

Winter festivals of all types arrive to the Old North State

By ALAN HODGE
Special to The Herald

Even though the weather is chilly, folks are still having festivals and gatherings of all types in the Carolinas during the next several months.

Calling itself the "Largest Military Invasion in North America," the 137th Anniversary of Sherman's March across Georgia and South Carolina will be held February 23-24 near Aiken, S.C. The event is expected to draw 10,000 spectators and over 1,000 Civil War reenactors from all over the South. Over 20 cannons and dozens of horse-mounted cavalry troops will add to the excitement.

Spectators can view the camps from 9 a.m. until noon each day and are encouraged to mingle with the Confederate and Union troops. Battle times are at 2 p.m., followed by a grand review. The site is located 20 miles east of Augusta, Georgia just off I-20, on Highway 78 eight miles from Aiken. Call 803-641-1111 for more information or to register. The website is www.battleof-aiken.org.

March 15-17 the 40th Annual Burlington Antiques Fair will be coming to that city's Fairchild Community Center. The three-day event will feature antique furniture, clocks, old silver, quilts, antique linens, heirlooms and more.

The Fair has a Roadshow on Friday and Saturday where you may have your antiques evaluated for \$5 per item. There will be homecooked food available and other refreshments as well. The Fair is sponsored by the Alamance-Caswell Medical Society Alliance, the N.C. Medical Society Alliance and other groups. Call 336-538-8108 to find out more. Tickets are \$3 for one day, and \$4 for all three days.

The African-American Heritage Extravaganza will be held at Greensboro Cultural Center's Festival Park on March 16. The center is located at 200 North Davie Street. Time for the event is 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. The show will feature dance, music, storytelling, crafts, African drumming, vendors selling African-American foods, children's games and crafts, and more. There will be free parking, and free admission. Call 336-373-2044 for additional information.

For folks with an urge to travel, the North Carolina RV Camping Show will be coming to Charlotte January 25-27, Fayetteville on February 8-10, and Raleigh on February 22-24. The show will feature the latest in RV models as well as accessories and other information. Anne Star at Apple Rock Advertising and Promotion has more information at 336-851-9090.

Over 65,000 pounds of oysters will go down folk's goozels during the Lowcountry Oyster Festival at Boone Hall Plantation near Charleston, S.C. Taking place on February 10, the annual event is billed as the "World's Largest Oyster Roast."

Part of the amusement will be cooking competitions by local chefs - with plenty of oysters in the recipes. Steamed oysters will be sold by the bucket to patrons along with free crackers and sauce. Be sure to bring your own oyster knife and gloves to crack the critters open. Other food and drink available will be beer, soda, hot dogs, burgers, and barbecue. There will even be an Oyster Costume contest.

All money raised by the Lowcountry Oyster Festival will benefit Hollings Cancer Center, Ronald McDonald House, and the Charleston County Science Materials Resource Center. Call 843-577-4030 for information.

Clay buffs will do well to attend the Catawba Valley Pottery and Antique Festival at the Hickory Metro Convention Center. The show will take place March 23 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

On display will be historical and antique Southern traditional pottery, antiques including furniture, textiles, and folk art. Educational classes on folk art and pottery will also be part of the show. A lecture by Charles Zug, author of "Turners and Burners: The Folk Potters of North Carolina" will be presented at 11 a.m. on the day of the event which is sponsored by the Catawba County Historical Association and the North Carolina Pottery Center.

Beautiful flowers will be the drawing card for the 52nd

Annual Camellia Show in Wilmington. The celebration will take place Saturday, February 23 from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m. at the Scottish Rites Temple on 17th Street.

Admission is free for participants. On display will be over 1,200 blooms of a wide variety of camellia growers. Horticultural supplies and plants will be on sale.

Taking place March 9-10 in Hardeeville, S.C., the 3rd Annual Native American Pow Wow has grown in popularity since its first year. Members of several tribes are expected to attend. Participants will be exchanging tribal customs, some of which are sacred.

Crafts will also be part of the show, as will demonstrations of drumming. Many folks will be in native dress. The pow wow will be held on the banks of the Savannah River at Millstone Landing. For more information on the pow wow, call 843-784-2130.

The American Revolution will come alive in Currie, N.C. when the 226th anniversary of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge will take place. The original victory by 100 patriots stopped British Redcoats in their tracks.

The anniversary commemoration will see 18th-century living history camps, colonial and Scottish music, the Guilford Fife and Drum Corps, and a wreath-laying at



American Dance Festival
Photo courtesy of NC Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development

the battle site. Moore's Creek National Battlefield is located on N.C. 210 in Currie. Call 910-283-5591 for more details.

Rated one of the Top 20 events by Southeast Tourism, the Poplar Grove Plantation Herb and Garden Fair will be

held March 23 near Wilmington. This event will feature many displays and informative booths on herbs and their uses. Also part of the show will be cooking demonstration using herbs.

Another aspect of the event will be preserving flowers and

making potpourri. Call 910-686-9518 ext. 26 or visit the website at www.polargrove.com.

To get a great overview of all that's happening in both Carolinas in the next 90 days, read "Southern Festivals."

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