

HEAVEN'S LANDING

Like no Place on Earth

November 2011

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The Peak

Autumn has peaked in Rabun County. Traveling our county roads or soaring overhead, brings witness to the glorious seasonal transition that presents new surprises every day. This is yet another reminder of what draws us to make a home in the amazing Blue Ridge Mountains of Northeast Georgia surrounded by U.S. Forest Service land, lakes, rivers and abundant waterfalls. Each breath of cool mountain air renews us.



Late October in Heaven's Landing.



Whether you are a resident, a frequent visitor, or new to the landscape, the community around Heaven's Landing is teeming with opportunity. First check out the leaf and forest links and test your knowledge of the season and the Southern Appalachians, then review the list of coming attractions and events that will make anyone feel they are part of a cozy hometown celebration.

List of resources and an insight in the science behind the magic:

[Explanation of Fall Color](#)

[Trees of Georgia](#)

[Georgia State Parks](#)



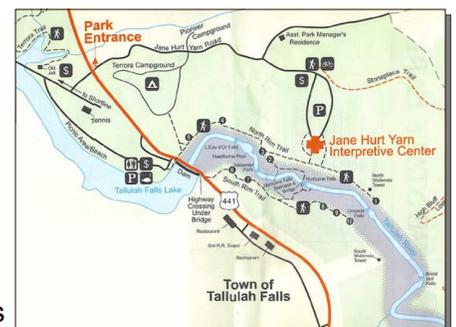
[Satellite Maps and Updates](#)

[Interactive US Map](#)

[Black Rock Mountain State Park Webcam](#)

As the patchwork of colors begins to fade and fall away, local opportunities abound involving the arts, family fun, and preparing for the holidays.

Your first stop after relaxing at Heaven's landing should be to [Tallulah Gorge State Park](#) to witness the [boating weekend releases](#). Boaters from all over converge to run the Gorge as it once flowed almost a century ago. Typical daily release are 35-40 cfs, but for the first three weekends in November (and two weekends in April), The Georgia Power Company releases 500 cfs on Saturdays and 700 cfs on Sundays. Visitors who are not wishing to challenge their extreme whitewater kayak skills can observe the boaters and release from the Gorge trails and observation areas.



Northeast Georgia Holiday Guide

The holidays are here. Not approaching, but upon us. Around Northeast Georgia and in our own Rabun County, you have every opportunity to venture out and enjoy the season with great shopping and an abundance of fun activities for the family.

North Georgia Corn Mazes, Hay Rides, Country Stores, and Pumpkin Patches:

[Hillside Orchard Farm](#)—open year round; maze closes 10/31 farm tours, country store, petting zoo, & gem mine.

[Uncle Shucks](#)—open until 11/20; extensive corn maze, hay rides, marshmallow roast, goats, & pumpkin patch.

[North Georgia Corn Maze](#)—open until 11/20; maze, haunted house, hayride, petting zoo and more. For discounted tickets click [here](#).



Holiday Shopping Events:

[Christmas in Downtown Clayton](#)—11/25 5-8 pm; luminaries line the streets for a festive evening of sales, music, and snacks.

[Holiday Shopping Extravaganza/ Festival of Trees](#)— 11/25 from 12-6 pm and 11/26 from 10 am-5pm. Shopping with a festive atmosphere at the Rabun County Civic Center; arts and crafts and specialty items available, admission is free.



Art and Activities:

[Giving Trees and Nog Off](#)—11/12-12/3 Nog Off 12/12 from 5-7 pm; Bascum Center for the Visual Arts Highlands, NC.

[Clayton Cluckers Turkey Trot](#)—11/24 Downtown Clayton; Join the inaugural 5K race with proceeds benefiting the Rabun county Food Pantry. Entry fee, can of food and your favorite Thanksgiving costume.

[Charity Lane Festival of Lights](#)—12/2-4; 9-11 Seven miles of beautiful holiday lights adorn Wolffork Valley in Rabun Gap organized by local charities. Begin at Don's Mobile Gas Station on Hwy 441. \$10 donation per car and Christmas store at the RGNS Alumni House.

[Rabun County Christmas Parade](#)—12/3 from 5-7pm Downtown Clayton Main Street; hosted by the Rabun County Chamber of Commerce this year's theme is "Caroling In the County."

[Christmas at the Gorge](#)—12/4 from 1-4 pm. Tallulah Gorge State Park is all things Christmas. Enjoy kids activities, music, and a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus!



Preparing for Christmas at Heaven's Landing You are invited!

Soon the stockings will be hung, trees will be decorated, and lights will blaze signaling the glory of Christmas. The Heaven's Landing Clubhouse will transform just days after Thanksgiving into a beautiful holiday retreat in preparation for a Christmas celebration for our community.



Mark you calendars for **Saturday, December 10th** for a **Heaven's Landing Christmas!** A magnificent catered Christmas dinner awaits you and your guests at the Clubhouse. This festive evening will include that magical time with Santa, and your children will receive a small gift hand-delivered and flown in by Santa.

The elves are already hard at work. *RSVP is required.* Please call or email our North Pole liaison, [Holly](#), by **November 26** (706.982.5245). This will be a terrific opportunity to visit and enjoy a winter weekend away.



Trade Shows in October



Mike and Holly wrapped up their year of Heaven's Landing attended trades shows with [Lancair Owners and Builders Organization](#) (LOBO), [National Business Aviation Association](#) (NBAA) and [Citation Jet Pilots](#) (CJP) all in a very busy October.



Their first stop was three days in Branson, Missouri for the first annual LOBO Fly-in. It was an intimate venue with Lancair owners. Mike addressed the enthusiastic group with a presentation on Friday. Never far from their Lancair IV-P John and Susan Cokinogenis, owners at Heaven's Landing were there as well.

Mike and Holly continued on to Las Vegas for the 64th Annual NBAA Convention and Meeting held at the Las Vegas Convention Center and Henderson Executive Airport, October 10-12. "We had a great time in Vegas," comments Mike. "The atmosphere was very positive, and it was a great venue. NBAA is always a well run show."



NBAA President and CEO Ed Bolen states that it is the "must-attend event" for the business aviation community. The NBAA website reports attendance, exhibitors, and charity donations were all up from the last few years. They report that many convention sessions were standing room only further emphasizing the "looking forward vision" goals of the three day event.



In Las Vegas at NBAA, Mike surprises Holly with the new Honda Jet that he has ordered, complete with their own custom tail number "N420 Holly-Mike."

Topping the month off, Mike and Holly flew to Amelia Island, FL for the Citation Jet Pilots annual convention on October 26-29. Fun and antics follow Mike almost anywhere he goes. Look for highlights from this well-attended convention in the December newsletter.

Flight Home



Fantastic scenery on the return flight from NBAA! Mike and Holly had an awesome flight and great weather over our beautiful country. Top: Visiting with Diane and Mark Stapleton in Texas; snow in the Rockies; Glen Canyon Dam, AZ; Grand Canyon, AZ; Shiprock, NM; B-1B Lancer Flyby (leave it to Mike to ask for an intercept and get one!; and ... one amazing sunset.



Capturing the Moment with Photographer Peter McIntosh

Time spent in the woods for many is relaxing, spiritual, and romantic. Rounding corners on a trail to gaze upon the unexpected, breathlessly reaching a summit, or dipping your toes in a cool stream are all simple joys of the experience. Rabun County's adopted son, Photographer Peter McIntosh has known this his entire life. After decades of visits, Peter became a full-time resident ten years ago this month (Thanksgiving). Peter shares his journey in becoming a professional photographer, his continued evolution as a life-long learner, and how area landscapes bring a sense of awe.

Peter, like many non-natives in and around Clayton, Georgia, was first introduced to the area as a young boy. As a fifth generation Atlantan, he spent many weekends packing up and heading to the not so distant North Georgia mountains with his dad and brother to hike, explore, and camp in the great outdoors. His family especially enjoying Tray Mountain (in the adjacent White County) and its majestic views over Rabun's Lake Burton.

As a young man, Peter was first exposed to the intricacies of photography while serving in the Navy. "I was able to choose what I wanted to do, and photography seemed interesting to me," he recalls. From the fundamental mechanics of the cameras to the freedom of artistic composition of each shot, Peter immersed himself in the experiences and opportunities the Navy offered him; but, once out of the service, his path lead him to a career in writing.



As the years passed, Peter's early experiences in the woods were always in his thoughts. He states it simply, "I realized in my mid-30's that sooner or later I would *have* to live here. I needed to live in the mountains because I felt I belonged here, but it took some time to figure how to do that." The goal was to find a balance between his writing and studio production work for Turner Broadcasting in Atlanta with the desire to live in the mountains. The *how* came with nudges of encouragement from others who told him he had a gift to share coupled with the ability to continue his broadcast writing remotely using the internet which limits the amount of time he needs to spend in the city.

As he settled into a laid-back Rabun County lifestyle, Peter found the time to capture the landscapes he loves so deeply- expressing what he sees, through his lens, which captures time, details, and light so perfectly. "I always continue to expand my portfolio,...and I always try to improve my work," states Peter. "I am learning all the time and will for the rest of my life. I moved where the pictures are."

With his photography, Peter hopes to take his audience with him. "Often I will be up somewhere, and I think, 'I can't believe I'm the only one here!'" But, the rewards come, "[when people look at a photograph] and I hear them gasp, it is then I know I've succeeded. I look for that 'emotional response.'"



Top left: Tallulah Still Water and Mist

Above: Persimmon Valley

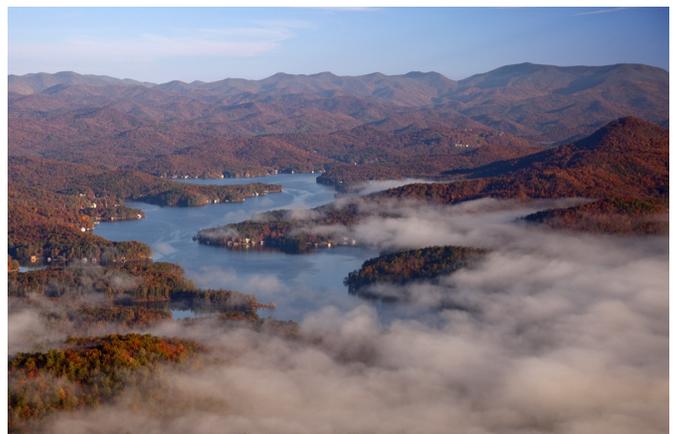
Peter McIntosh –continued

On any given day, if Peter isn't leading photo tours, photographing weddings, or hiking hills and streams, he is studying and admiring the works of those who [inspire him](#), reading books, or attending a workshop. If there is a weather event or seasonal change or a place to explore or see one more time, Peter will be out with his equipment. He cites foggy rainy conditions, twilight, moving water, and the layers of the mountain ridges as some of his favorite canvases. Peter makes educated guesses based on orientation or his past experiences to photograph a location in order to capture that "golden moment." He says, "I watch the light come upon the land" and explains that every experience even in the same location is different. And with years of film experience, Peter relies on this planning or inspiration to judge his shots. He does very little digital photo editing. Peter says he will venture out hours before sunrise or sunset to find what captures his imagination. (He has a head lamp and often comes home after dark.) His favorite places in Rabun include Black Rock Mountain, Rabun Bald, Chattooga River Trail, and the trails and waterfalls of the Upper Tallulah River.



Peter advises to never go out mid-day when the lighting is too harsh and "boring." He also tells his students to go out and take as many pictures as they like and enjoy the freedom digital cameras offer.

Gracing the walls throughout the Heaven's Landing Clubhouse are some of Peter's favorite photos from his collections. Peter and Mike Ciochetti often venture out for aerial photography outings over Heaven's Landing and the surrounding scenery. "When I think the weather conditions are good for a shoot, I can call, wake Mike up, and he will push the plane out of his hangar. He's like a pilot fireman – always ready to go even at 5:30 am."



Peter welcomes you to [contact him](#), whether you are in need of a photographer or simply wishing to get insight on where to explore in Rabun County. You can also get amazing advice on places to go each month in Peter's articles in the [Georgia Mountain Laurel](#) available in business around Rabun County and as a pdf online.

See more of Peter's spectacular work at [Peter McIntosh Photography](#), [Timpson Creek Gallery](#), and area [B&B's](#) and [businesses](#).

Top Right: Mountain Lightening
Above Left: Chattooga River Narrows

Middle Right: Wolffork Valley Church
Above Right: Morning over Lake Burton from Mike's 210.

Upcoming Events

Heaven's Landing:

Heaven's Landing Christmas Dinner & Visit with Santa **December 10**

Join us at the Heaven's Landing Clubhouse for a gourmet holiday celebration. RSVP today with childrens names and ages. Call [Holly](tel:706-982-5245) at 706-982-5245.



Area Events:

Simply Homegrown Market

Simply Homegrown: A Farmers' Market is open Saturdays 9 a.m.-Noon. Offering all-locally grown produce and value-added goods. Find us in our new location at the Municipal Complex on Hwy 76W.



Saturdays

Wizard of OZ

The Smokey Mtn. Center for the Performing Arts production of this MGM classic will have you singing, dancing, and clicking your heels. Visit www.greatmountainmusic.com. Tickets \$10-13.

November 3,4,5,6

Tiger Mountain Vineyards

Celebrate the release of Tiger Mountain Vineyards 2008 Cabernet Franc, our award winning red varietal! Taste the '08 Reserve Cabernet Franc (one day only!). Roasted sausages from the grill and live music. \$10 per person from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM www.tigerwine.com.

November 5

Doo-Wop Wed Widing Hood

NGCP and Kiz Create present a rollicking 50's musical by Charlie Lovett and music by Bill Fancoeur. This all children's show is full of fairytale surprises! You can purchase tickets with Paypal by following [this link](#). Performed at the Dillard Playhouse. Sunday matinee starts at 3 pm all other shows are at 7pm.

November 5, 6, 11, 12, 13



NE Georgia Arts Tour

Interact with artists in the act of creation! Meet local artist and see the demonstrations of their talents at every venue. Look for the Art Zone signs. Fri. 1-5 pm; Sat. 10 am—5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm. www.artstour.org.

November 11-13

Veteran's Appreciation Dinner

Hosted by the Rabun County Chamber of Commerce at the Rabun County Civic Center from 5:30-7:30 pm. For information contact 706.782.4812.

November 11

Children's Heritage Days

Visit yesteryear and a day filled with fun and hands-on workshops for young participants. Children will learn and demonstrate traditional skills and make projects to take home. Cost is \$40 per child with a \$5 discount for each sibling. Lunch and snacks are provided. Call 706-746-5828 or www.foxfire.org for more information.

November 26



Georgia's Winter Wine Highway

Hosted by the Winegrowers Association of Georgia. This year we will feature a "Barrel Tasting" at each of the 10 participating affiliate members who will have their own unique open house. \$25 per person. Visit www.georgiawine.org for more information and details.

December 2-4



Georgia Mountain Home Builders Raffle

The Georgia Mountain Home Builders is proud to conduct their second annual reverse raffle. Do to the enormous success last year, this year's event will be held at the Rabun County Civic Center starting at 6 pm. For a \$100 raffle ticket enjoy a delicious dinner for two, entry into the \$10,000 drawing, and door prizes. Proceeds benefit the Habitat for Humanity and GMHBA. Winners do not need to be present to win.

December 13

Ricky Skaggs Family Christmas

Enjoy an evening of traditional and contemporary seasonal hits from a music legend. Performing for one night at the [Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts](#). Show starts at 7:30 pm and tickets cost \$35.

December 17



Our Community



- **Weather Link.** Stay up to date on the Clayton, GA weather conditions and forecast from NOAA. <http://forecast.weather.gov/>



- **Wi-Fi** is available at the Clubhouse. Stay connected with your personal devices as you enjoy the amenities.



- **What's New with You?** Share photos and stories of what is new in your flying circles. Please send submissions to janclay@windstream.net. (All submissions are subject to editing and the evaluation of content.)



- **Go Green!** Please update your contact information with our office at 706.212.0017 or sales@heavenslanding.com and make sure we have your latest email address, so you will stay informed.

- **Stay in Touch.** "Like" us on [Facebook](#), "Heaven's Landing".



- **Let us Know About Your Aviation Groups.** Give the office a call and share what groups and organizations you belong to, the website address, and the organization's contact information. (800) HEAVEN 2.



- Fish year round and enjoy our local lakes. It is always time to go boating! We wish to remind all owners and visitors to take advantage of our area lakes. Rentals are available at [Anchorage Boat Rentals](#) at 706-212-0534 or [LaPrades Marina](#) at 706-947-0010.

Personal Trainer—Elisa Hopkins



Heaven's Landing welcomes Elisa Hopkins. Elisa is a certified Personal Trainer and tailors training for men and women to the individual's interest and goals. Elisa currently conducts five classes ranging in aerobic, kick-boxing, dance aerobics, and strength training at the dance studio at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School. She has offered to conduct classes and specialized instruction for Heaven's Landing owners and their guests in the Clubhouse fitness room.



Contact Elisa at 706-982-2302.

Heaven's Landing Services

Heaven's Landing Concierge Service

We offer the finest, personalized, and professional services to meet your needs. Whether it's scheduling a trustworthy service to clean your home, picking up groceries, or keeping up with routine maintenance, Heaven's Landing Concierge Service will maintain your property, so you can fully enjoy your Heaven's Landing home. Please contact our office for an estimate: 706.212.0017 or sales@heavenslanding.com.



"Work with someone you know and trust."

Our Current Fuel Prices



Self Serve Pumps

AV GAS	\$5.65/ gal*
JET A	\$4.95/ gal*



**Prices Subject to Change. Prices as of November 1, 2011*

Thank you for being a part of Heaven's Landing. For an archived electronic library of our Heaven's Landing Newsletter showcasing the year's local and aviation events as well as the amazing beauty of Heaven's Landing and surrounding areas, please see www.heavenslanding.com and "[newsletter](#)" link.

For questions or comments regarding the newsletter please contact Jan at janclay@windstream.net.



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