

## Half-Mile Farm in the Highlands of North Carolina August 2022

We took a four day jaunt up to the Highlands of North Carolina, staying at the “Half-Mile Farm” just NW of Highlands, NC. This wonderful retreat is one of the Old Edwards’ Inn” properties and is just idyllic. Our room was cozy with a fireplace, heated bathroom floors, an amazing shower and very comfortable bed. Breakfast is served with a different Entrée each day with the option of whatever feels you might like. We learned that the chef’s choice was always wonderful. There is also an early evening cocktail hour with more delicious treats from the chef. The pool is warm and inviting where we met so many interesting people. There is a small lake for canoeing and many trails for hiking. But mostly, we enjoyed simply relaxing, reading and visiting with our new friends. Being only 2.5 hours from home, it is great get-away.

Each night we enjoyed a different in-town restaurant (Half-Mile does not offer dinner). They have an hourly shuttle service to town so it is easy to get to town and safe coming home, even if too my wine was consumed (which is not a problem of ours).

**About the pictures:** All were taken using our iPhones. Most of the flower pictures were taken by Sharon.

### Trip Report

**Sunday, Aug. 28:** We drove on a Sunday for light traffic and so it was. The weather was perfect. We never drive up to the mountains via express way, rather taking the winding country roads. It takes about 30 minutes longer and is worth every minute. Are many of you know, Sharon has a fine pallet (and a fabulous cook herself) but on the road, she craves a Burger King Whopper! It is the only time we eat that sort of food, but it really is very good. We arrived just in the early afternoon and although check-in is 4, they had our room ready. So, we unpacked, relaxed and headed for the pool to read our books.

Dinner was at the “**Madison**” (One of the Old Edwards Inn properties) in Highlands where we both enjoyed with us both enjoying almond encrusted trout. Trout is very plentiful in the waters of NC. The meal was delicious. Our waiter was a delightful girl from Albania (Eidy) who is here working on her Masters in Hospitality. She will do very well.

**Monday, Aug. 29:** Another perfect day – cool with a cloudless sky. We enjoyed breakfast with friends Bob & Rosemary whom we met the day before at the pool (we are so shy!!). Walked the property to the lake and found it beautiful but too small to be canoe inviting. Is okay as the flowers were beautiful. I flew my drone all around the lake and over much of the property, which is always fun.

Lunch was at Half-Mile and was delicious. Sharon had a hamburger and I a turkey club melt at the Half-Mile “bar”. Both were perfectly prepared and very good. The afternoon was relaxing at the pool and reading and chatting with our several friends we have met.

Dinner was “At the Veranda” enjoying NC trout with butter sauce. Delicious and the setting couldn’t be better with Lake Sequoyah just feet away. They are having staff troubles, so there were some glitches, but the food was wonderful.

**Tuesday, Aug. 30:** Breakfast was again on the porch with more new friends. Then we drove to town, first seeing the Bascom art center (TheBascom.org). This is lovely building for local artists – mostly ceramic arts. They have a large kiln house and the clay studio was in full swing, so was fun to see others getting their hands muddy. The art center itself has many interesting works shown including an old friend of ours.

Then we drove to the “Highlands Nature Center” with its long and winding trails through bogland, forest and meadows. It was a delightful wondering with amazing aromas.

Then we wandered down the streets of Highlands. We ran into Howard and Debbie from Naples FL on the street, whom we had met the night before at dinner “At the Veranda”! We spent the rest of the morning and enjoyed lunch with them. We seemed to talk endlessly.

Lunch was at “Four65 Woodfire Bistro” (another Old Edward’s properties). We enjoyed a large wood-fired cheese and peperoni pizza and a salad that was delicious.

Returned to relax and read. Then was afternoon cocktail hour that was delicious. A puréed trout, vegetable egg rolls.

Dinner was “The Lakeside” restaurant in Downtown Highlands that was just wonderful - tomato and peach salad and grouper and trout. Definitely \*\*\*\*\*. We had a table near the lake as the sun was setting on our little retreat.

**Wednesday, Aug 31:** We had another wonderful breakfast at Half Mile and got an early start on the trip home. I goofed right off the bat, taking the wrong highway home and we wound up going quite a bit out of our way! Seri saved the day getting us back on course. The roads were lovely and the trip safe, but it did cost us some time.

This was a wonderful brief retreat. We loved “The Half-Mile Farm” property so much that we have already reserved a room next year in both June and August. Being only 2.5 hours away, it is a perfect get-away.