

High Country Lifelong Learners

Spring 2014 Schedule of Programs and Events

March, April, and May

Most programs are held at the Lois E. Harrill Senior Center at 132 Poplar Grove Connector in Boone unless otherwise noted

Lifelong Painters

When: Every Wednesday: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Description: JoAnn Pippin, watercolor artist with 20 years of experience.

Join JoAnn and others who gather every Wednesday for a "paint together" session. Just bring your watercolors and equipment and be inspired by this lively group of painters. All levels are invited, but some experience with watercolor is helpful.

Place: Senior Center: Classroom 3

Writing Your Life Workshop

When: First 3 Mondays in March 3, 10, 17, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Would you like to write stories and essays about your life, either for friends and family, or for publication? Come join a group of writers and would-be writers, and try new exercises and share your work.

Place: Senior Center: Classroom 3

Evolution of Theatrical Space

When: Tuesday, March 4, 3:00pm to 4:30 pm

Dr. Frank Mohler will trace the effect of the play and society on the development of the stage and auditorium from the Greeks to the modern theater.

Place: Senior Center: Conference Room

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Place: Senior Center: Classroom 3

Middle Fork Greenway-A Work in Progress

When: Tuesday, March 11, 3:00pm to 4:30 pm

Imagine a corridor of green space that will provide a safe route for walking and bicycling between Boone and Blowing Rock. This 3 phase project is well underway thanks to the hard work of dozens of volunteers of the Middle Fork Greenway Association and several generous grants. Come and hear Ann Browning bring us up to date on the ambitious plan to expand the reach of the Boone Greenway south to Blowing Rock and eventually north to Todd.

Place: Senior Center: Conference Room

Arctic Gardens: Voice from the Abundant Land

When: Thursday, March 13, 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Join us as Professor Emeritus Harvard Ayers, ASU Department of Anthropology, transports us to the Arctic regions of Alaska and Canada to meet the Native people who face the dilemma of the fast paced life of the petroleum industry versus maintaining their cultural heritage.

Place: Senior Center: Conference Room

Theater Trip: On Golden Pond” by Ernest Thompson, at the Hickory Community Theater

When: Sunday, March 16, 12:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Matinee is at 2:30 PM. Ticket Price is \$14.00 for seniors.

ON GOLDEN POND, Starring James Best, Norma Frank, and Dorothy Best! This is the love story of Ethel and Norman Thayer, who are returning to their summer home on Golden Pond for the forty-eighth year. He is a retired professor, nearing eighty, with heart palpitations and a failing memory but still as tart-tongued, observant and eager for life as ever. Ethel, ten years younger, and the perfect foil for Norman, delights in all the small things that have enriched and continue to

enrich their long life together. They are visited by their divorced, middle-aged daughter and her dentist fiancé, who then go off to Europe, leaving his teenage son behind for the summer. The boy quickly becomes the "grandchild" the elderly couple have longed for, and as Norman revels in taking his ward fishing and thrusting good books at him, he also learns some lessons about modern teenage awareness and slang in return. In the end, as summer wanes, so does their brief idyll, and in the final, deeply moving moments of the play, Norman and Ethel are brought even closer together by the incidence of a mild heart attack. Time, they know, is now against them, but the years have been good and, perhaps, another summer on Golden Pond still awaits.

Go to hickorytheatre.org or call 828 327 3855 to order your tickets. After you order your tickets, notify JoAnn Pippin by email at rj2pip@yahoo.com that you are coming and how many in your party. We plan to meet at the Senior Center at 12:30 PM to carpool to Hickory. After the show, we could have an early supper at Old Hickory Station, just around the corner from the theater. JoAnn will make reservations.

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Place: Senior Center: Classroom 3

One World Everybody Eats

When: Tuesday, March 18, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Did you ever wonder how F.A.R.M. Cafe on King St., where people pay what they can, got its start? Come and hear Linda Coutant, one of the founding members, answer this question and speak about the larger organization, *One World Everybody Eats*.

Place: Senior Center: Conference Room

Antoni Gaudi's Basilica of the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona: Nature and the Universe in one Majestic Work

When: Wednesday, March 19, 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Join us for a program presented by Prof. Lillian Goudas. The first stone for this, "the people's church" of Barcelona, was laid on March 19 of 1882. Designed and

overseen by the meticulous and reclusive Antoni Gaudi until his untimely death, the Sagrada Familia remains unfinished after more than 100 years of work because of its massive scale and grandeur. Born out of the 19th century Renaissance of Catalan cultural values, the basilica is the masterpiece and lifelong work of Spain's most influential and imaginative architectural mind. Basing his structure not on art historical predecessors, but on mathematical and natural principles, Gaudi has designed one of the most unique and breathtaking places of transcendence in the world. Come explore this amazing building with me while it is still under construction!

Place: Senior Center: Conference Room

Adventures in National Park Volunteering

When: Thursday, March 20, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm Every year the 401 National Parks, Monuments, Grasslands, Seashores and Historic Sites open and function normally for the millions of tourists, students and vacationing families to visit, enjoy and marvel at their scenic beauty. We all take this for granted, as that is what we expect. However, this takes the combined effort of the 20,000 National Park employees and a volunteer force of 70,000 people. Several of our own group have done or are doing this volunteer work now. Ron and JoAnn Pippin are two of those and will be sharing some of their experiences with us, as well as explaining how you too can get involved in this most rewarding adventure. At the end of the session, you will be ready to pack your bags.

Place: Senior Center: Conference Room

Ultimate Africa: Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia

When: Monday, March 24, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Go on a virtual safari in three Southern African nations, learning about life in the wild and about the culture and customs of Botswanans, Zimbabweans, and Zambians. Sue Spirit and Marcia Hickman, two of our Lifelong Learners Program volunteers, have just returned from a trip there.

Place: Senior Center: Conference Room

Wine to Water—Fighting the World's Water Crisis & How Ordinary People Can Do Extraordinary Things

When: Tuesday, March 25, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Ms. Melissa Reavis will share with us the journey of the non-profit aid organization as it has focused on providing clean water to people in need around the world. Today, nearly 800 million people in the world lack access to adequate

water & 2.5 billion people lack access to improved sanitation. Wine to Water staff and volunteers are devoted to fighting this epidemic. Wine symbolizes fortune in our society. The goal of this organization is to give the fortunate population an opportunity to fight for those who can't fight for themselves.

Place: Senior Center: Conference Room

Fundamentalism: Faith or Fear?

When: Wednesday, March 26, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Rev. Tommy Brown returns to lead a conversation about global fundamentalism including the Christian fundamentalism in our country. As humanity evolves and the world changes, fundamentalists of all types anchor to concepts more political than theological.

Place: Senior Center: Conference Room

A Primer on Hinduism

When: Wednesday, April 2, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Dr. Sandie Gravett returns! This time to provide some history of the development of Hinduism as well as insight into its practices and traditions.

Place: Senior Center: Conference Room

Will Fracking Come to NC?

When: Thursday, April 3, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

In 2012, 2 dozen organizations formed the Frackfree NC Alliance, making presentations in over 40 NC counties so far. Recent polls indicate public opposition to fracking has grown quickly to a majority of state residents. Come and hear Nicole Delcogliano, an intern with Clean Water for North Carolina, tell us about some of the disastrous consequences of fracking in other states, where the shale basins are located in NC, and why it is in our best interests to leave shale gas in the ground in NC.

Place: Senior Center: Dining Room

The Truth of John Brown

When: Monday, April 7, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Dr. Lynne Getz is back with another fascinating look into our history. This time Dr. Getz will be talking about JOHN BROWN, a man of burning furor who made an indelible mark in history just prior to the Civil War. But who was this man and what was he like?

Place: Senior Center: Conference Room

Glen Burney Hike, Annie Cannon Gardens, and Lunch in Town

When: Tuesday, April 8, 10:00 am to 1:30 pm

Ancient Native trail winding along New Year's Creek in Blowing Rock, providing viewing access for 2 waterfalls. The 3.2 mile out and back trail descends some 800 feet and provides breathtaking vistas of two waterfalls, the Glen Burney (45') and the Glen Mary (55'). Fairly strenuous hiking back up. Join us in town for lunch after the hike.

Place: Meet in Cannon Garden parking area, 229 Laurel Lane, Blowing Rock. If this lot is full, there is a public parking garage across the street.

The State of Our Economy and the Economic Impact of the 2013 Shut-Down

When: Wednesday, April 9, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Dr. Stazicich is a professor of Economics at APP State and will start his program with a presentation about the recent state of the U.S. economy since the recent Great Recession of 2008. Then he will discuss the economic impact of the 2013 government shutdown and take questions.

Place: Senior Center: Conference Room

Encore Entrepreneurship in Watauga County

When: Tuesday, April 15, 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Evelyn Asher will provide an overview of entrepreneurship in Watauga County where the CCC&TI Small Business Center has enhanced its presence the past two years. Many retirees are looking to open a small business to augment income or just keep themselves in the business arena. Apropos to the scheduled date the SBC along with 57 others in the NCSBC Network works with business owners who are assigned by the Department of Revenue to learn how to manage their business more effectively. <http://www.sba.gov/encore> Evelyn Asher,

Director, Small Business Center Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute Corporate Continuing Education and Workforce Development.

Place: Senior Center: Dining Room

Great Stories of the Bible

When: Thursday, April 17, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Dr. Alan Hauser will guide us through several biblical stories as examples of outstanding literature: 1. Genesis 12, in which Abraham is first a man of great faith, and then a man of woefully inadequate faith. Sarah had to have her bags packed. 2. Genesis 22, in which Abraham comes within an inch of killing and sacrificing his son Isaac. No doubt it was a long time before Isaac was willing to go on another father/son outing. 3. Genesis 38, in which Tamar tricks her father-in-law Judah into getting her pregnant after her husband's demise. Was Judah the father or the grandfather? 4. The story in II Samuel 13 of David's son and heir, Amnon, raping his half-sister and then throwing her out. This is a masterwork of subtlety and allusion, as are so many biblical stories.

Place: Senior Center: Dining Room

Was the US Founded as a Christian Nation: An Historical Perspective? Dr. Josette Maxwell

When: Tuesday, April 22, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Fundamentalist Christians have proclaimed that, in fact, they did do so and, over time, we have fallen from the path. Thus, it is essential to restore the Christian nation we were meant to be. The most extreme believe that Biblical law ought to be the law of the land. This assertion has been countered by many, including by academic historians. For the most part, both sides kind of cherry pick their "facts". George Washington attended Church, therefore, he was a Christian. The counterargument: George Washington never took communion, so he wasn't a Christian, merely a husband accompanying his devout wife to church each Sunday. It is by understanding the context of the historical period that we come to be able to understand the real answer to the question, so we're going to look at the period called the enlightenment age, look at religious life in Colonial America, look at why people immigrated here and look at the documentary evidence.

Place: Senior Center: Classroom 3

National Committee for the New River—Mission and Function

When: Thursday, April 24, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm Join us as Carol Coulter, Director of Operations, National Committee for the New River, shares the mission of the organization in protecting the land along the River which is critical to preserving wildlife habitat, rare and endangered species, cornerstones of biodiversity, and working with private landowners to stabilize eroding stream banks and restore riparian buffers to prevent further erosion; and increasing citizens' capacity to defend and protect the New River watershed.

Place: Senior Center: Conference Room

Bio-archeology and the Indus Civilization: Tracing the evidence for social order, complexity, and collapse in the human skeletal remains from Harappa

When: Tuesday, April 29, 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Gwen Robbins-Schug, PhD, ASU, Department of Anthropology - The Indus place B.C.E. Archaeologists have struggled to understand the process of state formation, social organization, and the "collapse" of this ancient society. Dr. Robbins-Schug's presentation will cover archeological evidence & interpretations of Indus cities, including a description of the conflicting & controversial claims that have been made about the process of urbanization, social differentiation, and collapse. Dr. Robbins-Schug will describe new data from the human skeletal remains that, when combined with an analysis of mortuary practices, tell a compelling story about the social forces and biological challenges that shaped the collapse of this early state-level society and strongly challenge formulations of Indus Society as "peaceful" and "egalitarian".

Place: Senior Center

The Fall of the Berlin Wall, 1989

When: Thursday, May 1, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Rennie Brentz, PhD, Dept of History at ASU, will discuss the unexpected fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the collapse of communist party rule in East Germany, and factors leading to the end of the Cold War. In retrospect, this monumental event should not have come as a complete surprise to those familiar with life and politics in the German Democratic Republic. This presentation will examine the factors and forces within East Germany that brought down the GDR and opened the way for the downfall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.

Place: Senior Center: Dining Room

Linn Cove Viaduct Hike

When: Tuesday, May 6, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

The Linn Cove Viaduct on the Blue Ridge Parkway is an international engineering marvel. Watch a video of the construction of the Viaduct. Then take a pleasant walk under the viaduct where you can gaze at the amazing modern marvel of construction and hear the many cars traveling overhead. This very short hike is about 900 feet. You may opt to do a longer, more strenuous hike following this.

Place: Meet at Linn Cove Viaduct Visitors Center, milepost 304.6 on the Blue Ridge Parkway

An Introduction to East Asian Brush Painting

When: Thursday, May 8, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Dawn Wicklow will present a demonstration of East Asian Brush Painting. The demonstration will include: highlights on differences between Eastern and Western approaches to art; introduction to The Four Treasures, the ancient materials essential for painting which have remained the same for centuries; and demonstrations of the basic brush strokes of The Four Gentlemen which are Bamboo, Grass Orchid, Plum Blossom, and Chrysanthemum. Dawn's Bachelor of Arts degree, from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, was in music and most of her life was focused on performing and directing theatre and opera. But in April of 2012 Dawn's life was changed when she took her first art class. The class was in Chinese Brush Painting, taught by Sharon Bennett, who has become her mentor. Since then Dawn has taken additional workshops in Chinese Brush Painting taught by Master Chinese Painter, Yuming Zhu, and Chinese horse painting by Teri Chin.

Place: Senior Center: Classroom 3

A Visit to the White Tower Brewery at Appstate

When: Tuesday, May 13, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Craft beer brewing has taken hold in NC, which rates more such enterprises than any other state in the south. Join us on a tour of the facility at ASU where students learn the chemistry, art, and business of beer brewing, as part of the Fermentation Sciences program. Professor Brett Taubman will be our guide. Sampling provided!

Place: Please arrive 15 minutes early and park in the Conference Center lot (free parking). The brewery is located in the basement of the building. Enter through the main front doors.

Natural Approaches to Health and Life Extension

When: Tuesday, May 20, 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Come and hear Dr. Stuart Kaplan speak about the health benefits of his profession, chiropractic medicine, and his passion for yoga, which he has been practicing and teaching for many years. Learn how he has integrated both modalities in a practice that has helped thousands of his patients. He will teach us about the art, science and philosophy of chiropractic as well as demonstrate some yoga moves we can do from a seated position.

Place: Senior Center: Conference Room

BOOK TALK

When: Thursday, May 22, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Retired teacher, June Mann, invites you to bring your favorite recently read book and tell the group about it..what you liked, didn't like, what you might have changed if you were the author!