



Submitted photo
Author David Baldacci

Baldacci featured at Celebration of Education

The Literacy & Learning Center will host a special evening dedicated to supporting programs featuring celebrated author David Baldacci. Celebration of Education, to be held on Tuesday, Sept. 30, will raise vital funds for the Center’s programs.

The event will take place in two parts, offering attendees unique opportunities to engage with the global bestselling author. The first activity is the Author’s Presentation, taking place at 2 p.m. at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. This is a chance for the community to hear directly from David Baldacci, a master storyteller with over 200 million copies of his books sold worldwide. Baldacci’s works have been adapted for both film and television. He is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Virginia School of Law.

Following the presentation, VIP Patron ticket holders will be invited to an exclusive dinner at the Old Edwards Club in Cashiers, at 6 p.m. This intimate gathering offers an exceptional opportunity to meet the author in a more intimate setting. A range of VIP Patron Packages is available for purchase, which include entry to this dinner. In a effort to allow more locals attend the Author’s Presentation, tickets will be available for a limited time at an early-bird rate of \$75 until Sept. 8. After that, the price will increase to \$100.

David Baldacci is not only a literary giant but also a dedicated philanthropist. Alongside his wife, he co-founded the Wish You Well Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting literacy programs nationwide. His commitment to education and literacy makes him a perfect guest speaker to headline this vital fundraiser for TL&LC. The event promises to be a memorable and impactful celebration of learning and community.

For tickets and details, please visit TheLiteracyandLearningCenter.org/events/coe. For questions, please get in touch with Bonnie Potts, Executive Director, at bpotts@theliteracyandlearningcenter.org or 828-526-0863.

HIGHLANDS ON THE HALF-SHELL



Photo by Colleen Kerrigan

Highlands on the Half-Shell is a fundraiser for the Highlands Biological Foundation.

Tickets are now on sale for October celebration

Marissa Nieddu
Highlands Biological Foundation

One of Highlands’ most beloved fall traditions is just around the corner. Tickets for the Highlands Biological Foundation’s signature fundraiser, Highlands on the Half-Shell, are now on sale.

The annual celebration returns Sunday, Oct.5 from 4 p.m. until dusk in the scenic Valentine Meadow at the Highlands Biological Station (888 Horse Cove Road). Guests will enjoy a Cajun-inspired feast featuring fresh steamed oysters and a lively community atmosphere, all while supporting environmental education and research on the High-

lands-Cashiers Plateau.

More than just a festive gathering, Highlands on the Half-Shell brings together board members, volunteers, and local supporters who dedicate their time and energy to make the event possible. Proceeds directly benefit the Foundation’s mission to foster education, exploration, and conservation through free public programs at the Highlands Nature Center, scholarships for students, and research initiatives in the region.

Tickets are \$150 per person and include all food and drinks. Space is limited, and the event often sells out quickly. Community members are encouraged to secure their tickets early.

UPCOMING EVENT

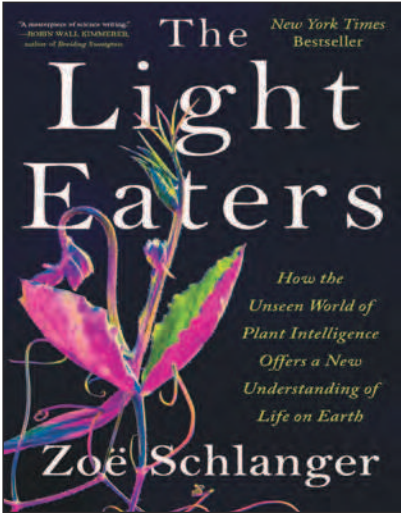
Highlands on the Half-Shell

WHO: Highlands Biological Foundation

WHEN: Sunday, Oct. 5 at 4 p.m.

WHERE:Valentine Meadow at the Highlands Biological Station, 888 Horse Cove Rd.

COST: \$150/person



Carpenter Lecture Plant intelligence

The Highlands Biological Foundation, in partnership with the Highlands Performing Arts Center, invites the community to the 2025 Carpenter Lecture, an inspiring event exploring the remarkable world of plant intelligence. The lecture will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 11 a.m. at the Highlands Performing Arts Center.

This year’s featured speaker is Zoë Schlinger, acclaimed science journalist and author of *The Light Eaters*, a New York Times bestseller. In her talk, *Memory, Manipulation, Mimicry, and Kinship*, Schlinger will delve into some of the most astonishing discoveries in modern plant science. Her presentation will highlight research that is reshaping our understanding of intelligence, agency, and the boundaries of life itself.

A staff writer for *The Atlantic*, Schlinger’s work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *NPR*, and *The New York Review of Books*, earning widespread recognition for making complex scientific ideas accessible and engaging. Her presentation promises to captivate audiences with powerful storytelling and scientific insight that will change how we see the natural world.

Following the lecture, guests are invited to stay for a light reception and an opportunity to meet the author. Copies of *The Light Eaters* will be available for purchase, and Schlinger will be signing books after the event.

Admission is free, but registration is required as seating is limited. Secure your spot today for this thought-provoking experience.

Register online: <https://highlandsbiological.org/carpenter>.

Pop Up Pipers!

Celebrating Highlands’ Heritage

Listen for the call of the Highlands Bagpipers as they perform from a different location the first Saturday of each month through October.

This Month’s Performance:

Highlands United Methodist Church

315 Main Street

Saturday, September 6 | 4:30 – 5pm

Performances are made possible by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.

HIGHLANDS
NORTH CAROLINA
THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS | ELEV. 4118

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