2022-2023 Schedule

Cullowhee, Main Campus (Wednesdays, 10am – 12pm)
Asheville, Biltmore Park Site (Thursdays, 10am – 12pm)

September 14 & 15, 2022
Jim Swan – Financial exploitation of older adults

September 21 & 22, 2022
Tom Baker – Helping Veterans

September 28 & 29, 2022
Biltmore Park, Room 336
Wesley Myers – Domestic violence and advocacy

Biography:
Wesley Myers is the Executive Director of Center for Domestic Peace, the domestic violence services provider for Jackson County. He has a master’s degree in criminology from Florida State University where he focused his studies and publications on the victimization of vulnerable populations and capital punishment.

Presentation Outline:
He will be speaking on the issues of domestic violence, its uniqueness as a form of victimization, and the importance of individual advocacy for domestic violence victims.

October 5 & 6, 2022
Brent Martin – Co-owner of Alarka Expeditions in Franklin, NC

October 12 & 13, 2022
Biltmore Park, Room 336
Dr. Chris Cooper – Concerns about democracy

Biography:
Christopher A. Cooper is Robert Lee Madison Distinguished Professor and Department Head of Political Science and Public Affairs at Western Carolina University. He has received Western Carolina University’s highest awards for research (University Scholar, 2011) and teaching (Board of Governors Teaching Award, 2013) and was named the 2013 North Carolina Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Cooper’s published academic research features over 50 refereed journal articles and book chapters on NC politics, state politics, southern politics, and political behavior. He is also co-author of The Resilience of Southern Identity: Why the South Still Matters in the Minds of its
People (University of North Carolina Press) and co-editor of The New Politics of North Carolina (published by the University of North Carolina Press).

Cooper is a frequent source for news stories about North Carolina, as well as national politics and he has been quoted hundreds of times in a variety of media including the New York Times, Washington Post, Christian Science Monitor, Boston Herald, Al Jazeera, Charlotte Observer, Asheville-Citizen Times, The Hill, National Journal, Raleigh News and Observer, North Carolina Insider National Public Radio (All Things Considered and Morning Edition), USA Today, CNN, FOX News, WUNC, Blue Ridge Public Radio, WFAE (Charlotte) ABC News, and ESPN.com. He has been called “obsessive about North Carolina politics, but in a good way” by the New Yorker Radio Hour and “the Yoda of local political experts” by WLOS.

**October 19 & 20, 2022**
TBA

**October 26 & 27, 2022**
_Biltmore Park, Room 336_

**Jeffrey Vickery - Can We Finally Talk About Religion and Politics, Please?**

**Biography:**
Since 2002 Jeffrey D. Vickery has served as co-pastor of Cullowhee Baptist Church alongside Rev. Tonya Vickery to whom he has been married for the last 29 years. Why a pastor besides a sense of divine calling? Because he believes the church still matters in the world today. In order to prevent mental decay, Jeffrey also teaches as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at WCU since 2005. Whenever he’s not preaching or teaching, he’s a proud father to two fabulous and talented daughters, one of whom is a WCU alumnae and the other is a WCU students. Just for fun he loves to be on a trail going as far as possible, and then back again, before the sun goes down. In short, he loves living in Cullowhee, NC.

**November 2 & 3, 2022**

**Dr. Ben Steere – The archaeology of ancestral Cherokee communities in western North Carolina**

**Biography:**
Dr. Ben Steere is an Associate Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Western Carolina University. He has worked on collaborative archaeological research and preservation projects with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians since 2011, and served as Director of the Cherokee Studies Program at WCU from 2017 to 2022.

**Presentation Outline:**
Drawing on research from archaeology, ethnography, history, and indigenous studies, Dr. Ben Steere will discuss the historical and cultural importance of ancestral Cherokee archaeology sites in Western North Carolina.

**November 9 & 10, 2022**
TBA
November 16 & 17, 2022
Brian Huskey (Cullowhee) & Emily Ball (BP) – Homelessness in the United States - and How We Can END It

Presentation Outline (Brian):
Brian Huskey, Executive Director of the Great Smokies Health Foundation, has spent the last 25 years working around the intersection of homelessness, affordable housing, and related health concerns. His presentation will touch on the history of homelessness and persistent myths about the issue, recent trends and research findings, and most importantly, how the United States can actually END homelessness.

November 30 & December 1, 2022
DOT – Division 14 (Cullowhee), Division 13 (Biltmore Park)

December 7, 2022 (Cullowhee campus ONLY)
Emiko Suzuki – Japanese Flower Arranging

Biography:
Emiko Suzuki is a Senior Professor 2nd Grade of Ikenobo School of Ikebana and has Bonten certificate of Omote-Senke both headquartered in Kyoto, Japan. She taught ikebana and the tea ceremony to students of all ages in Japan before she came to Western North Carolina in August 2007. She began studying the tea ceremony and Ikenobo ikebana in 1986 Japan.

Emiko graduated from Western North Carolina University with a Masters of Art Teacher in May 2011 and with Master of Fine Art in December 2014.

She always tries to bring the Japanese cultural spirit to local organizations through ikebana, tea ceremony and other aspects of Japanese culture. She continues to teach Ikenobo ikebana lessons and tea ceremony.

Emiko is a president of Blue Ridge Chapter of Ikenobo Ikebana Society.
January 17 & 19, 2023
TBA

January 24 & 26, 2023
Dr. Wes Milner – Russia/Ukraine

January 31 & February 2, 2023
Penny Smith – Baseball and its relationships to American history and culture

February 7 & 9, 2023
TBA

February 14 & 16, 2023
TBA

February 21 & 23, 2023
TBA

February 28 & March 2, 2023
TBA

March 7 & 9, 2023
TBA

March 14 & 16, 2023
TBA

March 21 & 23, 2023
TBA

March 28 & 30, 2023
TBA

April 5, 2023
Luncheon

Note to the membership:
The above are the topics and speakers selected by the Curriculum Committee. This may change based on speaker availability.