

On The Vine

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CAROLINA WINE COUNTRY NEWS

MAY-JUNE 2008

Finally

Festival Season

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GOING GREEN

WITH THE RED AND WHITE ENVIRONMENTAL
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On The Vine

PUBLISHER
Ty Ransdell

CONTRIBUTORS
Lonnie Adamson, Editor
Julia Bank, Wine Writer

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Missy Casstevens
Ellen James
Meka Newman
Bobby Hemric

ADVERTISING
DIRECTOR

Wanda Walls

ADVERTISING
INQUIRIES

(336) 835-1513

onthevine@yadkinvalley.com

On The Vine

P.O. Box 1009

Elkin, NC 28621

www.yadkinvalley.com

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COVER

Art direction by Julia Bank, photography by Lonnie Adamson. Wines were provided by area vineyards and good times were had by all.

Festival season is here — enjoy!



Ty Ransdell

The Yadkin Valley has a lot to offer, and with spring arriving, the opportunities get even better.

Spring in the valley is the time of blooming flowers, warmer temperatures, fresh air and wine festivals, not to mention the breaking of the new buds for the 2008 vintage of wine.

It is a time we have come to anticipate blankets on a winery's grassy hill side and jazz or beach music playing in the background.

Ahhh, springtime.

You'll find a number of fun springtime events highlighted in this edition of On the Vine.

There is Salute! The North Carolina Wine Celebration in Downtown Winston-Salem, May 10.

One of our favorites is Elkin's 7th annual Yadkin Valley Wine Festival May 17.

You will find over 20 participating vineyards and you are sure to find a good time in The Yadkin Valley.

In Elkin and Jonesville you are in the heart of the state's only AVA and will experience fine wine, food, art and entertainment.

The nightlife is easy paced. You'll find yourself in a crowd of 10,000 or more on that day more than doubling the population of Elkin but don't expect a huge traffic jam. After all these two communities don't even

experience a rush hour.

You will receive a home style meal from our area restaurants and a friendly atmosphere that is Mayberry style. You won't find a lot of the same big-name chain restaurants that you would find in Charlotte or Raleigh, but you will definitely find a variety of unique eateries.

You can expect a friendly reception in area restaurants and accommodations.

You will likely find that the wine festival is a good opportunity to taste the variety that the Yadkin Valley has to offer, and you will also likely spot other activities to pursue on a different weekend in Elkin.

The area will offer entertainment, hiking at a variety of state parks and the arts.

Please come back.

The North Carolina Wine Festival at Tanglewood Park in Clemmons May 31 will offer a different venue and another mix of vineyards for tasting.

Spring is also the time to visit vineyards individually. That will offer the chance for a look at some of the prettiest spots in the state and most vineyards offer entertainment on spring and summer weekends.

Bring your thirst for fine wine, hunger for a good meal and love of beautiful places.

It can be a relaxing time not all that far from home.

Toast. 🍷



Photo by Lonnie Adamson

What do YOU think?

We want to hear from you.

Please let us know about your favorite wine experience and send us your photos from fun North Carolina events.

Email

onthevine@yadkinvalley.com



Sampling the vine



Aerial shot of the 2007 Yadkin Valley Wine Festival



The following events are scheduled for May at Vineyards and Wineries across North Carolina

May 5-6: "Art On the Haw River Wine Trail", a two day art and wine tour, combining winery tasting and tours with fine art demonstrations and sales. Saturday, 5/5 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 5/6 from 12 Noon - 6 p.m. The event is a unique approach to the traditional artist studio tours where the venues are the five artisan wineries, Benjamin Vineyards, GlenMarie, Grove and Iron Gate. Each site will host artists who will be showcasing and selling a selection of the area's most creative works. In addition to wine tasting and winery tours, there will be music and opportunities for visitors to view art and craft demonstrations. 336-376-1080.

May 10: RagApple Lassie Vineyards and Winery. Picnic on the lawn while watching the classic movie, CASABLANCA under the stars. Chef Sheri Castle of Chapel Hill will prepare, as you watch and learn, a special Gourmet Picnic for you to enjoy as you watch Casablanca under the stars. Sheri, is not only an outstanding chef but royally entertains you as well. \$40 per person, includes recipes, Gourmet Picnic and one glass of wine and the movie. Cooking Class begins at 6 p.m. or be there for the movie at 8:30. Admission for the movie is only \$10. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, in case of rain, everything will move inside. 336-367-6000.

May 10: Salute! The NC Wine Celebration, Downtown Winston-Salem, Winston-Salem. Noon-6 p.m. Enjoy wine tasting offered by many of NC finest wineries, music and cuisine from Winston-Salem restaurants. Toll free: 866-728-4200.

May 10: Chateau Morrisette: 287 Wenery Rd, SW, Floyd, Va. Come to the Wildwoods. Guided hike and Gourmet Lunch. Learn first hand about our local history, haunts, mysteries and wildflowers while you explore a moderate trail in the Blue Ridge. We'll pick you up and return you to the winery for a three course gourmet lunch. \$45. per person, reservations required. Seating limited to 12. 9:30-2 p.m. For more information, call 540-593-2865.

May 10-11: "An Explosion of Flavors" for Mother's Day, at Benjamin Vineyards & Winery. A wine and chocolate sample pairing of our wines with chocolates from Matthew's Chocolates of Hillsborough. Matthew is making select chocolates just for this occasion. If you haven't tasted the goodies from this new shop, you should definitely take this opportunity. Cost is \$6 per person. Please call for reservations. 336-376-1080.

May 11: Childress Vineyards Mother's Day Grand Buffet, The Bistro is now accepting reservations for the Mother's Day Grand Buffet. The service is by reservation only at one of three seatings: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m., 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Call or email Amber Rose by May 7, 336-236-9463, ext. 316 or, rose@childressvineyards.com. \$25 per person - ages 6-12 \$12.

May 11: Chateau Morrisette, Mother's Day Luncheon. Show mom your everlasting love with a tribute of lunch from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Reservations recommended. The Winery will also be open during these

hours and tours with tastings are scheduled at noon, 2 and 4 p.m. Call 540-593-2865 for more info/reservations.

May 16: Grove Winery, 7360 Brooks Bridge Road, Gibsonville. Wine & Song w/ Lee Tyler Post. Grove is open daily, Mon.-Sat. Noon-5 p.m., & Sun. 1-5 p.m. Call 336-584-4060 for more information.

May 17: Yadkin Valley Wine Festival, Elkin Municipal Park and Recreation Center, 116 East Market St., Elkin. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. The festival is free and open to the public, including families with children. Vendor displays and entertainment will be available. Food and non-wine beverages will be available for purchase. Wine tasters must be at least 21 years of age. Advance tickets (required for wine tasting only), call for more information and pricing. 336-526-1111 or 336-526-1298.

May 17: Silver Coast Winery, located at 6680 Barbeque Road, Ocean Isle Beach is hosting a Beach Music Blast. Polish up those Shag Shoes. Beach music is fun for everyone. The headline entertainment for the day will be one of the hottest Beach Bands around, "Greg Mosley and the Carolina Players", nominated for 2 CBMA awards. Call 910-287-2800 for more information.

May 17: Westbend Vineyards Grand Opening Celebration of the Joel Benjamin Hauser House at Westbend. 1-5 p.m. Come enjoy food, fun, and festivities. Price of admission includes 1 glass of wine, Pioneer Red or Pioneer White and 1 plate of food. Music by Jam Master J. Advance ticket sales are \$20. At the gate \$25. Call 336-945-5032 for more information. Westbend Vineyards is located at 5394 Williams Road, Lewisville. U.S. 421, Exit 246; 140, exit 174, follow signs.

May 23: Grove Winery, Gibsonville, Six Course Wine Dinner. Call 336-584-4060 for more information.

May 24: Mountain Mama Madness at Stonefield Cellars Winery, 8220 NC Hwy 68 N, Stokesdale. Want to improve your fiddling technique, learn to sing harmony, expand your folk/old time/country song list, or just come out to hear great neo-traditional music? Polecat Creek artists will be conducting fiddling and singing workshops followed by a concert at the winery. Choose one or more of these activities-prices are a la carte. Workshop will be limited, sign up early. Deadline for workshop registration is Tues., 5/20. Registration requires advance payment. This will be a rain or shine event. Fiddle workshop, led by Natalya Weinstein, 1-2 p.m. \$20. Singing Workshop, led by Kari Sikenberger and Laurelyn Dossett, \$20. Polecat Creek Concert 4-6 p.m., \$20 advance, \$25 at door. Special Edition Mountain Mama Madness wines will be released. Call 336-644-9908 to sign up for workshops or purchase advance concert tickets.

May 24: Toast to the Coast Wine Festival, 1st Annual. Hugh MacRae Park, Oleander Drive and College Road, Wilmington. The event will showcase the diverse styles of sixteen wineries, savory local cuisine and live musical entertainment. The festivities will commence for VIP guests at 11 a.m. as the vibrant rhythms of the Sea Pans set the

tone for the day. The gates will open to general ticket holders at noon and the Cosmic Groove Lizards will take the stage at 1:30 p.m. The final performance, consisting of the soulful tunes of Jim Quick & Coastline, will begin at 4 p.m. and run through the festival's conclusion at 6 p.m. A silent auction will run throughout the course of the event.

May 24: Westbend Vineyards Vintage BMW Car Rally 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Vintage BMW cars from around the country will be on exhibit on the grounds of the vineyards. Enjoy an afternoon of Bavarian fun, food and music and the beautiful cars. Free Admission. Tasting and Tours will be available.

May 24: Chateau Morrisette: Cinema Morrisette presents "Some Like It Hot". A movie on the winery lawn. Flamboyant Chicago and glitzy Miami Beach in 1929. Admission is \$5 per person. Sat., 8:30 p.m. The grill will be open selling sandwiches, popcorn, snacks, beverages and wine. Bring your own blanket or seating. Picnics, coolers or outside food and beverages are not permitted. Call 540-593-2865 for more info.

May 25: Chateau Morrisette: Spring Winemakers' Dinner. A selection of rural recipes from different regions of the world will be complemented by our award winning wines. Guests for the Winemakers' dinner will experience a diverse culinary journey of hearty dishes. Our neighbors at Foggy Ridge Cider will present serious cider and food pairings from the Normandy region of France. Reservations must be made by phone, pre payment is required. Five course dinner and wine: \$95 per person. 7 p.m. Call 540-593-2865.

May 26: Grove Winery, 7360 Brook's Bridge Road, Gibsonville, NC, Memorial Day Song Bear Music Festival. Call 336-584-4060 for more information.

May 26: Chateau Morrisette: Memorial Day. Our restaurant will be serving lunch on Monday, May 26, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The winery and gift shop will be open from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and tours will be held at 11, 1, and 3 p.m. Call 540-593-2865 for more info.

May 26: Raffaldini Vineyards, 450 Groce Road, Ronda, Memorial Celebration 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 336-835-9463 for more information.

May 31: 8th Annual North Carolina Wine Festival, Tanglewood Park, 4061 Clemmons Road, Clemmons, NC 12 Noon- 6:30 p.m. This festival favorite allows participants to taste and purchase favorite vintages from NC wineries and was approved as NC's First American Viticultural Area. Will feature Chairmen of the Board, 336-733-5836. A large selection of crafts, food, wine and fun.

The following events are scheduled for June at Vineyard's and Winery's across North Carolina



June 7: Duplin Winery, 505 N. Sycamore St., Rose Hill. Showtime, Join us for an evening of music, comedy and dance as Down Home Country takes to the stage with their brand new musical variety show. From country to classic rock-n-roll, from gospel to bluegrass, it's family entertainment at its finest. \$41. per person. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. Add the tour package for an additional \$2 and join us at 3:30 for a production tour and wine tasting. 910-289-3888, toll-free 800-774-9634.

June 8: Weathervane Winery: Anticipated opening date of tasting room. The hours will be Friday's 2-5 p.m. and Saturday's, 1-5 p.m., with appointments for other times available. Check for updates at www.weathervanewinery.com.

June 14: RagApple Lassie Vineyards and Winery: Vineyard Hayride Tours and Summer Music Jam. Hop atop a hay bale for a full hour's tour through the RagApple Lassie Vineyards. Owner, Frank Hobson will be your guide as you learn the different leaf shapes, the 'secret' way a vine says it's thirsty and you might just get to meet Ragapple's Ghost: Princess Patricia Bunco.

June 14: Stonefield Cellars, Soup and Sing 6:30-11 p.m. This is an 'after hours' affair. Reservations for soup and sing are required. Cost: Covered dish item. Wine will be available for purchase by the glass/bottle during this time. This is a combination potluck dinner, open-mike, jam session, and folk gathering that harkens back to a time when there were no radios or TVs and music was what we made together, face to face, an essential part of our soul as necessary as the food that nourished our bodies. Call to RSVP, Natalie Wurz at 336-644-9908 or email nwurz@stonefieldcellars.com.

June 14: Arts By The Sea; Swansboro, NC. Bannerman Vineyard will be on hand.

June 14-15: Grove Winery: Father's Day Wine & Cheese Tasting. Call 336-584-4060 for more information.

June 14-15: Chateau Morrisette: Wine and Cider, Beer and Mead. Chateau Morrisette, Villa Appalachia, Blacksnake Meadery, AmRhein Wine Cellars, Foggy Ridge Cider and Shooting Creek Farm Brewery collaborate to present a progressive food and drink pairing. Travel with a handy map to each site for selected food and beverage pairings enhanced by expert advice on flavor combinations. Purchase \$30 tickets in advance by phone or at any one of the participating locations Sat. 11 a.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 1 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 540-593-2865.

June 15: Chateau Morrisette: Father's Day Luncheon. Show how you appreciate Dad by treating him to brunch or lunch at our restaurant 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. Reservations recommended. From 1-4 p.m., enjoy live music on the lawn where an open grill will be available for outdoor food and drink purchases.

June 20: Grove Winery: Wine & Song w/The Pagan Hellcats. Call 336-584-4060 for more information.

June 21: Duplin Winery, 505 N. Sycamore St., Rose Hill, Celebrity! In tribute to the stars of yesterday and today, Celebrity brings to the stage some of America's favorite superstars. Join us

for an evening of family fun and entertainment as we pay homage to the music of Elvis Presley, Rod Stewart, Patsy Cline, Cher and more. \$41 per person. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. Add the tour package for an additional \$2 and join us at 3:30 for a production tour and wine tasting. 910-289-3888, toll-free 800-774-9634.

June 21: Dennis Vineyards Winery, 24043 Endy Road, Albemarle. Author Joseph Mills will be at the Vineyard from 1 - 4 p.m. for a book signing for both his new book "Angels, Thieves and Winemakers", as well as his second edition of "A Guide to North Carolina Wineries". For more information go to www.dennisvineyards.com or call 704-982-6090.

June 21: Raffaldini Vineyards, 450 Groce Road, Ronda, NC Four Seasons Wine Tasting Dinners 6 -9 p.m. Call 336-835-9463 for more information.

June 21: NC Blueberry Festival, Burgaw, NC. Bannerman Vineyard will be on hand.

June 28: Brushy Mountain Winery, 125 West Main St., Elkin, NC. "Louise Mayberry Memorial Event". 12 noon until 6 p.m., featuring the art of her grandson, Richard, and the release of our new dessert wine, 'Sweet Lou.' Music and food in the barrel room and alley way.

June 28: Raffaldini Vineyards: Wine and Roses. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 336-835-9463 for more information.

To List An Event, Email To: onthevine@yadkinvalley.com

The Five W's of Wine Festivals Salute! North Carolina Wine Festival 3rd Annual

When: Saturday May 10, Noon-6 p.m.

Where: Downtown Winston-Salem, Winston-Salem NC

What: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Musical entertainment by Double Take, Carnavalito and The Sleeping Booty Band, food vendors, interactive educational NC wine area. Wine maker dinner pairings with local wineries and restaurants will take place Friday May 9.

Who's coming: Allison Oaks Vineyard; Biltmore Wines; Duplin Vineyards; Chateau Laurinda; Childress Vineyards; Dennis Vineyards; Davesté Vineyards; Flint Hill Vineyards; Grassy Creek Vineyards; Hanover Park Vineyards; Junius Lindsay Vineyards; Owl's Eye Vineyard; Raffaldini Vineyards; RayLen Vineyards; Rendezvous Ridge; Rock of Ages Winery and Vineyard; Rocky River Vineyards; Round Peak Vineyards; Shelton Vineyards; Stonefield Cellars Winery; Stony Mountain Vineyards; Thistle Meadow Winery; Uwharrie Vineyards; Weathervane Winery.

Website: www.salutencwine.com

Yadkin Valley Wine Festival 7th Annual

When: Saturday May 17, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Where: Elkin Municipal Park and Recreation Center, Elkin NC

What: \$16 in advance, \$20 at the door. Wine tasting, grape stomp, crafts, vendor displays, entertainment, live music by Natty Boh Duo and Part Time Party Time Band

Who's Coming: Allison Oaks Vineyards; Benny Parsons Rendezvous Ridge; Black Wolf Vineyards; Brushy Mountain Winery; Buck Shoals Vineyards; Elkin Creek Vineyard; Flint Hill Vineyards; Grassy Creek Vineyard; Hannover Park Vineyard; McRitchie Winery & Ciderworks; Old North State Winery; Raffaldini Vineyards; Rag Apple Lassie Vineyards; RayLen Vineyards; Round Peak Vineyards; Stony Knoll Vineyards; Weathervane Winery; Chatham Hill Winery; Shelton; Sanders Ridge Vineyard; Devine Llama; Native Vines Winery; Devesté Vineyards.

Website: www.yvfw.com

*Two ATMs will be available outside at the festival this year. The festival is open to children and adults, food and non-wine beverages will be available at the park.

North Carolina Wine Festival 8th Annual

When: Saturday, May 31, Noon- 6:30 p.m.

Where: Tanglewood Park, Clemmons N.C.

What: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Musical entertainment by The Plaids, Chairmen of the Board, The Fairlanes. Crafts, foods, displays and fun.

Who's Coming: Allison Oaks Vineyard; Amber Crest Winery; Autumn Creek Vineyards; Benny Parsons Rendezvous Ridge; Brushy Mountain Winery; Buck Shoals Vineyards; Cellar 4201 Vineyard; Cerminaro Vineyards; Chateau Laurinda; Chatham Hill Winery; Childress Vineyards; Dennis Vineyards; Duplin Winery; Flint Hill Vineyards; Hinnant Family Vineyards; Lake James Cellars & Winery; Lumina Winery; Native Vines Winery; Owl's Eye Vineyard; RainTree Cellars; Rock of Ages Winery; Rocky River Vineyards; Round Peak; Stony Mountain Vineyards; Surry Community College Winery; Thistle Meadow Winery; Uwharrie Vineyards; Waldensian Heritage Wines; Weathervane Winery.

Website: www.ncwinefestival.com

Virginia Happening Wine, Beer, Cider and Mead, Oh My!

When: Saturday June 14, 11 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. & Sunday June 15, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Where: Château Morrisette, Floyd, Va.

What: \$30 tickets. Live music. Progressive food and drink pairings with advice on flavor combinations.

Who's Coming: Château Morrisette; Villa Appalachia; Blacksnake Meadery; AmRhein Wine Cellars; Shooting Creek Farm Brewery; Foggy Ridge Cider

Website: www.chateaumorrisette.com

Festival Forget Me Nots from On the Vine:

You must have proper photo identification showing that you are at least 21 years-old. Ticket sales cheaper in advance. Most festivals do not allow outside coolers, food and beverages. You may bring blankets and lawn chairs. Most festivals have space to check purchased wines. No pets are allowed.

The Test of Taste

Yadkin Valley Chambourcins meet the On The Vine panel of tasters

By Julia Bank

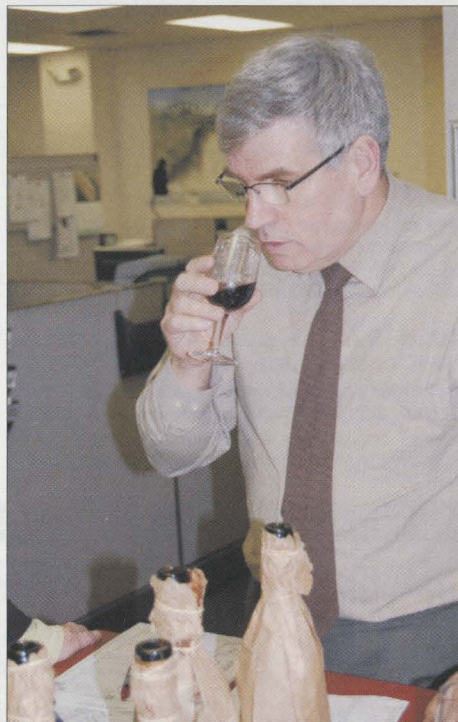
Pick a friend, admired community member, or after-hours worker and open a bottle of wine. Or in our case, open six.

That's what we did when area vineyards kindly sent us bottles of their best Chambourcin for our first 2008 On the Vine wine tasting. Like many, we are learning, through experience—the only teacher—what it is that North Carolina wines have to offer.

Chambourcin is a French-American hybrid that has been touted by some as a mid-Atlantic wonder. Its disease resistant, vigorous growth cycle weathers our sometimes swampy exteriors.

But there is a stigma behind hybrids. The French won't even allow them to be a part of their finest of labels.

But North Carolina producers have seen there are certain advantages to a grape that can handle our climate, soil and as we would find out, our sometimes younger and pickier pallet.



Paul Gulley examines the nose of a Chambourcin wine.

There are plenty of people in North Carolina that are wine experts, and almost all of them are eager to share their wine knowledge with those of us who aren't.

Our tasting began with a youngish wine crowd and not just a few self-proclaimed beer drinkers. But all of us are enthusiastic, all of us North Carolinians, and all of us willing to try a new flavor.

With that in mind our Chambourcin tasting began.

All six of the bottles were brown bagged ahead of time. No peaking. We numbered each bag, switched them all around, switched them again, put out waters and cheese and began to pour.

Chambourcin has had many descriptors, marked fruity, floral and spicy notes among them.

Barrel aging seemed to be a theme in our North Carolina samplings for the lower natural tannins that we encountered. Aside from that, each wine was as different from the next as it could be.

Fruit seemed to prevail over spice to the perception of our tasters, but those fruity flavors ranged from a plum to cherry raspberry and even an occasional banana, as out of left field as that might seem.

The contestants, most of them Yadkin Valley wineries, included Black Wolf, two different vintages from Flint Hill (2005 and 2006), a Westbend Vineyard, Stony Knoll and, newest to the area, a naked contestant from Calaboose Cellars in Andrews, N.C.

Our judges, were Elkin residents and artists, Josh Key and Justin Lanier; Margaret Griffin, Foothills Arts Council assistant director and film producer; Paul Gulley, a physician, and an artist, Anne Gulley, Misty Matthews, chamber of commerce executive assistant and our own after-hours crew of On the Vine workers, Wanda Walls, Terry Pardue, Julia Bank, and Publisher, Ty Ransdell.

After careful consideration based on color, aroma, taste, and complexity we chose our winners.

First place went to Stony Knoll's 2005 Chambourcin with a smooth earthen caramel finish preceded by notes of rich currant and berries.

Second and third places went to Flint Hill bottles of Chambourcin, our preference going to the 2006 vintage over the 2005.

The 2006 Flint Hill Chambourcin gave us raspberry and cranberry tones with a com-

plex smooth dark cherry chocolate finish. The 2005 vintage seemed to have lost much of its fruity characteristics in the aging, though as a whole it was still deemed well-balanced by most.

Black Wolf's 2006 and Westbend's 2006 Chambourcin were appealing to some, but did not garner as many points in our comparisons.

Wine tasting is hardly ever unanimous however and there were tasters for each who picked them as firsts.

Our sneak-peek at Calaboose Cellar's sample came in a naked bottle without vintage information. It was a blend of American Oak and un-oaked Chambourcin with a 1 percent residual sugar that made it Wanda's personal pick and proved that Chambourcin could be thought of in dessert capacities with its banana aroma and undertone, tasters considered it with a chocolate dessert.

Our six samples aren't the only Chambourcins out there. We anticipate seeing a lot more of them and encourage red wine drinkers of any experience level to give them a try. The fruit forward nature makes for an easy transitional wine and an interesting pairing with food.

In July, On the Vine will feature comparisons of Viognier from the Valley.

Barbara Ensrud of Wine Wise

“ I think Chambourcin is a very useful grape for North Carolina and mid-Atlantic growing regions. It can make a good red in years when ripeness and acidity are in balance. Sometimes it comes across as too tart for many wine drinkers.

It can be especially useful in blends with other red varieties to add acidity where needed and to add color. Some wineries have been very successful in using it that way.

Another use of Chambourcin could be in making dry rosés, bleeding off free run juice when it has a touch of color, thus concentrating the remaining juice for red wine. Dry pink wines are becoming more popular all the time, and since yields are sometimes high, this could be a good use of part of the crop.

It's possible, too, that as the vines mature they will give more interesting character. All in all, I think it is a good variety to grow in North Carolina. ”





Elkin Creek Bar & Grille, Bridge Street in Elkin



The Bar & Grille's sister restaurant, Kitchen at Elkin Creek, located at the Winery on Carter mill Road.

Tastes of the town — new flavors

By Julia Bank

Elkin has some new flavors in town to offer tourists on the wine trail. Three well known restaurant venues have undergone major changes in past months, drawing new crowds and old into the area.

New owners have purchased the old McGees on Main property, a restaurant space that has seen several fine dining establishment's reincarnations. Two couples, Matthew and Emily Morrison joined up with Jeffery Gibbs and Erika Bullock, to purchase the building and start their own restaurant planning on American cuisine

with creative additions like tapas, sushi and game.

Both couples are from the Charleston, S.C. restaurant business where they have a history in the food and beverage industry. Owner Jeffery Gibbs will be the executive chef, his fiancé Erika Bullock will run the bar and beverage side.

The couples first visited the restaurant when it was Fill in the Gap and Morrison said they had a pleasant time dancing and enjoying the outdoor music. They hope to incorporate music into their restaurant as well as on and off-site catering. Since their

first initial visit they have been attending every Elkin Wine Festival in May as well as other local wine events.

"The most important thing is that we would like to offer a fine dining experience without the high prices," Morrison said. "We want to make smart choices to minimize costs like using local resources for produce, game and wine."

The building has had a long history in downtown Elkin starting with its construction in 1896. Previous owners include King and Greenwood, Holcomb Brothers Wholesale Grocery, Casstevens Hardware,

and, most recently, under Thomas Mendolia, the historic building was converted into a restaurant.

The Kitchen at Elkin Creek is not new to Elkin, but will be under the influence of a new chef, newly hired Ben Vance. Mark Greene, owner of Elkin Creek Kitchen and Vineyards, described Vance's influence as a Mediterranean and French style. He found Vance amidst resumes from all over the country, including three from California.

"It really, really surprised me," Greene said. "It indicates that people want to come into our emerging wine scene."

Greene said that he was hoping to find someone with a local background for the restaurant and found it in Vance who previously worked at popular restaurant Sixth and Main in Wilkesboro.

"He really fit the bill," Greene said of the Wilkes County native. "We are lucky to have found him."

Vance was a graduate of the Culinary program at Wilkes Community College and went on to work overseas, Greene said.

"Ben varies the menu every week based on what's available and freshest," Greene said of their menu plans.

They are planning on making more of the brick oven pizzas that Greene says have been doing well with local traffic during



Twenty One and Main at the corner of U.S. 21 and Main Street in Elkin.

their lunch and dinner hours.

What was the Cimarron Steakhouse on North Bridge Street, has become a sports

bar, Elkin Creek Bar & Grille, under the ownership of father and son team, Mark and Matthew Greene of Elkin Creek Vineyard.

Matthew Greene will be managing the restaurant and helped create their new menu with head chef George Elefantis. "We don't just have short order cooks working here. George is a trained chef originally from Winston-Salem, relocating to the wine region."

The menu features a wide variety of appetizers, entrees, salads and sandwiches with a few out of the ordinary dishes like Gator Bites—deep-fried Cajun alligator.

Wine, beer and mixed drinks will be served. Greene expanded the old Cimarron bar layout, pushing the bar section further into the restaurant area. A 100-inch high-def TV was added along with two LCD monitors. They will play big games and requested sporting events.

For those who aren't sports entertainment fans, Greene expects that live bands and d.j. events will draw crowds. "A lot of people wanted to know if we would still have a karaoke night here, so we are looking for a top-notch new machine," said Matthew Greene.

WINE AND DINE

Your guide to dining in the Yadkin Valley...

SNICKERDOODLES

Espresso Bar & Cafe

Featuring Yadkin Valley Wines
Beer & Mixed Beverages
Light Fare Menu

Open 7 Days a Week

226 West Main St., Downtown Elkin
(336) 835-6500

Mazzini's Family
Italian Restaurant

1521 N. Bridge Street Elkin
526-7400 • Fax 526-4800

Come & Enjoy a Relaxing Dinner
after your day at
The Yadkin Valley Wine Festival

Open 11 am daily
Close 9 pm Sun.-Thurs.
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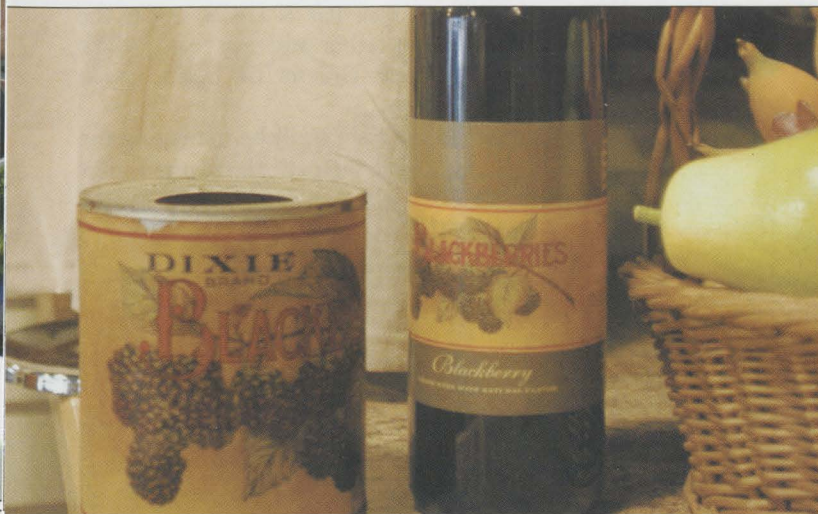
- Outdoor Kitchens
- Outdoor Fireplaces
- Rinnia Tankless Water Heaters
- Gas Lights

G&B ENERGY YADKIN VALLEY LOCATIONS

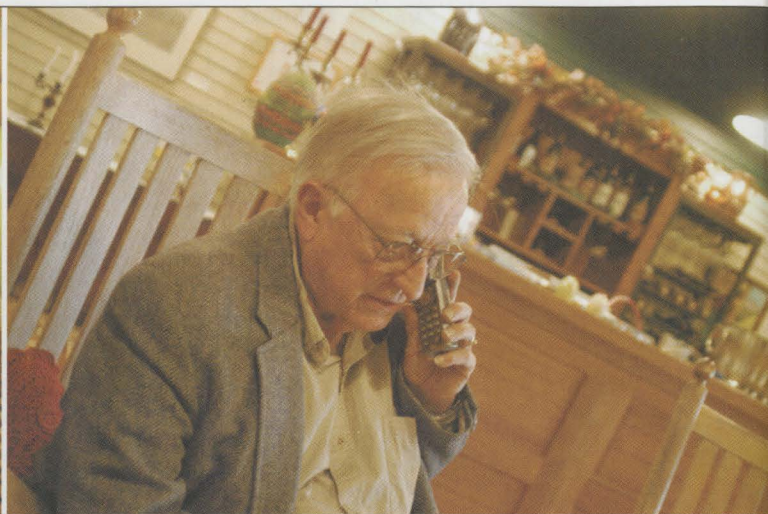
Elkin	N. Bridge St.	336.835.3607
Pilot Mountain	Hwy 268 E	336.368.3678
Millers Creek	Hwy 16 N	336.973.2411
Advance	Hwy 801 N	336.998.9748

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Wine labels harken back to a family-run cannery.



Matthew Mayberry handling the details of running a winery

Another project out of the blue

By Lonnie Adamson

Most people wouldn't expect a man in his retirement years to be starting a new business. — much less a ground-up winery in a new market.

Matthew Mayberry isn't just an average guy, however. And his family isn't typical either.

But when the inspiration comes in whole, out of the blue, Mayberry decided he should listen to the force that was sending

the message.

He calls it an epiphany.

Mayberry, who had traveled the world with wife Ann as a geologist in the petroleum industry, had settled back in Elkin, his home territory.

He was selling real estate, specializing in vineyard property in the emerging wine industry in 2004. His training in geology offered special abilities for he real estate business, allowing him to judge a vineyard's potential by the lay of the land.

"I thought if I was going to be in the wine business, I should take a course," Mayberry said. He is a well-studied individual and avid reader.

He took a basic course on vineyard management from the Surry Community College viticulture program.

Then the idea for what was to become

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Spring 2008**

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Downtown Elkin
www.twentyoneandmain.com
Executive Chef Jeff Gibbs

Brushy Mountain Winery developed itself. "It came to me in totally complete and unexpected," he said. "The idea exploded in my mind — all aspects, this building, what it could do for the family.

Family is another important part of the Brushy Mountain Winery story.

It developed as a family project with the investment divided five ways between Mayberry, Ann, their two sons and Mayberry's mother, Lousie.

Louise Mayberry took to the idea quickly, he said. Over the next year and a half, they took a family-owned building and turned it into a unique downtown Elkin winery.

Mayberry's real estate office was upstairs.

The family began making plans to turn the street level into a comfortable tasting room that is decorated with local art rotated in and out on a regular basis.

The building was an important part of the epiphany. It provided a unique downtown setting and a built-in wine cellar in the basement.

Production goes on there and the sweet smell of fermenting grapes wafts up the stairs through the tasting room.

Uniqueness has been a key in Brushy Mountain's first two years. The winery's second birthday will come Oct. 13.

Mayberry credits Sean McRitchie with much of the wine's success. McRitchie is winemaker for several wineries in the state and the Yadkin Valley and uses his art developed over 30 years to bring out unique qualities for each operation.

The family's creativity has led to development of such wines as Bugaboo Creek red blend and Booger Swamp white blend. The latter drew attention on the Jay Leno Show for its unusual name taken from a nearby area of neighboring Yadkin County.

The winery started off with sweeter offerings, Mayberry said, to match the pallets of new tasters in the region.

Three Brushy Mountain wines took medals in a California competition early this year. The 2007 Raspberry took silver honors in the National Women's Wine Competition. Bronze medals went to Bugaboo Creek and the 2007 Blackberry.

A panel of 36 women judges chose the three for the event's "2008 Wines Women Love Shopping List."

Mayberry is looking forward to improved

presentation in the market place with the aid of the marketing talents of Lyons Way, a wine industry consulting firm located in the Yadkin Valley.

Among recent fun events were the April 26 Spring Forward Celebration of Wine Art and Music. The event featured Bluegrass music and local artist Carol Vanderpool's textile art.

Upcoming is the June 28 Summer Wines Celebration of the Family Mayberry.

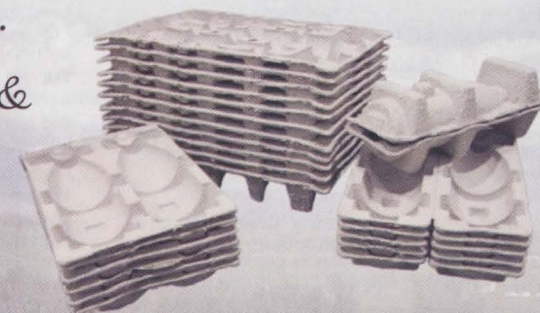
The day marks the release of the new dessert wine, Sweet Lou, dedicated to the memory of Louise Mayberry.

The Mayberry's son and Charlotte artist, Richard Mayberry, will be featured his prints, pens and pencil drawings.

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WINERY INDEX



1 Allison Oaks Vineyards 336-677-2659
2323 Old Highway 421 East, Yadkinville, NC 27055
Owner: Gene and Pam Renegar
Winemaker: Mark Terry/Westbend
Website: www.allisonoaksvineyards.com
Location: Yadkin County — 1 mile east of Yadkinville.

2 Benny Parsons Rendezvous Ridge 336-973-7375
172 Benny Parsons Rd., Purlar, NC 28665
Owner: Terri Parsons
Winemaker: Mark Terry
Website: www.rendezvousridge.com, www.benny-parsons.com
Location: Wilkes County, minutes from W. Kerr Scott Dam

3 Black Wolf Vineyards 336-374-2532
283 Vineyard Lane, Dobson, NC 27017
Owner: Dana Theis
Winemaker: Joyce Rigby
Website: www.blackwolfvineyards.com
Location: Dobson in Surry County — Off U.S. 601 at Vineyard Lane.

4 Brushy Mountain Winery 336-835-1313
125 W. Main St., Elkin, NC 28621
Owners: Matthew and Ann Mayberry and family.
Winemaker: Sean McRitchie
Website: www.brushymountainwine.com
Location: Surry County — Downtown Elkin, 1/2 block west of town's main square.

5 Buck Shoals Vineyards 336-468-9274
6121 Vintner Way, Hamptonville, NC 27020
Owners: Terry and Joanne Crater
Winemaker: Dana Acker
Website: www.buckshoalsvineyard.com
Location: Yadkin County — Exit 267 off U.S. 421 and follow the signs 2.6 miles on Windsor Road; vineyard and winery on right.

6 Childress Vineyards 336-236-9463
1000 Childress Vineyards Road, Lexington, NC 27295
Owners: Richard Childress and Greg Johns
Winemaker: Mark Friszolowski
Website: www.childressvineyards.com
Location: Davidson County — off US 64 just west of intersection with US 52.

7 Dobbins Creek Vineyards 336-468-4770
4330 Vineyard View Lane, Hamptonville, NC 27020
Owners: Charles and Sue King
Website: www.DobbinsCreekVineyards.com

Location: I-77 exit 79, 1 mile South to Rena Road, 1.7 miles to Carrie Farm Dr., 1/2 mile to Vineyard View Lane.

8 Elkin Creek Vineyard 336-526-5119
318 Elkin Creek Mill Road, Elkin NC 28621
Owner and Winemaker: Mark Greene
Website: www.elkincreekvineyard.com
Vineyard: Open daily, 11 am.-5 p.m.
Location: Wilkes County — West off I-77 at Exit 85 2 mi. to N. Bridge St.; right 3/4 mi.; left on Carter Mill Road for 1.5 mi.; left on Elkin Mill Road.

9 Flint Hill Vineyards 336-699-4455
2133 Flint Hill Road, East Bend, NC 27018
Owners: Brenda and Tim Doub
Winemaker: Sean McRitchie
Website: www.flinthillvineyards.com
Location: Yadkin County — Off US 421 at Baltimore Road exit to Old 421. Turn right. Then left on Flint Hill Road. Vineyard 2 mi. on left.

10 Grassy Creek Vineyard 336-835-4230
235 Chatham Cottage Circle, Elkin, NC 28621
Owners: Derrill and Lori Rice, Jim and Cynthia Douthit
Winemaker: Jim Douthit
Website: www.grassycreekvineyard.com
Location: Surry/Wilkes Counties — West off I-77 at Exit 85 to US 21-Bypass North. left after first traffic light onto Klondike Road. Left into vineyard after about 1/2 mi.

11 Hanover Park Vineyard 336-463-2875
1927 Courtney-Huntsville Rd., Yadkinville, NC 27055
Owners: Michael and Amy Helton
Winemaker: Michael Helton
Website: www.hanoverparkwinery.com
Location: Yadkin County — Take U.S. 421 to U.S. 601. Go south 4 miles. Left on Courtney-Huntsville Rd.

12 Laurel Gray Vineyards 336-GOT-WINE

5726 Old Hwy 421, Hamptonville, NC 27020
Owners: Kim and Benny Myers
Winemaker: Kent Egon Smith
Website: www.laurelgray.com
Location: Yadkin County, — U.S. 421, 1.3 mi. north of I-77, exit north onto Windsor Rd., go .1 mile to Old Hwy 421 and turn right, Vineyard is .1 mile ahead on left.

13 McRitchie Winery & Ciderworks 336-874-3003
315 Thurmond PO Road, Thurmond, NC 28683
Owners: Sean and Patricia McRitchie
Winemaker: Sean McRitchie
Website: www.mcritchiewine.com
Location: Wilkes County — From I-77, Take Exit 83 or Exit 85 to US 21 north toward Sparta. After 8 miles, turn right on Thurmond PO Road (not Thurmond Road). Vineyard 1/8 mi. on left.

14 Old North State Winery 336-789-9463
308 North Main Street, Mount Airy, NC 27030
Owners: Mike Thomas, Ben Webb, Tom Webb
Winemaker/Brewmaster: Ben Webb
Website: www.oldnorthstatewinery.com
Location: Surry County — From I-77 East to US 601, take US 601 to Hwy. 52N. Exit off of Hwy. 52N on the Mt. Airy/Galax Hwy. 89 Exit. Go straight on Independence through 5 lights. Turn right onto N. Mian Street. Winery is two blocks on the left.

15 Raffaldini Vineyards 336-835-9463
450 Groce Road, Ronda, NC 28670
Owners: The Raffaldini Family
Winemaker: Stephen Rigby
Website: www.raffaldini.com
Location: Wilkes County — Take I-40 West through Winston-Salem. Bear right on US Hwy. 421 North towards Yadkinville. Proceed on Hwy. 421 N for approximately 31 miles to Exit 267, Windsor Rd. Turn right on Windsor. Follow signs. Go left on Old Hwy. 421 for 1.4 miles. Go right on Swan Creek Rd. for 2.6 miles. Go left on Clingman Rd. for 1 mile. Go left on Groce Rd.

16 RagApple Lassie Vineyards 866-RAG-APPLE
3724 RagApple Lassie Lane, Booneville, NC 27011
Owners: Frank and Lenna Hobson

Winemaker: Linda M. King
Website: www.ragapplelassie.com
Location: Yadkin County — 3 miles east of Booneville off NC 67.

17 RayLen Vineyards 336-998-3100
3577 US Hwy 158, Mocksville, NC 27028
Owners: Joe & Joyce Neely
Winemaker: Steve Shepard
Website: www.raylenvineyards.com
Location: Davie County — Via I-40 West, Exit 180, left on NC 801 S, right on 158 West; winery is 4 mi. on right. Via I-40 East, Exit 174. Right on Farmington Road, left on Hwy. 158 E. Winery 2 mi. on left.

18 Round Peak Vineyards 336-352-5595
765 Round Peak Church Rd., Mount Airy, NC 27030
Owners: Susan & George Little, Janet & Lee Martin
Vineyard Manager: Josh

Winemaker: Sean McRitchie
Website: www.roundpeak.com
Location: Surry County — I-77 to Exit 100. Left on NC89 toward Low Gap. Right on Round Peak Church Rd. for 1.4 mi. Vineyard is on left.

19 Shelton Vineyards 336-366-4724
286 Cabernet Lane, Dobson, NC 27017
Owners: Charles M. Shelton and R. Edwin Shelton
Winemaker: Murphy Moore
Website: www.sheltonvineyards.com
Location: Surry County — I-77 to Exit 93 Dobson. Turn right, then take first right onto Twin Oaks Rd. Go 2.5 miles to the Shelton Vineyards entrance on the right.

20 Stony Knoll Vineyards 336-374-5752
1143 Stony Knoll Road, Dobson, NC 27017
Owners: Van and Kathy Coe
Winemaker: Lynn Crouse
Website: www.stonyknollvineyards.com
Location: Surry County — From the south, go 7 miles

north on Rockford Road from NC 67, then left on Stony Knoll Road; from the north, take U.S. 601 to Rockford Road, go south 7 miles and turn right on Stony Knoll Road.

21 Surry Community College Winery 336-386-3408
Surry County — I-77 to Exit 93 (Dobson); Turn right and follow Zephyr Road into Dobson. Turn right at courthouse and SCC is 1/2 mile on right. Tours by appointment.

22 Weathervane Winery 336-775-9717
484 Hartman Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27127
Owner: Sid Proctor
Website: www.weathervanewinery.com
Location: Davidson County — From U.S. 52 south of Winston-Salem, west on Hickory Tree Rd. for .2 mi., then left .2 mi. on Hartman Rd.

23 Westbend Vineyards 336-945-5032
5394 Williams Rd., Lewisville, NC 27023
Owner: Lillian Kroustalis
Winemaker: Mark Terry
Website: www.westbendvineyards.com
Location: Forsyth County — Go 15 miles west of Winston-Salem on Highway 421. Take Shallowford Rd., Exit 246, and turn left. Go 2 mi., turn left onto Williams Rd.

MOUNTAIN REGION

1 Banner Elk Winery 828-260-1790

135 Gualtney Road, Banner Elk, NC 28604
Owners: Dr. Dick Wolfe and Angelo Accetturo
Website: www.blueberryvilla.com
Location: Avery County — from Banner Elk, north on N.C. 194 1.5 mi. Then left on Gualtney Road. Winery is 1/4 mi. on right.

2 Calaboose Cellars 828-321-2006
565 Aquone Road, Andrews, NC 28901
Website: calaboosecellars.com
Location: Cherokee County - take Exit 27 onto West US-19/74. In Andrews, exit left onto Business 19. Take slant left onto Aquone Road. Just when you get to the top of the hill, winery is on the right.

3 Biltmore Estate Winery 800-543-2961
One North Pack Square, Asheville, NC 28801
Bernard DeLille, VP/Winemaker
Website: www.biltmore.com
Location: Buncombe County — On the grounds of Biltmore Estate in Asheville. Take I-40 Exit 50A and go north on Hwy 25 two blocks to Biltmore House entrance.

4 Cerminaro Vineyard 828-754-9306
4399 Wilkesboro Boulevard, Boomer, NC 28606
Owners: Joe and Deborah Cerminaro
Location: Caldwell County — In Kings Creek on Hwy 18 between Lenoir and Wilkesboro

5 Chateau Laurinda 800-650-3236
690 Reeves Ridge Rd., Sparta, NC 28675
Owners: Linda and Larry Ehlers and Family
Website: www.chateaulaurindawinery.com
Location: Alleghany County — From I-77, take Exit 83 to Hwy 21 towards Sparta to 221 South. Turn

right on Hwy 93. Go 1.5 miles to 2nd road on left.

- 6 Ginger Creek Vineyards 828-312-4362**
858 John Cline Road, Taylorsville, NC 28681
Owners: Dwight and Sharon Austin
Location: Caldwell County — Take US 64 west from I-40. Left on Caldwell Pond Rd; in 1.5 miles, turn right on John Cline Rd. Turn left at end of pavement in 1 mi.

- 7 Green Creek Winery 828-863-2182**
413 Gilbert Road, Columbus, NC 28722
Owner: Alvin Pack et al
Website: www.greencreekwinery.com
Location: Polk County — Exit 167 off U.S.74, south on N.C. 9, 3 mi. to Landrum Rd. Then right 1 mi. to Gilbert Rd. Winery on left.

- 8 Lake James Cellars 828-584-4551**
204 E. Main St., Glen Alpine, NC 28628
Owners: Mike and Betty Fowler
Winemaker: Josh Fowler
Website: www.lakejamescellars.com
Location: I-40, Exit 100, go South on Jamestown Road, turn right on Conley Road, turn right on Main Street (Hwy. 70), winery is on left.

- 9 New River Winery 336-846-1498**
106 N. Jefferson Ave., West Jefferson, NC 28694 (in Bohemia Gallery)
Owner: New River Wineries, Inc.
Winemaker: Dan Strickland
Website: www.newriverwineries.com
Location: Ashe County — downtown West Jefferson.

- 10 Owl's Eye Vineyard & Winery LLC 704-471-9196 or toll free 866.980.9463 (WINE)**
1414 Metcalf Road, Shelby, NC 28150
Owner: Frank and Barbara Hannah
Website: www.owlseyevineyard.com
Location: Cleveland County—From Hwy. 74, go North 2.6 miles on Hwy. 226. Turn right on Barbee Road, follow Barbee Lane .5 miles to stop sign, turn right onto Metcalf Road, go 1.5 miles, turn left at Owl's Eye Winery Sign.

- 11 Raintree Cellars 828-397-5643**
3813 Sain Ave., Connely Springs, NC 28612
Owner: Edward Yoder
Website: Under Construction
Location: I-40 Exit 116, at Burger King, turn right onto Miller Bridge Rd., go .7 miles and turn left onto Sain Ave. The winery is on the the left.

- 12 Rockhouse Vineyards 828-863-2784**
1525 Turner Rd., Tryon, NC 28782
Owners: Lee Griffin and Marsha Cassedy
Website: www.rockhousevineyards.com
Location: Polk County — Take Hwy 74 to Hwy 9, Exit 167. Travel 2.2 miles south on Hwy 9 to Turner Rd. Turn left on Turner Rd.

- 13 South Creek Vineyards 828-652-5729**
2240 South Creek Road, Nebo, NC 28761
Owners: Frank and Debra Boldon
Winemaker: Frank Boldon
Website: www.southcreekwinery.com
Location: McDowell County — Exit 90 off I-40 1/4 mi. to Harmony Grove Rd.; turn right onto South Creek Rd. and winery is on right.

- 14 The Teensy Winery 828-287-7763**
3661 Painters Gap Rd., Union Mills, NC 28167
Owner: Bob Howard
Location: Rutherford County — Take I-40 Rutherford exit. Take Hwy 221 south to Thermal City. Turn west on SR 1321 then right on SR 1328 (Painters Gap Rd.).

- 15 Thistle Meadow 800-233-1505**
102 Thistle Meadow, Laurel Springs, NC 28644
Owner/Winemaker: Thomas R. Burgiss
Website: www.thistlemeadowwinery.com

Location: Alleghany County — Off Blue Ridge Parkway, Milepost 246, then 3 miles on Elk Knob Road.

- 16 Waldensian Heritage Wines 828-879-3202**
4940 Villar Lane NE, Valdese, NC 28690
Owners: Joel Dalmás, Joe Jacumin, Freddy Leger, John Bourous, Tom Garrou
Location: Burke County — Take I-40 exit 112 North to Valdese. Go north on Eldred St. to N. Laurel St. Turn left on Villar Lane (2.4 miles from I-40).

- 17 WoodMill Winery 704-736-7733**
1350 WoodMill Winery Lane, Vale, NC 28168
Owners: Larry and Beverly Cagle and Family
Website: www.woodmillwinery.com
Location: Lincoln County — I-85 Exit 17 north on U.S. 321. Exit 24 north on NC 27 to down town Lincolnton. Go north 8 mi., then right 2 mi. on Cat Square Rd; then left 1/2 mile on Beam Lumber Rd.; then right on John Beam Rd.; winery 1 mi. on right.

PIEDMONT REGION

- 1 Autumn Creek Vineyard 336-548-9463**
364 Means Creek Rd., Mayodan, NC 27027
Owners: Kim & Quinton Haley & Scott Stanley
Website: www.autumncreekvineyards.com
Email: info@autumncreekvineyards.com
Location: Rockingham County. Take US 220 to NC 770. Rt. on Glens Chapel Church Rd., left on Means Creek Road

- 2 A Secret Garden Winery 919-734-0260**
1008 Airport Road, Pikeville, NC 27863
Owners: Gerald and Linda Hall
Website: www.asecretgardenwinery.com
Location: Wayne County — From U.S. 70, take N.C. 117 North to Exit 94 (Pikeville). Turn right. Straight for 2 mi., then right onto Airport Road. Winery 1.25 mi. on left.

- 3 Benjamin Vineyards & Winery 336-376-1080**
6516 Whitney Road, Graham (Saxapahaw), NC 27253
Owners: Andy and Nancy Zeman
Website: www.benjaminvineyards.com
Location: Alamance County — Take Exit 154 off I-40/85 south 8.5 miles. Cross Hwy. 54 and continue 4 miles. Left on Whitney Road. Vineyard 1.2 miles on left.

- 4 Chatham Hill Winery 800-808-6768**
3800 Gateway Centre Blvd. Suite #310 Cary/Morrisville, NC 27560
Owners: Marek Wojciechowski and Jill Winkler
Website: www.chathamhillwine.com
Location: Wake County — Take I-40 Exit 285 toward Morrisville on Aviation Parkway. Take first right at Gateway Centre Boulevard. 3800 is the second building on he left..

- 5 Chinqua Penn Vineyards 336-349-4576**
2138 Wentworth St., Reidsville, NC 27320
Winemaker: Max Lloyd
Website: www.chinquapenn.com
Location: Rockingham County — Take 29N from I-40/85 to 3rd Reidsville exit (Hwy. 14). Left 3.5 mi., then left on Salem Church Rd. 2 mi. Right on Wentworth. Plantation on right.

- 6 Cypress Bend Vineyards 910-369-0411**
21904 Riverton Road, Wagram, NC 28396
Owners: Tina and Dan Smith
Website: www.cypressbendvineyards.com
Location: Scotland County — Off US 401 (10 mi. north of Laurinburg) in Wagram, right on Riverton Rd. Winery is 3 mi. on left.

- 7 Daveste' Vineyards 704-528-3882**
155 Lytton Farm Road, Troutman, NC 28166
Owners: Dave and Ester DeFehr
Website: www.daveste.com
Location: Iredell County; I-77 Exit 42, North on Hwy. 21 for 3.1 miles, left on Talley Street for 1.1 miles, left on Lytton Farm Road for .1 miles.

- 8 Dennis Vineyards 800-230-1743**
24043 Endy Rd., Albemarle, NC 28001
Owners: Pritchard and Sandon Dennis

Website: www.dennisvineyards.com
Location: Stanly County — From Albemarle, take NC 24-27 west approx. 5 miles; at caution light at Endy Road, turn right; winery 1/2 mile on left.

- 9 Garden Gate Vineyards 336-751-3794**
261 Scenic Drive, Mocksville, NC 27028
Owners: Bob and Sonya Whitaker
Website: www.gardengatevineyards.com
Location: Davie County — Exit 168 off I-40 to East US 64; right on Green Hill Rd.; left on County Home Rd.; right on Scenic Drive; vineyard on right.

- 10 Germanton Vineyard & Winery 336-969-2075**
3530 Hwy 8 and 65, Germanton, NC 27019
Owners: Judy and David Simpson
Website: www.germantongallery.com
Location: Stokes County — In Germanton. Tasting room in gallery on corner of Hwy. 8 and Friendship Rd. (8 miles north of W-S.)

- 11 Glen Marie Winery 336-578-3938**
1838 Johnson Road, Burlington, NC 27217
Owners: Glendale and Joyce Marie Dickey
Website: www.glenmariewinery.com
Location: Alamance County — From I-85, take Exit 150, proceeding north; right at fourth light to Bason Road; then left on Mebane Rogers Road; go over the lake and right on Johnson Road; fifth house on left.

- 12 Grove Winery 336-584-4060**
7360 Brooks Bridge Rd, Gibsonville, NC 27249
Owner: Max Lloyd
Winemaker: Max Lloyd
Website: www.groovewinery.com
Location: Guilford County — From 29, take Brown Summit exit; go east 7.6 mi. on 150 and Osceola-Ossipee Rd; left on Brooks Bridge Rd. Winery .6 mi. on right.

- 13 Hinnant Family Vineyard 919-965-3350**
826 Pine Level Micro Rd., Pine Level, NC 27568
Owners: Willard and Bob Hinnant
Website: www.hinnantvineyards.com
Location: Johnston County — From Raleigh take I-40 east to US 70 East. Go 30 mi., then left at Peedin Ave. Vineyard 2 mi. on right.

- 14 Horizon Cellars 919-742-1404**
466 Vineyard Ridge, Siler City, NC
Owner: Guy Loeffler
Winemaker: Chris Pearmund
Website: www.horizoncellars.com
Location: Chatham County — From U.S. 421, take Exit 168 right 1 mile to Old 421. Left on Old 421 .5 mi. to Vineyard Ridge. Right .4 mi.

- 15 Iron Gate Vineyards & Winery 919-304-9463**
2540 Lynch Store Road, Mebane, NC 27302
Owners: Gene and Debbie Stikeleather
Website: www.irongatevineyards.com
Location: Alamance County — Exit 153 off I-40; approx. 3 mi. N. of Mebane on NC 119.

- 16 Old Stone Vineyard & Winery 704-279-0930**
6245 Hwy. 52, Salisbury, NC 28146
Owner: Mark Brown
Website: www.osvwinery.com
Location: Rowan County — Take Exit 76 off I-85 onto US 52 South. Winery is 5 miles on left (1 mi. south of town of Granite Quarry).

- 17 Rock of Ages Winery & Vineyard 336-364-7625**
1890 Charlie Long Road, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541
Owners: Kevin and Kimberly Moore
Winemaker: Kevin Moore
Location: Person County — From Burlington, take N.C. 49 north. Inside Person County, turn right on Charlie Long Road. Winery is 1.9 mi. on right.

- 18 SilkHope Winery 919-742-4601**
GPS Coordinates: N35-46-06.6 W 079-16-34.8
2601 Silk Hope Gum Springs Road, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Owner: Wally Butler
Website: www.silkhopewinery.com
Location: Chatham County — Off U.S. 64 Bypass at Exit 381, north on N.C. 87 1.8 miles to Silk Hope Gum Springs Road. Left 2.5 miles. Winery on left at intersection with Emerson Cook Road.

- 19 Stonefield Cellars 336-644-9908**
8220 Hwy. 68 N., Stokesdale, NC 27357
Owners: Robert and Natalie Wurz
Winemaker: Robert Wurz
Website: www.stonefieldcellars.com
Location: Guilford County — North off I-40 at Exit 210. Take NC 68 north 13 miles. Winery on right at intersection with NC 65 (entrance on NC 65).

- 20 Stony Mountain Vineyards 704-982-0922**
26370 Mountain Ridge Road, Albemarle, NC 28001
Owners: Ken, Marie and Devron Furr
Website: www.stonymountainvineyards.com
Location: Stanly County — Take Hwy 24-27 East from Albemarle. Turn left at Stone Mountain sign. Turn right on Mountain Ridge Rd.

- 21 Uwharrie Vineyards 704-982-9463**
28030 Austin Road, Albemarle, NC 28001
Owner: David Braswell
Website: www.uwharrievineyards.com
Location: Stanly County — Take Hwy 73 west from Albemarle. Turn right on Austin Road. Winery is 1/2 mile.

- 22 Zimmerman Vineyards 336-861-1414**
1432 Tabernacle Church Road, Trinity, NC 27370
Owners: Norm and Leslie Zimmerman
Website: www.zimmermanvineyards.net
Location: Randolph County — Exit 106 off I-85, south on Finch Farm Rd. 5.8 miles to left on Tabernacle Ch. Rd., then 1.4 miles, vineyard on left.

COASTAL REGION

- 1 Bannerman Vineyard 910-259-5474**
2624 Stag Park Rd., Burgaw, NC 28425
Owners: Scot and Colleen Bannerman
Website: www.bannermanvineyard.com
Location: Pender County — Take I-40 Exit #398. Turn West on NC Hwy 53. Go 1 mile and turn left on Stag Park Rd and go 2.5 miles.

- 2 Bennett Vineyards 877-762-9463**
Home of America's First Wine
6832 Bennett Vineyards Rd., Edward, NC 27821
Owners: Buddy & Helen Harrell
Website: www.ncwines.com
Location: Beaufort County — 35 miles south of Greenville, off Hwy 33. Follow signs.

- 3 Duplin Winery 800-774-9634**
P.O. Box 756, Rose Hill, NC 28458
Owners: David Fussell and family
Website: www.duplinwinery.com
Location: Duplin County — Take I-40 exit 380. Right on Hwy 117.

- 4 Grapefull Sisters Vineyard 910-653-2944**
4903 Ramsey Ford Road, Tabor City, NC 28463
Owners: Sheila Suggs Little and Amy Suggs
Website: www.grapefullsistersvineyard.com
Location: Columbus County — From NC 17, take NC 904 west about 15 mi. Left on Dulah Rd. in Pineway. Vineyard 1.2 mi. on left.

- 5 Lu Mil Vineyard 910-866-5819**
438 Suggs-Taylor Road, Dublin, NC 28332
Owner: Lu Mil Vineyard, Inc.
Website: www.lumilvineyard.com
Location: Bladen County — South at I-95 Exit 46 on NC 87 25 mi. to Dublin. Left on 4th St. for 1/2 mi., then right on Suggs-Taylor Rd. Vineyard on right.

- 6 Lumina Winery 910-793-5299**
6620 Suite H. Gordon Road, Wilmington, NC 28411
Owner: David Hursey
Winemaker: David Hursey
Website: www.luminawine.com
Location: Take I-40 to Exit 420. Exit onto Gordon Rd. and turn right. Go 2 miles and winery is on the left in Gordon Station.

- 7 Martin Vineyards 252-429-3542**
P.O. Box 186, Knotts Island, NC 27950
Owners: David and Jeanie Martin
Website: www.martinvineyards.com
Location: Currituck County — From Rt. 168, take scenic free ferry (800-BY FERRY) across Currituck Sound to Knotts Island. Follow NC 615 north 2.7 miles to Martin Farm Lane.

- 8 Moonrise Bay Vineyard 866-888-9463**
134 Moonrise Bay Landing, Knotts Island, NC 27950
Owners: Richard and Kate Morris
Website: www.moonrisebaywine.com
Location: Currituck County — From Virginia Beach, take Princess Anne Rd. south to Knotts Island. Bear left at the Knotts Island Market and proceed one mile to vineyard on left. Or take the Ferry from Currituck, NC.

- 9 Sanctuary Vineyards 800-637-2446**
6957 Carotake Highway, Jarvisburg, NC 27947
Owners: Tom and Jerry Wright
Website: www.sanctuaryvineyards.com
Location: Currituck County — Off Hwy. 158 in Jarvisburg.

- 10 Silver Coast Winery 910-287-2800**
6680 Barbeque Rd., Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
Owners: John and Maryann Azzato
Website: www.silvercoastwinery.com
Location: Brunswick County — From Hwy. 17 (7 mi. north of S.C. border) take Hwy. 904 west. After 1.5 miles, take right on Russtown Rd. After 1.5 miles, take 4th right on Barbeque Rd.

- 11 The Country Squire Winery 910-296-1727**
748 NC 24/50, Warsaw, NC 28398
Owner: Iris Lennon
Winemaker: Loraine Smith
Website: www.countrysqirewinery.com
Location: Duplin County — From I-40, Take Exit 364, Business 24 east to NC 50.

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Welcome to the Yadkin Valley

By Lonnie Adamson

A new tourism information center, providing information for people traveling the Yadkin Valley opened last month in Jonesville.

The Jonesville Welcome Center, located a quarter mile west of I-77 at the N.C. 67 exit offers a wide variety of information on places to visit from historic sites in Ashe, Alleghany counties in the mountains to shopping, skiing and entertainment in Boone.

The reach of the tourism center includes information on wineries throughout the Yadkin Valley and arts venues, heritage music, the Blue Ridge Parkway.

You'll find many fun places to stay and eat throughout the region.

Jonesville touts itself as the Heart of the Yadkin Valley, putting it in a prime spot for visiting the valley and northwest North Carolina.

The welcome center itself is an attractive site with high ceilings and grand windows. A view from its pinnacle offers a vista of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the north.

Get an overview of the area by watching a short video about the region that plays on a large screen television in the new structure that is combined with the new Jonesville Town Hall.

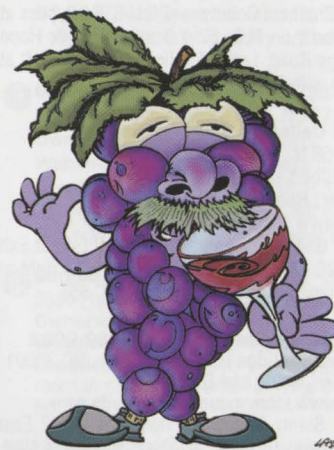
Staffers are local people who know the area and can help travelers find resources on where to go to match their needs.

Wireless Internet is available at the center for those needing to do on line research and check their email.

The center is open Monday through Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m and Sundays 1 to 8 p.m. That provides travelers information every day of the year except Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years Day and Easter.

Places to consider on a visit to Jonesville and the Yadkin Valley:

- Wineries — more are opening every year.
- Nature — Stone Mountain State Park, Pilot Mountain State Park, Blowing Rock
- Scenic drives — the Blue Ridge Parkway that originated 50 miles from Jonesville
- Hiking trails
- Fishing
- Visual Arts — The Yadkin Valley Craft Guild and the Foothills Arts Council Gallery in Elkin
- Theater productions — Elkin, Mount Airy and Wilkesboro
- Historic sites — Fort Defiance, The Over Mountain Victory Trail, part of the road to



I'm picking up a few notes of... my brother, a little of great aunt Barb, and just a hint of my friend Marlow.

the Battle of Kings Mountain, Richmond Hill Law School, home of the state's first Supreme Court chief justice; part of the Civil War Trail, Stoneman's Raid.

•Old time music — the region is reputed to be home of some of the earliest Bluegrass and Old time music greats.

•Horseback riding

Robin F. Weant

is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. In addition to Robin's 22 years of real estate experience she also holds a BA in psychology and owns a small vineyard in Lewisville, NC, and has earned certification in viticulture and enology. With her real estate experience and education, Robin is the right choice for your real estate needs whether selling or purchasing a property.

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Old theater to become new arts venue

By Julia Bank and Lonnie Adamson

A sneak peak of the Reeves Theater restoration, renovation and programming debuted recently before Elkin community leaders.

It was the first in what area historical site preservationists and arts enthusiasts hope will lead to a new venue for the visual and performing arts in an old Art Deco building.

Plans include a state-of-the art theater, meeting rooms and classroom space. Organizers have in mind to feature vintage films along with local and travel theater stage productions.

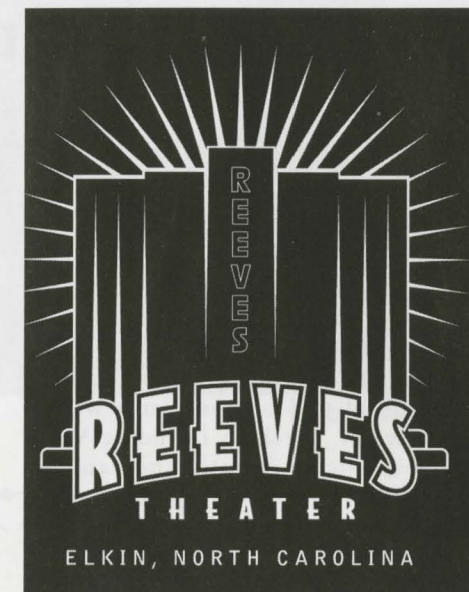
The Reeves Theater Restoration Group hosted a dinner and presentation, featuring Fran Holden, executive director of the League of Historic American Theaters and David Gall, of Gall and Associates Architecture.

Holden went through a slide show that included nearby towns with similar projects that had more than paid for themselves after completion. The Paramount in Charlottesville, Va., the State Theater in Culpeper, Va and the Newberry Opera House in Newberry, S.C. were all given as nearby examples.

"If you can find niche programming within the area that will provide a needed service to the cultural community it's a strategy that can be built on," Holden said. She stressed the impact of a strong arts community on tourism and social growth overall, congratulating Elkin on its step into a new future through historical preservation.

Architect David Gall took viewers on a brief photo tour of the buildings past, present and future through historic and present day photographs as well as architectural renderings and details that will be mimicked and replaced in historical accuracy.

His photos showed the current state of the building's disrepair. Many of the photos showed the interior strewn with pigeon feath-



ers and water damage. He finds potential beneath the wreckage.

But repair will take financial support, and the theater group will be looking to the community for help.

So far it has raised almost \$100,000 through

donations from the Town of Elkin, Surry County, The Chatham Foundation and a grant from the state Rural Economic Development Center. A donor who prefers to remain anonymous has also pledged \$500,000 to the group when building begins. Robin Turner, co-chairperson of the Reeves Theater Restoration Group, said their goal was \$3 million by 2010. Turner said that she was thrilled with the turnout Tuesday. "The next stage will be beginning a fundraising campaign in April," Turner said the group would be knocking on doors and sending out letters for support at that time.

MONTHLY ONGOING PROGRAMS

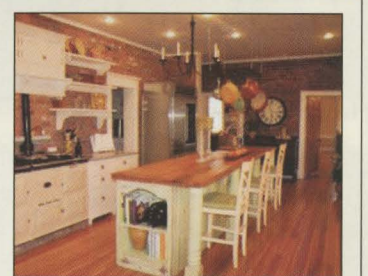
Downtown Elkin's "4th Friday" 5-11p.m. Downtown Elkin, Inc., The Reeves Theater Restoration Project, and The Foothills Arts Council are all working together to present monthly Fourth Friday celebrations. Kicking off on Friday, April 25, 4th Friday will be a wonderful way to support and enjoy historic downtown Elkin. Shops will be open late, musicians will play live music, interactive arts and crafts activities and there may even be movies projected outside the theater.

Idyllic Surry County Vineyard.

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The Arts

Happenings in visual and performing arts

MAY

May 2: "Images" Photography Exhibit opening reception)

Don't miss the 11th annual Images show at the Foothills Arts Council. With awards in color and black & white; digital and non-digital, Images is one of the largest and most comprehensive photo competitions in the area. An opening reception will be held May 2 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the FAC, 129 Church St., Elkin. The competition is open to professional and amateur artists 18 years and older. For more info, call the FAC at 835-2025 or visit www.foothillsartscouncil.org for a full prospectus.

May 3: 1-4 p.m. Swing and Waltz workshop with Bill and Carole Bryant local retired dance team that teach classes at Surry Community College will be conducting an intensive workshop in fundamentals of swing and waltz at the Foothills Arts Council. Partners recommended but not required. Call ahead for reservations. \$25 per person.

May 8: Film Series: "Born Into Brothels" The Foothills Arts Council presents a free screening of "Born into Brothels" on Thursday, May 8 at 7 p.m.. In this amazing film, two documentary filmmakers chronicle their time in Sonagchi, Calcutta and the relationships they developed with children of prostitutes who work the city's notorious red light district. "Born into Brothels" won the Academy Award for Best Documentary in 2005. FAC is pleased to offer this screening in conjunction with our annual "Images" photography exhibit.

May 30: Exhibit Opening

JUNE

June 5: Rebecca Nixon Exhibit (Upstairs Gallery). Emerging artists Rebecca Nixon will showcase her work at the Foothills Arts Council, 129 Church St., Elkin, with an exhibit in the upstairs gallery, opening Thursday, June 5. A graduate of East Wilkes High School, Nixon has been drawing and sketching for years. Nixon works primarily in pencil, charcoal and colored pencil and describes her work as ranging from

"realistic to cartoony, with elements of gothic and fantasy." The opening reception for this up and coming artist is Thursday, June 5 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

June 14 10-4 p.m.: Carnivorous Plant Show & Sale. Looking for something exotic for your home? S & J Greens of State Road will host a carnivorous plant show & sale at the FAC in June. Dozens of beautiful and unique plants will be available for purchase including Venus flytraps, pitcher plants, and trumpet plants. S & J Greens are passionate about cultivating carnivorous plants and have been in business for over sixteen years. These plants are perfect indoor growth. We are excited to be offering them for

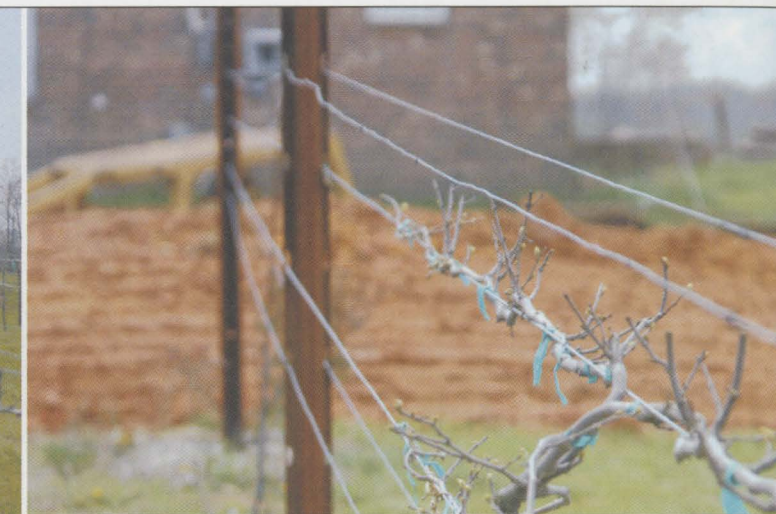
sale at the Foothills Arts Council! Watch our website for the exact date and times.

JULY

July 12: 3rd Annual KidsFest at Foothills Arts Council Holden was impressed by its downtown presence. "Old theaters can do what a multiplex can't," Holden said, "So many people experience art in a personal format today, through headphones, i-phones and DVDs, but an old theater like the Reeves attracts people to it and begins to restore an important social component. It becomes a sociological study to introduce a historic building to its former glory and the impact that follows."



Along the vines, finding a new way of agriculture.



Younger vines, ready for bud, break in a cooler, more temperate spring.

Organic Farming

By Julia Bank

With over 50 vineyards in the Yadkin Valley, there are a lot of different wines to choose from in North Carolina. Many of them are practicing environmentally friendly practices in their wine making.

Two Surry Community College Viticulture and Enology graduates are taking the eco friendly vineyard approach to an all-new level with their upcoming Carolina Heritage Vineyards.

Pat and Clyde Colwell started planting their organic vineyard in 2005, using untreated locust logs for posts, native grapes, and bio fertilizers and pesticides.

In April they broke ground on their winery and tasting room, a project they hope to have finished by fall when their harvest comes in.

Sustainability is an important factor for them in their production of wine. The Coldwells are attempting to do this on several different levels, including their beginning prep-work for the old farmlands they purchased for the vineyard and winery.

When the Colwells first came to the property it was really run down and in bad shape, Pat Colwell said. "The neighbors were happy we came in and cleaned it up without the use of chemicals."

The 13-acre property includes an old farmhouse that the Colwells hope to incorporate into their winery and tasting room plans.

"The Jenkins' farm was used like most farms to raise tobacco, pigs, crops," The Colwells said. "We plan to use the look and feel of the original farmhouse in our building."

Before breaking ground on the subcutaneous winery, several of the blueberry bushes had to be moved from where they were planted.

"When we pulled them up, we were amazed at the development of the soil," Colwell said. They have been using a local organic fertilization product called Nature's Way, by Nature Works Organics in Boonville. It is an organic soil enhancer made from vermiculture or worm farming. "It's breaking down the clay, stimulating the roots and attracting earth worms."

"It's hard to get local organic herbicides

and pesticides," Pat explained. They use organic approved products like Surround for pest control and Serenade as a broad-spectrum fungicide. They are also planning on putting recently purchased chickens to work in the vineyard rows.

"The chickens are great," Colwell said. "They can eat the grubs and fertilize the rows at the same time." She has purchased a mobile chicken house that can be alternated between grape vines so the chickens can cover larger territories.

Continued on Next Page

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Organic

Continued from Page 20

The Colwells also put bees to work on their property with the possibility of a honey mead wine in the future. "They have multi-functions," Colwell said. "We keep them next to the blueberries to help pollinate the bushes."

All of their organic growing methods are helping to create a clear idea of sustainable farming in the Yadkin Valley. "There aren't any other farms like this in our part of the state," Colwell said. "It is nice to have a prototype that says to people, this can be done."

Their eco friendly ways don't stop in the vineyard. They are working hard to implement these ideas in the winery as well.

"Wineries use a lot of hot water," Colwell said. They have purchased a bio mass converter furnace and are looking at photovoltaic technology to help generate heat and electricity off the grid.

Wine packaging possibilities are also being explored by the Colwells. They said that their first year would probably have to be in glass, but they would like subsequent bottlings to make use of possible box containment.

"It's come a long way from Franzia," Colwell said. They had several wine cubes at their house and Pat Colwell said that she enjoyed the size and storage possibilities. The smaller two bottle cubes fit perfectly



By Julia Bank
Clyde Colwell displays organic fertilizer that is key to soil enhancement.

between refrigerator shelves, she said.

"Glass bottles are recyclable," Clyde Colwell said. "But they aren't very energy efficient." Tetra packs are also being considered, by the environmentally conscious duo. "In Europe they box wine all the time now," Pat Colwell added. "The only concern we have is that they are not sure of the longevity of the plastic bladder eventually breaking down."

The Colwells have applied for an organic certification through the N.C. Crop Improvement Association. "We hope to be certified by this summer or at least find out what more we need to do next to obtain one," Colwell said.

Carolina Heritage Vineyards will have both dry and sweet wines made from the muscadine, American native and hybrid grapes they are growing—Carlos, Noble, Dorian, Norton/Cynthiana, Rubiana and Traminette. The operation is also growing blueberries for wine and honey for mead, all of which they hope to have certified organic.

What do YOU think?

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Yadkin Valley full of historical sites

By Thomas Smith

Visitors with an interest in Civil War History will find the Yadkin Valley a prime location to enjoy

Six markers were placed at historic sights throughout the county recently, officially adding the locations to the national Civil War Trail.

Markers were placed at Yadkinville, Deep Creek Friends Church, Richmond Hill Law School, the new Jonesville Town Hall, Windsor's Cross Roads and in Huntsville at the Battle Branch Cafe. The markers commemorate each site's connection to the Civil War, with one of the main themes throughout being Stoneman's Raid.

Frances Casstevens was the driving force behind bringing the trail to Yadkin County and did much research on the project. "I am real excited, and I am real proud of them. I think they look great," Casstevens said. "It'll be something that people in the county can be proud of, I think. It's a very good educational tool."

Casstevens is author of several books on regional history.

Each marker cost around \$1,100 with easements being purchased for each site, and each marker was insured in case of vandalism with that insurance being paid by the county for the first year.

Along with Casstevens, Marti Spillman Utter, Greg Cheek, and Charles Mathis worked together to compile the information and pictures that were placed on the markers.

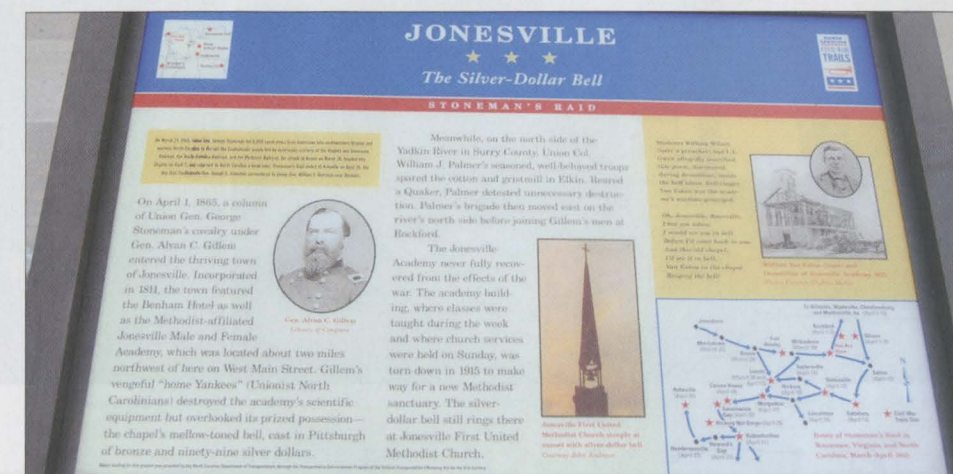
Casstevens said she feels the markers are important in remembering the area's history and also to attracting tourists.

Mitch Bowman, executive director of the Civil War Trail's program, came to Yadkin County to place the markers himself.

Bowman, whose office is based in Richmond, said the markers offer counties a way to preserve history and induce tourism at the same time. According to data from the North Carolina Division of Tourism information regarding the Civil War Trail is the most requested material next to information on golf.

"We are currently in five states, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and we are now moving into Tennessee and West Virginia," he said. "We are marking sites for tourists and travelers to come and visit these locations and learn about what happened exactly where they are standing."

Yadkin County is the 185th county in the



Along the Civil War Trail through Jonesville. Stoneman's Raiders passed throughout the valley.

program and the marker we are installing at Richmond Hill is the 801st site in the multi-state program, and Frances Casstevens is the prime example of the kind of historian we like to work with to get these interesting stories out from Yadkin County or the various localities in this region and throughout North Carolina. And she was able to provide us with these fascinating stories and images that go with the markers."

In Jonesville, town council members came out to view the placement of the marker next to the new Welcome Center just as construction on the building is finishing up. Council member Bud Byrd said he felt the location would help bring much needed publicity for the new facility. "It's good to have here at the new Welcome Center," he said.

Town Manager Scott Buffkin said, "The marker will certainly be a new nice addition to our new town hall and visitor's area, and I hope it will provide another reason for people to come off the road to visit us and see what Jonesville and Yadkin County have to offer."

Buffkin said he thinks the markers and their visitors will be a good introduction to the area and give the county and the region another attraction.

The Jonesville Civil War Trail marker features the story of the silver dollar bell. The bell was originally part of the Jonesville Male and Female Academy and in 1865 avoided plundering by Union troops. It was moved to the Jonesville First United Methodist Church in 1915 when the Academy was finally torn down.

Civil War enthusiasts also gathered recently at the Richmond Hill Law School to watch

as Bowman and his associates placed the marker at that landmark.

Members of the Richmond Hill Law School Commission were there to oversee the placement and make sure everything went according to plan.

Home to North Carolina's first Supreme Court Chief Judge Richmond Pearson, Richmond Hill Law School was established in 1848. The brick home standing today was constructed in 1861 and was fully restored in the 1970's making Richmond Hill Law School just one example of the rich history that will be highlighted by the markers.

The marker gives an account of how Pearson, who did not prosecute men who disobeyed their conscription orders because of religious beliefs and other circumstances, was labeled as a traitor by the highest ranking members of the Confederacy.

According to the Library Of Congress' Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis both made mention of Pearson and his position in letters, and their feeling he was guilty of treason.

"There were communications between Jefferson Davis and North Carolina Governor Zebulon Vance that Pearson was a traitor to the cause because he didn't support the draft law and Zebulon Vance said, 'He may be a traitor, but he's the highest ranking judge in the state,' onlooker Randy Poindexter said. "Pearson felt like North Carolina had done their part for the cause." The site is located off N.C. 67 between Boonville and East Bend.

Visit the Jonesville Welcome Center for more information on the area's Civil War Trail.

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Jay, Maureen and Barbara Raffaldini cut cake at tasting room opening.



Enjoying the view

Raffaldini Vineyards opens new tasting room Villa Raffaldini celebrates Italian style and family

By Julia Bank

Continuing its growth as one of the Yadkin Valley's early and distinctly Italian-flavored venues, Raffaldini Vineyards opened a new, elaborate and elegantly-designed tasting room last month.

Raffaldini is part of the rolling farmland of eastern Wilkes County where neighboring properties still grow tobacco or raise cattle as a part of the rural lifestyle.

With the coming of April, it opened a new, larger-scale tasting room to the public, calling it Villa Raffaldini.

The building is a two-story venue with multiple tasting bars, fireplaces, a wrap around deck and a piazza overlooking a large water fountain and views of the surrounding vineyards and landscapes. The winery sets itself apart from other North Carolina vineyards by growing and producing only Italian grapes and wine.

The impact of the two-story, Italian-inspired tasting room and event space was discussed by local town and state officials over glasses of wine and views of the Blue Ridge Mountains at an unveiling of the new facility.

The area, though rich in vineyards is lacking in ancillary tourism businesses like restaurants, lodging and entertainment. "Not everyone is going to be into wine but will want to take part in the local experience," Jay Raffaldini said. "Just like in Napa, artists and their crafts will pop up around the vineyards. It is symptomatic of a broader trend in agritourism."

Jay Raffaldini chose the Ronda site with his sister Barbara Raffaldini and wife Maureen to grow the Italian grapes.

Lois Draughn has been the designer who helped create the Tuscan look behind all of the Raffaldini buildings. "It's been five years now and a very good match for us both." She said she

enjoys working in the Italian style.

"It's easy to work with, but you have to be careful not to overdo it," Draughn said. "You'd have to temper it for your home. You don't want to texture every part of the house like we did here."

"It's great that Raffaldini used a lot of local crafts people on the project," Draughn added. "It's a potential boost to the economy from vineyards besides the wine tax."

Ronda's Mayor Victor Varela said it had been more than a year since he last visited Raffaldini in its smaller tasting room, now dubbed "Fattoria Raffaldini." Varela said that he thought the Villa would stoke economic development in East Wilkes.

"It's a tremendous asset to the community," Varela said. "I'm pleased to hear that they used so many local artisans and construction crews to build their villa."

"It will be the perfect place for weddings, meetings and other group functions," Laurette Leagon, Yadkin Valley Chamber of Commerce president said. "We are finding out from an Appalachian State University study of the area that weddings are going to be a big pull to our area."

Don Alexander attended the opening from the Wilkes County Economic Development Corporation. "This is a great thing for Ronda to have here," Alexander said. "It always has been a beautiful location, and now many more people will see it."

On the wine side of things, vineyard Manager Andy Shores said that this winter and spring were good for grape growing. He has been working with the Raffaldinis for four years and most recently saw to the vineyard's removal of its French and inferior Italian grapes.

"We planted grapes we knew would do well first," Shores said. "Now that we know what

Italian grapes do well here, we are going all Italian." Shores said the operation is planting more Montepulciano, Vermentino, Pinot Grigio and a new grape Aglianico in place of the old varietals.

"We take visitors out of their comfort zone when they try the Italian wines," Paula Shores, Andy's wife and tasting room employee said. "We surprise them with dry but fruity wines."

The Raffaldinis chose to grow Italian because of family heritage but also because they believe the Italian varieties appeal to a wider audience of wine drinkers. "I think we are going to see a movement back to lighter wines," Jay Raffaldini said. "Whites and dry rosés, lower alcohol wines. It's a movement toward a wine you can enjoy at the table over dinner with friends."

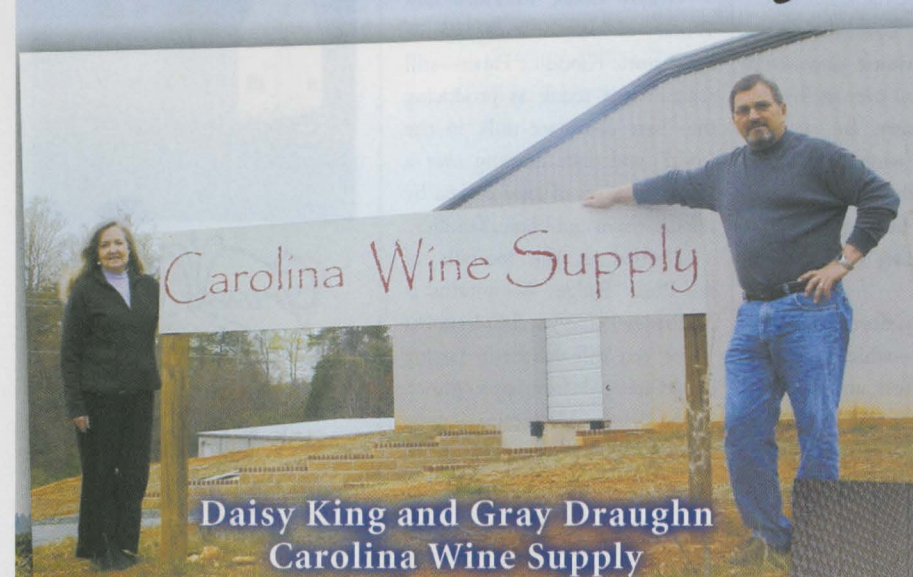
The villa isn't the last project for the Raffaldini Vineyards' expansion. The organization broke ground for an on-site winery this year and has plans for a restaurant in the future. Paving the dirt road that leads up to the villa is also in the works.

"We would like to pave just the tire tracks like you see in Europe," Jay Raffaldini said. "It keeps the dust down but maintains the rural feel." Raffaldini has also planted olive trees around the villa to further the image of the European countryside. Eight 5-year-old trees were planted with hopes to see olives and olive oil production in the near future.

The Ronda and Hamptonville region is home to Raffaldini, Laurel Gray and Buck Shoals. The new Shadow Springs will be opening in May.

"We are very excited to be here," Barbara Raffaldini said. "People have been very inviting and accepting of our family and Italian heritage." It is a heritage, Barbara Raffaldini said, like the surrounding community's of the farm life celebrating good family, friends and food.

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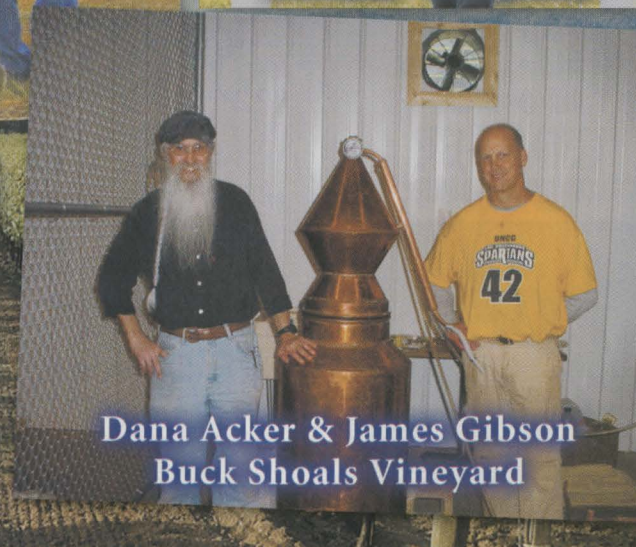
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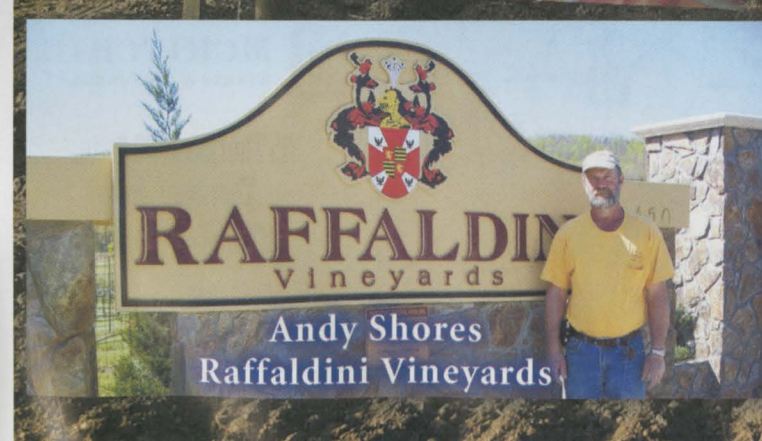
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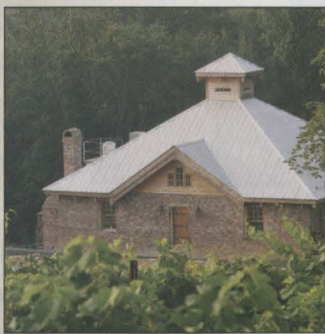
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