

NC

MAGAZINE

The Power of North Carolina Business

September 2007 • \$3.95

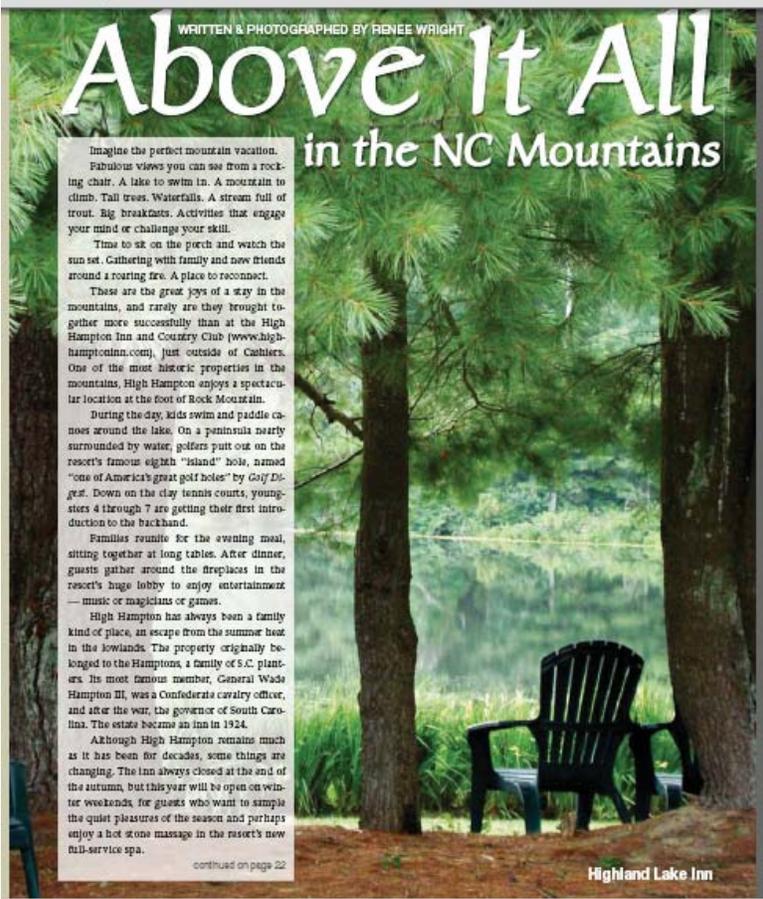
Inside

Metropolitan Leaders from
Charlotte, Greensboro and Raleigh
Business Defense Law
Fall Travel — NC Mountain Getaways
Time Warner Cable's Carol Hevey



ECONOMIC GROWTH

North Carolina builds its way to the top as
one of the nation's best states for business.



WRITTEN & PHOTOGRAPHED BY RENE WRIGHT

Above It All in the NC Mountains

Imagine the perfect mountain vacation. Fabulous views you can see from a rocking chair. A lake to swim in. A mountain to climb. Tall trees. Waterfalls. A stream full of trout. Big breakfasts. Activities that engage your mind or challenge your skill.

Time to sit on the porch and watch the sun set. Gathering with family and new friends around a roaring fire. A place to reconnect.

These are the great joys of a stay in the mountains, and rarely are they brought together more successfully than at the High Hampton Inn and Country Club (www.highhamptoninn.com), just outside of Cashiers. One of the most historic properties in the mountains, High Hampton enjoys a spectacular location at the foot of Rock Mountain.

During the day, kids swim and paddle canoes around the lake. On a peninsula nearly surrounded by water, golfers putt out on the resort's famous eighth "island" hole, named "one of America's great golf holes" by *Golf Digest*. Down on the clay tennis courts, youngsters 4 through 7 are getting their first introduction to the backhand.

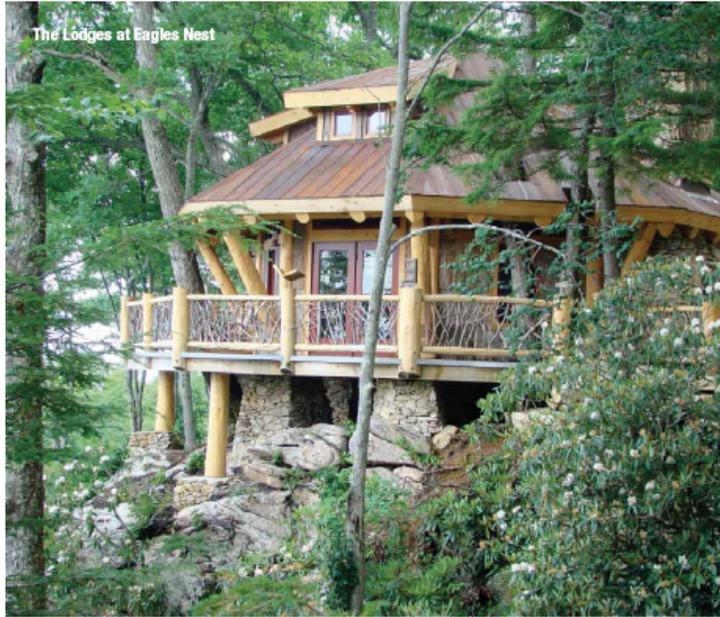
Families reunite for the evening meal, sitting together at long tables. After dinner, guests gather around the fireplaces in the resort's huge lobby to enjoy entertainment — music or magicians or games.

High Hampton has always been a family kind of place, an escape from the summer heat in the lowlands. The property originally belonged to the Hamptons, a family of S.C. planters. Its most famous member, General Wade Hampton III, was a Confederate cavalry officer, and after the war, the governor of South Carolina. The estate became an inn in 1924.

Although High Hampton remains much as it has been for decades, some things are changing. The inn always closed at the end of the autumn, but this year will be open on winter weekends, for guests who want to savor the quiet pleasures of the season and perhaps enjoy a hot stone massage in the resort's new full-service spa.

continued on page 22

Highland Lake Inn



The Lodges at Eagles Nest

continued from page 26

Sumptuous Camps

Getting up-close and personal with nature is the goal of many a mountain vacation, but at today's posh hosteries and private communities, you can get fully engaged with the out-of-doors then retire at night to a pillow-top bed.

On a mountain ridge above Banner Elk, visionary John Turchin is bringing his dream to life, and having fun doing it. "We're building a very special place here," he said. "A place where families can grow young together." The Lodges at Eagles Nest (www.eaglesnestbe.com), constructed of bark and stone and huge logs brought from British Columbia, provides every comfort while blending seamlessly with the forest.

Halfway up the mountain, Turchin has built a Great Camp, with a "toy barn" full of bikes and sports equipment, an amphitheater overlooking Bosch Mountain and a rustic library perched on the edge of a cliff. Still to come are art studios with unobstructed mountain views and a grand spa.

"I wanted this to be like the camp I went to as a child — only better," Turchin said. "Eagles Nest is a spontaneous and free-spirited place. The emphasis here is on fun."

The developer frequently invites the surrounding community to visit. Eagles Nest, for concerts, weekly barbecues and special events. Turchin's motto, carved on a plaque at the library, says it all: "The

only thing better than living your dream is sharing it."

While no one is likely to mistake the Inn on Billionaire's Estate (www.billionaire.com) for a rustic camp, it is a great place to have fun in the outdoors. Once attracting motley history buffs, in recent years, the resort has dramatically increased the activities available on its 6,000 acres. Float trips and kayaking on the French Broad River, horseback riding, fly-fishing, biking and hiking on miles of trails are just the beginning. Take a Land Rover for an off-road spin or aim a Beretta shotgun on the sporting clays range. The latest innovation is a guided tour of the estate on an all-terrain Segway.

continued on page 28