N.C. HISTORIC SITES GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED AT THE THOMAS WOLFE MEMORIAL

Gold was the color and congratulations all around were the order of the day at the 50th anniversary of N.C. Historic Sites celebrated at the Thomas Wolfe Memorial in Asheville, Friday, Sept. 30 at noon. The festivities featured remarks by Cultural Resources Secretary Lisbeth C. Evans and N.C. Historical Commission Chair Dr. Jerry Cashion.

Through our programs and properties, we provide vital links to North Carolina’s past. Last year alone, our 27 sites welcomed 1.8 million visitors. Each offers authentic experiences enabling children and adults alike to learn, have fun, and reflect on the places and people who have made our state great.

—Editor

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES – DR. RICK KNAPP

On my first month away from Historic Sites and retired, I’d like to thank each of you who sent me kind emails or cards, participated in giving me some very generous and nice gifts, and especially came to my retirement dinner and roast in mid-August. My family and I had a wonderful time at the occasion, and I hope all attendees enjoyed themselves as well.

It’s been my privilege to work at Archives and History for more than 33 years—longer than some of our staff have been alive! I’ve seen good times and bad times. Some of the best of times were a long time ago in 1977, when we opened first Stagville, then Reed Gold Mine, then Duke Homestead, and finally acquired Spencer Shops, now The N.C. Transportation Museum.

There have been other good years since then. And exciting things continue to happen, despite current challenges, all around the state at various historic sites.

I’m back home in Cary now, catching up on a few things that have been neglected over the years. And for those who may wonder about my “leavin’ on a jet plane” line in the previous issue, I went to Ecuador and saw some volcanoes.

Thanks for the memories and good luck to you all.

—Rick Knapp
"POCOSIN ARTS: THE FIRST TEN YEARS" COMING TO ROANOKE ISLAND FESTIVAL PARK

Pocosin Arts’ in Columbia will celebrate its gala tenth anniversary with a special exhibit in The Gallery at Roanoke Island Festival Park from November 1-December 30. The free show will be open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. It will kick off with a 4-6 p.m. reception Sunday, November 6.

The exhibit will include photographs of the fine and folk arts school’s unique programs and events. Drawn by its gifted teaching artists, hundreds of artists, educators, historic interpreters and plain arts buffs from North Carolina and 14 other states have flocked to Pocosin’s studios to learn and create.

Visitors to The Gallery at Festival Park will also be able to view fine art, folk art and fine craft produced at Pocosin. Clay, drawing, fiber, glass, metal, painting, photography, and wood will all be represented. Some of the works will even be available for sale.

Located on the Scuppernong River, Pocosin Arts works to sustain the traditional arts and culture of the people of eastern North Carolina by “connecting culture to environment”. Over the past decade, its programs have celebrated the traditions of the region’s rich and varied cultures, including Native American, English and Scotch Irish, African, Mexican and Vietnamese.

Programs include artistic residencies in the Tyrrell County Schools, classes at the Folk School’s home studios and creative arts retreats throughout eastern North Carolina. Pocosin Arts was founded in 1994 by the dynamic Feather Phillips, who today directs its programs from the center’s headquarters in Columbia’s Shoestring Alley.

—Tanya Young

SUMMER FEATURE FILMING A HISTORIC EDENTON FIRST

This summer the Edenton historic district, usually the haunt of documentary filmmakers and travel writers, has served as the backdrop for a major movie production. Appropriately entitled “The Dog Days of Summer”, the film was shot in August by a group based in Charlotte. Told from a child’s point of view, the film recalls an of friends and their small southern Charlotte native Mark N.C. School of the Arts wrote the knew Edenton was the perfect place 2004. Crewmembers said they munity and during the filming, swered a casting call for extras.

A number of Edenton’s seen in the film, including Hicks 1723 and site of a baseball field various prominent town buildings (1736) and churchyard (1722) as County Courthouse and 1758 Cu-leased nationwide next year.

The 1767 Chowan County Courthouse at Historic Edenton, considered by many the South’s finest Georgian-style courthouse.

—Kathy Busby
NEW CHIEF CURATOR FOR DIVISION NOW ON BOARD

In August, Museum Services welcomed Carol Hunt Chamberlain to the Division of State Historic Sites. She comes to us from Savannah where Carol served as curator of the Owens-Thomas House and as curator of decorative arts for the Telfair Museum of Art, which owns the Owens-Thomas House. She replaces Clare Bass.

Originally from Ohio, Carol has an undergraduate degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and a master’s in architectural history from the University of Cincinnati. She also holds a certificate in historic preservation from the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning at the University of Cincinnati.

Before working in Savannah, Carol was the Dinsmore Homestead Foundation’s executive director. The foundation owns and operates Dinsmore Homestead, a historic farm in rural Northern Kentucky near Cincinnati. Carol’s career has included several positions in the historic preservation field at the Cincinnati Preservation Association, the Montgomery County Historical Association and Architectural Forum magazine.

“I’m delighted to be a part of the N.C. State Historic Sites division and to be living and working in Raleigh,” Carol says. “This is a beautiful, historic state that cares deeply about preserving its important history and historic sites. I like being a part of that.”

—Editor

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ARTILLERY TO ROAR AT CSS NEUSE CIVIL WAR NAVY PROGRAM

Cannons will roar and sailors and Confederate marines will converge on the banks of the Neuse River once again November 19-20, as the CSS Neuse/Gov. Caswell Memorial in Kinston presents its annual Civil War free living history program. The event will take place from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday; 7-8 p.m., Saturday evening; and 12 noon-4 p.m., Sunday.

Members of several North Carolina and Virginia re-enactment/living history organizations will demonstrate various aspects of Confederate naval life including navigational techniques, daily shipboard living, and nautical skills. A special treat this year will be new Confederate sailor and marine interpretations, as well as civilian.

Old South Blacksmiths will again show how Kinston’s blacksmith shops made things for both the ship and artillery units during the war; some will be available for sale. Other sutlers/craftsmen will also participate, including Heritage Leathers.

Visitors will also have an opportunity to see a rare event, a special artillery firing after dark.

(continued on page 4)
Saturday. Gates will reopen at 6:30 and the demonstration will begin at 7 p.m. on the banks of the Neuse. Numerous field artillery pieces will be featured including the bronze 12-pounder napoleon from Ft. Fisher in Kure Beach.

The site orientation video, tours of the ship, and the site gift shop will be available both days. All activities are free of charge, but donations are gratefully accepted.

—Andrew Duppstadt

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19TH CENTURY FARM ACTIVITIES PLANNED AT AYCOCK

Aycock Birthplace is eagerly looking forward to an exciting fall. Saturday, October 15, the site, which is located near Fremont, will hold its annual Farmer’s Day program from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Visitors will have a chance to enjoy traditional heritage demonstrations including candle making, lye soap making, spinning and weaving, corn shelling and grinding and open-hearth cooking.

All these activities will help recreate the way people lived and worked on a typical 1870s eastern North Carolina farm. Wagon rides and guided tours of the one room schoolhouse and the Aycock Birthplace will also be available.

Then, October 12-November 16, the site will present its annual program of living history Wednesdays. Each Wednesday, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Aycock staff and volunteers will demonstrate everyday 19th-century activities. The program schedule follows:

October 12 School Marm (teacher), Quill Pen & Ink Writing, and School Yard Games
October 19 Spinning, Open Hearth Cooking, Toys and Games
October 26 Sheep Shearing, Spinning and Clothes Washing
November 2 Quilting, Corn Shuck Mop Making and Butter Churning
November 9 Crosscut Sawing, Corn Shelling and Grinding and Cider Making
November 16 Candle Making, Rug Braiding and Open Hearth Cooking

—Sarah Liles

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FT. DOBBS PRESENTING FIRST EVER “GREAT WAGON FESTIVAL AND 18TH CENTURY TRADE FAIRE”

An exciting reenactment of the 1760 attack on Fort Dobbs, featuring costumed Cherokee reenactors, is just one of the events planned for “North Carolina’s Great Wagon Festival and 18th Century Trade Faire” Saturday, Oct.1-Sunday, Oct. 2. Activities planned for the free weekend event will have something to interest every member of the family and will go on from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days.

Costumed guides will demonstrate colonial toys, games, storytelling, cooking, period music and dance. Reenactors interpreting Indian traders, Cherokee warriors, long hunters, the militia, and provincial soldiers will be encamped at the site. Visitors can buy 18th-century-style crafts made on the spot by sutlers (traders and artisans) and also enjoy food from a colonial tavern. Cherokee interpreters will even show how the group once used handmade blow guns in battle. A Saturday lecture by Dr.
Larry Babits on new archaeological discoveries at the fort near Statesville is eagerly anticipated.

The artisans and traders who arrived here when the state’s backcountry was being settled in the 1700s period helped make North Carolina’s colonial frontier self-sufficient. Weavers, potters, joiners, blacksmiths and other craftsmen skillfully produced the necessities of daily life.

Only Fort Dobbs tells the story of the Carolina frontier and the collision of French, English, Scotch-Irish, and Native American cultures, along with its colonial military history. It is the only state historic site in North Carolina associated with the French and Indian War.

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FOLKS TO FROLIC AT HORNE CREEK’S 15TH ANNUAL CORNSHUCKING

Old-fashioned fun, food and music, will be the order of the day at the Fourteenth Annual Cornshucking Frolic at Horn Creek Living Historical Farm in Pinnacle, Saturday, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The former Hauser Family Farm will host its annual gala harvest festival featuring corn shucking, shelling and grinding, as these tasks were on a typical early 20th century piedmont farm.

Though plans are still not complete, past demonstrations have included beekeeping, blacksmithing, plowing, quilting, tobacco curing, woodworking, chair caning, basket making, sewing and cooking. Other activities will include apple butter, cider and molasses making; children’s games; and wagon rides. Visitors to the farm may also find sparkling cider, Horn Creek Farm T-shirts, The Southern Heritage Apple Orchard at Horn Creek Farm T-shirts, a variety of jams and jellies, applebutter, toys, dried apples, quilts (new not antique), handcrafted birdhouses, cornshuck doll kits and fall floral arrangements in a “country store”.

Storytellers will entertain the kids while parents tour the farmhouse. Particular highlights include the dryhouse and presentations on heirloom Southern apples. As in past years, traditional music will fill the air. Visitors can also savor homemade country fare including such traditional home-cooked chicken stew, pinto beans, cornbread, pies and various drinks including cider (fee charged).

The program is free and open to the public but a per visitor donation is requested. Because so many of the frolic’s activities are held outside, it will have to be cancelled if it rains.

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25TH ANNUAL MUMFEST TO BLOSSOM AT TRYON PALACE

North Carolina’s first capitol will put on its annual spectacular and always popular display of fall color October 7-9 as it celebrates “MUMfest 25”. Visitors to Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens the palace will enjoy the beauty of over 2,500 chrysanthemums showing off their autumn colors.

To celebrate MUMfest 25, which is sponsored by Swiss Bear, Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens will open all gardens free to the public from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7 and Saturday, October 8, and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9.

As for the main attraction, visitors will enjoy strolling through some of the palace’s most beautiful and beloved gardens. The formal parterres of the Maude Moore Latham Garden and the Gertrude Carraway Garden will each feature elaborate displays of chrysanthemums. Reflecting the colonial era, the Kellenberger Garden will feature an arrangement of other fall flowers popular in the 18th century and cool-season crops will be ready for winter in the Kitchen Garden.

Interior tours of Tryon Palace and its other historic buildings will be offered at the regular price of $15 for adults and $6 for students (grades 1-12) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday and Saturday, and 12:30-4 p.m., Sunday. Active duty military families always receive a $3 discount on the price of adult tickets and $1 off the price of student tickets. Families with more than two children, pay for the first two children only.

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YOU’RE IN OUR THOUGHTS

- Martha Jackson (division office) mother lost her beloved mother Saturday, September 24.
- Gloria Edwards (Historic Halifax) is recovering at home from a dog attack in July.
- Elizabeth Sumner (division office) has just gotten news that her grandmother is seriously ill.
- Rob Boyette (southeast section chief) is recovering from cardiac surgery earlier in September.

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COMINGS AND GOINGS

- Chris Morton has resigned as Interpreter II at the Thomas Wolfe Memorial to become an Interpretations Specialist with the Biltmore Estate.
- Courtney Hybarger has been promoted to Interpreter II at the James K. Polk Memorial.
- Debbi Siliva has left Historic Edenton.
- Jennifer Farley at Stagville is due back from maternity leave Oct. 1.
- Ed Morris has retired as Museums, Capitol, and Visitors Services Chief.
Hi folks:

My sincere thanks to everyone who has helped prepare my first issue of Insites, particularly those of you who submitted articles. I would ask that you be patient with me on these first couple of Insites issues as obviously I don’t have Dr. Knapp’s many years of experience with the publication.

In the future, you can help me by making sure that I receive story copy from you for the next issue of Insites by no later than the 21st of each month proceeding the months the newsletter is issued. For example, the next Insites issue will be December 2005-January 2006 so I will need your copy and news by no later than November 19. Just to remind you too, we have made the following changes in the publication’s format and issuance as of this issue:

Insites has gone a bimonthly issuance schedule as of this October-November 2005 issue. In other words, from now on it will begin coming out six times a year rather than monthly.

Insites’ editorial focus is shifting to future and on-going projects/events/issues within N.C. Historic Sites rather than past programs/news so when you or your staff members send me a story, please make sure it highlights a future or on-going program/project only. You may notice that in this issue, I have presented a couple of stories that covered past events. My goal is to move away from featuring past events but very important stories that affect entire program, like the celebration of the 50th anniversary of N.C. Historic Sites’ creation, are so significant that I will include them.

Stories submitted for Insites will now need to be limited to 4-5 paragraphs on the outside. I have instituted this change is because I would like to move towards doing more stories but ones that are structured like short news briefs rather than longer features. Should I receive feedback that people prefer to return to longer length articles, I will be more than happy to reconsider this decision.

Insites will feature more photos. As the editor, I am going to try to use a photo with each story (if possible) and would like to request that you email me appropriate photos, along with any stories you submit on your site. Today, we all live in a highly visual world so I would like for this publication to reflect that reality.

Thanks so much for your help and please understand that if I didn’t use a story your site submitted for this issue of Insites, it was because this first issue consumed so much of my time that I just had to go ahead and get the issue out.

—Mary L. Cook
Editor

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