



WRITERS FLOCK TO CHATHAM
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THORNY BEAUTY OF QUINCE
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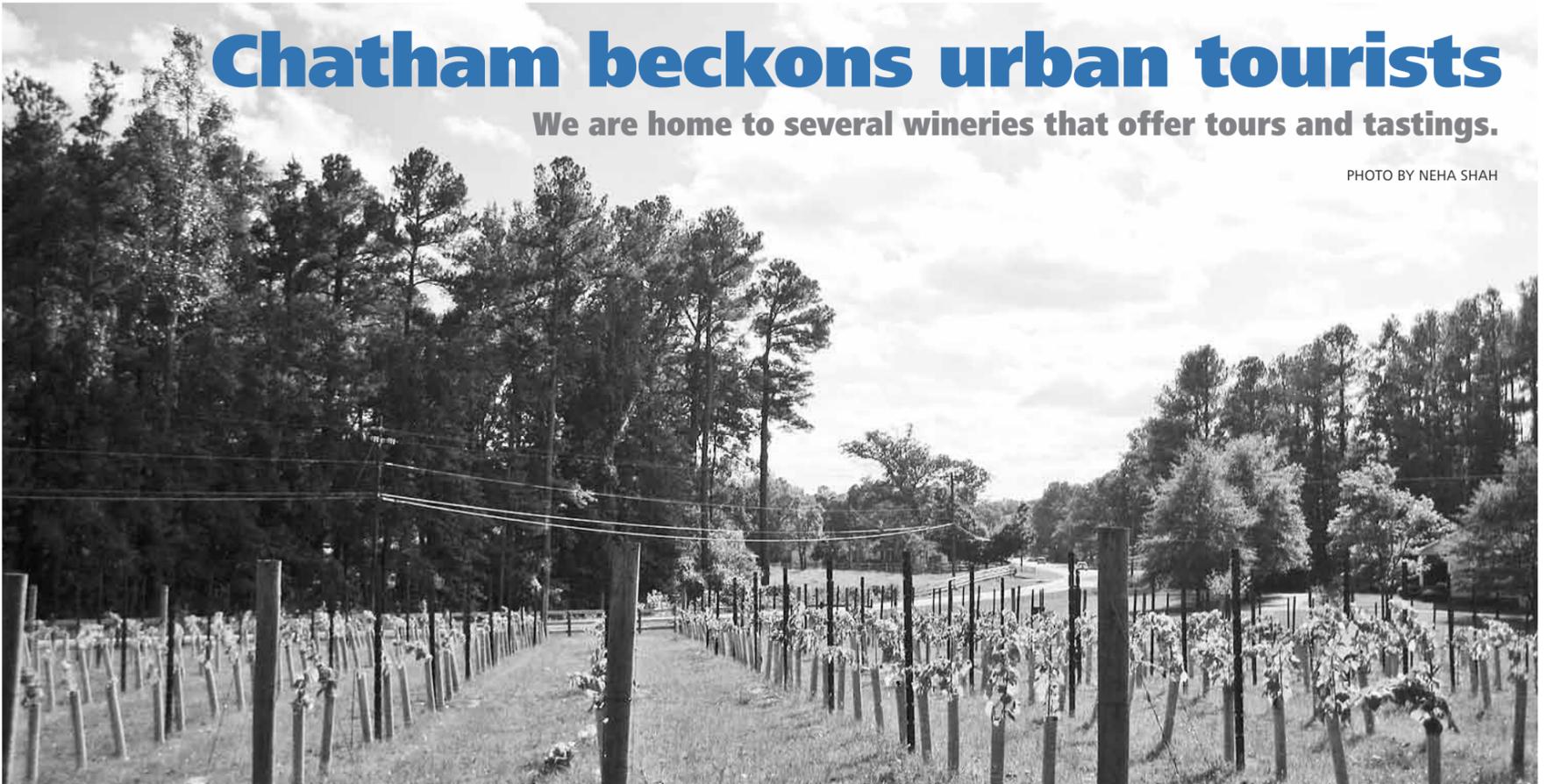
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- ➔ Randy Voller on the value of early education
- ➔ Tim Keim on protecting stream buffers

Chatham beckons urban tourists

We are home to several wineries that offer tours and tastings.

PHOTO BY NEHA SHAH



By Neha M. Shah

When friends and family visit, a frequent first question is what are we going to do and see? Places that are well known to us may not seem unique because of the familiarity we have with them. However, visitors might just see the charm that we've grown fond of but have forgotten how nifty it is.

Maybe a weekly visit for sweet tea and a burger is a routine lunch, but there's a genuine activity not just indulging in southern comfort food but in talking with friendly

locals. Certainly, everyone working on a farm knows the value of the hard work involved, early days and the fact that nothing is certain in regards to weather. For visitors, it's truly a unique opportunity to milk the goats! Taking the kids to see the farm and some of the chores not only gets them outside, but also shows the value in hard work. Learning about 'big cats' at Carolina Tiger Rescue is another type of trip for those interested in an education about ocelots, binturongs and other animals.

Chatham County's lovely rural countryside and central location makes it attractive to residents of surrounding urban counties. Everyone's looking for a

quieter, gentler escape, but one that includes amenities and conveniences. Several sites and districts on the National Register of Historic Places makes our county one of scenic and historic significance. Winding country roads, numerous farms and nurseries, plentiful shopping areas with art galleries and stores, incredible nature, boutique wineries and eateries serving tasty local food are a few of the reasons for day trips and overnight stays.

Golf, spas, lovely scenery for distinct seasons and many independently-owned businesses are yet more that

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A visit to the new Jordan Lake Wildlife Observation Platform

By Michael Pollock

The new Jordan Lake Wildlife Observation Platform off Martha's Chapel Road was formally unveiled April 18 last year, replacing the closed site off of 751 near New Hope Church Road. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the New Hope Audubon Society collaborated on the project. The platform itself was built by New Hope Audubon (www.newhopeaudubon.org/platform.html) and Eagle Scouts, assisted by a grant from Lowes.

The new site is on the north side of Martha's Chapel Road, a short hike downhill from the gravel parking lot. There is brushy habitat around the lot, surrounded by an open loblolly pine forest, where there are controlled burns to open up the understory, encouraging grasses, wildflowers, and other plants for wildlife, and preventing out-of-control forest fires. There are also seasonal pools. A loop trail is planned, and a side trail built by Eagle Scouts goes through an older deciduous forest shaded by oaks, red maples, and a large sweetgum, to two benches on the shore. According to Jeff Marcus, Piedmont Wildlife Diversity Supervisor for the Commission, the shoreline is a good place to see bald eagles, ospreys,



JORDAN LAKE CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Destination: Creative Chatham

By Carol Peppe Hewitt

Creative people choose the place where they want to live first, and then they go looking for a job. That's what we heard at the Chatham County Creative Economy Summit in Silk Hope on March 19.

Which is the reverse of the familiar job-seeking strategy of sending out a big pile of resumes to hiring managers in your field, and hoping that one will take an interest in you and offer you gainful employment.

We also heard that competent, creative individuals are mobile. They can often do their job from just about anywhere, so attracting and keeping them in one's community means they need reasons to come, and reasons to stay.

Twenty-eight years ago, Mark and I spent two weeks visiting potters in the Southeast and looking for a place to set up shop. Driving from Jugtown Pottery in Seagrave to visit a cousin of mine in Carrboro, we passed through Pittsboro.

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