



# NORTH CAROLINA The Mason

Official Publication of The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina



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March/April 2011

## Getting stewed in Salisbury



The Stew makes for stirring moments of a conversation.



Stew crew readies a pot for a second batch.



Kitchen crew fills pint cups for to-go fans.

### More than 50 years in, more popular than ever

By Ric Carter

SALISBURY — If there's one month that needs man to create a bright spot, it's February. Many find this trailing arm of winter the bleakest of times; wet, cold, dank; piling on to our already winter beaten psyches. It is a time we often need to force ourselves to buck up and have fun in the face of nature's insulting season.

Perhaps that played some part in the decision by Floyd Burton and other members of Andrew Jackson 576 to have a lodge fundraiser back in February 1958. It is doubtful they had any idea of what a tradition they started that first year. They made two pots of Brunswick stew and turned it into \$790 to spend on charity.

In the more than 50 years since then, the town of Salisbury has embraced the lodge's Annual Brunswick Stew as a community tradition looked forward to by hundreds. Each year, on the last Thursday of February, the lodge draws a packed dining hall and a line of cars picking up pints of the homebrew at the drive-through.

Things have changed over the years, and certainly grown. In 2011, they cooked 16 pots of stew. Those pots are different sizes, but they average about 50 gallons each. They sold 800 gallons this year, serving more than 5,000 customers on the day of the stew.

As you can imagine, cooking that much stew takes some time and planning. Each participant has their own job. There are scoopers, stirrers, packers, baggers, tasters, ticket takers, transporters, handers, servers, bussers, mixers, preparers, and on and on. One person does nothing but mix herbs and spices. Every one of them claims that they have the best job in the project. From the results, they must be right.

The project begins early with cleaning and ordering supplies. This year that meant 750 pounds of chicken, 450 pounds beef, 450 pounds pork, 1,110 pounds potatoes, 150 pounds carrots, 200 pounds celery, 150 pounds onions, 100 pounds rice, and 328 gallons of canned tomatoes, peas, corn, lima beans. No, doing the math will not likely give you the taste of which the lodge is so proud.

According to Dennis Sims, "Over the years, the actual recipe has been passed down from cook to cook. Only a few have it (actually only three who are active), and we don't share."

On Tuesday night before the Thursday serving, several volunteers cut meat for the stew. A crew comes in to clean and set the pots. It takes four men just to lift the 50 gallon cast iron pots into place.

On Wednesday, all the fresh vegetables are cleaned, chopped,

see STEW, page 5



John Demers sitting at the Rusty Bucket, a central location of his kids' show.

## Demers points kids toward history

By Ric Carter

APEX — A gift can come cloaked as an enemy. A few years ago, John Demers, a member of Millbrook 97 in Raleigh, would have told you his extended, serious illness was a curse. Today, he knows it for the gift of time that it was.

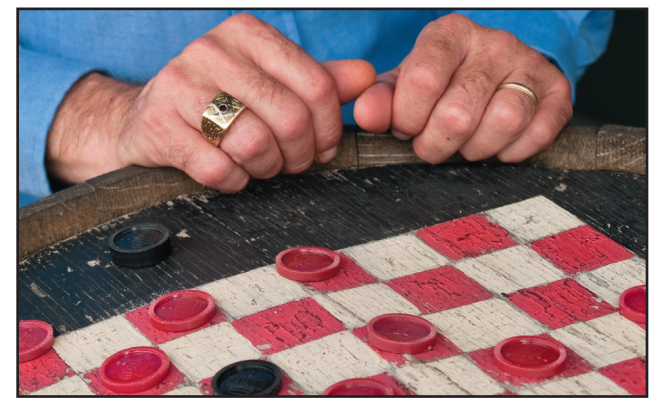
The sickness knocked him out of work for two years. Happily, surgery last June has helped him recover. That enforced down time gave a chance for his creative side to flourish. Demers enjoyed writing when he was younger. He found that pleasure again while ill.

John Demers had a history in movies, mostly in acting and producing short corporate films. His kids showed an interest in following in his footsteps, but Demers could not find a vehicle he thought suitable for his own children.

Demers says, "Our entertainment for young people is too laser beamed. It's targeted for certain demographics,

certain people. The lessons being taught are negative." He believed programming could succeed by showing young people making the right choices, rather than the standard sitcom method of laughing at them making the wrong decisions and then laughing their way to the better decision.

see KIDS, page 4



Careful eyes will spot Demers' ring in the show.

### THE BOTTOM LINE



## Thoughts from Westwood... and an opportunity at Oxford

By Lewis R. Ledford  
Grand Master

As I write this column, the "March Madness" of the NCAA basketball tournament is in full swing. So it is perhaps fitting that I use some quotes from the late John Wooden, the famed UCLA men's basketball coach, known to some as the Wizard from Westwood.

"Failing to prepare is preparing to fail."

"Never mistake activity for achievement."

"Be quick, but don't hurry."

"Success is never final. Failure is never fatal. It's courage that counts."

"Failure is not fatal, but failure to change might be."

"It's about what is correct, not who is correct."

"Things turn out best for people who make the best of the way things turn out."

"It isn't what you do, but how you do it."

"Happiness begins when selfishness ends."

"Sports don't build character, they reveal it."

"You can't live a perfect day without doing something for

someone who will never be able to repay you."

"When you're through learning, you're through."

"Talent is God-given; be humble. Fame is man-given; be thankful. Conceit is self-given; be careful."

"Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there."

Initially, I had only planned to reference the, "Failing to prepare is preparing to fail" quote. However, as I began to reread these, they began to resonate in similar fashion to a number of the teachings of Freemasonry. I hope you will also enjoy reflecting on how these can relate to advancing our fraternity.

In terms of planning, as we began to prepare for the new Masonic year, the Grand Lodge officers met for a facilitated discussion in early November. We discussed many issues. I would like to share a brief listing of the issues that we decided should be among our priorities:

• Service/Mission — Is there anything more important to our fraternity than the basic tenets? Regardless of the many endeavors and activities that claim our attention, let's remember from whence we came.

• The We vs They Mentality — Seemingly, in any organization

or grouping, whether it is work, church, and even families, it is so easy for competing interests to develop. It remains vitally important for there to be unity in purpose and actions in both the local lodges and Grand Lodge officers.

• New Membership Recruitment and Training — Are we setting the example and making good men aware of Freemasonry? Are we providing the training at all levels to insure success?

• Leadership Development, young and old — Wilkerson College and the Wardens Boot Camps are positive examples, but with more than 360 lodges, how can we provide more support for our leadership?

• Technology — Are we staying well informed with efficient and effective use of technology?

• Communication — From printed materials, to electronic and social media, to videos, to interpersonal communications, are we meeting the demand?

• Marketing — It is a topic that we infrequently discuss when we talk about our beloved fraternity. Are we making our good work and its benefits known in our communities?

see BOTTOM LINE, page 2

## Background checks underway

By Ric Carter

RALEIGH — As mandated at Annual Communication last September, the Grand Secretary's Office has begun running criminal background checks on all petitioners for the degrees. The required check is paid for by the petitioner who adds a non-refundable \$15 to the lodge fees for the degrees.

Each day a list of all the petitions certified by the office that day is forwarded to a company which does the checks. They use a number of Internet tools to look for issues that might concern a lodge considering a man for membership. They look at state court records and national criminal databases. They check residence histories and run social traces. The results are returned to Grand Lodge the next day. Reports are returned to the petitioner's lodge with the certified petitions.

The Grand Lodge takes no action based on the reports. Judgments are left to each candidate's lodge and investigating committee. So, what is being seen so far?

Most applicants are unsullied, but no day goes by without "hits" — results which may be warning signs about the suitability of a candidate. Some may be simple convictions for things long ago. Others, though, show misleading petitions. Some may show disturbing trends of many relatively minor charges with few convictions. One recent petition confessed to a felony conviction based on circumstances and poor judgement. The report generated ran 36 pages of court history indicating a more extensive cause for concern. Again, these results are shared with lodge investigating committees for use as they see fit.

There has been some surprise at the number of flagged reports returned. It is estimated by the Grand Secretary's Office that one in five checks returns some reason for concern, sometimes a simple charge later dropped, but with some frequency larger pictures of personalities not suited for our fraternity are seen.

In this time of greater mobility, we are increasingly considering petitioners we have not known for very long. The background checks are furnishing a valuable tool to let lodges and their investigating committees vote on new members with increased confidence in their actions.

## Taking Wine

At a Festive Board, the Worshipful Master was taking wine with the brethren when he noticed that he had drained his glass halfway, he arose and called to the Junior Warden, "Brother Junior Warden, is this glass half empty or half full?"

"Half empty, Worshipful Master," responded the Junior Warden.

"Brother Senior Warden," continued the Worshipful Master, "What is your answer?"

"It is half full, Worshipful sir," answered the Senior Warden.

"Worshipful Brother Immediate Past Master, we should always hear what you have to say. What is your answer?"

"It is both," he answered with a wry smile and the Brethren responded heartily.

"Ah-ha, very good," said the Worshipful Master.

Noticing the Tyler nodding off in the corner, the Worshipful Master thought he would challenge him and said, "Brother Tyler, what say you to all this? Is my glass half empty or half full?"

"There is room for more," he answered.

— zenmasonry.wordpress.com



Ric Carter photo

## Take the Masonic Pig Jig challenge

RALEIGH — North Carolina's largest Masonic gathering, the Carolina Masonic Pig Jig, is set for May 21 at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds, next to the new Exposition Center. This year's event is again held in cooperation with North Carolina Ag Fest. The state's top barbecue competition between Masonic organizations will admit 40 teams this year.

This cook-off is a one of a kind for NC Masonic organizations. If you think your barbecue pig, chicken, or sauce is worthy of statewide bragging rights, then this is the place to come and claim your rightful crown. Several thousand hungry barbecue fans enjoyed the best Tar Heel barbecues here last year.

The competition has a couple of aims. It provides an atmosphere in which Masonry can shine and lets the public get a sense of the fun and enjoyment that we get from being Masons, and it raises money for our charities. This year, the proceeds from the Carolina Masonic Pig Jig will be donated to the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford and the Central Children's Home in Oxford.

The Pig Jig hopes that your lodge, temple, valley, district, or order will take up the challenge to come, enjoy a great weekend of fellowship, and compete for barbecue title. The entry fee for the contest is \$200 and includes the meats that you will cook at the competition. Individual tickets to the competition are ten dollars, and your Masonic organization will receive a block of 30 tickets for your entry fee. You may use or resell these tickets to recoup your entry fee.

Cooking begins Friday May 20. Eating the contest results begins at 11:00 A.M. Saturday, May 21, and goes on until the barbecue is gone. Tickets are ten dollars. As the food has run out the last couple of years, be there early.

There are many other attractions that day at Got to Be NC festival including an antique tractor parade, a carnival, and lawn mower racing — it's a mini-NC State Fair.

Accept the challenge. Vie for the title. Help the kids. Enjoy great Masonic fellowship.

For details visit <www.carolinapigjig.com> and <www.ncagfest.com> or call event coordinator Mike Sterling at (919) 272-1353 or <mjsterling@taxfreeinvesting.com> or 3356 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC 27609

## You're invited

### Yard Sale and Raffle

May 28

ABERDEEN — Roman Eagle 550 is having their Third Annual Yard Sale from 6:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M., May 28 at 11621 Highway 15-501 S. in Aberdeen. Donations for sale are accepted through May 25. Tickets are five dollars for Remington 870 Shotgun raffle. Breakfast will be available on site. Spaces are ten dollars each.

For details, contact Archie Beavers at <archiebeavers550@yahoo.com> or call (910) 639-4090.

### 35th Masonic District Picnic

May 28

KINGS MOUNTAIN — The 35th Masonic District is holding its Second Annual Picnic here at Patriots Park, corner of Mountain and Battleground.

Things kick off at 3:00 P.M., with the Chili Cook-Off judging at 4:00 P.M., with the meal being served at 5:00 o'clock. They'll be serving barbecue ribs, and barbecue chicken, with plenty of sides. There will be special food for children.

There will be plenty of fun attractions including a water bouncy slide and fun house. Kids should dress for water fun. For information contact Max Brooks at (704) 363-2699 or (704) 482-4903.

### Wilkerson College Lodge

Wilkerson College 760 travels around the state and presents usually public educational programs. Details and contacts may be found at <http://www.wcl760.com>.

June 11

RALEIGH — Raleigh 500 hosts at 4:00 P.M. Author Michael A. Halleran presents "The Better Angels of Our Nature - Freemasonry in the American Civil War."

August 13

FAYETTEVILLE — Phoenix 8 hosts at 11:00 A.M. PGM Tom Gregory presents "The Symbolism of the Cross in Freemasonry."

## District meetings continue

Grand Master Lewis R. Ledford plans to visit about half our districts this year. His meetings start in early March and will finish in early June. His meetings will be similar to the area meetings of the past few years. Pre-meeting meals are scheduled for 6:15 P.M. with the tyled meeting starting at 7:00 P.M.. District officers and the grand master will be received with usual honors.

| Date     | District | Lodge           | Location       |
|----------|----------|-----------------|----------------|
| April 12 | 12       | St. John's 1    | Wilmington     |
| April 13 | 17       | Bladen 646      | Elizabethtown  |
| April 14 | 15       | Cary 198        | Cary           |
| April 27 | 35       | Shelby 744      | Shelby         |
| April 28 | 7        | Zion 81         | Trenton        |
| May 9    | 8        | Widow's Son 519 | Roanoke Rapids |
| May 23   | 39       | Biltmore 446    | Asheville      |
| May 24   | 41       | Junaluskee 145  | Franklin       |
| May 25   | 38       | Dunn's Rock 267 | Brevard        |
| May 26   | 37       | Bakersville 357 | Bakersville    |
| June 1   | 26       | Salem 289       | Winston-Salem  |
| June 6   | 1        | Eureka 317      | Elizabeth City |
| June 8   | 30       | Statesville 27  | Statesville    |

You may make your lodge's reservation for the meeting with your district deputy grand master or host lodge secretary. Please be considerate of the host lodge. Make your reservations for dinner at least seven days before your scheduled meeting. It is very frustrating to try to plan for a meal when reservations have not been made. Your lodge will be responsible to pay for all meals reserved. Those who have not made reservations should not expect to eat.

In case of inclement weather, meetings will be cancelled in accordance with local schools cancellations. If a meeting is cancelled, the host lodge and district deputy grand master will be notified. Your lodge may cancel its stated communication to attend your district meeting. Information will also be posted on the Grand Lodge web site: <www.grandlodge-nc.org>. This schedule will be the schedule as of February 2, 2011. Changes may be necessary. Please consult your lodge for updates.

### NC Mason Deadlines

| Issue                  | Deadline    |
|------------------------|-------------|
| January/February.....  | January 1   |
| March/April .....      | March 1     |
| May/June .....         | May 1       |
| July/August .....      | July 1      |
| September/October..... | September 1 |
| November/December..... | November 1  |

## More affinity lodges coming?



Reenactors at a raising at Waynesville 259.



PGM Smith and wife Becky with their Model A Ford.

Lodges are all about community. Once that community meant neighborhood, but in a highly mobile culture such as ours, lodge community can become something else.

In recent years, we have come to embrace the affinity lodge. Affinity lodges base their community in a shared interest. Current affinity lodges include one interested in Masonic education (Wilkerson College 760), another interested in the Masonic Home for Children (Orphans 761), and a third in motorcycles (Knights of Solomon 764). There are dozens of such possibilities. There is talk of trying to establish two more in the near future.

For years now Matthew Paris has been a Civil War reenactor and living historian. The Cabarrus 720 junior warden wants to start a lodge with other such history aficionados. He already has a number of reenactors interested. If you are interested, contact Paris at <confedhiram@windstream.net >.

Past Grand Master Gerry Smith and Wilmington 319 Secretary Eddie Gaskins are talking up a lodge with a shared interest in classic cars. Contact Smith at <gsmith15@ec.rr.com> or (252)726-5323.

Early applicants will help define how specialized each lodge might be. Launching a lodge requires about 30 Masons to petition to start the lodge. Both lodges will likely be traveling lodges, meeting in various locations around the state a limited number of times each year.

Starting a new lodge is an exciting thing. If you are interested in living history or classic vehicles, this is your chance to be part of something special.

## BOTTOM LINE, from page 1

• Resource Development (Funding Opportunities) — How do we identify and keep our fundraising and charitable efforts at the level necessary to protect our investments and enable us to provide to those in need?

I share these strategies and ask that you provide insights and suggestions as well. Please take time to discuss at your meetings, and seek out the district officers and grand line officers to share ideas.

A new goal that we have set for ourselves will involve virtually all the above topics. We want to showcase the great institution that is the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. For many years, a late Saturday in June, St. Johns Day at Oxford, was a red-letter date for North Carolina Masons. In recent years; however, attendance began to decline, then two years ago the Shrine parades were no longer held. There are likely a number of reasons for the decline, not the least of which was the passing of Lloyd Young, who for many years was the wonderful volunteer icon who coordinated the activities. As we began to discuss options for this event with the Board of Directors and others, it was important to

determine the interest and means to make this effort successful. It became a discussion of whether it would benefit the mission of the Home. Following many conversations, it was determined that the benefits were numerous, and that there was considerable interest. Special thanks are extended to Past Grand Master Dan Rice, Board chairman and an alumnus of the Home, for his leadership in this effort. It was decided that a fall weekend would be an ideal date, and to have various activities available would engage all interests. Plans are in the works for a parade, a barbecue cooking contest, a 5k and 10k walk/race, a golf tournament, and much more. I have even heard there are plans for bluegrass music. Look for more details in this *NC Mason* and on the web page. Plans are developing as this edition goes to print. The date selected for this year is October 7-8, which coincides with the Homecoming weekend for the Oxford Orphanage Alumni. Is there any other group that would be more interested in supporting the Home? I also extend my special thanks to each of the Shrine potentates — Terry Hodges of Amran, John Sullivan of Oasis, and Bruce

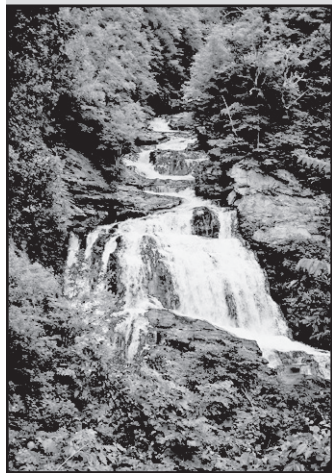
Bullock of Sudan. Each of them offered very generous support and commitments as we discussed this opportunity and made the decision to move forward.

At a recent district meeting, Chris Richardson, development officer and assistant administrator for MHCO, shared that our Home could accommodate at least 30 additional youth at a relatively small cost. Is there anything more important than providing support to youth in need? The bottom line for this event in October is to showcase, to raise awareness and an understanding of our members as well the community at large of the service that is provided at MHCO. An increased awareness, better understanding, and personal visits will also provide for improved fiscal support. As the effort is so new, I'm not sure if we have decided to call it October at Oxford, Homecoming, or something else. Maybe you can offer a name that will capture the essence. Please commit to join us under the oaks in October. Help us grow this event. In the years to come, it will enable us to build support and provide service in the most meaningful way.

# TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE

## NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA'S LODGES

By Ric Carter



### Hookerton

Jerusalem 95 held their Awards and Ladies' Night January 11 at Hookerton United Methodist Church fellowship hall. William Carney Worthington and John Beddard McLawhorn received their 50-year Veteran's Emblems.

Jerusalem Lodge has resumed their first Tuesday coaching and practice sessions. They will run until summer schedules get too busy.

— *The Jerusalem Journal*

### South Mills

The guys at New Lebanon 314 had an April Tarheel Fish Fry set to entertain their brothers from Indian River Lodge in Virginia.

— *The Plumb Line*

### Pilot Mountain

Pilot 493 held a blood drive November 29. They collected 46 units on a goal of 39. Tom Nuckols and Paul Shelton shared personal family stories about the miracle that blood donations can bring to people.

Pilot Lodge made more than \$1,000 with their fall barbecue. They split the money 40% to the Masonic Home for Children and 60% to WhiteStone.

At the lodge's December 13 pot luck supper, Gary Cook was presented his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years membership.

— *The Pilot Mountain Traveler*

### Mount Airy

Stephen McGraw is teaching monthly OSW classes at Granite 322.

— *The Pilot Mountain Traveler*

### Lexington

The members of Lexington-Memorial 473 held a chicken barbecue fundraiser November 6. They were raising money for three members who were in "dire" circumstances. They raised more than \$4,300.

— Thomas Jolly Jr.

### Ahoskie

Davie 39 held their Ladies' Night and Awards Supper on December 10. Wallace McKee, Woodrow Tayloe, and Woody Pittman got their 60-year Diamond Jubilee Awards. Veteran's Emblems for 50 years membership went to Tom Cherry and John Ezzelle.

At Christmas, Davie Lodge delivered 24 fruit baskets to lodge widows and shut-in members.

— A. C. Hassell

### Canton

In addition to every new master's goals of increasing membership and participation, Sonoma 472's Master Paul Reece has set a couple of modest goals for the year: a new restroom upstairs and new drapes for the building.

When illness struck the Hogle family during the winter's nasty weather, the members of Sonoma Lodge reached out to help their friends. When the Hoglans got home from the hospital, they found the driveway cleared of snow and fresh wood delivered.

Sonoma Lodge does not lightly give up possession of the district traveling gavel. Oconee 427 came and took it from them January 6. Sonoma went after it at first opportunity, January 17, and took it back.

— *Valley of the Moon*

### Thomasville

Thomasville 214 is celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They have had commemorative coins struck marking the occasion. They are selling them for ten dollars each.

They are also having their charter restored by archivists. Past masters were solicited for donations of \$100 each to pay for the restoration which should protect the document for many years to come.

Thomasville member Ben Louya recently received his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years membership.

— *Trestle Board*

### Spruce Pine

Vesper 554 held a special night to honor a brother who was moving out of state. Orthopedic Surgeon Russell Flint is moving to Georgia.

Junior Warden Levi Hefner, a graduate of Johnson and Wales Culinary Institute was preparing the meal at their February meeting.

Younger members at Vesper Lodge are advised to call older members to offer a ride to lodge. Elders are urged to call the lodge if they need a ride.

— Dan Wilson

### Southport

Before Christmas, Pythagoras 249 sent \$300 to each of two needy families. Their attention is now turned to their September 18 golf tournament.

Fifteen members of Pythagoras Lodge recently visited Arthur Knox in his home. They went there to present him his Diamond Jubilee award for 60 years Masonic membership.

— *Newsletter*

### Statesville

Statesville participated in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Masonic Community Blood Drive in January. They brought in more than 240 units.

May 21–22 they will be participating in the Relay for Life for the second time. They have several ways to contribute to fighting cancer. They are selling Masonic yardsticks for five dollars as well as luminaries for ten dollars to honor the memory of love ones.

On February 15, Statesville Lodge elected Joe Link a Secretary of Distinction.

At a recent third degree, Statesville Lodge lecturers David Potter and Keith Rash split the lecture into several parts. They got good reviews from the lodge.

Statesville 27 is selling window decals of a square and compasses over the NC state outline. The money raised goes to the lodge relief fund.

Events had them at a lodge clean-up day January 22. They were making their annual WhiteStone visit March 13.

— *The Joppa Informer*

### Winston-Salem

Sixty people attended Old Town 751's Family Night Supper in December. At the dinner, two members were presented plaques honoring their contributions to the lodge: Jack Horn for his work with dinners and Charles McAlexander for his work on the lodge building and grounds.

Masonic widows of Old Town Lodge were appreciative of the fruit baskets they got from the lodge December 18. The gift is a long-standing Christmas tradition for the lodge.

The new roof is on the lodge. Their spring pancake supper is set for April 8. The lodge plans to sponsor a young lady to the Rainbow Girl Camp this summer, and they are expecting to continue their Bikes for Books program in local schools.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Masonic District's traveling gavel requires its possessor to carry it to another lodge with a five-member posse. Old Town reported having it in February.

— *On the Level at Old Town Lodge*



2010 Master Harvey Ellis is seen here installing one of the lift chairs.

## Roxboro Masons lifted up (and down)

ROXBORO — Person 113 installed two chair lifts last year. One goes up to the lodge room and the other down to the kitchen and dining room.

The stair lifts make a 1960s-era building accessible to the lodge's aging family and friends. They estimate 10–15% of their 90 members will make use of the stair lifts on a regular basis.

### Paw Creek

West Gate 738 was to hold their Ladies' Night February 19 at Metrolina Shrine Club. They were serving rib-eye steak and being entertained by blue grass band Toby Creek. Thirty-seven-year lodge treasurer Wade Kirby was being honored that night.

A report on their 2010 Toy Ride to Oxford told the lodge of a "good day and successful event."

West Gate Lodge is participating in Cell Phones for Soldiers, a drive that collects old cell phones and recycles them to furnish calling cards for soldiers deployed overseas.

On the taking care of home front, lodge members were meeting at the lodge recently to clean out the kitchen and remove several years' accumulation.

— *News from the West*

### Jacksonville

A January Onslow Masonic Scholarship Visitation at Semper Fidelis 680, attended by 52 Masons, raised more than \$1,200 for the fund. Another was set for March 10 at New River 736.

Semper Fi Lodge had an open house scheduled for March 30.

— *Trestle Board*

### Gastonia

King Solomon 704 Master James Howell has pledged a \$25 donation to Masonic charity every time 25 members of his lodge attend a meeting of the lodge.

King Solomon Lodge did their Adopt-A-Highway pickup February 26. They patrol 2.3 miles of Gaston Day School Road. Gloves, safety vests, and bags were furnished. The NCDOT picked up the loaded bags.

— *Trestle Board*

### Cherryville

More than 1,500 chickens were sold at Cherryville 515's fall chicken barbecue. They termed it a big success.

Mark Moss is holding Monday night practice sessions at Cherryville Lodge. Members can order up custom instruction: catechisms, degree work, funeral service, or just reading the OSW (*Official Standard of the Work*).

— *News Out of the Blue*

### Conover

Their goal at Conover 709's recent blood drive was 45 units. They made 47.

— *Conover Lodge Newsletter*

### Cary

Cary 198, in conjunction with the NC State Highway Patrol, has created a Trooper of the Year award. The initial recipient was First Sergeant Ardeen Hunt. The award was presented December 8.

Master Jeff Scott plans to "brighten Cary Lodge's light." He wants to add a sound system to the lodge and form an informal lecturer's group. He has also asked each member to volunteer at least one hour for the lodge or Eastern Star barbecue fundraiser.

— *Trestle Board*

### Kenly

The 16<sup>th</sup> Masonic District held their first district meeting of the year in January. It was hosted in Kenly by Mount Lebanon 117. Issues discussed included funeral committees, their traveling gavel SAMON, and fundraising. The next one is scheduled for April and will be hosted by Granite 191.

— Grover Dees

### Salisbury

Last year's Brunswick stew at Andrew Jackson 576 brought in more than \$20,000 for charity. Besides Masonic charity, several local causes benefitted: Rowan County Masonic Scholarship, Salisbury Post Christmas Happiness, Ruffy Holmes Senior Center, West Rowan Bible Teachers, Salvation Army, ARC, Rowan Helping Ministries, Masonic Service Association, Relay for Life, United Way, Main Street Missions, and Meals on Wheels. They also held a Masonic Blood Drive January 7.

2010 lodge awards included Tommy Yarborough winning the L. C. Lake Award and John Hudson being named Mason of the Year.

Jackson Lodge and Fulton 99 have been spending time and money to make sure their shared building stays in shape. They've replaced a food freezer in the kitchen, and parking signs are updated. Windows are being repaired.

— *Master's Journal*

### Asheville

Jimmie Dean Blair was recently made an honorary member of Nichols-West Asheville 650.

— Jack Barnett

After a few years in mothballs, the Masonic square and compasses obituary embellishment is again in use at the Asheville *Citizen-Times*. They reactivated it after Mount Hermon 118 historian Mark-Ellis Bennett asked and showed an interest in it.

Things stay interesting at the Masonic Temple in Asheville now that public events there are common. Some of the things to be seen there this winter included: Old Farmer's Ball, January 21; Tango Gypsies, January 29; Poetry Slam, February 6; "Real Inspector Hound" by the Montfort Park Players, February 18–20; Playback Theater, February 25; and Gilbert and Sullivan's "Gondoliers," February 26–27.

— *Trestle Board*

### Swansboro

The annual Scholarship Dinner at Seaside 429 in September brought in \$1,200. Past Grand Master Leonard Safrit and then-Grand Master Billy Dill were guests for the seafood extravaganza. Dill was presented an honorary membership in the lodge. They raised another \$1,000 in October with a grilled chicken dinner fundraiser.

Seaside's Past Masters' and Awards Night was held in November. Their December Christmas party honored their Masonic widows.

Seaside Lodge has raised their affiliation fee to \$20 and their initiation fee to \$125.

— *Trestle Board*

### Rocky Mount

Corinthian 230 planned to celebrate their Past Masters', Widows', and Awards Night February 28.

Their Brunswick stew was set for March 19.

— *The Corinthian Column*

### Charlotte

December schedules get busy. No more so than at Temple 676. They initiated two Entered Apprentices on December 7, installed officers December 9, raised four Master Masons December 16, and passed two Fellows Craft December 23.

Temple Lodge had a program about home-grown terrorism from US Representative Sue Myrick's Chief of Staff Hal Weatherman.

— *Trestle Board*

Charles M. Setzer 693 has remodeled the dining room and is installing past masters portraits. There is new paint, carpet, tile flooring, countertops, and cabinets.

A crew from Setzer Lodge helped out at the Dilworth Soup Kitchen December 22. Kenny Barnette and Allan Mann went in at 5:00 A.M. and cooked eight turkeys. David McCoy did the cutting, chopping, and other prep work. Tom Setzer, Wayman Mizell, and John Burling did cleanup duty collecting and plate washing. The lodge is planning to participate regularly.

— *Trestleboard*

Excelsior 261 recently did pickup duty on their Adopt-A-Street stretch of Sharon Amity Road.

— *Trestle Board*

### Greensboro

Guilford 656's Ike Quigley recently arranged for a showing of The Muppets Take Manhattan at the Carousel Theater. All proceeds were given to the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford.

— *The Trestleboard*

P. P. Turner 746 member Kevin Antonson is trying to put together a Triad Masonic Choir. Contact him if you if you have voice enough.

Turner Lodge has two traveling emergent communications each year. They were going to WhiteStone March 17 and to the Masonic Home for Children May 14. Representatives of the Homes were presenting programs at each of the meetings.

— *P. P. Turner Lodge* and Ross Gellar

see STATE, page 5

If your lodge has a newsletter for its members, make sure *The North Carolina Mason* is on your mailing list. Lodge newsletters are a major source of news for Masons around the state. If you don't have one, think about starting one. Newsletters are a good way to keep your members active, happy, and informed.

# Cornerstone of the Carolinas

The first Mason On the Square was Charlotte's founder Thomas Polk. His heroic leadership was evident from the day in 1755 he first set foot On the Square, the American Indian hilltop crossroads that soon became, and today remains, Trade and Tryon.

He was great uncle of US President James Knox Polk—both of them Masons—who founded Charlotte. In 1775, he helped write, was first to sign, and proclaimed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence in the courthouse On the Square. He was the general who led 200 troops to rescue the Liberty Bell from being melted into British bullets. It was at his house On the Square where President George Washington, a brother Mason, met with him and other pioneer settlers.

Today the 1,745,524 people of the Charlotte metropolitan area express their thanks to the city's founder with Thomas Polk Park, a charming refuge. On the Square, of course.

### The First Map

Charlotte as it was in 1781 has been mapped in a jewel of a document drawn by city engineers from its archives. It identifies each lot by location, dimensions and names of all the first owners. It shows the first courthouse built smack in the middle of the street at Trade and Tryon. Among the many property owners listed are Waightstill Avery, who became Master of his Masonic lodge in Rutherfordton and North Carolina's first Attorney General. Other Masons who were earliest owners of Charlotte real estate include Thomas Polk, Ephraim Brevard, John Foad, Adam Alexander, Hezekiah Alexander, Abraham Alexander, James Jack, and Duncan Ochiltree, who later helped establish the new NC Grand Lodge.

### Charlotte's Ever-Changing Square

Though its Masonic character prevails through the centuries, The Square keeps chang-

ing. Charlotte has always been too distracted to relive and bask in its past. It stays busy replacing, rebuilding, redesigning, and replanning itself.

The Square, dynamic crown of the Queen City of the Carolinas, moves like mercury—too fast to capture. Nowhere else in the Carolinas can you blink and see such change. This Square, this Trade-and-Tryon conjunction, is a stage where immense buildings rise and fall like curtains between acts. The pace seems so rapid you wonder how you missed the covered wagon becoming the car becoming the bus becoming the train becoming the jet plane before your eyes.

And yet the street names are essentially the same as in 1775. Gold, the real thing, lies forever under everyone's feet. "North" is, as always, northeast. Churches are easier to find than street lights. Funny stories and family names heard in Charlotte keeping reminding you of Edinburgh or Glasgow.

So is Charlotte a new city? A prize pack of bloodhounds could not sniff anything to track. Essentially Charlotte is an always-new city with a rich past. The Osborne Corner and Belk's Department Store are long gone, but the Blumenthal Center stands tall at The Square today to honor Dick and Herman Blumenthal of Phalanx 31.

A grand place to be. The Masonic Square in Charlotte, any century you visit.

All NC Lodges have a Piece of The Square  
Phalanx 31. Williams 176. Long Creek 205. Excelsior 261. Matthews 461. Joppa 530. Temple 676. East Gate 692. Charles M. Setzer 693. St. Andrew 702. Derita 715. Steele Creek

737. West Gate 738. Newell 739. Mint Hill 742. James K. Polk 759.

Members of these Mecklenburg County lodges can be in their cars and On the Square of Charlotte in less than an hour. So can Masons farther from center Charlotte. From Aberdeen to Zebulon, from mountains to sea, brethren across the entire Tar Heel state feel at home on their frequent visits to Charlotte friends, relatives, and brother Masons.

Their visits to The Square—their Square—are always worthwhile. After visiting Thomas Polk Park on the southwest corner, Masons can stand in awe before four giant sculptures by artist Raymond Kaskey. Transportation is represented by a railroad worker. Future is depicted as a woman holding her child. Commerce is symbolized by a gold miner spilling money onto the head of a banker. And Industry is represented by a woman wearing a bonnet to depict the mills and early industry of the region. The child peeking from her skirt suggests child labor of the past. The Bank of America Corporate Center at 100 North Tryon displays three frescoes by Ben Long.

A metal plaque imbedded at ground level of The Square declares, "Independence Square... On the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year 1775 the patriots of Mecklenburg County declared themselves free and independent of Great Britain by signing the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence which preceded the national declaration by more than a year.

"The signing took place in a rustic backwoods courthouse which stood nearby at the center of the intersection of Trade and Tryon Streets. In

1819 the Congress of the United States declared that Mecklenburg County in North Carolina was the cradle of American liberty.

"Dedicated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 1974, to the citizens of Mecklenburg County as a lasting memorial to the spirit of independence of the early patriots of Mecklenburg." The plaque is signed by Masons Mayor John Belk and Mayor pro tem James B. Whittington.

### Heard on the Square

Language expressions have a way of hanging on for years, even for ages. "If you can't trade on Tryon, try on Trade." That wordplay goes way back. "Always on the square" found its way into newspaper ads prepared by merchants eager to assure customers of their honesty. "The streets are paved with gold" popped up in letters and articles originating in Eastern US cities to generate a mystique that drew countless immigrants to American shores. But it was uniquely, literally true on the streets of uptown Charlotte.

"On the level," "the third degree," and "black-ball" moved from Masonic lodge halls to street stories and Hollywood movies across more than a century. Restaurant menus in and around Charlotte's Square often feature "square meals." And in Charlotte schoolrooms you can hear, "Trade plus Tryon equals Charlotte squared."

### An Additional Identity

The day has come for all men and Masons to give The Square of Charlotte a fresh name. Among the many things we Masons are known for are our laying cornerstones. Surely after 256 years The Square has earned the title of Cornerstone of the Carolinas. It requires no physical monument to dedicate, for The Square comprises a cornerstone per se, one of unprecedented dimensions and vitality to society.

As such its realm warmly reaches beyond the nearby South Carolina border to share with all people and places—and Masons—of that great State.



## McLaurin among the remembered

Laurinburg — Mars Camp 1632 of Sons Of Confederate Veterans is placing veteran crosses at the graves of each of the about 90 Confederate veterans buried in Hillside Cemetery in Laurinburg. One of those marked is that of a local Masonic pioneer.

Laurinburg 305 Master Michael Nobles is seen here at the grave of William Hugh McLaurin, the first master of Laurinburg Lodge. McLaurin was charter master in 1870 and served in that station for several years. "Cap'n Billy," as he was known by his men and friends after the war, was a captain in Company F, 18<sup>th</sup> NC Infantry (The Scotch Boys), Army of Northern Virginia. After the war, he came back to Laurinburg as a successful businessman and philanthropist. — Michael Nobles



## Clemmons' golf pays

WINSTON-SALEM — Clemmons 755 has a big golf tournament every year. At Annual Communication last year they donated \$12,000 to the Masonic Homes. Seen here presenting the checks are, from left, Herb Thomas, WhiteStone Administrator Mark Kolada, Larry Holloman, Tom Erickson, Troy Johnson, and Home for Children Administrator Allen Hughes.



## Art is everywhere

RANGER — Art and artists are everywhere. The welders who built this cooker for Montgomery 426 couldn't help but add a touch of art to their creation. It's worked too. According to Derek Cheek, they've raised a bunch of money for Masonic charity with that cooker.

## KIDS, from page 1

"I wanted to teach the same lessons in a positive way. I did not see that anywhere," says Demers.

On the artistic end, Demers knew certain things about how he wanted to go about his project. He wanted characters and scripts to present positive images and role models. He wanted to make modern technologies that interest kids today (smart phones and computers and Internet) to be part of the story as well as the product. "We have all these wonderful technologies, and we should be using them to their potential." And, he said, "At the end of the day, we want people to learn more about history."



On the technical and production end, Demers says, "We want everyone involved to go home and go to bed after work — localize the talent." This should be possible with North Carolina's media industry. Also important is to give everyone a real stake in the production, open the show up to teamwork and input from all participants. It can work "if you do things for the right reasons, if you do things because you know you're going to benefit other people, if you truly work hard, and allow everyone to be part of the creative and business process," says Demers.

The forced timeout also gave Demers a chance to develop a business plan for producing such a show. Demers reminds, "If you make it, you still have to have it make money. It's a business, you have to monetize it. I spent equal amounts of time developing the creative side and business model."

How to sustain a television series? "I looked at localization. Independent film has become more localized, but that has not really come to television. It's hard to do that locally because of expenses — it just eats all the money you can expect from sponsors from a local show." So, Demers started devising a modified regional model.

That model included partnering with Raleigh's WRAL television and its sister stations around the state. He would enlist regional sponsors and give them spots on all versions of the product, not just ad spots during broadcast. The full project is set to include 13 half-hour episodes and a 24-minute documentary from each

historic location. Additionally, there are to be three five-minute segments on the Rusty Bucket Kids website. That area will be used to promote diverse sources of history information. "The knowledge and expertise are already there if you are willing to let them help."

The story line is this: the Rusty Bucket Kids (played by Demers' children Roxanna and Johncoleman) travel back in time to meet famous people during their teenage years. Demers is fond of referring to it as "Back to the Future meets the History Channel." The kids learn about and help the not-yet-famous kids deal with personal challenges. The first episode is about Abraham Lincoln at 16 years old. Thomas Edison and the Wright Brothers will be the subjects of the next two episodes.

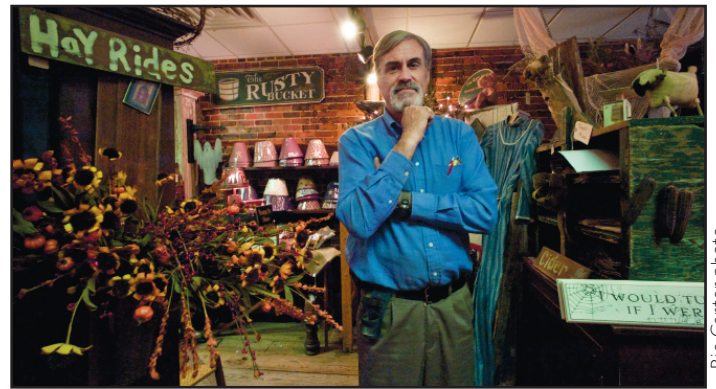
Apex, NC plays the imaginary town Peak City, the hometown of the Rusty Bucket Kids. Demers lives just down the road in New Hill. Old favorites from WRAL, Charlie Gaddy and Mark Roberts, play characters in the episodes.



The show got its name from a real shop in downtown Apex. "It started when I was sick, and I was walking around town a lot. When I was feeling well enough, I'd drive into town from my house, and I'd walk around town. It seemed that I always stopped in front of the Rusty Bucket for my rest, my break. When I started putting some of my creative ideas to locations, it became the location for our family from Peak City. I started talking to [owners] Pam and Mack Thorpe about the idea, and they liked it. We made an agreement that the Rusty Bucket Store would be the namesake for our franchise."

In the mid-1980s, John Demers spent a lot of time with his buddy Patrick Ward and his friends. He heard them talking about lodge and wondered why they didn't invite him to join. When he learned that the secret was Masonry's rule against invitations to join the fraternity, he asked the right questions and went on in 1987 to join Millbrook 97 in Raleigh.

He has found the fraternity "enriching" and attended nearly



every St. John's Day celebration. His acting background gave him a special appreciation for Masonic ritual. He especially enjoyed playing the part of the third ruffian.

As Masonry has benefitted from Demers' interests, so now will the current run the other way. A Masonic element is coming in Rusty Bucket Kids. A sharp eye on the first episode will catch a Masonic ring on the hand of mysterious figure of Great Grandpa Peaksson. Without giving too much away, Great Grandpa in later episodes helps found the lodge in Peak City as well as an orphanage.



The plan is still early in development. One show has wrapped and been broadcast in Charlotte, Raleigh, and Wilmington. "We've proved a model that can make money, the localized business model." Now the challenge is to take it to other markets to make the revenue grow.

The Rusty Bucket Kids are getting noticed. In November, they garnered three Midsouth Regional Emmy nominations for set design, music, and writing. They trophied in short film at the Sky-Fest Film Festival and won approval from Dove Foundation.

So when you see the Rusty Bucket Kids on television, call your kids or grandkids, learn a little history, toast a brother, and remember to look for that silver lining.

STEW, from page 1

and ground. All the meat is cooked. A separate group grinds the canned vegetable (something they say makes their recipe for Brunswick stew special). That night several members grind the meat. A total crew of 20-25 people come and go getting these Wednesday chores done.

Thursday's crew involves 50-55 workers. Some will be there all day, some will come in and out to help. Some only show up for a few minutes when they can. All of them are necessary. Cooking starts at 3:00 A.M. Thursday morning. Packaging and serving starts at mid-morning Thursday. As lunchtime nears, the line of traffic builds, both to the door of the lodge and along the street behind the lodge where the take-out operates. Before noon, the dining hall is packed and the line of cars awaiting take-out winds around the parking lot of the lodge. By early afternoon, the rush has moderated, taking a break until it again builds to full for the early supper crowd.

Thursday night and Friday morning the sizable cleanup and stowage proceeds.

It's not just the members of Andrew Jackson Lodge who make it happen. Many wives and members of other lodges in the county also volunteer and look forward to their camaraderie.

The lodge helps make charity money by selling sponsorships, not just stew. One of the early sponsor was Carolane Propane. They noticed that the lodge was cooking the stew over wood and suggested they could help by providing propane. They now heat the pots over old propane-stoked tobacco barn burners. Other companies sponsor with money or supplies.

Dennis Sims (official quality control taster and bearer of the recipe) says, "From 1985 through 2011 we've made approximately \$380,000 for charities. This includes Masonic Home for Children, Masonic & Eastern Star Home, Masonic Foundation, and local charities. We sponsor a little league baseball team, donate to Boy Scouts, Meals On Wheels, Salvation Army, United Way, Rowan Helping Ministries, local senior citizens groups, and Rowan Masonic Scholarship Fund, and individuals in need.

"The Brunswick Stew is a lot of work, but, we have a good time, fellowship, plus you get to see and talk with people that you may only see once a year, plus we raise a little money for the charities."

What more could you ask, besides a pint of excellent Brunswick stew?

Special thanks to Dennis Sims for his help on this article.



Ric Carter photos



Country star Mason takes award

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE — In November, Brad Paisley was named Entertainer of the Year by the Country Music Association after several years waiting for the honor.

Stedman 730 member Thomas Pope notified us that we should refer to the entertainer as Brother Brad. Paisley is a member of Hiram 7 in Franklin, Tennessee, a lodge originally chartered by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

Pope, a sports reporter for the *Fayetteville Observer*, emailed us after seeing Paisley while on assignment recently. Pope said, "I made sure to find a way to get in Brad Paisley's path after his pre-race press conference this morning. Gave him the grip and said, 'Have a great show, my brother.' His eyes lit up, he rearranged his grip to match mine, and said, 'Thanks, you have a great day, too.'"

STATE, from page 3

Sylva

This year will mark the tenth anniversary of the Calvin Taylor Annual Toy Ride. 2011's is set for September 10 (9/10/11). They will have t-shirts, hats, barbecue, and this year, a custom Case pocket knife for sale. They will rendezvous at the Stompin' Grounds in Asheville. For information, contact Gene Canter at (828) 734-3439. —Derek Cheek

Stedman

Stedman 730 named Douglas Bullard their 2010 Mason of the Year. Earlier this year, Jesse Hall, Stedman's first secretary, was presented his Veterans' Emblem for 50 years membership.

Last year's golf tournament at Stedman brought in more than \$3,800. Their annual steak dinner raise more than \$1,000. The money went to the Masonic Home for Children. —The Blueprint

Raleigh

William G. Hill 218 was hosting Family Fun Game Night on February 18. Family members and friends were invited to the games and the pot luck supper preceding the festivities. —William G. Hill 218

James B. Green 735's pre-meeting meal February 8 was also a chili cook-off in which members competed for the title of lodge "Chili Champion." —Dustin Tarditi

J. J. Crowder 743 took their Chili Cook-Off on the road to the Masonic Home for Children February 26. The kids at the Home got to choose the best chili. Frank Scrivano won a close vote and was awarded the trophy (a decorated Pepto-Bismol bottle). —MHCO

Warsaw

More than 30 attended Warsaw 677's Ladies' and Awards Night December 7. They enjoyed "good food, fellowship, and inspirational music." —Warsaw Lodge

Mount Gilead

Blackmer 127 raised more than \$1,800 with their Sixth Annual Charity Fun Shoot. —Blackmer Buzz

Kernersville

Let's hear it for volunteer labor. It surely makes lodge maintenance easier for us all. At Kernersville 669, Mark Riccardi installed new thermostats and Billy Stockton fixed the light on the sign. —The Kernersville Masonic News

Sneads Ferry

Stump Sound 733 held its scholarship dinner November 9. —Trestle Board

Kings Mountain

Fairview 339 and local Shrine groups teamed up on a food drive to help a local food bank. Fairview Lodge recently hosted a member's birthday party. Thomas Tindol turned 90. —Niki Paulson

Bahama

Knap of Reeds 158 was holding their Ladies' Night February 19 at a steakhouse in Roxboro. —Kenneth Baker

Manteo

April 23 is Pancake Breakfast time at Manteo 521. Five bucks will get a big stack of pancakes at the lodge between seven o'clock and ten o'clock A.M. —More Light

Princeton

St. Patrick's 617 has been painting and sprucing up the lodge. A new painted decorative square and compasses is added to one interior wall. —Grover Dees

Rolesville

Super Bowl Sunday was the day the Rolesville 683 fed the kids at the Masonic Home for Children. They traveled to the Home and served hot dogs, french fries, and onion rings. —MHCO



A colonial look for apprentices

WEST END — The 21<sup>st</sup> Masonic District's First Degree Team conferred a first degree in Elberta 654 January 22. The lodge had breakfast at 8:30 A.M. and opened at 9:30 for Derrick Wendler's initiation. Forty-two Masons were on hand. Following the degree, a district meeting was held for the officers and interested Masons of the district.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Masonic District's First Degree team arose in their monthly OSW classes. They talked about forming a team, comprised of Masons across the district, to present a degree in costume. They believed such a team would help improve visitation within

the district, and make a favorable and lasting impression on the candidates.

They ruled out the third degree as there were quite a few third degree teams around the state. They decided to focus on the first degree because it is the first impression of Masonry upon the candidate. Further, they wished to pay homage to our country's founding fathers and their Masonic connections. They therefore agreed the degree would be in Colonial period dress. They developed their own set of minutes and certificate which are presented to each lodge and candidate. They have initiated eight Entered Apprentices in the district. —Ken Lewis

Paying it forward

ROBBINSVILLE — The odds were long that the longest serving certified lecturer and the latest person to be certified and the district deputy grand lecturer would be together at the same degree are astronomical. But, it happened last summer at Robbinsville 672.

When Robbinsville raised their newest members that day, Kelley Hooper, the longest serving certified lecturer in Grand Lodge history, and Charlie McCowan, certified earlier that day, were both in attendance. McCowan, Hooper, and 41st District Deputy Grand Lecturer Jack Long all three participated in the degree that evening.

Several years ago, Hooper signed the paperwork for Long to be examined, and Long signed McCowan's paperwork to certification. This was a good example of "paying it forward." —Jim Hyde



Lecturers McCowan, Hooper, and Long

BENEATH THE OAKS

Seeing is believing

By Allen Hughes
Administrator
Masonic Home for Children at Oxford



Twenty-three articles in the books, and now I have this and one more to write before I pass the mantle of administrator to someone else. Although I announced my planned June 30, 2011 retirement to the Board of Directors and staff more than ten months ago many of you still are not aware that I will be retiring this summer.

My main regret throughout the period of my employment and now as I prepare to move on is that the number of children in our care has continued to decline, and we have not been able to reach the families who need our help.



A Hurricane to look forward to

RALEIGH — Hiram 40 and CARQUEST Auto Parts hosted residents and staff from the Masonic Home for Children at a Carolina Hurricanes hockey game December 19. The kids saw the game from CARQUEST's luxury suite.

What can we say or what can we do to get you to visit our campus and gain a better understanding of why your help is important? You can make a difference not only for the children who are here but also for many children in your own communities being deprived of a safe and happy childhood.

We have a home for children of which we all can be proud. The campus is beautiful and peaceful, the facilities are in excellent shape, and staff members are well qualified and dedicated.

Please take the time to visit our Home so you can tell your friends and community leaders about what we're doing to help children and families. This also is a good time to help our public leaders recognize the quality care that our Home provides for neglected or abused children at a time when the state and county budgets are decreasing.

Let me help Masonry's charities

- The North Carolina Masonic Foundation
WhiteStone, a Masonic & Eastern Star Community (MESH)
The Masonic Home for Children
Send information about wills and bequests.
Please have someone contact me.

My name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ My lodge \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

To assure that your gift is properly credited to the fund of your choice, please make the check payable to that charity.

Mail to The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, PO Box 6506, Raleigh, NC 27628.

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

- 1.....Jason C. Harris
4.....Willie Dennis Manning
8.....Mark Bergman
8.....Todd Justin Muench
8.....Kyle James Nelson
13.....Rollie Stewart Dutton
17.....Richard Wesley Spradlin
19.....Rickey Lane Ashby
19.....Joseph Edward Major
27.....Dwayne Steven Christian
27.....Timothy Paul Craver
27.....Justin Dean LaCount
27.....Troy Dean Miller
31.....Eugene Lowell Poore
32.....Lucas Tomlinson Baker
32.....Jarrod Mitchell Howell
45.....Isaac Lee Phillips Shumate
58.....William Brandon Anderson
76.....Edison Thomas Brown
81.....Michael Andrew Kirk
83.....Noah Chad Shannon
84.....Samuel Clayton Taylor
85.....Phillip Lynn Briggs
98.....Christopher Michael Avritt
106.....Clyde Winford Overton Jr.
106.....William Harrison Toney
109.....William Carl Kahle III
109.....Brian Keith Munro
117.....Glenn Thomas Blackwell
117.....Aaron Edward Ellis
117.....Nickolas Haywood Green
122.....Carl Edward Hann
125.....Eric Brooks Jackson
125.....John Ashley Westbrook
129.....Joshua Green Sharpe
134.....Travis Matthew Bradey
137.....Richard Darrell Gettys
143.....Randy Everette Gilliland
143.....Robert Payton Lee
143.....Neil Ashley Wrenn
145.....Richard Eugene Cassidy
147.....Dean Roy Wilkins
165.....Stephen Vernon Driver
165.....Richard Owen Pack
170.....Chad Christopher Penland
170.....Jason Ryan Rash
170.....Eric James Rogers
176.....Kevin Neil Parson
176.....Dusen James William Van
181.....Billy Dean Leonard
191.....Richard Alan Haag
198.....Michael John Orlando
198.....Andrews High Parker
198.....John Robert Ruark Jr.
205.....David Jason Woodle
214.....Eric Scott Osborne
217.....Jon Andrew Dominique
217.....Cory James Kilby
217.....Timothy Bryan Kincaid
217.....Chad Phillip Robinson
217.....David Brian Whisnant
218.....Joseph Preston Wofford IV
243.....Roger Dale Caroway
243.....Justin Durward Johnson
249.....Mitchel Alan Lane
259.....Jeremy Tre Ledbetter
262.....Derek Jordan Dellinger
262.....Wesley Adam Teague
267.....Daniel Eugene Prince
282.....Justin Brown
282.....Christopher Neal Connelly
282.....Charles Nicholas Falk
282.....Randy Mitchell Privette II
283.....Taylor Bryant Deyton
289.....Johnathon Andrew Beddard
289.....Joseph Gray Davis
289.....Billy Jack Weber Morgan
289.....Keith Bolling Franke
289.....Benton Walter Williams
296.....Daniel Arrington Robinson
301.....David Robert Craig
301.....Gary Edward Hanold
319.....Willard Jackson Blanchard
319.....Jeffrey Eugene Watkins
322.....James Ray Horton
322.....Dennis Wayne Sechrist
340.....Durwood Douglas Lancaster
344.....Charles Max Graecu
344.....William Andrew Gray
344.....Bradley Keith Russell
344.....Tyler Jonathan Varney
359.....William Glenn Patton
369.....Robert William Biggerstaff
369.....Daniel Logan Jacobs
381.....Daniel Curtis Elliott
381.....Andrew Bostic Millard
384.....Jonathan David Brown Jr.
384.....Johnny Richard Hoover
384.....Heath Lynn VerHoeven
391.....Travis Lee Blundell
395.....Dallas Langston Hardy
395.....Joshua Ethan Hines
403.....Alfred Forrest Denise Jr.
404.....Charles Dave Sofinowski
404.....James Edward Thomas
407.....Troy Glen Bell
407.....Reginald Clay Shumate Jr.
407.....Matthew Lee Staley
407.....Charles Robert Thornburg
408.....Theodore Smith Ebner
408.....James Preston Lilley
408.....Peter Adam Schad
413.....Jeremiah Eugene Swann
428.....William Edward Blanchfield
428.....Richard Lee Murphy
429.....Rickie Clemwood Riley
431.....John Wade Duncan
431.....James Lonnie Peacock
431.....Corey Austin Sasser
431.....William Sherrill Weaver
433.....Raymond Anthony Arrington
434.....Nicholas Evan Sizemore
435.....Brian John Stiehler
437.....Kevin Lane McNeill
454.....Anthony Christoper Pometto
454.....Darrin McDale Reece
459.....Steven James Lashbrooks
459.....Steven Javan Rice
484.....Paul Owen Blake Jr.
484.....Patrick Ronald Wilson
491.....Marvin Jeffery Keener
492.....Charles Samuel McFalls Jr.
498.....Mark Anthony Howery
499.....Thomas Randolph Compton
499.....Ronald Gary Rhoden
500.....David Aaron Culbertson
500.....Gregory Joel Griffith
500.....Eric James Sepulveda
509.....Christopher Daniel Lamb
515.....Jarrod Scott Tyson
519.....Matthew Wayne Porch
521.....William Thomas Ackiss
521.....Jeremy Michael Christensen
521.....James Lloyd Farlow
521.....George William Holcomb
521.....Danuel Elwood Midgett Jr.
521.....Ronald Joseph Seidman
521.....David Alan White
529.....William Andrew Cathey
534.....Michael Ray Fletcher
542.....Edwin Cacundangan Hojilla
544.....Winslow Hubert Cannon
552.....Zakary Donald Berckman
552.....Terry Silas Gauldin
552.....Brandon Edward Lee
552.....Bryant Allen Lee
554.....Tracy Lee McIntyre
554.....Joseph Michael Street
556.....George Halford Coleman
556.....John Seth Coleman
558.....Daron Atkins
562.....Robert Andrew Dussinger
562.....Timothy Shawn Lyons
564.....Erik Travis Hodge
573.....David William Hollars
576.....William Trippe McKeny
579.....Warren Charles Julian
579.....Eric Wade Thomas
589.....Gregory Scott Giles
596.....Giles Cameron Byrd
598.....Roy Leonard Maltba
613.....Christopher Shane Smith
616.....Robert Stanley Brintle
616.....Dustin Blaine Lyons
617.....Craig Johnson Lee
617.....James Allison Walker
650.....Adam Voorhees Jackson
650.....Anthony Joseph Rathbone
657.....Joshua Matthew Brady
657.....Ronald Tracy Lundy
657.....William Michael York
663.....James Farrell Austin
663.....Dennis Ray Bishop
663.....Ronald Ward Shelton
669.....Bruce Kevin Butcher
669.....Donald Mitchell Fowler
670.....Kevin Scott Boyles
670.....Joshua Calvin Paris
670.....Darren Thomas Summers
672.....James Mack Phillips
672.....Ronald Sparks
676.....Jeffrey Martin Berlin
676.....Eric Andrew Cable
676.....William Anderson Cather
676.....Todd Curtis Freeland
676.....David Ronald Hedges
676.....Randall Stephen Hoose Jr.
676.....Spencer Alton Moss
678.....Alan Ray Phelps Jr.
678.....Algon Keith Sawyer II
679.....Lonnie Felix Griffin III
680.....Michel Travis Bissell
680.....Erik Jason Copp
680.....Pena Christopher Dollente Dela
680.....David Paul Donley
680.....Bill Anthony Frost
680.....Adam Westley Hay
680.....Patrick Eugene McGirl
680.....Joseph Allen Murray
683.....Gary Dean Acord
683.....Steven Allan Acord
686.....Roy Delane King
687.....Adam Duane Quimby
688.....Darien James Garland
688.....Jeffrey Eugene Jones Jr.
690.....Shad Ray Foley
694.....Austin Bernard Campbell
694.....Robert Elwood Flynt
694.....Justin William Kay
694.....Clay Green Kennedy
694.....Ian Blake Tutten
699.....Thomas Denny
699.....Stephen Neal Springs
703.....Joseph Allen Burris
703.....Gregory Lamar McCollister
704.....Howard Nicholas Franklin
709.....Eddie Franklin Mathis III
713.....Ricky Lee Wilson
722.....Mark Douglas Thorpe
722.....Matthew Brian Thorpe
723.....Steven Robert Harris
725.....Peter Christopher Gartin
727.....Joshua Daren Hopkins
727.....Herbert Boyce Lynch
727.....Harold Dave Tripp
732.....William Dean Lockhart
732.....Robert Christopher Lockhart
732.....Robert Steven Smith
733.....Cameron Lee Waggoner
734.....Michael Milton Criswell
734.....Larry Clayton Wilson
737.....Leslie Howard Flanagan
737.....Richard Allen Morris
737.....Paul Clayton Watkins
753.....Christopher Matthew Rhodes
753.....Lee John Sweeley III
754.....Daniel James Cashman
755.....Dennis James Robinson
758.....Joseph Shelton Myers
759.....Steven William Fink
759.....Christopher Frederick Griffin
759.....Keith Charles Moynihan
759.....Doyle Leroy Nichol
759.....Christopher Gregory Robinson
759.....Charles David Ward
759.....Peter Arthur Yacavone
762.....Albert Fleming Bell
763.....Joseph Dean Buchanan

SENIOR MOMENTS



# A report on our progress

By Mark Kolada  
Administrator  
WhiteStone

During my tenure as executive director of WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community, one of the truly unique experiences of the position is participating in the annual Masonic district meetings that spread from Murphy to Manteo. It is an excellent opportunity to learn what is going on around the fraternity, enjoy fellowship, receive some inspiration from the grand master, and share the continuing successes of WhiteStone with a captive audience. I highly encourage each Mason in North Carolina to attend a district meeting. You won't be disappointed. However, for those of you who may not get a chance to attend, below is a summary of my district meeting report.

WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community, is a continuing care retirement community located in Greensboro established in 1912 to meet the retirement and long term care needs of its fraternal brothers and sisters. This mission continues today stronger than ever.

WhiteStone consists of several housing options and levels of care for seniors, including independent living, residential living, skilled nursing, dementia care, as well as a home care. The community has approximately 260 residents currently, approximately 80% that are fraternal. Amenities of the community include on-site chapel, indoor pool, local transportation, gated security, on-site medical clinic and pharmacy, full activity program, and a dining room that provides three meals a day. In 2010, the community averaged over 97% occupancy for its Care Center and almost 93% in the Residential and Independent Living area. As a result of this high occupancy and emphasis on expense control, the community was in the black and had positive cash flow for the third straight year.

In 2010, WhiteStone once again continued to pursue its charitable mission of providing financial assistance to its sis-

ters and brothers in need. Despite tough economic times, Masonic and Eastern Star members continued to find it in their hearts and wallets to show their love and support, with total contributions (including estates, lodge/chapter donations, foundation support, etc.) received at approximately \$1.7M. Contributions from Masonic sources (including blue lodge contributions and Masonic Foundation support) totaled over \$463,000. We appreciate and make use of every dollar to provide financial assistance to fraternally related residents in the form of assisting to pay for things such as room and board, medical supplies, pharmacy, and other expenses that they otherwise could not afford to pay for by themselves. Currently, the community subsidizes approximately 69 Masonically related residents at a total estimated cost of \$1,500,000. Of these 69 residents, 32 are in a Medicaid nursing home bed partially subsidized by the state and WhiteStone, one resident is in the process of applying for Medicaid and is fully subsidized by the community, six are in the Special Care Unit, and 30 residents live in residential apartments receiving financial assistance. In addition to these subsidies that either the WhiteStone or state provides, each resident also contributes as much as they can afford toward the costs of their care.

In addition to financial support WhiteStone provides its fraternal residents, there is also an "adopt-a-resident" program, whereby various Masonic lodges and Eastern Star chapters adopt a fraternal resident and provide gifts, cards, and other support directly to those individuals on an ongoing basis. In 2010, 88 residents had been adopted by 91 Eastern Star Chapter and 34 Masonic Lodges.

In an effort to begin developing an outreach program, which seeks to assist those fraternal members in need throughout the whole state, in October 2009 the medical equipment loan/information hotline program was initiated at WhiteStone, whereby the community loans out extra equipment it may have to fraternal members. During 2010, more than 20 pieces of medical equipment were loaned for varying lengths of time. Ten hours of infor-

mation hotline services were also provided by WhiteStone staff. To access the program, the number to call is (877) 784-9309.

We ask that in order to keep our charity programs strong, that Brothers continue to give generously, as WhiteStone will continue to do as much charity as it brings in donations, so the more we receive, the more fraternal brothers and sisters we can assist.

WhiteStone also continues to reinvest money to improve the services and amenities for our residents. In April, WhiteStone renovated our old multipurpose room into a modern fitness center complete with weight machines and cardio stations for residents and staff to use. During the summer, our dining room transitioned from a buffet style food service to restaurant style, making the dining experience for residents and visitors more comfortable and offering more choices on the menu. Finally at year's end work was completed on the transformation of the Linville Administration building into a new state-of-the-art clubhouse for residents, featuring a new library, game room, arts and crafts area, resident store, lounge area, and new office space for staff.

Moving forward in 2011, WhiteStone is pleased to announce that it is proceeding with the construction of its 46 unit Independent Living expansion. The project has over 77% of its units pre-sold, and as of early March, was in the process of completing its application with the Department of Insurance to proceed with obtaining financing. It is expected that financing will be complete by mid-April, with construction beginning immediately after financing is closed. In 10-12 months after construction, WhiteStone will have a new fellowship hall, bistro, arts and crafts area, new beauty salon, and a completely renovated rotunda lounge and main dining room.

On behalf of our 260 residents, 180 staff members, and many more family and friends, we appreciate your continued support of WhiteStone and encourage you stop by to visit us when in Greensboro for lunch and a tour. As always, if you have any questions or need more information about the community, feel free to call me at (336) 547-2992 or email me at <mkolada@liveatwhitestone.org>.



Guests and 115's newest members are seen here, from left, Chaplain John McNeil; Candidate Glen Chua; Secretary Isaac Beckwith; Candidate Bobby Price; Junior Deacon Charles Whitaker; and Candidate Tim Elderdice.

## Holly Springs lodges enjoy visit

HOLLY SPRINGS — Holly Springs 115 had two things they wanted to brag about after their February 22 meeting. They raised three new members that night all on their own. It was the first time in some years they have done a third degree without help from other lodges.

The second milestone was the presence of four members of Holly Springs' Prince Hall lodge Elijah 821. It was the first visit between the two neighboring lodges.

— Vinnie DeBenedetto

## DeMolay is growing from the mountains to the coast

In 2010, North Carolina DeMolay started a new chapter in Wilmington (Cape Fear Chapter) and received a resolution to sponsor another chapter from Clay 301 in Hayesville. This year is already off to a great start with Hickory 343 passing a resolution to sponsor a new chapter in their city. We continue to receive requests for more information about starting DeMolay chapters and are geared up to help any lodge that would like to better their communities by supporting the young men who live there.

DeMolay builds character and leadership for young men who are between the ages of 12 and 21, have a belief in a supreme being, and are of good moral character.

If you, or your lodge, are interested in supporting a new DeMolay Chapter, please feel free to contact us at (336) 736-9457 or <hunt@ncdemolay.org>. We look forward to hearing from you soon. — Matthew Hunt, Deputy Executive Officer

# MILEPOSTS



MURPHY — Last year, Cherokee 146 raised Billy Vespasian (front). Vespasian had several proud family members there for the degree. There with him for the occasion were, left, his maternal grandfather James Martin; right, paternal grandfather Bill Vespasian; and center, Bill Vespasian Jr., his father. Billy is proud to be a third generation Mason and hopes that if he ever has a son, he will continue the legacy. — Bill Vespasian



RALEIGH — On March 5, several members of J.J. Crowder 743 donated their time, money, and hair for the St. Baldrick's Foundation. St. Baldrick's raises money to research cures for childhood cancers. All totaled, these brothers raised and donated \$2,045 to the cause. They were also part of the Bald Patriots team which was able to raise \$7,222 towards this great cause. Seen here, from left, are: Master Greg Kasse, Stephen Meserve, Senior Deacon Ryan Grace, Don Butto, and Richard Ziff. Also there, but not pictured was Adam Cloninger. — Don Butto



SWANQUARTER — Atlantic 294 handed out service awards in January. The honorees were, from left, Robert Graham Wise, Veteran's Emblem for 50 years; Joseph Harvey Mason for 70 years; and Ottis Carawan, Diamond Jubilee for 60 years. Harvey Mason just celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday January 12. — Stephen Svetlovcis



MOUNT AIRY — Renfro 691 recently presented 50-year Veteran's Emblems to two members. The men honored were Garner Jarrell and J.D. Goins. Jarrell's grandson Joshua Galyean presented the awards. — Garner Jarrell Jr.



NEW BERN — Members of the Grantham 725 recently honored former lodge treasurer Douglas Edwards, seated at center, by funding a scholarship in his honor at Craven Community College. Edwards, a pilot, served as the Grantham Lodge's treasurer for 41 years. The \$1,000 scholarship will be used to help a student in one of Craven's aviation related programs. Seen here, from left, are Grantham Steward Billy Stewart, Secretary George Herring, CCC Foundation Executive Director Suzanne Gifford, Craven Community College President Catherine Chew, 725 Master Eddie Fulcher, and Jason Maxey. — Sandy Wall, Craven Community College

# Lodges honor vets at VA hospital



**BLACK MOUNTAIN** — Black Mountain 663 and Mount Allen 708 PHA co-hosted a Veterans Appreciation Breakfast November 13. Fourteen veterans from the Asheville VA Medical Center attended. Among those being honored were veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Black Mountain 663 Master Barry Dotson and Mount Allen 708 Master James Lytle were joined by members and wives from both lodges

to prepare a full-course breakfast of eggs, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, sausage, and bacon. As the veterans are all patients of the Community Living Center of the VAMC, their appreciation for a home-cooked meal, especially with bacon, was apparent. Grand Marshal Bryant Webster attended with his father, a Black Mountain Lodge member. This was the first joint project between the lodges. — Scott Traxler

## Claudy books available again

The Grand Lodge frequently is asked about “the Claudy books.” They were not available for some years and in others went through an unreliable buying experience. The company that owned the rights to Claudy’s works was recently bought by Past Grand Lecturer Don Kehler. We recently received the following press release. The Temple Publishers, Inc. is delighted to announce that Carl H. Claudy’s much sought after *The Masters’ Book* is now once again available in a beautiful hard bound edition, through our online Masonic bookstore.

As you may know, The Temple Publishers, Inc. is proud to own the exclusive copyrights to Carl H. Claudy’s well-known *Introduction to Freemasonry* series of books, in addition to his other works. Claudy titles include *A Master’s Wages*, and *Old Tiler Talks*, among others. These timeless books are valuable tools for perpetuating Masonic education, and preserving Masonic history. Previously out of print, these classic books are available again, through our newly updated online store at <www.TheTemplePublishers.com>.

## In this issue of The NC Mason



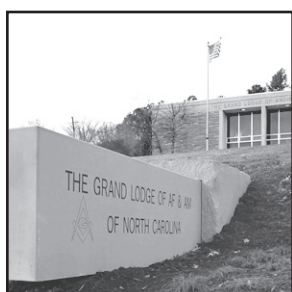
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**An old favorite will soon return**

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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**



Ric Carter photo

## Celebration at Home for Children will return in October

**OXFORD** — Our Masonic Home for Children and its family of alumni are proud to bring back memories of St. John’s Day, October 7–8, 2011. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Past Grand Master and Oxford Orphanage alumnus Dan Rice and Grand Master Lewis Ledford, we will celebrate the first annual Masonic Homecoming Festival. And there will be something for everyone from the past and the present. Oasis, Amran, and Sudan Shrines will again create North Carolina’s best parade.

We will be combining the Masonic celebration with the Home’s Alumni Homecoming. The new structure should give us better weather and will minimize the campus disruption.

Festivities begin on Friday, October 7 with an alumni charity golf tournament. That evening, Shrine units, lodges, and other cooks from around the state can participate by setting up their grills for the First Masonic Homecoming Barbecue Pork and Chicken cook-off. There will be music on Friday evening while

the cooks are getting ready.

On Saturday, October 8, the familiar Shrine parade begins in the morning, followed by barbecue judging and lunch, open to all for small fee. During lunch, enjoy some outstanding bluegrass music. Dessert booths will be hosted by the children of the Home, and the afternoon will include tours of the campus, cottages, print shop, and Cobb Center museum and archives. Homecoming activities such as the alumni volleyball game, memorial service, and crowning of the MHCO Homecoming Queen will be held later in the afternoon or the following day. Take this chance to visit your Home and see the care you are supporting.

Tell every Mason you know and invite their family and friends to MHCO, October 7–8 to experience a true revival of our Home at Oxford. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the parade, food, and music. Spend a day at your charity — the Masonic Home for Children.

## Appeal for Relief — New Zealand and Japan

Many parts of the world are experiencing horrendous weather patterns. None have suffered more than the countries of New Zealand and Japan. This appeal is being put out on behalf of both of those countries.

When remitting funds to the MSA, in response to this appeal, please mark clearly on your check how you wish the funds designated. If you do, be assured the funds will be distributed exactly as the donor requests. If no designation is

made, the funds will be divided equally between New Zealand and Japan.

Please forward to the MSA such funds as you feel appropriate to help our devastated Brethren and their families in these stricken jurisdictions. One hundred percent of donations go directly to relief. Make checks payable to the MSA Disaster Relief Fund and send to: 8120 Fenton Street, Ste. 203, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785.

# NORTH CAROLINA The Mason



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Ric Carter photo

February brings us the winter’s worst, but it also delivers on Andrew Jackson Lodge’s much anticipated Brunswick Stew. What’s the allure? *The North Carolina Mason* explores the 54-year-old tradition in this issue.