



—26th
ANNUAL

THE BEST *of* OUR STATE

PINEHURST RESORT | JANUARY 9–11, 2026

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, January 9

- 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. *Our State* welcome and registration on the main level of The Carolina Hotel | *South Room*
Visit the *Our State* Marketplace, located in the Cardinal Ballroom on the main level.
- 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. Elizabeth Hudson, *Our State* editor in chief | *Grand Ballroom*
- 3:45 – 4:00 p.m. Please visit the *Our State* Marketplace in the Cardinal Ballroom.
- 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. Wiley Cash, best-selling novelist, NC native, and *Our State Book Club* writer and podcaster | *Grand Ballroom*
- 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner on your own
- 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. Kruger Brothers, a unique blend of bluegrass, folk, and classical influences | *Grand Ballroom*
- 9:00 – 10:00 p.m. Ice cream social

Saturday, January 10

- 6:30 – 9:00 a.m. Southern-style breakfast buffet
 - *Holly Inn* guests, please eat at the 1895 Grille.
 - *Carolina Inn, Carolina Villa, and Manor* guests, please eat in the *Carolina Dining Room*.

Host will assist you to a table.

Saturday's seminars are in the Grand Ballroom on the main level.
- 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Dr. Elliot Engel, humorist and historian, presenting “Scarlett Fever: The Greatness of *Gone With the Wind*”
- 10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Please visit the *Our State* Marketplace in the Cardinal Ballroom.
- 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. Jan Karon, *New York Times* best-selling author of the Mitford series
- 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Please visit the *Our State* Marketplace in the Cardinal Ballroom.
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Sam Jones, owner and pitmaster at Sam Jones BBQ and Skylight Inn BBQ; interviewed by Jeri Rowe, *Our State* editor at large
- 12:15 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch on your own
- 2:00 – 2:45 p.m. Eddie Huffman, author of *Doc Watson: A Life in Music*, with special musical guest Riley Baugus
- 2:45 – 3:15 p.m. Please visit the *Our State* Marketplace in the Cardinal Ballroom.
- 3:15 – 4:00 p.m. Eleanor Spicer Rice, PhD entomologist and author/host of *Our State's North Carolina, Naturally*, presenting “The Science and Wonder of Our Natural World”
- 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Free time; the *Our State* Marketplace closes at 5 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m. Cash bar | *Outside of Carolina Hall – Downstairs*
- 6:30 p.m. *Our State* farewell dinner | *Carolina Hall – Downstairs*
- 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. Benjy Springs and the *Our State* Little Big Band, featuring vocalist Sarah Strable | *Grand Ballroom*

Sunday, January 11

- 6:30 – 9:00 a.m. Southern-style breakfast buffet
 - *Holly Inn* guests, please eat at the 1895 Grille.
 - *Carolina Inn, Carolina Villa, and Manor* guests, please eat in the *Carolina Dining Room*.

Host will assist you to a table.
- 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Donald Davis, award-winning, nationally renowned storyteller and author

Our State | 100% EMPLOYEE-OWNED
CELEBRATING NORTH CAROLINA

ARBOR
ACRES
The Art of Living

AMERICA
250
NC

THE TOWNS & VILLAGES OF
ALAMANCE COUNTY
greensboro
COMMITTED & YOUTH-INSPIRED
HALIFAX COUNTY

* Schedule subject to change