



Highlands Historical Society



Spring 2020

To preserve and promote the rich heritage of Highlands

Highlands, N.C.

The Historic Village Museum Introduces Two New Exhibits

Highlands Answers The Call

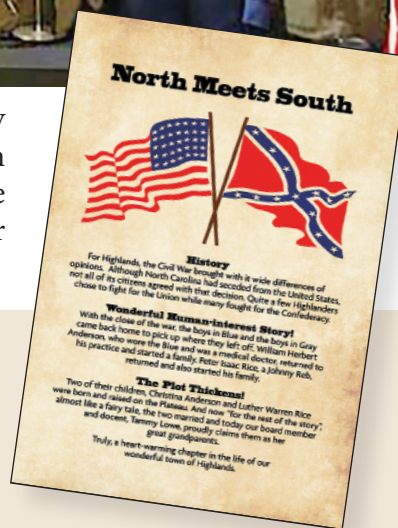
The Highlands Plateau has a storied history of men and women answering the call to military service. From all walks of life and all five branches, these patriots represent the finest of our citizens.

To honor these veterans, an exhibit has been created to say THANK YOU. With much pomp and pageantry, eighteen different uniforms are on display with the requirement that they must have been worn by those with a Highlands connection.

A highlight “side exhibit” features a Civil War connection where two Highlanders chose



to serve different sides. After the War, they returned home. The story gets interesting when two of their children marry and become the great-great-grandparents of our board member and docent, Tammy Lowe.



Moonshine Exhibit

The making of illicit whiskey has been an integral part of life on the Highlands Plateau since the first white citizens began arriving over two centuries ago. It became only natural for the museum to create an exhibit on, what is popularly known as, Moonshine. The display features an actual copper kettle still as well as narratives on the music and movies associated with it. Especially interesting

is the connection between the bootleggers running the “white lightning” and NASCAR as we know it today. There is also a placard describing how this whiskey is made.

**Presidents
Letter
June 2020**



I think we'll all agree, there is too much uncertainty swirling around these days! I personally believe we have two options. We can sit around wringing our hands calling out, "Woe is me," or we can face things head-on, search out the positives and make the most of it!

We at the Highlands Historical Society choose the latter.

As you read this newsletter, you'll immediately recognize that we are doing so many things to further our Mission of Preserving and Promoting the Rich Heritage of Highlands. Perhaps most importantly, there are three new exhibits going up. We see this as our primary focus; to keep the museum fresh with exciting and relevant exhibits that will capture the interest of our visitors, be educational and provide the town with an attraction of which they can be proud.

Unique among these new offerings is our Native Plant Exhibit. Unusual because it consists of three individual and distinctly different gardens located around the property. Unusual because it is an outside exhibit. Unusual because it is only NATIVE PLANTS. We see this as offering visitors, homeowners as well as commercial landscapers an opportunity to actually visit and view these in a natural setting. Finally, from funding we received, there will be markers to identify the over 50 varieties on display.

I need to make mention of the challenge we face as to when we will open for the season. Today, Governor Roy Cooper announced that museums were among venues that will not be allowed to open until June 26th. We regret this since we are seasonal; it reduces the time we are open by 20%.

In closing, I thank all of our loyal supporters and assure you that even though we are working under difficult conditions, we continue striving to earn the trust and confidence you've given us.

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- Osborne "Obie" Oakley, President
- Bob Trevathan, Vice President
- Sherry Holt, Treasurer
- Hillary Cone, Kim Daugherty, Dennis DeWolf, Fran Leftwich, Erik Nielsen, Phil Potts, Tommy Thompson and Anna Wilson
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- Tammy Lowe, Docent
- Fran Leftwich, Newsletter Editor
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 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 <https://highlandshistory.com>.
 Highlands Historical Society
 P.O. Box 670, Highlands, NC 28741

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Kelsey Kids Camp Canceled



The HHS board made the tough decision to cancel the Kelsey Kids Camp for 2020.

We plan to expand the program next year and offer two sessions based on age.

THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

As another season begins for those of us who love Highlands, many things have changed, but our passion for dahlias has not. Our local beauty thankfully shall not be the least bit affected by Covid-19.

One of the most spectacular reminders of the beauty of summer on the plateau, the dazzling dahlia will bloom on schedule. Late summer and early fall it will, without fail, delight us with its usual stunning array of color, shape, and size. The only things “usual” about dahlias are their bloom season, the abundance of varieties, and the way they never disappoint.

To celebrate our perennial beauty, the 10th Annual Dazzling Dahlia Festival will be held Saturday, September 19. We will mark the 10th year with a couple of special touches, so stay tuned through the summer as plans are announced for the festival. Do not forget: Dazzling Dahlia is an amateur event so any dahlia grown is welcomed. There are many categories with ribbons given, but there is only one Best of Show. Last year’s winner Helen Steward’s gorgeous “My Hero” dinner plate dahlia will be featured in this year’s literature. It could be you next year!

Mark your calendar now for the 10th Annual Dazzling Dahlia Festival, Saturday, September 19, at the Highlands Recreation Center. For questions contact co-chairs Kim Daugherty at gatorsinparadise@gmail.com or Lisa Dailey at ldailey13@msn.com.



It is with sadness that we mourn the passing of Wiley G. Sloan. Wiley was gifted with creativity, generosity, humor and a passion for interacting and helping others. Upon retirement, he relocated to Highlands with his wife, Sarah. He wrote articles for the *Laurel Magazine*, staged merchandise at Mountain Findings Thrift Shop, and was very active in the life of the Highlands United Methodist Church. Wiley was a Director of the Highlands Historical Society for eight years and President for two. His love for our town and this organization was demonstrated in his dedication “to preserve Highland’s history and make it easily accessible to the general public.” He will be missed.

IN MEMORIAM



Wiley Grey Sloan
11/23/48 - 3/6/20

Cool Archives

Folks normally wouldn’t get excited over the installation of a new heating and cooling system! Or, how about improving the security of our archives room? Well, we’re proud to say we’ve done just those things.

In January during one of our coldest spells, the compressor on our heating unit went out, and we were told it couldn’t be repaired. Thanks to the expertise of our Buildings Committee Chairman, Dennis DeWolf, who recommended that it NOT BE REPLACED, he completely changed it to newer technology utilizing Mini Split units in both the upstairs and downstairs. This would give us four zones of heating and air conditioning plus a more efficient humidity control system, so important to preserving artifacts. More good news: the cost would be 25% less.

While these improvements were being made at the request of our archivist, Dr. Ran Shaffner, new partitions, doors and locks were installed to better secure the area housing our collections.

PRETTY COOL, HUH?

Unique Concept In Exhibits: Native Plant Gardens

The Historic Village is blessed to have over an acre of land which is located in the center of town, and as such, it became our civic duty to maintain it in an attractive manner. With that duty, however, came the wonderful opportunity to create gardens to showcase the abundant species of native plants found on the plateau. Three different gardens have been designed to form the basis of our unique outdoor exhibit. Open year-round it is a gift to the Town of Highlands for all to enjoy. Each has been named to honor individuals for their contributions to Highlands history. They are the founders, Kelsey and Hutchinson, 18th-century botanist André Michaux and garden enthusiast, Jan Chmar.

Homeowners, out-of-town visitors and landscapers alike are invited to view the over 50 different native plant species currently on display. To assist in the enjoyment as well as the educational aspect, they will be identified with permanent markers listing their popular as well as their biological names.



**Bronze Plaques
Identifying New
Gardens**

Old Jail Native Plant Garden



**Mountain Garden Club hard at work,
mask and all.**

Thanks to the generous donation of time and money by the Mountain Garden Club, The Old Jail Native Plant Garden joins its sister gardens over at the Historic Village in promoting Native Plants, all the while contributing to the beauty of Highlands. Thank you MGC!

Historic Village Sign Gets Facelift



After standing vigil and welcoming visitors to the Historic Village for over ten years, our sign gets a well-deserved facelift. The weather had taken its toll but thanks to the artisans from Gooder Grafix, the sign now has a fresh new lease on life.

Big Hats Bow Ties



The ever-popular Big Hats and Bow Ties event usually held in August is currently on hold.

We still have hopes that things will open up and Kettle Rock will once again bustle with activity.