

Tweetsie Railroad opens for 2011

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FRIDAY Blowing Rock

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Tweetsie Railroad starts its season Friday, with its Wild West park open and famous steam locomotive running Fridays through Sundays; open daily May 27-Aug. 21. Daily admission: \$34; \$22 for ages 3-12; 2 and younger, free. Special events this year include Letterland (May 10-12), "Day Out With Thomas" (June 3-12), Dora the Explorer and Diego (June 24-26), Barney (July 15-17) and the Western singing group Riders in the Sky (Aug. 6-7). There'll be the Railfan Weekend (Sept. 10-11) and the evening Ghost Train (Fridays-Saturdays, Sept. 30-Oct. 29). Details: 877-893-3874; www.tweetsie.com.

MAY 1-3 Cashiers

Wildflowers at High Hampton

The historic High Hampton Inn will host a Spring Wildflower Workshop May 1-3. You'll be able to see spring blooms and unique species of wildflowers while taking guided hikes and attending lectures given by experts from the N.C. Botanical Garden. The cost includes six programs, six meals, a wine/cheese party, greens and tennis fees and lodgings for three nights/two days. Per-night cost: \$460/double occupancy; \$482/single.

High Hampton, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is at an elevation of 3,600 feet. The property includes a 117-room resort, a lake and an 18-hole golf course.

Details/reservations: 800-334-2551; www.highhamptoninn.com.

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