

southern mountain living

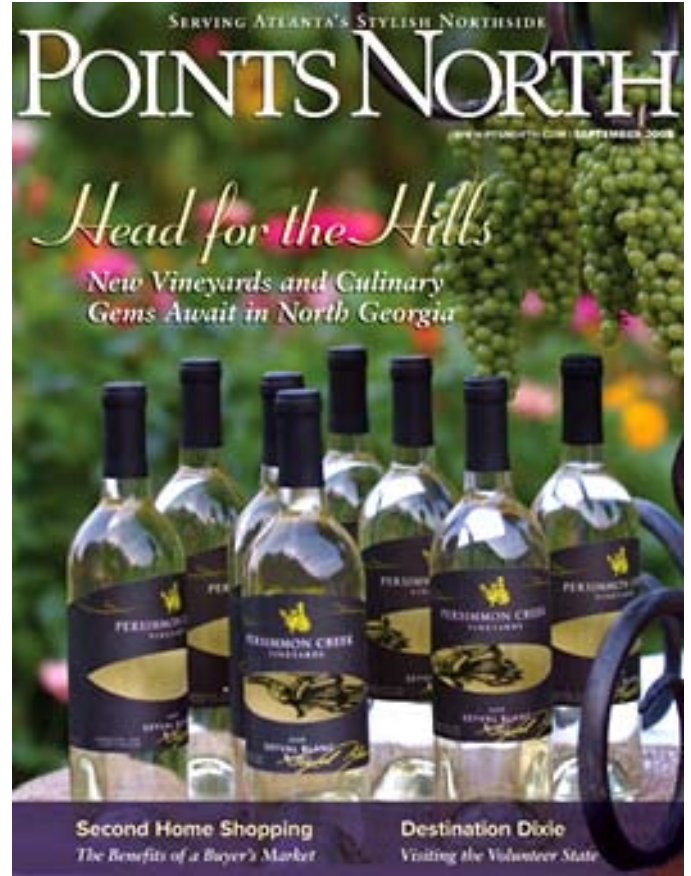
Going Ape in Blue Ridge

by Susan Silverman

Spending a weekend in the mountain town of Blue Ridge, Ga., is like eating only one potato chip — it's just not enough! Shoppers, out-doorsmen, art lovers and adventurers alike will find a myriad of activities here, just an hour or so from Atlanta, but it would take much longer to do and see everything. Not being the outdoorsy type, I limited my recent visit to shopping, exploring and pamper-ing, but even at that, I did only enough to whet my appetite for another visit.

Ready for a rest, we check into the Aska Lodge Bed and Breakfast, tucked into the woods, but close to town. Innkeepers Bob and Mary Jo Stamper have created a first-class B&B, offering everything from the finest beds with premium sheets to a lovely gathering room with stone fireplace, bar stocked with cold drinks and even a game table with half-completed jigsaw puzzle, which lures us in. Each of the guest rooms overlook beautiful blooming flower gardens and good mountain views; two have their own private porches, and there are lots of rocking chairs in the common areas where you can sit and relax. It is so comfortable I tell Mary Jo, "it's like staying with your rich sister — the one you like."

Relaxed and impressed, I leave Blue Ridge already planning my next visit. This area abounds with outdoor activities such as hiking, rafting, horseback riding, waterfalls, fishing and some great camping spots. This is where Lake Blue Ridge is located. In addition, Blue Ridge has several wonderful art festivals in the fall and the Blue Ridge Community Theater offers performances year round.



Lake Blue Ridge, a TVA lake with dozens of islands and coves, was created in the 1930's.