

# Jackson County Report – July 2021

August 11, 2021

- Press Releases + Media Alerts: &nbsp;
  - Press Release: Meetings in the North Carolina Mountains – Drafted and distributed
- Media Pitches: &nbsp;
  - Upcoming Events in Jackson County – Drafted and distributed
  - Fly Fishing – Drafted and distributed
  - Harriet Tubman Sculpture – Drafted and distributed
- Blog Posts: &nbsp;
  - Hidden Gems – Reviewed and provided feedback
  - Stargazing – Reviewed and provided feedback
- Media Inquiries:&nbsp;
  - Jonathan Austin, Smoky Mountain Living: Harriet Tubman Sculpture
  - Jon Elliston, WNC Magazine: Harriet Tubman Sculpture
  - Sucheta Rawal, AAA: Shadow of the Bear and media visit
  - Mandy Kellogg Rye, @WaitingonMartha: influencer partnership
  - Charlie Blackmon, @Chuck\_Nazty: influencer partnership
  - Christina Marcellino, @Carolina\_Charm: media visit
  - Mycah Hunter, @Mycah\_Hunter: media visit
  - Stephanie Davis-Smith, Connect: media visit
- FY' 2022 Public Relations Plan&nbsp;– presented and approved July 9&nbsp;
- Targeted Pitching; Full List:&nbsp;<https://bit.ly/3AenTcE>&nbsp;
- Co-branded promotions:&nbsp;&nbsp;
  - Target regional promotions: iHeart Media Birmingham, AL
- Media Visits: Matt Lardie&nbsp;(EATER Carolina), July 16-17&nbsp;
- Status Calls:&nbsp;
  - Plan presentation, July 9
  - Marketing/PR call, July 28
- Press Releases:&nbsp;
  - What's new this fall
- Pitches:&nbsp;
  - Under-the-radar wellness destinations
  - No passport needed: visit this rainforest tucked away in North Carolina
  - Shadow of the Bear

- Secret Season long-lead
- Media Visits: Sherry Jackson (Greenville Journal), August 11-14
- Co-branded Promotions:
  - Luxury boutiques in target markets

**Jackson County Tourism Board Highlights Local Meeting Venues**



JACKSON COUNTY, N.C. – With the demand for small market and drive-to meetings increasing, **Jackson County Tourism Development Authority (JCTDA)** is spotlighting the variety of renovated and unique event spaces available in the destination. A short drive from the Southeast's largest cities and just one hour from Asheville Regional Airport, Jackson County offers charming downtown locales, a thriving culinary scene, and abundant outdoor activities, making it an ideal setting for groups to meet, spark creativity, and build camaradery.

"In Jackson County you can find a venue for almost any size at different price points," says **Caleb Sullivan**, JCTDA Sales and Marketing Manager. "We are excited to offer more groups an escape from the city to reconnect somewhere authentic. Our farm-to-table dining, beautiful scenic vistas, and adventures are sure to provide a well-rounded experience after a day of meetings."

Below is a selection of Jackson County's meeting and event spaces:

**•Village Green & Village Green Commons** (Cashiers, NC) – The Village Green sits on 13.5 acres of beautiful native landscaping, a nationally recognized dahlia garden and walking trails. Its new, state-of-the-art Village Green Commons venue designed and constructed with 30-foot ceilings features more than 3,700 square feet of meeting and event space, several breakout rooms, fiber optic Internet, the latest A/V technology, a performance stage, and a commercial kitchen.

**•Castle Ladyhawke at Bear Lake Reserve** (Tuckasegee, NC) – Those looking for a unique meeting experience are sure to be attracted to Bear Lake Reserve's Castle Ladyhawke venue. Located in Tuckasegee, this Scottish border castle is a world-class meeting destination that can host up to 140 people. The Great Hall is suited for upscale meetings, and the deck area overlooking miles of mountains is a great option for something more casual.

**•High Hampton** (Cashiers, NC) – This iconic 20th-century property recently reopened with a full revitalization of the Inn, food and beverage operations and club amenities. Between four meeting rooms, there is 1,400 square feet of space to host up to 350 people. High Hampton also boasts a world-class golf course, 15+ miles of hiking trails and incredible views.

**•The Orchard Restaurant & Events Barn** (Cashiers, NC) – The Orchard, set on a scenic orchard with garden views, is known for its delicious food and friendly service. This charming 100-year-old farmhouse can host groups between 15 to 80 people, and larger parties can opt for the spacious Orchard Event Barn and open green space available outside.

<https://bit.ly/3xoVrmr>

**15 Best Things To Do In Sapphire, North Carolina - Updated 2021**



Found in the Transylvania County of North Carolina, Sapphire is a beautiful community rich in majestic sceneries and fascinating landscape. Since the beginning, it has become a melting pot of people from different places. It has become an escape for those who long for a break from the hustle and bustle of the city. While in Sapphire, you should check out the marvelous Whitewater Falls and swim in its clean fresh waters. If you fancy challenging water sports, enjoy a day of scuba diving in Lake Jocassee. You may also spend a day with your family at Georges State Park. Definitely, you will never run out of things to do while in Sapphire. So, for a more in-depth travel guide, here is a list of the best things to do in Sapphire, North Carolina. Feel free to browse below.

**1. Play golf with your friends at Red Bird Golf Links**

If you are in the beautiful community of Sapphire with your friends, why don't you check out the Red Birds Golf links and enjoy a few games of golf? Red Bird Golf Links is located in the Cherokee Trail. It features a 9-hole engineered executive golf landscape. Aside from that, it also features fantastic resort-like amenities, a fully stocked pro shop, 15 tees driving range, and more. Your day here will definitely be fun-filled and full of life's little pleasures.

<https://bit.ly/3xtokhw>

**Our State**

**Our State Knows Best: Fly-Fishing**

Find out what three fly-fishing experts have to say about their favorite spots in the state to reel 'em in, the essential gear and tips you need to get started, and the lure of the line.



When you're surrounded by lush woods, listening to the melodic sounds of streams and waterfalls in western North Carolina, it's hard to imagine that the scene has much in common with the rolling surf and ever-present wind out east on our coast. Yet both regions offer some of the best fly-fishing in the country, and you'll find devoted anglers at either end of the state.

"When you start fly-fishing, you view everything a little differently," says Hannah Myers, a fly-fishing guide at Headwaters Outfitters in Rosman. "You are so much more in tune with everything going on, whether that's a seasonal change or just temperature or water changes during the day. I think that's appealing to most people because it's also a challenge."

We chatted with Myers and two other experts — Dale Collins, a guide at Tuckasegee Fly Shop in Sylva, and Capt. Seth Vernon, owner of Double Haul Guide Service in Wrightsville Beach — about how they got hooked on fly-fishing, their favorite spots in the state to cast a line, and their best tips for beginners.

<https://bit.ly/3rY9KNS>

**HIGH HAMPTON- A FAVORITE MOUNTAIN RETREAT REIMAGINED**



Carolina for close to a century, where days consisted of morning walks along the lakefront and waterfalls, and lazy afternoons were spent swimming in the lake or fishing the mountain streams.

In the late 1800s, Caroline Hampton Halsted and her husband, William Stewart Halsted, one of the founding surgeons of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, purchased the then 450-acre Western North Carolina property and its historic hunting lodge from her aunts, naming it High Hampton. A North Carolina couple, E.L. McKee and his wife Gertrude, converted it to an inn in the early 1920s. Ever since then the McKee family has been welcoming guests seeking relaxation and refuge from the sweltering summers. Today this unique resort and club, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, sits on more than 1,400 pristine acres of Blue Ridge countryside near the Nantahala National Forest.

My wife Carol and I spent part of our honeymoon at High Hampton in the fall of 2004, enjoying the colorful autumn leaves, the historical resort, and its warm and cozy four-sided fireplace at breakfast and during the chilly evenings. The golf course was a fun getaway traversing the rolling hills around the resort which needed some TLC.

<https://bit.ly/3fBEuiG>



**Escape to the Mountains: Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival celebrates 40 years, return to live concerts**

The [Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival](#) returns to live-in-person concerts this summer as it celebrates its 40th anniversary season. Led by artistic director William Ransom, who is also artistic director of the Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta, the Festival features many favorite Atlanta musicians among its roster of national and international artists. The 40th Anniversary Season- runs from June 27 through August 8, 2021.

The concerts, held in Highlands and Cashiers, North Carolina, are only three-hour drive from in-town Atlanta in the popular summer travel mountain region of western North Carolina. The area's ties with Atlanta are numerous, as it is historically a place where well-to-do Atlanta residents have summer homes to cool off and relax in the area's much higher elevations. Atlanta is around 1000 feet above sea level on average, Highlands officially sits at 4,117 feet.

The season has already kicked off with a special event on June 27 at The Bascom: Center for the Visual Arts, an exhibit of original art created for the Festival's program book covers and posters over the last 20-plus years paired with a performance of Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition," transcribed for string quartet, in the Center's galleries.

<https://bit.ly/2Vux2PC>

**The Best RV Campgrounds in America**

When it comes to great RV campgrounds, there are certain components of the campground that will set it apart. Features like satellite or cable television, Wi-Fi, full hookups, pull-through spaces, and even more amenities are what make the best RV campgrounds truly the best. Depending on where you go, you could also end up with a wonderful view or a stellar location for visiting the local attractions. While there are impressive RV campgrounds in every state across the U.S., these are among the very best in their own right. So, add them to your bucket list and start packing.

**Mountain Falls Luxury Motorcoach Resort**  
Lake Toxaway, North Carolina



This luxury campground is only available to RVs that are 26 feet or longer and less than 10 years old. The immaculate grounds are beautifully landscaped and surround a golf course, tennis courts, pools, and much more. Amenities also include bathhouses, a [fitness](#) center, and a hot spa. At 3,200 feet, the elevation affords those who visit a cool reprieve from sweltering summer months and a mountain retreat during winter months. Situated between Cashiers and Brevard, visitors can easily reach Asheville, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and other mountain communities.

<https://bit.ly/3fMAU5s>

**5 Best Lakes Around Asheville**

There are few things as quintessentially summery as packing a picnic and sunscreen, donning your swimwear, and driving out to the nearest (or sometimes more remote) body of water. Around Western North Carolina, that often means finding a lake to jump in.

WNC is positively peppered with lakes, but did you know that none of them are natural? Every lake—big and small, deep and shallow, murky brown and crystal teal—is man made, and we love them no less because of it. Plan your trip to one of these natural—err, kind of—wonders with our guide to lakes around Asheville.

**Lake Glenville**  
*Glenville, Jackson County*

[Lake Glenville](#) is simply a stunner. It's pristine waters are deep—up to 80 feet—and they turn crystalline and teal when the sun strikes just right. At 3,494 feet, this lake is at the highest elevation of any lake east of the Mississippi, which makes for a fun fact to include when sharing stories about your awesome day on Lake Glenville.

There's the usual fare for outdoor activities: tubing, paddleboarding, kayaking, kneeboarding, skiing, swimming, and fishing. You can rent a boat from [Signal Ridge Marina](#) and chug around the lake. If you're looking for somewhere to relax on land, check out the Pines Recreation Area. Here you'll find a wee beach, swimming area, fishing pier, picnic tables, toilets, and plenty of parking.

The best part about Lake Glenville is undoubtedly its waterfalls. Three waterfalls cascade right into the lake itself, including Norton Falls, Hurricane Falls, and Mill Creek Falls. Renting one of those boats from Signal Ridge—or bringing your own—is the perfect way to check out these unique features. Looking for even more lakes to explore? Our 2017 story, [Song of the Summer](#), offers a comprehensive guide to small mountain lakes around the region.

<https://bit.ly/3s05AFh>

**Harriet Tubman – 'The Journey to Freedom,' Traveling Sculpture**



The 9-foot, bronze traveling sculpture created by Emmy and Academy Award-winning Cashiers artist, Wesley Wofford will be on public display in Sylva from September 20 to mid-December 2021. An official unveiling will take place on September 26 from 2-4pm in Bridge Park, 76 Railroad Avenue.

[Back to Search Results](#)

**Info**  
Location [Bridge Park 76 Railroad Ave, Sylva, North Carolina 28779](#)  
Event Type Art & Exhibitions  
Date & Time Sep 20, 2021 to Dec 14, 2021

<https://bit.ly/3s7ydQW>

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Info

Location [Sylva, NC](#) [Sylva, North Carolina](#)

Event Type Art & Exhibitions

Date & Time Sep 20, 2021 to Dec 14, 2021

<https://bit.ly/37v6Re0>

Harriet Tubman – ‘The Journey to Freedom,’ Traveling Sculpture Unveiling

Bridge Park, Sylva, NC



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<https://bit.ly/3CuqwJg>

# Jackson County Report – June 2021

July 13, 2021

- Press Releases + Media Alerts:
  - Media Alert: LHG Now Representing Jackson County – Distributed
  - Press Release: New Clients Join Lou Hammond Group – Distributed
  - Press Release: TDA Grant – Reviewed and provided feedback
- Blog Posts:
  - Best Swimming Holes – Reviewed and provided feedback
  - What's New in Jackson County – Reviewed and provided feedback
- Fact Sheet – Drafted and finalized
- Media Pitches: Dream Wedding Giveaway Winners
- Media Inquiries:
  - Alexandra Elich (WCCB-TV): Dream Wedding Giveaway
  - @Nckstgram: Influencer partnership
  - Matt Lardie (Eater Carolina): upcoming visit to Jackson County
  - Laura Scholz (TripSavvy): Pet-friendly hotels
  - John Clarke (Wall Street Journal): Shadow of the Bear
  - Sherry Jackson (Greenville Journal): potential upcoming visit to Jackson County
  - Christiana Roussel (Garden & Gun, Good Grit, etc.): potential upcoming visit to Jackson County
- FY' 2022 Public Relations Plan – Drafted and scheduled presentation for July 9
- Targeted Pitching; Full List: <https://bit.ly/3wyftdP>
- Immersion visit:
  - Gina and Carter visited destination June 1-4
- Status Calls:
  - Marketing/PR call June 9 and 23
  - Rawle Murdy Connect June 10
  - Board Meeting June 16
- Press Releases:
  - Main Street Meetings
- Pitches:
  - Harriet Tubman Sculpture
  - Upcoming Events
  - Sylva and Dillsboro, the Perfect Pairing
  - Fly Fishing
- 2021/2022 Plan:
  - Presentation scheduled for July 9

### Forced To Cancel Their Wedding Due To The Pandemic, A Cornelius Frontline Worker And Her Fiancé Now Prepare For The Dream Ceremony They Deserve



CORNELIUS, NC. — [Kayla Fortner](#) and [Jose Arellano](#) met at Harrah's Cherokee Casino while working. The Cornelius couple began dating, and Jose popped the question in December 2019 with plans to get married in October 2020. The global pandemic changed that. Kayla was working in the ER at Atrium Health Cabarrus and six months pregnant with the couple's first child.

"We were just also freaked out; it was honestly traumatizing," Kayla says. Forced to cancel their original wedding plans, Kayla's mom found a \$40k Dream Castle Wedding Giveaway for frontline workers launched by Jackson County, where Kayla and Jose are from.

"So she had run across it, and she's like you should apply, and I'm like no mom I would never win that I have no luck."

The couple submitted a video anyway to enter the giveaway, introduce themselves, and explain how the pandemic impacted them. They made it to the final five.

"I kept telling her, you know, hey babe, I know we made it to the top five come let's not get her hopes up tell me there's a lot of competition," says Jose.

After more than 9,800 votes were cast, the couple won a dream wedding to be held on November 4th at Castle Ladyhawke at Bear Lake Reserve. The all-inclusive mountain wedding will include catering, décor, entertainment, photography, and more.

"Honestly, we were just planning on eloping and going somewhere since we had our daughter. There wasn't going to be no fairytale wedding in the picture, that's for sure," Kayla says.

<https://bit.ly/2SYfv00>

## Forbes

### High Hampton Resort's Blackberry Farm-Inspired Refresh Is A Triumph



[High Hampton Resort](#) is finally open and ready to show off its updated look and feel. The property, which is now owned in partnership with the team behind Blackberry Farm, Arlington Family Offices and Daniel Communities, took on the challenging and sensitive role of updating this vintage historic North Carolina mountain property, giving it a modern refresh while balancing its history and community value. Originally known as High Hampton Inn, the property was first developed in 1860 as a summer retreat for General Wade Hampton. After a fire destroyed the Inn in 1932, the entire building was reconstructed and completed in 1933. For well over a century, High Hampton has been a destination that multi-generational family groups visited annually—a bit like summer camp for entire families.

When the team at [Blackberry Farm](#) undertook a complete and total refresh of the Inn they were well-aware of the resort's special place in people's hearts. Sandy Beall, chairman and co-founder of Blackberry Farm and Blackberry Mountain, himself owned property and spent time at the original resort. Has its essence changed? The short answer is no—it remains a charming mountain gem in Western North Carolina but now enjoys the lustre of Blackberry Farm's luxe sensibilities. It is not, however, Blackberry Farm 2.0.

<https://bit.ly/3hr7uei>

### Forced To Cancel Their Wedding Due To The Pandemic, A Cornelius Frontline Worker And Her Fiancé Now Prepare For The Dream Ceremony They Deserve



## NEWS & RECORD

### Family travel 5: Ready to travel again? Try one of these destinations

#### Jackson County, North Carolina



With more than 3,000 miles of trout streams and 1,100 miles of hatchery-supported trout waters in the mountains alone, North Carolina is a fly-fishing and outdoor lover's haven. It's home to the nation's only designated fly-fishing trail, (Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail) that leads anglers to 15 prime spots in the Great Smoky Mountains to cast a line. Expect a variety of options from wide-open rivers to small, secluded streams. The heart of the trail, the Tuckasegee River, or the "Tuck" as it's known to locals, is the county's largest body of water. Designed by two outdoorsmen and fly-fishing guides, the trail is an ideal way for fly-fishers of all skill levels and ages to learn the art of fly-fishing.

Contact: [www.flyfishingtrail.com](http://www.flyfishingtrail.com); <https://www.discoverjacksonnc.com/outdoors/>

<https://bit.ly/3r0IW0f>

**Accounts in Transit: Lou Hammond Promotes NC's Blue Ridge Mountains**

[Lou Hammond Group](#) lands **The Jackson County Tourism Development Authority**. LHG will be providing public relations/corporate communications, strategic planning, branding and digital marketing for the client. Situated in Western North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains, Jackson County is home to the nation's first and only fly-fishing trail as well as miles of scenic hiking trails and waterfalls. The agency has also been engaged by **Sharbell Development Corporation**, a New Jersey-based real estate developer, and **Sycamore Brewing**, a Charlotte-based brewery that has been in operation since 2013.



<https://bit.ly/2VvBnBX>

*Account News In Brief (June 21, 2021)*

**New business for Crowe, Marino, and Lou Hammond.**

NEW YORK — Lou Hammond Group has been hired by three new clients for public relations/corporate communications, strategic planning, branding and digital marketing. They are: The Jackson County Tourism Development Authority in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains; Sharbell Development Corporation, a New Jersey-based real estate developer; and Charlotte craft brewery Sycamore Brewing.

<https://bit.ly/3hpRl8Z>

**This North Carolina Wilderness Isn't Called 'Yosemite Of The East' For No Reason**

Panthertown Valley is often called the 'Yosemite of the East,' but is it an even trade-off with America's most beloved national park?



[Asheville, North Carolina is a fantastic destination for a getaway](#), and its beauty and charm both speak to that. However, we're not talking about Asheville - we're talking about an area that lies just west of this southern city. Jackson County has been affectionately called the 'Yosemite of the East' for quite a while, and it's about time it gets some attention.

If you don't agree yet, then you just might after seeing all that it has to offer. It's almost hard to believe that this North Carolina county is so full of nature that it could compete with one of the country's most popular national parks, but it's true. Visitors won't find geysers that shoot sky-high or grizzly bears (thankfully?) roaming free, but they will have the chance to explore a vast wilderness that no one even knew was in this quiet East Coast state.

<https://bit.ly/3hZol7k>

**Best counties to retire in North Carolina, five from ENC rank among best**



**#23. Jackson County**

- Population: 42,938
- Median home value: \$196,100 (64% own)
- Median rent: \$739 (36% rent)
- Median household income: \$47,252
- Top places to live: Sylva (A-), Forest Hills (A), Webster Township (A)

<https://bit.ly/3yTTorX>

## Jackson County Tourism Development Authority announces new grant program

**JACKSON COUNTY, N.C. (July 1, 2021)** – The Jackson County Tourism Development Authority (JCTDA) announced it is now accepting applications for its new grant program, which will fund \$50,000 in community initiatives this year. A committee consisting of JCTDA Board Members, community members, past grant applicants, and grant writers reviewed the grant program and made improvements, ultimately expanding eligibility, uses, and funding for this year. "In looking at the grant program, we realized our guidelines and requirements were too narrow to invite the type of projects and creative programs that will build our community and visitor experience," said JCTDA Executive Director Nick Breedlove. "The JCTDA's grant committee spent months reworking the grant program, and we're very excited to now start accepting applications." JCTDA grants are used to assist with promoting and supporting events and initiatives that generate overnight visits and increase tourism, along with enhancing visitors' experiences to Jackson County. Notable changes to this year's program include:

- Changing focus of 'festivals/events' to 'initiatives' to broaden projects supported
- Allowing For-Profit entities to apply
- Allowing partnerships with neighboring counties
- Giving preference to public/private collaboration
- Rolling grant cycle – applications are considered on an ongoing basis (10 times a year vs. once a year)
- Providing a detailed scoring rubric to assist applicants in understanding what projects will receive the highest priority
- Removing the funding cap of \$1,750 and granting application funding based on the rubric scoring

Funding comes from occupancy tax collected in Jackson County from overnight visitors. More than \$115,000 in grant funds have been given out since the program began in 2013. The complete application, guidelines, and deadlines for consideration are available online at [www.JacksonCountyTDA.com](http://www.JacksonCountyTDA.com) by clicking on 'Grants.' Those with questions may call the Jackson County TDA at 828-848-8711.

### About Jackson County, NC

Cashiers, Cherokee, Dillsboro, Sylva, Balsam, Cullowhee, Glenville and Sapphire are the distinct locales that make up Western North Carolina's Jackson County. Each of these Blue Ridge Mountain towns provide natural beauty that invites visitors to experience the North Carolina Mountains. Jackson County is also home to the nation's first and only fly-fishing trail, The Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail. The majestic mountains harbor miles of hiking trails and waterfalls while charming downtowns are known for shopping, dining, culture, and hometown atmosphere. For more information visit, [www.DiscoverJacksonNC.com](http://www.DiscoverJacksonNC.com).

<https://bit.ly/3r2PoCy>

## Shinrin-yoku: Forest Bathing for Your Health



"Go outside, the fresh air will do you some good!" That commonly used phrase (often by our parents) is actually true! To get the most from the great outdoors, you could probably use a little guidance. The practice of *Shinrin-yoku* – a Japanese term that translates to "forest bathing" or "absorbing the forest atmosphere" – might be just what you need.

### Forest Bathing Spots

In Sylva, North Carolina, the 1,000-acre Pinnacle Park sees Dr. Mark Ellison lead countless walks a year.

In South Carolina, the COWASSE Basin – a 325,000-acre tract of land east of Columbia – includes Congaree National Park, Poinsett State Park, Manchester State Forest, Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve, Sparkleberry Swamp, Wateree Swamp, and segments of the Palmetto Trail introduces an entirely different set of environments from either the Smokies or Sierras to forest bathers.

Across Georgia, Certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guides lead forest bathing excursions on protected lands, in parks and preserves, and in pockets of wilderness across the state, from Woodlands Garden of Decatur (in Decatur) to the Hambidge Center, an artist community in the wild woods of North Georgia, to urban outings in Atlanta.

Many health experts in Japan and here in the U.S. say you can maximize the benefits of forest bathing by doing it regularly, but with our busy lives and varied access to national parks and other public lands, how can you incorporate the principles of *shinrin-yoku* into your daily routine and make forest bathing a part of your life?

<https://bit.ly/36v4bMT>

## High Hampton's Renewed Mountain Magic

The Blackberry Farm team helps usher in the next chapter of a fabled North Carolina mountain retreat



For generations, much of [High Hampton's](#) summer-camp charm stemmed from the resort seeming impervious to change. The getaway served as a time capsule in the heart of the Blue Ridge in Cashiers, North Carolina, where days consisted of morning waterfall hikes and lazy afternoons spent fishing and swimming in the property's fifteen-acre lake, ringed in banks of pale pink mountain laurel. Evenings hummed with Scrabble tournaments and bingo. It was a place where guests still dressed for dinner, and air-conditioning amounted to a few windows thrown open to catch mountain breezes. Wi-Fi, when it was introduced, was spotty at best, and until six years ago, guests could only make reservations by telephone.

In the late 1800s, Caroline Hampton Halsted and her husband, William Stewart Halsted, one of the founding surgeons at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, purchased the then 450-acre Western North Carolina property and its historic hunting lodge from her aunts, naming it High Hampton. A North Carolina couple, E. L. McKee and his wife, Gertrude, converted it to an inn in the early 1920s, and for nearly a century the McKee family welcomed vacationers seeking relaxation and refuge from the South's sweltering summers. Today the unique resort and club, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, sits on more than 1,400 pristine acres of Appalachian countryside near the Nantahala National Forest.

<https://bit.ly/3hByjNb>