

NEWS RELEASE

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HOMEGROWN IN
HAYWOOD

Fresh From The North Carolina Smokies

Maggie Valley • Waynesville • Canton
Clyde • Lake Junaluska

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Enjoy Fresh Adventure This Spring In The North Carolina Smokies

Waynesville, NC – There is nothing fresher than springtime in the North Carolina Smokies. As the mountains awake from their winter slumber and eagerly welcome the first blossoms of spring color, you will find the ideal seasonal getaway in the picturesque towns of Waynesville, Maggie Valley, Canton, Clyde, and Lake Junaluska. The warmer days and mild evenings offer the perfect opportunity to enjoy a plethora of outdoor adventure and unique local hotspots amidst the scenic backdrop of the Great Smoky Mountains. Whether you're looking for that special "off the beaten path" hiking excursion or an epicurean adventure, the North Carolina Smokies are serving up the freshest springtime experiences around.

Satisfy your Epicuriosity in Haywood County

For starts, you can kick off the season at the area's premier spring event, the annual **Mélange of the Mountains Culinary Weekend, April 10 – 13**. An epicurean partnership of innovative chefs, sustainable producers, crafty microbrewers, and local farmers will give you closer look into the unique agripreneurial community of Haywood County. The weekend kicks off at the Thursday night Gala on April 10th at Laurel Ridge County Club in Waynesville and continues through the weekend with a full schedule of specialty dinners, culinary demos, and tastings throughout the county's five towns of Waynesville, Maggie Valley, Canton, Clyde, and Lake Junaluska. For tickets and more information contact the Haywood County Chamber of Commerce at 828.456.3021.

To get an even closer look at Haywood's special agripreneurial community, grab a copy of **Buy Haywood's "Find Your Adventure!" 2014 Agritourism Guide**. Haywood County offers year-round opportunities to explore the many agritourism adventures available in our area. From rustic to refined, there is an experience for everyone!

Some features in the upcoming ***Find your Adventure! 2014 Haywood County Agritourism Guide*** are:

- Historic Farmer & Tailgate Markets
- Award Winning "Farm to Table" Restaurants
- Uniquely Local Jams, Jellies, Savory Spreads & Artisan Pickles
- Specialty Retail Shops
- Rustic Hospitality Venues
- Heritage Festivals
- U Pick Farms
- Historic Preservation Sites and Educational Opportunities for all age

Cheers! April is North Carolina Beer Month!

Come celebrate it in Waynesville visiting the towns three craft microbreweries: **BearWaters Brewing Company, Frog Level Brewing, and Tipping Point Brewery**. All located within a short radius of each other, you can conveniently enjoy their one-of-a-kind brews while experiencing the charm and beauty of downtown Waynesville. Each brewery will have special offerings to celebrate **North Carolina Beer Month**, so contact the breweries directly or the Haywood County TDA at 800-334-9036. Cheers!

Spring Hiking on Purchase Knob

With easy year round access, **Purchase Knob**, located in northwestern Haywood County along the border of the **Great Smoky Mountains National Park**, offers butterfly and wildflower abundance, native wildlife, historical significance, and amazing panoramas. This hidden hiking jewel was recently spotlighted when it caught the attention of a certified Blue Ridge Naturalist, Ken Czarnomski. His passion for hiking, mapping, and drawing brought to life a unique hand illustrated guide that is available exclusively in Haywood County. His desire to share the joys of hiking with the general public fueled the project and inspired many to discover the ease and enjoyment of hiking for the first time through this special map. The free guide can be picked up at of the three Haywood County Visitor Centers in Waynesville, Maggie Valley, and Canton.

More Than Just a Scenic Drive

Every year, the winding roads of Haywood County draw thousands of motor touring enthusiasts in search of the area's best scenic twist and turns. In fact, Haywood County is located in the heart of the greatest collection of motorcycle rides in the nation, which has led to the creation of Haywood's own **NC Smokies Motor Touring Guide**. This free guide features a dozen mapped rides with names like The Rattler that can be picked up from various locations within the county. Haywood's central location serves as the perfect base to explore the area's breathtaking spring scenery and still experience the homegrown hospitality of the NC Smokies. Maggie Valley is home to **Wheels Through Time**, the world's premier, All-American motorcycle museum that houses over 300 of America's rarest and most historic classic motorcycles. With the help of unique attractions like this and the county's 46-mile stretch of the **Blue Ridge Parkway and The Great Smoky Mountains**, Haywood County continues to attract a wide variety of visitors, from motor tourists to family vacationers.

The area's rich heritage and the popularity of scenic drives have also helped create other local attractions, like the **Haywood County Quilt Trails**. The HCQT tells the county's history by featuring colorful wooden quilt blocks installed on barns and buildings around the community. Each block is featured in the Haywood County Quilt Trail Guide, which takes visitors on a scenic drive of the county while telling the story of each block along the way. This year-round activity has been growing in popularity and the number of blocks has increased from it's original 25 to almost 50, as they are being added, designed, and installed at a rapid rate.

Spring Birding in the NC Smokies

Come meet the fine feathered friends of Haywood County! Early spring is a perfect time for birding in the North Carolina Smoky Mountains. You can utilize the **NC Birding Trail**, and their website's interactive map where you can pinpoint good viewing locations: www.ncbirdingtrail.org Haywood County is one of the highlighted areas on the map and offers seven suggested areas in the county that boast an abundance of bird species. Each

section provides a description of the location, a list of potential bird species and their seasonality, directions and other related information that will be helpful before and during your visit. There is also a local birding club right here in Haywood County, **The Great Smoky Mountains Audubon Club**: www.gsmas.org. The group works to promote and bring awareness to the hobby of birding and are a great reference for those interested in birding. The group highlighted Lake Junaluska as one of county's birding "hotspots" due to easy access and open bodies of water. The water will attract a wide variety of birds, especially those that rely on aquatic plants and animals as a food source. Among the many varieties of birds that have made themselves at home by the lake, there is a resident bald eagle that can often be seen soaring high over the water or perched a top a tree. Just the chance the spot this regal creature is well worth the trip!

Upcoming Spring Events:

March

3/27 – 3/31: Wheels Through Time Opening Weekend – Maggie Valley

April

4/5: Balsam Range in Concert – The Colonial Theater - Canton

4/10 – 4/13: Mélange of the Mountains Culinary Weekend

4/18 – 4/19: Smoky Mountain Oyster & Seafood Festival – Maggie Valley

4/19: Friends of the Lake 5K – Lake Junaluska

4/25 – 4/27: Smoky Mountain 9-Ball Shootout – Haywood County Fairgrounds - Waynesville

4/25 – 5/11: HART Theatre Presents "To Kill A Mockingbird" - Waynesville

May

5/2 – 5/4: Thunder in the Smokies Spring Motorcycle Rally – Maggie Valley

5/3: 81st Annual Ramp Festival - Waynesville

5/12: Whole Bloomin' Thing Festival – Frog Level – Waynesville

5/23 – 5/25: Maggie Valley Spring Rally

5/23 – 6/15: HART Theatre Presents "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do" - Waynesville

5/24: Block Party in Downtown Waynesville

Along with it's picturesque beauty, Haywood County offers year round activities and events centered around our five homegrown initiatives: Food, Heritage, Music, Art and the Outdoors. No matter what experience you choose, we guarantee it will always be Fresh From the North Carolina Smokies! For more information visit www.visitncsmokies.com or contact the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority at 800-334-9036.

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