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Plott hounds to be honored with marker

The dedication ceremony and the unveiling of a North Carolina State historical marker honoring the Plott family and the Plott hound as the official state dog will take place at 10 a.m. on June 8 at Hazelwood Elementary School.

Bob Plott, author of *Strike and Stay — The Story of the Plott Hound* and a Plott family descendant, and John Jackson, charter member and former president of the American Plott Hound Association, will be the featured speakers. Together they have collected scholarly works about the history of the Plott family and the breed and they have two published books, plus several Yearbooks for the American Plott Association.

Congressman Heath Shuler is also tentatively scheduled to attend, as is Waynesville Mayor Gavin Brown, Sen. Joe Sam Queen, American Kennel Club Vice President Steve Fielder, and American Plott Association President Rodney Burris.

For more information call Ernestine E. Upchurch at 828.926.1568 or email eupchurch@charter.net.

Animal shelter plans open house June 13

The Haywood County Animal Shelter is holding an Open House from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 13.

"Many dogs and cats have been coming into the shelter lately, but adoptions are down during this economic recession. This event is to increase the awareness of the wonderful dogs and cats at the shelter that need homes," said Jean Hazzard, director of Animal Control. "Many are loving family pets that had to be surrendered by their owners because of the economic downturn," Hazzard continued.

All dogs that need to be spayed/neutered can be adopted for \$53, which includes the surgery and rabies vaccination.

Since June is Adopt A Cat Month, all cats/kittens adopted that day will receive a special adoption rate of \$27.50 for males and \$37.50 for females. Fee includes spay/neuter and rabies vaccination. In addition, each feline adopted will receive a free litter box and bag of cat/kitten food. This reduced fee for cats will remain in place the entire month of June.

For more information call Sarge's at 828.246.9050.

Learn how to preserve summer's bounty at preservation classes

The Haywood County Cooperative Extension office will begin a series of food preservation classes in June. The classes will be taught by area extension agents using the latest research-based information. Learn or update skills and also learn what judges look for at food preservation competitions.

- Canning — June 4 from 1 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 9 p.m. \$5.
- Making jams and jellies — June 11 from 1 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 9 p.m. \$10.
- Drying and freezing — July 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m. \$5

The fee covers educational supplies and refreshments. Payments are accepted at the door in exact cash or check. To reserve a seat contact Jean Burton at 828.456.3575 or jean_burton@ncsu.edu three business days before the class is scheduled.

Mast celebrates Land Trust Day on June 6

Mast General Store will celebrate Land Trust Day on Saturday, June 6, for the seventh year by encouraging people to become members of local land trusts and to learn how these groups unite the past and future by preserving our land heritage. Mast General Store will donate 20 percent of sales on that Saturday to the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy.

"According to the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, the state has lost 2.8 million acres of cropland and forest land to development over the last 20 years. By 2022, it is projected that certain areas of North Carolina will experience an additional 50 percent decrease in their forests and cropland," said John Cooper, president of the Mast General Store. "With those statistics in mind, it's more important than ever to have an active plan to protect our open farmland, scenic vistas, and significant landmarks for future generations to enjoy and benefit from, not just in North Carolina, but throughout the southeast. Our annual Land Trust Day helps highlight local organizations that are working hard to do just that."

Representatives from the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) will be on hand at the Mast Store in Asheville and Waynesville to share with guests the activities they are undertaking to conserve the open spaces in the region

For more information on land trusts, stop by the information table on Saturday, June 6, in all Mast Store locations. Visit the local land trust's website - www.appalachian.org to learn more about current projects and how to become a member of this organization. For further information on land trusts in North Carolina, go to www.ctnc.org. To learn more about land

trust activities in general, visit the Land Trust Alliance online at www.lta.org.

Orville Coward Forum focuses on the U.S. health care system

Questions about the U.S. health care system and universal health care will be the topic of discussion at the Orville Coward Forum on Public Issues at 7 p.m. on June 9 at the Jackson County Golden Age Center in Sylva.

The speaker will be Dr. Robert Peterson, medical director of Crescent Preferred Provider Organization, a health care provider organization based in Asheville. Peterson has been instrumental in making Crescent PPO a successful alternative to other similar organizations who provide health care management services for businesses and other organizations in the Western North Carolina area.

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