



WADMALAW

Newsletter - Issue 20

Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful

February 2021

WADMALAW ISLAND LAND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Melinda L. Kelley
Zoning/Subdivision

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David Bennett

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Tomas Hanich

Chris Johnson

Leroy Linen

Shelia Middleton

Sarah Regan

Arthur Rivers

Jennie Rivers

Dennis Vane

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KEEP WADMALAW BEAUTIFUL

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SOLAR FARM DRAWS OPPOSITION

A utility-scale solar site has been proposed on Wadmalaw. According to the Charleston County Planning Commission, the 375-acre 50-megawatt site would be spread across 3 adjoining parcels (TMS 199-000-00-108, 199-00-00-109, & 199-00-00-110). It would be located near smaller residential/agricultural plats and immediately next to Anchorage Plantation. The leasing agreement between the landowner and Duke Energy Renewables was signed in July 2020. It stipulates 70 years (two 35-year terms) of operation and 8.5 years combined for initial permitting/construction, with a period for replacement of panels between the two operating periods.

...continued on pg. 5

WILPC ELECTS NEW MEMBERS

Four residents were elected to serve on the Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee (WILPC) at its meeting held in January: David Bennett, Scott Gilmore, Sarah Regan and Dennis Vane. All are passionate advocates for preserving the special character of Wadmalaw.

David Bennett, a native Charlestonian who grew up in West Ashley, is the executive director of the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission, an agency providing park facilities, programs and services in South Carolina. He has lived on Wadmalaw for over 15 years. "The island is a stress reliever," he says. "I love the natural beauty, the lack of noise and light pollution, and the overall pace of the community." In his view, "One of the biggest challenges we face is the ability to manage future growth responsibly."

Scott Gilmore is a corporate event producer and CEO of Strategic Events, a marketing communications

agency specializing in live event and video production. He and his family moved to Wadmalaw in March of 2020. "My parents have been property owners on Kiawah and Johns Island since the 70's, and I knew that once my current family and I moved back to the United States, we wanted to make our way to the low country," he says. Scott moved around throughout his life, and just moved back to the US after living 16 years abroad (6 in Italy and 10 in Thailand). "Wadmalaw is the combination of the incredible nature that surrounds us, peacefulness, awe-inspiring views, wildlife, and the pace of life," he states. "Looking at neighboring islands overrun with poorly planned development and infrastructure, I feel it's vital for Wadmalaw to remain true to the core WILPC values and its desire to protect our island. It might not always be easy, but wouldn't it be a wonderful gift to future generations if we could keep the character of Wadmalaw like it is today?"

Sarah Regan, who is from Georgia, came to Wadmalaw in 2013. She loves the rural and agrarian character of the island, and how different backgrounds are represented by the people who live here. "It has always been a pleasure to speak to people at the WILPC meetings and to learn their stories," she states. Sarah is an attorney, who spent several years in the Marine Corps as a JAG officer.

The most important issues facing Wadmalaw? "Protecting its rural and agricultural character by ensuring its zoning protections are enforced," she replies. "There has been, and will continue to be, increased development pressure on the Island. It is important that the WILPC and everyone who love this island remain vigilant and engaged on these issues."

Dennis Vane, a retired pediatric surgeon, has lived on Wadmalaw for five years. He spent most of his adult life in Vermont, but moved to the island from St. Louis.

...continued on pg. 3



A new welcome to our island! (See story on page 5)

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

GUIDING THE WICC -- BERTHA SMALLS-MIDDLETON

Bertha Smalls-Middleton is the first to say that the Wadmalaw Island Community Center (WICC) on Katy Hill Road is not about her. It is about the volunteers who man a variety of projects that benefit Seniors and many others on Wadmalaw.

Bertha grew up on the island at Polly Point, surrounded by family and playing in the woods with friends. She remembers the wonderful people there and an abundance of nature's treasures to enjoy. She recalls eating off the land as children, picking berries, nuts and plums growing around them. It was a wonderful way to grow up, with unrestricted wandering. A child's heaven.

She attended Rockville Elementary school (now Frierson), Haut Gap, and St. John's High School. After graduating, she went to college in Concord, NC, got married, and began a family.



Bertha Smalls-Middleton at the entrance to the community park adjacent to WICC.

After living around the country and raising her son and daughter, in 2009 Bertha returned to the island. She was pulled more and more to the Wadmalaw Community Center, which

had been closed for a time.

The Community Center began in 1957, when Anderson Mack called a meeting to discuss having a place for island residents to gather and have fellowship. The land on Katy Hill Road was generously conveyed by Willamina Jenkins and Dora Johnson. Later the

adjacent property was acquired with help from the Greenbelt Fund. It is planned to become a passive park. There is currently a walking trail. Swings, benches and an open pavilion will be added when funds are available.

Like so many organizations, COVID restrictions have impacted the community center. Events which brought rental income have been curtailed. This loss of working capital has been difficult. For now, donations are helping to keep the doors open for outreach into the community.

Volunteers cook and deliver meals, pack healthy snacks for students, gather needed items for shut-ins, and come to the center to keep these projects going. This past December, more than 40 Elementary students received Christmas gifts, which included an outfit, tennis shoes, pajamas, a book and a favorite toy. This program was provided by the Kiawah Women's Foundation, which also buys healthy snacks for students that are bagged and distributed by volunteers every Friday afternoon. WICC also has a partnership with the Charleston County Library. Books are available for children to pick up every Friday along with their snacks. During the summer, one student read 50 books!

Here's how to donate to keep these projects alive:

Cashapp can be downloaded from the app store on any smartphone. Donations go directly to Wells Fargo. The center's Cashapp address is: \$maybank6.

Checks for the center can be made out to: Citizens Improvement Committee, PO Box 46, Wadmalaw Island SC 29487.

It is astounding the work going on to serve our community. Stay tuned to hear about more programs in the next newsletter. Please help if you can.

CELEBRATING WADMALAW'S CREATIVE COMMUNITY

On a chilly, bright Saturday in early December, local artisans gathered off Tacky Point Road for a holiday edition of Art in the Barn. Vendors and shoppers mingled among the simple booths displaying islander-made wares. Articles for sale included local photographs of the flora and fauna along Leadenwah Creek, handcrafted leather jewelry, and cutting boards made from a pecan tree blown over by a storm. There were items made from handspun goat wool, which had been naturally dyed with indigo grown right here on Wadmalaw. All of the artisans were enthusiastic to discuss the work that goes into each piece, and the intricacies of their craft.

Art in the Barn provides an opportunity for people to purchase truly unique, locally-made pieces as gifts or keepsakes. Buying local not only makes for a more in-

teresting present, it lessens the environmental impact by reducing gas consumption for shipping and shopping. It strengthens community ties and benefits the local economy. For every \$100 spent locally, at least \$58 remains in the economic community. Not only were purchases something special and handmade, it supported friends and neighbors. Art in the Barn builds a sense of community and celebrates the talent and craftsmanship of local islanders. Please take the opportunity to buy local whenever you can.



The art event was held in this barn off Tacky Point Road

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

A BUTTERFLY STORY

It started on Sunday, September 20. Taking our morning walk, we noticed a wildflower blooming by the edge of the ditch. It had beautiful red and yellow flowers, and on it was a small caterpillar. It belonged to a monarch butterfly, and the plants were butterfly weed, a type of milkweed that is key to monarch survival. Monarchs lay eggs only on milkweed, and it is the primary food source for their caterpillars.

We dug up the plant to place on our screened porch. We put several other milkweed in pots, and planted some in our field. We left several by the roadside. The caterpillar spent all of its time eating. First a leaf a day, then up to three, and soon the plant was just a stick without leaves. I had put a piece of another plant in water, so that was placed beside the "stick". Soon the caterpillar climbed over to its new food source. After 2 weeks, it hung under a leaf, head down, in a curled "J" shape. In a few hours, it formed a tiny green chrysalis.

Eleven days later, on October 15, the chrysalis turned dark brown. In two hours, a monarch emerged. It now needed to rest and dry its wings. In another hour, I took the butterfly (on a stem) outside and placed it in the flower bed by the lantana. It flew away in about two hours.

During the next few weeks, more caterpillars hatched on the milkweed plant on the porch. On October 25, two big ones disappeared, and later they both formed a chrysalis on the screen. One emerged on November 10, and the second one on November 11. Both butterflies were turned out into the garden and flew away.

On November 1, all of the remaining caterpillars were put out in the yard on milkweed plants as they had exhausted the inside food source. There

were 5, but soon there were 10, as more kept hatching. Soon they had eaten all of the milkweed leaves, so they ate slices of raw pumpkin. All were gone by December 5. Hopefully they crawled off to make a chrysalis, and then emerge in the field as butterflies. They travel as much as 30 feet to find a suitable spot.

There was one surprise. On November 23, there was a Monarch on the porch. I released it, and later found the chrysalis above the screen door. I only thought I had put all the caterpillars outside!

I bought several varieties of milkweed seeds, and plan to scatter them over the field after we cut it for the winter. Perhaps in a few years, we will see more monarchs in our yard. The enjoyment will be all ours.



Monarchs are regular visitors on Wadmalaw.

MEET A KWB BRIGADE VOLUNTEER



Name: Martha Smalls
Bears Bluff Rd., Brigade 17

Occupation: Retired Business
Systems Analyst

Years on Wadmalaw: 10

Why I am a Brigade member:
"Trying to help preserve the beauty
of Wadmalaw."

Join over 120 residents from all over the island working together to keep our island litter-free. Email: KWBatkeepwadmalawbeautiful@gmail.com or call/text 843-566-5702 to volunteer

WILPC ELECTS NEW MEMBERS

...continued from front cover

What attracted him to Wadmalaw? "I like the rural atmosphere and the beauty of the island," he replies. He believes that the most important issues are maintaining both its diverse community and its rural atmosphere. "That includes preventing individuals and corporations from taking advantage of our proximity to Charleston, and enriching themselves personally at the health and expense of the residents," he states.

The WILPC's mission is to preserve and maintain the unique character of Wadmalaw Island by encouraging only the most appropriate and sustainable land use and development, while opposing unplanned and inappropriate land use and development. The committee meets monthly (except August) at the Wadmalaw Island Community Center, 5605 Katy Hill Road, on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. In recent months, however, meetings have been held via Zoom. For more information, visit: www.wilpc.org.

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KWB ADOPTS CHERRY POINT LANDING

Great news, Wadmalaw! Cherry Point Boat Landing has been officially adopted by Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful, through the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission's Adopt-A-Landing Program. This means that KWB will conduct organized litter sweeps of the landing three to four times a year, and everyone is invited to participate. The Parks department asks that data be collected on debris that is hauled from the landing area by using the South Carolina Aquarium's Litter-Free Digital Journal. This is an open access database used along the coastline and across the state to address the problem of litter pollution in waterways and public spaces.

During KWB's inaugural Cherry Point Sweep on October 18, twenty-seven volunteers removed and documented 1,047 pieces of litter in the marsh and around the landing. In just an hour and a half, the group found 281 beverage cans, 86 glass bottles, and 423 assorted plastic items, including bags, bottles, food wrappers, straws, toys, and utensils. They also found discarded light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, clothing, shoes, carpeting, building materials, face masks, cigarette butts, and cigar tips.

Many thanks to the volunteers who participated in this event, and actually had fun doing it. Save the date for the next Cherry Point Sweep: 2 p.m., Sunday, February 28, weather permitting. Watch for announcements of organized KWB Sweep events on the "Wadmalaw Neighbors" and the "Wadmalaw History and Happenings" Facebook pages.

For more information, email Dory Ingram at kwblittersweeps@gmail.com.

To learn about other ways to get involved and support Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful, email keepwadmalawbeautiful@gmail.com.



REAL ESTATE SALES (OCT 2, 2020 - JAN 7, 2021)

Vacant Land	Acres	Date Sold	Price
3 Retriever Road	25.47	10/20/20	\$862,500
25 Joseph Blake Lane	3.17	11/99/20	\$ 65,000
2985 Anchor Watch Road	3.29	11/19/20	\$179,000
2963 Anchor Watch Road	3.7	11/20/20	\$210,000
1166 Harts Bluff Road	4.91	12/09/20	\$160,000
Lot 9 Anchor Watch Road	3.02	12/11/20	\$100,000
Lot 79 Anchor Watch Road	7.56	12/11/20	\$333,333

Residences	Acres	Date Sold	Price
2314 Brigger Hill Road	7.6	10/02/20	\$1,548,750
1171 Harts Bluff	2.04	10/15/20	\$ 370,000
1980 Longcreek	3.5	10/30/20	\$1,225,000
2426 Brigger Hill	13.2	11/20/20	\$1,400,000
2839 Anchor Watch Road	3.01	12/03/20	\$ 895,000
5344 Peerless Drive	1.0	12/29/20	\$ 390,000
2481 Sea Island Yacht Club	0.42	01/07/21	\$1,548,750

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

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 or write to us at *Wadmalaw*, Box 3, Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487

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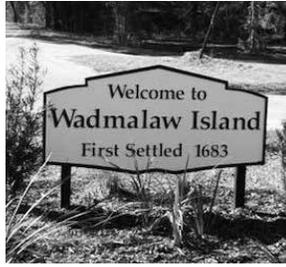
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“WELCOME” TO WADMALAW

The Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful organization began in 2016, when a group of sixteen concerned citizens began picking up litter twice a week along Maybank Highway from the bridge to the fork. They watched closely to see if their efforts made a difference. Slowly, the amount of litter along this thoroughfare began to decline.

There are now 12 active groups, referred to as Brigades, covering all segments of the major roads on Wadmalaw. KWB has also adopted Cherry Point Landing, targeting it for pickups four times a year. In 2018, KWB became an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, which provides financial support, supplies and guidance for each local organization.



This past December, the Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful committee decided to place a sign at the fork “Welcoming All “ to the island. Its height, width, and composite material had to meet all safety and highway specifications. Bob Cox designed the landscaping using plants native to the area.

In 2021, KWB plans to form Brigades for weekly litter pickups on secondary roads on Wadmalaw. In the near future, notices will be put on mailboxes with contact information about how to volunteer for these new brigades. The individual commitment is only 1 1/2 hours a month to truly make Wadmalaw more beautiful. Hats, vests, grabbers, and bags are furnished by KWB. Become a volunteer and see how beautiful “nothing” looks on the roadsides.

Those unable to volunteer as a brigade member may support KWB financially with a tax-deductible contribution made out to KWB and sent to: PO Box 3, Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487. Please, Do Not Litter. Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful! It's looking better every day.

SOLAR FARM DRAWS OPPOSITION

...continued from front cover

The Wadmalaw Island Planning Committee (WILPC) voted to oppose the project after meeting with Duke Energy Renewables and hosting a community meeting. Their letter of opposition states, “We have assessed the proposal within the framework of the special exception criteria outlined in the Charleston County ZLDR. In our view, such an industrial project is not consistent with the recommendations of the Charleston County Comprehensive Plan nor is it compatible with the allowed land uses within the AG-15 district. It also adversely impacts the general welfare and character of the immediate community.”

For the project to move forward, Duke Energy would need to submit a formal site plan to the Charleston County Board of Zoning Appeals. The BZA would decide whether to grant a special exception allowing for an industrial power facility on land zoned AG-15. To date, Duke Energy has not submitted the required site plan. WILPC notes they “...will continue to inform and involve the community throughout the process. We also intend to submit detailed opposition letters and provide representation at all meetings in response to a formal site plan review, should one be submitted, and at any potential state and/or federal permitting milestones.”

During the WILPC community meeting, presenters discussed the scope of the project. They noted a 50-megawatt site, as proposed, would equal to hundreds of thousands of panels, rising approximately 8 feet above the ground. For example, a recent 20-megawatt solar project in Virginia consisted of 240,000 panels, 13,817 feet of chain-linked fence, and 27,824 steel posts to support the panels. The meeting also covered solar impacts to local wildlife and risks posed by hurricanes. Pictures showing massive solar farm damage on Puerto Rico caused by hurricane Maria were particularly impressive. According to WILPC, the majority of those in attendance were opposed to this project.

WILPC members said they were not arguing against the merits of green energy, but were opposed to locating this project on Wadmalaw, noting that it does not add to the rural and agricultural characteristics of the island.



Location of Proposed Solar Farm bordered by Maybank Highway on the west and Anchor Watch Road on the South (proposed solar field shown by heavy black outline).



Extensive damage experienced by solar farm during Puerto Rico's hurricane.



Example of a 50-megawatt solar installation (to provide sense of size)

WILPC MINUTES SUMMARY - 4th Quarter 2020

OCTOBER 2020

The Committee did not meet in October. WILPC and residents were invited to participate in an information session regarding a proposed Solar Farm. Mike McShane, of the State Conservation Bank, made a presentation on similar projects within the state, particularly the Ace Basin.

NOVEMBER 2020

The committee met in person and online to allow residents to provide feedback on the proposed Duke Energy Renewables Solar Farm project.

Environmental/Public Works: Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful was acknowledged for their work and improvements made to the island. The community was encouraged to report any large illegal dumping sites by filing a complaint with Charleston County.

Communications: The newsletter committee met via Zoom on December 4th to discuss the February issue. Anyone interested in participating or adding to the newsletter can contact Robert Siedell at wadmalawnews@gmail.com.

Zoning: Melinda Kelley and Mike Regan provided zoning and environmental updates on the proposed Duke Energy Renewables Solar Farm project. Duke Energy Renewables has been in a preapplication discussion with Charleston County, and currently there are no site plans developed. The solar farm is to be located along Maybank Highway adjacent to Frierson Elementary School, New Bethlehem Baptist Senior Center, and Anchorage Plantation. It would span across 375 acres, and have the capacity of 50 megawatts, spread across 3 parcels of land. A lease for the property has been signed by the owners and Duke Energy Renewables. The term of the lease includes two 35-year terms of operation. The proposal would be the largest in the surrounding area. Melinda shared that Charleston County has only one mechanism to review this type of project, which is the Board of Zoning Appeals. This project would require a special exception, where six criteria must be met prior to approval. The Committee believes there are two standards that cannot be met. The project will be more industrial than agricultural. The Committee voted and determined that the project is not consistent with the comprehensive plan for the area nor does it comply with the AG-15 Zoning District. It is not compatible with other zoning uses in the area. Mike Regan discussed the environmental impacts of the proposed project. Many residents voiced their concerns as well.

John Taylor provided an update from the St. Johns Fire District by our Wadmalaw Island Fire Commissioner, Mary Jones. For October,

Wadmalaw had 17 incidents, Johns Island had 174 incidents, Kiawah had 46 incidents, and Seabrook had 27 incidents. The fire station has hired new firefighters, 3 of which have been promoted. The Christmas Toys for Tots collection will begin soon.

SCDOT has scheduled tree trimming along Maybank Highway. They will trim to approximately 15 feet above the road, which allows high commercial vehicles to travel safely yet protects the tree canopy.

DECEMBER 2020

The committee welcomed four new members: David Bennett, Scott Gilmore, Sarah Regan, and Dennis Vane. John Taylor, Jr. was reelected as Chairman, Burrow Hill was reelected as Vice-Chair and Grace Johnson was reelected as Secretary.

Zoning: Melinda Kelley provided updates on the Bolt Farm Treehouse property. The County certified and filed the contempt ruling that was ordered by the Board of Zoning Appeals. There is an appeal currently in the court, filed by the Bolts. They are waiting on a court hearing and judge's order regarding the contempt. The OCRM buffer variance that went before the BZA was approved, and the Bolts are allowed to keep part of the road/driveway in the OCRM buffer. It was also noted that the tree houses are for sale.

The Committee sent a letter to Charleston County regarding the Point Farm Mitigation Bank. The permit is still pending with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Melinda shared that along Whistling Alligator Road, which is off Cherry Point Road, an OCRM permit was issued five years ago to build a bridge out to two islands. The bridge is 15 ft. in width and has not been built. The property is zoned as AGR and the two islands combine to approximately 7 acres. The ZLDR road standard ordinance requires 20 ft. for bridges unless a prior easement/bridge has been approved and constructed. WILPC has requested that the county flag this property so if a subdivision plat is submitted, WILPC can be made aware of any proposed development.

Environmental: The proposed sand mine public comment period has been extended until the end of February 2021. The Committee plans to send letters to Duke Energy Renewables and Anchorage HOA concerning the solar farm. They will be posted on the website and state opposition to the solar farm.

Education: Aaron White provided an update on virtual learning. Approximately 75% of students are attending in-person classes, with roughly 25% participating in virtual learning. The School Improvement Council and the PTA have been meeting virtually.



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Sharon Maxwell appreciates Wadmalaw residents, because without them, she would not be working, helping, and getting to know all at the Convenience Center here on the island.

Sharon grew up on Johns Island. She attended Mount Zion Elementary then Haute Gap and St. Johns high school.

She has two children and three grandchildren --all living in Charleston, so she finds herself busy as a county employee, mother and grandmother.

She has been at the Center for almost a year and the most unusual article she has seen brought there was a pontoon boat which, without problem, she made sure was deposited in the correct bin -- "Metal Only"

Sharon is much appreciated for her pleasant attitude, efficient work and her attempts at trying to keep her fellow co-worker Gaillard Smith II on track .

Thank you Sharon.



Sharon Maxwell warmly welcomes island residents each day.

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TIMEFRAME TO RAISE OBJECTIONS TO MINE EXTENDED

The public comment period for the highly contentious Bears Bluff Mine has been extended. The Wadmalaw Land Planning Committee (WILPC) is unanimously opposed to the construction of this mine because of the adverse impacts it would have on the environment and quality of life on Wadmalaw Island. Hundreds of residents have already expressed opposition to the proposed operation as well. Citizens who have not yet weighed in have until February 26, 2020 to submit comments to SCDHEC. **Comments can be sent directly by Email or Mail to: Joe Koon, DHEC-BLWM, 2600 Bull Street Columbia, SC 29201 - koonjm@dhec.sc.gov.**

The Bears Bluff Mine is a proposed clay and sand mine off of Bears Bluff Road. The maximum depth of the mine as proposed would be fifteen feet beneath ground level, and the size of the mine is approximately 35 acres. According to the application, sand and clay would be dug up with large excavators and stockpiled within a designated pit area. Loading would be accomplished using excavators and front-end loaders. Dump trucks would be used to haul material off site. The application also includes a reclamation plan which would restore the site to three ponds and grasslands once the mining operation is complete. However, the application indicates a 20-year lifespan for the mine, and the applicant has also filed a Notice of Intent for a NPDES permit, which is required whenever groundwater is to be discharged into wetlands. In that application, the permit requested is for over 40 years.

Sand and clay mines are the most common type of mine in South Carolina. Sand is required in many aspects of construction and development, from making concrete to building roads. The need for sand and clay mines is directly related to growth in a particular region. Most sand and clay mines are located in rural areas. However, they have negative effects on the environment: they can result in deforestation, erosion, and have a harmful impact on wetlands. When mines are located too close to communities, they change the character and quality of life of those communities. Mines create noise pollution and diminish air quality. They also take a huge toll on infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, with dump trucks and heavy machinery transporting sand and clay daily from the site. Mines can disturb private wells and jeopardize the water supply of residents. Rural communities should not have to pay the price for development in other areas.

Any further questions or concerns about the Bears Bluff Mine can be sent via email to: Riley Egger - Land, Water and Wildlife Project Manager, Coastal Conservation League - riley@sccl.org.



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ROCKVILLE ARTIST CAPTURES LOCAL WILDFOWL IN ETCHINGS

During tomato season on Wadmalaw, young Riley Bradham and his boyhood friends would pick up the tomatoes that tumbled off the trucks turning from Maybank Highway on their way to the packing shed on Liberia Road. Those carefree times were filled with a variety of memories: vehicles stuck in the mud; getting stranded on sand bars at low tide; broken-down boat motors; running out of bait; and even working on the shrimp docks while trying to avoid alligators and rattlesnakes.

But Riley survived, and grew up. He still lives on Wadmalaw today. He has a law office on James Island. He is chairman of The Friends of Deveaux Bank Committee, active in community activities on the island, and attends summer services at Grace Chapel in Rockville. MeLynda, his wife of 19 years, is a nurse in the ICU at MUSC. They have 12-year-old twins: Eliza and Guignard.

Riley's mother was a birder and most talented artist. She primarily painted birds using water colors. His father, a physician, was the consummate outdoorsman, conservationist and naturalist. Riley was a blend of them both, with a talent for capturing marine life, birds, ducks and outdoor scenes. He creates etchings using an intaglio dry point technique on copper plates. It is a unique, difficult and laborious method of art.

Riley is knowledgeable, interested and enjoys sharing the history of the area with others. Above all, he loves the land, the people, and the life here in this special place, known to all of us as Wadmalaw Island.



Bradham with one of his etchings.