



WADMALAW

Newsletter - Issue 10

Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful

August 2018

WADMALAW ISLAND LAND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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WADMALAW ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

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Director

JUST ONE HOUR A MONTH - YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



*With your help, all roads can
be like this*

An article in last quarter's issue of *Wadmalaw* described how Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful (KWB), the new local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, has organized a group of sixteen island residents committed to keeping Maybank Highway litter free from the Esau Jenkins bridge at Church Creek to "the Fork" at Bears Bluff. Members of this newly created "brigade" donate just one hour per person each month toward the effort. The results have been outstanding and make 'coming home' for all of us a pleasure as we drive onto the island.

Four additional brigades are now being formed to further enhance our island's appearance. The additional sections are on Maybank Highway, Liberia Road and Bears Bluff. Volunteers are needed for all areas. Most everyone has one hour they can spare per month. That hour can help us make a real difference in the appearance of our island – and it's a great way to give back to our community. To volunteer for a brigade or for more information, please contact any of the following KWB steering committee members: Michelle Sinkler at michellesinkler@comcast.net; Fred Holland at redholland@bellsouth.net; Stuart McDaniel at mcdanielstuart@bellsouth.net; or Robert Siedell at rsiedell@gmail.com. Join a brigade! It is a great way to meet your neighbors and contribute to our community.

FALL FESTIVAL TO BE HELD OCTOBER 6TH

An October Fall Festival will be held at the Wadmalaw Island Community Center (WICC) on October 6 2018 beginning at 12:00 noon. Entrance fee will be \$5.

This year's event will include a host of vendors displaying many handmade craft items. And, for the first time, there will be a special exhibit of recent paintings by LySandra Gathers, a local lowcountry artist with strong Sea Island roots. There will also be a display of sweet grass baskets made by first and second year students from the WICC.

Featured entertainment will include Soulfully Creative Kids, Wendy (Annie Sue) Robinson a local Gullah Story Teller, Gospel singing by the Hebron Zion Presbyterian Church Young Adult Choir and more. Delicious food will be available and there will be Jump Castles and Face Painting for the kids.

Come join your neighbors and friends at the Festival - everyone welcome!



*Soulfully Creative Kids will perform
at the Fall Festival*



*Local artist
LySandra Gathers*



*Hebron Zion Presbyterian Church
Young Adult Choir performs Oct. 6th*

~ ENCORE EVENT ~ Chef Barry Waldrop COOKS AGAIN!

2nd Jazz & Seafood Luncheon
Benefitting the Community Center
Saturday, September 8th
12 noon - 4pm
*If you missed the last one - don't
miss this chance!*

ISLAND-WIDE LITTER PICK-UP
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH
(Raindate September 15th)
Meet at 8:30 AM at the Community Center,
5605 Katy Hill Road
PLEASE JOIN US TO
KEEP WADMALAW BEAUTIFUL

WADMALAW ISLAND CHURCHES

Grace Chapel

Chapel of Ease of
St. John's Church
Rockville Township
Services in June, July and
August at 9:00 AM

Little Rock Baptist Church

6522 Maybank Highway
Rev. James Peterson, Pastor
Services at 11:30 AM
Bible study and prayer on
Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

New Bethlehem Baptist Church

1945 Liberia Road
Rev. Zachary Williams
Services at 11:00 AM

New Jerusalem AME Church

6179 Bears Bluff Road
Rev. Tony J. Slater, Jr., Pastor

New St. James Bethel AME Church

5305 Maybank Highway
Rev. William R. Jones, Pastor
Services at 10:00 AM

New Webster United Methodist Church

4755 Bears Bluff Road
Rev. Leonard Huggins, Pastor
Rev. Tony Richardson, Sr.,
Associate Pastor
Services at 10:15 AM

Rockville Presbyterian Church

2479 Sea Island Yacht Club Road
Rev. Mark Hunt, Pastor
Services at 10:00 AM

Salem Baptist Church

5768 Bears Bluff Road
Rev. Martha Florence Brown,
Pastor
Services at 11:00 AM

Salem Presbyterian Church

5591 Maybank Highway
Rev. Robert L. Capers, Pastor
Services at 11:00 AM on 2nd
and 4th Sundays, 9:30 AM on
1st and 3rd.

NEW BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

One of a continuing series of profiles on Wadmalaw churches and their pastors



*New Bethlehem Baptist Church
on Liberia Road*

Today's New Bethlehem Baptist Church (NBBC) traces back to 1772, when Frank Whaley donated two acres of land to the people of Wadmalaw to build a church. Originally known as Bethlehem Baptist, the church has since moved. It still owns the original tract, situated at 5821 Maybank Highway, and leases it to a small Baptist congregation from North Charleston. In the 20th century, New Bethlehem experienced two fires in the 1920s and '30s, but each time the congregation rebuilt. When it moved to another new building in 1969, it changed its name to New Bethlehem Baptist Church. In 1992, it was the first church on the island to have a licensed female minister.

By the early 2000's, the congregation was growing too large for its building. The Pastor, Rev. Arthur White, led a movement to buy more property at 1945 Liberia Road and construct a newer, larger building to accommodate the congregation's needs. They wanted a sanctuary and fellowship hall as well as classrooms for Sunday school and office space for administrators. Completed in 2011, the church complex contains 16,200 sq. ft. They still own a 3.5-acre cemetery on Boy Scout Road.

The church's website (www.newbethlehembcm.org) lists its many ministries, which include Deacon, Music, Sunday School, and Youth. The church welcomes everyone. This summer, from June 20 to August 3, it is operated a "day camp" for children ages 2 to 13. It ran from 7 AM to 6 PM at a cost of only \$50 per child. Charleston County provided breakfast and lunch and the church offered a home-made lunch on Fridays. Since it was a new program, NBBC expected 25 children. Instead, they served more than 40.



*Rev. Zachary R.
Williams
Pastor of New
Bethlehem Church*

A new transportation ministry is starting, designed to help older parishioners or children of working parents to attend services. Recorded services are sent to out-of-state worshipers who want to maintain their relationship with NBBC while living out of the immediate area.

Most recently, a group of 43 parishioners traveled to Washington, DC, to visit the African-American Museum, Library of Congress and the Capitol. On the way back, they stopped at King's Dominion in Virginia. The four-day excursion cost \$499 per person, which included hotels and meals. Programs such as this are made possible by a large corps of church volunteers.

The Rev. Zackary R. Williams has led NBBC since 2016. A native of Shreveport, LA, he earned a degree in Business Administration from the University of Central Texas and one in Project Management from George Washington University. He went on to pursue a Master's Degree in Biblical Studies from Trinity Theological Seminary in Evansville, IN. He has also taken classes at Tyndale Theological Seminary in Dallas, TX, and Virginia Union University in Richmond, VA. He had several careers before being called to preach the Word of God. He served in the US Army, retiring in 1993 as a Warrant Officer after more than 20 years. He then he became a real estate broker and taught at various colleges. He later joined the Federal government working for the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) and Department of Commerce. In 2011, he retired after 15 years of civilian government service.

Pastor Williams' church ministry started in 1993 when he joined the Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church in Texas. He served as the Director of Sunday Church School until he accepted the Lord's call to preach the Gospel. He preached his first sermon in 1996 and was ordained in 1999 at the First Baptist Church in Disputanta, VA. He went on to serve as Assistant Pastor at a church in Lakewood, NJ, before being called to be the pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, VA, in 2010. In July 2016, he and his wife Yvette were preparing to retire to South Carolina when he received the call to pastor NBBC.

Pastor Williams has applied his business experience to the church's planning and finances. He created a five-year plan outlining goals for NBBC, including expanding the congregation, attracting younger people and paying off church debt. His office hours are varied in order to offer spiritual guidance to more people. Although he is technically part-time, he works at NBBC full-time. His only compensation is a housing allowance. He and his wife Yvette, who is also a minister, live in Ladson. He works hard because he loves the work and the teaching. He draws upon his deep knowledge of the Bible and looks for practical and personal applications to counsel and teach his congregation.

NBBC is a well-run, enterprising, spiritual community with dynamic leadership and ministries on a modern Lowcountry campus. It is truly a blessing for the people of Wadmalaw.

Wadmalaw is a non-profit publication distributed to all Wadmalaw postal addresses quarterly (February, May, August and November) supporting **Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful**, and also the **Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee** (WILPC), and the **Wadmalaw Community Center** (WICC).

For advertising or editorial contributions/suggestions, contact us at:
P.O. Box 3, Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487 or online at: wadmalawnews@gmail.com

FRIERSON WELCOMES NEW FACULTY FOR FALL SEMESTER

An update from Dr. Deborah Davis-Cummings, Principal



Dr. Cummings reads "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish" at Frierson

awesome individuals for the 2018-19 school year.

Frierson is very fortunate to find teachers who have a desire to be part of the movement into the Partial Montessori Magnet Program for District 9. These new staff members are embracing the opportunity to continue their personal growth, development and training in the Montessori Model.

It is with great sorrow that the school will lose some staff to retirement and new programs. They will move into the next phase of their lives knowing the great legacy they have left behind at Frierson.

Two staff members will be returning to new positions. Ms. Avis Fields has agreed to serve as Instructional Coach. Mrs. Dominique Young-Bennett will be moving to teach 1st grade.

Samantha Kurtz will step into the role of Frierson's Reading Coach this year. Mrs. Kurtz has worked in both Beaufort and Charleston county school districts for the past 5 years. She has a love and passion for literacy and is excited to begin building lasting relationships with the students, staff and family of district 9.

Kathleen Hilton is looking forward to working with the children and families of Frierson as one of the Montessori Primary instructors. She was born and raised in the Tampa Bay area of Florida but has lived in Charleston County for most of her life. Mrs. Hilton is a graduate of the College of Charleston, where she first became interested in the Montessori Method. She and her husband of almost twenty-seven years have four daughters. Twenty-one years ago, her eldest was part of the Primary Class at Montessori Community School, which was CCSD's first public Montessori Program. For the next twelve years, the Hiltons were part of the MCSC community. Their positive experiences with the school eventually inspired Mrs. Hilton to become a Montessori teacher.

Poet and Nobel Prize recipient William Butler Yeats once said, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." This community has lit a fire deep inside the heart of Frierson Elementary. In a time when finding great teachers is a nation-wide challenge, Frierson has been able to recruit some

Tameka L. Smalls-Robinson is very excited to be working at Frierson and is looking forward to working with Primary Montessori students and their families. Mrs. Smalls-Robinson will serve as the second Montessori Primary Instructor. She has served as the Director of a Childcare Center, worked as an Early Interventionist, and has acted as Director and Site Coordinator of the James Island Early Head Start Program. She enjoys being a mother, educating young children, meeting new people, planning events, traveling to new places to learn about different cultures, and spending quality time with her family.

Phyllis Anderson will be teaching 3rd grade this year. She is a CCSD teacher who taught 2nd grade last year and is excited to make the change to 3rd. She graduated from Winthrop University last year then moved to Johns Island with her husband. Outside of teaching, she enjoys playing the piano and cheering on the Pittsburgh Steelers!

Deborah Barrineau comes to Frierson Elementary with over 35 years of experience in Education. Having taught a variety of grades and subjects in schools throughout the Lowcountry, Mrs. Barrineau loves creating an atmosphere for students to thrive. When not in the classroom, she is painting in her art studio, a creative outlet that she loves to bring into her teaching. A long-time resident of Johns Island, Mrs. Barrineau is thrilled to accept a 4th grade position and share her love and passion for teaching with her local community.

Traci Rhoden is a 17-year teaching veteran in South Carolina schools. Her family moved to Johns Island a little over 5 years ago and fell in love with the island community. She and her husband have two grown daughters who both live out of state. Their home is still filled with lots of love and noise, as they have two dogs and 3 senior cats. She is excited about joining the Frierson team and knows she will have an amazing school year.

Frierson is on fire and lighting a path of success for District 9 children. As always, they invite the community to be a part of their journey. All families will be invited to a "Meet the Teacher and Welcome Family Barbeque" on Thursday, August 16th from 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM.

During these final weeks of summer, Frierson is undergoing major renovations as part of their transformation. The faculty and staff ask that visitors be very patient while construction workers prepare the building for the exciting new year. Feel free to contact the principal, Dr. Deborah Davis-Cummings by email at deborah_fickling@charleston.k12.sc.us.

MUSHROOM FARMING PIONEERS ON WADMALAW



Kevin & Michele Richbourg

Whitemarsh Farms is run by a "fungi". That's a poor mushroom joke. Kevin Richbourg and his wife Michele have taken their "little piece of heaven" here on Wadmaw and proven that it doesn't take a lot to build a successful business. In 2014, they started to explore what they could grow that wouldn't have a high overhead, but still have the potential for profit. Their answer? Mushrooms. In their research, they found that people in third-world countries

were able to successfully grow mushrooms as a cash crop. They thought, "If it can be done in those conditions, it can be done here." They call their operation "upscale primitive," as they have made minimal investments to enhance their growing operation and remain true to their goal: to create an ecosystem in which the agricultural by-product that they start with is continually reused and improved upon.

Kevin's operation is located on his property at the end of Bears Bluff Road. It includes an area where he builds columns of growing media for the mushrooms. Through a pasteurization and mixing process, he creates a high-quality substrate in which he cultivates specific spawn of the mushrooms he grows. Kevin is currently experimenting with propagating shiitakes, but he primarily grows a variety of oyster mushrooms, which tend to be very forgiving as well as fast growing. Once the 32" black bag columns are created, he pokes holes in them for the mushrooms to grow through and moves them to the hoophouse, a humidity-rich greenhouse. That's when the race begins against other organisms that also want to grow inside each black bag. Mushrooms are like people, in that they breathe oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. This adds to the complexity of environmental controls and encouraging the growth you want, while discouraging unwanted growth. If the mushrooms



Locally Grown - delicious!

(continued on page 6)

WILPC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2018

Fire Department - Callouts for March 2018:

Johns Island 140; Kiawah 45; Wadmalaw 34; Seabrook 30

Roads: There has been noticeable improvement in the amount of litter on the island due to the efforts of the "Brigade 16", who pick up the first 2 miles from the bridge to the fork every Sunday and Wednesday. We applaud and thank them for their efforts.

Johns Island - Monica Smith reported that members of the established Johns Island association (who meet at the JI Library) would like for members of the WILPC to support them in their efforts to control the rapid development on Johns Island.

MAY 2018

Zoning - Melinda Kelley announced a Planning meeting on Monday, May 14th. This will be their monthly meeting. They will be discussing what they came up with along with the community's input from a workshop held previously. This will be an update for the ten-year comprehensive plan.

Education - John Taylor verified with the county that Wadmalaw residents will have first priority with the enrollment of students in the second year of the Montessori program.

SPEAKERS - Jeremy Gray and Ben Towill presented their plans for Hoop Stick property on Johns Island. They are presently in the beginning stages of their idea and want the community's input. The island, off Bohicket Road, has one hundred and fifty-six (156) acres. The plans are to build fifty-five (55) one & two bed-room cottages. All the plans are not completed at this time.

JUNE 2018

Zoning - Melinda Kelley presented 2 plats: a community dock in Polly Point, and a boundary survey on Yellow House Road.

Fire Department - Callouts for May 2018.

Johns Island: 148, Wadmalaw: 21, Kiawah: 55, Seabrook: 20

Our fire department installed 25 car seats in vehicles.

The Commissioner's meeting is the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Headquarters on Main Road. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Community Center - Bob Cox and Madge Hallett helped to clean up the grounds before the last fundraising event. After expenses, approximately \$3,000.00 was raised in support of the WICC.

Old Business - Robert Siedell updated us about the proposed expansion of Stevens' Towing (Marine). DHEC approved the plans, but a group of citizens voiced opposition to this project. They have 30 days to appeal.

Scott Truesdell informed us that the Wadmalaw Adopt-A-Highway program received the first-place award from the SC KAB chapter. The efforts of all are appreciated and have made a noticeable difference in the beauty of the island.

New Business - Pam Skinner brought information from the Johns Island Council meeting about the proposed change in the Greenbelt Plan from 70/30 Rural/Urban to 50/50. Melinda Kelley explained some of the uses for this Greenbelt funding. We agreed to send letters and make phone calls as we oppose this 50/50 change.

SPEAKERS - Lewis Hay, a founding WILPC member, told us about the award given by the National Association of Planners for the document submitted 30 years ago outlining plans for Wadmalaw and its future growth. This award was originally given to Charleston County, but we now have our own copy to hang in the Community Center, where the plan was mostly developed. Thank you, Lewis!

Sam Brownlee from The Johns Island Council presented an idea to construct a sidewalk from the Sea Island Apartments on Maybank Highway to the corner. We agreed to send a letter of support.



REAL ESTATE SALES (MARCH 4 - JUNE 20, 2018)

Vacant Land	Acres	Date Sold	Price
61 Anchor Watch Drive	6.4	3-09-18	\$425,000
4887 Maybank Hwy	5.4	3-09-18	\$552,000
0 Bears Bluff Road	1.3	3-15-18	\$65,000
6946 Bears Bluff Road	2.5	3-19-18	\$50,000
1711 Yellow House Road	1.7	3-28-18	\$370,000
29 Josie Ridge Road	6.4	4-06-18	\$490,000
5850 Pecanetta Road	1.0	4-12-18	\$424,000
2735 Cherry Point Road	14.3	4-20-18	\$139,000
2040 Bentz Road	15.1	4-24-18	\$145,000
0 Wildlife	1.8	4-27-18	\$72,000
Lot 3 Anchor Watch Drive	3.3	5-04-18	\$150,000
1 Harts Bluff Road	6.9	5-18-18	\$159,000
2047 Leadenwah Drive	7.5	5-18-18	\$185,000
2963 Anchor Watch Drive	3.7	5-29-18	\$150,000
6650 Maybank Hwy	1.6	6-09-18	\$50,000
1921 Liberia Road	15.1	6-20-18	\$145,000
0 Cherry Point Road	15.1	6-20-18	\$308,000
5403 Rosebank	3.2	6-22-18	\$70,000
5217 Maybank Hwy	6.7	6-27-18	\$90,000
Residences	Acres	Date Sold	Price
2208 Leadenwah	6.2	3-21-18	\$365,000
1711 Yellow House Road	2.3	3-29-18	\$370,000
5850 Pecanetta Road	1.0	4-12-18	\$424,000
4887 Maybank Hwy	5.3	5-11-18	\$552,000
2474 Sea Isl. Yacht Club Rd	0.5	6-14-18	\$750,000
6556 Southmount Road	9.6	9-6-18	\$900,000

Wadmalaw ONLINE

Wadmalaw Isl. Land Planning Committee website:

www.wilpc.org

Community Center Facebook:

Wadmalaw Island Community Center

WILPC Email address: comments@wilpc.org

Wadmalaw News: wadmalawnews@gmail.com

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P. M. KING'S GROCERY REVISITED



Carroll, Judy, & Pippy Suggs

Adorned by two yellow Sunbeam bread signs, P. M. King's Grocery, located at 6996 Maybank Highway in Rockville, is an historical landmark on our island.

Following his service in the Navy during World War II, Preston King (1921-1984) moved to Wadmalaw from Yonge's Island in 1945 with his wife Inez. Two years later, after realizing the need for a grocery store in Rockville, he built "King's" out of cinder block, the only material available at the time. The store was the end of the line for

the postman, so residents made daily trips to pick up their mail. Since most people rarely left the island, families ordered their groceries from King's, which were delivered on a weekly or monthly basis. Kerosene, work cloths, fan belts, paregoric, produce and meats—Preston King had it all. He was a skilled butcher and was often told that he should have been a surgeon.

In 1980, Carroll Suggs, who had married Preston and Inez's daughter, Judy, became partners with his father-in-law and eventually took over the business. For twenty-seven years, Carroll served the people of Wadmalaw – he knew them all and they knew him. He witnessed many changes that affected his business, such as the construction of the Piggly Wiggly in 1989. When take-out meals became trends, Carroll and Judy's daughter Rachel started making sandwiches to be sold in the store. She and husband Simon Black expanded it with delicious food to go: deli-meat and cheese, freshly smoked barbecue, and local shrimp salad sandwiches. As Rachel and Simon's family grew, and competition and the economy changed, King's became history.

P. M. King's Grocery has now been closed for nine years. The good news is, pending final approval, this famous landmark will be reopening in the not too distant future. Stay tuned to the next issue of the "Wadmalaw News".



Andrew & Natalie Humphrey, future business owners of King's Grocery.

DNR OFFICER BEN WHALEY, JR.



DNR Officer Ben Whaley, Jr.

"Now tell me again what you think about game wardens?" he said as he grasped the shoulder of the startled man who had been making obscene remarks about the intellect and efficiency of game wardens. The man was also carrying two five-gallon buckets filled with illegal undersized redfish. He was caught "red bucketed," as they say in DNR lingo.

Just another day for DNR Officer Ben Whaley Jr. His territory runs from the Charleston Harbor to the South Edisto and 200 miles offshore. He covers this with only 4 other DNR officers.

Ben grew up on Wadmalaw with his parents, Ben Seabrook Whaley Sr., a tugboat captain, and mother, Sallie Bailey Whaley. He and his wife, Tiffany, also a Wadmalaw native, have a 3-year-old son named Ethan.

Ben graduated from Clemson with a degree in Forestry and a minor in Wildlife Management. He applied and was accepted to the Police Academy for general law enforcement training, then went on to DNR basic training. He worked 6 years with DHEC in shellfish monitoring and has been with SCDNR for the past 13 years.

His busiest time is 365 days a year. Snow storms, thunder storms, tropical storms, floods and tornadoes: he is out in it all, on land or sea.

The most common boating violation is lack of proper registration and/or enough life jackets. For hunting, it is hunting without a license.

Ben Whaley and his unit, along with the other men and women in the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, work hard to preserve, protect and enhance our fisheries and wildlife for all to enjoy. They deserve appreciation and thanks for what they do, day in and day out. Make it a point to holler "Thanks!" next time you see one of them.

ALCOHOLIC ANONYMOUS

An Alcoholic Anonymous meeting is held every Wednesday evening between 7-8 pm at the Rockville Presbyterian Church on Sea Island Yacht Club Road.

Anyone seeking sobriety is welcome to attend!

JOIN THE WADMALAW NEWS TEAM!

Would you enjoy being part of the Wadmalaw newsletter? Do you have a topic you would like to see in a future issue? If so, please contact us at wadmalawnews@gmail.com or write to us at Wadmalaw, Box 3, Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487

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You can support the continued publishing of WADMALAW

The Wadmalaw newsletter is funded primarily through donations from island residents. If you would like to see the continued publishing of this newsletter, please make a contribution by sending a check to Wadmalaw News, P.O. Box 3, Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487.

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ISLANDERS HONORED AT COMMUNITY CENTER FUNDRAISER



Chef Barry Waldrop

The Wadmalaw Island Community Center was the setting for a spring fundraiser luncheon on 26 May featuring a well-known local chef, several candidates running for political office, and a ceremony honoring two remarkable volunteers for their services to the community.

Chef Barry Waldrop, of Stono Café and Catering fame, produced a delicious and abundant quantity of fish gumbo over white rice, with succotash and cole slaw, followed by coconut cake for dessert. The music was provided by DJ1159, also known as Johnny Buncomb. Both Chef Barry and DJ1159 donated their time and talent to support the Community Center. Over 80 people attended the event. Due to the success of the event, an encore is planned for September 8th, 12-4 PM. Chef Barry will be then cooking up seafood with jazz entertainment provided.

Stephanie Ganaway-Pasley, running for probate judge; Jackie Todd, running for County Council; and Kelsey Wiley, also running for probate judge, attended the gathering. At the invitation of Bertha Middleton, the Community Center director, the candidates described their platforms and goals should they get their parties' nomination in the upcoming primary election and requested the votes of the audience.

A highlight of the luncheon was the presentation by Representative Wendell Gilliard, who represents the state's 111th District, of framed Certificates of Commendation from the South Carolina Assembly to two remarkable individuals who have long served the community: Apostle Doris Johnson and Bertha Smalls-Middleton. Apostle Johnson spoke movingly about her ministry, based on Johns Island, among young male African-Americans needing help in getting a new foothold after being released from prison. For her part, Ms. Middleton has worked tirelessly for years not only to keep the Community Center open but improving it through grants of funds or donated furniture and equipment. Ms. Middleton helps elderly Wadmalaw residents to deal with crises of all kinds, such as housing and medical issues. Judge Leroy Linen spoke words of praise for both honorees.



Bertha Smalls-Middleton, Rep. Wendell Gilliard, and Apostle Doris Johnson



Judge Harold Linen

The Wadmalaw Island Community Center is one of the island's great under-appreciated resources: a large meeting hall, air-conditioned and well-lit, with a kitchen, bathrooms, and parking. For rental information please contact Bertha Middleton at (843) 557-8408 or bartistic2@aol.com.

MUSHROOM FARMING PIONEERS ON WADMALAW

(continued from page 3)

can win that race in the first couple of weeks, they become protective of their space and grow rapidly. From spawn to fruit is just two to six weeks. At that point, mushrooms can be harvested multiple times a day, "You can almost see them grow," says Michele.

Everything about the operation thrives on continuous improvement: how to mix the spawn and substrate; whether to add other nutrients; how to best hang the columns; how big to make the holes for the mushrooms. This is the part of the business that Kevin clearly loves, juggling all the variables. Their "full-circle farming" method aligns well with their sales method: Growth happens when demand demands it. And grow it has. Whitmarsh Farms currently sells to local restaurants: Wild Olive, Fat Hen, Seanachai's, and Fischer's, as well as the John's Island Farmer's Market. If you happen to arrive before they run out of their delicious product, make sure to pick up a bag full and see what eating local tastes like. And if you want to create your own umami goodness for your dinner table, buy one of Kevin's fruiting kits and experiment with growing your own oyster mushrooms. Kevin will be happy to share his advice.

JOHNS ISLAND LIBRARY PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

~ AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2018 ~

Book-a-Librarian (adults) - Throughout August and September

Have a technology question? Need help with a job application? Learn to use the library's downloadable media on personal devices. Call 843-559-1945 to make an appointment with a librarian for a 30-minute one-on-one session.

Managing Your Photos - Thursday, August 9 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Explore some common features shared by digital cameras. Learn to edit, transfer, organize, and print photos. Completion of Creating and Organizing Files (or previous experience) is expected. Call (843)805-6833 beginning August 2 to register.

Editing and Sharing Photos - Thursday, August 16 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Learn to use software and websites to import, organize, and edit photos or create a web album. Completion of Managing Your Photos and Searching the Web (or previous experience) is expected. Call (843) 805-6833 beginning August 9 to register.

Facebook 101 - Thursday, August 23 from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Explore the major features of Facebook, review security settings and manage friends lists. Demonstration only. No registration required.

(continued on back cover)

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HOW A TEA PLANTATION ENDED UP ON WADMALAW



Bill Hall

Most Wadmalaw residents know that the Island is home to America's only (large scale) tea plantation, and its signature "American Classic Tea" is the official hospitality beverage of the state. But do they know the story behind how that came about?

Bill Hall is a third-generation professional tea taster from England. To become a tea taster, he had to complete a rigorous training program, where he tasted 800 to 1,000 cups of tea every day, five days a week, for four years. Hall was on his way to a tea conference in Arizona in the 1980's when he read an article in a trade magazine that claimed tea could not be grown in America. This limiting statement sparked Hall's curiosity and set him on a path to prove otherwise. The article also mentioned Pinehurst Tea Plantation in Summerville, which was the first place to grow tea in America in the 1800's. After the convention, Hall visited Charleston and discovered Lipton's secret research and development facility housed on Wadmalaw.

In 1987, Hall purchased the 127-acre property and created the Charleston Tea Plantation. Things began to really take shape in 2003, when the Bigelow family became partners with Hall. This allowed them to build a modern factory as well as concentrate on Agritourism, which brings agriculture and tourism together and shows visitors how tea is made. Today, the tea plantation is a multifaceted facility.

The tea leaves are grown, manufactured and sold on the property. They offer trolley rides, factory tours, complimentary tea tastings and a wonderful gift shop.

Just as Wadmalaw Island is full of rich history, the tea plantation carries a history of more than two hundred years. Ninety five percent of all the plants on the farm originally came from Dr. Shepherd's plantation in Summerville from the 1800's. These were transported as cuttings, a process that is equivalent to cloning the plant, instead of growing it from seed.

Unlike grapes or coffee beans, which typically produce one harvest per year, tea can be harvested every 15-18 days during the growing season. The quality of the tea (influenced by the weather conditions and time of the season) frequently fluctuates. Even now, after nearly 30 years of owning the Tea Plantation, Hall tastes every day's production and allocates it into one of six storage bins. When it's time to assemble and make the tea, he mixes a calculated amount from each bin to create the same consistent taste throughout the year.

Hall wants people on the Island to know he is very proud of what the Tea Plantation is doing. "We don't want to have conflict with any of our neighbors" he said. "And we're doing something that's really important, in a way." He feels that the Tea Plantation is the tea industry's leader in America, giving Americans the opportunity to support local product rather than import from overseas, while providing jobs for the local community on Wadmalaw.

Says Hall: "What we're trying to do is grow an industry in America, a very healthy industry because we use no chemicals in the growing of our tea. The plants live for hundreds of years, so the soil will never be tilled (preventing soil erosion), and the farm is home to 5,200 oxygen-producing plants per acre."

Hall states that finding labor is one of the biggest struggles they face. The Charleston Tea Plantation stays committed to its all-natural growing process. They don't use any insectivores, insecticides or fungicides. This commitment to natural farming requires a more intensive and time-consuming growing process, including hand-pulling the weeds.

BOOKS ABOUT WADMALAW

Newcomers to Wadmalaw are often interested in the history of the place they now call home. While the definitive history of the island is yet to be written, the following books are available at the Johns Island Library, in local book stores and on Amazon for those wishing to learn more about the island:

Wadmalaw Island - Leaving Traditional Roots Behind, by Allen Mitchell, published in 1996 by Boar Hog Tree Press, Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487.

This book has an abundance of information about the island gathered by the late Allen Mitchell, who was born on the Wadmalaw. It covers a wide range of topics including plantation life, churches, education, migrant workers, the Gullah language and graveyards – with many historical exhibits. Of particular note, the book presents first-person historical perspectives of Wadmalaw in the form of interviews with island residents.

A Place Called St. Johns, by Laylon Wayne Jordan and Elizabeth H. Stringfellow, published in 1998 by the Reprint Company, Spartanburg, cadia

While primarily about Johns Island, the book is well researched and has a lot of information about other surrounding islands, including Wadmalaw, Kiawah and Seabrook. An interesting section outlines how Colonel Robert Sandford, captain of the *Berkeley Bay*, is thought to have made the first landing in the Carolinas near the current location of Rockville in 1666. A ceremony was held to claim the area on behalf of the British Lords Proprietors who had been granted the Carolinas by the English King. The book also describes how a Benjamin Blake and Bonham Sams established the first known settlements on Wadmalaw in March of 1683.

Wadmalaw Island, by Michelle Adams and Kate Di Silvestre, published in 2012 by Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC.

This book is part of the *Images of America* series, and is primarily a pictorial history book, with old photographs of Wadmalaw as well as some documents of

historical interest. Photos include plantations, early Rockville, churches, historic residences and islanders. It also has a section on recent Wadmalaw, including the Charleston Tea Plantation and Firefly Distillery.

Rockville, by Alicia "Lish" Anderson Thompson published in 2006 by Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC.

This is also part of the *Images of America* series, but with photographs focused on the town of Rockville. Pictured subjects are primarily homes (many still standing) as well as summer and permanent residents of the town, with interesting facts outlined in substantial captions for each photograph.



Roseate Spoonbills seen off of Brigger Hill Road on Wadmalaw in June. These pink wading birds, normally found in tropical areas, were almost completely wiped out in the United States in the 1800's by plume hunters before bouncing back a century later.

WADMALAW NEWS

P. O. Box 3

Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487

Email: wadmalawnews@gmail.com



Do you have a family member or friend who throws trash on Wadmalaw roads?
Please help us **KEEP WADMALAW BEAUTIFUL.**

A promotional poster for a luncheon. The top half features a black and white photo of a chef in a white uniform, smiling and holding a large platter of food. The text 'RETURN OF Executive Chef BARRY WALDROP' is overlaid on the photo. Below the photo, there's a circular inset showing a close-up of the food. The bottom half of the poster is dark with white text. It says 'TO THE WADMALAW ISLAND COMMUNITY Luncheon' in a large, elegant font. Below that, it lists the date 'SATURDAY SEPT 8TH' and the price '\$18.00 includes DINNER & JAZZ'. There are also smaller details about the menu and contact information.

RETURN OF
Executive Chef
BARRY WALDROP

TO THE
WADMALAW ISLAND
COMMUNITY

Luncheon

featuring CHEF'S FAMOUS "PAELLA"
WITH SHRIMP, ITALIAN SAUSAGE, GREEN PEPPERS,
SWEET ONIONS AND MUCH MORE OVER RICE.

\$18.00 includes
DINNER & JAZZ

*** FOR THE NON-SEAFOOD LOVERS OTHER MENU ITEMS WILL BE AVAILABLE.***

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JOHNS ISLAND LIBRARY PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

(continued from page 6)

Digital Drop-In - Tuesday, August 28 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Receive help with an electronic device, email, or social media account. Explore tablet options before making a purchase. Drop in and see the library's devices. No registration required. First come, first served.

Instagram & Snapchat 101 - Thursday, August 30 from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Explore popular mobile photo sites and how to share pics and messages with friends. Demonstration only. No registration required.

Cable-Free TV - Thursday, September 6 from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Learn about popular options for viewing shows and movies via the Web, such as watching on a computer, or connecting Web-enabled devices like Roku or Chromecast to a TV. Demonstration only. No registration required.

CCPL's eLibrary - Thursday, September 13 from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Get an overview of CCPL's downloadable eBook, audiobook, and magazine collection. Practice using ccpl.org and related apps to check out and download materials from OverDrive, RBDigital, and Hoopla. Demonstration only. No registration required.

Digital Music Demo - Thursday, September 20 from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Explore how to stream music for free and download tracks from Amazon, iTunes, and CCPL's Freegal. Learn to convert CDs and sync to mp3 players. Demonstration only. No registration required.

Digital Drop-In - Tuesday, September 25 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Receive help with an electronic device, email, or social media account. Explore tablet options before making a purchase. Drop in and see the library's devices. No registration required. First come, first served.