



HAYWOOD COUNTY

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Get Elevated on Moonshine in Maggie Valley - For decades, the legend and lore behind **illegal moonshining** in the mountains of Western North Carolina has intrigued folks from far and wide. Haywood County was even home to one of the most notorious moonshiners of all time, **Marvin "Popcorn" Sutton**. But now you **can legally have your own taste** of Haywood County distilled spirits at **Elevated Mountain Distillery in Maggie Valley**. Slated to begin production in the fall of 2016, the craft distillery will not only offer authentic corn whiskey, but a variety of other spirits including craft vodkas, bourbons, and flavored whiskeys - all distilled along the river bank of Jonathan Creek. Setting up shop in a former dinner theater, owner and master distiller Dave Angel, has already created quite a buzz (pun intended) about his hand-crafted spirits. With plans to name them after the area's surrounding mountains peaks and ranges, the experience doesn't get more elevated than that!



Meet the Official State Dog of North

Carolina - As the proud home of the **official North Carolina State Dog, the Plott Hound**, Haywood County celebrates the breed every June the annual **PlottFest**, held in Maggie Valley. The Plott Family, who settled in Haywood County by way of Germany in the early 1800's, developed the breed and Plott Hounds have been a highly sought after hunting breed for over 200 years. Known for their keen big game hunting skills, they have left their mark in the Southern Appalachians as strong, courageous and persistent dogs as well as loyal companions. PlottFest celebrates the Plott Hound with a two-day music and heritage event. The popularity of the Plott Hound has also led to the creation of **"The Plott Dog Trail in Maggie Valley"**. This loop trail through Maggie Valley traces the history and heritage of the Plott Hound with 18 stops throughout the valley. The trail, which has been combined with the **Mountain Heritage Trout Waters map**, provides visitors and locals

with a unique outdoor activity exclusive only to Haywood County.

'Tis the Season for the NC Smokies - Every holiday season, starting in mid-November, the **choose-and-cut Christmas tree farms** nestled among the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina attract visitors in search of the perfect Christmas tree. The county is home to **five locally owned and operated farms specializing in North Carolina Fraser firs**. Tree-seekers search the mountainside for the ideal tree or choose a pre-cut one of their liking. Most also incorporate overnight stays and combine their trip with other holiday events and winter activities, such as snow skiing at **Cataloochee Ski Area, historically the longest running ski area in the Southeast**. Not a skier? Give **snow tubing at spin at Tony's Tube World**, just down the hill from Cataloochee. You'll find tons of great events as well, from the holiday season, like **Waynesville's "A Night Before Christmas"**, until late winter, like **"WinterFest Smoky Style" in Maggie Valley**.

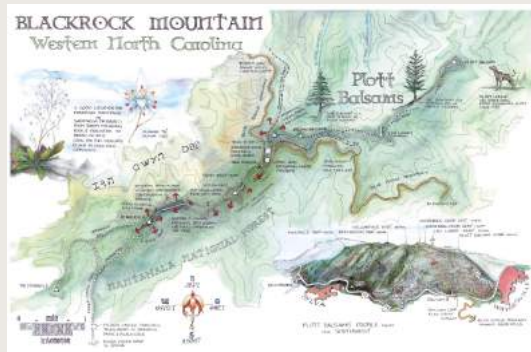


Embark on an Agri-Adventure -

Imagine a place where farmers grow hundreds of acres of fresh produce, graze cattle, raise hops, trees, herbs, and bees—create dozens of value added products like **Spiced Apple Beer Jam** and **Smoked Trout Jerky**—all while embodying the character of a rural Appalachian community? You've found it! The rich soil of Haywood County has made it a robust agricultural community for hundreds of years and the same traditions continue today. This has helped the county become a leader in the quickly growing **agritourism** market. The **Buy Haywood "Find Your Adventure" Agritourism Guide**, highlights working farms, produce stands and farmers markets, U-Picks, heritage events, specialty retail shops, and other activities so you can embark on your **very own agri-adventure across Haywood County**. Here you will find many listings of Haywood County restaurants that commit to strongly support these farmers and producers by buying and incorporating locally grown and produced products on a regular basis.



The Art of Hiking - If you appreciate the **true "art" of hiking**, then Haywood County has something very special for you. **Local naturalist Ken Czarnomski** just released the third installment in his series of artfully illustrated hiking guides. **The Blackrock Mountain hiking guide** joins the **Sam's Summit Loop Trail** and **Purchase Knob** hiking guides as an exclusive, one-of-a-kind map that is available only in Haywood County. The Blackrock Mountain guide covers a scenic portion of the Plott Balsam Mountain Range (named after the Plott Family and their dogs). A 4.6 mile round trip hike includes majestic ridge lines, exquisite flora and fauna, sweeping views of the Great Smokies, Balsams, Waterrock Knob and more. The guide itself is such a work of art that you'll need one for the trail and one to frame when you get home! All three maps available exclusively at the Haywood County Visitor center and other participating locations, online, or by calling and requesting a copy.



Fresh-Cut Bluegrass - With bluegrass popularity on the rise it's easy to see why North Carolina was the official pick to host the **International Bluegrass Music Awards** for the next three years. Within the state, Haywood County is where you can find some of the **freshest-cut bluegrass** around. The county's native bluegrass band, **Balsam Range**, is nationally acclaimed as one of the most talented groups in the genre. **Winner of multiple IBMA awards**, they have developed a die-hard following known as **Balsam Nation** and continue to sell out shows across the country. With the release of their fifth album, simply dubbed "Five", the boys of Balsam Range aren't slowing down anytime soon as they continue to sell out venues across the nation. The Smoky Mountains of North Carolina continue to provide inspiration for both bluegrass and traditional mountain folk music which has earned it a notable spot on the **Blue Ridge Music Trails**. The BRMT highlights the many public settings in which original mountain folk music and dance thrive today. The trail makes it easy to find authentic regional folk music, meet musicians, see traditional dancing and take part in the festivities for a first-hand experience of the area's rich music heritage.

More Than A Scenic Drive - Every year, the winding roads of Haywood County draw thousands of **motor touring enthusiasts** in search of the area's best scenic twist and turns. In fact, Haywood County is located in the **heart of the greatest collection of motorcycle rides in the nation** which has led to the creation of Haywood's own **NC Smokies Motor Touring Guide**. This free guide features a dozen mapped rides that can be picked up from various locations within the county. Haywood's central location serves as the perfect base to explore the area's breathtaking scenery and still experience the homegrown hospitality of the NC Smokies. Maggie Valley is home to **Wheels Through Time**, the world's premier, All-American motorcycle museum which houses over 300 of America's rarest and most historic classic motorcycles. With the help of unique attractions like this and the county's **46 mile stretch of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the reintroduced elk population of The Great Smoky Mountains National Park**, Haywood County continues to attract a wide variety of visitors, from motor tourists to family vacationers. The area's rich heritage and the popularity of scenic drives has also helped create other local attractions, like the **Haywood County Quilt Trail**. Each block is featured in the **Haywood County Quilt Trail Guide** which takes visitors on a scenic drive of the county while telling the story of each block along the way.



Did You Know....

- Haywood County has **25 mountain peaks** that reach elevations of at least 6,000 feet (more than any county east of the Mississippi River). The county's **46 miles of Blue Ridge Parkway** is also the highest elevated section of the entire 469 miles of parkway.
- **Cataloochee Valley**, a remote section of the GSMNP, is the **birthplace of the reintroduced elk population** within the park. In 2001 they were reintroduced and now over a hundred elk reside in the area and can be viewed most visibly at dawn and dusk.
- **ALL** of Haywood County's rivers, streams, creeks, and springs are its own. All the free-flowing water in Haywood County **originates high in our mountains and flows out**, none flows in, making it some of the freshest water in North Carolina.
- The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the **most visited national park in the country**. It's also known as the **"Salamander Capital of the World!"** Salamanders are an especially abundant and diverse group in the Great Smoky Mountains!

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