

Gaston *Alive!*

Home • Garden • Style • Fun • Food • Happenings



Taste, Shop, Hang Out Grape & Barley

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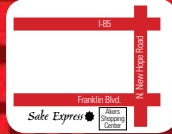
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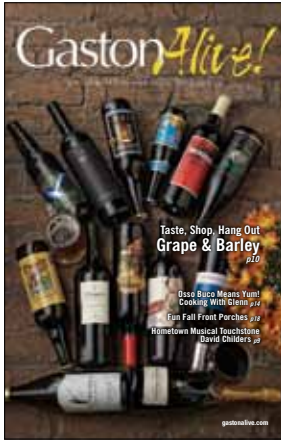
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about the cover



This month's cover features craft beers and wines from Grape & Barley on Hoffman Road, see related story on page 10. Cover shot in studio by Rick Haithcox, cover digital design by David James.

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A LITTLE JAZZ...

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Catching Up With Gaston County's Musical Touchstone

David Childers

Gaston Alive!: So what's happening David, how are you?

David: I feel great. Life is really good right now. I would never have worried about being 62 years old if I had known how good it would be.



GA!: Enjoyed you guys at The Mt. Holly At & Music Festival..

David: Mt. Holly Art & Music Festival was a big deal to me. This little town put on a fine festival that drew

people from miles around. I hope to see more of that.

GA!: Let's go back-what are your earliest memories of music?

David: All my memories involve music. I was raised by women, white and black, who loved music and played it all the time. My dad liked opera. There were many influences banging around me from as far back as I can remember. Singing in church was my favorite part. I often think of the line, yes Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so; we are weak but he is strong. I've applied those words often in my life.

GA!: What would it surprise your fans to know about you?

David: No idea. I don't think about or worry about that. I grew up a social outcast in my home town, so I learned to quit caring what people thought about me long ago. Jesus loves me. My wife loves me and so do my kids. That's all I need.

GA!: Is it hard to change from your "attorney hat" to your "musician hat"?

David: No problem. God has given me many gifts. He has allowed me to have 2 demanding but rewarding professions. It all feels natural.

GA!: Your lead guitar payer, Randy Saxon is sort of a local legend...

David: Randy is a fine man, and a great musician. I've played with some good ones but he is hands down my

favorite guitar side man. He is very dedicated to what we are doing. We have grown up together in a sense.

GA!: What do you want to be remembered for musically? In your opinion, what is your best work?

David: I have no idea of how I'll be remembered musically, or even if I'll be remembered. I let critics and historians deal with that. I just need to write new material, and try to put on the best kinds of performances I am capable of. I'm a member of a team, and want to do my best for that team. It's not just the band and me, but our booking agent, our publicity people, the record label. As Dolph Ramseur says, "Big team, little me." I like that attitude.



GA!: How does it feel to be the Elvis or Presiding Potentate of Gaston County music?

David: That's pretty funny. I did not know I was so perceived. I don't even think about that. Jem Crosland deserves to be regarded as the local Elvis more than I do. Have you heard that guy? He lays down that rockabilly and Elvis stuff as well as anybody. Elvis is fine, but I don't cotton to potentates. I'm a democrat.

GA!: Why be a musician-why music?

David: I just got lucky. God made it possible, and makes it possible every day. His will be done.

GA!: What advice would you have for young musicians today?

David: Do it for the music. Forget all that fame and fortune crap. Do it for the music.

GA!: Who are some of your favorite singer/song writers, or musicians overall?

David: It's a bunch, too many to list. I don't want to leave any out. Locally, Malcolm Holcombe is my favorite song writer.

>> Article continued on page 16

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SEE A COOL VIDEO OF DAVID WITH BOB CRAWFORD OF THE AVETT BROTHERS ON YOUTUBE AT:
[David Childers: A North Carolina Man](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

From Banking To Business Owner, Meet Mark McManus Of



By David Hamrick

GA!: First-what is Grape & Barley?

Mark: We are a unique, fun and educational wine and craft beer shop with over 250 small production wines not found in grocery stores. Our selection of over 150 beers are from all over the globe but with a strong focus on those brewed locally.

GA!: What is your background Mark- School, family, business experience...

Mark: I'm born and raised in New Jersey and attended college in Winter Park, Florida. I have a BA degree in Business Administration & Economics. I also have 2 wine certifications from Johnson and Wales. I spent 25 years working in the banking world with various responsibilities. I took an early retirement package at the end of 2011 to focus on getting Grape and Barley up and running. My wonderful (and incredibly patient) wife of 26 years, Terry and I live in Belmont with our 2 dogs. We have 2 sons, 25 and 22, both living in Chicago.



GA!: What was the original idea and how did your business start?

Mark: I knew I wanted to run a business when I left the banking world. I started getting into wine about 10 years ago and fell in love with all the complexities wine had to offer. My passion for craft beers kicked in about 4 years ago when I realized craft beer had progressed just a wee bit from my Miller and Bud days. Beer today is every bit as complex as wines. At that point it became clear what kind of business I wanted to own.

GA!: What products and service do you offer? What about classes?

Mark: In addition the wines and brews, we also have a delicious menu of cheeses, charcuteries, and locally made hummus, salsa and tapenade; just to name a few.



We have rotating selections of wines by the glass as well as higher end wines in our cuvnee machines. The wines in these units can be purchased by the taste, half glass or full glass. Our tasting bar also includes 4 craft beers on tap as well as a wide selection of bottled brews.

We are very proud of our Craft Room which comfortably seats 20 and can be rented for special events, parties etc. Best of all, there is no charge for the room Monday through Thursday.

Our partnership with Art's Desire enables us to offer high quality gift baskets on demand, which is perfect as we move into the holiday season.

The service I'm most proud of is being able to guide our customers to make a selection based on their tasting preferences. Frequently, we have a wine open that may be close to what they are looking for. Based on their feedback (too dry, too fruity etc), we can pick out the right wine for them. Our customers have been very receptive to this.

Lastly, we offer scheduled classes and tastings, including our Free Sip to Sample Saturday every week from 2-4PM. Our website has a list of all upcoming tastings and classes.



GA!: It looks like you have recently rearranged your space?

Mark: That's correct. The model for Grape and Barley has always been retail focused with a tasting bar to compliment the retail selection. We recently added wine racks to the front of the store and converted our wall display to primarily beer. To enhance the customer experience, we have also labeled the rack

based on the classification of the wine or beer. Our new set up helps support our model and allows for an increased selection of both wine and brews.

GA!: Do I have to know a lot about wine or craft beers to shop here?

Mark: Not at all. That's what we're here for, and what separates us from grocery stores. We can help you pick your beverages according to your tasting preferences or occasion. Just tell us your budget and we'll take it from there.

GA!: Tell me about the selection and price range?

Mark: We have wines from across the globe. Most all are considered small production, or under 5000 cases per year. 90+% of these wines are not available in grocery stores, and many are limited release. The same premise applies to our brews. I compare the beer scene in Charlotte today to what the wine scene was in Napa and Sonoma during the 1970's. It's a blast to be a part of it and carry many local beers.

Our wines are priced from \$8 to some higher end wines north of \$100 per bottle. We will also be carrying a selection of large format bottles of wine, or magnums, for the holidays. Those can run \$150-\$500 per bottle.

>> Article continued on gastonalive.com



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Ossobuco

Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones... Yes, an old spiritual in reference to Ezekiel 37 where the bones will rise again. But from my perspective it's not about dry bones; it's more about fresh bones and the amazing flavor they can impart into a meal. In restaurants you see all sorts of steaks with the bone in. Some of you may have seen Ox Tail soup. Even good stock is made with the bones, so what is this obsession with bones? Well, the truth is there is lots of good in dem bones.

In Ossobuco a veal shank is slowly braised with tomato, vegetables and wine to create pure culinary delight. It's one of my favorite dishes-for that matter when I made it for this recipe I was so excited I forgot to get my picture until after it was all gone! The recipe originates in Milan and literally means bone with a hole (osso/bone and buco/hole). It's really quite easy to prepare but takes about 2-3 hours.

Ingredients

- Veal shanks
- Flour, Salt, Pepper, thyme and a Bay Leaf
- Wine, olive oil
- Carrots, Celery, Onion
- Tomato Paste
- Veal or Chicken stock

Method:

You need a heavy roasting pan or I prefer to do this stove top in my cast iron dutch oven. The only trick to this recipe is to get the first step right, which is to brown the shanks, all the rest is pretty easy. I usually tie the shanks with some cooking twine to make them easier to handle. After tying, I make sure they are patted dry then rub them with some olive oil. Salt and pepper both sides then dredge in flour.

In the meantime heat two tablespoons of olive oil in the dutch oven in preparation for browning the shanks. The oil needs to get very hot, place the shanks in the pan and brown all sides of each shank. Once all the shanks are nicely browned set them aside and put the diced carrots, celery and onion in the pot and cook till the onion is translucent and the celery starts to soften.

Add the thyme, bay leaf the can of tomato paste and a cup of wine to the pot with the veggies then put the shanks back in. Fill the pot with the stock to where the tops of the shanks are still above the liquid. Cover and simmer, you're almost there. Now about every 10-15 minutes check the shanks and keep re-filling the stock to maintain the level. After 30-40 min turn the shanks. Cook until the meat is falling away from the bone but still provides some resistance to the touch.

The traditional pairing is Gremolata, or Risotto, but the other night I served it with Sundried Tomato Couscous. The rich creamy texture of the sauce created by the long cook cycle will have everyone mopping their plates.

Till Next Month, Make it Your Own!
Glenn



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>> Article continued from page 9.

GA!: Love your paintings, sort of Grandma Moses...

David: My paintings? I just paint things that come into my head. It feels like they paint themselves. Like writing, it takes a long time. People can make of them what they will. I have no idea if they mean anything or not.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

- Oct 4, 2013 - Boone, NC - Boone Saloon
- Oct 5, 2013 - Whitmire, SC - The Strand Amphitheater at Whitmire Heritage Park
- Oct 11, 2013 - Hickory, NC - Oktoberfest
- Oct 12, 2013 - Dallas, NC - 26th Annual Cotton Ginning Day
- Oct 18, 2013 - Lexington, NC - High Rock Outfitters w/ South Carolina Broadcasters
- Oct 19, 2013 - Gaffney, SC - Capri on Main w/ South Carolina Broadcasters
- Oct 25, 2013 - Winston-salem, NC - Krankies Coffee w/ Jim Avett
- Nov 30, 2013 - Lexington, NC - NC Music and Arts Festival
- Dec 21, 2013 - Charlotte, NC - The Thirsty Beaver





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Jodi Kines –Jodi has a degree in Interior Design from Winthrop University, and is the owner of Plan-It Design, LLC in Belmont, N.C.
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Fabulous Fall Front Porches

With cooler temperatures in the air and leaves beginning to change, there is no doubt that Fall is officially here. As Mother Nature unveils her new seasonal palette, it's natural to want to spread that new Fall feeling throughout our homes. What better place to begin than the front porch? It's the perfect spot for marrying the bold, rich colors and textures of the great outdoors with a warm, inviting welcome into your personal space.

Let Mother Nature be your inspiration!

Selecting a Fall color palette is as simple as looking at the trees around you and seasonal decorating is a great time to experiment with color that may otherwise overwhelm or intimidate a more neutral palette. Grab large planters, urns or even pails and pile them high with small pumpkins in a rainbow of warm orange hues, even mix in some golden yellows and deep greens with harvest gourds and winter squash for added texture and unique shapes. Add a nearby stack of larger pumpkins, from the more common bright orange field pumpkin to the more muted, softer (almost-frosted) tones of the Cinderella pumpkin. For some added height, layer in some stacked straw bails or even large bundles of moss-covered twigs or wheat grass nestled in pots or urns. Pots and pails of mums and ornamental fountain grasses also add a wonderful pop of color and texture. Early in the Fall season, pails of rich red apples would even add a wonderful splash of color. Use these jewel tone colors as inspiration in your other Fall décor, including festive wreaths adorned with raffia, burlap or ribbon.

Bring the inside out!

Your front porch is your guests' first impression of you, your family, and your personal home, so you want it to be warm, welcoming, and inviting





both to those that just pass by for an evening stroll on the sidewalk and friends and family that stop in for a visit. The rich, warm color palette of Fall is a great starting point. Continue that feeling of warmth by bringing some of your more 'indoor' accessories out on to the porch. Even if you don't have a huge space to decorate, add a small accent table or wooden chair for added surface area and height. Top the table with the warm glow of a lamp or flame-less candles and accent the chair with a small pillow or even an old quilt. Add a throw rug, layered under a door mat for added texture and softness.

Get the most bang for your decorating dollar!

For a porch-scape that lasts from late September through early December, start with a strictly-Fall-themed backdrop of 'holiday neutral' items such as potted plants, bales of straw and pumpkin-filled urns. Then add in 'holiday-themed' accents as the season

passes. Pails of apples offer a back-to-school, September feeling. Then, as Halloween approaches, you can simply replace the pails of apples for ghosts, goblins and googly-eyed pumpkins. Stretch your Fall porch even farther as you round out the season with cornucopias, Indian corn, and even a little turkey or two as Thanksgiving approaches at the end of November.

Another way to stretch the decorating dollar is by properly selecting any live plants used in your porch-scape, including the ever-popular mum. Selecting the perfect plant for your porch can be tricky, but Peggy Long, Manager at Ford's Seeds and Plants in Gastonia, shares some fabulous advice, "If you need something with lots of color (such as for a party or special event), you want to choose a mum with lots of already-open blooms. But if you simply want to get the maximum bloom-time out of a mum, choose one with buds just starting to open." Once you've made the perfect selection, proper care will also prolong the life and bloom time. Peggy says, "Be sure that it gets plenty of light to keep the blooms opening up. When watering, be sure to water the soil, not the foliage; watering the foliage can create a disease that may ultimately kill the plant."



Seasonal décor is always a favorite – something about not having to be as committed to the ideas long-term and being able to experiment and try new fun ideas is intriguing to many of us! So, get creative, have some fun and let Mother Nature lead the way as you create a warm, welcoming fabulous Fall front porch to usher in, not only another season, but friends and family with whom to share it.



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