith, Perseverance and Triumph by Sonja B. Vaughan. Paperback, 228 pages. Independently published Dec. 11, 2018. \$12.99. ISBN-10: 1791379184

Phylliss Boatwright is a journalist who for years reported Person County news in The Courier-Times. She has published two books and several short stories. Her book review show, Turn the Page, can be heard on WKRX, 96.7. For the past seven years, she has taught journalism and served as public information officer at Roxboro Community School. She can be reached via email at phyllissboatwright@gmail.com.



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Cole's Pharmacy

'Where everybody knows your name'

Story by Phylliss Boatwright

Photos by Mackenzie Clayton, RCS Senior

"You want to go where everybody knows your name" -- that's how customers and friends sum up the experience of visiting Cole's Pharmacy on Main Street in uptown Roxboro.

And if you want to get a true taste of Roxboro and Person County, just step inside the building on the corner of Main and Reams that has been a local business spot since 1904. You will be warmly welcomed, well fed and served with a smile.

From the vintage soda fountain to wood shelving in the "old timey section" of the store, history is apparent in the building that has housed a pharmacy since 1960.

But history and hospitality are even more apparent in a conversation with Cole's Pharmacy owner James Carver and his son, Robbie Carver. I had the pleasure of spending about an hour with the two recently. While James filled me in on the history of the building and the business, customers came and went, greeting the father and son like old friends.

One was visiting to pick up her daily dose of lemonade from Cindy at the soda fountain. The customer proclaimed the day was her 48th wedding anniversary, and received a round of congratulations from the Cole's staff. Another customer stopped by the table where James, Robbie and I were talking, and when James told him I was writing a story on the history of the shop, the customer stated that he was 82, and could remember driving up and down Main Street by the store when he was a teenager and blowing "the horn at the women." He joked that there wasn't much else to do in Roxboro at the time.

One long-time customer, Sonja Vaughan, told me that walking into Cole's Pharmacy is like walking into Cheers, the fictional bar in the 1980s TV series of the same name.

“When I walk in Cole’s Pharmacy, it’s like walking into a family reunion,” Sonja told me. “You will see many of the same folks week after week, and then there’s always that unexpected surprise.....like running into old friends or classmates you haven’t seen in years, people shouting ‘hello’ and waving and sharing hugs. James and his staff are wonderful, salt of the earth folks, who genuinely love and care for their customers.”

Sonja, a breast cancer survivor, wrote a wonderful book about her journey. My review of the book is in this edition of Hyco Lake Magazine. Sonja told me recently that she “worked on Main Street for almost four years, and during that time, I ate more meals at Cole’s than I ate at home.” After she wrote *Temporary Lumps*, Sonja said, “James reached out to me right away to let me know they wanted to host a book signing for me. They went all out. They had flowers, decorations, food and drinks. I truly felt like a real celebrity author!” Sonja added that the Carvers and staff “were truly some of my biggest supporters during a difficult time.”

While talking with the Carvers for this story, I couldn’t help thinking they have the perfect jobs. They have long-time, loyal customers like Sonja, who feel like members of the Carver family. As we talked at a red-topped table with a perfect view of Main Street, people strolled by and waved. James and Robbie offered waves, nods and smiles in return, while never missing a beat in our conversation.

James fondly recalled being in the store during the 1960s and ‘70s when, he said, “the streets were filled with people” on Saturdays. Regular customers who planned to be back in town the following Saturday would bring in the bottles and ask for a week’s supply of their medications. There were several who would visit or call to say something like, “I don’t have the bottle, but I need my yellow pills,” James chuckled. That still happens today from time to time, he said with a smile.

“Back in the day,” he said, Cole’s carried special items for the Christmas season. Shoppers from the 1950s through the 1980s could pop in for last-minute shopping and pick up an Old Spice or Evening in Paris gift set, Max Factor make-up, a Timex watch, or a Polaroid camera for someone on their list. The store was open until 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve back then, said James, and sometimes shoppers would come in after 8:30 and try to bargain for a better price on that special something. Back before digital and cell phone cameras, James said, film, batteries and flash cubes were among the hottest selling items during the Christmas season. The “old timey section” at the back of the shop still contains a few of those items, as well as products like lye soap.

As has been the case for years, the snack bar still offers delicious hot dogs, ice cream, fountain drinks, and pimento cheese, chicken salad and hot dog sandwiches. When the building was converted from a grocery store to a pharmacy, the bar and soda fountain

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were moved from the building that currently houses Tolin & Tolin Law Firm, a couple of blocks away on South Main Street.

My friend Carrie Hawkins has fond memories of the snack bar. Carrie grew up just down Main Street, at Russell's Ltd., the store her mother, Zee Burnette, owned and operated for many years. Carrie told me, "When I was little, my sister and I used to have to stay at mom's store every day after school. Our treat for having to do this was getting to walk up to Cole's and get an afternoon snack. For many years, I would go and Marie would fix me a hotdog sandwich 'without the orange thing' -- so I would eat the bread with ketchup." Carrie would get chips and the famous Cole's lemonade with her hotdog sandwich "without the orange thing." That, she said, was a favorite childhood memory.

Sonja Vaughan said of the hot dogs, "Holy smokes, they are delicious! It's that homemade slaw. But if you really want to live on the edge, you MUST try their hot dog sandwich, and get you one of their famous orangeades to go with it. You'll be glad you did."

The orangeades, soft drinks and other beverages offered at Cole's are chilled a specific way, James said, because "people love flaked ice." He rents a machine to make sure his customers get their beverages just the way they like them.

Like Carrie, Brinn Clayton, former owner and publisher of *The Courier-Times*, grew up in uptown Roxboro.

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When his father, Jerry Clayton, owned and published the newspaper, Brinn and his brother Clay would go to Cole's after school every Monday and Thursday to pick up their newspaper bundles before going on their walking paper routes.

"The ladies behind the counter were always kind to us," Brinn said. He recalled Katie, who "always wore a white jacket like the pharmacist." He said another woman who worked behind the lunch counter back then "had a beehive" hairdo. "I'd get a grilled cheese sandwich and a coke and charge it to my dad," Brinn continued.

Tim Chandler, Roxboro's mayor pro-tem, also had a newspaper delivery route in his younger years. And Cole's was a big part of his workday, too. After completing his route, he said, Tim would meet Clay Clayton at Cole's and "Katie and Marie would make us an orangeade and we'd either get a hot dog or one of their famous 'squished' sandwiches. Those were some good times."

When I posted on Facebook that I was working on a story about Cole's, my friend Shannon Lewis commented, "Back in middle school, we would skip school lunches to save our money and make every and any excuse to get together for a study group at the library after school just because we really wanted to walk down to Cole's for an orangeade and a hot ham and cheese. Back then, encyclopedias were our Wikipedia so we had frequent flyer miles from our public library to Cole's." (Shannon gave me permission to use her post in this article.)

James said Al Cole, the first owner of Cole's Pharmacy, acquired the snack bar and several other items from what is now the Tolin building. James said Al and Winkie Wilkins, former *Courier-Times* associate editor and member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, one night rolled a five-foot-tall safe down Main Street from the Tolin office to what is now Cole's.

The Cole's Pharmacy building was originally Sergeant-Clayton Grocery Store. A handwritten list of items sold at the store is still on the wall on the second floor of the building. The Carvers renovated the upstairs a couple years ago, turning the former office

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space into a charming apartment. The pharmacy counter is now located where the grocery store's meat counters once stood. At the side door opening on to Reams Avenue, the grocery store once sold live chickens to drive-up customers, James explained.

Sometime in the 1950s, the building became Roxboro Drug Company. Al Cole bought the pharmacy in the late 1950s, and changed the name to Cole's Pharmacy, James Carver said. Cole was the sole owner until James graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1972 and became a partner and pharmacist. (James is proud of the fact that he graduated in the same class as legendary Tar Heel basketball coach Roy Williams.)

Al Cole retired in the early 2000s, but continued working part-time for several years. Last year, James bought Al out. James said he was about 14 when he first started working in the pharmacy. His children started working there at around the same age. The family atmosphere is apparent the minute a customer walks in the door to receive a warm greeting.

Many treats await Cole's customers, be it food, a cold fountain drink, a friendly smile, getting a prescription filled, or picking up other pharmacy items. And, for customers who can't get to town to pick it up, Cole's delivers prescriptions. The store is located at 117 North Main Street in Roxboro. The telephone number is



336-599-2171. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 8 a.m. until noon.

Phylliss Boatwright is a journalist who for years reported Person County news in The Courier-Times. She has published two books and several short stories. Her book review show, Turn the Page, can be heard on WKRX, 96.7. For the past nine years, she has taught journalism and served as public information officer at Roxboro Community School. She can be reached via email at phyllissboatwright@gmail.com.



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Teen Artist and Entrepreneur Paints Barn Quilt Squares

By John Theo Jr.

Fifteen-year-old Kaitlyn Reaves has shown an affinity for art since elementary school, and was encouraged to pursue this passion by parents Daryl and Lesley. Over the years, Kaitlyn tried her hand at different art forms such as charcoal drawing, but at her mother's suggestion, she decided to pursue painting barn quilt squares.

When asked why she stuck with this medium, as opposed to something like acrylic painting, pottery, or photography she giggled and replied, "Mom said I could make some money at it."

Kaitlyn went on to explain the history of barn quilt squares, and how they had nothing to do with actual quilts. They are painted wooden squares as small as 12x12 inches and as large as 36x36 inches that people do sometimes hang on barns where one would traditionally hang a barn quilt. They are also painted in patterns that might be found on quilts.

Every barn quilt square Kaitlyn makes is made-to-order. She receives a lot of requests for American flags, farming themes such as horses and tractors, and abstract shapes and colors. Company signs and logos are starting to be a popular request as well. Kaitlyn uses exterior paint on all of her art so that customers have

the option to hang the barn quilt squares either inside or outside.

Kaitlyn has been painting barn quilt squares for less than a year but the COVID-19 lockdown has, ironically, allowed her the time to master the art form as well as get her business off the ground. In the short time she has been selling the squares, Kaitlyn's business has flourished. When asked about her secret marketing strategy, Kaitlyn's answers were non-traditional. Whereas most teens today are attached to technology, Kaitlyn spends most of her free time, except for painting, either playing volleyball or fishing.

Although her mother takes some orders through her Facebook page, Kaitlyn does not have a page, a website, or an Etsy store to sell her barn quilt squares from. Instead, she utilizes the old-fashioned word-of-mouth approach to sell her art.

One might think this business model could not compete in the 2020 market with social media and the Internet. But when I received her dad's email with pictures of Kaitlyn's art attached, the word "prodigy" came to mind. Her work is absolutely stunning. The quality of Kaitlyn's art, coupled with orders hand-tailored to anything a customer could dream up, all packaged with a reasonable price tag, is a recipe for success.

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John Theo Jr. is relatively new to South Boston but not new to writing. He has authored several books and penned many articles. Hyco Lake Magazine is thankful to share his perspective on our community. Please welcome John and get to know him better by going to JohnTheo.com, visit him at Cozy Cave Self Storage & More at 306 Webster Street, South Boston, Va. 24592 or give him a call at (434) 579-2856!

great product it will sell itself, which is exactly what Kaitlyn has on her hands. When asked what the future holds for her, she said she would like to someday have a career where art is involved on some level. The sky seems to be the limit for this young woman.

To place orders customers can reach out to Lesley Reaves at: reaveslesley@gmail.com



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Melvin Hamlett A Lifetime Contributing to our Community

Story and photos by Meredith Bernard

After being greeted with a firm handshake and hearty smile, I recently sat across a table from Person County native Melvin Hamlett and began hearing his life story. It didn't take long to realize how this man has garnered a respected reputation that's left a mark on his community and beyond. Growing up on a tobacco farm, like so many others in the greater Roxboro area, Melvin learned from an early age the value of hard work. Sixty-some years later, he still carries those lessons with him.

He says he walked many a mile in the shadow of his farmer-grandfather's footsteps for the majority of his childhood. Most of those miles were trod under the roof of the Pass family tobacco warehouse, where his granddad worked for 40 years. Melvin recalls with a warm smile how well Mr. Pass and his family treated him and his granddad. As a 10th grader, Melvin preferred to spend his time after school alongside his grandfather, and at 15 was offered his first paid job at the warehouse that was already like his second home. He was proud to earn money doing what he loved with people he highly respected and who in turn respected his abilities and drive. His jobs included loading and unloading trucks and running tobacco across the scales.

When Melvin wasn't with his granddad or in school, he was playing sports -- and he says he was good at them. He held the high jump track record for his high

school for many years, and also played football and basketball. To the dismay of his mother, he decided to forgo a full athletic scholarship to Elon College (University) in order to continue working full time at the tobacco warehouse after he graduated high school. Looking back, he says a part of him wishes he had continued his education, but he didn't let his decision stop him from pursuing other dreams or getting ahead in life without a college degree.

He's especially proud to be the first Black man he knows of in the county and possibly the state to be given the job of weighing tobacco on the scales. He worked hard to gain trust and respect by doing his job to the best of his ability and was rewarded for it. In doing so, he helped open the door for others to earn the same rights at a time when people in many parts of the county were struggling to gain them.

When asked what it was like growing up as a Black male in the midst of the Civil Rights movement in a small, rural, southern town, Melvin says, "It wasn't bad. People in my community were accepting and treated me with respect."

Over the years, Melvin gained more and more responsibility at the warehouse, including opening and closing. Some days there would be six separate sales to prepare, run and clean up, meaning a whole lot of work. He recalls the day then-Governor Jim Martin came to visit the warehouse and the excitement and honor that came with having such a high official visit -- as well as all the preparation for the event. It was a momentous time for the small town and he was proud to have been there to share in it.

At the age of 18, while working full-time, Melvin also began working part-time as a referee for county middle and high school recreational basketball. This endeavor eventually branched out to statewide college basketball refereeing, which he did for 15 years. He says he's refereed most every child in the county who has played over the last 40 years and in doing so, has formed lasting relationships with many families in the area. His refereeing jobs have taken him many places and, he admits, took him away from his own two children more often than he would have liked at times. Even so, he's proud of his career and still continues going strong, although it has taken a toll on his body. The strain of keeping up with athletes on the court caused him to need knee surgery, but hasn't kept him from continuing to do the job he loves.

When the Pass family sold their tobacco warehouses, Melvin followed them and moved into a management position at the Family Lawn and Garden business they bought in the mid 1990s. He recollects how the Passes always treated him like family, and laughed while telling me about the first time they invited him to their home for a party. He asked Mr. Pass what he would be expected to do, and was told he would be expected to eat and have a good time with everyone else.

The business was sold to Danny Talbert in the fall of 1999, and Melvin continued to work for the company in the garden center. Melvin has never met a stranger and between his previous work and time spent refereeing, he knows the majority of customers who walk through the landscape center's doors. He considers his customers, as well as co-workers, family. Through the years, he's learned a lot, not only about the field of work he does, but about how to build lasting relationships.

Melvin says he misses the way things used to be, in regards to respect given in turn for respect received. He says he can't say enough good things about the people, especially the Pass and Talbert families, who gave him opportunities to grow and further his careers, always treated him like family, and showed him appreciation for a job well done. For Melvin, the respect he has been given over the years is what taught him to always give it to others. The golden rule of treating others the way you want to be treated runs deep in and through his life and is emulated in how he looks at and treats those he comes in contact with.

In addition to serving his community through the basketball court and landscape center, Melvin is also heavily involved in his place of worship at Hyco Zion Baptist Church. As anyone can relate, Melvin freely admits he hasn't always done things exactly as he should and there are things in life he wishes he'd done differently. But he's at peace with where he is now and says a lot of that is thanks not only to God, but to his mother and church family being there to support him.

He says his mother always had him in church while growing up, but not until the last 15 years or so did he really grow spiritually. In 2006, he made the decision to become an ordained deacon and even though his mother passed before this happened, he says he has no doubt she would be extremely proud of his continued commitment to his faith and church family.

When asked if he has plans to retire, he said with a grin, "No time soon." He still enjoys his time refereeing, loves his store manager position and his time on the road driving the delivery truck for Landscape Supply & Rentals in Roxboro. He says as long as he can keep doing both to the best of his ability, he will.

Things and times may have changed from the way they were 40 or 50 years ago, but with people like Melvin Hamlett continuing to contribute to their community in the way he does, with the compassion and commitment he has for people and life in general, there's plenty of hope for the future.

Thanks to Landscape Supply & Rentals of Roxboro for making this story possible.



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Meredith Bernard is a photographer, writer and farmer living and working with her husband and two children on a beef cattle farm in Milton, NC. Connect with her online at www.thisfarmwife.com and YouTube at ThisFarmWife.com/youtube.



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Pickleball is Alive and Well in the Hyco Lake Region

By Peggy McFarland

Pickleball is alive and well in Person County. For those who have never heard of the game, it was invented 55 years ago on Bainbridge Island, near Seattle, Washington.

One lazy summer day, three friends, including Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell and Barney McCallum, told their bored children to go out to their backyard badminton court. They gave them each a wooden ping pong paddle and a plastic baseball and told them to have at it. The game soon became so popular that people were lining the block waiting to get a turn to play this combination of ping pong, badminton and tennis.

Since that day 55 years ago, Pickleball has become the fastest growing sport in the United States and is played all over the world. It is being played by kids in physical education classes as well as seniors in retirement communities. There are over 15,000 indoor and outdoor courts all over the U.S., with 2.5 million players.

The biggest difference between pickleball and tennis is the size of the court. A pickleball court measures just 20 by 44 feet, so four pickleball courts would fit on one tennis court. Also, the serve is underhanded, making it much easier on the shoulder joint. There is a

seven-foot non-volley zone on each side of the net, known as the kitchen, where smashes are not allowed. Players may only step in the kitchen to hit a ball that has bounced in that zone. Singles or doubles can be played, but doubles is the most popular. Points are scored only by the serving team, with the first to reach 11 by two points winning the game. A match consists of the best two out of three games.

Six years ago, I was recovering from a full rotator cuff repair caused by a bone spur and 50 years of playing tennis. I began playing tennis when I was 12, at a local park in Roanoke, Va. I was soon beating all the boys and found that I had a love for this racket sport. I became a fierce competitor. I played tennis in high school and college at the intramural level. After moving to Danville 30-some years ago, I began playing USTA tennis in Greensboro on as many as five different teams in the same season.

Before I could return to tennis after surgery, I heard pickleball was being played at the YMCA in Danville. I thought that might be a safe way to get back into tennis, so I dropped in and played my first pickleball game. I was hooked!

Not only is pickleball great exercise; it has been a way to meet wonderful friends. Wherever I have gone, whether it be Harbour Island at Wrightsville Beach, Wintergreen Resort in Nelson County, Va. or Little

Washington, N.C., there is always a drop-in game and a welcoming group of people to be found.

This past February, I completed my Professional Pickleball Registry coaching certification. I am the only PPR certified coach in Person County. My husband Bob and I have built a beautiful backyard court at our home on Hyco Lake. I offer beginner private and semi-private lessons and clinics for up to four people who are more advanced.

I am excited to grow this fun sport in the Hyco Lake Region. Below is a listing of opportunities.

- **Person County:** Drop-in league at Huck Sansbury tennis courts in Roxboro on Morgan St. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m.
- **South Boston:** Drop-in play at the Recreation Center off Broad St. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.
- **Danville:** YMCA indoor pickleball. Cancelled due to COVID-19 until further notice.

Oh, and if you are wondering, pickleball was named after the Pritchard's dog, who was named "Pickles." See you on the court!

Peggy Mcfarland is the only PPR certified coach in the Hyco Lake Region. If you are interested in learning a new sport and making lots of great friends, contact her at Mcfarland.peggy@yahoo.com or text (434)-441-0872.

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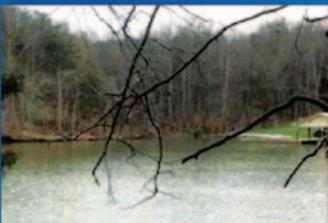
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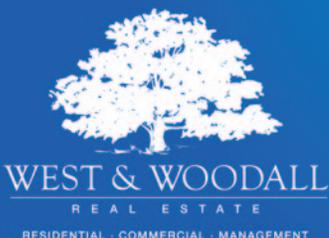


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she once fall'd up a mountain

By Phillip Gillis

she once fall'd up a mountain
and the leaves came with her.

off the ground
fluttering into the air
casually drifting up and up and-
up
lifting themselves effortlessly
(or so it seemed)
or were they carried?

following them,
she navigated the
rhythms and chirps and cicadas.
swirling.
breathless.
wandering aimlessly or aimlessly wandering.

she fall'd.
he fall'd.

they all fall'd.
up
up
and away?
or was it back home?

a Dead song hung in her head:
And if you go no one may follow.
That path is for your steps alone.

brownyelloworangeredgreen
greenredorangeyellowbrown

she once fall'd back down a mountain
and the leaves came with her.

Phillip Gillis is a teacher, writer, wanderer, semi-retired professional wrestler, and father of two beautiful children. He is also a proud native of Allensville, NC and grew up in a hardware store, C&G Supply Center.

Photo by Oliver Hihn on Unsplash

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MOTORCYCLES AND TOYS AND STRANGERS

By Norwood Walker

The roar of hundreds of motorcycles. Men and women clad in leather jackets. Long hair, beards, bandanas. What reaction does this bring to your mind and body? Are you ready to close and lock all the doors and windows and hide under the bed? Or, you may be ready to slap on your leather and rush out the door to join them with the strains of Steppenwolf howling in your head: “Get your motor runnin’, head out on the highway.” If you had been in the parking lot of the Homestead Festival House in Timberlake, N.C. on Nov. 10, 2019, you would have had the chance to see what your reaction would be.

There were close to 350 motorcycles and over 500 people clad in leather, jeans, and helmets ready to ride. Or you might have been traveling somewhere in the vicinity and had to wait at a stop light as 348 motorcycles, two by two, poured out onto U.S Highway 501, eventually stretching from the Festival House lot to mid-Madison Boulevard in Roxboro. All along the way, law enforcement was present to ensure the safety of everyone, but most of all, that of the riders. These were the participants in the 10th Annual Toy Run hosted by the Steelhorse Strangers Motorcycle Club (SSMC). What do motorcycle riders have to do with toys and who are the Steelhorse Strangers? Why and how have they done this for the past 10 years?

Motorcycle Riders and Toys

If you are like me, you don’t typically associate motorcycle riders and toys with each other. My perception of motorcycles and their riders was created by films such as *The Wild Angels*, *The Wild One*, and *The Born Losers*, among others during my impressionable late

teen years. Honestly, I was somewhere between fear and awe and jealousy, depending on how rebellious I was feeling at the moment. I saw these people as wild men and women who answered to their own rules and sought out their own pleasures; the ultimate free individuals, But toys?

Birth of the Steelhorse Strangers

In the words of Jarrett, a.k.a. Joker, Shotwell, the current president of the SSMC, a group of friends who shared the enjoyment of riding motorcycles had the vision in 2010 of starting a club dedicated to serving people in the Person County area. Their main objective was to “help those in our communities suffering from losses due to illness, burial costs, fire and other tragic events.” The organization quickly took shape with a mission statement that reads in part:

“We the Steelhorse Strangers are a motorcycle club that has a main goal of gaining the respect and trust of our community...Claiming no territory we are a family that watches over each other and plans to donate to charities and sponsor some local events. All are welcome to ride with us; however, we do abide by the laws...”

Steelhorse Riders and Toys

From the club’s early discussions about service projects, talk turned to a toy run, since several successful events had been held in surrounding areas and riders from Person County had taken part. The first Toy Run was held on Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010, at Westwood Baptist Church in Roxboro. The event was co-hosted by the Steelhorse Strangers and the Carolina Faith Riders, another local motorcycle club. The entry fee per rider was \$5 and a new, unwrapped toy. Hot dogs with all the trimmings were served mid-afternoon following the ride. The toys were given to Santa’s Helpers and cash proceeds went to the Christian Help Center.

Richard Fox of Fox’s Suzuki-Kawasaki in Roxboro has been a big supporter of the event over the years, as the list of sponsors has continued to grow.

“A monumental task” is how Richard describes the logistics of the event. He says he continues to be amazed at the detail required to coordinate a ride of hundreds of motorcycles.

The Run Experiences Runaway Growth

For the first few years, club members did all the cooking and fed the participants, but as the ride grew, something had to give. The church parking lot gave way to the Homestead Festival House parking lot and Randy Cash’s staff became the cooks.

Event sponsors at all levels are important, and enthusiastic. This year a bidding challenge has been opened for sponsors to challenge others for the title of Champion Sponsor. This coveted title comes with a plaque and the sponsor’s name displayed prominently on the event t-shirts.

The Why and the How

The club’s mission statement and C.T.R.L. underlie all their decisions.

- **Commitment:** these individuals committed themselves and their commitment led to the commitment of others.
- **Trust:** they trusted each other and had faith in what they were setting out to do. They trusted that the community would support them.
- **Respect and loyalty:** they knew respect and loyalty had to be earned and maintained. So, from the beginning, they set about doing that.

The club participates with community and school organizations as well as individual fundraising, but the Toy Run seems to be their heart. Robin Simpson, representing Santa’s Helpers, said, when presented with a check for \$36,000, “Santa’s Helpers of Person County cannot adequately express our appreciation for the continued efforts [of] the Steelhorse Strangers. Each year, for over 10 years, they have gone above and beyond to exceed the contribution from the previous year.”

Next time you hear the roar of a motorcycle, maybe you will think of toys and children. And if you do, I hope you remember these words from the current sponsor letter:



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Where we can reason with what is going on and have faith to pull through, our children may be feeling a little lost. They have been without routines, social exercises, and in some cases milestones such as graduations and birthdays. With children being our mission, this is a year more important than any before it. We ask that you help us shine a light of hope for the children this Christmas.

The 11th Annual Toy Run is scheduled for Nov. 8, 2020. The deadline to be a sponsor and have a name on the back of the t-shirt is Sept. 6. The deadline to make donations of cash or toys goes right up until the event. So, you may want to “get your motor running and head out on the highway.” You are sure to have a warm welcome.

www.Facebook.com/SteelhorseStrangersMC

Norwood Walker has spent many years in a classroom on one side of the desk or the other. He loved to write poetry and stories in high school and his English teacher of three years once told him he might become a writer if he overcame his radical period. She is still waiting. He can be reached at norwoodwalker@gmail.com or Rainbow's End on Facebook.



Antique & Classic Boat Society

Story by Brandon Patrick
Photos by Joe Peacos



I am the owner of Your Mobile Technician and NC Marine Sales, and I had a great time when I went out to support the Get 'Em Wet Event held by the Antique & Classic Boat Society, Inc. (ACBS) on June 27. If you missed it, stay tuned and check out the website, <https://vintageboat.org>, for future events.

ACBS is a membership organization dedicated to connecting people who enjoy classic boats, and boy did they deliver at this event! It was like stepping back in time to marvel at handmade works of art.

ACBS was founded in 1975 on the shores of Lake George, New York. It has grown into the largest society in the world dedicated to the enjoyment of classic boats. The members embrace all styles of classic wood, fiberglass and metal boats.

If you want to connect with a group of down-to-earth people who have a passion for handmade pieces of history, look no further. All members love their boats and use them on a regular basis. If you are looking to get into a classic boat, they can help you figure out which one is best for you, how to go about procuring one, getting assistance/guidance in maintaining your classic boat, and more.

ACBS also promotes and sponsors classic boating events as well, to educate members and the general public on these great crafts. And that held true in June, when they took several people, including *Hyco Lake Magazine* owner Peter Berry, out on joy rides to experience what #lakelife was like in the 1950s and 60s. It was as nice back then as it is today -- just in different ways.







Joe Peacos is passionate about classic boats and photography. He started the Barbour Boat Enthusiasts Facebook page and captures the beauty of classic boats at events like "Get 'Em Wet. See many more photos from this event at HycoLakeMagazine.com.

If you enjoy the beauty of a wooden or classic glass boat and you missed out on this event, follow ACBS and try to make it to one of their future events. You will not be disappointed. We're glad they chose Hyco Lake as a

tour stop for one of this year's events and we look forward to seeing them again.

<https://vintageboat.org/>
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Paddling the Hyco Lake Region

*Story by Jo Proia
Photos by Jo Proia and E. Juday*

Maybe you grew up paddling a canoe either at summer camp with a buddy or perhaps with an adventurous parent, sibling or cousin. Or you may have discovered the joys of paddling as an adult. Perhaps you've never paddled at all but love water, nature and adventure and prefer to experience it from a distance -- like reading about it.

I did not grow up paddling (kayaking or canoeing), but I did grow up playing in the creek and as I got older, going to the lake. Luckily, I eventually met folks with motorboats who taught me how to waterski. I was instantly captivated by that exhilarating thrill of the wind in my hair and water spray on my face. In North Carolina, we called it Kerr Lake, but Virginians just across the border from my hometown called it Buggs Island.

As an adult, I found another outlet for my love of cruising the waterways -- kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding. These low key methods of enjoying the water have their advantages. You are more intimately connected to the water and nature, you definitely see more wildlife, and you get a great workout, using your own power to propel the vessel, stroke after stroke.

I recently spent four days river and lake bagging in the Hyco Lake Region, paddling every waterway I could

find in the time frame I had. This is what struck me as I drove through Caswell, Person and Halifax counties and the Danville area: there are far fewer housing developments, there are far more mostly white farmhouses from the 1900s on massive acres of farmland, more rolling fields and healthy crops, scenic highways, less office complex developments, less retail complexes. In short, it is gorgeous and still unspoiled by massive over development.

For this water journey, I set up my tent as base camp at Staunton River State Park and headed out to see and paddle as much as possible. Following are a few of my favorite finds. Perhaps you have already found them, or you know of some gems I did not mention. If so, please share them with us on our Facebook page. If you have not discovered the joy of paddling at any age (my mother has arthritis, bolts and screws in her arm, spinal stenosis and doesn't know how to swim. She started paddling at 79-years-young and is totally addicted. So, what are you waiting for?

I hope to SYOTWS! (See you on the water soon.)

Hyco River

I have driven over the Hyco Creeks on U.S. Highway 158 for the past 23 years on my way to my hometowns in

Granville and Vance counties. Over the years, I developed a burning desire to paddle the Hyco River because . . . it's water and I am a paddler.

I put in at Hyco Boat Ramp off of Highway 58 in Virginia. I chose to paddle up the river to the next bridge and then back down, but you could easily, with a shuttle vehicle, paddle down to where it flows into the Dan River, or continue on to the Roanoke to Staunton River State Park. Another option is to paddle down to the Dan then back up Aaron's Creek.

Check water flow. Under normal flows, there is not a lot of current. Watch for motorboat traffic and have a topo map/app and GPS unit to navigate. According to local sources, it can be a little hard to navigate the main channel. Better yet, touch base with a local and invite him or her to go with you to show you the way.

If you paddle from Hyco Boat Ramp to the Dan River, then back up Aaron's Creek, that is a bonafide river bagging trip. Three rivers/creeks in one trip. I have a spreadsheet that chronicles every body of water I have paddled in the past 13 years. It's fun to look back at my notes on special adventures with fondness, and as I get older, I have trouble remembering if I've paddled something or not. Maybe you can relate.

Banister River

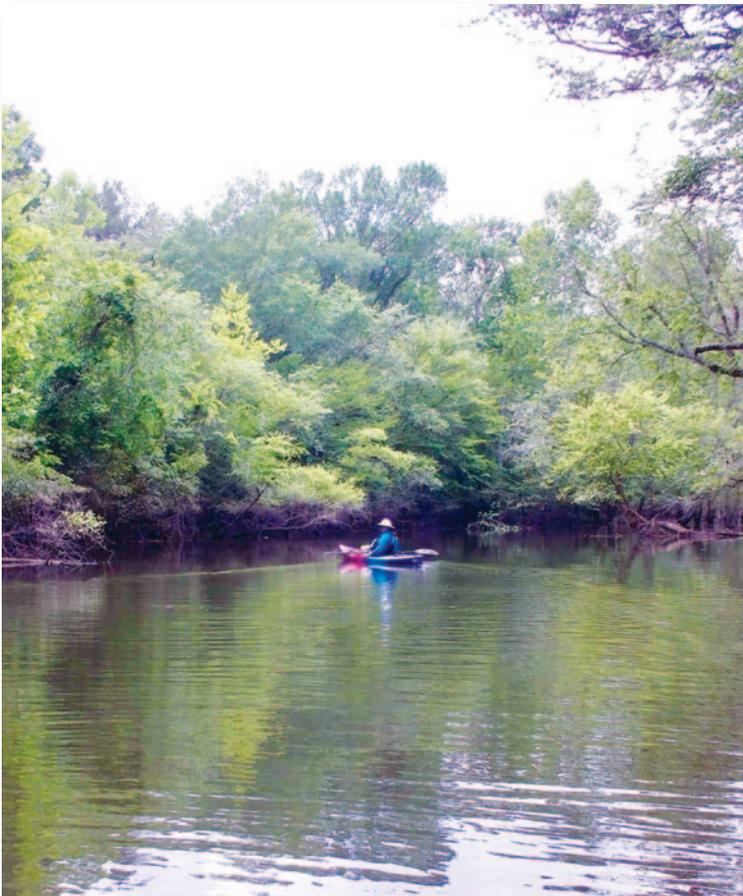
The Banister has been on my "to paddle" list for many years, but every time I made plans to paddle it, something came up. So, I was thrilled to finally paddle

this river in Halifax, Va. I put in at King's Bridge Landing and paddled to the lesser known take-out of Cowford. Most folks paddle on down to Terry's Bridge but I only had four days to paddle as much water as I could.

I had the help of two wonderful locals. Carl Espy is the Halifax town manager and an avid canoeist and naturalist, as well as novice historian. Wayne Goode also helped. By the way, he has a property for sale on the river at King's Landing in Halifax that would be a perfect place for a river outfitter. The two of them informed me that there was the Cow Ford (Cowford) take-out that cuts the mileage in half. Perfect! I could get a feel of the section without taking too long.

The put-in at King's Bridge is gorgeous, with old bridge pilings. The Banister is a Virginia Scenic River and has old navigation sluices (man-made V's in the river usually using rocks or wood) that the bateaus used to navigate the river.

The Dan River Basin Association is a terrific resource for places to paddle, history, and future plans for accesses in this region. The association hosts monthly public outings (paddling in summer and hiking in winter) that are free and open to the public. Every so often, the association will lead a trip on the Banister (and the Dan and surrounding areas as well.) This is a great way to get introduced to nature loving local paddlers who are interested in safety and enhancing the rivers' watersheds.



Hyco River



Banister River

While you are in Halifax, check out paddling Banister Lake as well.

Staunton River

My husband is from Staunton, Va., and I used to get the river and the town mixed up, but I do know the correct pronunciation. The Staunton River, also known as The Roanoke, was a wonderful paddle. A local passionate paddler named Dennis with the group Renegade River Runners was instrumental in answering my many questions about paddling the Staunton and its creeks and tributaries. The run I meant to do was from Long Island to Brookneal but that is over 10 miles, so Dennis told me about a sweet little put-in that cuts that section down to about 3.5 miles, from Seneca Creek to Long Island. It's an easy Class I-II run that was perfect for my river bagging itinerary.

I do plan to return soon to paddle from Long Island to Brookneal and maybe even camp one night along the way. That section is a little livelier and you do need some skills maneuvering your vessel. It doesn't hurt to have a local show you the lines. When venturing past flat moving water to Class I and above, the best policy is to garner the advice and wisdom of those who have gone before you and know the safest routes. Also, a smart paddler will do research before embarking on an unknown river. They can be tricky.

Hycy Lake After Bay Reservoir

Hycy Lake proper can be pretty busy in summer with motorboat traffic, especially on weekends and holidays. But there exists a quieter spot that paddlers can use for a more relaxing venue. The After Bay has a Wildlife Resources Commission ramp with plenty of parking. This area is known for its fishing and birds. Kayak fishing is a lot of fun, by the way. Located in Semora, the After Bay and its solitude are worth a little drive on back roads.

Dan River

A popular section of the Dan in the Hycy Lake Region is from Angler's Park in Danville down to Milton. This is an 11-mile, family and fishing friendly section that has mostly flat but moving water and is a great float and introduction to moving water for beginners.

Potential New Water to Paddle

Falkland Farm was purchased by the multi-millionaire who started the famous game Fortnite. He is protecting the 7,300-plus acre property from development. I spoke with the land manager and she said he plans to complete soil and tree testing and then permanently protect the property. She also told me that the term Falkland in this case means the five bodies of water that are on the property; the significant ones are the Dan River, Banister River, Staunton River, Kerr Lake, and Peters Creek. It could mean it may become a part

of Staunton River State Park, which connects to the property. New water access as well as horse trails could potentially become available in the future. Let's hope so and if you are a local, perhaps you could get involved and help that happen.

Farmer Lake

Located in Yanceyville, Farmer Lake has restrictions on jet skis, large motor boats and swimming, which makes it an ideal destination for paddlers. It's quiet and wildlife abounds. There are launch fees and rentals, but be sure to check the website as the lake is closed on Monday and Tuesday, and access is seasonal.

Tips Before Heading Out

The American Canoe Association guidelines are designed to help educate folks about getting on the water. The law states that you must have a life jacket on board. Wear a paddling specific -- comfortable and not hot -- life jacket, (personal flotation device) wear a peal-less whistle on your PFD, and when paddling between dusk and dawn, carry a strong directional white light. Know the dangers of cold water. In spring and fall, on a warm day, the cold water becomes deadly due to folks not realizing it is still cold. Cold-water gasp and hypothermia are risks.

Know your physical limitations and take some time to learn safe boating practices. This could save your life or someone you love. Also, when paddling rivers, please realize that moving water, even Class I, is a serious matter and should be approached with respect and knowledge. Learn how to check the water gauges along the rivers to find out cubic feet per second (how fast the water is moving) and how high the water is. Do not paddle during a flood stage and learn how to maneuver your vessel to avoid deadly strainers.

It is a worthy endeavor to take some basic technique classes. You will enjoy your paddling experience much more and lessen your chances of injury. Teaming up with someone who knows the section of river and can show you the best lines down is important! Also remember to respect and honor all posted signs and private land access. Do not litter or deface property. When that happens, we all lose access rights.

I have compiled a significant list of resources that will be available at HycyLakeMagazine.com/paddling-the-hycy-lake-region.

JoAndra (Jo) Proia owns Outdoor Women by Jo Proia, LLC. Her mission is to educate, empower and excite women about the outdoors whether through kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, hiking, camping, horseback riding, target shooting and so much more! She is also the author of Piedmont Lakes; A Practical Guide for Boating in the Piedmont. She can be reached at jo@outdoorwomenbyjp.com, on Facebook www.facebook.com/outdoorwomenbyjp, Instagram @outdoorwomenbyjp or on her website: www.outdoorwomenbyjp.com



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allowing riders to explore the state by traveling along scenic back roads from our mountains (Sparta) to our coast (Topsail Island). They can choose to ride the full route, or they may ride certain segments.

Bill, an annual rider from St. Louis, Mo., says he chooses the ride in North Carolina to experience the beauty of the state and variety in the terrain, all in one week. This adventure takes a different route each year. It stopped in Roxboro overnight in 1999 and everyone is excited about it being an overnight stop once again.

North Carolina Cycle Director Chip Hofler says the different routes each year are chosen with the seasoned rider as well as new riders in mind, usually doing about 60 to 75 miles a day with frequent “welcome” stops. During the 400-plus mile ride, cyclists see the area from a different perspective than the usual tourist and often come back at another time to explore places they found.

The event has an economic impact on our area and is also a way to show off the history and agriculture. The riders have a chance to see at least one of our beautiful lakes, Hyco, and check out our charming uptown. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, Oct. 6 to be available to welcome the over 600 cyclists who will be here to explore our area.

Check out the Cycle NC website: www.ncsports.org for the schedule or call the Person County Visitor & Information Center at 336-597-2689 for more information.

Mountains To Coast Ride Comes to Roxboro

Story by Margaret McMann

Photos courtesy of *Bicycling Better In Person*

Is your aero in the right zone with your cadence? Remember that you don't want to plan such a long ride that you go bonkers! Be sure you always have your kit ready to go. Speaking a foreign language? Not if you enjoy cycling as a recreational, competitive or professional sport. A sport that is alive and well, especially during the social distancing we find ourselves in right now.

For any newbies to the cycling experience, Roxboro/Person County has a treat coming your way in October when the North Carolina Cycle Mountain to Coast Ride comes through our area for the night of Oct. 6. The full annual event is a seven-day bicycle tour

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Bruce and Laura are great bosses and are always willing to help. This being my first job, I really didn't know what to expect. Thankfully, they took me under their wings and taught me everything I needed to know plus so much more. I also couldn't do it without the love and support from my family and friends. It is great having a support system to fall back on!

While working at the marina, I have learned a lot of things like being on time, working as a team, being responsible, managing money, communication skills, adaptability, and being ethical, diligent and obedient. I would also like to give a shoutout to my co-workers for always being willing to work together and help one another. Bruce and Laura treat us like their children. We are all one big work family and always there for one another.

My great grandparents, Ryland and Janice Hamlett, had run numerous businesses in Person County, including Convenience Corner, Family Fun Palace, Clarksville Station, Hotline Pizza Express, R & J Sandwich Shop and Southside Citgo. I really enjoy working in a community-based business. As you can see, my family is native to Person County. I love living in a small town. It is so nice to grow up and get to know the community.

I hope to continue to impact our community in positive ways. But for now, I will stay in school at Person High School, where I maintain a 4.4 GPA. During my

A Small-Town Girl with Big Goals

By Hannah Evans

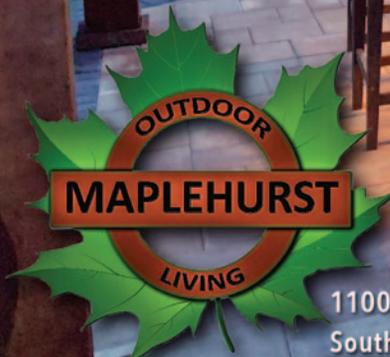
May 23, 2020 was my first day working at Hyco Lake Marina. I was looking for something to do because COVID-19 caused a lot of things I liked to do to be cancelled or postponed. My mom had informed me that Laura was looking for help at Hyco Lake Marina. Even though I am only 14-years-old, I applied and got the job! I was so thrilled to be able to do something. And now I would be learning lots of new things, getting to know some of the community and building relationships with new people.

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spare time I am either at the school gym or spending time with family and friends. One of my favorite things is helping the women's high school basketball team. Did I mention that I enjoy cooking?

For now, I only work at the lake, but I do look forward to living there when I get older. To me, it is the perfect place. It is so relaxing and makes me happy. Maybe one day I will be able to run the store myself! That is just one of my many goals.

I love working at Hyco Lake Marina. It makes me comfortable. I plan to keep growing and learning at the marina, continuing to excel at school, staying active, getting to know my community, and giving back to the community in as many ways as I can. After high school I plan to study business to help me learn about owning my very own business.

I would like to say 'Thank You' to everyone who has helped me get where I am today. I couldn't do it without them and their support! I hope to do something big in the future for Person County and give back to the ones who have helped me.



I enjoy being at Hyco Lake! - Hannah



town of Halifax, Va., (everyone refers to us as Abbott's) I have been in the business of helping customers pick out trees and shrubs for over 20 years.

There is no denying that after a winter spent indoors, when the cold temperatures give way to warmer spring days and the earth is waking up after a season of hibernation, it is human nature to want to plant trees and shrubs after seeing how beautiful they are with their spring blooms. I am thinking of trees such as redbuds, dogwoods, and flowering ornamental cherries, and shrubs such as forsythia, spirea, quince, lilacs, azaleas, hydrangeas, and roses.

But, think about what's happening in the spring. These beauties have been dormant in their nursery pots and when the weather warms, they start waking up, expending quite a bit of energy producing flowers and leaves. Planting them from the nursery pots to their new home can be shocking just at the time they are working so hard to come back to life; now they have to get used to a new home and surroundings, put out new roots, and cope with the stress of summer heat and perhaps not enough rain.

Planting trees and shrubs in the fall allows them to get settled in their new environment as they're going dormant and not having to work so hard. This gives them a head start the following spring. The same is true for hardwoods such as oaks and maples as well as ever-

Planting Trees and Shrubs in the Fall

By Darnell Abbott

Fall is my absolute favorite season. After the sweltering dog days of summer, those first crisp, low humidity days are such a relief and it is a joy to be outside. I want to spend a little time addressing the advantages of planting trees and shrubs in the fall rather than spring. As an owner of Abbott's Farm, Garden and Gun, in the

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- Kevin B.

"Gil and his team were very helpful during the loan process. He continually went above and beyond to answer our questions and resolve any issues along the way. He stands behind his clients 100% - definitely recommend working with him."
- Mr. & Mrs. Brown



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www.CaswellArts.org/Artist-Grants/



Darnell Abbott

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Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for advice and how to's and Happy Fall Y'all!

*Darnell Abbott is the Managing Partner of Abbott Farm Suppliers – Abbott Farm, Garden and Gun, a family owned store since 1980 specializing in the well-rounded outdoor lifestyle. In case you're wondering, here are some of her personal favorites: **Season:** Fall. **Activity:** Gardening and Hiking. **Hardwood Tree:** Maple*

greens such as conifers and hollies. While not a flowering tree/shrub, their growth slows down in fall and winter and fall planting allows them to settle in before the stresses that summer heat can bring. Keep in mind that even though the temperatures are cooler, it is still important to water occasionally if there is not sufficient rain.

One last thing to consider when you're tree/shrub shopping: the plant material is not going to look as lovely as it does in early spring. There might be some heat scorch on the leaves, or the leaves are dropping or have already dropped, so it might look like just sticks in a pot. It is a leap of faith to plant something that looks "dead," but trust that spring is right around the corner. And, I will repeat myself from a previous article: (<https://hicolakemagazine.com/gardening-to-do-list-spring-2020/>) consider soil amendment. I always say, "dig a \$100 hole for a \$10 tree" and I advise customers not to spend all their budget on plant material only. Save some for giving that tree/shrub a fair start by using products that aid in good drainage and put organic matter back into the soil.



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or 3,000 grit. I polished my basement to a 3,000 grit, giving it the best shine.

During the process, an internal densifier is applied. This densifier sinks into the concrete and is invisible to the naked eye. It not only protects from the inside out, it also hardens and strengthens the concrete. This eliminates the need for a topical coating, significantly reducing maintenance.

Why Choose Polished Concrete?

- **Low Maintenance Cost**
There is no need for stripping or waxing.
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Unlike polymer floors, there is minimal curing time, which decreases downtime for your operation.
- **Densification**
The process creates a hard, durable surface.
- **Increased Durability**
Polished concrete is low maintenance and lasts longer than any other flooring system.
- **Aesthetically Pleasing**
Depending on the level of aggregate and level of sheen you choose, your floors will look clean, beautiful and professionally finished.
- **Safety/Slip Resistant**
Polished floors can have multiple levels of slip resistance for your application and a floor can exceed OSHA and ADA standards.
- **Energy Efficient/Creates Ambient Light**
The reflectivity of polished floors greatly enhances the efficiency of lighting, requiring fewer fixtures to achieve a well-lit environment. This directly affects lighting investment and energy savings.

A Little History

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has affected many aspects of our lives; closing some doors while opening others. As owner of Provision Protective Services, I was no exception to these changes. My family and I have lived in Person County since 2002, with a brief move to Georgia from 2015-2018. I launched Provision

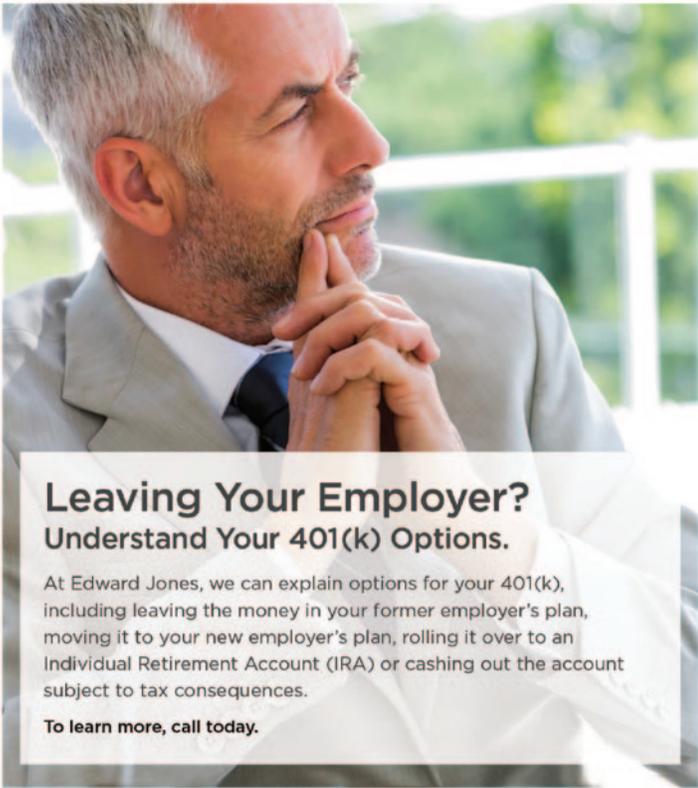
Polished Concrete - Beautiful, Practical, Affordable

Story and photos by Jason Evans

When the country went into “social distancing” and “stay at home,” I was in the middle of a home remodeling project. Out of all the remodeling we did on our new home, polishing the basement was at the top of my list. I have always wanted a polished concrete floor, and I wanted my company name and the University of Georgia ‘G’ stenciled on my floor. So, I stenciled the logos in my office and work area.

What is Polished Concrete?

Basically, polishing concrete is done with heavy-duty machines and diamond pads with various grits ranging from coarse to fine. One starts with the coarser grit and gradually moves to finer and finer grit diamonds. The floor can be finished to 400, 800, 1,500,



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Stencils on Jason's polished concrete floors

Protective Services in 2012, while serving as a pastor in the community.

I grew up watching my Dad work in the industrial coatings world, and my early work experience entailed working with Dad in locations from Georgia to an island in the Caribbean. The various jobs gave me experience in a multitude of industrial coating projects, from resurfacing arena floors to coating large tanks. In 2012, I saw a need for an industrial coatings company in the Hycoc Lake Region.

Provision Protective Services began with a variety of coating repair jobs ranging from repairing the inside of pipes, painting pipes and tanks, to removing and replacing expansion joints and more. Since opening, we have expanded our offerings. While PPS is a small industrial coatings company, our philosophy is that there is no job too small or too big. PPS has even partnered with larger industrial coatings companies to help clients meet deadlines and larger coating needs.

There are many benefits to incorporating polished concrete floors in your home, garage and business space. If polishing a concrete floor is a project you would like to consider, or you have an industrial coating need, please visit www.ProvisionProtectiveServices.com and I will be glad to help you think through your project and provide a quote. Please call 336 504-0789.

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trails so you can take a walk and enjoy the beauty of the grounds.

There are a few upcoming special events on the calendar:

September 26: Starry Night – a night of stargazing with the Crew Astronomy Club

October 1 & 2: Home Educators Day with living history

October 10: Public Living History Day

This fall, we also have our Bluegrass, Barbecue & Brew Festival on Nov. 7, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. The Bluegrass, Barbecue & Brew Festival at Patrick Henry's Red Hill celebrates Patrick Henry's Virginia. It is a day full of history, music, food and fun. This festival is not only about fun but also about educating the public about the customs and cultures of Southern Virginia.

We chose to highlight bluegrass music because Patrick Henry was a self-taught fiddle player and said to be a pretty good one at that, entertaining family and friends until the last months of his life. While Henry served as Virginia's first elected governor, he hired a Scottish brewer to make beer. He served nothing stronger at the governor's table – which is why we chose Virginia craft beer and cider as refreshments. In the 18th century, hogs were a valuable source of food and

Patrick Henry's Red Hill Brookneal, VA

Story by Myra S. Trent
Photos provided by Red Hill

Patrick Henry's Red Hill is OPEN! Red Hill is the last home and burial site of Patrick Henry – Founding Father, Voice of the American Revolution and Virginia's first elected governor. Red Hill is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation devoted to education and historic preservation. The hours of operation are 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday – Saturday and 1- 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

We want to make sure your visit to Red Hill is safe, enjoyable, and educational. High-touch objects and areas such as door handles, light switches, pens, iPad, countertops, and bathrooms are sanitized each morning, throughout the day, and every evening. There are hand sanitizer stations at the entrance of each building, including the Visitor Center. When you arrive at Red Hill, please check in at the Visitor Center. The Red Hill staff will be wearing masks when interacting with our visitors.

If you don't want to come inside the Visitor Center, we understand, and all admission transactions can take place outside. We ask that you wear a mask inside of the Visitor Center while learning about Patrick Henry and Red Hill and while you are inside the historic buildings. Social distancing is strongly encouraged and no groups larger than 10 people are allowed in a building. The grounds are open and there are picnic tables located in shady areas for you to enjoy. We also have a couple of

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ran loose in the woods, eating nuts and insects until they were rounded up in the fall and fattened up before slaughter. So, barbecue seemed to be a natural fit with beer and bluegrass to create the perfect combination for a festival.

There will be craft and artisan vendors, food trucks (not all barbecue) and a beer truck with craft beer and cider (possibly a wine tent too). The festival will feature three incredible bluegrass bands: Nothin' Fancy, Kristy Cox, and The Deer Creek Boys. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the gate.

This will be the 10th anniversary festival. Right now, Virginia is in Phase 3 of COVID-19 restrictions and Red Hill is going to stay within the state mandated guidelines in order to bring you here for some great entertainment, delicious food, and fun shopping, mixed in with hospitality and love.

The Bluegrass, Barbecue & Brew Festival is outside, and fresh air is good for the mind, body, and soul. We will have hand sanitizer stations around the grounds, our vendors will be set 10 feet apart, and we can only have 1,000 people at one time, including volunteers, vendors, band members and attendees. We encourage social distancing and recommend wearing your masks. We cannot wait to see you.

If you or your business is interested in being a sponsor, please contact Myra Trent at 434-376-2044. Tickets

and vendor information is available at www.bluegrass-barbecuebrew.com.

Another annual event is our Christmas Open House on Dec. 6, from 2 until 4 p.m. The historic buildings will be decorated by the Red Hill Garden Club. The Museum Shop, located inside of the Visitor Center, will be filled with lots of wonderful gift ideas.

Events such as weddings, business meetings, school meetings, museum workshops and more have already taken place at the newly added Eugene B. Casey Education and Event Center. The Casey Center is surrounded by natural beauty and has a covered porch with a scenic patio. This gorgeous property is surrounded by forests and rolling fields, creating the perfect setting for any event. It is located steps from the historic area and opened just last year. This inclusive venue creates an atmosphere full of historic charm and southern hospitality inside and out.

Red Hill is truly a gem tucked away on 1,000 acres, making it an extraordinary setting to start your historic happily ever after or get away for a business meeting. Our prices are reasonable and are partially tax deductible. The education center is equipped with WiFi, tables, chairs, a conference room, and a catering kitchen.

If you need a venue for your special event, please call Myra Trent at 434-376-2044 or email her at trent@red-hill.org.

Located in the countryside of southern Virginia, Patrick Henry's Red Hill is nearest to the town of Brookneal, Va. You may find that your cell phone service is patchy as you get nearer to Red Hill, so if you are relying on your phone to guide you to us, you may want to download an offline version of a map of the area. However, your GPS should continue to work as long as you input the address before leaving signal range. For your GPS, type in this address: Patrick Henry National Memorial, 1497 Red Hill Road, Brookneal, Va. 24528.



Kristy Cox



many choices are exciting. Even the simplest of patios can have unique elements. The grill industry gives us so many options it will leave your head spinning. Do you want charcoal, gas, maybe even wood, or is a combination unit best for you? Do you like the enhanced flavor of smoke in your food? Ceramic, stainless, flat top, rotisserie, infrared...options, options, options. You can see that our imaginations are our only limitations, once we have goals and a budget.

Grill islands can be built in many ways, including modular block and veneer. Our preferred method of late is utilizing our Cliffrock system. Cliffrock is an extremely strong, durable, and lightweight reinforced concrete panel system that we fabricate in our shop, then assemble on site. We can move these panels into any area and are not limited by the size and weight of pallets of materials. We do not have to tear up your existing backyard, and the speed of installation is second to none. It can be ideal for incorporating a grill island on an existing deck due to its light weight.

Utilizing special molds, we can replicate just about any appearance you want. I personally like the Ledgestone and Drystack looks, but we can do wood, random rock, rounded rocks, or even mix elements into the design such as faux trees or stumps.

Built for You

Now that we have settled on the direction of our project, we can determine how we can best spend our time and money. I try to simplify the process as much as possible by offering three different levels. A basic outdoor kitchen usually has a grill area. A mid-range outdoor kitchen starts to incorporate different appliances. With the ultimate outdoor kitchen experience, we may add a cover or shade structure, a pizza oven, multiple cooking surfaces, and additional seating.

The basic outdoor kitchen can serve most people well. If you have an existing serving area with a table, but that grill you bought at the home improvement store has fallen apart, building an island for your new grill can really enhance your outdoor cooking

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Outdoor Kitchens

Outdoor Living Decisions

By Joe Wilkerson

When I think of summer my mind races to memories of times gathered together outdoors, and when we gather, we eat. Grilling on the back patio is a national pastime. Search for ideas and Google will yield 2.5 million results in about a half a second. Eating is functional, but grilling outdoors is an experience.

When we are asked to build an outdoor space, we always want to determine your "why." What are your goals for this backyard? Is this space an intimate setting for two, or will this patio host dozens of friends and family? Once we know the why, all the pieces will fall into place. Personally, I love the outdoors, so gathering and eating there feels natural. Creating the ideal space for any backyard retreat almost always incorporates grilling and serving food.

Design for No Regrets

Once we have a foundation for the project, we design and build in layers to tie into the elements of your backyard. Whether you just need a small area for your grill, or a complete backyard oasis, each element needs to be introduced in the right order to ensure you have no regrets later.

As the outdoor living industry has grown, our options for complementary elements have too. The

experience. How many times have you looked around for a place to set that serving tray because that little foldout tray on the side of your grill couldn't hold it? An island with a countertop would greatly improve your experience cooking outdoors.

A mid-range outdoor kitchen begins to add additional elements to your space. Adding a backsplash and a bar height counter can bring your guests right up to the action. Cooking and socializing together builds relationships and memories. Beside that grill, you may incorporate a small mini fridge and an icemaker to keep drinks chilled. Drop in a small sink and maybe a flat top griddle, and you are well on your way.

As we begin to navigate into the ultimate backyard kitchen, the options for customization are endless. Maybe you need shade to block the scorching sun – or my personal favorite – an outdoor pizza oven. Designing the kitchen in the shape of an L or a U can bring everyone in for large gatherings. With the addition of a pavilion, we can incorporate sound; TV for fall football Saturdays with your friends; mood lighting; and a small fire bowl or fireplace to create the perfect spot for entertaining.

As we go into the fall, it is a great time to begin to think about incorporating an outdoor kitchen into your

backyard. With the uncertainties today, eating out has many people concerned about their health and safety. We are social creatures. Our health and wellbeing hinges on gathering together and loving our neighbors. Start planning now to bring that experience to your backyard. As I am sure you can tell by the theme of my writing, I am passionate about helping you build memories with your family and friends, and there is no place better to do so than in your backyard.

Joe Wilkerson is the owner of Maplehurst Outdoor Living. His passion is building your dream outdoor living area. He is dedicated to building fine outdoor living projects in Southern Virginia and Northern North Carolina, so you can Unplug & Relax.

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The ministry is coming up on its ninth year and has volunteers from eight to 80-years-old with all skill levels. Some of the volunteers were previous recipients of wood and now have it in their hearts to give back. Some come and work for an hour, because it is all they and their body can do. Folks even come from out of state to join with up to 10 area churches in the effort. This brotherhood of volunteers, men and women, gather on specific Wednesdays, and a few Saturdays, in the fall and winter months from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on selected days, to stock the Tom Holtzclaw Memorial Woodshed, in the parking area adjacent to the Christian Help Center in uptown Roxboro. They cut, split and distribute pickup truckloads of wood. For the numbers folks, that translates to about two-thirds of a chord per load. For most of us, including me, it's a "mess'o'wood." The first year, they gave away 69 truckloads and their high total was 555 in a single year. Lyman believes that this year may be more due to the current economic stresses in the area.

Thanks to word of mouth and some area lumbermen, there is usually enough hardwood at the shed to be split. Many who are having hardwood trees taken down on their property can donate if the tree cutting service doesn't have plans for the wood. Keep in mind, they take only hardwood (not pine) logs up to 20 feet long. Lyman maintains a list of folks who potentially will have or already have trees available for harvest.

To request wood, contact the Christian Help Center at 336- 599-6070. The staff manages the distribution of the wood, provides vouchers, and keeps tabs on the other folks that need assistance. The fact that the center can provide wood for heating means that the precious financial resources it has can go for other client needs.

To volunteer, call Lyman Johnson at: 336-503-8770. He knows when the Woodchucks will gather, is the point man for scheduling, and makes sure that splinters and bloodshed are held to a minimum. All kidding aside, safety is paramount and non-negotiable for Lyman and the Woodchucks. Chainsaws and splitters don't care who you are and if you or your digits are in the wrong place at the wrong time.

WOOD SPLITTERS

Story and photos by Paul Liggitt

North Carolina has long been known as a state with a rich heritage of logging and lumbermen. It has also been recognized as the leading furniture manufacturing state. Although the industry has changed in recent years, forestry products continue to be a major resource in North Carolina. So, when a tree falls in the forestlands of North Carolina, it does indeed make a sound and people take notice. Such was the case nine years ago when Lyman Johnson took note of a fallen tree and got a spiritual inspiration from the creator of the tree. Not only was he thinking of harvesting the wood but took the next noble step of believing that others in need might be able to benefit from a truckload of cut and split hardwood. The next call was to his "chainsaw junkies," friends from Concord United Methodist Church who, like him, enjoy the whine of a saw cutting a tree for the fire. They were all in and "Cutting Wood for Christ" was started.

It is not only wood cutting but more importantly wood splitting. In the early days, volunteers would go to harvest wood, but now they prepare donated hardwoods to be distributed to families and individuals needing wood for heat. Lyman and the volunteers fondly refer to themselves as members of Woodchucks Lodge 476. Even the lodge number, "476," was inspired and refers to Psalm 47:6. "Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!" How refreshing it is to see people participating in something larger than themselves, simply by gathering to cut and split wood to give away.

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Patrick Henry, June 5, 1788

there is the ultimate relationship of God to his creation and the fact that he cares enough to provide what they need.

It is no accident that people in this region still appreciate working with wood and a good hardwood fire for heat. I once took a hunter safety course and they counseled us to light a fire if we were lost. It would provide heat, safety from predatory animals, a signal for searchers, and a sense of well-being. Carolyn Johnson, Lyman's wife and co-laborer in ministry, likes to think of the ministry as sending God's warmth to those that receive wood. I agree. I have always read about offerings of incense to God, but I wonder if the scent of freshly split red oak or a wood fire is just as pleasing to him when he knows that wood was freely given in his name to show his love for his creation?

The first date for the wood splitters should start on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 and run on consecutive Wednesdays through the fall and winter months. The Saturday dates that are listed should still be good. It is still a good idea to check with Lyman Johnson if you want to volunteer so he can get contact information for you.

Not only can Paul write, he is also a professional photographer. And, he can fly a drone for your professional aerial photography and video needs! Paul Liggitt Photography, 336-322-1167, www.plphoto.com

Lyman says, "We always need people...just show up." If you call before you come, however, you can get on a list to be notified if there are changes due to weather. Lyman also maintains an inventory of what tools you can bring. Be aware that it is entirely a volunteer operation. BYO-tools, fuel, muscles, and especially a servant's heart. Although I have heard that you may get a bottle of water and a four-corner Nab during your break!

It used to be said that you could judge the character of a man by the woodpile he had laid up for the winter. If there was an ample supply of neatly stacked "cord wood" in a protected place ready for winter, that was the mark of a man of integrity. He was someone who took responsibility for his family and was prepared for the winter.

During the upheaval of the economy in 2020, some people are struggling to maintain the basic necessities of food and shelter. According to the Bible, good works don't save us from sin. However, the motivation to do the not-so-easy and sometimes splintery work of splitting and stacking wood to distribute comes from the biblical mandate in James to show people your faith in Christ by your works. It is truly a blessing that the ministry of cutting and splitting wood for those in need has already been established in the Roxboro area. Finally,



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hand for casting but if you are a left hander just reverse the handle. I slide the leg of the foot between my fingers and allow the rod to fit into the palm of my hand, gripping it firmly.

If you have a small hand, I suggest putting the leg of the reel between the pinky and ring finger; this places your hand higher up on the rod handle so you can hold the line in your index finger. When I have youngsters fishing with me, I try to make these changes so they can handle the rod better. This will also help women with small hands.

The line roller is where the line comes off the spool and it will be turned so it is closest to the rod and by your hand. You will reach out with your index finger and catch the line, almost like a trigger, and hold it there until you're ready to cast. Next, flip the bell to open the spool; as long as you hold the line in your index finger, it will not come off the spool.

You can cast with one hand or two. Some people place their left hand on the rod, just below the reel, and use both hands. To cast, allow your arm to bend at the elbow while moving the rod back over your shoulder to the three o' clock position. When you're ready, move your arm forward quickly. At the same time, allow your elbow to straighten to the 10 o'clock position and release your index finger to allow the line to flow out.

Once the lure lands in the water, place your left hand on the reel handle and begin to turn. The bell will

The Art of Casting

Story and photos by Sam Seamster

When thinking about casting a fishing rod, most folks don't consider the dynamics. So, what constitutes a good cast? To some, that would be not hooking themselves in the head or not tangling the line. To others it could be skipping a lure way back under an overhanging bush. All of these would be correct! Many people think that mastering the fly rod is complex, but there should be importance placed on other forms of casting as well. But for this discussion, we will concentrate on the familiar spinning reel.

The spinning reel has been around for many years and is a common way to deliver a lure or live bait to a fish. My hope is that once you have read this article, you will be a better caster and understand a few ways to become a more proficient fisherman.

Beginners Class

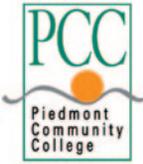
Let's start by establishing some standards for our discussion. Let's use a medium size reel with a six- to 15-pound test line and a light to heavy action rod. This size rod and reel is familiar for most people.

Hand placement: The reel foot is attached to the rod itself and is where your hand should go with the leg of the reel foot sliding between your fingers. I use my right



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flip back over automatically and start collecting line. This is the basic method you would use to cast and reel an open face rod and reel.

Casting to the Next Level

Your casting abilities are limited only by you. Once you're proficient with the basic cast, start to experiment with different arm angles. Think about a clock's face and the hands. Starting with the seven o' clock



position, then move all the way around to the five o' clock position. Each hour number represents an angle you can cast from. Each angle serves a different purpose. It all depends on how you are fishing.

When you attempt to cast under low hanging trees or to place a bait quietly into the water, choose a low casting position to keep the lure low to the water surface and out of the overhanging limbs. The lower approach reduces splash and lessens the chances of spooking fish.

When it Counts Most

Let's say you're fishing with your buddies in a boat and there is a fisherman on either side of you. What do you do? Not fish? Absolutely not! Here are a few other casts to add to your arsenal to impress your buddies with your accuracy.

Pitching: Start by allowing enough line out so that your lure hangs close to your reel. Grasp the lure in your free hand. When you're ready to cast, flick your wrist and move your casting arm forward toward your intended target, freeing the lure from your hand. The lure should glide through the air and land on target. The only movement of your rod is straight forward. This is also a great method for fishing close to the bank.

The second method is shooting your lure to the target. Most people associate this with dock fishing but this is a versatile way to cast a lure. You start the same

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way as pitching but the difference is in the lure hand. Grasp the lure with your free hand and pull it back toward yourself. Just as you see the rod tip begin to bend back toward you, release the lure. The rod generates the energy needed to propel the lure to its intended target. One pointer about this method: the lure will cast in the opposite direction to the bend of the rod tip. To get the lure going straight, the tip of the rod should come back under the rod shaft in a straight line.

Note: These methods are not recommended if you are using a multi-hooked lure such as a crank bait.

Breaking a Cast

Everyone will eventually overcast. You may cast too hard, launching the lure into the bushes, up against the bank, or against a dock. You need to quickly create more friction on the line to slow the lure. There are a couple ways to achieve this.

Pull Back: Your rod tip is most likely at a nine to 10 o'clock position. Bring your rod tip back quickly to a one o'clock position, even though the line is peeling through the eyes of the rod.

Grab or Pinch: Use your free hand to grasp the line peeling off the reel. Allowing the line to brush against your hand will slow the lure. To immediately stop the lure in flight, pinch the line off.



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I like using the second method best. If I know my cast will end up in an area that will hang up, I will simply pinch it off and stop it short. It's always easier to cast again than to go over and free the lure from debris.

Practice makes Perfect

If you take some time to practice these casting methods you will become proficient and accurate. I have spent many hours practicing casting and pitching into a five-gallon bucket in the yard. The more you practice, the better you will become. I hope this article encourages you to get out and go fishing and inspires you to try some new methods of casting.

It's A Wild Life and I'll see you on the water.



Check out Sam Seamster's Facebook page
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