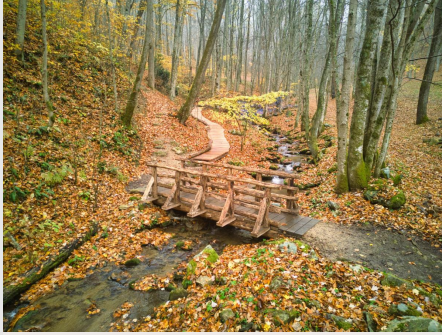




Tourism Assn & Welcome Center

Fall 2025 Newsletter



Imagine yourself here.

Crunchy leaves underfoot, the smell of crisp cool air, and looking forward to a cozy fire and hot cocoa in your cabin later...

Photo from the
Cabin at Spring Creek
Preserve

Amazing Color this Fall!

The vibe in town is pretty festive as we prepare for our 1 year flood anniversary events this Saturday. Plus, we have Fall to look forward to!

Our regionally renowned Fall Color Expert, Howard Neufeld, has shared some good news! The App State biology professor forecasts stunning autumn hues throughout Western North Carolina.

Catch sight of the color changes from now, through October, and into early November in **Madison County!** Elevations near Hot Springs range from 4629' at Max Patch Mountain down to 1350' in the French Broad River Valley. Drive or bike down the River Road, hike up to Rich Mountain Fire Tower, and cruise up and down Highway 209 -aka the Rattler- for breathtaking views.

In this Newsletter

- Fun Fall Events- Harvest Festival, Oktoberfest, Bandaloop Festival, Bird Banding Visitor Days and more
- Things to do in Hot Springs
- The Spring Creek Tavern Deck is back! Plus their Story since Helene
- Update from the Hot Springs Resort & Spa

Business Hours for Hot Springs NC

Fun Fall Events!

Appalachian Harvest Festival Woodson Branch Nature School

October 11 from 11am-3pm

Step into the heart of the mountains for a day filled with music, food, and family fun — all while supporting the next generation.



Appalachian Harvest Festival Tickets & Info



**Throw on your dirndls
and lederhosen and
join us for Oktoberfest!**

Oktoberfest at Big Pillow Brewing

October 18 from Noon-4pm

- Sip on our delicious Oktoberfest beer “Der Weinerhund.”
- Live music by “Two to Toot” 1PM to 4PM
- Oktoberfest games
- German-inspired menu items at the Grey Eagle Taqueria

[Oktoberfest Info](#)



Bandaloop Tiny Music & Story Festival Rare Bird Farm

October 10 & 11

A wink to author Tom Robbins, our Bandaloop festival brings magic and story woven with music and dance.

This year our festival is benefiting **Friends of the Hot Springs Library** who will receive 50% of the net proceeds from this event.

[Bandaloop Tickets & Info](#)

HOT SPRINGS BIRD BANDING STATION VISITOR DAYS

JOIN US AT 8AM OR 10AM ON:

September 13th
September 21st
October 4th
October 12th
October 25th

Located on River Road right past Murray Branch

[RSVP Here](#)

WHAT IS BIRD BANDING?

Bird banding is the process of safely capturing birds and uniquely marking each individual for future identification. This mark and recapture monitoring method helps scientists track bird movements, survival, and behavior over time and provides valuable data for conservation and habitat protection efforts.

Check out bigoldbirdbanding.org for more information

BLUE RIDGE BIRD OBSERVATORY

Blue Ridge Bird Observatory is a local WNC nonprofit dedicated to monitoring, researching, and educating the public about bird communities in the southern Appalachians. BRBO conducts MAPS stations, bird banding, hawkwatch counts, migration monitoring, and public outreach at sites including the Hot Springs Banding Station.

Thank you to our supporters:
Madison County Tourism Development Authority, The Conservation Fund, US Forest Service, Creating New Economies Fund, and generous donations from the community and small donors.

Fall Visitor Days

Bird Banding Station at Murray Branch

Free Visitor Days this Fall for kids and grownups!

Learn how ornithologists set up nets, safely capture and release wild birds, and collect important data for researchers.

Sign up in a simple google doc at the link below!

[RSVP for a Bird Banding Day!](#)

A Mindful Musical Voyage Chestnut Hall in downtown Hot Springs



Sunday, October 12 at 10am

Elan DeHaro's transportive music style takes listeners on a voyage with evocative tones, eclectic sounds, and inspiring melodies.

Brooke Michelle invites intentional presence with calming guided meditation and compassionate energetic touch.

\$20 Advance Tickets / \$25 At Door

[Get tickets!](#)

Something to do 7 days a week!

Live music, karaoke and open mic at [Big Pillow Brewing](#), Contra Dance and themed activities at [Vaste Riviere Outpost](#), and spots to feast and chill like the [Smoky Mountain Diner](#), [Vinyl Pies Pizza](#), [Hunt and Gather Wild Food](#), and [Artisun Emporium, Gallery & Cafe](#). Browse fine art next door at [Gallery 339](#).



[Spring Creek Tavern](#) and [Vaste Riviere Provisions](#) are reopening Downtown for the Day on Sept 27!!! Look for announcements on their social media.

After a meal, how about some **Shopping**? Find something special at [Bluff Mountain Outfitters](#), [Sara Jo's Station](#), [Tobacco Road](#), [Hazelwood House](#), and [State Line Antiques](#). Grab some groceries and to-go food at [Hillbilly Market & Deli](#).

Wherever you wander, get to know the locals that make Hot Springs a cool place to be!

Restaurants, Cafes, Food Truck and To-Go Options

Take a ride down the Rattler- Hwy 209- and find food, live music and open mic at [Trust General Store & Cafe](#) in Spring Creek too! Stop by the [Spring Creek Community Center](#) and have a bite at Dave's 209.

Hot Springs Events Calendar

Spring Creek Tavern Deck is Back

Creekside dining is just days away! Hot Springs just hasn't been the same without our cheese sticks and wings on the festive Tavern



deck.

Opening Saturday, Sept 27 for the 1 year Helene anniversary.

Then closing a few days before announcing a regular schedule. Stay tuned!

[Spring Creek Tavern Website](#)

Our Story Hurricane Helene to Today

My name is Amanda. My husband, Tim, and I own the Spring Creek Tavern in Hot Springs NC.

September 27, 2024 we watched, what we thought, was our dreams being washed away by our namesake, Spring Creek. I received a message at 8:11am showing the water level on our deck. It was about a foot away from the floor of the deck. I woke Tim up then Cowboy and I jumped in the car to get to the Tavern. Tim followed about 3 minutes behind. We ran in, against the request of the fire department. Tim shut off power and gas. I grabbed the money. Little did we know that was the last time we stepped into the Tavern as we knew it.

The rain fell, along with the tears. We watched the water continue to rise.A few of us stood on the porch of the building across the creek from the Tavern. Suddenly, a beacon post on the corner of the building washed into the creek. Everybody looked at each other and jumped quickly off the porch. I don't think it was 5 minutes before the building completely washed into the creek. We all moved further back, every time the water reached our feet. Then it happened, the deck was ripped off the Tavern. That was where the heartbreak began.

We walked the railroad tracks to get to the other side of town. It was then that we saw the true devastation of the building. An entire corner was ripped off. The building was filled with water. Thankfully, the French doors in the dining room opened and the water, trees, tables and chairs all started to flow out. That is probably what saved the building.

Fast forward a few weeks. My sister was able to call on a friend who was able to fix the gaping hole in the side of the building. We were able to go safely into the building. The basement had filled to the top. There was about 4 feet of mud down there. Nothing was where it was before, including 2 walk-in coolers, washer & dryer, and about 10 full kegs. It reminded us of a pinball machine.

Thank God for the volunteers. They came in and helped us grasp reality and



start the cleanup process. 2 of those volunteers are still with us, 1 year later. If it hadn't been for the hours and hours that all of the volunteers put in, I don't know how we could've gotten through it.

As all of this is going on, Tim's father was in failing health so he had been spending a lot of time with his family, 3 hours away. Thank God he was here when all of this happened. I don't know what I would've done without him. We did have Cowboy though. He was level headed and led the way. I'll never be able to express my gratitude to him.

With the help of so many people, physically, financially, emotionally, we are so close to the finish line. We will be opening lightly on the 1-year anniversary. We can't be closed for 365 days. We will be ready to welcome our friends and family back in with open arms and lots of tears. The deck is being rebuilt. The equipment is in the building. Employees are training. Deliveries are coming in.

**We will be back. Bigger. Better. Stronger.
We are Hot Springs and we are the Tavern. Blessed we are.**

**Sincerely,
Amanda, Tim, and the Tavern Team**

Hot Springs Resort & Spa

...updates on their [Facebook Page](#)

Hot mineral water soaks are now available 7 days a week!

M, T, W, Th: 3 - 9pm

For October- Opening at Noon on weekdays!

F, Sa, Su: 9am - 9pm



The Campground is OPEN! Tent and RV Sites are now available.

Six cabins in the campground plus Cabin 10 and the Sandbar House are available for overnight rental.

Call for reservations at 828-622-7676.

Accepting mineral bath reservations for the rest of 2025 and into 2026!

[Hot Springs Resort & Spa Website](#)



Stop by and meet the amazing, energetic, and

**More Links and
Information**

**Event Venues & Retreat
Centers**

Things To Do

Hot Springs Blog

talented [Terry Thirion](#) at [Gallery 339 in Hot Springs](#).
The gallery also offers special classes and paint
clinics- call Terry for more info at **704-334-0800**.

**Gallery 339 features wood charcuterie boards,
pottery, beautiful mugs, hand-crafted journals,
paintings and much more.** We are always adding
new artists and intimate workshops. Fall workshops
will include Plein Air Painting, Live Figure Drawing, and
Watercolor and Pastel Classes. Class guidance
offered by Terry and watercolorist Natalie Richardson.

[Places to Eat](#)

[Places to Stay](#)

[Shops and Galleries](#)

[Hot Springs Flood Recovery
Updates](#)



[Hot Springs Welcome Center is
open daily from 10-5pm](#)

**106 Bridge Street
Hot Springs, NC 28743**

[Subscribe to our Newsletter](#)

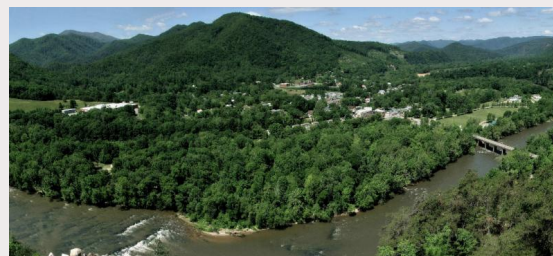
Hot Springs Welcome Center is maintained by the the Hot Springs Tourism Association and
Town of Hot Springs, in partnership with the Madison County Tourism Development Authority.

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[HotSpringsNC.org](#)
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This edition compiled by Stacey Geyer, HSTA Administrator.

STAY CONNECTED



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