



# WADMALAW

Newsletter - Issue 25

*Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful*

May 2022

## WADMALAW ISLAND LAND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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## WADMALAW ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

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Director

## KEEP WADMALAW BEAUTIFUL

**Robert Siedell**  
Chair  
**Stuart McDaniel**  
Vice-Chair  
**Bob Long**  
Secretary  
**Fred Holland**  
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## EYE ON THE ISLAND

In past *Wadmalaw* issues, we have outlined how conservation easements can protect the rural character of our island. Over 27% of Wadmalaw is now protected from development in this way. The Lowcountry Land Trust (LLT) can be a key partner in this process. For those considering an easement on their property, the experience of other residents who have taken this step can be helpful. So, for this column, we interviewed Steve Brantley, a property owner on Bears Bluff Road, who is working with the LLT to protect his property in the future.

Steve grew up on James Island and remembers Folly Road as a two-lane rural byway. He roamed Wadmalaw as a boy with his close friend Charles Davis whose relatives lived on the island and spent time camping at Ho Non Wah Camp as a Boy Scout. "Wadmalaw has been part of my whole life," Steve says, and his love for the island is clear. During a career as a pharmacist, a pharmaceutical salesman, and then 26 years in enforcement with the SC Department of Health (now DHEC), he was never away long from Wadmalaw, and has been a full-time resident since 1994.

In the early 70's Steve bought nine acres on Wadmalaw, and subsequently began buying adjacent properties. He now owns eight tracts off

*...continued on pg. 7*

## DO YOU MOW THE ROADSIDE IN FRONT OF YOUR PROPERTY?

If so, KWB would like to thank you! It makes the job much easier for volunteers who do weekly litter pick-ups on our roads. Grass often gets very high between the intervals that Charleston County crews mow. If grass on either side or across the road from your property is high, please consider mowing those areas as well. Research shows that regularly mowed roadsides deter litter. And, again, thank you for helping to *Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful.*



Seagulls enjoy late afternoon sun against a sky darkened by an approaching storm

## SECOND ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

The Wadmalaw Community Center was rocking to the music of DJ Michael ICE as 300 to 400 people attended the second annual "Chili Cook Off" on January 29. Over \$5,000 was raised for the benefit of the Community Center, and was organized by Wadmalaw Island resident Gregory Cushing Jr.

At least 20 contestants participated in the cook-off and thanks go out to all who participated. Auction items and prizes were donated by Angel Oak Cafe, Blackbird Market, Stono Market and various craftsmen and citizens. There were baskets of local coffee and honey, wooden bluebird houses, and candles. After tasting the chili, visitors could snack on delicious desserts and side dishes.

Outside, there were two food trucks. Korner Kitchen, from Hollywood, offered fried favorites and Mister Popper served up their famous Kettle Korn.

Eighteen people donated life-saving blood. The delays experienced by some donors will be remedied at next year's event.

Two trucks from the St. Johns fire district and their personnel shared important information on fire safety.

*...continued on pg. 6*

## 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. Shamond Riddy, Director  
of Visitation  
Services at 10:15 AM

### Rockville Presbyterian Church

2479 Sea Island Yacht Club Road  
Rev. Fred Hope, 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 Carolyn K. Heyward, Pastor  
Services at 11:00 AM on 2nd  
and 4th Sundays, 9:30 AM on  
1st and 3rd.

## VISIT THE BEARS BLUFF FISH HATCHERY

A visit to the Bears Bluff National Fish Hatchery at the end of Bears Bluff Road should be on every Wadmalaw Islander's to-do list. While formal tours of the hatchery have been suspended during the pandemic, this beautiful 31-acre property on the North Edisto remains open to the public, and offers a self-guided tour along the river's edge that is perfect for birdwatching or picnics. Informational kiosks talk about the hatchery and its work. The high bluff (after which the hatchery and road are named) offers some of the best views on the island.

One of 69 national hatcheries run by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bears Bluff is best known for its work developing captive breeding procedures for the endangered Atlantic sturgeon. This prehistoric-looking fish, which can reach up to 15 feet in length, was once plentiful along our coast, but was heavily exploited in the 1800's for caviar production. Once tours resume, visitors can see sturgeon ranging in size from about 5 inches all the way up to 7 feet in the round tanks inside the buildings. The fishery is also known for breeding American shad, a species whose roe has long been popular in regional cuisine.

Fishermen visiting Bears Bluff will be especially interested in the hatchery's project raising red drum (spottails). The two production ponds down by the point are used to grow them to fingerling size. The ponds are then drained to gather the fish, which are released into waterways around Wadmalaw to increase stocks of this popular game fish.

Oyster shell recycling is another ongoing project. After an oyster roast, residents are encouraged to bring shells to the facility, where they will be cured and packed into mesh bags to be placed in area waterways. Oyster spat will soon begin attaching to these shells and growing new oysters.

The hatchery's mission is more than just fish: various other conservation projects are undertaken as needs are identified. It is currently breeding endangered Carolina gopher frogs to return to the Francis Marion Forest. In two other greenhouses, researchers are propagating endangered South Carolina native plants, including the carnivorous Venus Flytrap.

There is a catfish fishing contest for children each spring, and hatchery workers sometimes ask for help in bagging oyster shells. Keep up with the latest happenings through the Bears Bluff website, <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/bears-bluff/>. Operating hours are 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- May 7th:** May Day Carnival: 10AM – 4PM  
New Bethlehem Baptist Church  
1945 Liberia Road
- May 10th:** Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee Meeting: 7PM
- May 15th:** Cherry Point Litter Sweep @ 2PM
- May 19-21st:** Logan Wood Memorial Fishing Tournament
- May 21st:** Mead-ival Festival & Wadmalaw Makers Mart SC AG & Art Tour  
Deep Water Vineyard: 10AM - 5PM
- June 2nd:** Charleston County School District: Last Day of School
- June 4th & 5th:** Wadmalaw Makers Mart SC AG & Art Tour. Pluff Mudd Farm: 10AM - 4PM (4th) and 1 - 5 PM (5th)
- June 14th:** Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee Meeting: 7PM
- July 10th:** Cherry Point Litter Sweep: 2PM
- July 12th:** Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee Meeting: 7PM
- Aug 6th & 7th:** Rockville Regatta
- August 17th:** Charleston County School District: First Day of School
- August 27th:** Grape Stomp Festival  
Deep Water Vineyard: 10AM - 5PM

In order to keep the community informed of events on the island, we are proud to continue our community calendar. Our next calendar will cover August thru November, so please send any public events that you would like to include to [ScottGilmore@gmail.com](mailto:ScottGilmore@gmail.com)



**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)

## STEP UP VOLUNTEERS

There are three long-standing Wadmalaw sons who have stepped up in unique ways to help keep Wadmalaw beautiful. All of them hail from the Bears Bluff side of the island, and each has a message for their Wadmalaw neighbors and friends.

Bernard Frazier has lived in the Harts Bluff area for 37 years. After seeing the positive work that KWB brigades were doing, he saw a need to have the new Wadmalaw sign area maintained. He diligently weed-whacks and applies pine straw around the sign to give back to this island he loves. Bernard's favorite thing about living on Wadmalaw is its unrefined beauty. He says, "The environment is so relaxing, you can't beat the peace and quiet here." When asked what he would say to would-be litterers of the island, he spoke directly about respect and care. "It is important to work together to keep this place beautiful," he states.

Mike Murray also grew up running around the Harts Bluff area. He now owns property at the corner of Bears Bluff and Liberia, and takes pride in maintaining his tidy corner of the island. He recognized that when he bought his property, there was a need for upkeep that had been overlooked. It was resulting in a dangerous intersection that people would just blow through. In the spirit of personal pride and safety, he took on the task of beautifying the corner, keeping it well-trimmed and picking up litter. Mike's message to those coming onto the island with trash is, "Please do a better job of keeping the litter in your vehicle. Half of the litter I see is cigarette butts, food containers, and beer bottles; the other half is things blowing out of trailers on the way to the convenience center. If people would secure their trash, it would help a lot." Mike encourages everyone to help out in some way, whether it's volunteering on the KWB or just keeping your own property clean. It only takes an hour or two a week to make a huge difference.

Ted Erskine is also a multi-decade Wadmalaw resident. Long before the KWB was formalized, Ted and his wife Linda would walk Yellow House Road and pick up litter. Ted noticed a lot of trash around the bridge where folks were fishing and so his son Scott decided to put waste containers on either side of the bridge. Ted and his family maintain these containers faithfully. Ted says he loves the peace and quiet of Wadmalaw, and his message to all of his Wadmalaw neighbors is, "Of course we'd love it if everyone would stop littering, but we also wish everyone would participate in keeping our island beautiful. Not only does it take dedicated people, it truly does take a village, where everyone interacts with the environment to keep Wadmalaw beautiful."



Bernard Frazier ensuring that our Wadmalaw welcome" looks good.



Mike Murray maintains the Bears Bluff/Liberia Road intersection.

## CIGARETTE BUTTS ARE FOREVER

Carelessly discarded cigarette filters are the most common form of litter collected worldwide in organized litter sweeps. Here in South Carolina alone, over 320,000 cigarette butts have been found on beaches, boat landings, creeks, and river banks over the last five years. And those numbers only reflect the small percentage of cigarette filters that have been collected and counted! Countless others remain to find their way into our coastal soil and waterways.

Smokers may not realize that when cigarette butts wash out to sea, seabirds, sea turtles, and fish mistake them for food. These filters fill the digestive tracts of marine animals, making them unable to digest real food. Worse, when cigarette filters break down, they are still around, but in a different form. Cigarette filters contain over 165 chemicals, most of them toxic to all living creatures, and deadly to marine life. These toxins leach into the sand, the water, and the bodies of anything that swallows them, and every filter matters. In one laboratory study, a cigarette butt in a liter of water killed half of the fish that were swimming in it.

Our planet is a closed system, and nothing is "thrown away," because there is no "away." Improperly discarded cigarette filters are toxic pollutants, with us forever. If you smoke on or near boat landings, beaches, or waterways, please dispose of your cigarette butts in a proper receptacle, and help to keep them out of our waterways and our oceans. Mother Nature will thank you!



## WHICH KWB BRIGADE ARE YOU ON?

By volunteering just 1.5 hours a month, you can make a significant contribution to the quality of life for everyone on Wadmalaw.

Join a Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful Litter Brigade near your home today!

Call or text 843-566-5702 to volunteer

## MEET KWB BRIGADE VOLUNTEERS



Name: Graham and Maricia  
Bears Bluff Road - Brigade 19

Occupation: Software/Project Management

Years on Wadmalaw: 1 year

Why we're Brigade members:

"To help maintain the natural beauty of our island. No one wants to look at trash on the side of the road, so we wanted to do our part. And what's even better? We get to do it together."

Join over 140 residents from all over the island working together to keep our island litter-free. Email: KWB at [keepwadmalawbeautiful@gmail.com](mailto:keepwadmalawbeautiful@gmail.com) or call/text 843-566-5702 to volunteer

# WILPC 1ST QUARTER 2022 MEETING MINUTES

## JANUARY 11, 2022

**Communication:** Newsletter - Community calendar included in the next issue of the Newsletter. Any information or events to add to the calendar, contact Scott Gilmore. (scottgilmore@gmail.com)

**Environmental & Public Works:** Tree Trimming: DOT was contacted about specific areas. There has been very little response. Continued community contact is urged.

**Zoning:** No plats were submitted this month from Charleston County. Point Farm Mitigation Bank: no update on area permit applications.

**Education:** The Coastal Community Foundation (CCF) has proposed a public/private partnership with the Charleston County School District. Johns Island and Wadmalaw schools would be affected. A CCSD Board vote on January 10th was postponed. Assistant Principal of St. Johns High School opposes this partnership.

**Public Comments:** Sheriff's Office Report: the community is encouraged to contact the non-emergency line (843) 743-7200 about any suspicious activity on the island. Chili Cookoff will be January 29th, noon-4:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Contact Gregory Cushing to participate. The entry cost will be \$5/person. The Blood Connection will conduct a blood drive. Log/Wood is available from Lewis Hay. Contact Mr. Hay if you are interested in logs/firewood.

**Litter/Clean-up Brigades:** Many thanks to the volunteers of Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful

**Donations "in the hat" for Wadmalaw Island Community Center: \$91**

## FEBRUARY 8, 2022

**Communication:** The Land Planning Committee Facebook page has seen an increase in members, as has the Wadmalaw Proud Page. Let Scott Gilmore know of any events for the May newsletter (scottgilmore@gmail.com).

**Community Center:** A COVID-19 Rapid Self-Test giveaway was held at the community center Saturday, February 19th.

**Public Works:** Some tree trimming of low hanging branches. Greg Cushing will be in touch with Lewis Hay about addresses and DOT contact info.

**Education:** Frierson Elementary School is asking for monetary or plant donations for their teaching garden.

**Zoning:** Point Farm Mitigation Bank Update: no decision yet on the ORCM Critical Area Permit Request. The BZA will consider the requested variance at their April 4th meeting. Bears Bluff Sand Mine application: Public Comment period is still open. A Motion to combine the Zoning & Land Use and Environmental subcommittees was approved.

**Crime Report:** Sheriff's Report from Sgt. Powell: 16 EMS Assists, 12 Collisions, 2 Fallen Trees. 67 Patrol Requests.

**Other Comments:** A suggestion from an Island neighbor that Charleston County construct a convenience center on Johns Island.

**Donations "in the hat": \$42**

## MARCH 8, 2022

The Mission Statement and WILPC History were read by Terry Reed.

**Zoning & Environmental:** March 7th BZA Meeting: a variance request in Longcreek was supported by their HOA and approved by the BZA. Point Farm Mitigation Bank: the OCRM Critical Area permit was approved by SC DHEC- OCRM, allowing the destruction of berms and conversion of fresh water areas to saltwater marsh, in order to sell "mitigation credits" for developers' disturbance of the marsh in other areas. The Corps of Engineers will be finalizing their approval for the Mitigation Bank application from provisional approval to permanent approval. There is discussion about possible appeals, primarily due to the legal ownership question. The Point Farm investors and the American Mitigation Co. have submitted two variance requests asking to encroach into the County's OCRM buffer and a request to remove a grand tree. The BZA meeting will be 4:00 p.m. April 4th. One plat was submitted by the County, for a boundary survey of property on Maybank Highway.

**Polly Point:** a permit application was submitted for a pond; the owners will also be planting long-needle pines.

**Communication:** Facebook Groups: The WILPC Facebook group is up to 698, a 3% increase from last month.

The Wadmalaw Proud Facebook Group is up to 220, a 2% increase from last month. Send programs and events to Scott Gilmore to be included in the newsletter for May. Send photos, stories, or information about Wadmalaw to Scott Gilmore for the Wadmalaw Proud Facebook Group. (scottgilmore@gmail.com)

**Education:** Frierson Elementary School is accepting donations for their garden and a silent auction. Money, plants, and seeds are accepted. Take donations to the front office.

**Other Notes:**

Sheriff's Report: 1 abandoned, disabled & vandalized vehicle at Bears Bluff & Hart's Bluff intersection; 1 Check stolen and cashed fraudulently at Liberia; 1 Residence was vandalized at Bears Bluff; Medicine Stolen on Bentz Rd.; 1 Front door was kicked in, nothing stolen at Roosevelt Rd.

**Donations "in the hat" for the Community Center: \$83**

## ARTISANS DISPLAY THEIR WORKS AT WADMALAW POP UP SHOP APRIL 2 AT BOHICKET FARMS!



A little bluegrass music livens up the day.



Murry Thompson and his daughter, Carrie Racanelli, display their cutting boards, made from a mature pecan tree located on their Wadmalaw property.



Sharon, Nevaeh and Sherman Mack have fun working together selling his art!

## LOGAN'S LEGACY

The Inaugural Logan Wood Memorial Fishing Tournament will be held on Saturday, May 21st, which would have been Logan's 19th birthday. Logan, an experienced boater, fisherman and hunter, died in a tragic accident while on the water this past winter. All proceeds will go to the Because Logan Wood Foundation, established in his memory to promote responsible stewardship, boating education, safety and training to keep families and waterways safe.

A registration fee of \$75.00 will include a sponsored bucket, tee shirt, kill switch and vendor swag. A kill switch is a safety device that stops the boat engine if the boater happens to go overboard. The tournament includes inshore and offshore categories for trout, redfish, flounder, sheepshead, wahoo and dolphin. There will be prizes in each fish category, with youth and lady angler awards as well.

The Captain's Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Tradesman Brewery, 1674 King Street Extension in Charleston. The rules of the event will be read at 6:30 p.m. There will be food trucks, music and raffles.

The tournament will be held rain or shine, with the weigh-in at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday at the Red Roof Inn (a private residence), 2414 Rockland Avenue in Rockville. There will be BBQ and live music. BYOB.

### More information can be found on the following sites:

[www.becauseloganwood.com](http://www.becauseloganwood.com) Facebook: Because Logan Wood  
Instagram: BecauseLoganWood

Let's celebrate Logan by keeping ourselves and our loved ones safe while out on the water. Because Logan Wood.

## JOHNS ISLAND LIBRARY CALENDAR MAY 2022

**Baby Storytime:** 10:00 a.m. Mondays, May 2, 9, 16, 23

**Toddler Storytime:** 10:00 a.m. Tuesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24

**Preschool Storytime:** 10:00 a.m. Thursdays, May 5, 12, 19, 26

**Knit & Purl:** Monday, May 9 & 23 @ 3:00-5:00 p.m.

A casual knitting group.

**Coffee and Conversation:** Wednesday, May 11@10:30-11:30 a.m.  
(Seniors)

**STEAM Club:** Wednesday, May 11 & 25@3:00 p.m. (Kids and Families) Get tickets at Children's Desk.

**20 Tips for your Android Phone:** Thursday, May 1@ 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
(Adults) Call 843-805-6885 to register.

...Continued on back cover



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## Resident Profile:

### MEET MASTER SERGEANT

### STEPHEN SLAN AND FAMILY

When Stephen Slan was nine years old, he moved with his family from Wadmalaw Island to Kansas City, Missouri. Because of his unusual and unfamiliar Gullah accent, he was bullied a lot and got into fights almost every day. His high passion and character prevailed, however, and he eventually joined the Marine Corps. He retired at the level of Master Sergeant after twenty-seven years of service.

After raising their four children at Camp Lejeune, Camp Pendleton and Okinawa, Stephen and his wife Melanie returned to the family property on Boy Scout Road in 2004. For the past fifteen years, Stephen has been an independent trucker, always happy to be returning south and crossing the Esau Jenkins Memorial Bridge. Melanie has worn many hats. She was a librarian at both the College of Charleston and Johns Island Library. For the past thirteen years, she has been associated with MUSC Hollings Cancer Center as a community outreach health educator and breast cancer navigator.

Stephen's mother, Alice Singleton Slan, is very proud to call Wadmalaw home. Her roots run deep, and her family has been here for many generations. Alice taught Science in schools throughout the country, influenced by her education which started at Rockville Elementary. His father, James Slan, was originally from Mississippi. He also loves Wadmalaw, and was general manager at the tea farm (before the Bigelows) after retiring as a Flight Engineer with the Air Force for twenty years.

The Slan's role in educating young people and showing leadership in our community sets a good example to follow. We are grateful to this wonderful family and thankful for their service to our country.



Melanie, Stephen and Alice Slan hold picture of Staff Sergeant James Slan.

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## BLESSING BOXES

TAKE WHAT YOU NEED AND LEAVE WHAT YOU CAN is the motto of the "Lowcountry Blessing Box Project".

There are currently 2 Blessing Boxes on Wadmalaw. The first one was built at the Community Center on Katy Hill Road. Tyrone Mitchell recently built a bigger one at this site, and it is much appreciated. Many thanks go out to Dianne Cushing and family for building and setting the new Blessing Box at Porter Middleton's Old Store in Rockville. Kudos to "Brian Davey Signs" for donating the nice signs at both locations.

The community has done a wonderful job of stocking these boxes. Please be sure to leave non-perishable goods such as canned items. Food in boxes or bags must be placed in plastic zip-loc bags, as ants have a way of getting into the food.

You can find a list of all Blessing Boxes in the Charleston Area @ <https://www.chsblessingbox.org/who-we-are>



Blessing Box at Wadmalaw Island Community Center (WICC)



Blessing Box on Maybank Highway

## SECOND ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

*...continued from front cover*

Who doesn't like to get up close and personal with a fireman and his truck?

Look for the third annual "Chili Cook-Off" next year, and be prepared to cook, donate blood, create items for the auction or simply attend. Come out and enjoy the day while supporting the Community Center and talking with friends and neighbors. Always a good time!



Pam Skinner and Allie Frazier were on hand for the chili judging.



Judge Leroy Linen, Bertha Smalls-Middleton and Debra Commodore enjoying the Cook-off.

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## REAL ESTATE SALES

(JAN 8, 2022 - APR 6, 2022)

Residences	Acres	Date Sold	Price
2439 Marina Road	0.36	1/25/22	\$385,000
2191 Bird Nest Road	1.0	2/18/22	\$240,000
5524 Katy Hill Road	1.0	3/01/22	\$515,000
5435 John Mack Lane	41.3	3/03/22	\$1,335,000
6148 Josie Ridge Lane	7.89	3/18/22	\$2,050,000
4680 Bears Bluff Road	1.92	3/28/22	\$530,000
1310 Martins Point Road	12.6	3/29/22	\$1,450,000
6080 Josie Ridge Lane	6.1	3/25/22	\$2,260,000
Vacant Land	Acres	Date Sold	Price
1644 Lonnie Taylor Lane	1.10	01/11/22	\$82,500
0 Tacky Point Road	2.8	1/11/22	\$68,000
0 Black Pond Lane	91.34	1/25/22	\$1,200,000
1166 Harts Bluff	4.91	2/4/22	\$215,000
1308 Polly Point Road	3.0	2/11/22	\$395,000
1830 Longcreek Road	15	2/18/22	\$350,000
0 Pawlett Blake Lane	15.6	2/22/22	\$300,000
0 Josie Ridge Road	12.54	2/23/22	\$338,000
2688 Cherry Point Road	10.0	2/28/22	\$269,000
2220 Chloe Love Lane	13.3	3/1/22	\$375,000
0 Delastree Road	8.47	3/9/22	\$360,000
7122 Lady Elizabeth Lane	6.83	3/15/22	\$350,000
0 Boy Scout Road	7.0	3/18/22	\$167,000
30-B Pawlett Blake Lane	7.1	3/18/22	\$225,000
2499 Anchor Watch Road	7.56	3/18/22	\$600,000
0 Allendale Plantation Road	145.24	3/24/22	\$2,000,000
4625 Lazy Creek Lane	5.53	4/6/22	\$287,500
6739 Maybank Highway	0.5	4/6/22	\$30,000

### Support our WADMALAW newsletter

We would like to thank the following individuals who have made generous donations to our newsletter since our last issue:

Rockville Woods POA	Cheryl and Tomas Hainich
John and Sally Muir	Artur Pacult
Fred and Fran Gunter	Tatiana Klimenko
John and Rani Murphy	Bryan and Elizabeth McKown

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

### Island Chiropractic Centre

Align your spine to protect the health of your discs

- Spinal decompression
- Class IV Laser Therapy

Dr. Anthony Ross  
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3546 Maybank Hwy.  
Johns Island  
CharlestonChiropractic.com

## EYE ON THE ISLAND

(continued from front cover)

Bears Bluff Road for a total of 76 acres. Over the last few years he began to think about how to preserve what his visiting friends called "the peace and quiet of this place." Steve said that he was vaguely aware of easements and the Lowcountry Land Trust (LLT), and decided to contact them in December of 2021. His first step was to consolidate all of his eight properties into one AG15 parcel, and received Charleston County's final approval for that in March 2022. He is now working with Lowcountry Land Trust on drawing up the conditions for his easement. Property owners may require specific conditions to be maintained as part of an easement. Steve is restricting the 76 acres to just one residence no larger than his current one, allowing for existing outbuildings, providing for the addition of a 2-stall horse barn and small caretaker quarters, and a provision to allow for the construction of a chapel on the property at some future date.

As with all Lowcountry Land Trust easements, having a property easement does not preclude the sale of the property in the future – which will allow Steve's heirs to sell if they wish. However, any buyer will have to abide by the terms of the easement – which will prevent more than one residence being built on his land in perpetuity. Steve says "keeping greenspace on Wadmalaw is extremely important" and is his primary objective. There are also tax benefits for property owners who place conservation easements, including adjustments to Federal tax gross income for up to 15 years as well as state tax credits.

Working with LLT, Steve anticipates that the conservation easement process will be concluded in the next six months. He says that he has only good things to say about the people he is working with at the Lowcountry Land Trust, who are "providing assistance every step of the way." He is also grateful for the help and support he has received from the Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee (WILPC) during the process.

Steve invites anyone interested in his experience in pursuing a conservation easement on their property to contact him at [stevebrantley@bellsouth.net](mailto:stevebrantley@bellsouth.net). Information can also be obtained by contacting the Lowcountry Land Trust at [lowcountrylandtrust.org](http://lowcountrylandtrust.org) or by calling their office at 843-577-6510.

## WADMALAW'S EARLY SETTLERS

Wadmalaw was first discovered by English mariners, and was claimed as an English colony when Captain Robert Sandford performed a Turf and Twig ceremony on June 22, 1666, at a location near the present-day Rockville. This happened before Europeans landed at Charles Town in 1670. Carolina was a proprietary colony granted by King Charles II to eight of his prominent supporters as a reward for their loyalty. These proprietors wanted to generate profits from their ownings, so they offered land to immigrants willing to settle on and improve the land. The proprietors also adopted a document in 1669 known as the Fundamental Constitution, which created a Carolinian nobility consisting of landgraves, who were granted patents of 48,000 acres, and cassiques, who were granted 24,000. Landgraves had some serious political rights, and some were more consequential and historically memorable.

The names of the first people to receive grants of land on Wadmalaw are listed in *Early Land Grants and Landowners on Wadmalaw Island*, by Jean E. Blackmon (Agneka History Publishing, 2007). Only eight copies of this book were published, but the Charleston County Public Library on Calhoun Street has one of them, as well as the author's files and notes. In it are detailed the 63 known grants that were made between 1695 and 1787, and the 75 families who became Wadmalaw landowners. Ms. Blackmon researched patents, wills and deeds to trace how parcels of land were inherited, acquired by marriage, sold or merged with others over the years. Among the families are those of Bailey, LaRoche, Stan-yame, Townsend and Whaley. Early patents for large grants are those to William Wells (700 acres in 1701), John Bailey (48,000 acres in 1698, of which 150 were on the island), Robert Seabrook (1,800 acres in 1699-1700), Joseph Morton (2,700 acres in 1700), and Paul Hamilton (1,060 acres in 1736). Another informative book is *A Place Called St. John's*, by Laylon Wayne Jordan and Elizabeth H. Stringfellow (Reprint Company Publishers, 1998). It focuses on Johns Island, but lists Wadmalaw property owners on page 235, including James Young (503 acres around 1692), William Nash and Bonham/Bonum Sams II (no acreage or year listed for either), and Capt. Benjamin Blake (1,090 acres in 1693).

Thanks go to Lish Thompson, SC Room Assistant Manager at the Charleston County Public Library (and Wadmalaw Island resident) for providing the author with much more information than could be included in this article.



**On March 25th, Edith L. Frierson Elementary School held their first ever silent auction to raise money for the PTA. The event was a great success with approximately 100 people in attendance to enjoy a great BBQ dinner and to bid on some fabulous auction items. Thanks to all those who participated, donated, and bid – it was a great evening for our elementary school!**

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### **LET'S MEET MORE OF OUR WADMALAW BUSINESSES...!**

#### **TLC Custom Woodworking, Craig Sovilla, Owner**



**About TLC Custom Woodworking:** I make custom farmhouse + rustic furniture, and home decor. I love to collaborate with customers to create their perfect home furnishings.

#### **Your Connection to Wadmalaw?**

I was born and raised on Charleston's sea islands. After serving in the United States Navy, I finally settled back in my hometown. I've lived on Wadmalaw for 1 year.

**Contact Info:** Calling or texting @ 843-789-9167 – or email: Craig@TLCCustomWoodworking.com Instagram: @tlc\_custom\_woodworking

**What do you love most about Wadmalaw?** I love the peace and tranquility that may be found in many places, but it is altogether unique here on Wadmalaw. It feels like coming home to paradise every day.

#### **Abbapoola Landscaping, LLC, Nicholas "Nic" Lane Meifert, Owner**



**About Abbapoola Landscaping:** We started our business in 2012, and offer all types of landscaping: routine maintenance, fertilizer, design, sod, irrigation, tree trimming, pavers and pressure washing. We provide services for small properties as well as large ones, including horse farms and commercial properties.

**Your Connection to Wadmalaw?** I grew up on Johns Island, and recently moved to Rockville, which for me is a dream come true. I have boated and fished out of Cherry Point since a young boy. My landscaping business is named after another one of my favorites - the Abbapoola Creek on Johns Island - where I enjoyed water skiing and wake boarding.

**Contact Info:** Call 843-437-4827 We can be found on Facebook under Abbapoola Landscaping.

**What do you love most about Wadmalaw?** The community spirit and the rural atmosphere.

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# HICKORIES - ONE OF THE WONDERFUL TREES OF WADMALAW

Its cousins get all the attention with beautiful furniture and great recipes, such as pecan pies and walnut brownies. Most hickories have nuts that are so bitter, wild animals won't eat them. One kind was even called "pignut" hickory because only pigs would eat its nuts.

The hickory tree has special characteristics of its own. Its wood is very strong, hard, heavy, tough, long-lasting, able to withstand impact and the heat of friction and is stronger than steel, weight for weight. Early settlers in the New World found its wood to be useful in many ways. It was used for the highest-grade axe handles, striking tools, agricultural implements, wagon wheels and brooms. Covered wagons traveling

west over rough terrain used hickory wood for wheels and other parts. The nut's oil was used for lamps and healing treatments. In the past, when corporal punishment was common, misbehaving children could find themselves on the receiving end of a hickory. Its small sturdy twigs are flexible enough to not split during a lashing.

Hickories are native to eastern North America, ranging from southern Canada to northern Florida, west to Oklahoma and east toward the coast, such as Wadmalaw. There are 12 varieties with descriptive names, such as Shellbark, Shagbark, Swamp, Mockernut, Broom, Red, White, Black, Pignut and Bitternut, which is the most widely distributed.

Hickories have deep strong tap roots that support tall straight growth, and were called "windfirm" for their resistance to damaging winds. With a growing season of late April to November, it is a late bloomer. When spring comes, it is easy to identify the hickory: it stands leafless, surrounded by trees with new green leaves. When autumn comes, its big, hard, dark brown nuts fall to ground, and its foliage goes out in a blaze of beautiful gold. Its value as a living tree reaches from deep below ground to its tall canopy, absorbing carbon dioxide and giving back fresh clean air.



Its most notable claim to fame, however, is in fire and smoke. The best hardwoods for smoking food come from nut and fruit-bearing trees, which give off the most flavorful smoke. Pitmasters seek out dependable sources of their favorite kinds of hickory and often haul their own wood to barbecue competitions around the USA. Its wonderful smoky flavor gets inside many foods that are proud to be called "Hickory-Smoked".

## 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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# WADMALAW NEWS

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

The poster features a festive design with balloons, fireworks, and a cotton candy cone. It includes text for the church's name, the event, dates, and contact information, along with a list of activities.

**NEW BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH PRESENTS**

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## JOHNS ISLAND LIBRARY CALENDAR MAY 2022

*...Continued from page 5*

**Midnight Mayor:** The Henry Smith Story: Community Discussion on Family. Thursday, May 12 @5:30-7:00 p.m. Call 843-559-1945 to register. Space is limited. (Adults)

**Paint Like Pollack:** Saturday, May 14@10:00 a.m. Kids and Families (Ages 3-12) (Outdoors)

**Anime for Adults:** Saturday, May 14@3:00-4:30 p.m.

**Teen Movie:** "Tom and Jerry" Monday, May 16@3:00-4:45 p.m. in the Community Room

**iWork Solutions for your Apple Devices:** Monday, May 16@6:00-7:30 p.m. Call 843-805-6885 to register. (Adults)

**Sea Islands Book Club** Tuesday, May 17@2:00 p.m. "The Doctors Blackwell" by Janice P. Nirmura (Adults)

**Anime for Adults:** Thursday, May 17@5:00-6:30 p.m.

**Circut Fun:** Design a Mug: Wednesday, May 25@10:30 a.m. Call 843-559-1945 ext. 6504 to register. (Adults)