

**NEW EXHIBIT COMPARES TODAY'S CAROLINAS TO THE REGION
MORE THAN 300 YEARS AGO**

***“A Delicious Country” retraces a British explorer’s 1701 expedition through
the Carolinas on foot and by canoe***

CHARLOTTE, N.C., July 27, 2022 – British explorer John Lawson trekked through the Carolina colony in 1701, including what’s now Uptown Charlotte, recording all he saw. Three centuries later, Raleigh journalist Scott Huler followed his trail, documenting what had changed and what remained the same. Their journeys are featured in a new exhibit, “A Delicious Country,” on display at The Charlotte Museum of History through March 2023.

“Scott Huler’s 2015 journey across the Carolinas is beautiful and well-documented, just like John Lawson’s journey more than 300 years ago,” said Terri L. White, president & CEO of The Charlotte Museum of History. “The exhibit focuses on the journey itself and connecting with local history, nature and cultures along the way, highlighting especially the voices and stories of Native peoples.”

The exhibit compares the Carolinas during two periods of rapid change—the 1600s and 1700s, when European contact encroached on Native lands and cultures, and today’s Carolinas, where we feel the effects of climate change, suburban sprawl and a diversifying culture and economy. Artifacts and descriptions from Huler’s trip help visitors visualize his journey, as well as Lawson’s.

“Lawson’s journey more than 300 years ago, and my journey in his footsteps, point to both the importance of local guides sharing their knowledge about the land and also to the presence of history and nature everywhere, if we just slow down and look for them,” said Scott Huler, exhibit creator and author of a book by the same name, ‘A Delicious Country: Rediscovering the Carolinas Along the Route of John Lawson’s 1700s Expedition.’”

“In many ways, John Lawson would not recognize the Carolinas of today, from drained swamps and clear-cut forests to interstates and skyscrapers,” Huler said. “At the same time, I experienced many of the same things on my journey that he did, including visiting bustling places of commerce like Charlotte, slogging through rural marshlands full of mosquitoes and getting lost.”

About “A Delicious Country”

In 1700, a young man named John Lawson left London and landed in Charleston, S.C., hoping to make a name for himself. For reasons unknown, he soon undertook a two-month journey through the Carolina backcountry, a place still mysterious to European eyes at that time.

His travels yielded “A New Voyage to Carolina,” one of the most significant early American travel narratives, rich with observations about the region's environment and the Indigenous peoples he met along the way.

Lawson later helped found North Carolina's first two cities, Bath and New Bern. He became the colonial surveyor general, contributed specimens to what is now the British Museum and was killed as the first casualty of the Tuscarora War. Despite his contributions and remarkable history, Lawson is little remembered, even in the Carolinas he documented.

In 2014, Scott Huler made a surprising decision to leave home for his own journey by foot and canoe, faithfully retracing Lawson's route through the Carolinas. This exhibit is the chronicle of that unlikely voyage, revealing what it's like to rediscover your own home. Huler draws our attention to people and places we might pass regularly but never really see. He finds surprising parallels between Lawson's time and our own, with the locals and their world poised along a knife-edge of change between the past and the future.

“A Delicious Country” is courtesy of the City of Raleigh Historic Resources and Museum Program – City of Raleigh Museum and comes to Charlotte after its 2020 premiere at the City of Raleigh Museum.



[High resolution photographs from the exhibit and accompanying book are available for media usage at this link, with proper credit.](#)

About Scott Huler

Based in Raleigh, Scott Huler is a journalist and the author of seven nonfiction books. His journalism career included stints at the Philadelphia Daily News, the Raleigh News & Observer and Nashville Public Radio, and his work has appeared in The Washington Post, Slate and The Los Angeles Times, among many others. His books span topics from the technological wonders that undergird modern-day homes to the stories of Continental Airlines, NASCAR and the Cleveland Browns. He currently is a staff writer for Duke Magazine.

How to Go

“A Delicious Country” is on display at The Charlotte Museum of History through March 2023. The exhibit is included in regular museum admission. Tickets at charlottemuseum.org/visit.

About The Charlotte Museum of History

The Charlotte Museum of History exists to save and share the Charlotte region's history, helping create a better understanding of the past and inspiring dialogue about the future. The museum is the steward of the 1774 Hezekiah Alexander Rock House and homesite, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the oldest home in Mecklenburg County. Visit charlottemuseum.org and follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). The museum is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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