



Hot Springs, NC Welcome Center

Fall Newsletter 2023



Fall Hiking up the Lover's Leap Trail, part of the [Appalachian National Scenic Trail](#)

Photo Courtesy of the [Blue Ridge Hiking Company](#)

"Spring is beautiful, and summer is perfect for vacations, but autumn brings a longing to get away from the unreal things of life, out into the forest at night with a campfire and the rustling leaves."

~ Margaret Elizabeth Sangster, *Friends O' Mine: A Book of Poems and Stories*

Here we are, on the cusp of early Fall, when the turn of seasons brings balance to the air. Sunrays are gentler and perfectly warm, while the starry nights are cool enough to cozy up in a light jacket.

Hot Springs is a beautiful place to connect with the real things in life- friends around a campfire, an earthy hike, a carefree bike ride, or just meandering around the Pisgah National Forest.

Scroll down to read our new article spotlight on a local business, and more about fun Fall events in Hot Springs, including this weekend's lineup of traditional mountain music celebrations.

The Story of Bluff Mountain Outfitters

This trailblazing shop in downtown Hot Springs is the kind of place you can walk into, new to town, and instantly feel at home. More than just an outfitter store/gift shop, 'Bluff' has cultivated friendship and family amongst newcomers and longtime residents of the Hot Springs story.



Owner Wayne Crosby shared pics and stories of Bluff's early days on his Facebook page during the pandemic. Local friend and store employee from the early 2000's, Wendy Stancil, has combined his memories with hers to



[create a new article on our blog.](#)

Wayne Crosby and Dan Gallagher opened the shop back in 1997, a very different time in Hot Springs. This article is a combo of history, tribute to the many people who have made this town what it is today, and a spotlight on a business still serving our community.

[Read About Bluff!](#)

[Read the article and see old pics!](#)

Special Event this Weekend! 'Music Makers of the Blue Ridge' 1965 Documentary Film Screening and Reunion

Acclaimed filmmaker David Hoffman visited Madison County, NC in 1965 and captured priceless footage of the people and musical culture of that time.



He pulled this footage together to create a groundbreaking documentary film titled "Music Makers of the Blue Ridge". This black and white film was made for public television, and followed the musical journey of Bascom Lunsford through the picturesque backroads of Madison, Wilkes and Buncombe Counties.

This weekend, David Hoffman will be visiting Madison County again! The celebration begins at 6:30pm on Friday evening, September 22nd, with a Screening of the Film at [Chestnut Hall](#) in downtown Hot Springs. Reception to follow.

On Saturday, September 23rd, stroll around the town of Mars Hill for The [Madison Heritage & Arts Festival](#) and the [Lunsford Festival](#), another opportunity to experience old time music, dancing and culture.

[More Info on this Film and Weekend Events](#)

On Sunday, September 24th at 3pm there will be a Barn Jam at Rare Bird Farm in Spring Creek, NC. Musicians jamming will include Nicholas Edward Williams & The Harrows, Bob Culver and Hazel Ketchum. [Please Register for this Show.](#)

Other Fall Events in Hot Springs

Wednesday, October 4, Hot Springs Library-
Meet the authors of the book *Jingles' Promise- A Father's Quest for Truth on the Appalachian Trail*. Rochelle and Norman Morris share their story at 1pm. All are welcome!

Thursday, November 2, Gallery 339-Artist Show and Reception at 6:30pm. Featuring the work of local artist, **Brian Boles**, on display through December 15. [Gallery 339](#) is open Thur, Fri, Sat and Sun from Noon till 4pm.

Live Music, Open Mic and Karaoke at Big Pillow Brewing- Check their website for weekly happenings! [Big Pillow Brewing Website](#)



**For more events, workshops and live music,
click the button below to view our Events Calendar on [HotSpringsNC.org](#)**

[Visit our Events Calendar](#)



The Cinners perform at Big Pillow Brewing on August 11.

Left to Right- Brad Eavenson, Cindy Shores, Don Childs, Ron Knight, and Johnny Humphries

Photo and content contributed by Alicia Araya.

[The Cinners Facebook Page](#)

Speaking of Live Music...

The members of the [Hot Springs Tourism Association](#) are a talented lot. Musicians, artists, actors, painters, and any other number of creative sorts run businesses in this town.

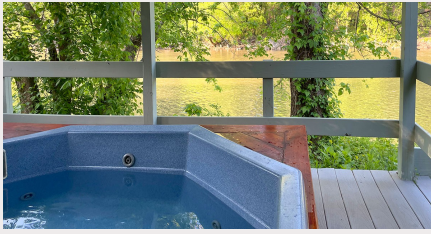
Cindy Shores of Tobacco Road is no different. A Madison County resident for the past 7 years, and native to Buncombe County, she worked in the Public School System for 11 1/2 years before joining Aaron Gosnell at the helm of [Tobacco Road](#) in 2018.

"I've been involved with music all my life," Cindy said. Having grown up in a household where church music was a staple, so were performances by her grandparents at places such as the Shindig on the Green, Pisgah View Ranch, and the Marshall Depot. "I spent many Saturday nights traveling with them to hear my grandfather play the accordion for my grandmother to yodel. It's in my blood!"

Few of us knew of Cindy's talents and deep soulful voice until 80's Weekend in February, when she killed it at karaoke. Don Childs, who has assisted Roy Hurley with hosting Open Mic at the [Big Pillow Brewing](#), suggested they meet up to see if they could concoct a cool musical act.

A few informal picking sessions around the firepit cemented between them a musical chemistry that led the Big Pillow to book them for a 3 hour set (shortly after their first open mic debut). Fast forward to today, where they perform in local venues and private events fairly regularly, we can see how cross-pollination of talents amongst residents can lead to magnificent results.

Readers can follow [Cindy Shores](#) and “[The Cinners](#)”, as well as view footage of them in action, on their [Facebook page](#).



Soaking in the Hot Springs

Have you soaked in the natural hot mineral water at the [Hot Springs Resort & Spa](#)?

Fall is a great time to relax in their tranquil setting with a view of energetic Spring Creek or the lazy French Broad River. Modern jacuzzi-style tubs are private and available for hourly (or longer) rentals. **[View options and amenities on their website](#) and make a reservation!** (And yes, this is the only place to access the Hot Springs!)

Guided Day Hikes, Backpacking Trips and Workshops with Blue Ridge Hiking Company

Jennifer Pharr Davis founded the Blue Ridge Hiking Company in 2008 after being inspired by a thru-hike on the Appalachian Trail. Her goal was to help people experience the transformative power of walking through and with nature.



This spirited mission continues today under the leadership of new owner, Lindsay Barr, and her team of experienced guides.

Learn More About
BRHC

Blue Ridge Hiking Company has an outpost near downtown Hot Springs, and offers services including guided day hikes, guided backpacking trips, workshops, gear rental, shuttles, and lodging in their bunkhouse.

Fall Color Guide for Western North Carolina from Romantic Asheville



Check out the predictions for Fall Color in the mountains of western NC, as presented annually by the popular local tourism website, Romantic Asheville.

Elevations in Madison County range from 1,250 feet to 5,152 feet, and the color changes travel down from peaks to valleys from late September through early November!

Bailey Mountain Preserve
near Mars Hill in Madison County

Fall Color Guide for WNC



The vibrant Laurel River on a peaceful Fall morning.

Photos of Bailey Mountain Preserve and the Laurel River are Courtesy of [Madison County, NC Tourism](#)

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

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