
Welcome to SEAAIS 2024



Dear Members, Guests et al:

Welcome to the 2024 annual meeting of the Southeastern Allergy Asthma and Immunology Society. This year we return To the Grove Park Inn, which is one of my favorite hotels and has been since I first visited it in the 1970s. It is a unique masterpiece constructed of local stone with the largest fireplace you will likely ever see. Funded by the pharmaceutical titan, Edwin Grove, and designed constructed and initially managed by his son-in-law, William Seely, it was built in 11 months after inception in 1913. Marketed as a place of rest for the weary businessman, it quickly became a Haven for the rich and famous as evidence by the mini photos of patrons lining the walls. Presidents, wealthy capitalist, like Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone, and famous entertainers, such as Harry Houdini and Rogers, to the Grove Park. Author F. Scott Fitzgerald had an extended stay in the 1930s and has a suite named in his honor. In fact, many rooms have brass plaques denoting a well-known prior guest. Beyond the lookout for the breathtaking photographs of the Smokey Mountains throughout the hotel, and in many of the guestrooms. These are the work of George Masa, who has been called the Ansel Adams of the east. His fascinating story as well as a history of the construction in our featured in short documentaries in the sitting area surrounded by artifacts found to the right of the Emporium 1913 marketplace in the Vanderbilt wing.

Hotel amenities are par excellence. The spa facilities are both above and below ground, extending the length of a tunnel between the Sammons and Vanderbilt wings. Sports complex features, tennis courts, indoor pool, foosball, billiards ping-pong, and the increasingly rare skee ball. There is also an outdoor pool near the golf course, which is available as well for those who wish to spoil a good walk. In regard to, there is a lovely trail, "Sunset Trail" which meanders along a stream and under a stone bridge easily accessed just across the parking lot from the front door. Particularly enthralling to me as a boy in the 1970s, the antique automobile museum has lost none of its luster with time featuring Model T and Model A Fords, Cadillacs, a REO, a Packard, and a Rolls- Royce. It is located on the old Biltmore industry shops to the right and rear of the Vanderbilt wing. Also amongst the shops one finds the weaving museum with old looms as well as furniture and art galleries. Much of the furniture in the rooms of the Grove Park Inn Original from the early 1900 some made through Roycroft industries and some made locally. In fact, the Grove Park Inn features the world's largest public display of furniture handcrafts.

Perhaps the best known tourist attraction in Asheville is the Biltmore Estate and Gardens built by William K. Vanderbilt. It is a monument to the magnificent and opulence of a time before the advent of permanent income tax. Nearby, Chimney Rock juts nearly straight upward greater than 300 feet to afford spectacular vistas of up to 75 miles. For those with a literary bet, the Asheville home of author Thomas Wolfe is a fine museum. Western North Carolina is home to over 200 independent breweries. A brewery tour is not only informative but also tasty as this author learned at Sierra Nevada brewery in nearby Mills River.

I realize this letter is a little longer than I usually write, but there is lots to experience in and around Asheville. I look forward to seeing you at the Grove Park Inn.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Eades, MD , FAAAAI, FACAAI
Site selection committee chairperson.
