

foliage, apples and pumpkins provide fall fun

BY L. WOODROW ROSS
Special to Upstate Be

A leisurely drive along scenic roads in rural upstate South Carolina and western North Carolina in the fall is a great experience. The apple and pumpkin harvest is in full swing and fall colors won't be far behind.

Orchards

Chattooga Belle Farm
454 Damascus Church
Road, Long Creek
864.647.9768

The Upstate has a great tradition of apple orchards in the Long Creek area, west of Wallhalla and approximately 13 miles northwest of Westminster on U.S. 76. One of the favorite U-pick orchards is the Chattooga Belle Farm, which was previously part of the Horseshoe Lake Farm in Long Creek. The comedian Groucho Marx was once a co-owner of the Horseshoe Lake Farm.

Chattooga Belle is a 138-acre farm that offers a variety of produce, including apples, peaches, blueberries, blackberries, muscadines and grapes. It also has a general store that offers many locally produced products and an 18-hole disc golf course open to the public.

The farm is located in a scenic area bordering the famous Chattooga River featured in the movie "Deliverance," with actor Burt Reynolds. The rolling hills and breath-taking view makes this a wonderful destination, and the fresh produce is a bonus.

Carver Orchards
411 Forest Acres Circle, Wallhalla

864.638.6301

Carver Orchards of Mountain Rest is a family owned and operated orchard dating back to 1967, when Richard Carver began to buy plants from his uncle to establish his own orchard. Carver Orchards was twice voted Westminster Fair's apple-grower of the year. In addition to selling apples at their 25-acre orchard location, Richard and Lynn Carver now maintain a small stand at the corner of S.C. 28 and Whet-



Fall Color over water in upper Greenville County.

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Grandad's Apples in Henderson County, N.C.



Two Horse Team made of corn stalks at Heavenly Hog BBQ.

stone Road.

Long Creek has a long tradition of family-oriented apple or-

chards. Hollifield's Orchard and Bryson's U-pick are both located near U.S. 76. Other orchards in the area include Blue Haven Orchards and a number of small, independent orchards.

North Carolina

Another concentration of apple orchards is found a few miles north of the South Carolina-North Carolina border. Traveling north on U.S. 26, turn right onto U.S. 64 and travel on the Chimney Rock Highway and you will see numerous orchards and farms of-

fering a delightful assortment of fruits, vegetables and other locally made treats. Firm juicy apples, cabbage and colorful pumpkins are just a few of the attractions. Barbecue is also a specialty of the area, and a stop at Heavenly Hog Barbeque is a treat. While there, check out the gigantic pumpkins and the two-horse team fashioned from corn stalks.

■ Grandad's Apples on U.S. 64 is a farm offering a wide range of attractions for adults and children. In addition to various types of eating and cooking apples, they have thousands of pumpkins, an animal petting area for the children, a small train tour through the grounds and a cornfield for children and a retail outlet with many locally produced farm products and crafts.

2951 Chimney Rock Road, Hendersonville, NC; 828.685.1685

■ If you are interested in picking your own apples, a good choice is Skytop orchard on Pinnacle Road in Flat Rock, N.C. In addition to a beautiful mountain-top view, they have delicious, pip-

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