



# WADMALAW

Newsletter - Issue 13

*Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful*

May 2019

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## WADMALAW ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

**Bertha Smalls-Middleton**

Director

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY EXPANDS ON WADMALAW

John Rhoden is in his 7th year as Executive Director of Sea Island Habitat for Humanity, which continues to benefit Wadmalaw and its neighboring islands. As the third oldest Habitat organization in the world and the oldest in South Carolina; they are proud to be entering their 41st year of changing lives.

His team of 20 is powered by numerous volunteers who donate time and resources to their communities. To date, they have built 4 houses on Wadmalaw and are currently in the process of building 4 more. Beyond full-house builds, the team has a "Critical Repair Program" which allows families to have roofs, windows, doors, exterior stairs and ramps added or repaired. Since becoming a part of the Sea Island Habitat focus in 2018, this facet has improved 30 homes on Wadmalaw. It is a great resource for those who live on Heirs Properties, since most banks do not loan money on land that does not have a clear title.



*Sighted on Wadmalaw Island, American White Pelicans are one of the largest birds in North America.*

To obtain assistance through the Sea Island Habitat for Humanity program, read the criteria on their website at [www.seaislandhabitat.org](http://www.seaislandhabitat.org) or call them directly at 843-768-0998. A new home candidate needs to have steady employment, pass a criminal background check, and have decent credit. To be considered for the repair program, the applicant must own and live in their home and qualify as low-income.

To volunteer for the Sea Island Habitat team, just call. Builds happen 5 days a week, Tuesday through Saturday. While new construction sites are currently on Johns and James Island, the Wadmalaw projects will start later this summer. Repairs happen continually as the need arises, with at least one or two on-going sites on Wadmalaw each week.

Projects will accept any skill level. The expectation is that most volunteers are new to construction. They will be trained by a professional staff in tool use and repair, and can feel confident that they will never be pushed beyond their comfort level. The minimum age to be on the site is 16, but for use of power tools, climbing on ladders, or roof access, the age is 18.

Habitat groups are an amazing way for a neighborhood or business to work together and make a difference in their own community. To book a group, call Liv, the Volunteer Coordinator, at 843-768-0998, and discuss number of volunteers and desired working days. As John states, "Nothing says 'team-building' like building as a team!"

## WADMALAW BEGINS YEAR FOUR!

With this issue, the WADMALAW newsletter begins its fourth year since launch in May, 2015. A non-profit publication supporting the Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee (WILPC), the Wadmalaw Island Community Center (WICC), and Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful (KWB), WADMALAW is published four times a year in February, May, August and November and distributed to all postal addresses on Wadmalaw Island. The Editorial Committee would like to thank all of the volunteer contributors, advertisers and donors who have made this publication possible for the last three years. If you would like to write for or support this publication in some way, please contact us at [wadmalawnews@gmail.com](mailto:wadmalawnews@gmail.com) or at P.O. Box 3, Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487.

**ISLAND-WIDE LITTER PICK-UP  
SATURDAY, MAY 4TH  
(Raindate May 11th)  
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. Pattie E. Gordon, Pastor  
Rev. Tony Richardson, Sr.,  
Associate Pastor  
Services at 10:15 AM

### Rockville Presbyterian Church

2479 Sea Island Yacht Club Road  
Rev. Don Hardman, 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.

## SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH EXPANSION COMPLETED

There was a crowded and vibrant dedication service held on January 20, 2019, at Salem Baptist Church, 5768 Bears Bluff Road, to mark the completion of the expansion of the sanctuary. The Rev. Martha F. Brown, Pastor, presided and the Rev. Dr. Dave Mitchell III, Moderator of Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Association in Ridgeland, SC, was guest speaker. The choir sang many pieces during the service. As a result of the construction, which took 18 months, the church building has been lengthened by 30 feet, and can accommodate 50 more congregants. There is also a new wheelchair ramp. During the service, there were many expressions of gratitude to God for the wonder he worked. In an interview, Pastor Brown said "The project was truly a labor of love" and "We can do all things through Christ which strengthens us." The expansion was the result of many wonderful people working together. It will allow the church to expand its ministry.



Salem Baptist Church before expansion.



Salem Baptist Church after expansion.

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

For advertising or editorial contributions/suggestions, contact us at:  
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# BLACKBIRD MARKET: WADMALAW OWNED & GROWN

Blackbird Market is one of the closest places to Wadmalaw that serves meals as well as sells fresh seafood, produce, and other local goodies seven days a week. It wasn't always that way.

The shop on the corner of Maybank and Bohicket was once Stanley's Tire Store. In 2012, Rockville residents Billy and Delana Haynes converted it into Blackbird Market.



Sign at Blackbird

Billy and Delana farm in two locations on Wadmalaw: John and Sam Smoak's place (with Charleston Green), and at a place on the island known as Alabama Bend (near the Tea Plantation). They supply dozens of area restaurants with their produce, including Husk, Fig, McCrady's, Wild Olive and Royal Tern.

"It's neat to see the high-end restaurants be receptive and appreciative of what you do," said Billy.

Blackbird Market also buys and sells produce from other growers. The market began when the Haynes were looking for a place to sell all of the leftover vegetables that they grew. Soon after, they added seafood, and continue to bring new offerings to their customers. Blackbird Market now has a full, made-from-scratch kitchen, with a menu that changes daily. "It's good to be part of the community and employ teens who go to school here, with families from all different backgrounds," said Billy.

Farming was not in their family's history, but it is now, says Delana. Billy & Delana also have culinary backgrounds. Delana teaches culinary arts for online schools, and is very passionate about it. They train all of their employees to work in the kitchen, and get them to help out on the farm from time to time.

"We make everything in house, from the ranch dressing to the take-out meals. Everything you see here (with few exceptions) was made in our own kitchen," said Billy. They also carry local products, including Wadmalaw Soaps, Botany Bay Salts, Geechie Boy Grits, Lowcountry Olive Oil, and Burnt 'n Salty sauces.

Keeping up with demand is their biggest challenge. When asked about their most popular items, the two agreed: "Tomato pie and chicken pot pie."

Billy and Delana feel that Blackbird has been an enormous success for them and their family. They know it would not have been possible without the support from their Wadmalaw friends.



Fresh produce at Blackbird

Blackbird Market was hiring at the time of this writing. Check their Facebook page or pop in to inquire about joining their team.

## CHARLESTON EXHIBIT FEATURES LOCAL WADMALAW ARTIST

The College of Charleston Libraries Special Collections is hosting a new free exhibit, *Remembered Voices: Women in Literature*, created by local Wadmalaw artist Bette Mueller-Roemer.

On view in the Marlene and Nathan Addlestone Library, the exhibit is composed of twelve porcelain sculptures, each representing a female literary character - from Sophocles' Antigone to Lewis Carroll's Alice. A small book accompanies each sculpture, identifying characters by name and featuring a quotation and source.

~ *The exhibit is free and open to the public.* ~

**WHEN:** Through June 14, 2019  
Monday - Friday, 9am-5pm

**WHERE:** Marlene and Nathan Addlestone Library  
Special Collections  
205 Calhoun St., Charleston, SC 29401

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## WHAT CAN I RECYCLE?

The Charleston County Convenience Center on Liberia Road makes it easy for Wadmalaw residents to support recycling efforts. By simply keeping two trash bins at home, one for garbage and one for recyclables, each island household can help make a real contribution to protecting our environment.



### TOP TEN recyclable items are:



1. Cardboard
2. Paper
3. Food Boxes
4. Mail
5. Beverage Cans
6. Food Cans
7. Glass Bottles
8. Jars (glass and plastic)
9. Jugs
10. Plastic Bottles and Caps

## WRITERS WANTED

Would you like to write for *Wadmalaw*? Do you have a topic you would like to see in a future issue? If so, please contact us at [wadmalawnews@gmail.com](mailto:wadmalawnews@gmail.com) or write to us at *Wadmalaw*, Box 3, Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487

### EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE OF WADMALAW ARE:

Tori Bolt	April Long	Kevin Richbourg
Barbara Dotterer	Stuart McDaniel	John Shannon
Andrea Freiwald	Huger Sinkler	Robert Siedell



# JOHNS ISLAND LIBRARY PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

## Chef Kevin Mitchell Presents "Black Hands to White Mouths" Saturday, May 11 at 2:00 p.m.:

Chef Kevin Mitchell will discuss his research of Charleston's African-American cooks. "From Black Hands to White Mouths: Charleston's Freed and Enslaved Cooks and their Influence on the Food of the South" is a historical work that discusses the vital role that black cooks and African foodways had in shaping the culinary heritage of Charleston and the nation. Chef Mitchell will provide small samples of a historical dish, and all participants are invited to tour the library's garden to view Gullah Geechee vegetables.

## "Combee": Freedom-Seekers of the Combahee River Raid Saturday, May 18 at 2:00 p.m.:

Join historian Dr. Edda Fields-Black and learn more about this important and little-known chapter of Gullah Geechee and American history. Over 750 enslaved men, women and children were freed on one day in June 1863 from the plantations that lined South Carolina's Combahee River. Dr. Edda Fields-Black is an associate history professor at Carnegie-Mellon University, and a specialist on the migration of West African rice farmers to the South Carolina and Georgia Lowcountry.

## John's Island Library's Leaves & Letter Garden Dedication for Families Saturday, June 8 at 2:00 p.m.:

Help make stepping stones to create a garden path while enjoying the birds, bees and flowers in the new library garden. Special thanks to the following: Kiawah Cares, Magnolia Garden Club of John's Island, Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission, Wild Birds Unlimited, Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History, and the Charleston Friends of the Library.

### JOHN'S ISLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY

3531 Maybank Highway, John's Island, SC 29455  
(843) 559-1945 • [www.ccpl.org](http://www.ccpl.org)



## REAL ESTATE SALES (JANUARY 11 - APRIL 4, 2019)

Vacant Land	Acres	Date Sold	Price
0 Rockefeller Road	9.5	1/28/2019	\$212,500
34 Anchor Watch	3.0	2/14/2019	\$ 80,000
6024 Selkirk Plantation Rd.	3.1	2/14/2019	\$700,000
0a Bears Bluff Road	5.73	2/25/2019	\$140,000
30-B Pawlett Blake Road	7.15	3/01/2019	\$145,000
1984 Longcreek Road	3.56	3/15/2019	\$500,000
1656 Tacky Point Road	2.9	3/29/2019	\$ 25,000
0 Bears Bluff Road	3.7	4/02/2019	\$ 54,617
6025 Bears Bluff Road	4.9	4/02/2019	\$100,000
1909 Harts Bluff Road	2.0	4/03/2019	\$200,000

Residences	Acres	Date Sold	Price
1069 Harts Bluff Road	1.23	1/31/2019	\$458,200
5311 Peerless Point Road	1.11	1/31/2019	\$425,000
6112 Josie Ridge Road	6.06	2/05/2019	\$878,500
2451 Marina Road	0.73	2/26/2019	\$195,000
6364 Ranch Road	5.54	2/26/2019	\$580,000
6900 Maybank Highway	4.2	3/22/2019	\$415,000
4865 Maybank Highway	18.8	4/14/2019	\$580,000

## Wadmalaw ONLINE

Wadmalaw Isl. Land Planning Committee website:

[www.wilpc.org](http://www.wilpc.org)

Community Center Facebook:

Wadmalaw Island Community Center

WILPC Email address: [comments@wilpc.org](mailto:comments@wilpc.org)

Wadmalaw News: [wadmalawnews@gmail.com](mailto:wadmalawnews@gmail.com)

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# WADMALAW RESIDENT PROFILE

## CAPTAIN BEE

In the late 50's, a Martin P5M Seaplane roared up the Bohicket Creek two feet off the water, shaking both houses and windows. Captain Sanford Stiles Bee Jr., the pilot, just couldn't understand why his grandmother didn't come out into the yard and wave back at him as he passed. That's Captain Bee.

Sandy was born in Charleston and grew up on James Island, when the only paved road was the one to Folly Beach. His father was a truck farmer who also raised cattle. He paid Sandy 15 cents an hour to drive a tractor for him on the farm. There was no high school on James island, so at 15 years old, Sandy began driving the school bus into town to carry the other students (and himself) to school. He graduated from high school in 1949, and after graduating from Clemson in 1954, he joined the Coast Guard to become a pilot. Captain Bee flew old WW II planes all over the world, even flying to Newfoundland to monitor the course of icebergs in shipping lanes.



Sandy "Captain Bee"

In 1954, Sandy flew out of Elizabeth City to search for a sinking ship off the SC coast. He located the distressed vessel and sent a Coast Guard Cutter to rescue its crew. At the time, he remembers, there was only one house on Kiawah, and one house on Seabrook.

Sandy first met his wife, Rosie, at Camp St. Christopher on Seabrook Island. They have now been married for 65 years, and live in his grandmother's old house on Wadmaw. They have 4 children, 9 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

If you don't know Sandy, just look for a man driving a red pick-up, wearing a Coast Guard cap and a big friendly grin. That's Captain Bee.



Swampland on Liberia Road



Horses grazing along Maybank Highway

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## SWEETGRASS BASKETS

### Sweetgrass Basket-Weaving Lessons



Jennifaye Singleton teaches basket weaving at the WICC

Lessons are available at the Wadmalaw Island Community Center. Classes are led by Jennifaye Singleton, who performs with the widely known Plantation Singers. Classes are usually every other Tuesday, but Jennifaye says to check her Facebook page for listings: "Geechee Handmade Sweetgrass Baskets" (facebook.com/olivebaskets) People can also contact her at jennifayesingleton@yahoo.com. She offers private lessons, and teaches a course at Trident Technical College.

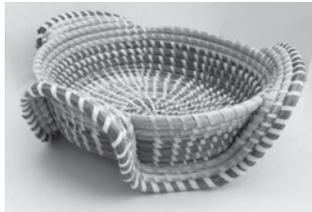
Jennifaye lives in Huger, but says Wadmalaw feels like home. She started basket weaving when she was 7 years old, under the guidance of her aunt. She encourages those who are new to the craft to be patient, as it is a skill that takes time.

"My first basket turned out looking like a bird's nest," said Singleton. "It took me several years of practice before I sold my first basket."

Baskets can take her anywhere from 8 hours to two weeks to complete, depending upon the size of the piece and the complexity of the pattern. They are made from four materials: bulrush, sweetgrass, palm and pine needles. One common misconception is that sweetgrass is marsh grass. It's a different material altogether, and grows in forests between pine trees.

Observers can tell by looking at a piece whether the person who made it was left- or right-handed. For left-handed weavers, the pattern goes to the right, and vice versa.

Jennifaye has been making sweetgrass baskets for nearly thirty years. When asked about her favorite part of teaching basket-weaving lessons, Jennifaye said, "I get to be an artist, a teacher, and a comedian all at one time." She also uses this opportunity to teach others about the Gullah-Geechee culture and share the history of her ancestors.



You too can learn to create baskets like this!

"In many ways, Wadmalaw is the same as it was before," she said. "I'm glad to see how passionate people are about protecting the land, and the efforts to preserve the Gullah-Geechee heritage."

## JOHNSON BABY GRAND



Located on Maybank Highway, Wadmalaw, is "Johnson Baby Grand", an island landmark since 1957! It is a place where people come to express love for one another!

Richard Johnson opened the doors of this famous gathering place where he and his wife Margaret greeted, worked, and served many of the local residents. According to their daughter, Claudia, her father was a loving and caring individual and great role model for many young men in the community. Richard died at the early age of 42 from an aneurism in 1971, at which time Margaret and her daughter Ruby took over the business. After Margaret's death in 2009 "The Baby Grand" remained in the family with son Richard (Junie) Johnson and daughter Claudia Johnson Wilson. They have been running the club for the past ten years!

This recreation venue is opened six days a week and in addition to being a social club, it is often used for birthday parties for all ages, special events and wedding receptions. Back in the day, "Johnson Baby Grand" hosted Edith Frierson graduation celebrations for all families!

Now in its 62nd year, "Johnson Baby Grand" is going strong, and everyone is welcome!!



Left to right top: Richard Johnson, Margaret Johnson,  
Left to right bottom: Claudia Johnson Wilson and Junie Johnson.

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# WILPC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## 1ST QUARTER 2019

### JANUARY:

**Zoning** – Mining operation and Mitigation Bank issues are still in process. No new information.

**Education** – Volunteers are needed at St. John's High School. Efforts are ongoing to increase test scores.

### FEBRUARY:

**Zoning** – Two plats were submitted that met all requirements. Mining operation has decreased the size of their operation to 30 acres.

Letters were sent to DHEC and Charleston County Planning and Zoning opposing this operation.

**Fire Department** – A total of 201 callouts in January: Johns Island – 125, Wadmalaw – 22, Kiawah – 32, Seabrook – 22. Sixty smoke detectors were installed for residents.

**Education** – Volunteers are still needed at St. John's High School. The state may intervene next year due to low academic performance.

**SPEAKERS** – John Rhoden from Habitat for Humanity announced that in addition to building new homes, they now do repairs. Currently they have 2 acres on Katy Hill Road for new homes, and are looking for more.

The property owners of part of Katy Hill Road said that access to the dirt part may be limited while they make improvements. The county no longer maintains that road.

Tori Bolt informed the community that 4 "treehouses" have been built on their property with the intent of renting them short term. Recently amended laws governing Short Term Rentals will now require a Planned Development to operate this business. She has asked for the support of the WILPC. We expressed our concerns for setting an unwanted precedent on the island, but her request will be considered.

### MARCH:

**Zoning** – A BZA request for adjustments to setback requirements for a property was requested. Neighbors are opposed to this and have asked for WILPC support. Upon review, WILPC sent a letter of opposition to the BZA. The request has been deferred until April 1.

OCRM has scheduled a public hearing on March 26th at Edisto Town Hall regarding a proposed oyster farm.

**Old Business** - Mike Regan summarized the Bolt Farm Tree House PD zoning request, and stated some of the negative effects that this will have on our community.

**SPEAKERS** – Tori Bolt presented her request for support from the WILPC for her PD request. Questions were fielded from the Committee and the audience. Attendees were invited to comment and express their views. Comments were also received by Coastal Conservation League and Lowcountry Land Trust.

In conclusion, a motion was passed to oppose the PD request.

## BLUEBERRY PICKING



*Berry picking site off Maybank near Rockville*

Less than a mile before getting to Rockville, when the curve in the road starts to straighten again, is a quiet venue of summertime sweetness. On the left side of Maybank Highway, tucked back in the trees, are several rows of blueberry bushes. A small shed keeps the cash box and berry buckets. No people are in sight, except maybe other customers. Pick what you want, and leave the money in the blue box. Cash or check, it uses the honor system.

Another more well-known berry patch sits off of Liberia Road at Ambrose Farms. Take a left at the "South Carolina Grown" sign, stop at the shed and get a bucket and directions to the berry patch. Hats, boots and bug spray are recommended to wander between the numerous rows of blueberries. In a good year, blackberries are also available for a few weeks each summer in another area of the farm. Take your treasures back to the shed to be weighed, and pay before leaving. They even take a credit card.

Look for berry picking near the end of June and into July. The season is short and sweet. Don't miss it!



*Working windmill on Wadmalaw*



# WADMALAW NEWS

P. O. Box 3

Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487

Email: wadmalawnews@gmail.com



**Do you know someone who throws trash on Wadmalaw roads?  
Please help us **KEEP WADMALAW BEAUTIFUL.****

## REMEMBERING WADMALAW HISTORY ....

### *Bugby's Beginnings*



It's a small sign, but a significant one in Wadmalaw's history. After crossing the bridge onto Wadmalaw Island, it says "Bugby Plantation Road". Over the past 300 years, it's garnered quite a list of names associated with it: Wilson Bugby, Bugby's, Bugby's Hole, and Bugby Plantation. From the earliest records, an English family acquired some 1800 acres of land near that area on Wad-Wadmelmaw, or Wadmelmaw, or Wadmalaw. Even the name of the Island is in question, which presents some difficulty in following its history.

This tale points to bridges from Wadmalaw to John's Island, royalty ties to property here, and hidden taverns and ships headed to Antigua. This story only scratches the surface of the old "Bugby" tract and goes until the Revolutionary War. The history of the known land tract is rich, and dates back to at least 1705 when Henry Walker was deeded 400 acres. In 1721, Samuel Jones purchased 200 of these acres for about 300 pounds

(\$65,000 in today's currency). Samuel also purchased 300 acres from Cap't Arthur Hall. Until this point, there is no record of "Bugby's Hole", Cap't Arthur Hall's 370-acre plot on Wadmalaw. Granted in 1711, this was the first reference to the name "Bugby's Hole". In addition to the 300 acres from Mr. Hall, Samuel purchased 200 acres from Peter Lasade. In 1723, Samuel purchased a final 150 acres from James and Ann Young. Due to a fire, much of Samuel's documents were lost, including his will and deeds.

The story picked up again in 1759 when Ann Jones, wife of merchant John Jones, relinquished her dower's rights to James Carson for 3 tracts of land on Wadmalaw Island, called "Bugby's". This area totaled 850 acres, which is the exact amount Mr. Jones acquired over the years. Related to this story, Arthur Hall's property comprised much more than the 300 acres sold to Samuel Jones. In fact, Arthur left 600 acres to his daughter Martha. In 1743, Martha and her husband James Michie sold "Bugby's Hole" to William Chambers, a "tailor-turned-planter" on Wadmalaw. The land was used to grow rice, indigo, corn or cotton.

Several hundred acres of land relating to Bugby are in dispute due to misappropriated deeds or lost records. History and intrigue run deep on this land after the bridge, between the Bohicket and Wadmalaw Rivers now called "Bugby Plantation."