



# Highlands Historical Society



Winter 2020

To preserve and promote the rich heritage of Highlands

Highlands, N.C.

## Kelsey Kids Hip on Highlands History



Kelsey Kids Atop Satulah



Board Member Hillary Cone Helps with Flora Project



Lunch with Lizzie Prince

This year, Kelsey Kids Program Director Tammy Lowe led children ages 9-12 on an exciting walk through Highlands history. The tour took them around town identifying the historic buildings such as churches, the Playhouse, the Highlands Inn, the Old Edwards Inn and their involvement in the Moccasin War.

The campers hiked up Satulah Mountain, identifying rare plants and wildlife along the way.

A highlight was visiting Mrs. Prince at, the oldest existing residence in town. The week-long program was so successful that two sessions are being considered for 2020.

## 104-Year-Old Museum Gets Facelift



On the Move - 2002



Museum in 2019

Built in 1915 as one of the first libraries in North Carolina, this classic structure served this purpose for 83 years until it was donated to the Highlands Historical Society to become its showcase museum. It was moved to its present site in 2002.

Although the building is structurally sound, Father Time

took his toll on the exterior causing the paint to flake off, and in places some of the wood was beginning to rot.

Thanks to grants from the Cannon Foundation and Mountain Findings, Morales Painting was contracted to refurbish the entire exterior and restore its old beauty.



**Presidents Letter  
December 2019**



Greetings,

Prior to our final meeting of the year, I asked our board members to send me their lists of what they thought were the highlights of the year for Highlands Historical Society. There were 24 events, programs and accomplishments submitted! Included were everything from partnering with the Bascom on a Masa Photo Exhibit to the Kelsey Kids Camp to refurbishing two of our buildings. To me, this was a resounding affirmation of the incredible work done by our board members. IMHO (In My Humble Opinion), I think HHS is making a significant contribution to the wonderful Town of Highlands.

It is with a note of fond farewell to our three board members who are rotating off. Thank you Sally Caffery, Martha Sutherland-Wright and Linda David. I hope you feel a sense of accomplishment for your service. We also note with sadness the passing of our Recording Secretary Christy Kelly (Please see obituary this page).

Just as we are losing great, hard-working team members, we are fortunate to have four long-time members of the Highlands Community to fill their shoes... welcome Phil Potts, Tammy Lowe, Sherry Holt and Anna Wilson. Get your fast shoes out and be prepared to hit the ground running, for you're going to be put to work right away.

There is one accomplishment I'd like to particularly point out as part of a long-range goal. That is to raise awareness of the importance of developing native plant gardening. The Historic Village now has three distinct gardens for community enjoyment. Each of these have been funded, designed and installed locally, and each is now irrigated to ensure they survive dry spells. The board member most singularly responsible for this program is Bob Trevathan. Thanks, Bob.

Finally, a most important part of the success being enjoyed by the Historic Village is those who help fund our endeavors, whether through grants, sponsorships or memberships. In appreciation, a donor board has been installed and updated to pay recognition to this special group.

Happy Holidays

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

- Osborne "Obie" Oakley, President
- Bob Trevathan, Vice President
- Sally Caffery, Hillary Cone, Linda David
- Kim Daugherty, Dennis DeWolf,
- Fran Leftwich, Erik Nielsen, Tommy Thompson
- and Martha Sutherland-Wright
- Ran Shaffner, Archivist and Ex Officio Director
- Carolyn Patton, Associate Archivist
- Tammy Lowe, Docent
- Fran Leftwich, Newsletter Editor
- Sandra Carlton, Corresponding Secretary
- Bill Lands, Art Director

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

We hope you will renew now  
 Family \$50 • Individual \$35  
 Sustainer \$100 • Business \$250  
 Promoter \$500 • Preserver \$1,000  
 Protector \$2,500 • Highlander \$5,000  
 And we hope you will add a donation,  
 as many of you have done so generously in  
 the past. To join or renew membership by check  
 or credit card, visit [www.highlandshistory.com](http://www.highlandshistory.com).  
 Highlands Historical Society  
 P.O. Box 670, Highlands, NC 28741

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

**We give a shout-out to our docents, Ginny Harris and Tammy Lowe who make the museum come alive to our visitors. Thank each of you, and we look forward to having you back in 2020.**

Highlands Historical Society mourns the loss of its board member, Christine "Christy" Kelly. Christy was the consummate volunteer. In addition to being secretary of HHS, she is a past president of the Highlands Rotary Club, lobbying for American Cancer Society, helping with Highlands Public Schools and volunteering with the Literacy Council.

**IN MEMORIAM**



**Christine "Christy" Kelly  
1950-2019**

## Highlands Veterans Selected for Honor Flight

In September, two Highlands veterans were sponsored by the Highlands Rotary Club to participate in the Blue Ridge Honor Flight program. George Schmitt, Korean War Navy vet, and Steve Perry, Vietnam War Army, flew from Asheville to Washington, DC, to visit their memorials and be honored for their service. Linda G. Edwards of Highlands, herself a Vietnam veteran, was privileged to serve as the Guardian for George and Steve the entire day.



George Schmitt & Linda Edwards



George Schmitt & Steve Perry

According to those three, the experience could only be described as “An exceptional and amazing day”! Not only did the veterans see all of the memorials and the changing of the guard at Arlington Cemetery, they had the opportunity to share their stories with fellow veterans, remember those who they knew, loved and lost, and most importantly, be recognized and honored for their service. For more information, go to [blueridgehonorflight.org](http://blueridgehonorflight.org).

## Historian of the Year



On October 12th, the North Carolina Society of Historians presented Dr. Ran Shaffner with its highest honor: 2019 Historian of the Year: “Given to an individual who has contributed, in some very special way, to researching, recording, and perpetuating North Carolina’s rich history.”

Shaffner attributed his interest in Highlands to the characters and personalities of its unique residents and their fascinating stories.

We add our congratulations to Ran for this high honor.



Co-sponsored by Highlands Historical Society



Co-sponsored by American Legion Post 370

# Honoring Highlands Veterans

To honor those who served from the Highlands Plateau, the Historical Society placed a full-page ad in *The Highlander's* Veterans Day issue which listed over 800 men and women veterans from all conflicts going back to the Revolutionary War. This was co-sponsored with Post 370 of the Highlands American Legion. The full listing can be viewed at: [www.highlandshistory.com](http://www.highlandshistory.com). If you would like to add a name, email: [highlandshistory@nctv.com](mailto:highlandshistory@nctv.com) with information.

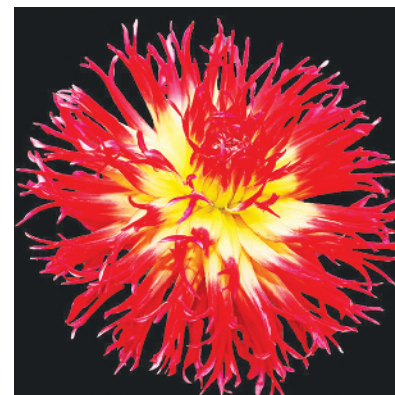
# 9th Annual Dazzling Dahlia Festival Resounding Success

Gorgeous flowers, delightful growers, dedicated volunteers and talented speakers came together to celebrate the floral queen of our plateau, the stunning dahlia, which growers know come in every size, shape and color you can imagine.

The Historical Society Dahlia Festival allows our community to see the incredible dahlia up close when they see 226 blooms entered by 26 growers in amazing display. A panel of 3 judges labored over the selections and provided feedback that amateur growers seldom receive. After much consideration Helen Steward’s stunning bloom was awarded “Best of Show.” (See picture)

Another highlight of the Festival was an inspiring and entertaining talk by local horticulturalists Sonya Carpenter and Canty Worley. They presented useful information on how to use native plants in our landscapes, especially in border areas. They explained the necessity of pollinators in our landscapes and challenged everyone to help our environment with sustainable and economical landscaping choices.

Most people do not have stunning dahlias growing at home, so with donated flowers talented volunteers made about 75 arrangements that were sold to the 200 attendees. All of this was made possible through the hard work of Chairperson Kim Daugherty and



Photos Courtesy of Greg Clarkson

her team of 30 volunteers. Thanks also to the growers who shared their dahlias. We look forward to next September 11 & 12th, when we will celebrate the 10th Annual Dazzling Dahlia Festival.

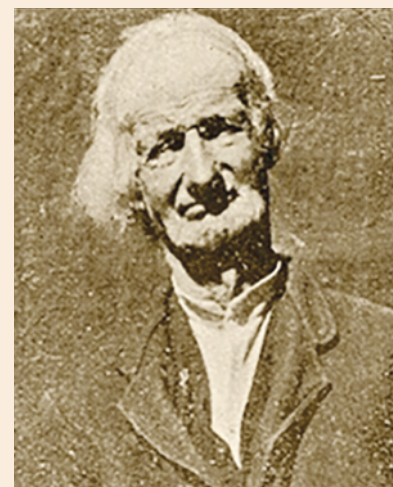
## Honest Abe a “Tar Heel”? Bostic, N.C. Believes “Yes”!



Abraham Lincoln

Kentucky claims to be the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. Others maintain that Nancy Hanks birthed her black-haired baby boy on North Carolina soil.

In conjunction with HHS’s own Lincoln exhibit, Ran Shaffner is working with the Bostic, NC, Lincoln Center to facilitate DNA testing at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington. The intent is to set to rest a controversy as to whether Tom Lincoln in Kentucky or Abraham Enloe in North Carolina was Honest Abe’s father! DNA testing can conclusively resolve this question. What do you think?



Wesley M. Enloe