

# The Grey Area™

Local and National Unusual News  
Rocky Mount/Nashville NC Edition – 919.623.9392

Also check out our Edition for  
Bunn, Wendell, Wilson & Zebulon NC

## "I'M FREE—Take Me With You!"

Volume 2, Number 6  
March 15, 2012

### Riding on the Breeze

By Kay Whatley, Editor

Look toward the sky along Route 96 from Zebulon to Youngsville, or Route 39 around Bunn, and any day of the week there might be more than clouds and birds to see; sky gazers may also spot a colorful hot air balloon or two floating lazily by.

On March 11th, with the wind coming out of the South, three balloons launched from "Field of Dreams" airport on Route 96 near Zebulon. The choice to launch from Field of Dreams was made based on the wind conditions and direction. The hot air balloons launch from different locations — Zebulon, Bunn, Youngsville, and others — with pilots setting the flight plan based on the way the wind blows.



Source: Tom Tomasetti

Meet Pilot Tom Tomasetti of Above & Beyond Hot Air Balloon. Tom has flown hot air balloons in this area for almost 23 years. A certified pilot, Tom and his team of hot air balloon pilots have viewed Eastern Wake and Franklin Counties from the air thousands of times.

Each of their balloons can carry up to 4 people or a total of 600 lbs. Sometimes, Tom says, he sometimes flies with as few as two passengers who just want to take a ride. Adults may charter a flight for two or more; flights are weather dependant, and occasionally rescheduling must be done due to weather. For families, there is a lower rate for 16 and under, so you can bring your teens along. While children six to ten may fly free, their weight still counts in the 600 lbs maximum. So many people want to take a ride — for business, for celebrations, for romantic occasions — that often there is a waiting list.

Tom says that while the ride itself may vary from an hour to an hour and a half, the entire balloon adventure takes up to four hours from launch — always around 2-1/2 hours before sunset — until passengers are returned to their cars. Since they only fly in good weather, passengers can count on a beautiful view as they ride comfortably on the breeze.

Landing spots are plentiful because of this area's agricultural activity: the balloons can set down into one of many open fields. Passengers are then unloaded and ground-based transportation (called "chase vans") takes them back to the launch site where the adventure ends.

"It's quiet up there," Tom says. "There is no sensation of height or movement."

This writer questioned Mr. Tomasetti's description. He absolutely swears that in a hot air balloon everyone — even someone who doesn't like heights — can comfortably enjoy the ride and the amazing view of Wake and Franklin Counties.

So the next time that you turn your eyes on the sky, you might just see Tom or one of his pilots taking a group for a ride. Maybe you'll even see an Editor for *The Grey Area* drifting by! With a little prompting, I might brave the trip to find out for myself: if even a person who likes their feet on the ground can enjoy some quiet moments above the trees.

### From Railroads to Highways: The Bunn Story

By Kathy Cockrell, Contributing Author

Bunn NC, located at the intersection of NC Highways 98 and 39 in southeastern Franklin County, is a small town with a fascinating history stretching over two centuries. Historical records indicate that Poplar Springs Baptist Church was founded in the area now sometimes referred to as "Old Bunn" in 1788.

The name "Bunn" comes from one of the area's earliest settlers, Green Walker Bunn. Bunn was born in 1788 in Wake County, but moved to what is now Franklin County at the age of 50. Upon his death in 1851, his 1000-acre estate was divided among his wife Polly and their 10 children. "Old Bunn" was given to son Elias. In the fall of 1901, store owner James Weathers was appointed Postmaster and the new postal community needed a name. Weathers' store was the local hangout, and legend says that the store's regulars settled on the name of "Bunn" to recognize Green Walker Bunn's historic role.



Bunn Depot 1915. Source: Don Mitchell

The turn of the 20th century brought changes to the small but growing community. The Montgomery Lumber Company (MLC) of Buffalo NY came to the area in search of a steady supply of pine timber for the wooden boxes and crates they manufactured. In 1906, MLC began to construct the Montgomery Lumber Company Railroad, which soon stretched from Spring Hope to Bunn. A private telephone line used for dispatching shipments ran beside the railroad.

Soon the MLC Railroad offered passenger and freight service to Bunn six days a week. It was the railroad which caused the town to shift from "Old Bunn" to its present site, sometimes labeled "New Bunn". Railroads were generally built on the highest available terrain to avoid track washouts during heavy rains. The need for higher ground prompted MLC to build the railroad in the newer part of town, and most businesses soon followed.

In 1909 the North State Development Company of Rocky Mount came to Bunn and had the present site surveyed into lots and streets. The same year on October 29th, people flocked to Bunn as the lots were auctioned by American Realty and Auction Co. of Greensboro and Suburban Realty and Auction Co. of Raleigh. *The Franklin Times* reported that this event drew "the largest crowd that had assembled in the little village in many years." Just two weeks later, the *Times* reported that "things have been getting a move on in Bunn. A number of prospective enterprises are beginning to take shape."

The Bunn Bank opened in 1915; two years later it merged with the Farmers & Merchants bank of Louisburg. The bank failed in the Depression years of 1929-1930, as did a number of other local businesses. The construction of state highways 39 and 98 helped to turn things around, but eventually led to the demise of the railroad. The MLC line was discontinued in 1979 and the tracks removed one year later. The 70-plus years of railroad life in Bunn had come to an end.

Twenty-first century Bunn, managed by a Mayor and four Commissioners, boasts a population of nearly 400 with several small businesses. Town staff includes a police department, and a volunteer fire force was organized in 1959. From a one-room log-built schoolhouse with a roof of sticks and dirt built in Antebellum days, the town's educational opportunities now include an elementary, middle, and high school, as well as a branch of the Franklin County Library, all within 1 mile of the town limits. The town's Web site ([www.townofbunn.com](http://www.townofbunn.com)) boasts that Bunn is where "descendants of Green Walker Bunn still walk down Main Street," making the town one of eastern North Carolina's rural gems.

### The Bad News... Gas Prices

Gas prices continue to rise. Over the past month, pennies have been added almost daily to the price of gas. Several times, prices have risen so quickly that drivers have seen a nickle or more added to the price-per-gallon between fill-ups. Currently, prices in the area are running in the \$3.70 to \$3.90 per gallon range, though with some checking around, prices below \$3.70 can still be found in Eastern NC.

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### Music Schedule

- Noon-ish: Opening Announcements
- 12:30pm: Steph Stewart & the Boyfriends
- 2:00pm: Old Avenue
- 3:30pm: Jo Gore & The Alternative

### Plant Giveaway

Garden plants & seeds free in exchange for signing Pledge To Share your harvest in your community. Plants available on a first come, first served basis. No reserves. Grow And Share helps US residents garden to feed themselves and their communities through sharing & neighborhood gardens. Fight hunger by growing fresh produce. Grow with your plants or some of ours. As many as 20,000 plants will be given away; up to two dozen per Pledged Gardener!

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## Things to Do in NC When You're Bored

### \* Nashville \*

#### Russ Varnell & His Too Country Band (March 31 @ 7pm-9:30pm)

Come out for an evening of live honky tonk music. \$12 General Admission/\$8 Nash Arts Members Nash Arts Center, 100 East Washington Street, Nashville For details, call 252.459.4734 or visit nasharts.org.

### \* Rocky Mount \*

#### Rabies Clinic (March 15 @ 8am-6:30pm)

Third THursday of each month Coats Veterinary Hospital holds a \$5/pet rabies clinic. Pet's owners must also bring 5 cans of human food, which the office donates to local food pantries. Get your pets their rabies shot, do your pets some good, and help your neighbors too! Coats Veterinary Hospital, 4710 Sunset Ave., Rocky Mount For details, call 252.407.1616.

#### Get to know the Artist Print Signing (March 17 @ 11am-2pm)

Whistle Stop Presents North Carolina Coastal watercolorist Jim Wordsworth. Train Station, 100 Coastline Street, Rocky Mount Info: 252.442.4212, www.whistlestopgiftshopandcafe.com.

#### St. Patty's Day Party (March 17 @ 7pm)

Fun and music by Monkeyfoot Acoustic. Westridge Grill, 3639 Sunset Avenue, Rocky Mount For details, call 252.937.7299.

#### Kids Day Celebration (March 18 @ 1-4pm)

Fun & educational family activities, plenty of fun. Free to everyone. Drum circle, clay, murals, & more hands-on. Imperial Centre, 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount For more info, visit arts.imperialcentre.org

#### 2012 Hunger Games Competition (March 20 @ 5:30-7:30pm)

Teenagers, you've been selected via the Official Hunger Games lottery to represent your district in the BML 2012 Hunger Games! Gather your district team, design a district symbol, and compete for prizes during the Trivia and Cornucopia competitions. Open to teenagers 13-17. Held in the Wiley Conference Room Braswell Memorial Library, 727 North Grace St., Rocky Mt For more info, call Leslie at 252.442.1951 x.257.

#### Annual Yard Sale (March 24)

The Pay It Forward Civitan Club is holding their yard sale to raise funds for local projects. Allred Mechanical Services parking lot, 2449 Eastern Avenue, Rocky Mount To donate items to the yard sale, contact Tabatha Griffin, before the event date, at 252.813.9376.

#### Club Car Whopper Hopper Tour (March 25 @ 2pm)

Presented by Preservation Rocky Mount. Train Station, 100 Coastline Street, Rocky Mount Call Sterling Grimes at 252.813.8216 for info.

#### Knitting Class (March 30 @ 11am-2pm)

Have fun & learn too. Fee of \$35 includes supplies & lunch. Train Station, 100 Coastline Street, Rocky Mount Info: 252.442.4212, www.whistlestopgiftshopandcafe.com.

#### Jimmy Dozier's Plow Day 2012 (March 31 @ 10am until plowing is done)

Practicing NC Heritage. Antique tractors, horses, and mules. Joel & Jean Boseman Farms, 669 Cool Spring Rd, Rocky Mt For information, contact Alfred Tyson at 252.459.6091.

#### Paws in the Park (April 14 @ 11am-3pm)

Come on two legs, come on four legs, but come to Sunset Park for this family & family-pet oriented event. Fun for all, plus \$5 rabies shots, \$15 microchipping, & a dental hygiene clinic for your pets. Raffles, contests, vendors, kids stuff. Sunset Park, 1550 River Drive, Rocky Mount

### \* Wilson \*

#### Triangle East Home & Garden Show (Mar 16 @ 10am-7pm & Mar 17 @ 9am-5pm)

Check out home & garden options from a variety of vendors. Includes guest speaker Chip Callaway, Landscape Architect. Wilson Mall, 1501 Ward Boulevard, Wilson Contact Wilson Chamber Of Commerce at 252.237.0165.

#### Super Science Day Camp: Rockets! (March 26 @ 9am-5pm)

ISSM offers Day Camps when Wilson County Schools have early release or workdays. Day campers spend the day building and launching rockets. Advance registration. Ages 6-12 years. Full day fee \$35 to \$40. Imagination Station Sci Museum, 224 E. Nash St., Wilson For info, 252.291.5113 or visit www.imaginescience.org.

### \* Zebulon \*

#### Indoor Yard Sale (March 17 @ 7am-12pm)

Come join the Women on Mission for breakfast of coffee & ham biscuits while you shop for great bargains, including their "Angelic Designs" jewelry & baked goods. All proceeds benefit Phase 2 of the community playground. Rocky Cross Baptist Church, 13452 Burgess Rd, Middlesex More information, call the church at 919.269.8550.

#### National Anthem Tryouts (March 17 @ 9am)

The Carolina Mudcats are holding their annual National Anthem tryouts! Lend your voice to this local baseball team. Five County Stadium, 1501 NC-39, Zebulon More details via www.carolinamudcats.com.

#### Herb Gardening Class (March 17 @ 9:30-11am)

Spend St. Patrick's Day with green things! Free Hands In The Dirt gardening class by Grow And Share. Background on herbs plus cooking/brewing tips. Bring gloves. Plant herbs to take home. Ages 5 through adult. 70 Harrison Street, Zebulon Contact info@growandshare.org or call 919.269.5414.

#### East Wake WIN Luncheon (March 21 @ 11:45am-1pm)

Women in Networking luncheon. Connect & share info. Lunch fee \$10 members, \$15 non. RSVP & prepay required. Eastern Regional Center, 1003 Dogwood Drive, Zebulon For details or to register, call the Chamber at 919.269.6320.

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#### Superhero Day (March 24 @ 10-11am)

Wear superhero suit & come to play games, make masks or run the Superhero Obstacle Course. Free event. Ages 3-9. Zebulon Community Center, 301 S Arendell Ave, Zebulon

#### Pictures with the Easter Bunny (March 30 @ 4-6pm)

Free 4x6 photo; bring a canned food item to donate. Community Center, 301 S Arendell Ave, Zebulon

#### Easter Egg Hunt (March 31 @ 10am)

Annual egg hunt for ages 8 and under. Don't be late & bring a basket. Easter Bunny to be there! Community Park, 401 S. Arendell Ave., Zebulon

### \* Elsewhere \*

#### 21st Annual Emerald Isle St. Patrick's Festival (March 17 @ 9am-5pm)

Over 75 arts & crafts vendors, food, Oak Grove Stables petting zoo, rides, clowns, face painters, many family-oriented activities & beer garden. Admission & parking free. Emerald Plantation Shopping Center Visit www.emeraldisle-nc.org or call 252.354.6350.

#### Wearin' O' the Green Festival (March 17 @ 10am-9pm)

The Wearin' O the Green Festival is in Moore Square with food, beverages, entertainment, & fun! Raleigh St. Patrick's Day Parade begins at noon. All ages. Details at www.raleighstpats.org.

#### Weaving, Caning and Broom Making (March 24 @ 10am-3pm)

The Tobacco Farm Life Museum presents the "Stepping Into The Past" series. Demonstrations with museum admission. Includes leather-working (March 3rd) & gardeners tips (March 10th). 709 North Church Street, Hwy 301, Kenly Info 919.284.3431 or www.tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org.

#### Grow And Share Giveaway & Festival 2012 (April 14 @ noon to 4:45pm)

Festival joins Spring plant giveaway. Music, food, and fun. Pick free garden plants & sign Pledge To Share your harvest. Norris Creek Outdoor Entertainment Complex 751 Old Halifax Road, Louisburg More information at www.growandshare.org.

#### 39th International Whistlers Convention (April 18-22)

Public invited; free audience admittance. Whistlers competing from many states and countries, including Israel and Japan – and entries are being accepted NOW! See Scotta Helm, IWC Female Grand Champion, Rocky Mount! April 18th is Whistling School. Thursday-Saturday is the Whistling Competition for Male/Female International Champions (all ages) with cash and trophy awards. Grand Opening Concert Thursday at 8pm. Sunday whistling at local churches & community events Louisburg College Auditorium, Louisburg Information at www.whistlingiwc.com or 919.554.6986.

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## The Good News... Spring Growing Season Underway

Gardeners across North Carolina are taking advantage of the warm weather and working their gardens. Beans, peas, corn, greens, and root vegetable seeds are going into the ground. Tomatoes, peppers, cukes, and more are starting indoors and warming on windowsills across the Five County area.

Within a few short weeks Eastern NC will be past the last frost date and windowsill seedlings will join the seed sprouting in the warm soil outdoors. What was seed in February and March will quickly become part of a green growing landscape. With some warm sunshine, good soil, just the right touch of water and nutrients, each gardener's plants will become a resource — a source of fresh food.

For those who choose not to garden, farmer's markets across the area are preparing for their Opening Days. Soon fresh fruits and vegetables grown across the state will be for sale in local farmer's markets. Check county government sites or [www.ncfarmfresh.com](http://www.ncfarmfresh.com) to find farmer's markets close by.

## Planting By the Moon: Fact Or Folklore?

By Tiffany Huddleston, Contributing Author, Whistle Stop Gardener

We've all heard that the moon controls the tides, but when we should plant our crops?

"Lunar gardening is the oldest form of gardening known to man. Ever since prehistoric times, long before man ever had a watch on his wrist or a calendar on his wall, everything was governed by the phases of the moon," said RJ Harris, the head gardener at a private estate near Cornwall, England, and author of a book on the subject.

I have always had a passing interest in the *Old Farmer's Almanac* because my Granddaddy and my Papa always had it around. Both did some farming but by the time I came along their farming had been reduced to what they called "a garden". By today's standards it would have been considered more of a "farmette". Both maintained a large area of land dedicated to various vegetables and fruits which all we grandkids were recruited to help with at times on weekend visits. Helping consisted of watering tomatoes, digging potatoes, picking beans, or shuttling garden implements. Although I might have grumbled here and there because it interfered with my playing time, I realize now it was the beginning of my life-long love affair with gardening.

In the evolving quest to improve my gardening skills, I subscribe to email alerts from none other than *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, a bit more technical way of garnering information than picking up a yearly copy at the Feed Store. Last week I happened upon an email that completely piqued my interest titled, "Gardening by the Moon", so I decided to do a little more research.

The premise suggests that all above-ground vegetables should be planted from the day the moon is new through the day the moon is full (Waxing), and below-ground vegetables should be planted during the day after a full moon 'til the day before a new moon (Waning). It is also suggested that the light from the new moon until the full moon affects growth of seed and transplants for above-ground vegetables. Additional resources suggest that seeds that have a short germination period and an extra-long germination period of one month go in the ground two days before the new moon; long germinating seeds go in the ground at the full moon and up to seven days after, with transplants being the opposite.

Further research suggests that it is actually the differences in moisture of the soil during lunar phases that is affected by gravitational pull on groundwater tables — just like ocean tides. The premise being during the Waning phase the groundwater tables have dropped to their lowest reducing the moisture in the soil and making the ground easier to break or till. Breaking and tilling during this time also means the weed seeds are more dormant and have less moonlight on which to thrive. During the Waxing phase, considered to be the most moist and fertile, the seeds have a "tide" created in them along with the additional water created by the lunar forces which assists bursting their coating. This combined with additional light and magnetic field during the Waxing phase helps provide optimal seed conditions.

In 2010 a team comprised of geographers and climatologists from Arizona State University (ASU), Tempe, and the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) in Asheville, North Carolina released a report in *Geophysical Research Letters* to confirm that "rain follows the full and new phases of the moon" based on comprehensive data compiled since 1895.

Whether it's the gravitational pull of the moon's phases affecting groundwater tables, or the rain following the full and the new phases of the moon as suggested in the latest report, this gardener is going "old school" like my Granddaddy and my Papa used to do. I'm relying on *The Old Farmer's Almanac* to guide me on my various crops. First up, I will put the theory to test with Leeks this year, a crop I've had zero success with in the past.

In case you're wondering what *The Old Farmer's Almanac* suggests: April 4<sup>th</sup> for the Rocky Mount NC area is recommended for plants that need to go in after danger of

frost has passed. If you read the fine print on that, it's not a forecast but based on historical data.

I'm including details (below) and the link to *The Old Farmer's Almanac* website on which I have found a multitude of helpful information. I'll keep you posted on my Leek developments. In the meantime, Happy Gardening from your Whistle Stop Gardener.

WAXING New Moon to Full Moon Moonlight increases		WANING Day after Full Moon to Day before New Moon Moonlight decreases
Groundwater rising moist fertile ground	Plant - edible parts above ground ex. Lettuces, peppers, beans	Groundwater diminishing drier ground- less sap flow
Harvest fruits (juiciest)		Plant - edible parts below ground ex. Onions, leeks, carrots
		Prune plants
		Harvest storage plants (roots)
		Weed in 4th quarter - Most dormant

  

Crop	Start Seeds in the Ground	Moon-favorable Dates
Corn	Apr 18-25	Apr 21-25
Beans	Apr 4-18	Apr 4- 6
Peas	Feb 21-Mar 6	Feb 21-Mar 6
Spinach	Feb 21-Mar 6	Feb 21-Mar 6
Carrots	Feb 28-Mar 14	Mar 9-14
Beets	Mar 14-Apr 25	Mar 14-21
Radishes	Mar 28-Apr 11	Apr 7-11
Onion sets	Mar 6-14	Mar 9-14

Crop	Start Seeds Indoors	Moon-favorable Dates
Peppers	Feb 7-21	Feb 7
Tomatoes	Feb 7-21	Feb 7

### References & Resources

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## Shades of Grey

### What Do You Think?

*Some situations are viewed in black and white; right and wrong. Yet, many people think situations also have a grey area where solutions are not so easily discerned. This is not just about the choices people make, but the thought process they go through to arrive at their decisions.*

### Submitted for Your Consideration & Conversation

Two neighbor children play in a sprinkler across the street from your home. One of their parents is usually out with them most of the time, working in the yard, and occasionally going in and out of the home.

One day as you are edging your yard, you see a car drive by and park in front of an empty house down the street. As you work, you're not paying close attention, but notice ten or fifteen minutes later that the car is still parked with the driver behind the wheel. Looking more closely, you see that the driver is taking photos of the children in their bathing suits. You find this a little odd, especially since the car doesn't look familiar.

Do you think you would approach the strange car? Would you consider trying to sneak around to get its license plate? Or do you think you might go straight to the children's parents and let them handle it? If you didn't know the children and their parents well, do you think you might ignore the situation and go back to your edging?

## News From The Grey Area

This month's newspaper includes Spring happenings, gardening classes, outdoor activities, and general fun events.

The April 1st issue will have more on Spring, public Easter events, and a *special focus* on pet health and rabies clinics.

Have you seen anything unusual or newsworthy in Eastern NC? Share your experience and photos with *The Grey Area* newspaper readers by emailing [kay@greyareanews.com](mailto:kay@greyareanews.com) before March 26th.



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The Backside

## Little Bits

### Word of the Issue

#### Germinate

**Definition:** Begin to grow and put out shoots.

**Example:** "The children were excited when the seeds planted in class began to germinate."

#### Special Word Extra: Salad

**Definition:** Greens, such as collard greens.

### Translation of the Issue

#### English — "truth"

German — wahrheit

Spanish — verdad

Latin — veritatem (the truth)

Italian — verità

Korean — 진실 ("jinsil")

Irish — fírinne

Lakota — wowicake (that which is real)

Translations for these and many languages may be found in online (translate.google.com, babelfish.yahoo.com, etc.) and print resources.

### Quote of the Issue

#### Charles Kuralt

"The everyday kindness of the back roads more than makes up for the acts of greed in the headlines."

### Chuckle of the Issue

A man was driving down the road with twenty penguins in the back seat of his car. A police officer sees him go by and pulls him over.

"You can't drive around with the penguins in the car," said the police officer. "You should take them to the zoo."

The man agrees and drives off.

The next day the police officer sees the same man driving down the road with the twenty penguins in the back. He stops him again and says, "Hey! I thought I told you to take those to the zoo."

The man replies, "I did. Today I'm taking them to the movies."

## Cryptogram of the Issue

Replace the letters in this Cryptogram with other letters to deduce the quote within the puzzle.

Hint: Y = I.

U A N F N S F N U J Z J S G P Z Q

N L N F U Y R W Z R N P

P U F N R W U A : Z R N Y P

B C P A Y R W M Z J R U A N

Z U A N F Y P B C K K Y R W C B

E Z Z H N F U J S P A Y R W U Z R

Answer to last issue's cryptogram (both Editions):

*If you can't feed a  
hundred people, then  
feed just one.*

-- Mother Teresa

## Needful Things Now Open in Bunn



Ribbon Cutting March 1 in  
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Photo: Frank Whatley

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