



Natural and  
Cultural Resources



## Special Events for 2016

**February 13 *Homes Fit for a...President*** Join us as we give an in-depth look at the Tennessee estates of Old Hickory and his protégé, Young Hickory: Andrew Jackson's "The Hermitage" and James K. Polk's "Polk Place". This program will be presented in partnership with the President James K. Polk State Historic Site and the Andrew Jackson State Park. **Hours:** 11:00 am-1:00pm. **Admission:** Free.

**February 18-20 *Shaping the Tar Heel Sound: How African Americans shaped North Carolina's richest musical traditions from the 18th-20th centuries.*** This three-part series will explore how African Americans shaped North Carolina music over time. Lecturers will explore how African folk music and European musical traditions mixed from the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries to create the distinct sounds of the Carolina Piedmont and the Appalachian Mountains. Lecturers will also consider how cultural exchanges between black and white musicians in the South shaped the evolution of popular music as we know it, and help develop musical genres like bluegrass and rock. All lectures will include audience discussion, and some will include instrument demonstrations and the chance to hear audio recordings. **For more details, see below:**

**February 18, 2016** | Michael Scoggins, Historian, Culture & Heritage Museums

Mr. Scoggins will discuss African American folk music in the Carolina Piedmont during from the late 18th century to the early 20th century and explore its roots in both African and European folk music traditions, as well as how white and black musicians in the Carolinas learned from each other and were influenced by each other.

**Hours:** 6:30-7:45 p.m. **Admission:** Free. **Location:** South County Regional Library

**February 19, 2016** | Dr. Bill Lawing, J. Estes Millner Professor of Music, Davidson College

Dr. Lawing will explore how African Americans helped shape the distinct sound of Appalachian North Carolina's folk music.

**Hours:** 3:30-4:45 p.m. **Admission:** Free. **Location:** South County Regional Library

**February 20, 2016** | Billy Stevens, M.A., North Carolina Humanities Council Road Scholar

Mr. Stevens will demonstrate how historic interactions between African Americans and European Americans shaped the evolution of American popular music. With its roots in slavery and the fusion of musical traditions brought from both Africa and Europe, American music is a natural outgrowth of the unique culture of the American South. Using musical instruments as well as rare recordings, Stevens helps his audience understand the relationship between jazz and blues, ragtime and gospel, and how the first distinctly American musical genre, blackface minstrelsy, has influenced country musicians up to the present day. The result is a better understanding of how our music reflects America's social fabric.

This project is made possible by funding from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Hours:** 1:00-2:30 p.m. **Admission:** Free. **Location:** West Boulevard Library

**May 14 *Back-Country Music, Dance 'n 'Que*** Join us as we thaw out and ring in Spring with some back-country tunes and tasty BBQ. This festival will feature local artists playing historic music, as well as local 'que. Bring the family, your lawn chairs, and blankets to enjoy acts like the Appalachian Dulcimer Club, our headliner, the Myers Park High School Bluegrass Club, and many more! **Hours:** 11:00 am-3:00pm. **Admission:** Free.

**For more information on these programs, or about the site, please feel free to call the President James K. Polk State Historic Site at (704)889-7145. You can also visit us on the web at [www.polk.nchistoricsites.org](http://www.polk.nchistoricsites.org) or [www.jameskpolk.net](http://www.jameskpolk.net).**