



# WADMALAW

Newsletter - Issue 17

Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful

May 2020

## WADMALAW ISLAND LAND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Environment/Public Works

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**Grace Johnson**  
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Zoning/Subdivision

**Melinda L. Kelley**  
Zoning/Subdivision

**Leroy Linen**  
**Bertha Middleton**  
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## KEEP WADMALAW BEAUTIFUL

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Secretary

**Fred Holland**  
Treasurer

## NEW WILPC MEMBERS HAVE DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS BUT SHARE COMMON VALUES

Without the Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee (WILPC) the island would not be what it is today: rural, tranquil, and naturally beautiful. The Committee was established in 1988 following the adoption of a comprehensive land use and zoning plan by the Charleston County Council in February of that year. The WILPC has met monthly (except in August) at the Community Center on Katy Hill Road. Its mission is "to endeavor to represent the varied interests on the island while protecting its diverse cultures and natural beauty for generations."

WILPC members are all volunteers and serve fixed terms. Every year, some retire and are replaced. This year, Greg Cushing, Grace Johnson, Jennie Scott Rivers, Kathie S. Jordan, Leroy Linen, Melinda L. Kelley, Sheila Middleton and Tomas Hainich joined the committee.

Thomas Hainich is CEO of his own company. What he likes most about Wadmalaw? "The enchanted landscape and the community living here."

Grace Johnson is a library generalist with the Charleston County Public Library. She is most fond of "the peacefulness and the natural beauty of the Island. There aren't many places where you can call home and plan out your future."

An electrician by trade, Greg Cushing praises "the quiet and also being close to nature."

Leroy Linen is a retired Summary Court Judge and lifelong resident of Wadmalaw. He cherishes the pristine nature of the island.

Melinda L. Kelley is a lawyer who also teaches part-time in the urban studies department at the College of Charleston. She states: "My husband and I love being on this peaceful, rural island. We do some farming, and are on the water when we can. This island of ours has so much beauty!"

Jennie Rivers Scott is office manager for Integral Medical Staffing. She likes Wadmalaw for "the history and the quietness."

*...continued on pg. 2*



*NO PLACE BETTER. The COVID-19 Pandemic has adversely impacted everyone in the country. With the 'stay at home' directive, island residents once again have recognized how fortunate we are to call Wadmalaw 'home' during this crisis.*

## EDITH FRIERSON OPENS NEW LIBRARY



*The new wall mural in the Frierson Library.*

Edith L. Frierson Elementary celebrated the grand opening of their renovated library on January 22 with a lovely presentation, tour, and breakfast for the community. The entire event started with a morning news show put on by the students of Frierson, welcoming all in attendance. After a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the community was invited into the library space to enjoy a short program. Principal Dr. Deborah Davis-Cummings and the Frierson staff honored a number of prominent people who have helped to make the new library possible. Included in the accolades were Rev. Dr. Eric Mack, Gladys James, Christine James, and Claudia Boyce, as well as members of Kiawah Cares, the School Improvement Committee, and the Parent Teacher Association. Following the presentation, the school offered those in attendance a delicious breakfast, with time for community discussion or a tour of the school with Frierson teachers and staff.

The library features many different learning spaces for students, including a media center, make and create areas, a puppet theater, a Lego Wall, and various read and retell spaces as well. One of the highlights of the

*...continued on pg. 2*

## 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  
Services at 10:00 AM

### 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.

## EDITH FRIERSON OPENS NEW LIBRARY

(...continued from front cover)

program was the revealing of the impressive mural that spans the length of one of the library's walls. It is a beautiful rendition of life on Wadmalaw, past and present, completed over many days of painting last summer by artist Claudia Boyce. The mural features Edith L. Frierson herself, a bastion for education as a teacher and principal at Frierson for 48 years. It truly is an impressive piece of art and space for learning that everyone on Wadmalaw can be proud of. Please take a moment to stop by and take a tour. The staff would be happy to show it off.



The mural depicts Edith Frierson, principal and teacher on Wadmalaw for 48 years.



During the Media Center Opening Ceremony, paintings of three former principals at Edith Frierson were displayed (left to right): Edith Frierson, Leonard Higgins and Ed McCain. Holding the paintings (left to right) are: Rev. Robert White, who is the artist for all three paintings; Dr. Deborah Davis-Cummings, the current school Principal; Mrs. Viola Mitchell, eacher Assistant with over 31 years of service; and Ms. Nicole Barnes, Frierson Secretary/Bookkeeper.

## PLACEMENT OF NEW WATER WELLS FOR WADMALAW FAMILIES CONTINUES TO ACCELERATE

Since January 1st of this year, an additional 30 residents on Wadmalaw have received new wells from the Water Wellness Mission, a non-profit organization focused on providing new wells to residents who do not have safe drinking water in their homes. In total, the non-profit has installed more than 150 wells on Wadmalaw Island for residents unable to afford a new one for their family.

As reported in the November 2019 issue of this newsletter, WaterWellness is a subsidiary of the Sea Islands Awareness Foundation. Each installed well costs \$6,500, and donations are needed to continue this incredibly important work to families in need. The organization is a 501(c)(3) entity and all donations are tax-deductible. Donations made be made online at [www.waterwellnessmission.org](http://www.waterwellnessmission.org) or by mailing a check to Sea Island Awareness Foundation, P.O. Box 268, Johns Island, SC 29457. Please indicate on the check that your donation is intended to support Water Wellness Mission's placement of wells on Wadmalaw.



Those interested to know if they qualify for a new well from Water Wellness Mission may call John Carpenter at (309) 648-8249 or email him at [jtcarpenter1313@gmail.com](mailto:jtcarpenter1313@gmail.com).

Left: Another Wadmalaw resident receives a new well from Water Wellness Mission.

## NEW WILPC MEMBERS HAVE DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS BUT SHARE COMMON VALUES

(...continued from front cover)

The most important issue facing Wadmalaw? They all agreed: "We need to preserve and protect our fragile nature, the rural character and the heritage of the island against ongoing attempts to turn Wadmalaw into business resources contrary to the heart and soul of our island. Also, we need to improve cleanliness of the roads on Wadmalaw and implement more sustainable repairs to the many potholes on the 'secondary roads'. "The overdevelopment of Charleston itself also affects the future of all the Sea Islands."

**WILPC meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month.**

**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:  
P.O. Box 3, Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487 or online at: [wadmalawnews@gmail.com](mailto:wadmalawnews@gmail.com)

## REMEMBERING WADMALAW HISTORY - *The 9 Mile Fork School*



*Wadmalaw has one of the few remaining Rosenwald school structures in the southern United States.*

When driving up and down Bears Bluff Road in the neighborhood of Truck Farm Road, pay attention to a beautiful white wooden building with extraordinarily tall windows on each side. It is a Rosenwald School, one of the 11 most endangered historic places in the United States. Between the years of 1917 and 1932, Booker T. Washington, of the Tuskegee Institute, and Julius Rosenwald, philanthropist and president of Sears Roebuck, built state-of-the-art schools for African-American children across the South. The effort has been called the most important initiative to advance black education in the early 20th century.

It began in 1915, when Rosenwald established a matching fund in his name to build schools that would forever change the rural Southern landscape. Nearly 500 buildings were constructed in South Carolina alone. They were a tangible statement of the equality of all children, and their programming made them a focal point of community identity and aspirations.

In the first half of the 20th century, over one-third of black children in the South passed through the doors of a Rosenwald school. Today, however, many of these schools have disappeared. In South Carolina, many became victims of neglect

and abandonment as a result of the School Equalization Program (or 3% sales tax), started in 1951 under Governor James Byrnes. He consolidated rural black schools by building modern structures in an effort to thwart integration before it became law.

In 1954, a Supreme Court ruling declared segregation in education unconstitutional, making Rosenwald schools obsolete. Once the pride of their communities, they were abandoned or demolished. Only 10-12% are estimated to survive today.

In 2002, the National Trust placed Rosenwald Schools on its list of 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. One of these schools still remains on Wadmalaw Island, at 4680 Bears Bluff Rd. It is known as the 9 Mile Fork School. The building was recently bought by Marshfields Investment, and will be used as a rental property.

## TREE PLANTING WORKSHOP CONDUCTED AT WICC

A workshop for Wadmalaw residents interested in learning the best way to plant trees was held in early March at the Wadmalaw Island Community Center (WICC). The event was sponsored by Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful (KWB).

The workshop was led by Wadmalaw resident Kelly Megeath, owner and operator of Garden Elegance, a local Charleston County landscape, garden design and maintenance company. To conclude the workshop, a live oak, graciously donated by Ms. Megeath, was planted in front of the Community Center.



*Kelly Megeath conducts the KWB workshop held at the WICC in March.*



*KWB Tree Planting workshop attendees standing by the tree planted at the WICC*

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## UPDATE ON WILPC ISSUE: BEARS BLUFF PROPOSED MINE

OPERATING PERMIT APPLICATION I-002231

Applicant: Perfect Island LLC TMS# 1970000094

The proposed Bears Bluff Mine remains under review with the SCDHEC Mining Division and the Bureau of Water. The proposed mine, located off of Bears Bluff Road, consists of a 285-acre site that is primarily comprised of forested wetlands, pine, and pine-mixed hardwoods. The application proposes 21.35 acres be dedicated to mining operations with a maximum depth of 15 feet for the two proposed pits. WILPC continues to monitor the situation and is supported by the South Carolina Environmental Law Project.

The comment period has been extended until 6/30/2020. Updated permit information can be found at the DHEC Public Notice Details Page, <https://apps.dhec.sc.gov/Environment/PublicNotices/SearchAndDisplay/Display/9657>



Swordfish being unloaded at Cherry Point dock



## REAL ESTATE SALES (JAN 21, 2020 - MAR 24, 2020)

Vacant Land	Acres	Date Sold	Price
42 Josie Ridge Road	5.0	2/13/2020	\$134,000
1770 Gilgrim Road	4.34	3/18/2020	\$ 82,000
6487 Maybank Highway	15.0	3/19/2020	\$235,000

  

Residences	Acres	Date Sold	Price
1624 Lonnie Taylor Lane	1.34	1/29/2020	\$ 547,500
2861 Anchor Watch Road	8.64	2/05/2020	\$1,215,000
2059 Bentz Road	2.2	2/06/2020	\$ 565,000
6960 Bears Bluff Road	6.0	2/28/2020	\$ 822,500
2660 Cherry Point Road	4.7	3/16/2020	\$ 572,500
4683 Lazy Creek Lane	23.97	3/24/2020	\$ 875,000

## 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)

## 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

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## WHAT'S THE BUZZ ABOUT? \_\_\_\_\_



The pollen is in full force this time of year, and it's also when honey bees really start to get to work. Hopefully, people are doing their part to encourage the honey bees in our area. As many people know, bees love flowers for their pollen and nectar, but they may not know that bees also love herbs: sage, basil, chives, and rosemary. They load up on pollen and carry it back to

their hives on their hind legs in what's called corbiculae, or "pollen baskets." They can carry up to half their body weight in pollen in a single trip. Honey bees are an essential pollinator for farmers and back-yard gardeners. Plants need to be pollinated to produce vegetables, fruit and flowers.

Not native to the United States, honey bees were introduced hundreds of years ago, and have since become critical pollinators for everything from avocados in California to blueberries in Maine. Backyard and commercial beekeepers swear that keeping bees increases yields for all of their plants and vegetables. As an added benefit, eating local honey can help curb the effects of seasonal allergies. Beekeeping is a great way to help the honey bee population and give flower and vegetable gardens a boost (not to mention a supply of delicious honey).

There are many online tools and resources available for those who are interested in beekeeping, as well as local clubs. In fact, the Charleston Area Beekeepers Association (CABA – charlestonbees.org) is one of the best in the nation. It encourages anyone from hobbyists to master beekeepers to get involved and share their experiences, ask



A welcome Wadmalaw 'neighbor' to all gardeners.

questions, and assist each other in their beekeeping journey. They sometimes set up informational booths at the local markets. Afraid of getting stung, or allergic to bee stings? There are people who will come and harvest the honey when it's time. They can even help find someone on the island (or nearby) to guide the beginner in getting started on their adventure with honey bees. Curious? Get involved and find out what the buzz is all about.

## KWB LITTER BRIGADE SEEING RAPID EXPANSION \_\_\_\_\_

Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful (KWB) continues to expand its presence and impact on Wadmalaw. In March, KWB launched another brigade of volunteers to cover the section of Maybank Highway from Liberia Road to Anchor Watch Road. This is the third new brigade team launched since the beginning of the year. With the addition of this brigade, there are now more than 85 Wadmalaw residents who are working together to keep our island roads beautiful by volunteering as a KWB brigade member.

Each brigade volunteer works just once a month for 1 - 1 ½ hours as part of an eight-person team responsible for a section of a Wadmalaw road. The impact on the appearance of Wadmalaw roads has been outstanding -- with major roads on the island now kept consistently more litter free than ever.

Over the next several months, three additional brigades will be formed to further enhance our island's appearance. Almost everyone can spare 1 ½ hours a month to improve our island. Besides the exercise, fresh air and a chance to meet other members of our community, volunteering as a brigade member is also a great way to give back to a place we all love.

For information, please contact any of the following KWB steering committee members: Robert Siedell at [rsiedell@gmail.com](mailto:rsiedell@gmail.com) Fred Holland at [redholland@bellsouth.net](mailto:redholland@bellsouth.net) or Stuart McDaniel at [mcdanielstuart@bellsouth.net](mailto:mcdanielstuart@bellsouth.net)



KWB Brigade volunteers are now a common sight along Wadmalaw roadways.

### Support our WADMALAW newsletter

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

### ADVERTISING IN THIS NEWSLETTER

**Advertise Your Business** in *Wadmalaw* and support our island newsletter. Business Rates \$25/issue or \$80 for 4 issues. **Personal Classified ads** are also available. Rates are \$10 for up to 25 words. **Contact our advertising coordinator at 314-703-2053**

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# WILPC MINUTES SUMMARY - 1st Quarter 2020

## JANUARY:

Officers were elected as follows: John Taylor, Jr., Chairman; Burrow Hill, Vice Chairman; and Grace Johnson, Secretary.

**Education:** Aaron White provided the following education updates: The CCSD proposed two significant changes to District 9 schools: a new elementary school on Johns Island, and ending the partial magnet program at Haut Gap Middle School. Edith L. Frierson Elementary has completed its upgrades to the library. The community was encouraged to visit the renovated library during their grand opening on January 22nd.

**Zoning:** Melinda Kelley and Kathie Jordan will be leading the Zoning Committee. Melinda highlighted that a Charleston County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) was currently scheduled for February 3, 2020 for the revocation of two zoning permits for the Bolt Farm Treehouse property. This appeal had nothing to do with the Planned Development that was withdrawn. Additionally, WILPC was to submit a letter to the County regarding this matter.

**Environmental:** Mike Regan stated that the proposed sand mine is still under review, and encouraged the community to keep sending in comments.

**Communication:** Updates were provided on the "Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful" initiative. The group would like to expand coverage from Liberia Rd. to Rockville.

**Guest Speaker - Betsy La Force of the Coastal Conservation League** addressed the community on the purpose of the BZA, advocacy steps, and speaking before the BZA regarding the upcoming hearing.

## FEBRUARY

**Zoning:** The BZA appeal date for the Bolt Farm was announced for February 24th at 4:00 p.m. Melinda Kelley highlighted that several documents and resources have been posted on the website regarding the hearing. There was also a hearing allowing the Bolts temporary usage (at their own risk) until the BZA meeting. Based on the short-term rental laws for the County, the Planning Director has authority

to revoke their permit when there have been violations. WILPC submitted a letter in support of the county ordinances.

**Environmental:** Mike Regan provided updates on the proposed mine operation. The public comment period was extended until March 31. The applicant initially had applied for 40 acres, with direct discharge into Leadenwah Creek. The state denied this, classifying the creek as an outstanding water source. The applicant submitted a "No Discharge" permit and changed the proposed mine to 20 acres, keeping all waters on site. This application was sent to the Bureau of Water, where it awaits review.

**Additional Updates:** A tree planting seminar is to take place at the Community Center on Saturday, March 7th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The committee discussed vehicles speeding near school bus stops, and further actions that could be taken. John Taylor, Jr. highlighted the tragic accident on Sunday, February 2nd and encouraged prayers for the families of persons involved. WILPC is extending an invitation to law enforcement to attend a future meeting to discuss safety issues on the island.

## MARCH

**Zoning:** Melinda Kelley provided updates on the BZA hearing. The BZA voted that the Bolt's short-term rentals were in violation, and that two other properties were rented without appropriate permits. Melinda noted there is a possibility of an appeal. Kathie Jordan recommended that should there be an appeal, WILPC should submit a position paper to the court. The WILPC voted in favor of this motion, and agreed to send an appropriate document.

**Environmental:** The deadline for the proposed mine has been extended to April, and comments are still being gathered from the public. WILPC encouraged the community to participate.

**From the floor:** WILPC recognized the op-ed piece from Betsy La Force in the Post & Courier that highlighted the community's efforts in influencing local decisions. John Taylor, Jr. also shared words of appreciation to the community for their attendance at the February hearing, in which the BZA chairman commended the Wadmalaw Community for their widespread and respectable representation.



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# JOHNS ISLAND COUNTY LIBRARY

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## Resources for Students and Online Learning:

**Tutor.com:** Free online live homework help and tutoring. Available until June 30, 2020.

- K-12 Student Center with Live Homework Help, Write Tutor Center, Test Prep Center, Skills Center Resource Library
- Real-Time Tutoring: 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Sunday - Saturday  
TumbleMath - Free mathematics help available until August 30, 2020.
- TumbleMath targets kindergarten through Grade 6
- Subjects include counting, addition, subtraction, multiplication, word problems, geometry, fractions, place value, measurement, probability, division, graphing, finance, and time and temperature  
Education Resources for Kids - A curated list from the library staff with links to resources that assist with online learning. New resources added weekly.

## Live Programs on Facebook:

- Library staff are providing live and pre-recorded virtual programs on their FaceBook page. There is story-time for kids, helpful videos, and even tai chi and yoga classes. More content added daily.

## Human Story Series:

- Formerly known as Human Library, this series features discussions with members of groups who have experienced prejudice and stigma: a refugee, transgender people, members of law enforcement, and members of the Gullah-Geechee community.

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*Island deer stand against a beautiful evening sky.*

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*Wadmalaw resident taking a break --  
and 'social distancing'!*



*Dogmalaw! Dogs on Wadmalaw are enjoying more time these days  
with their owners!*