

**High Country Lifelong Learners Classes  
Summer 2014  
June, July, August**

**All classes meet in the Lois E. Harrill Senior Center  
Poplar Grove Connector, Boone, unless specified otherwise**

Every Wednesday from 9:00 am to noon: "Lifelong Painters." Leader: 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. Classroom 3.

**First 3 Mondays in June (9, 16, & 23): "Writing Your Life Workshop."** Come and join a group of folks who love to write. We will do lots of interesting writing exercises. Whether you want to write just for yourself, desire to put together stories of and for your family, or aim to be published, this group is for you. Classroom 1.

**Thursday, June 5, 2:00 to 3:30. "Wildflower and Fungi Fun."** Join Julie Mullis, a local naturalist, as she shares her love of wildflowers and fungi through lecture, Power Point and demonstration followed by a guided hike outside the center. Dining Room.

**Thursday, June 12, 2:00 to 3:30. "Hydrology of the New River."** Dr. William Anderson, Professor, ASU Department of Geology, will discuss the hydrology of the New River in light of the debate regarding the Boone Intake Project. Upstairs conference room.

**Tuesday, June 17, 2:00 to 3:30. "Book Discussion."** Retired teacher June Mann invites you to bring in your favorite recently read book and tell the group about it--what you liked, didn't like, and what you might have changed if you were the author. Upstairs conference room.

**Thursday, June 19, 1:00 to 2:30. "Blue Ridge Wildlife Institute Field Trip."** Join us for a tour of this wildlife rehabilitation center. Learn how their unique program helps injured animals and educates students in our community. See the amazing non-releasable animal ambassadors such as owls and hawks up close. Location: Daniel and Dianne May Wild Life Rehabilitation Center, Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, NC. Location on campus: behind the historic Mill Pond off Hickory Nut Gap Rd.

**Tuesday, June 24, 2:00 to 3:30. "Insight into Genesis."** Dr. Alan Hauser presents "May I have your son back?" God reneges on his promise to Abraham, and the tension mounts in one of the best known stories in Genesis. The characters, their emotions, and their dialogue are brilliantly written, yet powerfully

terse and subtle, with Abraham hoping beyond hope, Isaac trusting but inquisitive, and God hovering enigmatically in the background. Will Isaac ever go on another outing with his father? Upstairs conference room.

**Thursday, June 26, 2:00 to 3:30. “The Role of Women, Their History, and Predictions for the Future.”** Our own Kathy Schoenhals will share her research regarding the role of women, their past, and what the future holds for them. Upstairs conference room.

**Tuesday, July 1, 2:00 to 3:30. “The Reverend Tommy Brown discusses Post-Modernity.”** **Post Modernity:** The as yet unnamed age in which we live. Rev. Brown will delve into more specifics about how Post Modernity is defined. What are the dynamics of this age and how does it impact and express itself in culture, religion, politics, arts, etc.? The current age may come to be known by another name in the future but for now it is commonly referenced as to what it is not (modern). This fact in itself is very post-modern as it is uncertain and perhaps unclear. Come and discern what we might know of the times in which we live. Upstairs conference room.

**Thursday, July 10, 2:00 to 3:30. “The Truth of John Brown.”** 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, what was he like? Upstairs conference room.

**Tuesday, July 15, 10:00 to 11:30. “A Visit to the Valle Crucis Pond-to-Wetlands Project.”** We welcome back Wendy Patoprsty, Naturalist Extraordinaire, to view and understand why a pond was built near the Watauga River about 25-30 years ago, problems that arose after its construction, and how and why it is currently being converted into a wetlands habitat. Learn about adjacent riverbank stabilization, floodplain facts, healthy riparian vegetation vs. invasive plants, and aquatic life and birds in these habitats. Bring a lunch or food to share for a picnic afterwards (picnic tables and restrooms on site). Location: Valle Crucis Community Park (ample free parking), <http://www.vallecrucispark.com/directions/>

**Wednesday, July 16, 2:00 to 3:30. “What Does the Geologist See?”** Join us as Dr. Fred Webb, ASU Professor of Geology, Retired, shares with us what he and his colleagues see when they are in the field. Upstairs conference room.

**Tuesday, July 22, 9:30 to 11:30. “Linn Cove Viaduct and Hike.”** 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.

Meet at Linn Cove Viaduct Visitors Center, milepost 304.4 on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

**Thursday, July 24, 2:00 to 3:30. "Dr. Sandie Gravett Discusses Buddhism."**

Dr. Gravett continues her discussion of world religions, this time about Buddhism. We will focus on some of the key ideas such as suffering, desire, nirvana and impermanence. There are many Buddhist traditions and we cannot get to them all, but we will trace out some of the major ones including a look at Tibetan Buddhism and the Dalai Lama. Upstairs conference room.

**Tuesday, July 29, 2:00 to 3:30. "Book Discussion."** Retired teacher June Mann invites you to bring in your favorite recently read book and tell the group about it--what you liked, didn't like, and what you might have changed if you were the author. Upstairs conference room.

**Tuesday, August 5, 2:00 to 3:30. "Privacy in the Age of Genomics."** Dr. Kenneth Shull, ASU, Department of Biology, Retired will share with us his insights into the human genome project, genetic engineering of humans & other organisms, reproduction & new technology, and basic genetics and risk assessment. Classroom 3.

**Thursday, August 7, 2:00 to 3:30. "Recycling in Appalachian Prehistory."**

Dr. Thomas Whyte returns! Recycling behaviors are as old as the hills. Dr. Whyte will discuss evidence of the finding and re-use of items in the Appalachian region during prehistoric times. Dining room.

**Tuesday, August 12, 2:00 to 3:30. "Was the US Founded as a Christian Nation?"**

Dr. Josette Maxwell will be our presenter: 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 academic historians. For the most part, both sides 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 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. Upstairs conference room.

**Thursday, August 14, 9:30 to 12:30. "Glen Burney Hike from Annie Cannon Gardens, Blowing Rock, Followed by Lunch in Town."**

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. Parking: We'll meet in Cannon Gardens parking area, 229 Laurel Lane, Blowing Rock. If this lot is full, there is a larger public parking garage across the street.

**Thursday, August 21, 2:00 to 3:30. "Book Discussion."** Sue Spirit invites you to bring in your favorite recently read book and tell the group about it--what you liked, didn't like, and what you might have changed if you were the author. Dining room.

**Wednesday, August 27, 2:00 to 3:30. "Issues Pertaining to the Mental Health of Today's School Children."** Dr. Jim Deni of ASU's Dept. of Psychology, and a trainer of school psychologists, will discuss mental health and behavioral issues relevant to school children today, and the impact these issues have on the health and safety of other children, their families and communities. Prof Deni will address critical questions such as: What is the connection between bullying and the incomprehensible school violence we hear about all too often? How has the training of school psychologists changed to meet this new challenge? The role of parents and grandparents in recognizing behaviors that could escalate into something dangerous and what to do. What are the keys to success, from a psychological standpoint, and broadly defined, for young people today? And is it harder to be a kid today than when we were kids? Upstairs conference room.