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local life

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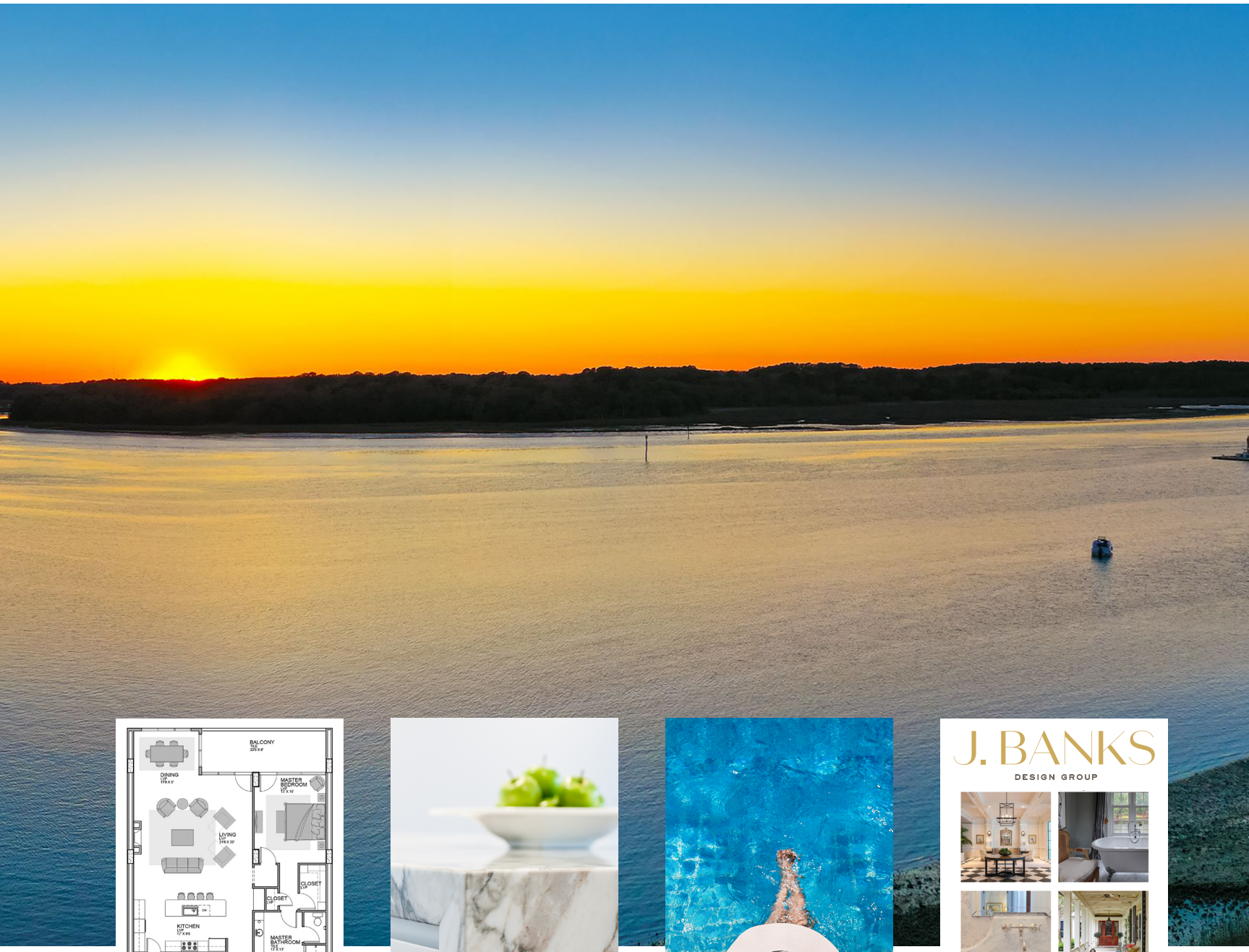


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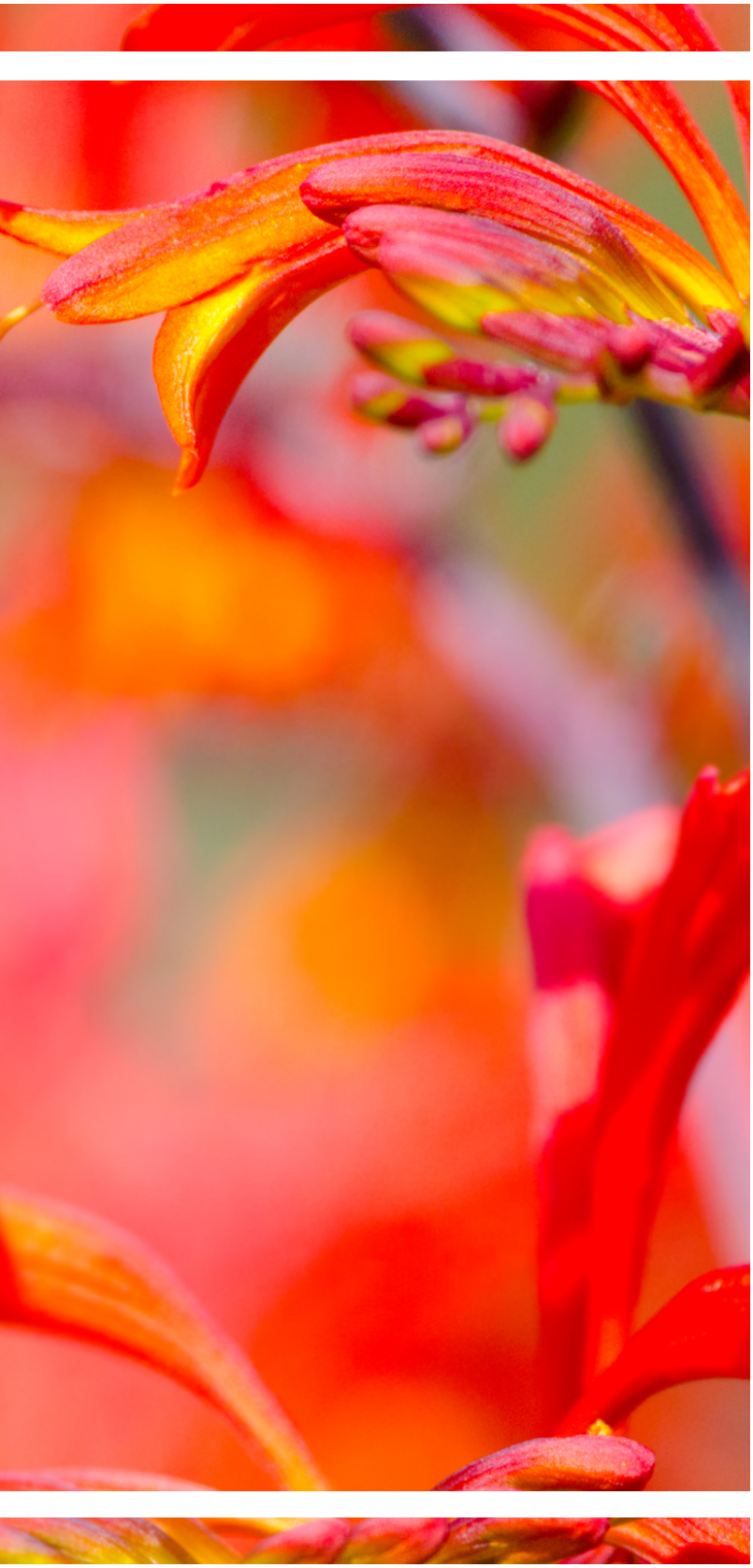
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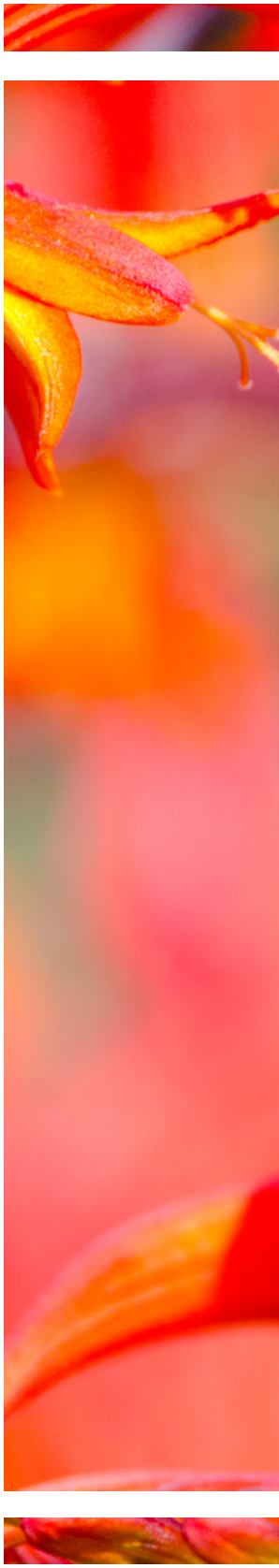
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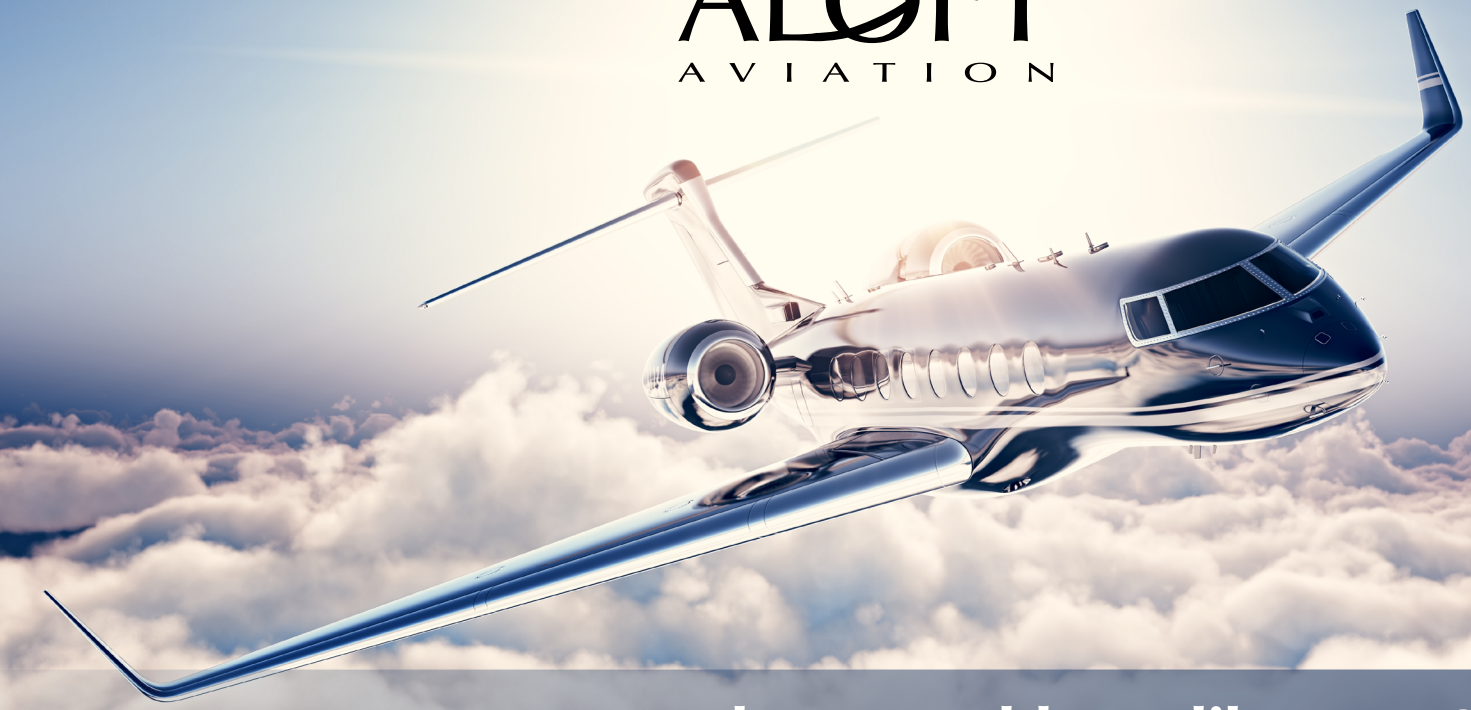
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the team

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FISHING MEMORY?

"When I was little, Dad took us perch fishing. It was going to be the best-ever fish fry. Dad had a few too many drinks and burned all the fish." **- LORI**



"Reeling in fluke after fluke one fishing trip with family on the Great South Bay." **- LANCE**



"Fishing at my grandpa's pond. It was packed with bass and bluegill." **- JEREMY**



"Setting a trotline across a mountain stream in Scouts. Very efficient at the time." **- CHARLES**



"Going out on a charter with friends for my birthday and catching dinner for that evening's cookout." **- ASHLAN**



"I went fishing once in my life and ended up hip-deep in mud. Didn't catch anything, but went home with a free mud exfoliation!" **- MADDIE**



"Being down in the southern part of the Gulf fishing bonito with the Cubes, Chris Daughtry, Jeff Probst, super chef Bobby Flay... it was insane. It was almost too much." **- MELISSA**



"Catching the biggest fish on record from our pond, with my Strawberry Shortcake pole. Then having my big brother try to take credit for it." **- REBECCA**



"Living in British Columbia, Canada, and going out fishing for salmon on charters while viewing whales en route to Alaska." **- LISA**



"While on a road trip to Yellowstone with my son (age 11 at the time), he caught his first rainbow trout. A memorable father/son adventure." **- BRUCE**



"Fishing from the bridge on Long Island when I was a kid and catching blowfish with a string and hook." **- LEAH**

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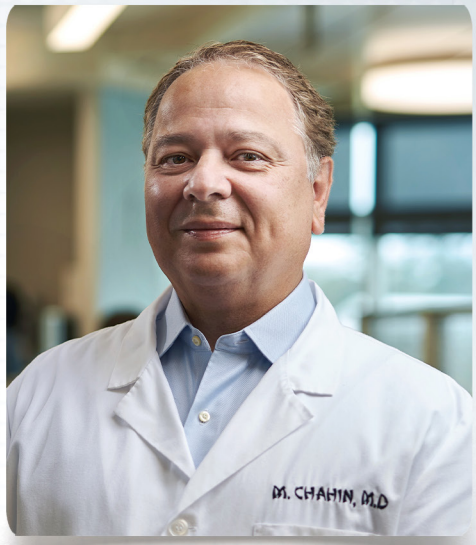
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May features



The Fishing Issue

The Lowcountry is a paradise for fish, thanks to our healthy ecosystem. Hilton Head Island, Bluffton, Beaufort and the surrounding Lowcountry offer some of South Carolina's best fishing. This issue casts a wide net with expert advice for where to go, equipment to bring, what fish to target and how to catch them. May's beautiful weather makes it the perfect month to get outside for a "reely" good day.

©KAL VISUALS

KNOW YOUR BOAT If you're stuck on the bank and can't justify the cost of a power fishing boat, consider a kayak. They offer a low cost of maintenance and access to fishing areas many larger vessels can't reach. We recommend the Hobie Mirage Passport 12 (page 28).

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STEPHEN SCOTT YOUNG



Stephen Scott Young | *Yellow Daisy* | 22" x 29½" Watercolor

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Hooked on a feeling

Fishing is a wonderful outlet to experience our great outdoors.



FISH-EATING GRIN Publisher Lori Goodridge-Cribb is shown fishing for dinner off her sister's dock in Point Comfort. She had a 101-degree temperature at the time, a reaction to her second vaccine shot, but is back to normal now (as normal as she gets, at least).

Fishing has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I grew up catching minnows in the creek behind my house and was lucky enough to go on numerous family vacations that doubled as fishing trips. I have great memories of learning to bait a hook and getting excited as I watched my bobber nervously quiver on the water's surface.

I love casting, spinning and trolling, but more than anything these days, I just love sitting on a quiet dock with a fishing pole. The silence has an almost meditative effect. **We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world, and I'm reminded of that each time I go fishing**. It makes me feel appreciative and happy. If I happen to catch dinner in the process, even better!

Fishing is something we are lucky enough to do year-round here. Sometimes it's a little hot; sometimes it's a little cold. In May, conditions are just right. We hope to hook your inner fisherman with this informative and fun issue, dedicated to the art of Lowcountry angling.

You will learn where to go, what to bring, what to fish for, how to catch them, how to clean them and how to cook them. Readers will meet fishing legends who share a few of their secrets. You will learn of the best local fish markets of Hilton Head, Bluffton, Beaufort and all points in between. In the wellness section, you will learn the health benefits of fishing along with 10 reasons why you should be doing it more often.

Learn about organizations that are helping protect our pristine waterways, like the Port Royal Sound Foundation, and charities that are giving back through the hobby, like Fuzzy Davis is doing with his Fishing with Friends program.

In typical LOCAL Life style, all kinds of fish-related fun is sprinkled throughout. Hot fishing tech, fishing books, goldfish ponds, home fish accessories, cool aquariums, virtual fishing — you get the idea.

We strive to produce magazines that are beautiful, informative and worth saving. You'll want to hang on to this one for future reference, so you can impress your out-of-town guests with your vast local fishing knowledge.

Wishing you tight lines and good times!

"If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles."

- DOUG LARSON, COLUMNIST

LORI GOODRIDGE-CRIBB
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EASY WEEKNIGHT DINNER

Next time you find yourself with leftover fish, consider this simple and tasty recipe for fish cakes. Salmon is my favorite, but any fish does the job in a pinch.

Fabulous fish cakes

INGREDIENTS

14 ounces of fish
2 egg whites, beaten
1/3 cup bread crumbs
1 tablespoon Old Bay seasoning
A few drops Tabasco
2 tablespoons flat-leaf parsley, chopped
4 tablespoons red pepper, chopped
1 tablespoon vegetable oil

DIRECTIONS [1] Bake fish until flaky. **[2]** Heat a medium skillet over medium-high heat. Cook red pepper until soft. **[3]** In a bowl, combine fish, egg white, bread crumbs, Old Bay, hot sauce, parsley, cooked red pepper, salt and pepper. Form 4 patties, each 1-inch thick. **[4]** Add vegetable oil to hot pan. Add patties and cook about 3 minutes on each side. Plate each cake with tartar sauce, lemon wedge and lettuce.



AHOY THERE Have you seen the LOCAL Life Jeep around town? This month, we rolled up next to ***Grant Kaple, general manager of The Boathouse***. Visit their three locations (Skull Creek, Palmetto Bay, Okatie) for your boating and fishing equipment needs.

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MEET LOCAL CREATIVES BEHIND THE SCENES



Sarah Orie *Graphic designer, writer*

OTHER CREDS: Graphic communications major at Clemson University, ALWAYS on aux.
FOR THIS ISSUE: Local Love, Go Fish, Great Bait Shops, Adopt a Pet, Build the Ultimate Lowcountry Tackle Box
HOMETOWN: Bluffton
LOCAL SINCE: Birth; huge shout-out to Hilton Head Hospital.
HOBBIES: Photography, beaching, getting overinvested in crime TV and being sarcastic.
FAVORITE FISH: Rainbow trout! Their coloring and markings are insanely cool. ***Fly fishing*** for trout has been on my bucket list since I watched the show Yellowstone and they did it on horseback.
FAVORITE FISHING MEMORY: Learning how to bass fish in my backyard pond when I was young. Can't tell you how many times I cast my line into a tree, but eventually I got it! Besides that, watching Wicked Tuna every Sunday morning with my dad.
WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT MAY? April showers bring May flowers! When I'm not sneezing from all the pollen, I love when everything is in bloom. My grandparents also always throw a Kentucky Derby party that's so fun, we all get way too into it.

Jacquelyn "Jackie" Markham *Poet, professor, artist, flutist*





OTHER CREDS: Published "Peering into the Iris: An Ancestral Journey" (collection of poetry and prose); awarded the Adele Mellen Prize for Distinguished Contribution to scholarship for my tome, "The Complete Poetry of Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 1884-1935"; forthcoming chapbook: "Warrior Rainbow." **FOR THIS ISSUE:** Poem "Resurrection," celebrating our innate ability to refocus our creativity and direction, especially important now — during the pandemic. **HOMETOWN:** Manistee, Michigan; on the shores of beautiful Lake Michigan. **CURRENT HOME:** Beaufort **LOCAL SINCE:** 2004
HOBBIES: My hobbies become my passions: Playing flute, birdwatching, painting, belly dancing and growing things. **FAVORITE FISH:** Parrot fish are my favorite because they are brightly colored, clean the coral reefs, and begin life as female only to later transform to male. Mostly, though, because they bring back memories as I write in my poem "Birth Letter."
FAVORITE FISHING MEMORY: Romantic excursion on a shrimp boat in Apalachicola Bay, taking poetic license here as shrimp are crustaceans — not fish — and I didn't fish! **WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT MAY?** My mother's birthday, whose namesake is the goddess Flora, flowers, celebrations of the queen of May, May Day, May pole and all the flowers and flowery celebrations. And, shrimp festivals!

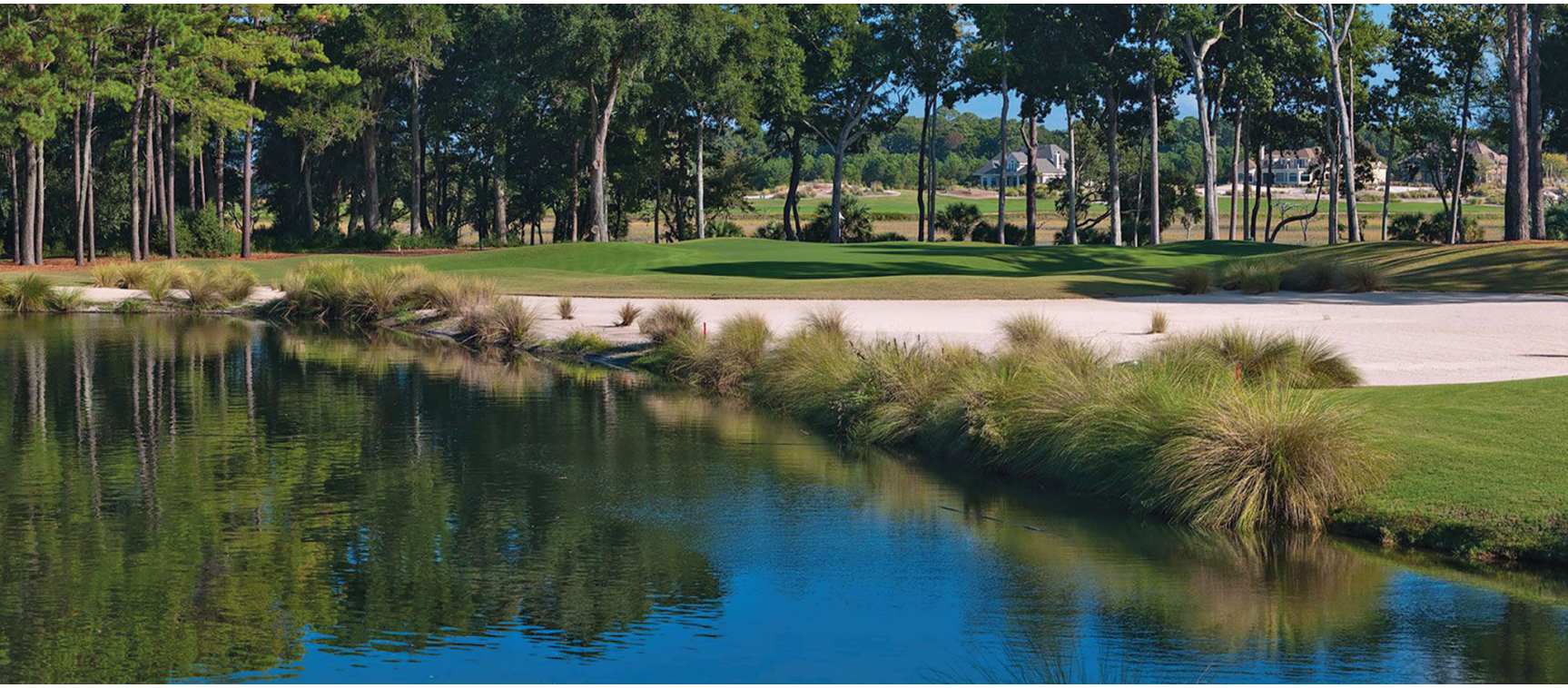
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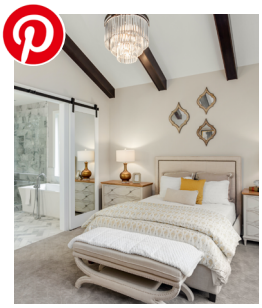
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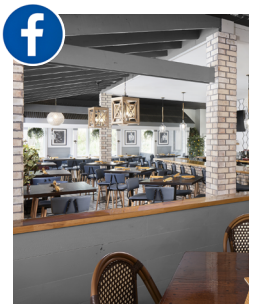
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Last month's top performers



MOST PINNED
Add farmhouse style to your house without taking on an entire remodel.



MOST POPULAR
First look at SERG Restaurant Group's Nectar Farm Kitchen.



MOST LIKED
An amazing depiction of the Lowcountry by Beaufort Photography Tours.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

Zoom backgrounds

School your co-workers in your next Zoom meeting by downloading a fishing virtual background at ***LocalLifeSC.com***.





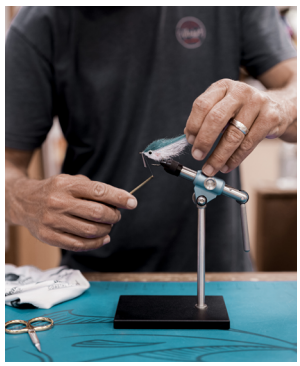
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- ***The Dish*** *Best local bites for the weekend*
- ***The Buzz*** *LOCAL Life's latest must-reads*

About the Cover

*The cover image was taken by local photographer **Michael Hrizuk** at Southern Drawl Outfitters in Moss Creek Village. The popular tackle shop is a haven for local fishermen, offering custom and commercially tied flies, rods, reels and other essentials for a successful day on the water. The flies on the cover are called pole dancers and can be fished in many scenarios. Their side-to-side movement makes them ideal for hooking fish in calm flats, fast rips, estuaries and beaches. It is Hrizuk's sixth LOCAL Life cover. Find more of his work at hrizukcreative.com. Learn more about **Southern Drawl Outfitters** at southerndrawloutfitters.com.*





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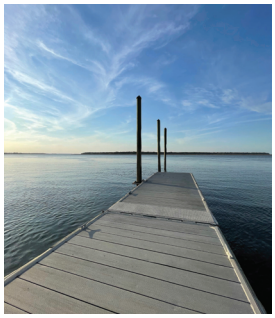
BY SARAH ORIE

The Lowcountry is home to some of the best fishing South Carolina has to offer. Whether it be a freshwater pond, a brackish creek or a saltwater reef — Hilton Head, Bluffton, Beaufort and the surrounding Lowcountry are a haven for anglers. For the most memorable experience, book an expedition with a local captain. If you're looking for a more DIY fishing experience, try these five hot spots open to the public. Purchase a fishing license online at dnr.sc.gov.

Boardwalk empire

THE SANDS, PORT ROYAL

Easily accessible with amazing views, The Sands is a popular location for fishermen to flock. With the opportunity to fish off the boardwalk or beach, local guides say this is the spot for casting and crabbing in Beaufort. In the waters you'll find a wide variety of saltwater fishes such as flounder, speckled trout and redfish. Look around and you'll see convenient fish cleaning stations and might even spot a dolphin. Located on Sands Beach Road in Port Royal, you can easily make a day out of visiting this place.



Landing party

TRASK LANDING, BLUFFTON

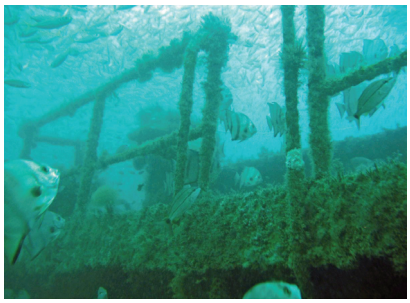
Nestled all the way at the end of Sawmill Creek Road lies this hidden fishing gem. The H.E. Trask Sr. Boat Landing provides access to some peace and quiet as well as the Colleton, Okatie, and Chechessee rivers. Noted as an easygoing place to fish and crab, you'll find black drum, trout, tarpon and shark. If you're looking for bragging rights, you can use the saltwater fish ruler posted on the pier to measure the size of your catches. Time permitting, you can even visit the nearby Waddell Mariculture Center, one of the country's largest facilities for mariculture research. Inshore fish come and go seasonally, so be sure to research water temperatures before fishing.



Heavens to Betsy

BETSY ROSS REEF

Lat. 32 03.2'N, Long. 80 25.0'W - South Carolina's Marine Artificial Reefs are the best for a day of offshore fishing. Developed by the DNR Marine Resources Division starting in 1973, these reefs are made of scrap, such as steel-hulled vessels and concrete bridges. The most popular include the Liberty Ship at Betsy Ross Reef and Fish America Reef that's about 2 1/2 miles off the shore of Hilton Head. At these locations you'll find a long list of fish such as mackerel, sea trout, red snapper, barracuda and grouper. These unbelievable underwater ecosystems can be found on the SCDNR website through coordinates to put into your boat GPS. Make the most of your day on the water and visit these underwater marvels.







Park it

JARVIS CREEK PARK, HILTON HEAD

If you're eager to freshwater fish with the family, the 11-acre lake at Jarvis Creek Park is the spot for you. Included in the wonderful wildlife here are many largemouth bass and bluegill. Giving you the opportunity to fish from the pier or shoreline, the park is a great place to enjoy scenery and drop a line. You won't be the only ones on the bank, so be sure to watch out for alligators hanging around. Keep in mind there is also a catch-and-release policy, so whatever you snag you can't keep. With plenty of parking and amenities, there's nothing stopping you from going to get your next big catch.

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Cut it out

GOFISH FISHING LINE CUTTER RING

Easily cut your fishing line with this wearable ring. You can wear it on your finger or attach it to your fishing rod. The sleek and adjustable ring has a double-sided blade to make cutting your fishing line quick and convenient. *$19.99. gofishcam.com*



Reel it in

PISCIFUN SPEED FISHING LINE SPOOLER FISHING LINE WINDER

Say goodbye to line twists and knots on your spinning reels. This is a must-have for all fishermen who are tired of hand spooling their lines. This fishing line spooler aids you in re-spooling casting reels quickly and easily. *$59.99. piscifun.com*



Keep calm and pedal on

HOBIE MIRAGE PASSPORT 12

This 12-foot kayak is one of the best in the biz. It comes equipped with hands-free pedal propulsion and "Kick-Up Fins" which provide the power to tread through the water like never before. You can either relax in the breathable mesh seat or stand in the wider cockpit area which provides a stable platform for standing and casting a line. This is a must-have for Lowcountry fishing! *$1699. Outside Hilton Head*



A fishing icon

HUK ICON X HOODIE

This hoodie is ideal for long days out on the water. The moisture-wicking material will keep you dry all day, protecting you from unexpected splashes and the occasional rain shower. The hoodie also has 30+ UPF protection to keep you safe from harmful sun rays. *$55. Outside Hilton Head*



Catch and hook

GOFISH CAM

Take a look at underwater creatures while staying above the surface with this wireless underwater camera. The camera sits on your fishing line, records footage, and is accessible through a mobile app. This gadget allows you to see what fish are underwater and how the fish are reacting to your bait. *$199.99. gofishcam.com*



Swimming with the fishes

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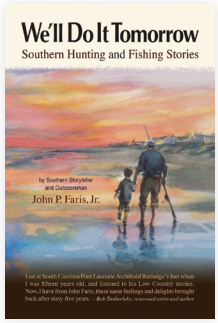
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Fishing books to hook

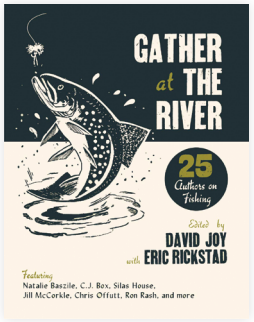
SELECTIONS BY DENISE FRIDAY



WE'LL DO IT TOMORROW: SOUTHERN HUNTING AND FISHING STORIES

BY JOHN P. FARIS JR.

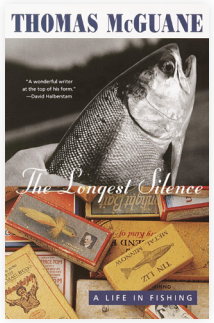
Imagine yourself sitting on a Lowcountry porch in a rocking chair with your favorite drink in hand, or, around a campfire after a day spent with friends. The stories that are told, and possibly spun, are exactly the feeling you will get from Faris' collection of fishing and hunting tales in the fields and coast of the Carolinas. Told with a splendid description of the area, you will feel transformed to your own experiences of hunting and fishing, or, if a layman, what it may be like with these wonderful stories of sport, love and loss.



GATHER AT THE RIVER - 25 AUTHORS ON FISHING

BY DAVID JOY & ERIC RICKSTAD

Various celebrated authors have contributed to this anthology by writing stories that center around fishing. Pulled from personal experience, authors such as J. C. Sasser of Edisto Island; Scott Gould, the creative writing department chair at the SC Governor's School in Greenville; and J. Drew Lanham, a master teacher at Clemson, show us images of the creeks, ponds, streams and oceans of their memories where their fishing experiences took place. They write of family, friendship, adventure, love and death, of environment, triumph and failure. Oh, and they write about fishing.



THE LONGEST SILENCE

BY THOMAS MCGUANE

The author has written 33 essays of his various fishing experiences around the US and around the world. From childhood on up, his stories include fishing alone, with friends, his father-in-law, and his son. The fishing locations range from Rhode Island to Montana to Key West then to Ireland, Russia, Argentina and New Zealand. McGuane writes with humor of the situation, intensity of the pursuit and sensitivity of the environment. Any fisherman will recognize the pursuit of the elusive fish (for him, the permit on the fly), the 'corporate group' fisherman, or the many lessons learned while in pursuit of this lifelong sport.



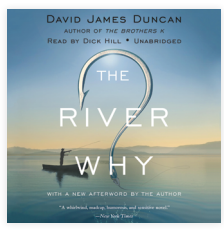
SHRIMP TALES: SMALL BITES OF HISTORY

BY BEVERLY BOWERS JENNINGS AND WILLIAM P. BALDWIN

This book portrays the history of the people, places, and boats of the commercial shrimping industry in the southern United States. Before the invention of refrigerated boxcars in 1875, the industry virtually didn't exist. People ate what they caught. The book begins with the region's earliest shrimpers: Italian and Portuguese fishermen who came to Fernandina and St. Augustine, Fla., at the end of the 19th century. They combined an enterprising ingenuity with old-world fishing techniques to turn shrimping into a profitable industry. Subsequent chapters show life in major shrimping ports up and down the coast, including Savannah, Hilton Head Island, Port Royal and Beaufort. All proceeds of the book are going to the South Carolina Seafood Alliance.

THE RIVER WHY BY DAVID JAMES DUNCAN

In this 1983 novel that has become a classic, young Gus Orviston, raised by his ma, a strictly worm-and-bobble fisherman, and his famous fly-fisherman and author father, sets off on his own to shed himself of his eccentric family and find his purpose through fishing. Gus rents a small cabin on a river on the Oregon coast, ties flies for income, fly fishes 10 hours a day and transforms. His coming-of-age journey leaves him emotionally and spiritually transformed and prime to accept and give love. The River Why is moving, funny and a heart-warming love story.



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Adopt this Pet: Branch

TAKE HOME THE HAPPIEST HOUND

After being rescued from the streets, Branch was brought to the Hilton Head Humane Association Okatie Campus. Quick to bring a smile to your face, his temperament is incredibly friendly and loving. His happy personality is shown through the handsome smile and non-stop tail wags. He does have a heart murmur of an unknown cause, so it is recommended that his adopter consult a vet for further diagnostics. With that being said, this hasn't slowed him down one bit. He constantly showcases his playful energy and clearly is unaware of his size as all he wants to do is snuggle. As one of the shelter's longest staying residents, he's definitely ready to love on his forever family.



MORE ABOUT BRANCH

Colors: White and brown
Age: 2 years old
Weight: 47 pounds
Likes: Affection, tail wagging, and play time.
"People keep trying to tell me I'm too big to be a lap dog but I just choose not to believe them." ***— Branch***
Dislikes: Not being paid attention to.
"I have this trick where I look you right in the eyes so it's impossible to stop petting me." ***— Branch***
Adopt him: Due to the pandemic, all Hilton Head Humane Association adoptions are by appointment only. Call 843-681-8686 or visit hhhumane.org.

Official Mensa® Challenge

Answers are available on LocalLifeSC.com/Mensa

1. A community group has 500 people. At the March 1 dance, new members pay only $14 for tickets whereas longtime members pay $20. As a result, all of the new members attend but only 70% of the longtime members attend. How much ticket revenue was collected?

2. An eight-letter word is spelled out in the box to the right. Find it by beginning with the correct letter and moving clockwise or counterclockwise around the box, using each letter only once.

3. A candy store owner prices his candies based on a special system. A gumdrop costs 10¢, a lollipop costs 15¢ and a peppermint stick costs 20¢. According to this system, how much will a jelly bean cost?

4. Unscramble the letters in each word below; then unscramble the order of words to create a Tom Swifty sentence. (Tom always speaks adverbially. Example: "I just bought a refrigerator," said Tom icily.)

YLNWNINGI MOT DSIA I CKTIEST TTORYLE TUSJ YTFRO GTHOBU

5. Choose the correct letter from each clue in the rhyme below, then read the letters in order. They'll spell out the answer to the riddle.
My first is in three and also in tray. My second in burn but not in bray. My third in lamp and also loop.
My fourth in pile but not in coop. My last in part and also pink. My whole a flower you will think.

2.

D	A	Y
R		L
O	I	T



Get hooked on Mensa quizzes!

[LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS]

1. *1) panther 2a) pant 2b) her* ***2.*** *5 (Divide the first number by the second number and add 1.)* ***3.*** *27 inches (The material is 18 inches long, or 9 inches plus 9 inches (half of 18). The length of the material plus half its own length is 18 inches plus 9 inches, or 27 inches.)* ***4.*** *CAPER, CRAPE, PACER, RECAP* ***5.*** *Too many cooks spoil the broth.*

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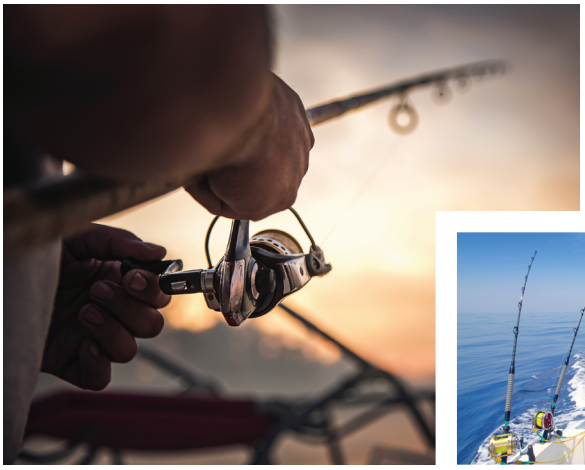
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Nonprofit Spotlight

South Carolina Boating and Fishing Alliance

MISSION

To be a positive influence on the protection and growth of South Carolina's boating and fishing industry through advocacy, education and stewardship. The alliance is focused on promoting boating and fishing interests through grassroots and legislative efforts, connecting the outdoor lifestyle to economic growth policies, and promoting workforce readiness and statewide industry promotion.







BOAT PEOPLE Founded in 2021, The South Carolina Boating and Fishing Alliance is a 501(c)(6) comprised of South Carolina's boating and fishing manufacturers, dealers, retailers, boaters and anglers.

HISTORY

Boating and fishing are top recreational activities for South Carolinians, and our state has some of the most popular brands of boat and fishing tackle manufacturers in the world headquartered here. They have a $5 billion impact on our state and support 23,000 jobs. Organizers decided the time was right to work together with the governor, legislature and other policymakers to protect and expand these economic and natural resources, forming the SCBFA in 2021.

WHOM IT HELPS

Everyone who loves to ride in a boat or wet a hook. **Our small state is in the top 10 states in the country for boat registration per capita.** We have tremendous natural resources that we can't take for granted. We want to protect public access to water while being good stewards of our resources. At the same time, our boating and fishing manufacturers are key economic drivers for the state. The SCBFA wants to keep it that way.

HOW TO HELP

SCBFA membership consists of boating and tackle manufacturers, dealers and tackle shops as well as people who just enjoy boating and fishing. Individual memberships are available. The SCBFA wants them to have a voice, too.

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For more information visit **scbfa.com**

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR
LOCAL Life asked ***Andrew Carmines*** to share his thoughts on what it means to be local. Carmines is the founder and president of Shell Ring Oyster Company and general manager of Hudson's Seafood House on the Docks. LOCAL Life welcomes letters to the editor and comments to our website. **Write to info@wearelocallife.com.**

What makes it local



adjective. lo·cal | lō-kəl

1: *characterized by or relating to position in space: having a definite spatial form or location* ***2:*** *of, relating to, or characteristic of a particular place: not general or widespread: of, relating to, or applicable to part of a whole* ***3:*** *primarily serving the needs of a particular limited district of a public conveyance: making all the stops on a route*

Like oysters, we are a product of our environment

BY ANDREW CARMINES


©DAYLE THOMAS

LIFETIME LOCAL Andrew Carmines is shown with his wife, Erin, and their children (from left) Alice, Milly, Oak and Eddy.

Oysters are a product of their environment. And oysters from the East and Gulf Coasts are exactly the same species. If so, why do they vary so much in appearance and taste? It's because they're affected by so many different things — prevailing wind direction, tide, salinity, and mineral makeup in the water, just to name a few.

I believe that we are also a product of our environment. I know I am. The variables for us, however, are even more vast.

I was born on the way to the Beaufort Hospital at the base of the Parris Island Bridge in the front seat of my dad's pickup. My dad successfully delivered me, thank goodness. I've lived on Hilton Head Island from 1978 until leaving for college in 1997. I returned home in 2006 to help with the family restaurant and have been here since.

Growing up on Hilton Head was a dream. I was exposed to so many interesting people and because it was such a small community, there was a special familiarity between the residents back then that still exists in some circles today.

For example, there's Fuzzy Davis, a legendary local fisherman who taught me and almost every kid growing up on Hilton Head in the '80s how to fish. My dad, my brother, Fuzzy, and his golden retriever "Keeper" had many memorable days catching spottail bass in and around the island. Often, the bass were bigger than me at six years old. Fuzzy always had a kindness and ease of character that made spending time with him very special. Still does. No coincidence, I feel the same when I'm in the presence of his son, Drew. I recently met his daughter at a charity clay shoot, and guess what, same feeling. Guess it runs in the family.

Raz Reid, another local legend, taught me how to fly cast at a young age. Raz has the dream job. He is a rep for one of the finest fly rod makers in the world, Sage Fly Rods. He's garnered countless world records, and fishes all over the globe. So when I was 10 years old, Raz taught my brother and me how to cast a fly rod. Fast forward 30 years and Raz still gives me expert tips on fly casting.



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FRESH PURSUIT Carmines is general manager of Hilton Head Island's oldest restaurant, Hudson's Seafood House on the Docks. The local landmark was first built as a seafood processing plant in 1912.

Just a few months ago I was in Long Cove, and Raz rode by on his bike, saw that I was fishing and went back to his house to get some of the latest and greatest Sage gear. We spent the rest of the afternoon pitching top water flies to big bass. Thirty years after our initial lesson and just a mile down the road, Raz and I were right back to it as if it were the day before.

When I was growing up, we also were into surfing swells produced by nearing hurricanes and other weather events that created waves big enough to ride. Byron Sewell was at the time, and still is, one of the best surfers to come out of Hilton Head. His "stoke" — the pure joy he has in the water, is something that only a true passion can give a person. I grew up watching Byron and other surfers and learned from them. We all admired not only Byron's ability but his easy-going character, in and out of the water. Byron has traveled the world surfing and now teaches youngsters to ride the waves, fish, and even find Megalodon teeth. To this day, when I see him in the water, Byron is glad to give me a pointer or two on surfing, for which I am super grateful. I may not see him for years at a time, but there is always that bond between us.

Now for a more recent example. A few Sundays ago, time got away from Erin and me, and we realized that we needed something for dinner. We stopped by Michael Cohen's BBQ Pop-Up off Spanish Wells Road. Michael is a two-time Golden Glove boxer from a line of accomplished boxers and trainers. Michael sells barbecue near his house most weekends, and it's terrific. I've met him a handful of times over the years. Anyway, we pulled up to Michael's cooker and started chatting easily about the island, recreational soccer, go-karts, barbecue, real estate and construction, all while snacking on a lamb chop of the highest caliber.

Meanwhile, Michael's six-year-old daughter took all three of our kids on white-knuckled rides around the neighborhood on her sweet go-kart. She's a pretty good driver for six years old, by the way. Look out NASCAR! Michael is planning to reopen his boxing gym this summer after the hiatus due to Covid-19. His goal is to keep kids in the gym and out of trouble. I was not surprised to have felt some connection to Michael and his family.

During the pandemic we made the decision to send our kids to my alma mater, Hilton Head Prep. It has been a great experience. My kids are thriving, and the greatest thing about it for me is that several of the teachers that I had are still teaching there. I was very relieved that those teachers had gotten over the trauma of having me as a student and are now treating my kids like family. I ran into Peg Hamilton in the parking lot one day and almost teared up, thinking of my kids being in the care of such a wonderful person.





©MICHAEL HRIZUK

OYSTER LIFE Carmines is the founder and president of Shell Ring Oyster Company. "I love our oysters here. From Nov. 1 to March 15, there's not a better oyster anywhere," he said.

There is a familial connection between the residents of Hilton Head Island. The term "it takes a village" truly applies here. Local islanders take care of one another and look out for each other. I feel that I was raised by more than just my parents (who are incredible people), and the parents of my closest lifelong friends, and family members. I also learned and continue to learn from countless other "brothers, uncles, cousins, nephews, and nieces" that are of no relation.

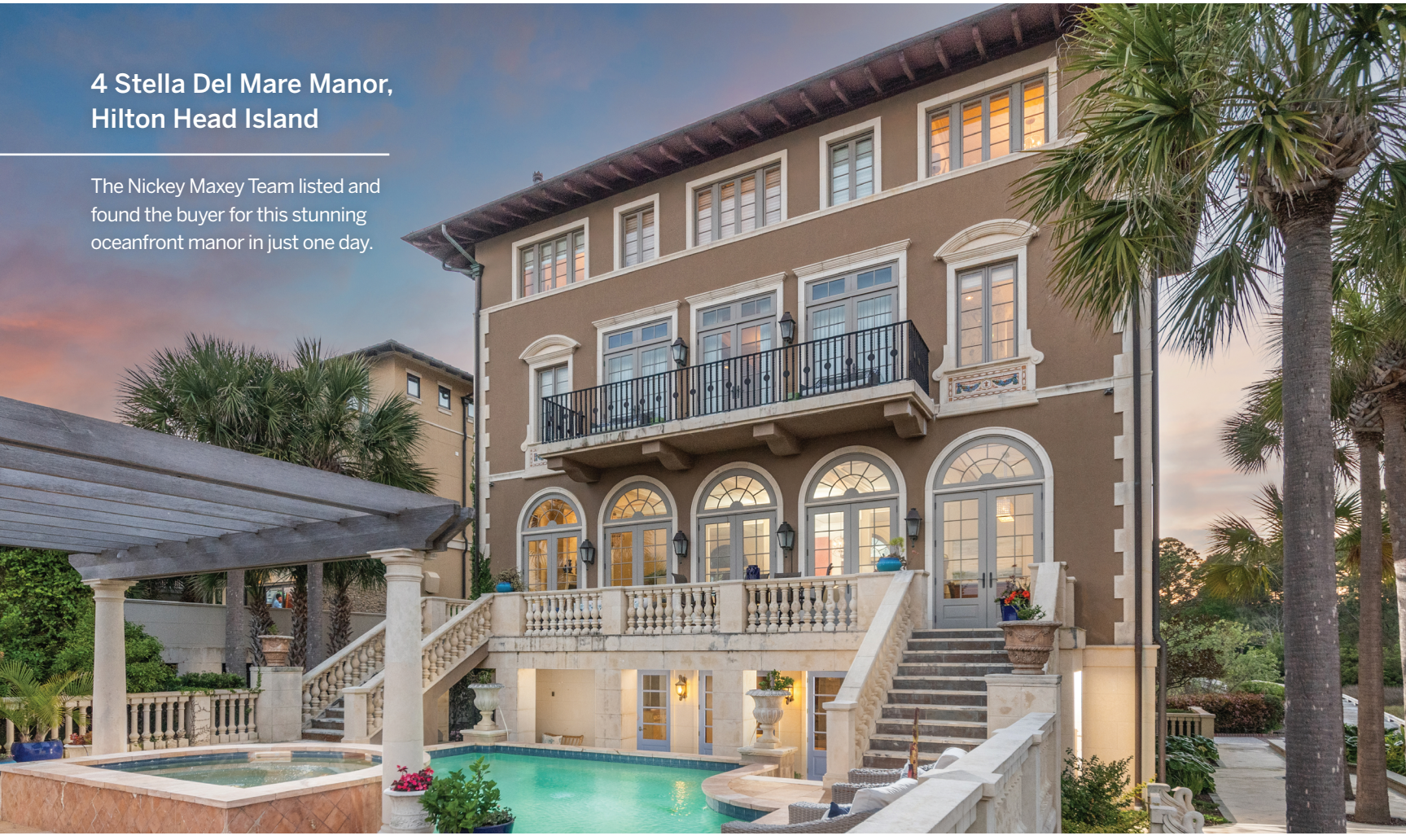
This extended family is as diverse a group of people as one could possibly assemble. I am so excited that my kids get to experience this as well, and I hope they appreciate it as much as I do. The pride I have in the place we call home drives me to make the Lowcountry as proud of me as I am of it. I strive to share this familial feeling with as many people as possible through my work at the restaurant. I hope it makes those guests feel the way I do. *LL*

"There is a familial connection between the residents of Hilton Head Island. The term 'it takes a village' truly applies here."



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Faces of the sea

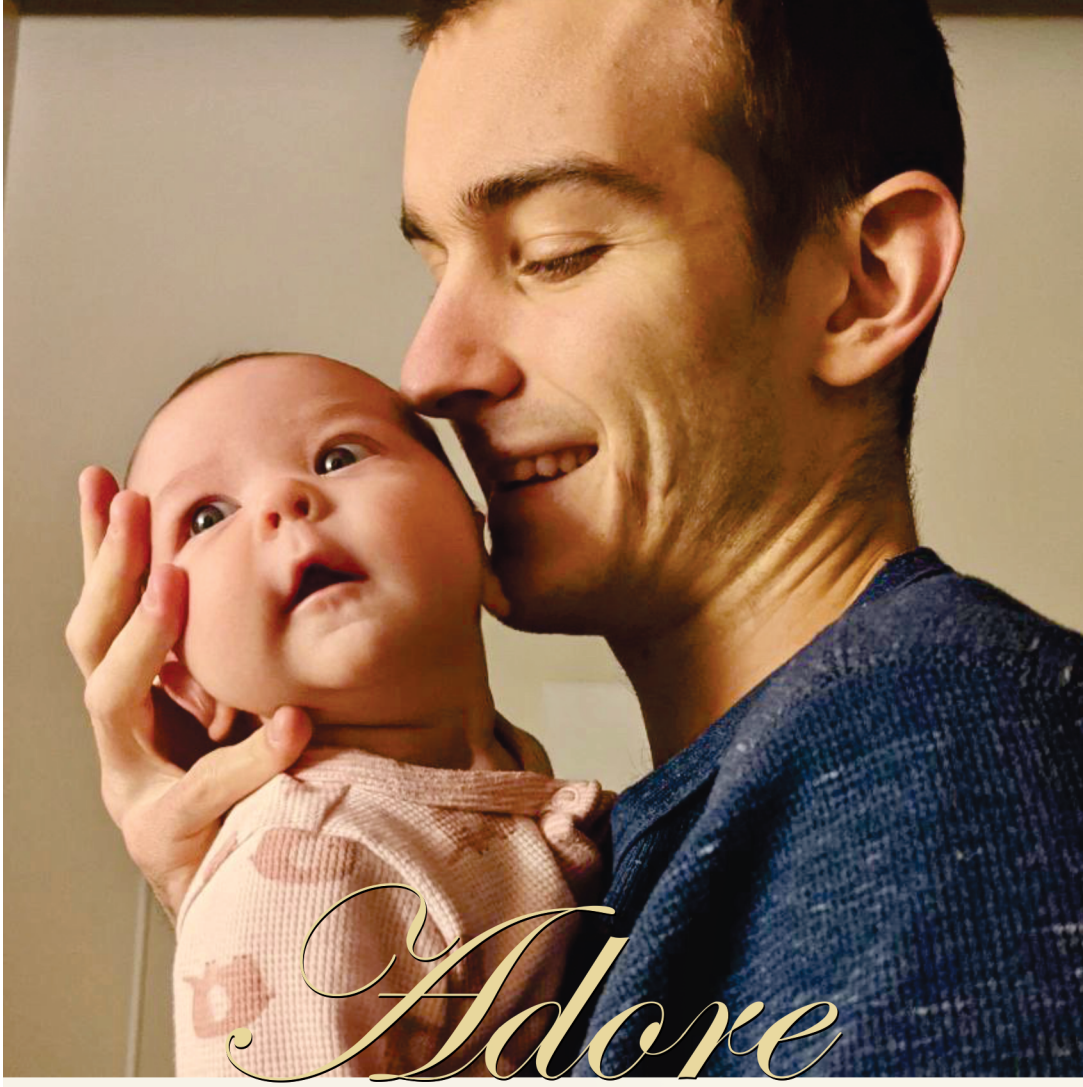
CLIMB ABOARD AND MEET A FEW LOCALS WHO HAVE MADE THE WATER THEIR LIFE, AND THEIR LIFE ON THE WATER.

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LISA STAFF

There's a reason the sea calls to so many. The landlubbers among us may not understand the appeal of jostling back and forth on a boat, courting the odd mouthful of salt spray and burning under the unshaded sun. But to those who get it, there's nothing else like it.

Beneath the surface lies the last frontier, a seemingly bottomless depth from which stories spring. Stories of the one that got away. Stories of the one that didn't. Stories of the days spent out on the water, forging bonds of friendship amid the swaying waves.

These three locals have their share of each kind of story. Here are a few.



We live in such a naturally beautiful place with many wonderful activities to live, work and play. This being Mother's Day month, my heart is especially full with my first granddaughter, Adora Lillian. I remember the great memories created by my two sons and my mom, Lydia here on the island and today I am humbled to experience the same privilege in the future. Life is about love and memories and those are easy to have on Hilton Head Island. If you or someone you know needs and advocate for real estate, please give me a call. It would be an honor and blessing to represent you.

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Charles Russo III

A THIRD-GENERATION FISHMONGER IS CONTINUING THE FAMILY LEGACY.

For some, the art of fishing lies in the pursuit. For Charles Russo III, scion of Savannah's legendary Russo seafood family, the true art comes in what happens next.

"I still buy fish from the same people in North Carolina whose grandfather sold fish to my grandfather for 60 years," he said. "That's what really sucked me in again, seeing the joy on those people's faces."

While Russo is continuing his family's legacy, recently debuting both a wholesale and retail fishmongering operation just outside Old Town Bluffton, he wasn't always destined for the seafood business.

"I chose a little bit of a different path in that I started out at 'fish school,' if you will, and then thought I'd try something else," he said. That something else was the School for the Culinary Arts at Keiser University, where he learned the many ways that the seafood his family provides can be turned into epicurean art. His career as a chef would take him from the kitchens of Atlanta to Charleston before returning him to his hometown of Savannah as chef de cuisine at Alligator Soul.

"After a while, I realized I really love this; I just don't see the longevity in it," he said. "So I started slinging some fish on the side."

Starting out with a small stainless steel table under an umbrella, Russo began building his own legacy. The business he built, Russo's Fresh Seafood Bluffton, isn't affiliated with the fish market in Savannah still run by his father, but it shares much of the same DNA and collective family pride.





LOCAL SINCE 2017
(to Bluffton, but local to the area "since forever") Charles Russo III is the owner of Russo's Fresh Seafood Bluffton. When not fishmongering, he enjoys spending time with his family and newborn son.



"My forte is what was passed down to me by my grandfather. He wanted to work as local as he could, so he kindled relationships across the southeast from Florida to North Carolina and the coast in between. What I've done is taken what Grandpa showed me about how to treat people and continued to build upon it."

His culinary background also informs his business, giving him unique insight into how his customers want their seafood. With early clients ranging from SERG Restaurant Group's Executive Chef Chris Carge to Earl Nightingale at ELA'S On the Water and The Pearl, Russo quickly became popular among chefs. A fishmonger who values quality isn't hard to find, but one who knows how to cut a fillet to gourmet specifications certainly is rare.

"Until they saw how I prepared it, most chefs would buy whole fish from me because they were used to others messing up the fillet so bad," he said.

That culinary acumen also comes in handy at his new retail operation, where he will happily scale, de-head and fillet a whole fish for you, sell you a seasoning mix that works perfectly with it, and explain exactly how to cook it properly.

"People are so deathly afraid of cooking seafood," he said. "The best way to do it is with the fewest ingredients." An uncomplicated approach works in his recipes and his business.



Terry has been in the insurance industry since 1979. He joined Correll Insurance Group as the President of Correll Insurance Group of Hilton Head (CIGHH) and South East Coastal Underwriters (SECU). Terry is part owner and responsible for the day to day operations.

Prior to joining CIGHH Terry was owner of an insurance education and consulting firm.

Terry continues to accept national and international speaking engagements. In his spare time Terry is also recognized by Federal and State courts as an expert on insurance coverages and serves as an expert witness.

Terry holds the following professional designations; Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC), Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) and Construction Risk and Insurance Specialist (CRIS).

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Jason DuBose

THIS FORMER PSYCHOLOGIST MIGHT BE THE ONLY RIVER PRO IN EXISTENCE.

Somewhere in a parallel universe, noted psychologist Jason DuBose daydreams of what could have been. In this universe, DuBose grew up in western North Carolina developing a love for fishing on the freshwater lakes of Old Fort, North Carolina, with each bass and trout he reeled in. He would attend UNC Wilmington and discover the wonders of saltwater fishing.

In this other universe, he would choose psychology over fishing. Fortunately, in our universe, the young psychology student took a leap of faith.

"Three years into grad school at Chapel Hill I realized I liked learning about psychology more than the practical application," he said. "So I took a leave of absence and moved to the Florida Keys to fish professionally. I knew if I didn't do it then, it would never happen. If I got a job and a mortgage, it would always be a dream. Twenty-one years later, I still give myself another year every year."

Our Jason DuBose spent the next few years in the Keys getting his feet wet, earning his captain's license and amassing stories, like the 600-pound marlin he narrowly beat in a wrestling match. "I fought it for close to two hours from the cockpit. Finally, I got it close to the boat and grabbed it by the bill, and the thing proceeded to whip me around the boat like a rag doll."

Wanting to return closer to home, he arrived in the Lowcountry where he spent a year working as a school psychologist while spending as much time learning the







LOCAL SINCE 2004 Jason DuBose is the outfitters director and head river pro at Oldfield. When not fishing, he enjoys spending time on the water with his wife, Amanda, their children, Delia and Dalton, and their dogs, Sturgill and Cali.

local waters as he could. When the opportunity came up to serve as Oldfield's River Pro, he cast his line and hooked his chance.

"I think I might be the only 'River Pro' in existence. It's not a common thing," he said. Essentially, the role spun off of the traditional golf pro. DuBose's job is to help residents and guests get out on the water safely and learn all the ins and outs of the tidal creeks and rivers that encircle the community. "A lot of folks in Oldfield come from other places and maybe didn't grow up in this environment. With an eight-foot tide swing, even experienced boaters find it takes a little getting used to."

And in sharing expertise and passion, he finds that every once in a while he puts that psychology background to good use. "Being a charter guide is kind of like being a bartender. You're in a small space with folks and they tend to open up," he said. "Out on the water, their guard comes down, and they're relaxed and having fun. I get to see people experiencing this great moment."

And 21 years later, he gets to experience that moment for himself, giving himself one more year of living the dream.

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Jake Parker

FISHING IS A LIFELONG PASSION FOR THIS LOCAL CAPTAIN.

For a pursuit designed to melt away stress, fishing can be an awfully aggressive pastime. For proof, you need only witness the boxing-glove logo of Jake Parker's Payback Fishing Charters. Even the name itself leans into aggression, signifying revenge against any fish that dare get away.

It's aggressive, but that's kind of the point.

"If you fish, you're going to lose some fish that would have been the fish of a lifetime, so it always makes you want to go out and get payback on losing that one fish," said Parker. "Usually on a fishing trip there's always going to be one — maybe it's a red fish that gets you wrapped around a dock or a tree, and it makes you just want to get payback on them."

If fishing is about getting revenge on the fish, then Parker has taken George Herbert's advice. As the poet once wrote, "Living well is the best revenge."

Being born in the Bahamas gave Parker a head start not only on his fishing career but on his pursuit of a life well lived. "The Bahamas has a lot to offer. They have great flats fishing and then they have really good big game fishing – tuna, dolphin and they get good blue marlin fish. One of the main differences is the distance. You're a lot closer to deeper ground."

His love of fish and fishing would bring him to the Hilton Head area, where he would mate for the legendary Captain Stratty Pollitzer aboard the "Hero." When Pollitzer prepared to retire, he gave Parker a chance.

"He told me that if I got my captain's license, he would have me on his boat, so I thought, 'What a great opportunity. You get to go on someone else's boat, and when it breaks, you don't have to fix it.'"







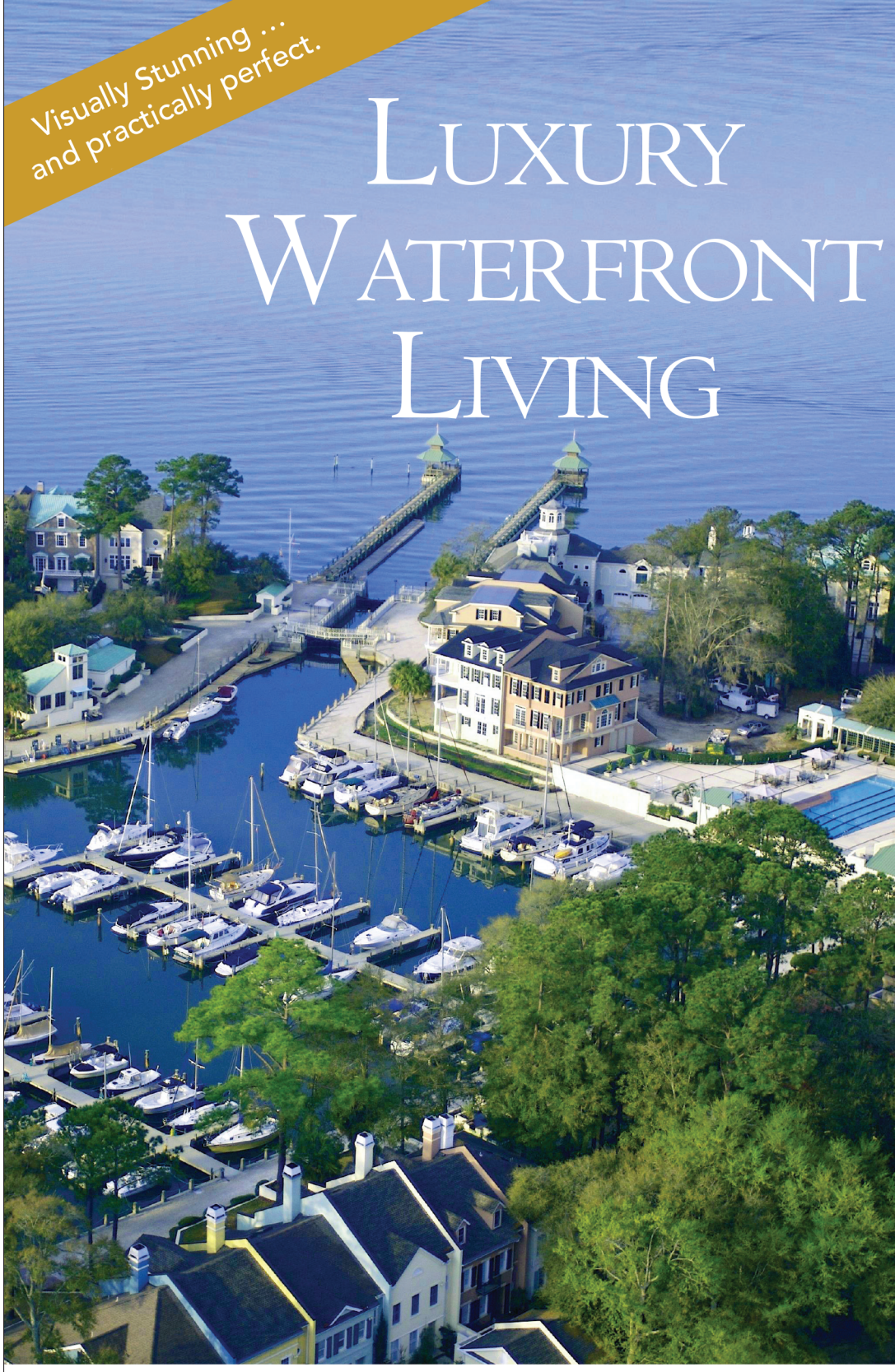


LOCAL SINCE 2006 Jake Parker is the owner of Payback Fishing Charters and is a team member at Spring Island. He has won the Spring Island fishing tournament three years in a row.

After a few years he would go out on his own, opening up Payback Fishing Charters as a way to get back at every fish that ever got away. And he pursues them with a vengeance, stalking tripletail by sight in a pursuit that leaps from wave to wave and bearing down on rogue tarpon with all the ferocity of a prize fighter. "You get hooked into one of them and it is a fight," he said. "They jump, they spin. If the line gets stuck on a gill plate, it gets cut. They literally do everything possible and test everything you have."

In short, he gets payback. And he does so by living life to its fullest.

"Any day the no-see-ums aren't biting, the sun's out and you have a nice blue sky, you're having fun if you're catching fish." *LL*



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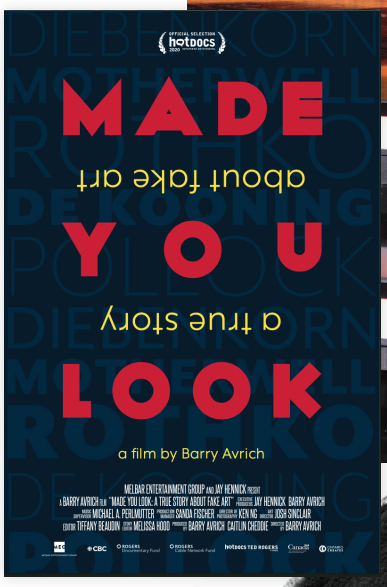
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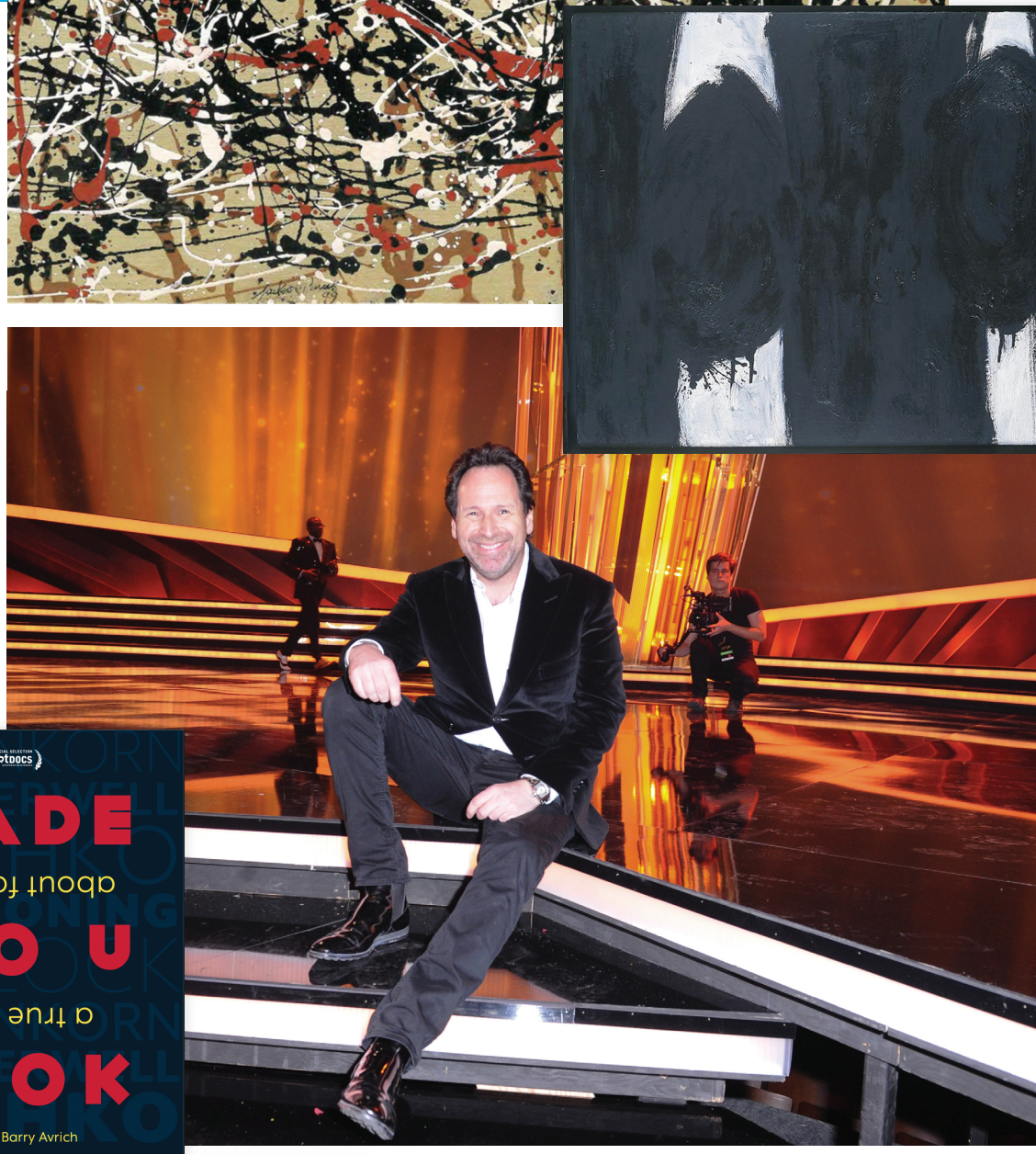
A NEW NETFLIX DOCUMENTARY SHINES LIGHT ON THE MASSIVE ART FRAUD RING THAT FOOLED EVERYONE, INCLUDING TWO HILTON HEAD ISLAND LOCALS.

BY BARRY KAUFMAN

By all accounts, it looked like a real Mark Rothko. All the hallmarks were there – the meticulous brushstrokes that blur the geometry, the simplistic pairing of two colors. Even the signature matched the famed abstract expressionist's.

Hilton Head Island resident and long-time titan of business Domenico De Sole had no reason to believe it was fake. Even though the work lacked a strict provenance, or chain of ownership that tied it back to the artist, it had been vouched for by a slew of experts, including Rothko's own son. And this wasn't some back-alley art house Domenico was buying it from, it was the Knoedler Gallery, which he would later testify he viewed as "the most trusted, oldest, most important gallery" in America.





DIRECTOR'S CUT Barry Avrich is a Canadian film director, film producer, author, marketing executive and arts philanthropist. His film "Made You Look: A True Story About Fake Art" features Sea Pines residents Eleanore and Domenico De Sole.



FAKE ART These fake Jackson Pollock and Robert Motherwell pieces were among $80 million worth of forged works sold in the costliest art scandal in history.

So how did a fake Mark Rothko wind up in one of the country's most prestigious galleries and on the wall of the former Sotheby's chairman's Hilton Head home?

The tangled web of deception stretches from a garage in Queens to the halls of the Department of Justice, and is laid bare in a new Netflix documentary, "Made You Look."

Director Barry Avrich was no stranger to the art world, following his film "Blurred Lines," which took a similar deep dive inside the art world.

"I was not aware of the Knoedler story until a friend of mine said I should really look into it," he said. "I was flying to Abu Dhabi, and I'd downloaded every story I could find about it. By the time I landed, I was hooked."

It's a lot to take in, and "Made You Look" follows every thread. In 90 breathtaking minutes filled with interviews, the documentary breaks down how a Chinese national working out of a garage created uncanny forgeries of artists from Rothko to Jackson Pollack, works which were then sold by an obscure art dealer who convinced one of the world's most preeminent art galleries they were long-lost works by some of the art world's biggest names.

It also shares how some leading experts in the world were bamboozled by these works, and eventually how dozens of them wound up sold to unwitting patrons.

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"Keep in mind that many of the victims did not come forward, either because of the statute of limitations or just sheer embarrassment," said Avrich. "They didn't need another headline saying, 'Wealthy Person Conned.'"

De Sole was a different case, however. When he got taken in like so many others, he took it personally.

"I had many conversations with Domenico, and again he's a very private man, but he still has the scar tissue," said Avrich. "Both (he and his wife Eleanor) were incredibly scarred and emotive about the situation."

In fact, when the truth about the ring of counterfeit paintings came out, he was one of the few victims who went public, suing not only the art dealer who supplied the paintings, but the gallery that facilitated the fraud. (De Sole was approached for comment on this story but declined).

"He wanted to go to trial because he didn't like feeling manipulated, and he wanted people to know what went on. I give him a lot of credit for doing that," said Avrich. "That one deal was not going to change his life, but aside from righting a wrong, he wanted to expose a part of the art world that isn't pleasant."

The trial surrounding De Sole plays a central part in the documentary's narrative, and the segments featuring the couple were filmed in their Sea Pines home (with an actual Mark Rothko visible on the wall behind them).

"I had not been to Hilton Head before that, and I loved the fact that they opened up their home," said Avrich. "It's like a movie set. They both have incredible taste, and their art collection is to die for." *LL*



SQUARE DEAL In 2004, Eleanore and Domenico De Sole (top) bought what they thought was "Untitled, 1956," a work by midcentury abstract expressionist Mark Rothko. Seven years later, they learned it was a fake, painted by a Chinese artist in Queens.



Stream it now

With a Hilton Head connection and a story that defies belief, ***"Made You Look"*** is currently streaming on Netflix. The 2020 film is a true story about fake art. A woman walks into a New York gallery with a cache of unknown masterworks. Thus begins a story of art world greed, willfulness and a high-stakes con. ***Scan this QR code to watch it now.***



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Boat to table

SEA EAGLE MARKET KEEPS LOCAL EATERS AWASH IN FRESH FISH AND SEAFOOD

STORY BY LISA ALLEN + PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE RITTERBECK





LOCAL SINCE 1992 Craig Reaves is the owner of Sea Eagle Market, a family owned and operated retail and wholesale market in Beaufort. The Reaves family owns three shrimp trawlers, five oyster boats and buys what they don't catch themselves from local docks.



If you've recently tucked into a feast of red snapper or shrimp and grits — locally caught, mind you — at Marker 244 in Port Royal or Charlie's on Hilton Head Island, or FARM in Bluffton, chances are Sea Eagle Market in Beaufort had something to do with it.

Seeping into the third generation on the Reaves side, many more on his mother's side, Craig Reaves has been catching, selling and cooking shrimp and seafood all his life.



"My dad started in the shrimping industry as a teenager and taught me how to run a shrimp boat when I was 15 years old. My dad shrimped in the Beaufort area back in the '60s and '70s, working out of Bubba Von Harten's dock on Factory Creek on Lady's Island," Reaves said. "On my mom's side, the Fulfords have been net fishing for generations."

Both raised in Holden Beach, North Carolina, Craig and Jana Reaves moved to Beaufort County in 1992 with his family to run the former Lighthouse Restaurant on Harbor Island. In 1993 Craig and Jana began their wholesale seafood business, CJ Seafood. In 2007 they bought Sea Eagle Market and have been expanding ever since.

Sea Eagle splits its business between selling to restaurants and seafood markets from Savannah to Myrtle Beach and its own two retail markets, Sea Eagle Market and CJ Seafood Express, and a robust catering business.

Craig and Jana Reaves' eldest daughter, Melena, works in the office and coordinates the catering side of Sea Eagle. Their son, CJ, and his wife, Kim, manage Sea Eagle Market @ Village Creek on St. Helena Island, where shellfish are processed and shrimp boats offload (including one owned and operated by Craig's brother, Cameron).



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-Sonia, Modern Message

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-Judy, Modern Message

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"Working the waterfront is what sets us apart. We're harvesters of shrimp, oysters and crabs," Craig said. "Uber-local is what our local fishermen catch. Shrimp, clams, oysters, crabs, crawfish, catfish, whiting, herring. These are caught in the Beaufort County-Lowcountry region."

Sea Eagle also is keyed into a network of fishermen all along the East Coast. That's why they can get fresh-off-the-boat grouper, flounder, snapper, tile, tuna; well, if it swims in the Atlantic (and it's legal to catch), they can get it.

Over the years fishing and shrimping have gotten more precise, reducing the amount of "bycatch" caught in their nets, Reaves said. TEDs and BYRDs (turtle excluder and bycatch reduction devices) let larger fin-fish escape, leaving primarily the targeted shrimp.

"We worked with a film crew this past fall on an educational documentary that shows how dolphins have figured out those devices. The dolphins open the flaps and stick their heads in to feast on the fish and shrimp coming into the net. It's like a buffet for them."







HOW YOU SLICE IT
Danny Cardenas of Sea Eagle Market shows the right way to fillet a fish, cutting away from himself with a very sharp knife.





TURN UP THE HEAT
In addition to fresh seafood, Sea Eagle Market also offers fantastic flavored hot sauces such as Vidalia Onion & Carolina Peach.

Like dolphins, humans like fresh fish too. Now, you know where it comes from.

"People are more attentive about the food they buy and where it comes from," Reaves said. "Good local chefs think that where the seafood comes from is as important as the lettuce."

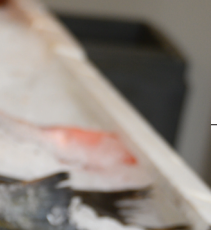
"Fresh and local is our theme," Reaves said. "In the 1980s my mom and dad came up with the slogan, 'From our boats to your table,' and we try to fulfill that as best we can by providing our customers with the freshest local seafood possible." LL



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South End Seafood





©JASON JAMES

Benny Hudson Seafood



Piggly Wiggly

Where to get local fish

- *Bradley Seafood Market, St. Helena Island*
- *Barnacle Bill's Fresh Seafood, HHI*
- *Benny Hudson Seafood, HHI*
- *Bluffton Oyster Factory, Bluffton*
- *CJ's Seafood Express, Port Royal*
- *Gay Fish Market, St. Helena Island*
- *Highway Twentyone Seafood, Beaufort*
- *Hudson's Seafood House on the Docks, HHI*
- *Lemon Island Seafood, Lemon Island*
- *Mainline Market, St. Helena Island*
- *Ocean to Fork, Lady's Island*
- *Piggly Wiggly, Hilton Head Island*
- *Russo's Fresh Seafood, Bluffton*
- *Sea Eagle Market, Beaufort*
- *South End Seafood, HHI*
- *Spanish Wells Seafood & Produce, HHI*



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SPENDING TIME OUTDOORS IS GOOD FOR YOU.

Health benefits of fishing

STORY BY EDDY HOYLE





FEEL THE SUN ON YOUR FACE

Fishing is a great excuse to get outside. It helps boost your immune system, speeds up healing and allows your body to digest calcium the proper way.

In today's "new normal," most of us are on our screens way too much. Now, like countless people around the world, Covid-19 has thrust millions of lives into a virtual space. Our kids do remote learning, then relax by playing video games, creating Instagram videos or posting on Facebook. Many adults now work remotely from home and suffer from "Zoom fatigue," a real thing that wears on the psyche in complicated ways. We may become either exhausted, unfocused, or our thoughts run rampant.

Believe it or not, fishing is great physical and emotional therapy. It's good for the mind, body and soul. It helps us decompress, relax, enjoy nature and get away from our screens. And here in the Lowcountry, we are surrounded by estuaries, marshes, rivers and the ocean – all teeming with fish.

So, what does it mean to get "in the zone" when the hamster in your head goes into a deep coma and you're in total focus? You know, when the chatter in your brain shuts up. And why is that good for you?

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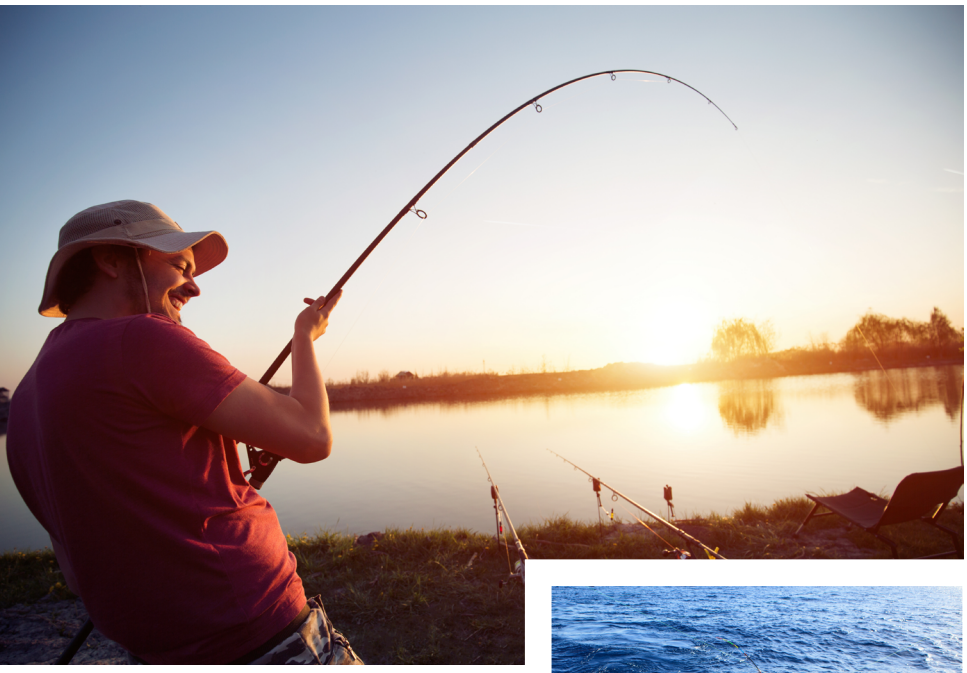


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According to Ashley Gruber, a board-certified, licensed professional counselor, "When we are 'in the zone' and the hamster in our head takes a break from his wheel to go fishing, our brain releases 'feel good' chemicals called endorphins, our natural painkillers. We immediately notice a decrease in heart rate, a loosening of muscle tension, and ease in our pace. As endorphins flood our brain with feel-good richness, our production of cortisol, our stress hormone, decreases, and our brain immediately starts to cool. It switches from high alert in our day-to-day environments to a state of healthy, chilled-out focus."

Gruber explained that this relaxed state allows our prefrontal cortex (PFC), the part of our brain right behind our forehead, to activate. "The PFC is like the Houston command center for NASA in our brain. And turning it on in a state of fishing-focused relaxation is ideal. When it's activated, we experience a 'cool brain' devoid of stress hormones, so we can function at our best. A state of relaxation allows us to make sound decisions, to be proactive, to create strategies and move toward our goals, and to focus and learn new information more effectively. Further, the more we can relax our brain towards a cool state, the better we can control our natural tendency towards a reactionary mode – like snapping at someone who is frustrating us when our patience is fraying or making a rash decision while driving."

Fishing can be a hobby, a way to unwind, or an activity to just put food on the table. But it's seriously good for your health. From your physical well-being to your mental state, the health benefits of fishing are great and varied. In fact, fishing is one of the healthiest hobbies out there. And that's no fish tale! *LL*



10 reasons you should go fishing

1. Physical exercise: Reel in a couple of fish. Once you get the hang of that, try more active techniques like jigging or fly fishing. Try wade-fishing in the surf or jump in a kayak for a full-body workout. Even balancing yourself on a boat is great for your core strength – especially while fighting fish!

2. Sun on your face: Smile as you soak up vitamin D and boost your healing and immune system. Vitamin D also helps you properly digest calcium for healthy bones. Enjoy the sun, but remember your sunscreen!

3. Great meals: The freshest fish you'll ever eat is what you catch. A successful day fishing means you'll enjoy a protein-packed, low-cal meal bursting with nutrients.

4. Meditative state: Fishing is good therapy for the brain. You'll feel yourself 'in the zone,' a feel-good state of mindfulness that improves concentration.

5. Kick stress to the curb: Fishing reduces anxiety and stress and helps fight depression. Fishing therapy programs for folks with PTSD, cancer and physical injuries have existed for years.

6. Socialization and bonding: A sense of community automatically comes with fishing. Young or old, man or woman – people from all walks of life can bond through fishing. Exchanging fish tales or giving someone instruction creates trust and mutual respect between people. The shared emotions of catching (or not catching) a fish also creates strong friendships and lasting memories.

7. Anybody can enjoy fishing. The fish don't care if you're young, old, disabled, black, white, gay or straight--it doesn't matter. Whether you're an expert guide or complete novice, the fish can't tell you apart, and they certainly don't care, and you don't usually see fistfights break out on a pier. Everyone's just too relaxed!

8. It's relatively inexpensive. Once you have a rod, some tackle and bait, you're all set. You can equip yourself for a lifelong hobby for just $100.

9. Anglers are helpful. Those who fish are generally good neighbors who are ready, willing and able to mentor newcomers. Tangled line? No problem. Just ask. Learning how to cast a net? Just ask. Using the wrong bait? Just ask. You'll make instant friends.

10. A perfect pandemic activity. Social distancing is built in. Fresh air and a breeze can mitigate transmission of the virus. Masks may not be necessary out on the water, but don't break the rules.

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Beaufort Memorial



MODERN CLASSIC A study in Lowcountry architecture, the home's façade blends the double porches of a classic Bluffton manor home, with tabby accents and a split-level design to mimic additions made over time.



A touch of history

TOUR A PALMETTO BLUFF STUNNER THAT TIPS ITS CAP TO THE RICH ARCHITECTURAL TRADITION THAT MADE THE LOWCOUNTRY FAMOUS.

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN
PHOTOS BY ELLIS CREEK PHOTOGRAPHY

With its distinctive red rooflines grazing the tops of the trees, the Palmetto Bluff home of Sebrina and Chris Leigh-Jones cuts a distinctively modern profile. Apart from all the crisp white newness of it, there is an intriguing freshness to the way its various slopes and dormers play with the traditional Lowcountry design.

But those with a trained eye may spot something familiar in the double-height porches of its front façade, something that harkens back to Bluffton's pre-development era. That familiarity is very much by design.

"When we first came down here to build, I spotted a place on Calhoun Street called Seven Oaks," said Chris Leigh-Jones. "That's a very typical Lowcountry-style modest farmhouse, and I said, 'That's it.' And we went for that."

Working with architects Pearce Scott and Allison Bonner, Leigh-Jones took the basic A-frame construction of the iconic Seven Oaks house and put a modern spin on it.

"We started with Seven Oaks as a general inspiration," said Scott. "One of the hallmarks of Lowcountry architecture is that it's generational. You'll have a house that was



FARM CHARM Inside, this modern love letter to classic design blends old and new through shiplap accent walls and modern farmhouse flair.





LIGHT TOUCH Lighting helps keep the vintage motif from becoming overbearing, adding pops of modern style to the overall aesthetic.





built 150 years ago, then 50 years later was added onto by another generation."

By following that thread, Scott sought to recreate generations of improvements and renovations through his design. Tabby was used in the foundation to add old Bluffton flavor, while the owners' bedroom was elevated and set off from the main design to emulate an addition that may have been added on at some point.

Evoking that sense of history was nothing new for Leigh-Jones, who has built his career on historic restoration in the Charleston area. In fact, much of the material for the home came from his work. Flooring from Star Gospel Mission, beadboard from a Spartanburg chapel and beams from a home on Charlotte Street all share space.

"I recycled a lot of materials, like the flooring in the house that







GREAT OUTDOORS Naturally, it wouldn't be a Lowcountry home without ample outdoor space. This massive lanai soaks up the rustic surrounds.

was cut in the 1960s and sat in the back of a jail in Charleston," said Leigh-Jones. "It's like a middle-aged man's face. A few marks make it look better."

And while the antique materials and architecture inspired by an ante-bellum manor may add historic flair, at its heart this home is thoroughly modern. You'll find contemporary sightlines in the open living space, a distinctive plunge pool just off the porch, and behind the walls you'll find some cutting-edge materials.

Using structural insulated panels (SIPs), Leigh-Jones was able to insulate and build in a fraction of the time. "They're very good for working in downtown Charleston in a tight urban space, because you can take all the labor offsite," said Leigh-Jones.

Everything old is new again, and within this eye-catching Southern manor you'll find that history has never looked more beautiful. *LL*







THE HOME TEAM

Architect: Pearce Scott Architects
Landscape design: Mike Small
General contractor: Simplified Construction
Interior Design: Luxury Simplified
SIPS system: EcoPanels
Roof: May River Roofing
Building supplies: Grayco

Five ideas for your home

MINOR ENHANCEMENTS & UPGRADES THAT MAKE A MAJOR DIFFERENCE.

1. SPEND WITH YOUR EYES
You spend where your eye falls. Don't spend a lot on bedrooms where you never spend any time. Here in the living room, space was left in the budget for dazzling touches like the two-tone coffered ceiling.

2. GET OUT IN FRONT OF COSTS
Most of your money is spent before the first hammer ever falls. The biggest place to save on costs is the design itself. The swimming pool was an early part of the plans, carefully planned to avoid surprises.

3. MIND YOUR MATERIALS
Even something as simple as plaster can help achieve a historic look, as it has here. The use of plaster between historic beams gives it character. Plaster has more texture, and if you're going for that (historic) feel, it adds a lot, especially next to antique beams.

4. BUCK THE TRENDS
Everyone knows an exquisite home needs a stunning formal dining room, right? Well, are you everyone? You don't have to think like everyone else. As for the kitchen, get a big island and let the kids eat there. A simple extension can even bring dining into the kitchen, adding to family time.

5. BUILT-IN EFFICIENCY
Heating and cooling a home in the Lowcountry can be painless if you plan right. The SIPs used in the construction of this home contain triple the amount of insulation needed for Code, and the combination of taller ceilings and shaded windows helps keep heat from the sun to a minimum.













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How to: Style a back porch

SPRUCE UP YOUR PORCH WITH THESE PROFESSIONAL TOUCHES

Porches are an integral part of Southern culture. For generations, Lowcountry families and friends have gathered on them to tell stories, play checkers, talk politics, gossip and more. All it takes to "porch-sit" in the Lowcountry is a porch (obviously), a comfortable chair, a refreshing beverage and another local to interact with. Maximize your multi-purpose outdoor space with these professional styling tips from the team at ***Group3 Designs****. Most items shown are available through Pyramids Hilton Head.*



©JOHN MCMANUS

1. AMBIENT LIGHTING
Decorative and dimmable table lamps can set the perfect mood.

2. FLAMELESS CANDLES
Create a calm evening glow with battery-operated candles inside of stylish hurricane vases.

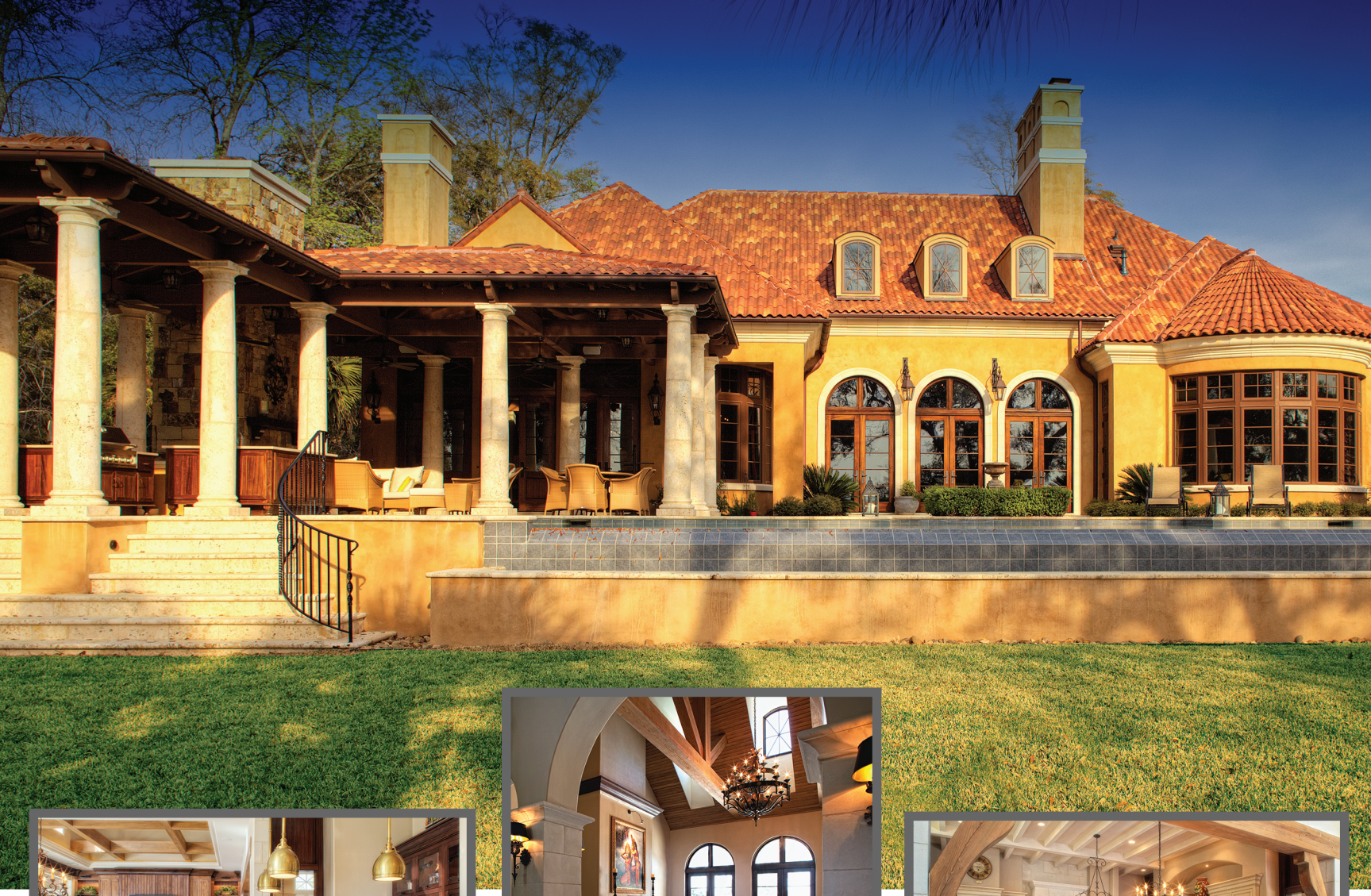
3. COZY SEATING
Find a good mix of love seats and lounge chairs made with outdoor-rated materials and fabrics. Multifunctional furniture and ottomans provide extra seating when needed.

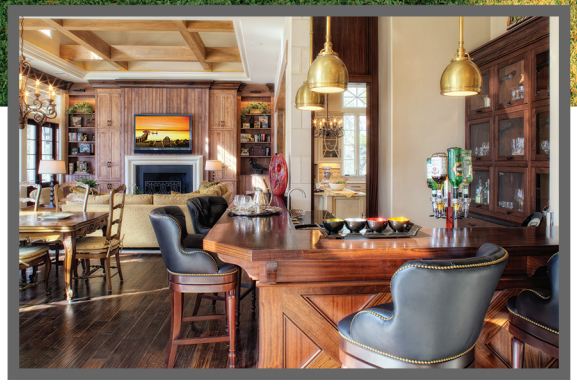
4. LAYER FABRICS AND TEXTURES
Create depth by mixing colors and patterns on cushions, pillows and throw blankets. Mixing materials on furnishings — metal, wood, concrete, raffia/jute — creates interest.

5. FOCUS ON THE VIEW
Give your largest seating piece the best view of the space. Stage your other furniture pieces around it. Make every seat feel like the best seat in the house.

6. DECOR AND GREENERY
Create an inviting, lived-in space by accessorizing with plants and Lowcountry adornments, such as sweet grass baskets.

7. AREA RUG
Anchor your space with a trendy area rug. Browse the many samples at Pyramids Hilton Head to find the perfect pattern.









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Sweet transformation

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS, YOU MAKE LEMONADE. WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU A SERIOUSLY DATED BEACHFRONT HOME, YOU GET TO WORK.

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN

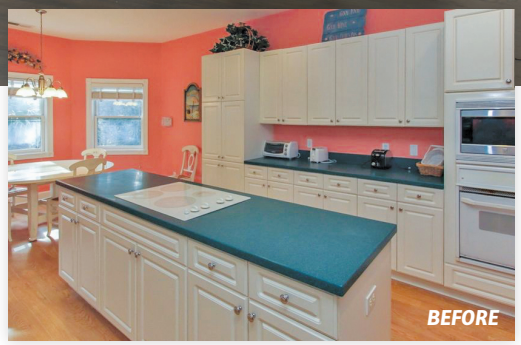
"Let me say this to you. We bought in 2017 and when I walked in, I went, 'This is it,'" said Allison Hilton.

Of course, at that point her opinion was based solely on the stunning ocean view (technically a second-row home that enjoys water views thanks to an easement). While the views were pretty, inside its walls the house was, to quote Brandon Edwards of Element Construction, "interesting." Or, as Hilton put it more bluntly, "This house looked like the '80s married the '90s and decided to have a color scheme."

With its kitchen a shade of pink Hilton refers to as "cooked shrimp," the house presented ample opportunity for improvement beyond just a simple refresh. "It had at least four different architectural styles in it. Mediterranean arches, Southern columns, porches that I guess you would say had a Nantucket railing and whatever the cat brought to the party! It took every kind of house out there and just flopped it together."

Hilton and the folks at Element Construction had their work cut out for them, but the rewards have been worth it. "I ended up making lemonade out of all of those lemons," said Hilton. "We have had a ton of people to tell us how special this place is and how it's a one-of-a-kind on the island."





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Toning it down

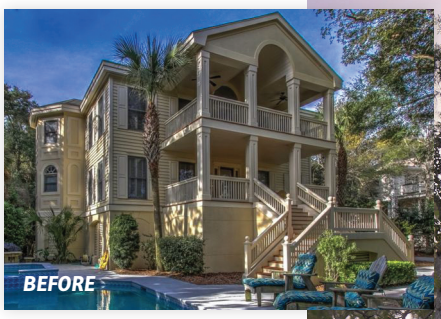
Getting rid of the cooked shrimp paint was just the beginning in the kitchen. "It was an interesting layout in the kitchen," said Edwards. "There's a lot of stuff where you wonder, 'Why would they do that?'" Knocking out one wall made room for an island and crucially opened the entire space up to the living room. Reshuffling counters and cabinets created room for a coffee bar, ice maker and wet bar for entertaining. It also created an alcove through which the ocean views reach the kitchen. "That was the biggest thing for me, being able to hear and smell and see the ocean from that top floor while I'm in the kitchen," said Hilton.


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Inspired by Aiken, SC

Creating a sense of unity with the architecture required a little bit of creativity. First, the half-barrel ceiling on the top floor was flattened out and new railings were installed, swapping out the thick wooden pickets for more subtle metal rails. Closer to the ground, one update required that Palmetto Dunes expand its color palate somewhat. "Iron Ore has been introduced to the Board. That is my color. We own a historic home in Aiken, and I wanted to bring a piece of the equestrian flair of Aiken to Hilton Head," said Hilton.

Fortunately, the tasteful contrast of the painted stucco against pale siding earned the blessing of the Board.





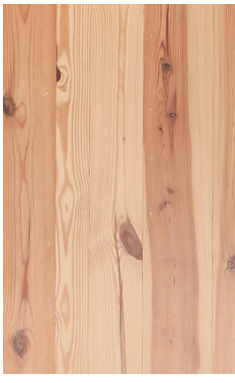
©KIM SMITH PHOTO

ONE OF A KIND Before the renovation, the home had at least four different architectural styles in it with Mediterranean arches, Southern columns and porches and a Nantucket-style railing. Owners Bobby and Allison Hilton and Element Construction made lemonade out of those lemons, creating a beautiful and unique home in Palmetto Dunes. "It's not the same house — it's like a new house!," Bobby said.



©KIM SMITH PHOTO

Place with the pines



The accent wall seen here was a last-minute bit of inspiration on Hilton's part. Running throughout the home is pine flooring removed from Hilton Head at no charge after Hurricane Matthew and shipped to Aiken on Hilton's dime. These fallen timbers were then milled into the flooring that runs throughout the house. On the floors the pine planks were stained a deep gray, but on the wall their natural knots and grain are allowed to shine. "I wanted to take the natural essence of that wood and put it on this wall, bringing the Island inside — literally!" said Hilton.

Bobby and Allison Hilton are full-time residents of Aiken and part-time residents of Hilton Head. *LL*



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HOME TECH

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A pool is as much a part of home design as it is for swimming, and as pools have become more spectacular, so too has the technology available to control and enjoy them. From lighting to safety to music to cleaning, you can do it all with the push of a button--or a shout out to Alexa.



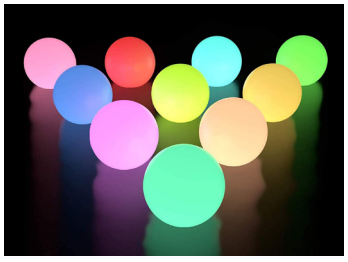
Carefree cleaning

Ahhhh, the glistening, pristine water is so relaxing ... until that first leaf falls in. And where there is one leaf, there are many. Let this wireless solar-powered skimmer keep the leaves away so you can play. Heads up — they aren't cheap (over $500) — but they do the trick.



Synchronized swimming

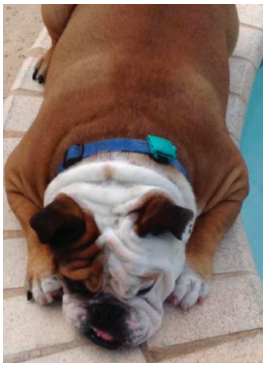
Schedule all of your home features to turn on and off together or separately. With apps like iaqualink.com you can control the temperature, turn on water and fire features, control the filter pump and even set your remote pool cleaner to start rolling.



Let there be light

In-pool lighting is common with most new and older pools, but what about 'on-pool' lighting? It's easy to make your backyard oasis feel like the patio at a chic South Beach boutique hotel with the addition of colored balls. White always looks classic but you can mix it up with the flick of a switch.





Safety first

Protect your kids and pets with a cute wristband that sets off an alarm if they fall into the pool. Fence regulations vary by community, which is weird to those from the North, where pool fences are mandatory. This heightens the importance of safeguards, and the Safety Turtle is one.



There's an app (and Alexa Skill) for that

Many of the new pool tech features can integrate with Alexa by setting up a Skill. For example, if you have the iAqualink app, you can add it as a Skill, then say "Alexa, set the pool temperature to 82 and turn on the waterfall." Kick it up by adding Sonos or your sound system to a skill, then say "Alexa, play Walking on Sunshine on Sonos by the pool." Now it's a party.



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This spectacular oceanfront home at 71 North Calibogue Cay Road in Sea Pines is listed by Catherine Donaldson of Celia Dunn Sotheby's International Realty for $7.5 million. It was completely remodeled in 2020 and is quite possibly the most stylish and relevant property on the market. The coastal-casual style is united throughout with shades of blue and natural elements that immediately make you feel at home. If you aren't ready to move, let the cool hues inspire you to freshen up your humble abode.

What we love

Who doesn't love blue, especially in an oceanfront home?

Ideas to steal

1. Fringe benefits: *It is surprisingly easy to freshen up pillows and furniture with fringe trim and tassels.*

2. Oar-iginal mantle idea: *Oars and paddles flank the stunning photo.*

3. Mix it up: *Metal lights, wicker chairs and a jute carpet add to the casual feel.*

4. Let there be light: *Choose a wow-fixture as a focal point.*

5. Blue, blue and blue: *You can't go wrong with blue, down to the trim.*

6. Hunt and gather: *Shells in a bowl or frames and candles on the cabinet: display your collections.*

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A few weeks back, one of our dogs, Savannah, became sick and we had to take her to the Animal Hospital in Bluffton. Over the 12 years that we've had Savannah, we've grown rather fond of her and so it was with heavy hearts that we made the journey. Happily, that trip turned out to have several silver linings.

First off, it turned out that Savannah was not seriously ill – phew! Secondly, there was a young lady tending to all of the beautiful plants on the front porch of the hospital by the name of Terry Capel. Since we were asked to wait in our car while Savannah was treated, I had ample time to admire the beautiful planters that Terry was cultivating. Needless to say, I couldn't resist as I threw on my mask and hopped out of the car to take a closer look at the colorful tulips, cyclamens and daffodils.

Terry invited me to explore the other gardens and containers and then pointed out a **goldfish pond** she had created using a large ceramic vessel she purchased at a local store. I was gobsmacked! I've always wanted my very own fish pond but honestly was simply too intimidated when I read up on them.

Terry told me that she created the pond, not only as a focal point for the garden but because it was therapeutic for the folks that needed to bring their pets to the clinic — her goal with both the plants and the pond is simply to make folks smile, and it works! I was so excited and had a thousand questions for Terry, which she patiently and graciously answered.

To start off with, Terry stated that most folks, (like me), often over-analyze when thinking about starting a goldfish pond. Terry has had fish ponds for as long as she can remember – up north in Illinois and again here when she moved south to be closer to her children. She went on to explain that goldfish can survive just about anything. Given our mild climate here in the Lowcountry, there's no need to bring them inside or heat the water during the winter months.

Terry said that the fish have three basic needs: shade, oxygen and food. To that end, Terry purchased her plants and pump locally. Both the plants and pump are staples of any good fish pond. The pump moves the water and reduces pesky mosquitoes – it also has a sponge in it that she cleans about once a week. The pump package states that it is safe for fish, which is a relief because I had visions of my fish getting sucked into my pump — yuck!

There are four basic types of plants used when creating a pond: oxygenating, floating, deep water and marginal water plants.

Oxygenating pond plants

Oxygenating pond plants are exactly what you might expect them to be; they grow directly in your pond water and introduce oxygen into the water. At the same time, they clean your water by feeding on decaying organic material in your pond, such as leaves or fish waste. A high level of oxygen in the water is very beneficial for keeping algae levels under control. And in order for fish to thrive, a certain level of oxygen in the water must be maintained. This can be achieved by adding numerous oxygenating plants in addition to mechanical aeration devices like bubblers, fountains or waterfalls.



PURE & SIMPLE Plants can provide oxygen, keep algae growth under control and help filter pond water. Bubblers, fountains and waterfalls also help maintain a healthy enviornment.

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Floating garden pond plants

Floating water garden plants are an important part of a healthy pond because they help cover the water surface, providing much-needed shade to the water below. There are a couple advantages to this. The first is shade, which helps keep the water from overheating and in turn protects your plants and fish. Shade also helps inhibit algae growth since algae thrives in direct sunlight.





Deep-water plants

Deep-water plants, as the name implies, like to be placed in deeper water. Typically, a deep-water plant will grow to the surface of the water, giving the appearance of a floating plant that is anchored to the ground. The most common type of deep-water plants are lilies. If you have a small pond like me, be sure to purchase a dwarf water lily.



Marginal water garden plants

When choosing plants for large ponds, a good variety will almost always include marginal plants. Marginal plants are placed within the pond itself inside planting pots. Generally, the plant is placed in deep enough water so that the water only covers the pot by a couple of inches. The bulk of the plant will then be out of the water in the air above. Like other water plants, marginal plants offer excellent natural filtration while adding a nice look to your pond.

The only disadvantage to marginal plants is that some kind of shallow shelf is required in your pond. If you have a shelf in your pond, then great, but if you don't, you will need to either build one or figure out a way to elevate the pots off the bottom. One thing to keep in mind when building shelves in your pond is that shallow shelves are often the perfect place for predators like raccoons to stand and eat your fish!

To complement the plants, Terry also purchased a plant/fish-safe chemical from a local pet store for the occasional algae bloom and also added water snails, which help keep the algae down. When needed, she replaces about a third of the water with distilled water obtained at the local grocery store. She provides fish food once a day and will often thrill children visiting the Animal Clinic by allowing them the honor of feeding.

Terry said that one of the best features of a goldfish pond is that you are not handcuffed to your pond – you can go away for several days or even a week and return to happy, healthy fish. So, I hope y'all will take the plunge with me. Hopefully, it will be easier than shooting fish in a barrel. Happy gardening! *LL*



Ask & Answer

Dear Accidental Gardener,

Help! I have a courtyard that receives a half day of sun in the morning on one side and then a half day of afternoon sun on the other side of the courtyard. To make matters worse, the ground always seems to be damp. What annuals can I possibly plant to give me a nice pop of color in my courtyard?

— Bogged down in Bluffton



Dear Bogged Down,

Fret not – where there's a will, there's a way. Two plants come immediately to mind – torenia and begonias. Both of these plants will bloom all summer for you. Torenia comes in a variety of colors (purple, white, pink and blue), and some of the flowers are bicolor (e.g., purple and yellow). The flower resembles a smaller wave petunia in both its appearance and growth habits, but the good news is that unlike a petunia, there is no need to deadhead.

Got a question for the Accidental Gardener? Email info@wearelocallife.com

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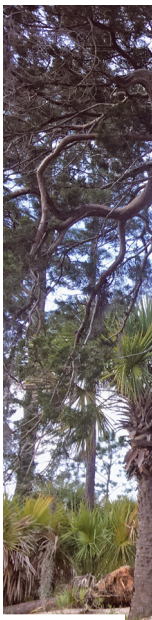
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SECRET SPOT OFF THE BEATEN PATH *Widgeon Point*



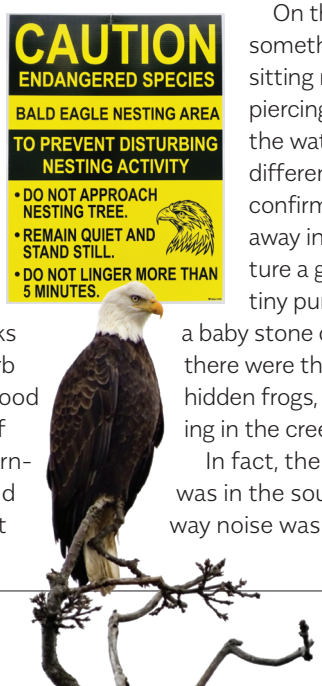




STORY + PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHELE ROLDÁN-SHAW

A lot of action in a very small package — that's how I would describe our newest nature preserve. After hearing of its recent grand opening, I wondered how excited I could possibly get about 162 acres with a nature trail less than a mile long. But I was pleasantly surprised by Widgeon Point.

The first marvel was a bald eagle nest right next to the parking lot, where two juveniles mildly objected to my presence by flapping clumsily out onto a pine branch. With scruffy blackish-brown feathers and no white heads yet, they looked more like buzzards; but there was no mistaking the ID, thanks to a sign cautioning visitors not to disturb them. I had arrived just after dawn — a good hour for wildlife — and the inhabitants of Widgeon Point were living up to their warning signs. A gator in a little rainwater pond was right where the notice said he might be, and I was discouraged from approaching, feeding or harassing him. (I obeyed at least the last two, but had to close a certain distance just to figure out whether he was a submerged log.)



On the banks of another pond I spotted something that was either a large bird of prey sitting motionless on the ground with its piercing gaze turned toward invisible fish in the water, or a stump of wood. It took many different angles of approach in the dim light to confirm he was a bird, until at last he swooped away indignantly as I tried and failed to capture a good shot. Out in the marsh I found a tiny purple crustacean that I reckoned to be a baby stone crab, but I'm not really an expert. Then there were the things I couldn't see, but only hear: hidden frogs, ospreys high overhead, a dolphin blowing in the creek, migratory songbirds on the flyway.

In fact, the starkest contrast at Widgeon Point was in the sounds. Up by the parking lot the highway noise was a huge detractor; peace and quiet



PURPLE REIGN These tiny purple crustaceans are crawling all over Widgeon Point.

How to get there

Location: Lemon Island

Mode of transport: Foot

If you go: On Highway 170 towards Beaufort, take the last right-hand turn before the Broad River Bridge. Take a picnic. Bring your dog but mind the gators. Look for (but don't disturb) the bald eagles in their nest atop a big pine tree next to the parking lot.



BARN FIND An event barn can be rented for weddings and family gatherings. Other amenities include restrooms, a water fountain, picnic tables and a bird blind.



is the trade-off for proximity and ease of access. As I proceeded further, this gradually faded and the ambient sounds of nature took over, but this was intruded upon again by what seemed to be distant artillery fire from Parris Island across Port Royal Sound.

Widgeon Point could have contained up to 130 houses, according to the Trust for Public Land. This national organization with a mission to create parks and protected lands partnered with Beaufort County Open Land Trust to complete the tiny haven on Lemon Island, which has been improved with a picnic pavilion, restrooms and a bird blind overlooking the Broad River. An existing rustic barn was renovated for event rentals and can be reserved through the Beaufort County website. It's our good fortune that the salt marsh and forested hummocks of Widgeon Point did not become a gated-off personal pleasure park but remain the domain of us all. Its limited scope made me feel like a kid again, exploring nooks and crannies of my own backyard and finding grand adventure.

From the cradling branches of the best climbin' tree I've found in a long time — a beautifully formed Eastern red cedar on a shell bank at the furthest reach of the point — I closed my eyes and merged for a few moments with my habitat. Then I got back on the highway and returned to the rest of my life.

That is exactly what Widgeon Point is good for: a stopover, a respite, a moment of pause in the fray. Next time you go to Beaufort, plan a few extra minutes to check it out! *LL*



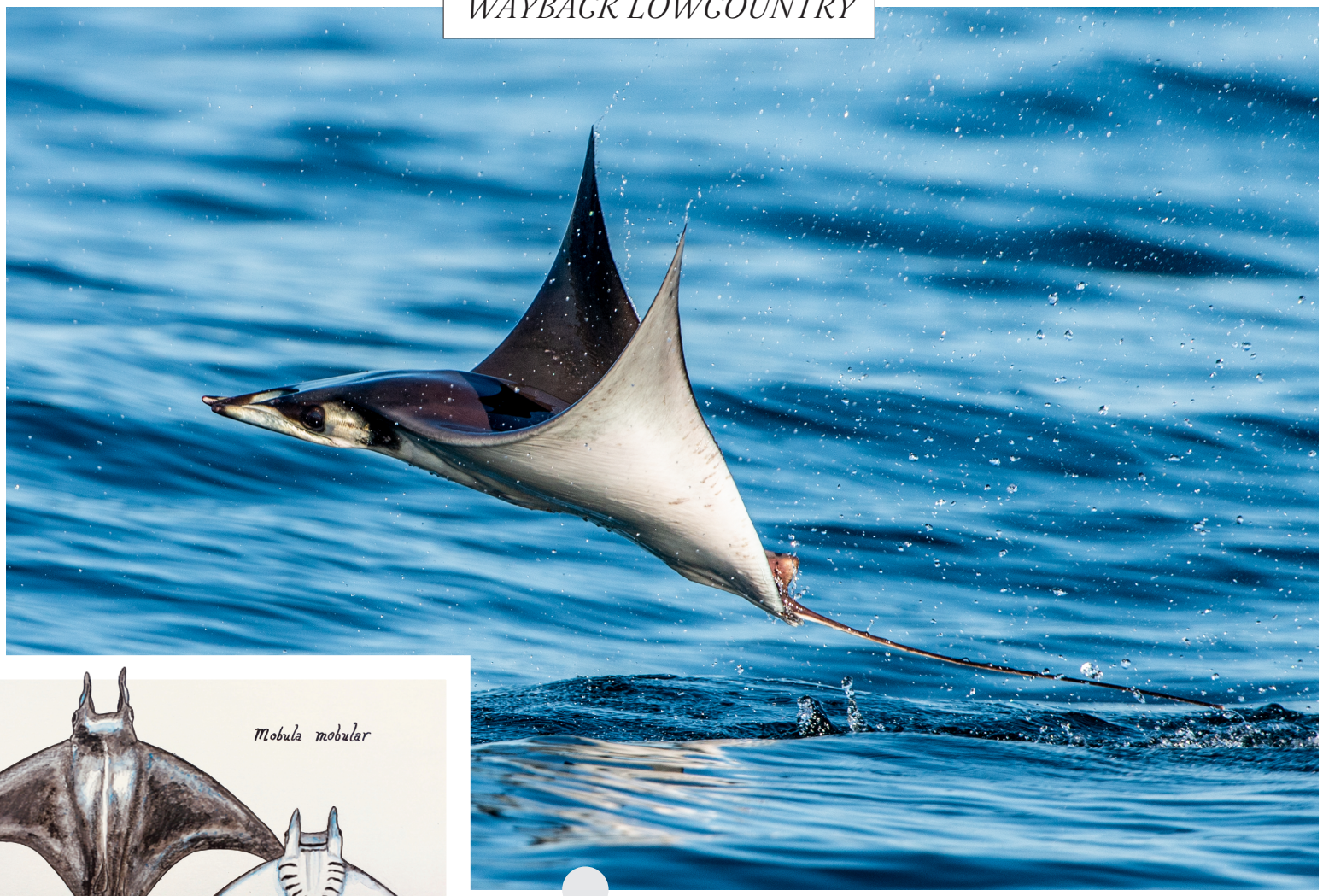
Stone Works

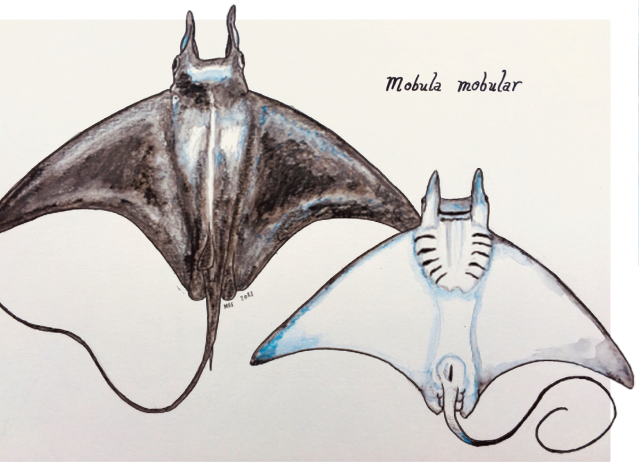
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WAYBACK LOWCOUNTRY





SPEAK OF THE DEVIL Many locals have spotted these massive rays swimming and jumping around the Lowcountry. Devil fish are most common in the Mediterranean Sea but can also be found across the Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

Devil fish

THESE MONSTROUS CREATURES OF THE DEEP ONCE TOWED BOATERS ON WILD RIDES.

STORY + ARTWORK BY
MICHELE ROLDÁN-SHAW

It has a bat-like face, strange horns and a ghostly white underbelly. Its enormous wingspan is the stuff of legend and allows it to leap high out of the water before descending with a frightful crash. The rarity of sightings only adds to its mystique. This is Mobula mobular — the so-called devil fish — a species of giant ray that officially reaches 16-20 feet across the back, but colloquially gains even more epic proportions. Its seasonal visits to local waters have resulted in some very strange tales.

In his 1846 book *Carolina Sports by Land and Water*, Beaufort planter William Elliott preserved many accounts of what he called "the mightiest, strangest, most formidable" of all fish. An avid sportsman, Elliott observed that devil fish frequented the Carolina coast during summer months, so a favorite pastime of his involved going out in a small boat to harpoon the powerful fish and get taken for a wild ride. A full third of his book is given to telling grand tales, always with himself as the hero, of these exploits that often took hours and never ended well for the fish — in spite of its immense strength and fight, it would ultimately tire and float to the surface to be brutally speared to death.

Over a century later, another famous Beaufort author and outdoorsman would reference the devil fish. J.E. McTeer, in his 1972 book *Adventures in the Woods and Waters of the Low Country*, spins the yarn of a friend who was fishing in the Broad River. He wanted to sail to a place called

Bay Point Rocks, but there wasn't enough wind and he didn't feel like rowing that far, so he wished aloud "Lord, I'd sure like to be on Bay Point Rocks."

Suddenly his boat jerked forward and began slicing the water with alarming speed — a devil fish had gotten ensnared in his anchor line and was towing him straight toward Bay Point Rocks! Although too terrified to move, the man could see massive wings threading the water until they arrived at his wished-for destination, whereupon the fish turned the anchor loose and was gone.

A very tall tale indeed. But contemporary accounts, if not as whimsical, are equally impressive. One Bluffton kayaker recalls nearly having heart failure when something the size of a garage door came blasting out of the May River to land with a colossal splash just a few yards away. Long-time shrimpers speak of having their nets destroyed when devil fish with 15-20 foot wingspans get entangled in their nets. Most extraordinary of all is the story of Larry Toomer, respected owner of the Bluffton Oyster Company, who recounts that in 1990 he was shrimping off the north end of Hilton Head when a monstrous ray got fouled up in his net. It was a 60-foot net, and the ray was almost as big, putting Toomer's estimate of the creature at 50-foot across. When they finally got it out, it hit the propeller and stopped the engine, which evidently is hard to do.

Still not a believer? Google "5,000-pound devilfish" to see a photograph of a similar specimen harvested by accident off the coast of New Jersey. The fish got caught in an anchor line and took some boaters on a harrowing 3-hour trip before being shot 22 times by the Coast Guard with a high-powered rifle, then hauled to shore where it gave birth to an 18-inch live baby. So many people flocked to see its carcass that the boat's captain started charging ten cents a head, and within a few days had raised $3,000 for the local fire department. The historic photograph evidently shows a taxidermy version of the fish, which the captain planned to donate to a natural history museum, but records don't show where it is today.

Do giant devil fish still haunt these waters? Do they reach the wingspans and tow-capacities claimed? Get out and see for yourself! But not if you have small children or a heart condition. *LL*





FREQUENT FLYER

Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

THE UNDISPUTED AVIAN AEROBATIC FLIGHT CHAMPIONS

STORY BY LUCY ELAM + PHOTOS COURTESY OF WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED



Small, bright, and literally thrumming with life, the ***ruby-throated hummingbird*** is a welcome presence on long summer days. Bursting with energy and zipping along at speeds up to 60 miles per hour, these tiny, precision-flying creatures are eastern North America's sole breeding hummingbird. Weighing in at only 1/10th of an ounce, (about the weight of a penny), hummingbirds have the fastest heart rate, wing beat, and metabolism of any bird. Even though hummingbirds have the smallest brain of any bird, their intelligence is anything but small. These fascinating birds use spider webs as a binding agent when nest-building, and they are capable of navigating thousands of miles to migrate back to the exact same feeder year after year. Ruby-throated hummingbirds have such underdeveloped legs they are unable to walk, but they make up for that with the incredible abilities of their wings. Their wings can beat more than 50 times a second, and they are the only birds that can fly backwards and upside down.

Flower gardens and hummingbird feeders are surefire ways to attract ruby-throated hummingbirds to your yard. You can make a sugar-water mixture of one part white sugar per four parts water to use in your feeders. Be sure to change the water before it grows discolored, and keep in mind that during hot weather, sugar water ferments rapidly to produce toxic alcohol. By early fall, ruby-throated hummingbirds will be heading south for the winter, so enjoy them while they are around. LL



FOOD

Hummingbird nectar

1 part white sugar dissolved in 4 parts water.

Fun Facts

- *Hummingbirds lay the world's smallest bird egg (about the size of a blueberry).*
- *Hummingbirds can drink up to twice their body weight in nectar every day (most birds only eat ¼ - ½ their body weight).*
- *The extremely short legs of the ruby-throated hummingbird prevent it from walking or hopping. The best it can do is shuffle along a perch.*
- *During their migration journeys, most ruby-throated hummingbirds opt to fly non-stop over the Gulf of Mexico. This endurance run can take up to 22 hours, and, in some cases, the trip is as long as 500 miles.*

Where to see them

- *Xeriscape Gardens*
- *Coastal Discovery Museum*
- *Wildflower field, Sea Pines*



Hummingbird essentials

Find a full line of feeders, seeds and accessories for backyard bird feeding at ***Wild Birds Unlimited*** in Festival Centre at Indigo Park on Hilton Head Island, which is now under new ownership.

ACCESSORIES

- **Ruby-throated hummingbird mug:** A 16-ounce decorative mug that showcases the ruby-throated hummingbird. Dishwasher and microwave safe.



- **Ruby-throated hummingbird towel:** Part of the Field Guide collection, this soft, absorbent flour sack towel is perfect for wiping up spills or simply adding a touch of nature to your décor. Featuring illustrations by artist Sally Eckman Roberts.





Decorative window feeder

FEEDERS

- The high-perch hummingbird feeder is the perfect way to attract hummingbirds to any yard.
- With the **decorative window hummingbird feeder**, only a window pane stands between you and the jewels of nature.

A Cut Above

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MAY beach day



Get a kickstart to the summer season by welcoming the May sunshine. Before the crowds flock to our beaches, it's the perfect time to unwind and enjoy our shoreline. As the temperature of the water rises and the sun sets later, this month is made for long beach days. ***Make the most of it with our guide for May.***

warm

TYPICAL DAYS

May brings warm days and cool nights. With temperatures ranging from the mid 60s to low 80s, the sun and breeze make for the perfect weather combination. As the Lowcountry's sunniest month with only 2 inches of rain, you finally can soak up some much-needed rays.







BEACH DESTINATION

Tybee Island

Find peace on over three miles of beautiful, open beaches on this cool little island, located just 20 minutes from downtown Savannah. For the kids, its sandy shores are stocked with shark teeth and seashells ready to be found. The large variety of seaside attractions and restaurants makes it a fun place to spend a spring day.

Road Trip

Hilton Head Island to Tybee Island

50 miles: *1 hours, 17 minutes*



Discover Little Tybee

Just south of Tybee Island lies Little Tybee Island. The uninhabited nature preserve is twice the size of Tybee and is worth exploring. You can get there via boat, kayak, jet-ski or ride over on a tour boat. The quiet island is perfect for shelling, fishing, photography and picnicking.

Go fish

Have the "pier-fect" fishing afternoon on the pier at Tybee Island's South Beach. Its variety of coastal marine life makes it an amazing place to cast your rod. From stingray to black and red drum, the fish here will definitely take your bait. Purchase a Georgia fishing license at gooutdoors-georgia.com. You can rent poles at the end of the pier or bring your own. Other than the pier, you can cruise around with Marshland Inshore Fishing Adventures in search of your next big catch.



What to bring.

Flip flops: Reef One Water Friendly Flip Flops, $35 (Quiet Storm) **Sunglasses:** Maui Jim 772 Sea House Polarized, $300 (Outside Hilton Head) **Mat:** CGear Sand-Free Mat, $55 **Bag:** La Bumba Scout Beach Bags, $44 (Gifted) **Cooler:** Sunnylife Beach Cooler Box Sounds, $160 **Sunscreen:** Sun Bum Mineral SPF 30 Sunscreen Face Lotion, $18 **Hat:** Columbia Unisex Coolhead II Ball Cap, $32

TYBEE BEACH PIER

May Tides

SAT, MAY 1	L 06:42 AM	H 11:46 AM	
	H 12:21 PM	L 05:51 PM	
	L 06:29 PM	H 11:59 PM	
SUN, MAY 2	H 12:59 AM	L 06:30 AM	
	L 7:21 AM	H 12:34 AM	
	H 01:23 PM	L 06:38 PM	
	L 07:28 PM		
MON, MAY 3	H 02:01 AM	L 07:18 AM	
	L 08:23 AM	H 1:28 PM	
	H 02:24 PM	L 07:32 PM	
	L 08:45 PM		
TUES, MAY 4	H 03:01 AM	L 08:13 AM	
	L 09:26 AM	H 02:24 PM	
	H 03:24 PM	L 08:35 PM	
	L 09:45 PM		
WED, MAY 5	H 03:59 AM	L 09:12 AM	
	L 10:24 AM	H 03:21 PM	
	H 04:21 PM	L 09:43 PM	
	L 10:49 PM		
THURS, MAY 6	L 03:10 AM	H 09:01 AM	
	L 03:12 PM	H 09:30 PM	
FRI, MAY 7	H 05:45 AM	L 12:03 AM	
	H 06:05 PM		
SAT, MAY 8	L 12:34 AM	H 06:33 AM	
	L 12:46 PM	H 06:50 PM	
SUN, MAY 9	L 01:19 AM	H 07:16 AM	
	L 01:26 PM	H 07:32 PM	
MON, MAY 10	L 02:02 AM	H 07:57 AM	
	L 02:04 PM	H 08:10 PM	
TUES, MAY 11	L 02:42 AM	H 08:36 AM	
	L 03:19 PM	H 09:22 PM	
WED, MAY 12	L 03:19 AM	H 09:13 AM	
	L 03:19 PM	H 09:22 PM	
THURS, MAY 13	L 03:56 AM	H 09:50 AM	
	L 03:59 PM	H 09:58 PM	
FRI, MAY 14	L 04:32 AM	H 10:26 AM	
	L 04:32 PM	H 10:34 PM	
SAT, MAY 15	L 05:08 AM	H 11:04 AM	
	L 05:10 PM	H 11:14 PM	
SUN, MAY 16	L 05:47 AM		
MON, MAY 17	L 06:30 AM	H 12:34 AM	
	L 06:38 PM		
TUES, MAY 18	H 12:50 AM		
	L 07:18 AM	H 1:28 PM	
	L 07:32 PM		
WED, MAY 19	H 01:45 AM		
	L 08:13 AM	H 02:24 PM	
	L 08:35 PM		
THURS, MAY 20	H 02:42 AM		
	L 09:12 AM	H 03:21 PM	
	L 09:43 PM		
FRI, MAY 21	H 03:29 AM		
	L 10:11 AM	H 04:19 PM	
	L 10:46 PM		
SAT, MAY 22	H 04:37 AM		
	L 11:07 AM	H 05:16 PM	
	L 11:48 PM		
SUN, MAY 23	H 05:35 AM		
	L 12:02 PM	H 06:13 PM	
MON, MAY 24	L 12:46 AM		
	H 06:32 AM		
	L 12:55 PM	H 07:08 PM	
TUES, MAY 25	L 01:43 AM		
	H 07:27 AM		
	L 01:48 PM	H 08:02 PM	
WED, MAY 26	L 02:37 AM		
	H 08:20 AM		
	L 02:41 PM	H 08:54 PM	
THURS, MAY 27	L 03:31 AM		
	H 09:14 AM		
	L 03:33 PM	H 09:48 PM	
FRI, MAY 28	L 04:23 AM		
	H 10:08 AM		
	L 04:25 PM	H 10:43 PM	
SAT, MAY 29	L 05:12 AM		
	H 11:05 AM		
	L 05:18 PM	H 11:42 PM	
SUN, MAY 30	L 06:07 AM		
	H 12:05 AM		
	L 06:12 PM		
MON, MAY 31	H 12:41 AM		
	L 07:01 AM		
	H 01:05 PM		
	L 07:09 PM		

ART THAT ELEVATES



"Where the Boys Are"

Featured Artist | Louanne

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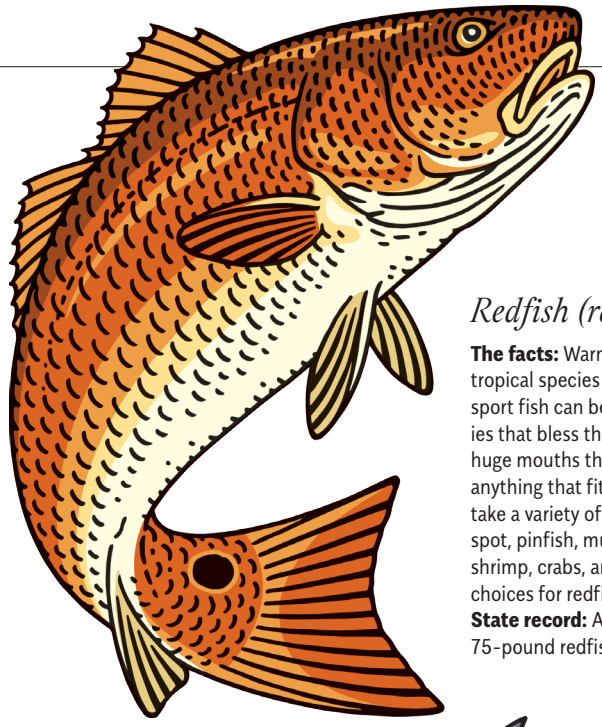
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Saltwater fish Hall of Fame

CAST A LINE FOR THESE TOP SPECIES SWIMMING IN LOCAL WATERS

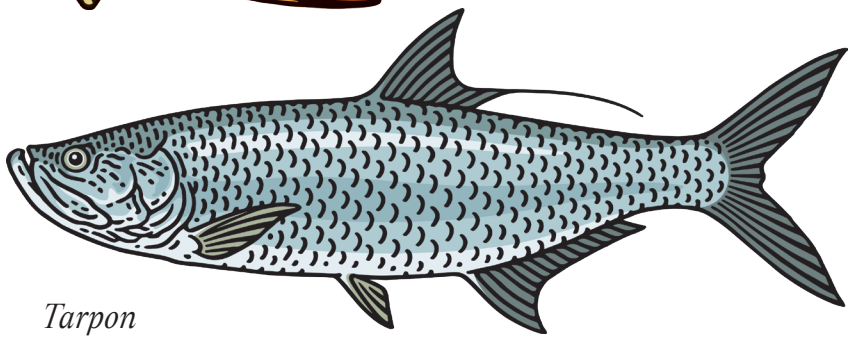
BY LUCY ELAM

The South Carolina coast provides the quality and diversity of saltwater angling that has made it one of the top sport fishing areas along the Atlantic coast. With 190 miles of coastal shoreline, there is ample access for all anglers, and there are even more opportunities in the coastal bays, inlets, tidal creeks and rivers. Whether you want to experience saltwater angling or trout fishing, all you need is some bait, fishing gear and a valid South Carolina fishing license to catch a wide variety of species. Here we offer a peek into a Lowcountry "Fish Hall of Fame," featuring some of the most popular fish species that are staples of the local angling community. *LL*



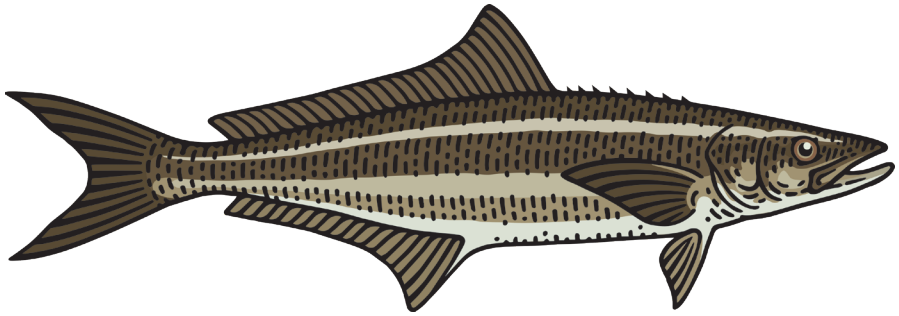
Redfish (red drum)

The facts: Warm waters bring seasonal and tropical species like the redfish. This world-class sport fish can be found within the coastal estuaries that bless the South Carolina coast. With huge mouths that allow them to eat just about anything that fits inside, red drum will readily take a variety of live baits. Croakers, menhaden, spot, pinfish, mullet, small-scaled sardines, live shrimp, crabs, and blood worms are all good choices for redfish.
State record: A.J. Taylor caught a massive 75-pound redfish in 1965 at Murrells Inlet.



Tarpon

The facts: The annual migration of tarpon to South Carolina waters usually starts in late May, and these 80-100 pound fish usually will stick around until mid-October. Mostly fish-eating predators, tarpon consume mid-water prey like striped mullet, silversides, and pinfish. Gear up with heavy tackle, a stout rod, and follow the bait to find a tarpon.
State record: S.B. Kiser caught a 154-pound, 10-ounce tarpon in 1987 off Hilton Head Island.

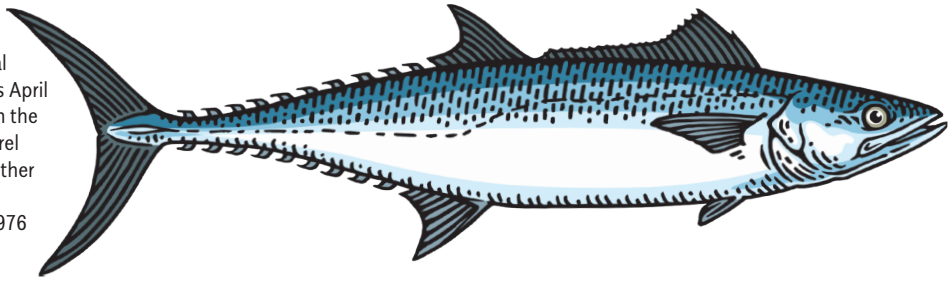


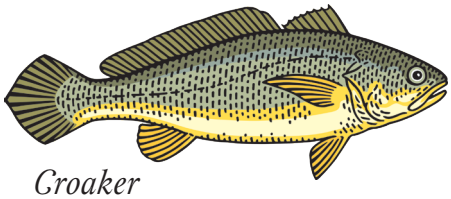
Cobia

The facts: Often mistaken for sharks, the average cobia usually weighs around 35 to 40 pounds and can reach 60 pounds in adulthood. Menhaden, live eels, whiting, shad chunks, and crab can be used as chum and bait. Hooked or not, cobia will often swim right up to the boat, but they will definitely put up quite a fight. The waters of the Broad River, between Beaufort and Hilton Head, are one of the country's best fishing spots to find concentrations of cobia.
State record: Robby Maroudas caught a 92-pound, 10-ounce cobia in 2009 off Hilton Head Island.

King mackerel

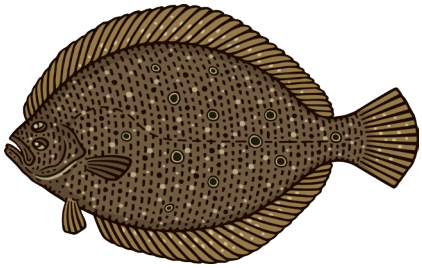
The facts: Kingfish mackerel can be found concentrated on artificial reefs, ledges, and at various depths. High season for king mackerel is April to September, and baitfish are the key to king mackerel fishing. With the onset of spring and the warming of water temperatures, king mackerel migrate into Carolina waters, following the mullet, menhaden, and other baitfish that congregate around nearshore structures.
State record: J. Brownlee III caught a 62-pound king mackerel in 1976 off the coast of Charleston.





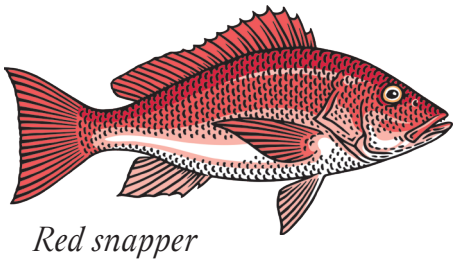
Croaker

The facts: Present in South Carolina waters year-round, the croaker gets its name from the deep croaking sounds created by muscular action on the air bladder. Large concentrations of croaker are often observed in shallow waters less than 4 feet deep and in close proximity to a source of fresh or brackish water. They prefer mud, sand and shell bottoms, as well as areas around rocks, jetties, piers and bridges.
State record: C.I. Frasier caught a 4-pound, 9-ounce croaker in 1979 off the coast of Charleston.



Summer flounder

The facts: Nicknamed "chameleons of the sea," summer flounder are able to change their appearance to better blend in with their habitat. As one of the most sought-after commercial and recreational fish along the Atlantic coast, summer flounder can be caught with live and dead bait, from the shore or at anchor. Slow-trolling and drifting are common methods of summer flounder fishing.
State record: J. Wallace caught a 3-pound, 8-ounce summer flounder in 1982 out of Murrells Inlet.



Red snapper

The facts: Found offshore on the continental shelf, red snapper may live more than 20 years and attain 35 pounds or more. From June to October, these crimson fish inhabit our waters and feed on crustaceans and fish. Red snapper favor rocky bottoms at depths of 60 to 400 feet. These are hard-hitting fish that are primarily caught on slow-moving or still baits such as squid or cut bait. Recreational harvest is scheduled to reopen July 9, 2021.
State record: K. Henry caught a 37-pound, 8-ounce red snapper in 1964 out of Little River in Horry County.

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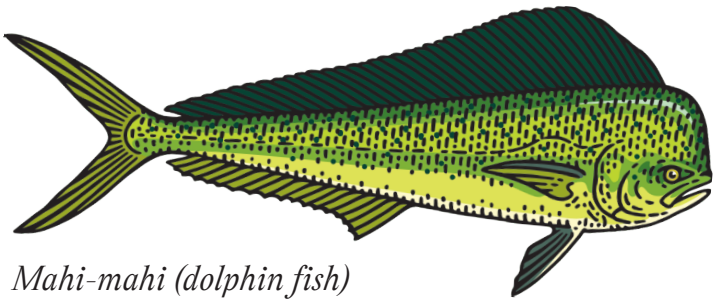
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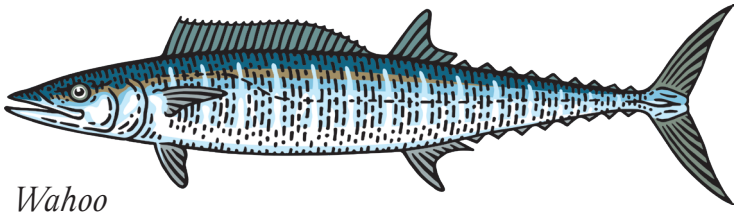
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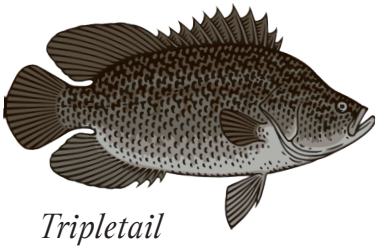
Mahi-mahi (dolphin fish)

The facts: One of the easiest of the offshore game fish to catch, mahi have no closed season. High season is May to July, and low season is January to February and November to December. Mahi inhabit the open ocean and are usually found close to the surface where they cluster around floating objects, especially buoys, driftwood and seaweed. The most common method of fishing for mahi is trolling ballyhoo, although some have tried mullet, squid, Spanish mackerel or artificial baits.
State record: R. Riggs caught a 77 1/2-pound mahi in 2008 off Seabrook Island.



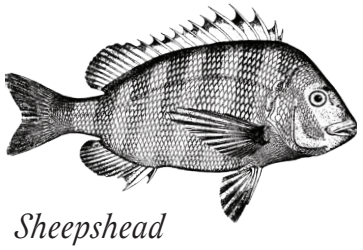
Wahoo

The facts: Wahoo were originally plentiful off the Hawaiian island of Oahu, once commonly spelled "Wahoo," which accounts for this remarkable fish's name. With razor-sharp teeth and a lower jaw that can open impossibly wide, wahoo are able to hit speeds around 60 mph. March is wahoo time offshore of Lowcountry beaches. Wahoo gather around banks and pinnacles and can be occasionally found around wrecks and deeper reefs where smaller fish are abundant. High-speed trolling is the key to catching them.
State Record: R.J. Moore caught a 130-pound, 5-ounce wahoo in 1998 out of Murrells Inlet.



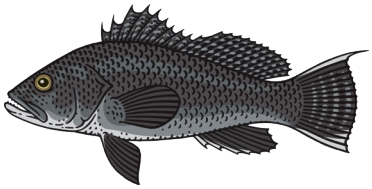
Tripletail

The facts: South Carolina anglers can target tripletail all summer and expect to take home a few fish every trip. When the heat peaks, the tripletail action gets really hot. You can start seeing them in May, and they will stick around all summer. Look for tripletail near the surface, floating sideways. They are generally found near inlets and around structures just inside estuaries.
State record: J. Johnson caught a 33 1/2-pound tripletail in 2005 on Hilton Head Island.



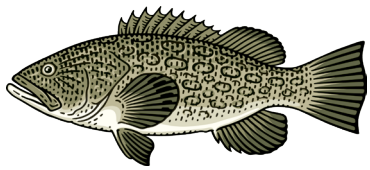
Sheepshead

The facts: This marine fish has a hard mouth, with several rows of stubby teeth – the frontal ones closely resembling human teeth – which help crush the shells of prey. As sheepshead feed on bivalves and crustaceans, successful baits include shrimp, sand fleas (mole crabs), clams, fiddler crabs, and mussels. Sheepshead have a knack for stealing bait, so a small hook is necessary.
State record: J. Widener caught a 16-pound, 6-ounce sheepshead in 2008 in Mt. Pleasant.



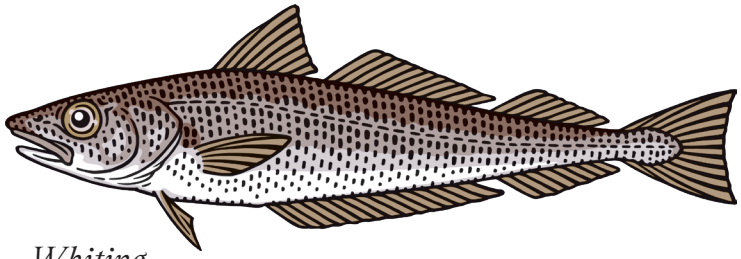
Black sea bass

The facts: The black sea bass is a bottom-dwelling species found around wrecks, reefs, piers, and jetties, as well as over beds of shells and rock. They prefer warmer waters, living offshore in winter and moving inshore during the spring. They migrate offshore and south in the fall, returning north and inshore to coastal areas and bays in spring. Black sea bass feed on clams, shrimp, worms, crabs, and small fish. Still and drift fishing on or near the bottom with squid and live and cut baits are effective methods of catching these fish.
State record: L. L. Hudson caught an 8-pound, 3-ounce black sea bass in 1995 out of Fripp Inlet.



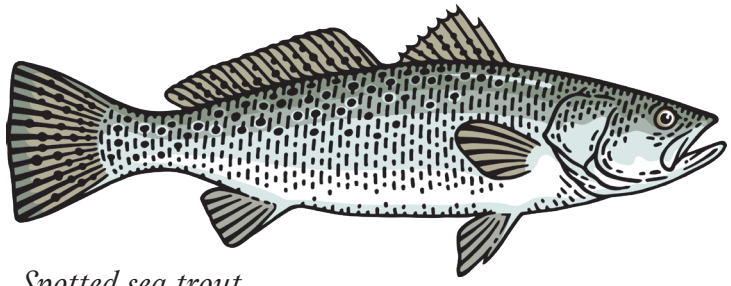
Grouper

The facts: A member of the sea bass family, groupers are big, abundant, and meaty. When you eat grouper, you are likely enjoying black or red grouper, sometimes called "gag." These fish are frequently taken with live and cut baits fished around natural rocky outcroppings, artificial reefs, and other irregular bottoms. Adults prefer sardines, porgies, snapper and grunts, as well as crabs, shrimp, and squid. Young gag feed mainly on crustaceans found in shallow waters.
State record: James L. Lasher caught a 54-pound, 4-ounce gag grouper in 2018 out of the Isle of Palms Marina.



Whiting

The facts: A member of the croaker family, whiting can be caught in excellent numbers during the summer and fall. Whiting can be found in the surf or inside edges of inlets, and most fish are probably caught in less than 15 feet of water. Use a smaller hook, and bait them with pieces of shrimp, clam or earthworm.
State record: W. Mobley caught a 2-pound, 12-ounce whiting in 1976 in Georgetown.



Spotted sea trout

The facts: Spotted seatrout are an inshore, bottom-dwelling species inhabiting shallow bays, estuaries, and rivers. They are most abundant in September through July. In South Carolina, sea trout tend to congregate in the cooler months and are taken by trolling, jigging, surfcasting, and fly-fishing with both natural and artificial baits. Live shrimp is the best bait.
State record: A. Pendergrass caught an 11-pound, 13-ounce spotted sea trout out of Murrells Inlet in 1976 .



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Build the ultimate Lowcountry tackle box

BY SARAH ORIE

Just as a jockey can't expect to win the Kentucky Derby with a donkey, fishermen can't hope for success with a simple pole, hook and worm here in the Lowcountry. We reached out to local fishing experts David McKinlay and Grant Kaple of **The Boathouse** to help determine the best bait and tackle options for your next day out. They provided insight on what to use, where to use it and why it's effective. ***Here is their ultimate inshore Lowcountry tackle box:***



Precision Tackle Cajun Thunder Float
Great for suspending a jig or live bait over inshore grass or structure without snagging. It splashes and clicks as you work it with your rod tip, attracting the attention of redfish and trout. Weighted for longer casting.



Owner Mosquito Hooks (Size 1/0)
Used for catching predominantly freshwater fish such as bass and bluegill, these hooks are ideal for rigging small live baits, nose-hooking soft plastics, and worming. For light line use, it is self-setting and perfect for windy conditions where it is difficult to keep a tight line.



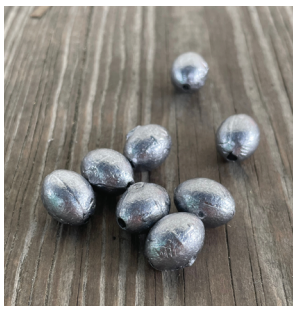
Gamakatsu Inline Octopus Circle
Better for live bait, these circle hooks are super sharp, exceptionally strong and designed to hook and hold fish in the corner of the mouth. This decreases the chance the fish will swallow the hook into their gut, which improves their chance of survival and makes it easier to remove.



Z-Man Trout Eye 3/16 oz Jig Heads
Jigs are intended to create a jerky, vertical motion as opposed to spinnerbaits, which move through the water horizontally. The jig is very versatile and can be used in both salt and fresh water. No other jighead sports a bigger, more natural-looking 3D eye than the Trout Eye or is so precisely balanced to maintain a natural profile in shallow water.



Rapala Saltwater Skitter Walk Hard Bait (Bone)
Superior construction assures a perfect swimming bait right out of the box. Toss it out, pump, reel and repeat. You're "walking the dog," a technique that imitates a wounded baitfish very effectively. Large internal rattles create a rhythmic side-to-side motion-and-sound combination that imitates swimming mullet or fleeing baitfish.



Lead Bullet Weights
Sinkers are used in conjunction with a fishing lure or hook to increase its rate of sink, anchoring ability, and/or casting distance. Bullet sinkers are used widely on largemouth bass for rigging plastic worms.



Z-Man Swimmin Trout Trick (Pearl Blue Glimmer)
Z-Man's exclusive curved paddle tail has a unique bait with lifelike, vibrant swimming action. This bait attracts bites from a variety of freshwater and saltwater gamefish including redfish, flounder, trout and other species seasonally.



ROD & REEL

St. Croix Mojo Inshore Casting Rod
Canyon Reels DJR3500 Spinning Reel



Frenzy Tackle Fluorocarbon Leader (50 yds)

Leader lines protect your main line from possible damage as well as improves bait presentation. The Frenzy Tackle Fluorocarbon Leader Material features super low visibility and high abrasion resistance at a great price. With the line weight at 20 pounds, these 50-yard spools of 100 percent fluorocarbon leader material are must-haves for the serious offshore angler for trolling, chunking and live bait applications.



Egret Baits Vudu Shrimp Soft Bait

Mesmerize fish with the specially designed realism of Vudu Shrimp Soft Bait. The sectional tail is engineered to create lifelike swimming movements in the water that will have any catch convinced. A nylon weave through the body and durable construction ensures that this will last cast after cast. It is pre-rigged on a 1/4 oz. jig head with a 4X Strong hook, so it's ready to use right out of the pack.



Pro-Cure Shrimp Super Gel Bait Scent

Made from real bait and enhanced with powerful amino acids, you can lather this sticky base on lures, spoons, spinners, swim baits, and soft baits. The UV enhancement acts like attaching a light bulb to your lure or bait. The visibility brings fish in to investigate, and the scent gets them to feed.



SPRO 50 pack Power Swivel (size 6/80 lbs)

Fishing swivels allow your line to untwist during retrieval, preventing undesirable tangling. The ideal place to have a swivel is at the top of your leader, away from your lure/hook. Attach it by threading your double line through the eye and knotting it onto your line.

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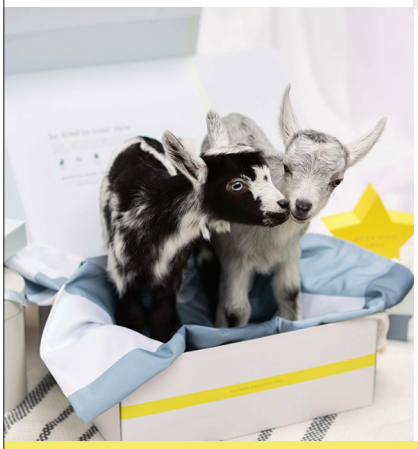
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Bait for it ...

Catching bait can be hard if you don't know what you're doing. What should you be looking for? Where should you look for it? How do you catch it? Lucky for you, we reached out to local fisherman **Trent Newest** and got his tips and tricks for catching bait in the Lowcountry.

What to look for

Popular bait in the Lowcountry includes shrimp, finger mullet, croaker, pinfish and fiddler crab.

Where to find it

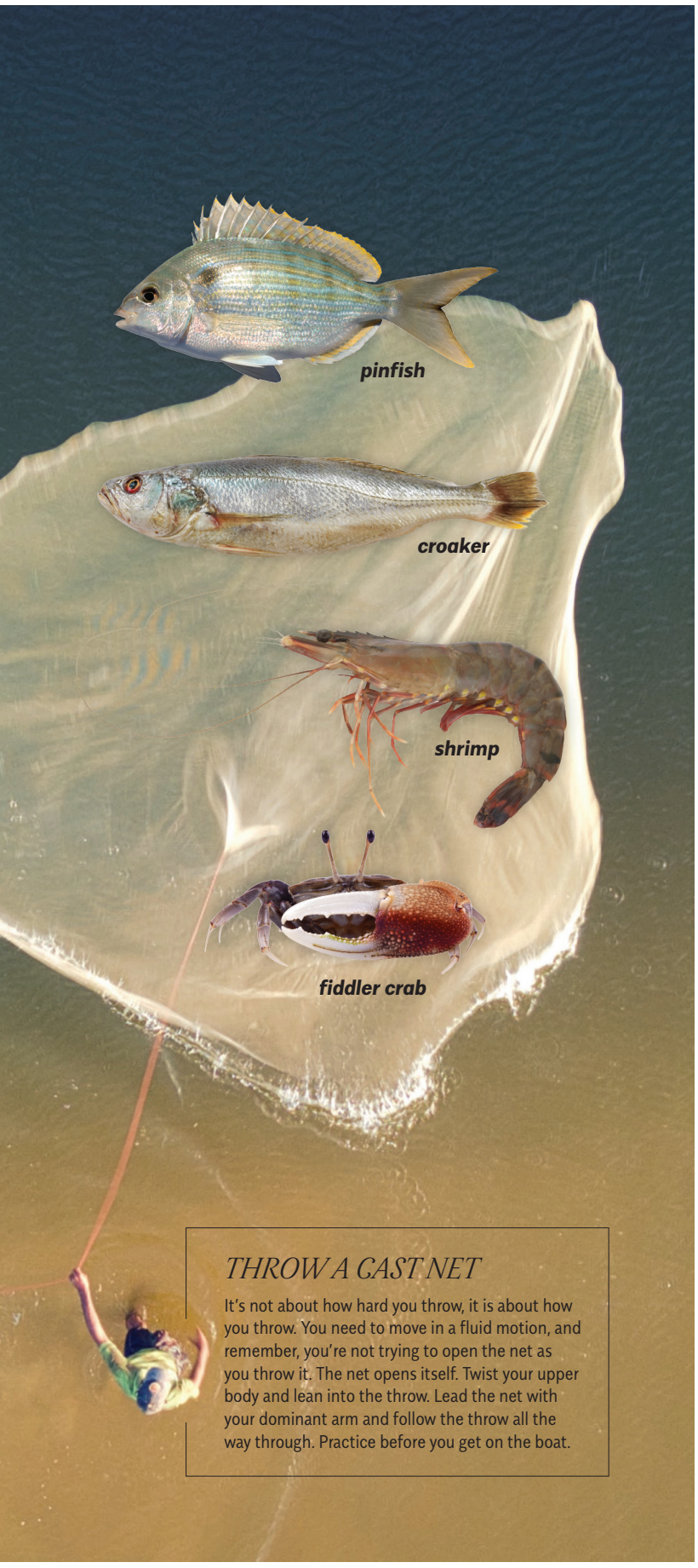
During the colder months, shrimp and finger mullet tend to gravitate more toward deep water. However, since the weather is getting warmer, you'll start to find them in the more shallow parts. Fiddler crabs are found in wet sand and mud, near the edges of salt marshes.

How to catch it

The most common method of catching bait is with a cast net. Cast nets allow you to catch multiple fish at once, making it easy to take what you need and release the ones you don't. Make sure the meshing is 3/8 or larger, so that the bigger bait gets caught, and the really small ones are let go. Cast nets with less weight and smaller mesh size will sink slower and are best for catching small bait in shallow water. Larger, heavier nets are best for catching large fish in deep water.

How to use it

The most popular fish here in the Lowcountry is the redfish. You also can find speckled sea trout, black drum, flounder and sheepshead. You're in luck because these fish feed on shrimp, finger mullet, and croaker — all baits mentioned above.



THROW A CAST NET

It's not about how hard you throw, it is about how you throw. You need to move in a fluid motion, and remember, you're not trying to open the net as you throw it. The net opens itself. Twist your upper body and lean into the throw. Lead the net with your dominant arm and follow the throw all the way through. Practice before you get on the boat.

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Good things come to those who bait

INSIGHT ON THE BEST BAIT SHOPS TO HIT BEFORE YOUR DAY ON THE WATER.

BY SARAH ORIE

Hook yourself up with the freshest bait available by discovering the Lowcountry's top hometown tackle stores. All of these are operated by avid fishermen who are a wealth of local knowledge. ***Let them know what you're trying to accomplish and they will set you up for success.***



Bubba's Cabin Lowcountry Outfitters
William Hilton Parkway, Hilton Head

As one of Hilton Head's top locations for live mud minnows and fiddler crabs, Bubba's Cabin is a well-known mid-island bait and tackle shop. Other frozen bait available includes shrimp, mullet, squid, pogies, and chum blocks/buckets. You even can order stingray on special request. Its variation of tackle includes everything from rods and reels to cast nets and hooks. You also can tend to your reel-spooling needs with its manual spooling device with a wide selection of braid and mono. You can definitely say there's much more than what meets the eye at this small cabin.



The Boathouse *Squire Pope Road, Hilton Head*

Located next to Skull Creek Boathouse restaurant, this tackle and gear shop carries rods, reels, fishing gear and apparel. Its tackle selection is based on what local captains use, and the knowledgeable staff will help you find the right combo. No matter what type of fishing you do — inshore, flats, offshore, or freshwater— it has everything you need. The Boathouse also has locations at Palmetto Bay Marina and on Okatie Highway in Ridgeland.





Southern Drawl Outfitters
Moss Creek Village, Bluffton

Specializing in saltwater fishing, Southern Drawl Outfitters is a hotspot for all your fishing needs. Its live bait collection includes shrimp, fiddlers, and minnows while also having a variety of artificial and frozen bait available. Recognized by Step Outside as one of South Carolina's top nine bait and tackle shops, it's known for personalized service and reasonable prices. As an outfitter, it also carries specialized fishing apparel and tackle to help you on your journey. Customers love its dedication to inshore, offshore, and fly fishing.



Ship's Store *Shelter Cove Marina, Hilton Head*

At Ship's Store, anglers looking for tackle and bait should be able to find anything they need to catch fish on Hilton Head. Located in Shelter Cove Marina, it carries frozen shrimp, chicken necks, squid, mullet, and chum. It's known as the headquarters for fishing charter reservations as well as selling different types of gear ranging from apparel to souvenirs. Open sunrise to sunset, the friendly team is always happy to "sea" you and answer any of your fishing questions.



Blue Water Tackle Shop *South Beach Marina, Hilton Head*

Standing as Hilton Head Island's closest marina to the Atlantic Ocean, Blue Water brings the bait and the views. Selling frozen bait such as mullet, shrimp, and squid, it also has a nice selection of artificials. Found in South Beach Marina in Sea Pines, it offers fishing excursions and crabbing equipment as well. From tackle to T-shirts this shop is open daily from 8 a.m, to 5 p.m., and the knowledgeable staff would love to help you be successful on the water. You should definitely stop by and pick up a rod and some rigs for your next fishing excursion.



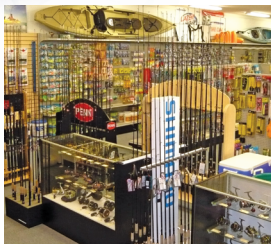
West Marine
Sea Turtle Marketplace, Hilton Head

Available at its location in the Sea Turtle Marketplace, West Marine carries a long list of frozen bait. From the basics of shrimp, mullet and squid to bonita, bait clams, and menhaden, their coolers are killer. The many different types of mullet and ballyhoo are what set it apart from your average bait and tackle shop. Locals can grab a frequent angler frozen bait card where if you purchase nine bait packs, you get the tenth one free. Shelving many different types of marine goods, this shop is a go-to for Lowcountry living and fishing.



Bluffton Marine

Burnt Church Road, Bluffton



Owner and angler Aaron Dowell founded Bluffton Marine in 2011 with the goal of offering products that cater to the local anglers as well as boating and outdoor enthusiasts. The wide selection of bait and products will surely make your day on the water complete. Its daily menu changes seasonally, offering a huge variety of live bait such as eels, worms, crickets, fiddler crabs, shrimp, and mud minnows. As for frozen, it sells ballyhoo, cigar minnows, Spanish sardines, and much more. Looking at the selection of fishing gear, there's no de-bait that this is the place to go for all things tackle and fish.

Last Chance Bait & Tackle

8th Street, Port Royal



Open seven days a week, Last Chance Bait and Tackle caters to the needs of the anglers of Port Royal. Equipped with lots of local knowledge, the staff is known for being incredibly informative and helpful. It carries both live and frozen bait with live options being mud minnows, shrimp, and fiddlers. Other products include apparel, rod and reel combos, and artificials for trout and reds. This local shop has a history of helping visitors and locals catch the big ones. Find information on local fishing tournaments, or pop in to pick up some tackle at this well-stocked shop.



Beaufort Boat & Dock Supply

Ribaut Road, Port Royal

Beaufort Boat and Dock is ready to supply you with all the necessities for your next fishing adventure. Stocked with tackle, boating supplies, and dock hardware, this shop is home to everything you need. The bait selection includes seasonal crickets, mud minnows, eels, shrimp and crabs, as well as a full walk-in cooler of frozen bait. If you're looking for something special, call and they'll get it for you. Open every day except Sundays, you can find a range of gear from popular brands that will help you look the part. Do yourself a favor and shop here next time you're fishing in Beaufort.



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Friends of the Rivers

THE PORT ROYAL SOUND FOUNDATION IS DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE LOWCOUNTRY'S MOST PRISTINE, HISTORIC AND IMPORTANT ESTUARY.



©LLOYD WAINSCOTT







No matter where you travel in Beaufort County, you'll likely cross the Port Royal Sound. Located between Hilton Head, Port Royal, St. Helena, Parris and other smaller islands, several rivers flow into the estuary — including the Broad, Coosawhatchie, Colleton, Chechessee and Pocotaligo rivers. Since 2000, the Port Royal Sound Foundation (previously known as Friends of the Rivers) has educated municipalities and the general public on the importance of protecting the waters of the Port Royal Sound system. ***The five main focuses of the foundation are:***





PILOT STUDY See the bones of a short-finned pilot whale and other interesting exhibits at the Port Royal Sound Foundation Maritime Center.

1. Ecology

Much of the foundation's focus is educating children through field trips and other activities. Volunteers take the children out on to the dock where they get samples from the water and then take back inside to look under microscopes. The maritime center functions as a free museum and aquarium with a variety of fish, snakes, horseshoe crabs and alligators. "We want people to get a good feel for the wildlife around here" says executive director Jody Hayward. Right now, the foundation is hosting "Zoo Zooms," a virtual field trip where students get to learn more about wildlife and even meet some of the animals that live at the maritime center.

2. Recreation

The foundation partners with the SC Department of Natural Resources to host fishing days when they bring kids out on the water and teach them how to fish. Kids learn how to tie a fishing knot, hook bait and take the fish off the hook once it is caught. The foundation also hosts a summer camp where kids learn to fish, explore the salt marsh, hike and more. Different events are held throughout the year where children of all ages can learn how to catch crabs, throw a cast net and tips for a safe catch and release.





©LLOYD WAINSCOTT

3. History

The foundation renovated the Lemon Island Marina and opened its maritime center in 2014. The foundation is working on a new in-depth histororical exhibit that will showcase the history of the Port Royal Sound. Visitors will see historic photos of former fishermen, what the marina used to look like and what it was used for. For many years it was a gathering place for local fishermen. There is also a large, comprehensive exhibit on the history of shrimping, crabbing and fishing.

4. Culture

The PRSF puts a huge emphasis on preserving the Lowcountry and making it a desirable place for both locals and visitors for many years to come. The foundation partners with USCB to research and study the economic benefits of the sound. Beaufort County has the opportunity to capitalize on the Port Royal Sound habitats and the benefits of the beaches. By living here, we are tasked with the mission to protect the sound and do what we can to preserve the land.

5. Art

When you walk into the maritime center, you are greeted by artwork from local artists. The artwork rotates throughout the year so different artists have a chance to be featured and have their work shown. Every year, the foundation hosts a recycled art contest to help bring awareness to Beaufort County's plastic bag ban and keep the water and land of the Port Royal Sound Area clean and healthy. *LL*







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Go phishing — you might just get a byte!

GET 'HOOKED' ON VIRTUAL REALITY FISHING

BY LUCY ELAM

Maybe you like the idea of fishing but you're not really the outdoorsy type. Perhaps you're looking for a way to lure your tech-savvy kids into one of your favorite pastimes. Or maybe you just love fishing so much, you want to explore every possible way to enjoy it. Whatever your reasoning, virtual reality fishing can be a fun experience for everyone. ***Here are some of the best games on the market.***



Ultimate Fishing Simulator VR PC - STEAM

Ultimate Fishing Simulator is a comprehensive fishing simulator which allows you to use various fishing techniques in different places around the world. Select the appropriate equipment and bait, cast your line and wait for a bite. The game offers two modes of difficulty. Normal Mode includes all the features in the game, and Realistic Mode requires more patience and talent from the player. Fish will bite less and fight longer, and some of the user-friendly game features in this mode are disabled. You can decide yourself to sell, release or stuff the fish that you catch. You can even create your own maps and build your own dream fishery that you can share with other players.



Real VR Fishing **OCULUS QUEST & RIFT**

Whether you want to dive into a fishing experience or just sit back and relax in a mesmerizing scenery, Real VR Fishing has you covered. In this game, you can relax in real-world fishing spots, go fishing and catch various species, and fill your aquarium with your prize catches. The game offers several different levels of difficulty, making it an excellent choice for veteran anglers and inexperienced newcomers alike. Collect freshwater and saltwater fishes in your own customizable aquariums, and relax in the stunningly realistic scenery while listening to your favorite tunes in the background. When you play on the Oculus Quest, you can do a multiplayer co-op for up to four players. You can meet up with friends online, or find new people to go fishing with.



Catch & Release

PLAYSTATION VR, OCULUS RIFT, RIFT S, TOUCH, HTC VIVE & MICROSOFT MIXED REALITY

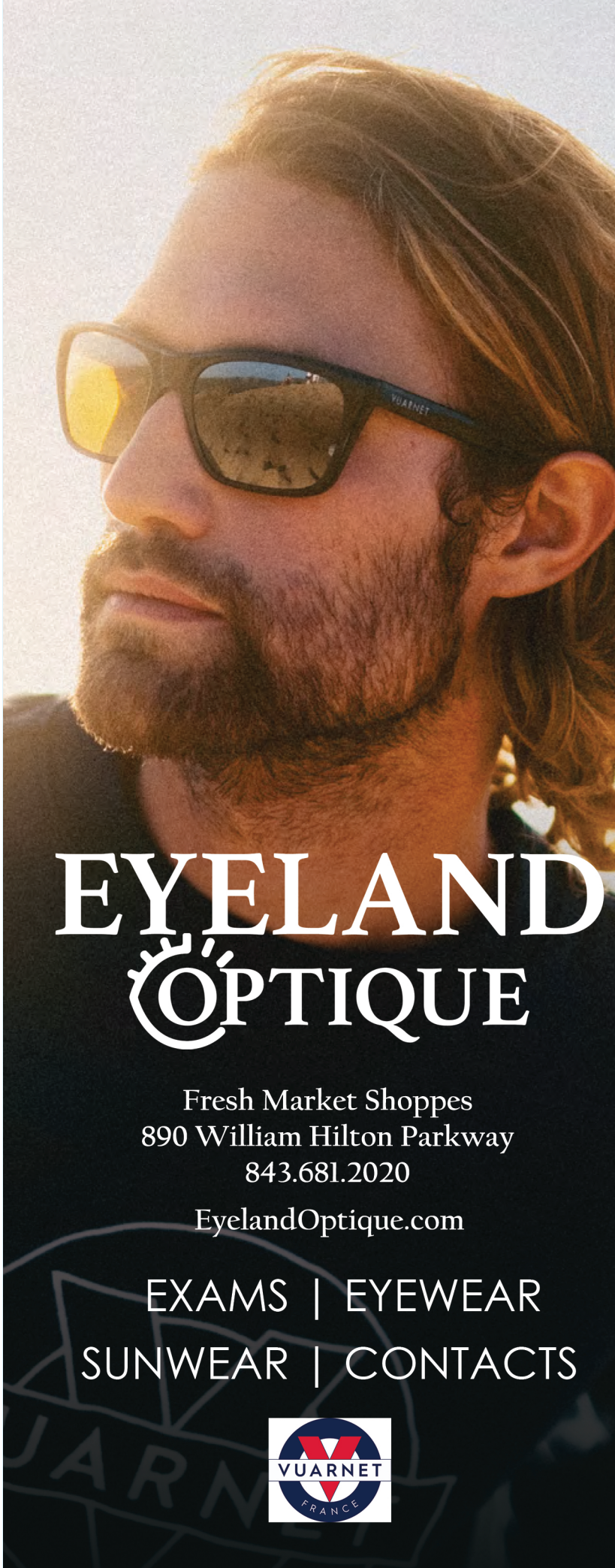
As one of the best rated VR fishing games currently on the market, Catch & Release is designed to enable players to unwind and play however they want. Step into your rowboat, grab the paddles and dive into a meditative, relaxing VR fishing experience, or you can take on missions to unlock new gear and interactive items to help you catch the biggest fish. The game has been praised for its realism, graphics, and good controls. The gameplay is peaceful, but there is still a physical aspect. You have to manually row the boat, bait the hook, cast the line, and fight the fish. Patience is key, as with real-life fishing. The game has an original soundtrack you can listen to while you fish, skip stones across the lake, or hunt for treasures hidden deep underwater.



Fishing Master

PLAYSTATION VR

Fishing Master is an enjoyable fishing game made from the ground up for VR. Pick your favorite fishing rod and collect fish from all over the world. This game incorporates many realistic aspects of fishing. The more powerful the fish, the more you need to work in order to reel it in. After you've hooked a fish, the 'move' controller vibrates in accordance to the fish's attempts to set itself free. Like with real fishing, you have to tire the fish by pulling against the fish's direction with your rod as you try to keep the line from snapping. Once you land your catch in the boat, it is added to the fish catalog and to your personal aquarium. The game offers over 200 different species of fish with incredibly realistic detailing/markings, their own unique behaviors and AI. On top of that, there are 50 different tools in the kit selection that you are given, earn or buy, and they range from rods and reels to new lines.



A life on the water

CAST OFF WITH COLLINS DOUGHTIE AND DISCOVER HOW BEAUTIFUL OUR WATERS CAN BE.

BY BARRY KAUFMAN



SAVE THE COBIA
Collins is shown with one of only two cobia he has harvested in last six years. "I am heavily involved trying to protect these great gamefish, especially changing the catch limit from six to two fish per day," he said.





SOY CAPITÁN Above, Collins and Carlyle Cornell pose with a nice king mackerel. "She is now a junior in high school, loves fishing and can run boats up to 60'. She is a real catch!," he said. At right, Collins shows his sense of humor after being selected as master of ceremonies for Bluffton's Blessing of the Fleet.

To understand the love that Collins Doughtie has for the Lowcountry's waterways, you first have to understand that he sees them differently than most.

For him, they've been a constant unchanging presence in his life, a vital a part of his story as with any first love. Growing up in early Sea Pines (by his reckoning, they were one of the first dozen homes built in the community), the water was essentially all there was. And he fell for our waters as surely as any romantic.

"Having lived here all my life, I've lost a lot of girlfriends because of fishing," he said. "Luckily, my wife is great. She knew what she was getting into."

In fairness to those long-gone girlfriends, the water was here first. As a young fisherman, Doughtie reeled



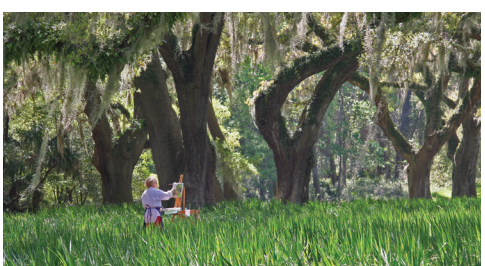
GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY at Spring Island

Do you know what it feels like to dig your hands in the earth and pull vegetables right out of the ground? Have you gotten wet clay under your fingernails? Do you have firsthand experience of plunging your already frozen hand into the river to pull out a fish before it wriggles off your line? Then maybe you should join the family of Members at Spring Island in South Carolina's Lowcountry, who are more about digging in than showing off. They embrace their passions. They engage with their community. They indulge their curiosities, they share their knowledge, and they're not afraid to get their hands dirty. Are you?

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BIG FISH TO FRY Collins is shown with half a dozen sheepshead ("without patience, forget it."), sizing up a wahoo ("I am a wahoo junky. Fast, furious and delicious.") and hooking a sailfish during the Edisto Billfish Tournament ("What a show they put on.").

in his first sailfish at age 6, and his first marlin at 14. "I've just been doing it pretty much my entire life. I love it," he said. "Every single day, it's different."

While he served as a mate in his teens, he never served as captain. Instead, he happily takes a handful of regulars out on the water, guiding them on their own boats. Each of these expeditions is different, but at their core they're equal parts a chance for him to share his love and knowledge of fishing.

"I enjoy teaching people what we have here and the importance of taking care of what we have here," he said. "With the growth of what's happening here – we have one shot at it."









CATCH ALL Collins is shown with a barrel of wahoo ("Good Friday. Four over 70 pounds."), double-fisting flounder ("It has only taken me 40-plus years, but I finally have catching flounder down pat."), petting his dog Butterbean (" Goes with me all the time.") and posing with Beau Norton ("Ever since I put him on a tripletail, it's all he wants to catch.").

His conservancy efforts take place largely on land, working with Waddell Mariculture Center to raise the state's saltwater license fee ("Ours is less than half of what you would spend in Georgia, North Carolina or Florida. It's a joke.") and encouraging waterside homeowners to switch to sewers from septic tanks, which help contribute to pollution when rainwater runoff seeps across them. That's to say nothing of his columns, which regularly serve as open-ended love letters to the waters that surround our Lowcountry home.

He also organized Waddell's annual Run for the Bulls fundraising tournament and has been a staunch supporter of Fishing with Friends, giving those with special needs a chance to get out on the water. It's this last part that dovetails his two passions – fishing and spreading his lifelong enthusiasm for our waters, even if that enthusiasm proves dangerously infectious.

"One of the people I started guiding several years ago had a 23-foot boat when I met him. Two years later it was 28 feet, then 33, 35, then 45. Now we're up to a 60," he said. "I don't know how wives feel about me, but Grant at The Boathouse likes me a lot."

To those water widows, we can at least offer this reassurance. That 60-foot boat is now part of an entire armada of boaters inspired by Doughtie to get out on the water and preserve a way of life that was here before us. Through his example, they are helping more people see our waters the way Doughtie does. *LL*

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Philanthropy through fishing

FISHING WITH FRIENDS PROGRAM GETS PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS OUT ON THE WATER.

STORY BY KARREN MORAHAN







BEST OF FRIENDS The Fishing with Friends event hosts around 70 special-needs children and adults each year for a day of fishing with over 50 local charter captains donating their time and boats for the event.



On an island, fishing is more than a recreational pursuit. It's a passion, a livelihood, a way of communing with nature. On Hilton Head Island, the fishing community isn't only passionate about our waters – ocean, sound, intracoastal, and rivers – they are tight-knit and very giving.

On the first Saturday in October for the past 28 years — give or take a COVID interruption — captains and boats have gathered at the Hilton Head Boathouse to provide people with special needs the opportunity to go out on the water.

They call it "Fishing with Friends." It's a simple concept that brings excitement and exploration to Hilton Head's special-needs community.

Fuzzy Davis, an award-winning fisherman who has worked the waters around Hilton Head for more than 40 years, created Fishing With Friends along with Rose Fotia, co-founder of The Children's Relief Fund. They were aided by volunteers and parents Kim Davis, Kathy Cramer of SOAR, and Carol Bartholomew of Pockets Full of Sunshine, who all rolled up their shirtsleeves to launch the program.

"We all got together and figured this thing out," recalls Davis. They started with five boats and are now up to 35 boats and 65 participants, plus a slew of chaperones, volunteers, dockhands, and generous vendors from the community.

"The smiles on their faces when they hook a fish, see a dolphin, or simply feel the wind in their faces brings me so much joy," Davis said. "Personally, I think we get more out of the day than the participants. And now, some of our participants who were kids back then are grown adults."

Every Fishing with Friends day is carefully planned and managed, from arrival time to distribution of hats and T-shirts. Of course, life jackets are required, as is a caregiver or chaperone to accompany each attendee. There's even an EMT aboard one boat, just in case.

Each person is given a nametag and assigned a boat before being welcomed aboard. Then, for two hours, they explore the waters around Hilton Head. Some go to favorite fishing spots; others stay closer, prowling the calmer waters of local creeks and sounds.

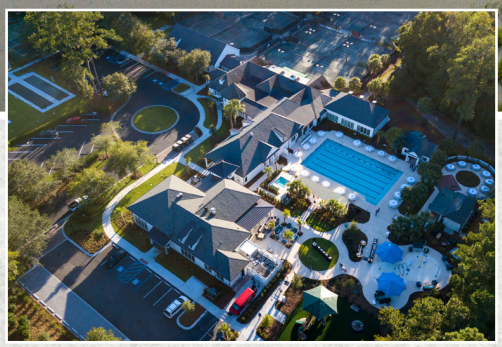
Davis, who follows the 20-minute rule ("If you stop on a spot and don't catch anything in 20 minutes, move.") says some of his guests want to keep their fish and bring them home.

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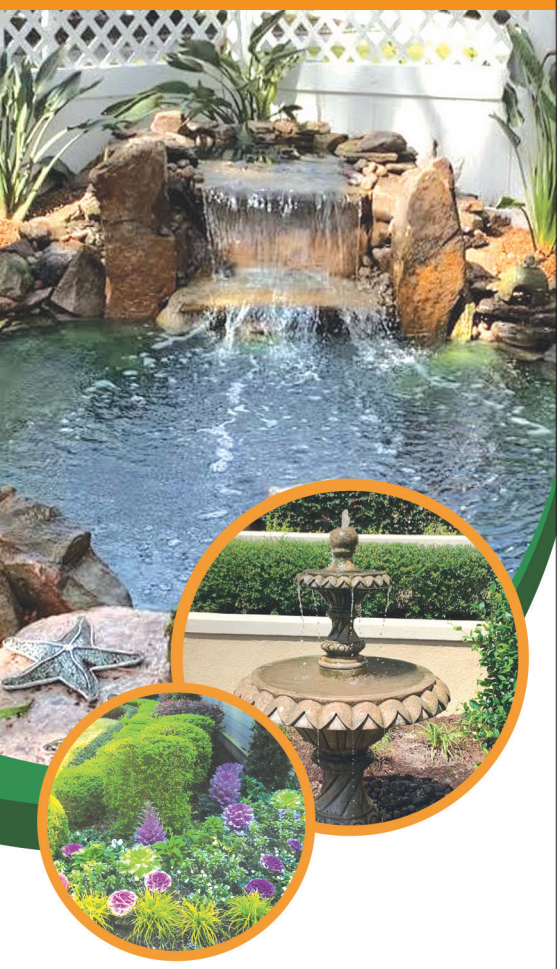
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"It's amazing what's been caught over the years," he says, "from 30-pound redfish and flounder to sea trout and sharks. But, 99 percent of the fish are released back to the waters."

The fun continues when the boats return to shore and a picnic lunch is provided by the Skull Creek Boathouse (Serg Group). Throw in some entertainment, and it becomes a festive atmosphere, what they affectionately call "Food With Friends."

Bartholomew, mother of a special-needs adult daughter and co-founder of Pockets Full of Sunshine (PFS), says that Fishing with Friends is a day filled with love and laughter. Fishing is the excuse to get together; the relationships and friendships are meaningful and the social interactions are priceless.

"For everyone involved, this is truly a rewarding experience," says Davis, "From the dockhands at Hilton Head Boathouse, to the captains, crews, and volunteers. And without hesitation, at the end of the day everyone says, 'put me down for next year.'"

While Fishing With Friends only can accommodate people from Hilton Head and Bluffton, Davis says he'd like to franchise the concept and bring Fishing With Friends and similar events to other communities.

Because it's a fish story everyone wants to hear. LL



GOOD TIMES AHEAD Fishing with Friends is set for Oct. 2 at The Boathouse on Hilton Head Island.



Saltwater Sunshine shirts support local nonprofit

Creativity and caring know no boundaries: Ask someone talented for help, and the results speak for themselves. ***Pockets Full of Sunshine*** combined its desire to recognize and honor the fishing community, which has have been supportive in so many ways over the years, and redfish, which are emblematic of the Lowcountry.

A new T-shirt sporting a spot tail bass, ("redfish") — dubbed **"Saltwater Sunshine"** and emblazoned with the PFS logo as the spot— recently was unveiled as a fundraising vehicle and screen-printing activity for the Rays, who are special-needs adults that participate in PFS. The one-of-a-kind design can be procured online at pocketsfullofsun.org, in local markets and at special events.

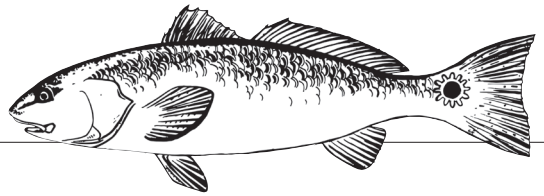
Hilton Head native Charlotte Fraser has been making art since childhood. After graduating from Clemson with her bachelor's and Harvard with her master's, she spent years as an art teacher, cultivating the skills and passions of her students from Arkansas, to Washington, D.C., to Charleston. Today, she curates her own art, working out of her studio at Redux Contemporary Art Center in Charleston and co-owns a children's products company, Saltwater Swaddles.

[Q] What inspired you to create the design for Pockets Full of Sunshine? **[A]** After talking with Carol Bartholomew, Laurin Rivers and Dayna Dehlinger (co-founders of PFS) about Pocket Full of Sunshine's mission and plan, I knew I would be able to help out with the design for their shirts. Helping them to achieve their goals in any small way is very motivating to me. I was happy to help.

[Q] You work in acrylic, watercolor, and charcoal. In which medium did you create the original artwork? **[A]** Most of my work is painting, but for this I knew it would be screen printed so pen and ink was the best choice. I love how it translated into the final product!

[Q] Having been raised in Hilton Head, what were your favorite pastimes here? **[A]** My parents really took advantage of the natural beauty of Hilton Head while raising us. I loved going on outdoor adventures. We spent a lot of time at the beach and out on the boat. My mom was an expert shark tooth hunter and spent a lot of time helping us hone that skill.

[Q] Are you a fisherwoman? **[A]** No, but I absolutely love crabbing and try to go as much as possible. Crabbing is another favorite childhood memory that I cannot wait to share with my kids.



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Style your summer wardrobe with floral prints

PHOTOGRAPHY LISA STAFF



Available at *Cocoon*





Since 2013, floral patterns have been hitting runways big nearly every year, and it seems as though inspiration from these colorful plants isn't going anywhere any time soon. Warmer weather is the perfect time to break out these vibrant and decorative pieces. Inspired by the natural beauty of flowers such as soft, pastel roses or bold and bright wisteria, LOCAL Life stylist Roxanne Gilleland worked with local shops and boutiques to bring these blooming styles to life.

Much like this maxi dress, **Orange Lilies** represent confidence and pride. Don't shy away from this striking color this season.

The whimsical essence of **Wisteria** is similar to that of the whimsical wardrobe of a child.



Available at *Island Child*



Available at *Knickers*

Ivy - a simple vine with the biggest aesthetic appeal. This spring, pair your simple pieces with something alluring and eye-catching.



Available at *Outside Hilton Head*

Available at *The Back Door*

Pink Roses symbolize grace, admiration, and joy. This flower-packed dress is sure to do just the same.

The bold and bright blue of **Bluebonnets** is unmatched in any other flower. Go bold this spring with mixed patterns and colors.



Available at *Quiet Storm Surf Shop*

Bird of Paradise is full of color and merriment, just like this tropical-inspired two-piece set.



Orchids come in many different colors, but white tends to stand out the most for its beauty. When mixing colors this spring, white is always a good grounding color.



Available at *Palmettoes*



Hydrangeas can sometimes bloom multiple colors in one single plant. Similar to the blouse, nothing is quite as captivating as pastel blues, pinks, and purples.

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SUPER SPE-SHELL

Bring fish from the sea into your home with these unique oyster shell accents. Great for holding anything from earrings to safety pins, they are perfect for trendy trinket storage.
Available at Lowcountry Mercantile and lowcountrylinens.com .



COPPERTONE, BUT NOT THE SUNSCREEN

Sculpted out of locally reclaimed wood and hand painted, this fish is the epitome of Lowcountry art. For easy hanging, it's affixed with picture hanging wire as well as the Signore Coastal Art logo on the backside. The torched copper accents will definitely pop on any wall.
Available at Signore Coastal Art.



A CRABULOUS PIECE

Whether you use it as a paperweight or decorative piece, this standing blue crab will add life to any room. Made of brass by SPI home, it's a collectible item that's incredibly well made.
Available at Coastal Treasures.



SPEC-TACULAR

Express yourself with these slim and light glasses by Lindenberg. From the n.o.w. titanium collection, they are completely customizable and stylish. *Available at Eyeland Optique.*



MOTION OF THE OCEAN

Let the tide roll in with this gorgeous Acacia hardwood cheese board. Dipped in eco-friendly and metallic epoxy, each board is one-of-a-kind, and its array of sizes make it perfect for entertaining. *Available at Gifted .*

BAIT BABE

Ladyfish UPF long-sleeved shirts are cut just for women. The solar performance fabric offers superior sun protection and performance qualities. They are powered by Pure-Tech moisture wicking technology, which will keep you cool and comfortable. *Available at ladyfish.com.*





THAT'S MUGNIFICENT

From the Terrafirma Ceramics Colbalt Collection, this vibrant mug is a joy to hold. Each silhouette and easy grab handle is individually wheel-thrown and topped with a glaze finish. *Available at Pyramids.*



SLEEP SWIMMINGLY

Perfect your patio with this Voorhees Fish throw pillow. Its machine washable and removable cover is museum worthy and great for indoor or outdoor use. *Available at Spirited Hand.*



WHALE HELLO THERE

Designed to keep kids snuggled and safe, this bamboo zipper pajama is made from organic materials. The open foot detail allows for greater mobility, while the neck-to-knee zipper provides ease and flexibility of changing. *Available at Fetch Mkt and fetch-mkt.com.*

WHAT'S FRESH IN MAY?

Sensational strawberries

THE FLAVORFUL, FRAGRANT & FABULOUS FRUIT



BY MADDIE BANE

Fun fact: strawberries are the only fruit that wear their seeds on the outside. Did you know the average strawberry packs up to 200 seeds? No wonder so many get stuck in your teeth. This tasty, bite-sized fruit packs a punch when it comes to nutritional values, and with South Carolina using hundreds of acres for growing, they're more than easy to come by in the Lowcountry. They're also fairly easy to grow at home, if you're feeling up for a project. Strawberries are members of the rose family. Should you come upon a bush of them growing, you'll notice that they smell as sweet as they taste. With spring here, strawberries will be popping up and ready to devour.





LOCAL LIFE TEST KITCHEN

Goat cheese and strawberry toast

INGREDIENTS

Bread of your choice, sliced
1 cup strawberries
1 log goat cheese
1 handful pistachios, crushed
Mint leaves, chopped
1 teaspoon honey

DIRECTIONS [1] Toast your bread while slicing strawberries. **[2]** Once bread is crispy, spread on goat cheese and top with strawberry slices and crushed pistachios. **[3]** Drizzle with honey and garnish with mint leaves.

Too good to be true

Low in calories, low in carbs, and high in fiber, strawberries are great for snacking and cooking. They're a great source of vitamins and minerals like vitamin C, manganese, folate, and potassium. Vitamin C is essential for immune and skin health, manganese is important for many different processes in your body, folate is helpful in tissue growth and cell function, and potassium plays an important role in regulating blood pressure.

The gift that keeps on giving

The ideal time to plant strawberries is early spring, usually early April. They're shallow rooted and grow best in sandy soil that drains well. Be sure to plant them 12 to 18 inches apart and in full sunlight in order to produce maximum fruit. Since strawberries are a perennial, if they're planted this year, they're sure to come back every year for several years. It's tricky to determine when fruit will start growing, but once it does, the plant remains active for about five years.



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LOCAL LIFE TEST KITCHEN

Strawberry and basil pizza

INGREDIENTS

Prepared pizza dough
1 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella
5 ounces goat cheese
1 1/2 cups strawberries, chopped
Fresh basil
Freshly ground black pepper
Balsamic glaze, to taste (optional)

DIRECTIONS [1] Heat oven as directed and prepare pizza dough on cooking sheet. **[2]** Add mozzarella and goat cheese to dough. **[3]** Bake until golden and the crust is crisp underneath. Top with basil, black pepper and strawberries. Optional: Drizzle balsamic glaze on top.



Where to order them



CHARBAR CO.

Strawberry Fields sushi roll: Escolar, jalapeño, cream cheese, topped with strawberries, roasted almonds and eel sauce.

CAROLINA CRAB CO.

House Spinach Salad: Baby spinach, strawberries, toasted almonds, feta cheese and creamy onion dressing.

HOLY TEQUILA

Harvest Veggie Burrito: Black beans, cauliflower, mushrooms, bell peppers, onions, zucchini, roasted corn, guacamole, cilantro lime rice and strawberry chipotle sauce.



Where to buy them

BLUFFTON FARMERS MARKET
71 Green St., Bluffton
Thursdays: *Noon-5 p.m.*

DEMPSEY FARMS U-PICK
1576 Sea Island Pkwy., St. Helena Island
Monday-Saturday: *9 a.m.-6 p.m.*

HILTON HEAD ISLAND FARMERS MARKET
70 Honey Horn Dr., Hilton Head Island
Tuesdays: *10 a.m.-3 p.m.*



How to use them

Much like any fresh fruit, strawberries can be eaten raw as a snack, in a salad, or blended into a smoothie, just to name a few examples. The bright red color can bring any dish to life. However, don't neglect those unripe green strawberries. Although the flavor is tart, they're being used more and more often for pickling and baking. *LL*



LOCAL LIFE TEST KITCHEN

Strawberry oat crumble bars



INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 cups flour
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
3/4 cup rolled oats
1/2 cup cold unsalted butter, cubed
1 egg white
1 1/2 cup strawberries, hulled and chopped
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1/4 cup ***slivered almonds***

DIRECTIONS [1] Heat oven to 375 degrees and line a square baking pan with parchment paper. **[2]** In a medium bowl, add flour, 1/2 cup sugar, salt, baking powder, rolled oats and butter. Mix until the butter is no larger than pea-sized and the mixture is crumbly. Set aside 3/4 cup for the topping, and press remaining mixture evenly into the pan. **[3]** Combine strawberries, 1/4 cup sugar, and cornstarch into a medium bowl and toss until strawberries are coated. Spread strawberry mixture over the crust, and add remaining crumble over the top. Sprinkle almonds over the top. **[4]** Bake for 45 minutes or until crumb topping is light golden. Cool for 5 to 10 minutes before cutting into squares.



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The fine art of sushi







STORY BY BC RAUSCH + PHOTOS BY VERONICA TARASHKEVICH

Part art, part theater. Visiting a sushi bar is a little bit of both and, most importantly, a sensory taste experience. Sushi is an edible art form in which the sushi chef brings together his skills of preparation and the freshest ingredients: fish, rice, shoyu (soy sauce), wasabi (Japanese horseradish), and other seasoning, adds rice, and rolls it tantalizingly in nori (seaweed).

What makes a sushi meal so special? Is it the variety of fresh options, the sharpness and precision of the knives, or the personalities creating these delectable treats? Or all that and more?

For 20 years, Hinoki (which means "cypress wood" in Japanese) has been a mainstay among Hilton Head Island's sushi restaurants. ***Chikara "Chi Chi" Yamaguchi***, who arrived on Hilton Head in 1992 from Kyoto, and business partner, ***Teruyuki Suzuki***, have brandished the tools of their trade, creating specialties that delight visitors and locals alike. With fresh fish deliveries at least twice weekly and locally caught favorites like soft shell crab and flounder, coupled with a "white board" of daily specials, a visit to Hinoki is different every time. Practice and technique play a major part in their work, but unraveling a few myths about sushi eating and etiquette will elevate your appreciation of the total experience.



PASS THE SOY SAUCE
The correct way to eat sashimi is with chopsticks. It's considered rude to show off the ends of your sticks to others.

For starters

How should a "sushi virgin" approach their first try? Don't think about the fish being raw; concentrate on the texture and the sensations. Chi Chi recommends starting with something simple, like a California Roll (all vegetables) or a roll where the fish is cooked tempura style, to ease customers in. Some sushi creations, such as sea urchin (uni) with quail egg or giant clam, are acquired tastes and may take some time to enjoy. Some people are just more culinarily adventurous than others, and a good sushi restaurant will be able to accommodate everyone. If you can, sit at the sushi bar and watch the master craftsmen at work. Science has proven there is a direct link between how food looks and how we think it will taste. These chefs spend their whole careers improving presentation skills, and their talents should be a big part of your enjoyment.

What's the difference between sushi and sashimi? Although the terms are often used interchangeably, there are small differences. Sashimi is raw fish, thinly sliced and served without rice. Literally translated, sushi means rice seasoned with vinegar, sugar and salt. That's what you'll get, usually mixed with vegetables and sometimes other ingredients.

How to eat it

What are the commandments to eating sushi and sashimi? There are no hard-and-fast rules, other than to enjoy the meal, says Chi Chi. But he offers a few pointers:

- Don't worry If you're not proficient with chopsticks. It's perfectly okay to use your fingers to eat sushi. This only applies to hand rolls and cut rolls; do not use your hands to eat sashimi.
- Sushi is generally served with pickled ginger and wasabi. Don't eat the ginger with your sushi; have it between bites to cleanse your palate.
- Dip your sushi fish side down. Only the fish (not the rice) is meant to be dabbed (not saturated) in the soy sauce.







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Staying sharp

The knives used in sushi restaurants have evolved with one explicit purpose: achieving the perfect cut, neat and clean. The sashimi knife, in particular, has hundreds of years of history behind it. Whether you're a professional chef or hoping to prepare sushi in your own kitchen, choosing a proper sushi/sashimi knife is essential. Typically, good sushi knives aren't cheap. Invest in one, however, and it will last a long time and serve you well.

When considering which knife to purchase, look closely at its craftsmanship, materials and engineering. Sakai in Japan is world-renowned for its products, and it is where many of the top sushi knife brands are made. Ask a chef in any restaurant of any kind what sushi knives they recommend; no matter what sort of food they cook, they're almost certain to use a sushi knife in the kitchen, even if not specifically for sushi dishes.

But there really is nothing better for slicing fish than a good sashimi knife. They should be so sharp that they leave a smooth shiny cross section in the fish that doesn't change the texture, taste, or mouth feel. A clean cut prevents damage to the flesh, stops moisture loss, maintains color, and leaves a tastier, fresher piece of sashimi.

The finest sashimi knives have rounded wooden handles, shaped like a D or more angular (usually a hexagon or octagon). This makes them easy and comfortable to use and hold for long periods. There should be no hard, straight edges or irregular shapes that would dig into your hand.

Good sashimi knives are expensive, ranging from $200 for a baseline product up to thousands of dollars for a hand-forged Japanese blade made from the finest metals, usually carbon steel, which is sharper than stainless steel.

Nearly all sashimi knives are 7 to 12 inches long, which allows the chef to pull through the fish heel to tip without having to move the knife back and forth. There's no sawing action, no pushing or pulling that could lead to ripped, jagged, or torn edges.

All knives need proper maintenance to stay consistently sharp. Washing and drying knives after each use is key to precision and longevity. Use a damp cloth to give the knife a good wipe. Watch sushi chefs at work and you'll notice they stop to wipe their knives









every few minutes. Not only are they cleaning moisture and debris from the blade but also enzymes and chemical residue from food that could cause a knife to corrode or rust even if on the blade for a short amount of time.

Rubbing a little oil into the blade and wrapping it up well in some newspaper adds to its longevity.

Finally, there's the sharpening process, which is trickier than it looks. You've got to rub the knife along the stone at exactly the right angle to get a sharp edge on the blade. Use the wrong angle, and the knife will dull and not sharpen. *LL*





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3. *Dalstrong Ronin Series 10.5" Yanagiba and Sushi Knife. $120*









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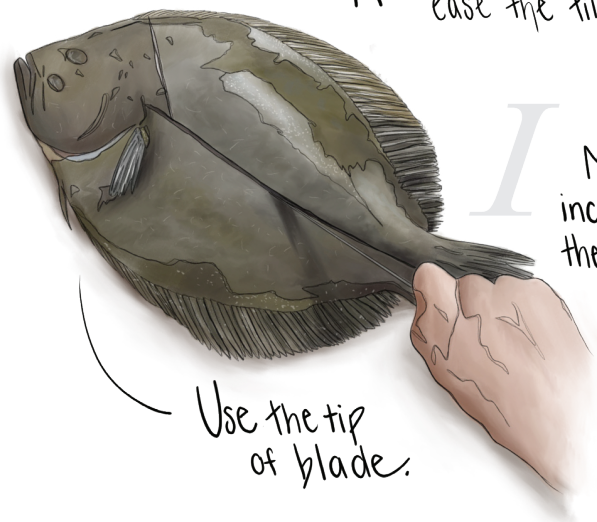
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Fillet a Flounder

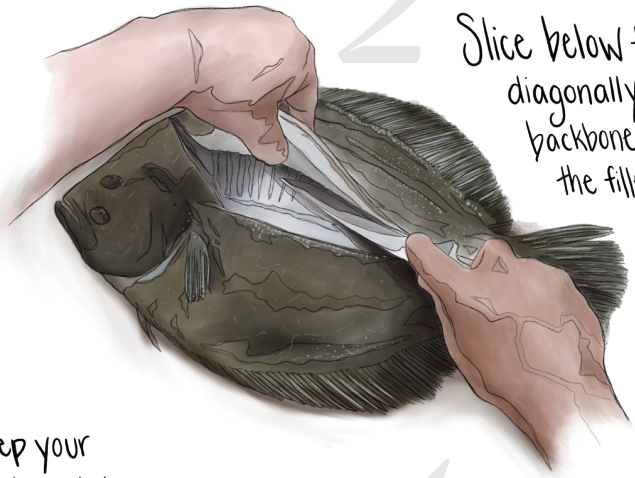
Need: fresh catch of flounder • a sharp, flexible fillet knife (helps ease the fillet off the bones) • sturdy cutting board



1

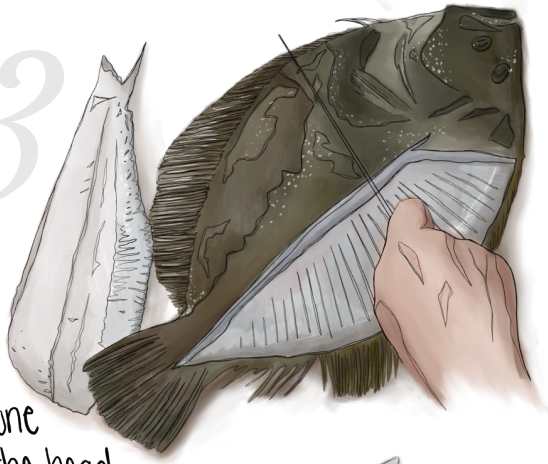
Use the tip of blade.

Make an incision below the head. Cut down the length of fish + through tail.



2

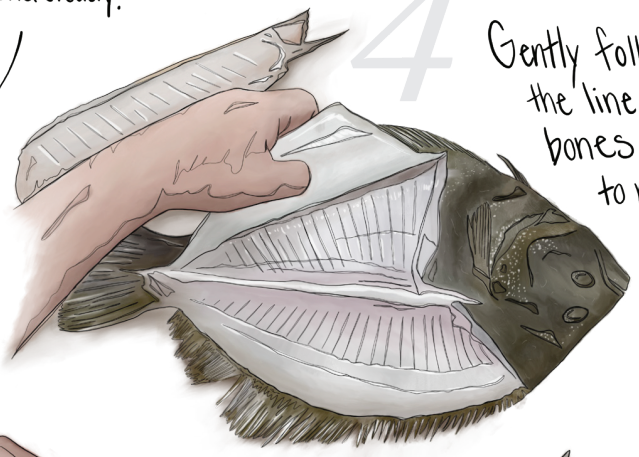
Slice below the head, diagonally from the backbone, to isolate the fillet. Separate flesh from bone by sliding the knife with stroking motion.



3

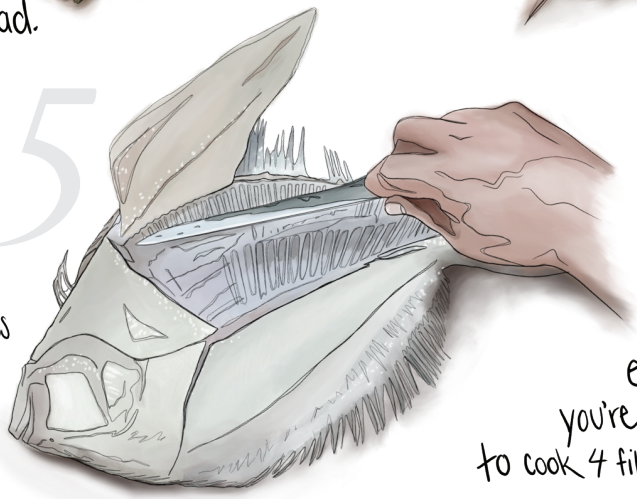
Turn the fish around + slice alongside the backbone + behind the head.

Keep your hand steady!



4

Gently follow along the line of the bones with blade to remove the fillet.



5

Flip the fish over + repeat the whole process on the other side.



6

Trim edges + you're ready to cook 4 fillets!

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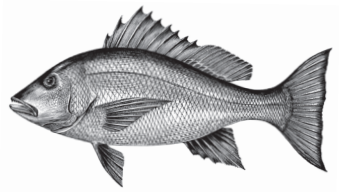
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Recipes that will reel you in

LOCAL CHEFS SHARE TASTY FRESH-CATCH PREPARATIONS



With fishing season upon us, we reached out to chefs from local restaurants and communities and asked them to share their favorite fish or seafood dishes. Dive in and see how to get your sheepshead perfectly coated in a ginger pecan crust and how to create a lobster dish with just the right amount of sweet and spicy flavors.



OH SNAPPER!

Take snapper to the next level with this flavor-packed, pan-sautéed dish, topped with a creamy tomato relish. The fish's nutty and sweet flavor is intensified with the tangy flavor of the beautiful relish.

SKULL CREEK BOATHOUSE

Pan-sautéed snapper with quick green tomato relish



INGREDIENTS

1 snapper
1 ***green tomato***
1 ***yellow bell pepper***
1 jalapeño
1 onion
1 teaspoon celery seed
2 teaspoons salt
2 teaspoons black pepper
1 pinch cayenne
1 cup cider vinegar
1/2 cup water
Seasoned flour



DIRECTIONS [1] Dice tomato, peppers, and onion and place into pot. Add celery seed, salt, pepper, cayenne, vinegar, and water. Simmer for two minutes. **[2]** Dredge snapper in seasoned flour and sauté in hot oil, turning once. **[3]** Pour relish over top and serve with desired side dish (spinach, rice, grits, potatoes, pasta).



FARM FRESH

Have you been to the ***Farmers Market of Bluffton*** *lately? Find fresh and local produce from noon to 5 p.m. each Thursday on Green Street in Bluffton from Tuten Farms, Will's Lowcountry Produce, Otis Daise Farms, Island Microgreens, Adam's Farm, Fili-West Farms, Stevensons Produce and more. Check its Facebook page on Thursday mornings for the day's lineup.*

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LET'S GET CRACKIN'

This lobster, avocado and mango salad recipe from the culinary team at Berkeley Hall is fancy enough for special occasions or casual enough to wrap in a lettuce leaf for a picnic. The lobster can be substituted with crab, shrimp or even cooked chicken.



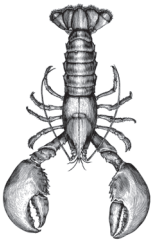
BERKELEY HALL

Lobster, avocado and mango salad

INGREDIENTS

1 pound lobster meat, cooked
1 cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
3 tablespoons Dijon mustard
4 tablespoons red onion, minced
Tabasco sauce, to taste
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 cups ripe mango, peeled and cut into 1/2 inch dice
1 cup red bell pepper, minced
1 tablespoon jalapeno, minced with stem and seeds removed
2 avocados, diced 1/2 inch
3 tablespoons lime juice
Salt and pepper, to taste
Sriracha sauce, to taste

DIRECTIONS [1] Dice the lobster into 1/2 inch pieces. **[2]** In a small bowl, mix the mayonnaise, lemon juice, mustard, 1 tablespoon red onion, Tabasco, and salt. Toss with diced lobster pieces and set aside. **[3]** In a medium bowl, toss together the mango, bell pepper,1 tablespoon lime juice, and jalapeno and set aside. **[4]** In another small bowl, toss together the avocado, 3 tablespoons red onion, and 2 tablespoons lime juice. Season with salt and set aside. **[5]** Divide the avocado mixture between 4 three-inch round ring molds or biscuit cutters and gently press together. Top with mango mixture and gently press into the ring. Spoon the diced lobster mixture onto the mango and gently press to hold its shape. **[6]** Unmold onto the plate and garnish with fresh micro basil, basil oil (recipe below) and sriracha sauce. **[7]** Alternatively, spoon avocado mixture into the bottom of a martini glass about one inch deep. Spoon a layer of mango mixture over the avocado. Add the diced lobster over the mango mixture and garnish.



SWEET (LOBSTER) SPOTS

The flavor profile of lobsters change based on where they're from — some are sweeter than others. Check out the online offerings at Maine Lobster Now, Lobster Gram and Cape Porpoise Lobster Co. Pick up fresh lobster and tails at one of our many area markets (featured on page 55).



KEY INGREDIENT

TABASCO ORIGINAL RED PEPPER SAUCE

This popular hot sauce offers great contrasting flavor to the sweet mango. Tabasco is made with three simple ingredients (red peppers, salt and distilled vinegar). Since there are no preservatives, the sauce can separate, so always shake before using.





BERKELEY HALL

Basil oil

INGREDIENTS

1 cup mild olive oil
2 cups sweet basil leaves, tightly packed
Kosher salt

DIRECTIONS [1] Put the measured oil in the refrigerator while you prepare the basil. **[2]** Bring a pot of water to a boil. Have a bowl of ice water ready. **[3]** Blanch the basil leaves in the boiling water for about 10 seconds. Remove quickly with a strainer and dunk in ice water, swishing them around to make sure they are all cold. Remove from water and squeeze gently to remove excess water. **[4]** Roughly chop the basil and put into blender. Add oil and 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt. Blend until the basil is pureed. The mixture will be very frothy. **[5]** Let the puree settle for about 30 minutes. Strain through a cheesecloth-lined fine strainer, very gently pushing on the solids to extract the oil. Use immediately or refrigerate for up to a week. For the best flavor, let the oil come to room temperature before using.



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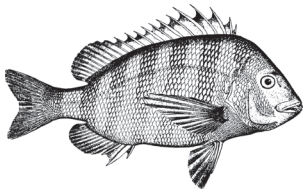
5 quarts water
2 lbs small red potatoes
4 Tbsp Benny Hudson Seafood Shrimp and Crab Seasoning
2 lbs andouille sausage, cut into inch pieces
4 ears of corn, halved
4 lbs fresh, local shrimp head-off, in shell

In a large stock pot, bring water and seasoning to a boil. Add corn and potatoes and cook for 15 minutes. Add sausage and cook for an additional 10 minutes. Add shrimp and cook for 2-3 minutes. Drain pot and pour contents onto a table covered with newspaper. Enjoy with fresh lemon wedges and Benny Hudson Seafood homemade cocktail sauce!

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SHEEP THRILLS

This recipe from Skull Creek Boathouse combines all the glorious flavors of ginger, pecan and orange. As a bonus, ginger can prevent fishy odors. If you haven't tried it, a sheepshead's flesh is firm and moist, making it easy to sear, pan-fry or bake. Dive in and see what this Southern favorite holds.

SKULL CREEK BOATHOUSE

Ginger pecan-crusted sheepshead with orange butter sauce

INGREDIENTS

1 sheepshead
1 cup Panko or regular bread crumbs
1/4 cup ground ginger
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1 tablespoon salt
1 teaspoon pepper
2 cups orange juice
1 shallot, minced
2 teaspoons fresh thyme
1 teaspoon dried thyme
1/2 cup whole butter, room temperature

DIRECTIONS [1] Mix together bread crumbs, ginger, pecans, salt, and pepper to create crust. **[2]** Dredge sheepshead in pecan crust. Pat firmly and saute in hot pan with a little oil, flesh side down. **[3]** When turning fish, add shallot, thyme, and orange juice. Remove fish and simmer until 3/4 reduced. **[4]** Remove from heat and whip with room temperature butter until thick. Pour over fish.



KEY INGREDIENT

BRICKYARD POINT FARMS PECANS

The best local pecans are grown at this family farm on the banks of the Coosaw River on Lady's Island. Find its offerings through GrowFood Carolina, a food hub in Charleston that supplies many local restaurants and clubs, including Berkeley Hall, Frankie Bones, Nectar Farm Kitchen, Poseidon, Sea Pines Resort, Skull Creek Boathouse, Skull Creek Dockside and WiseGuys. If you're looking for a good reason to drive to Lady's Island, set an appointment to buy pecans at the farm (brickyardpoint.com).





FLOUNDER AROUND

Chef Pascal Vignau of Vineyard Bluffton shared this tasty preparation for flounder. Producing low levels of oil and moisture, flounder has a very delicate texture and somewhat of a sweet flavor, similar to halibut and tilapia, that works well with the crab and sweet onion flavors this recipe calls for.

VINEYARD

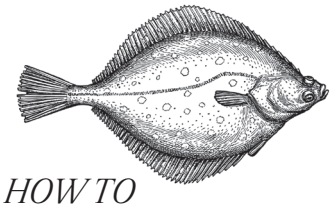
Crab crusted flounder

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

2 fresh flounder filets
2 teaspoons butter
1 medium sweet onion, chopped
2 medium leeks, finely sliced and washed
1/2 glass white wine
2 teaspoons Old Bay or any dry rub of your choice
1 cup heavy cream
1 cup crab meat, fresh if possible
2 teaspoons mustard
3 teaspoons mayonnaise
1/2 cup cilantro, chopped
1/4 cup lemon juice
1 cup pretzel crumbs

DIRECTIONS [1] Preheat oven at medium broiler. **[2]** In a large bowl, place mustard, mayonnaise, cilantro, and lemon juice. Carefully fold in the crab meat and pretzel crumbs and place in the refrigerator. **[3]** In a large skillet over medium heat, place butter, onion, leek, and seasoning until all are soft - about 10 minutes - and remove from fire. **[4]** Cut the flounder into 4 equal portions and place in the skillet on top of all cooked ingredients. Smear the crab mixture carefully and evenly; add wine while bringing to a boil. **[5]** Broil for about 15 minutes. Remove and place the fish on a serving platter. **[6]** Bring the sauce back to the fire to reduce if necessary and serve on the side. Add any side dish of your choice.



HOW TO CATCH THEM

Local fisherman Collins Doughtie shares some advice for catching flounder: "They love live finger mullet, small live menhaden and in the artificial department, anything white (GULP! shrimp, etc.). If you lack patience, then go play golf or something. When flounder hit a live bait, you'll feel one "thump!" and then nothing. Wait a minute or so and slowly lift up your rod. If you feel weight, stop and do nothing. Sometimes I'll let them chew on the bait for a few minutes, lift the rod again until there is a slight bend toward the rod tip and hold it there until the flounder gets agitated and starts moving off. That's when you get him. Lastly, you had better have a landing net because a greased pig ain't got nothing on a flounder."



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RESTAURANT

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RESTAURANT news

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Boathouse brunch is back

The Sunday brunch buffet is back at Skull Creek Boathouse. *Every Sunday starting at 10 a.m., customers can enjoy selections of muffins and danishes, French toast casserole, biscuits and gravy, and a build-your-own omelet bar, just to name a few. The cost is $17.50 for adults and $8.50 for children. Learn more at skullcreekboathouse.com.*



Alexander's cooking demo: Pickled shrimp & pimento cheese

Gather round the table for these new cooking demonstrations at Alexander's, led by new resort executive chef Richard Pejeau and assisted by sous chef Stephanie Magocs. *The chefs will teach you the sweet science of pickling local shrimp and will provide step-by-step directions for making the restaurant's famous homemade pimento cheese. Reserve your spot at alexandersrestaurant.com.*





Salty Dog unveils session IPA

The Salty Dog has teamed up with Low Tide Brewing to create an exclusive canned brew for the iconic Hilton Head restaurant and shops. *The 12-ounce session IPA offers a hint of tangerine and checks in at 4.7% ABV, making it a great summertime sipper. Learn more at saltydog.com.*

New local food delivery service opens

A new food delivery service called COOL Delivery is now available on Hilton Head Island and in Bluffton. *Founded by locals JR Richardson, Lee Lucier and Alan Wolf, the service aims to provide a higher standard of customer service and a higher quality delivery/to-go experience. Currently, there are 16 restaurants using the service, including Al's Aloha Kitchen, Black Marlin Bayside Grill, FISH, Frankie Bones in both Bluffton and Hilton Head Island, Frosty Frog Cafe, Giuseppi's, Holy Tequila, Local Pie in both Bluffton and Hilton Head Island, Marley's Shrimp & Burger Shack, One Hot Mama's in both Bluffton and Hilton Head Island, SERG Takeout Kitchen, Skull Creek Dockside and The Island Fudge Shoppe. Learn more at itscooldelivery.com.*



Sips and bites at Michael Anthony's

Enjoy a tasting of three small plates paired with three premium wines for $24 from 5-5:45 p.m., Monday through Saturday, at the bar at Michael Anthony's. *The menu changes weekly and reservations are strongly recommended due to limited seating in the bar. Learn more at michael-anthonys.com.*

MAY FOOD HOLIDAYS

May 1: Chocolate Parfait Day
May 2: **Chocolate Truffle Day**
May 3: Raspberry Tart Day
May 4: Hoagie Day
May 5: **Enchilada Day**
May 6: Crepe Suzette Day
May 7: Roast Leg of Lamb Day
May 8: Coconut Cream Pie Day
May 9: **Shrimp Day**
May 10: Liver and Onions Day
May 11: "Eat What You Want" Day
May 12: Nutty Fudge Day
May 13: **Hummus Day**
May 14: Brioche Day
May 15: Chocolate Chip Day
May 16: Barbecue Day
May 17: Cherry Cobbler Day
May 18: **Cheese Souffle Day**
May 19: Devil's Food Cake Day
May 20: Quiche Lorraine Day
May 21: Strawberries and Cream Day
May 22: Vanilla Pudding Day
May 23: Taffy Day
May 24: **Escargot Day**
May 25: Wine Day
May 26: Blueberry Cheesecake Day
May 27: Italian Beef Day
May 28: Brisket Day
May 29: Biscuit Day
May 30: **Mint Julep Day**
May 31: Macaroon Day

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TRY THESE

Top picks for May from the local food scene.



BRING HOME THE BACON

Nothing beats bacon. Well, almost nothing. This country-fried bacon with sage gravy dipping sauce is one of the few exceptions. Check it out at ***Bad Biscuit***.



CHERRIFIC COCKTAIL

A new drink at ***Holy Tequila*** is a cherry-limeade lover's dream. The Drue's limeade smash consists of muddled cherries, lime, cilantro, Deep Eddy lime vodka and Sprite.



MOUTHWATERING MAHI-MAHI

Try ***Holy Tequila's*** tempura fried mahi-mahi with fresh guacamole, mango, coleslaw, jalapeno, tartar sauce and fresh cilantro served on a fresh corn tortilla.



THE MAINE COURSE

Pan-seared Maine halibut with sauteed veggies will pair perfectly with a glass of wine. Available at ***Skull Creek Dockside***.



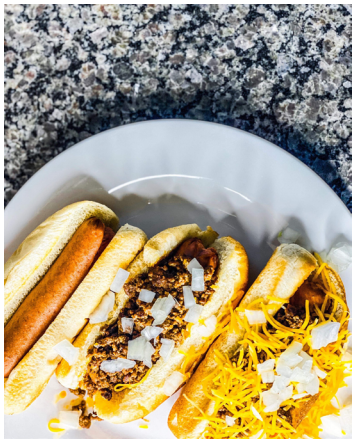
ALL ABOUT THE BASS

Black Marlin Bayside Grill is serving up char-grilled striped bass. The fish is paired with white cheddar potato hash, sauteed spinach, grilled corn salsa and chili lime sauce.



POKE INTO THIS BOWL

This salmon poke bowl is served with local bell peppers, edamame, pineapple salsa, teriyaki sauce, lotus root chips, and of course, salmon. Try it at ***Poseidon***.



Detroit-style restaurant opens in Beaufort

A new restaurant in Beaufort promises "Detroit taste served locally." J. Lee's Coney Island, located at 2121 Boundary Street, serves and specializes in Detroit-style hot dogs, sandwiches and melts. This restaurant hopes to be a one-stop shop for breakfast, lunch, dinner or a snack in between. Learn more at jleesconey.com.



Gusto Ristorante moves to Sea Turtle Marketplace

After closing last year due to coronavirus, the authentic northern Italian restaurant Gusto Ristorante is reopening in a larger location in Sea Turtle Marketplace. When Another Broken Egg closed down earlier this year, Chef Giancarlo Balestra and his wife, Nancy, decided to move their restaurant into the vacant space. The new restaurant will be twice the size of the original location and will be decorated with a mixture of brickwork, dark wood, and beams to give an authentic Italian dining feel.



Private space at Nunzio

Did you miss out on fun graduation, birthday or wedding events last year? **Make up for it this year by booking a private space at Nunzio Restaurant + Bar.** The popular Italian restaurant will give you everything you need to have a safe and fun time with family and friends. Learn more at nunziohhi.com.



Food truck venue opens in Bluffton

A new food truck and outdoor entertainment venue has opened in Bluffton. Backyard State of Mind, owned by Shelley and David Meeder, is open from 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, on Bluffton Road, behind H&R Block and Dolce Vita Italian Restaurant. Food trucks change weekly. There are hopes to expand the space soon with a kids' play area, dog park and a beer and wine garden. Find each day's vendors and the entertainment schedule at backyardstateofmind.com.



5-MINUTE HISTORY

Alcohol in Hilton Head's past

STORY BY RICHARD THOMAS

In many ways, alcohol seemed to figure materially in the course of Hilton Head's earlier days. The sugar cane grown upriver and cane syrup brought from the West Indies made their way into rum produced locally, which was a popular trade or barter good. Regular shipments from England brought the finer distilled spirits to the frontier settlers in the area through the ports of Beaufort and later Savannah. Pirates swarmed local waterways, raiding the towns and deepwater settler homesteads, seeking rum among other spoils. And rum was later illegally introduced into the Indian Trade by unscrupulous traders as a strategy to lower the natives' resistance in negotiations.



BAR EXAM Isaac Baldwin sold his popular Savannah tavern after his son died of alcoholism around 1790. He used the proceeds to purchase Cherry Hill Plantation on Hilton Head Island.

But one of the most interesting stories involving alcohol occurred in the years following the Revolutionary War. Isaac Baldwin, an ironworker from New Jersey, had immigrated to Hilton Head around 1770 to work in E. Laurence's (Laurens) shipyard, one of several on the island at the time. After British raids in 1779 destroyed the shipbuilding businesses along Broad Creek, Baldwin joined the HHI Patriot militia. He served as a private in the Bloody Legion and rose to the rank of lieutenant in the Beaufort District Militia by the war's end.

Along with the Leaycraft and the Davant brothers, Baldwin was surrendered by General Lincoln at the Fall of Charleston in 1780, imprisoned and later paroled, but returned to duty in HHI's militia unit. He had married Mary Wolcott from Spring Island soon after his arrival on Hilton Head, but she died in childbirth, leaving him two infant sons. He then grew indigo on a small landlocked plantation and later married Martha Parmenter, who bore him two daughters and two sons. He purchased 535 acres from Peter Bayley in 1783.

When the indigo market crashed after the signing of the Treaty of Paris, he sold some land and opened a tavern in the booming city of Savannah, but, despite its great success, he closed and sold it soon after his son, David, who had helped manage the tavern for him, died of alcoholism around 1790. Baldwin returned to Hilton Head with the proceeds of the sale of the tavern to add 290 acres of Cherry Hill Plantation, and 21 enslaved people, to his holdings. He was subsequently elected to the SC House of Representatives for a two-year term but retired after one to devote full attention to plantation life.

By 1798, Baldwin owned 585 acres and had 39 enslaved people harvesting and selling Sea Island cotton, and he cared for Thomas Henry Barksdale, son of his friend George Barksdale, by paying his tuition after George died in debt. Thomas Barksdale went on to achieve great financial success and at one time accumulated 2,600 acres along Skull Creek by purchasing small parcels from their Revolutionary War-era owners. By 1810 Baldwin also owned Baldwin Plantation, part of the later Sand Hill Plantation, roughly 400 acres in size, and had 47 enslaved people in total. He died in 1826 and was buried in the Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery. LL



©KATHLEEN WALKER

LOCAL LANDMARK See Isaac Baldwin's headstone at Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery on Hilton Head Island. The cemetery contains the graves and memorials for four Revolutionary War Patriots: Baldwin, James Davant, John Stoney and Charles Davant.

Richard Thomas is an owner and guide for Hilton Head History Tours and is the author of Backwater Frontier: Beaufort Country, SC at the Forefront of American History.

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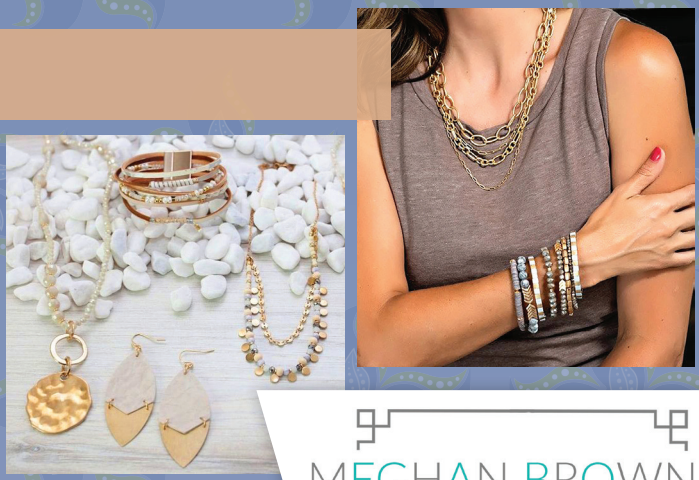




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WWMD

What would Margaret drink?

Margaret Pearman is a certified sommelier under the Court of Master Sommeliers and is responsible for curating the award-winning wine list at Charlie's L'Etoile Verte. ***Here are her sipping suggestions for May:***

Boat-ready rosé

Summer is calling! Whether you are on the boat, at the pool or sitting with sand between your toes, French Pool Toy Rosé is the hot-ticket wine to bring along. The packaging is ingenious. It comes in a 750mL eco-friendly plastic bottle and a 1.5L "tote" that will stay delicious for weeks after opening. For something even more fun, freeze the tote, and serve up a Frosé. But it's not all about the convenient and versatile packaging. The juice is real-deal dry French rosé. Grab a pack of Govino plasticware, and any wine aficionado will be content sipping wine while on the water.



GO ANYWHERE French Pool Toy is an elegant rosé wine from France that comes in either an unbreakable eco-friendly bottle or a stylish 1.5L pouch that stays fresh for 60 days after opening. Photos taken by Margaret Pearman, off her parents' dock overlooking the May River.

Hook, line & drinker

JUICY COCKTAILS TO TRY AFTER A DAY ON THE WATER

There's nothing better than sitting down to a nice seafood dinner with a glass of wine, but did you know that vodka cocktails pair nicely with fish, as well? Simple soda and citrus flavors are the best options in order to bring out the most flavor. Check out these three citrus-centric cocktails from the team at ***Tito's Handmade Vodka****.*



Tito's Texas Water

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 ounces Tito's Handmade Vodka
4 ounces soda water
2 orange slices, quartered
2 lemon slices, quartered

DIRECTIONS Slice oranges and lemons and muddle with Tito's Handmade Vodka in a glass. Add ice and top with soda water.



Tito's Paloma

INGREDIENTS

2 ounces Tito's Handmade Vodka
2 ounces grapefruit juice
2 ounces soda water
2 ounces lime juice

DIRECTIONS Add all ingredients to a glass with ice. Stir and garnish with a grapefruit and lime slice.



Tito's Citrus Squeeze

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 ounces Tito's Handmade Vodka
3 ounces sparkling water
1 ounce grapefruit juice
1/4 ounce lemon juice
1/4 ounce lime juice
1 dash of bitters

DIRECTIONS Add all ingredients to a glass with ice. Stir and enjoy.



Tito's®

CHERRY LIMEADE

1½ oz cherry-infused Tito's Handmade Vodka
4 oz limeade
1 lime slice, garnish
1 cherry, garnish

Just add infused Tito's Handmade Vodka and limeade to a glass over ice. Garnish with a lime slice and cherry.

No time for an infusion? No problem. Just muddle a few cherries in your glass and sip away the stress.

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Cool aquariums

GO SEE SOME FISH AT THESE MARINE LIFE HOT SPOTS NOT TOO FAR FROM HOME.

BY LUCY ELAM

Living on the coast, one might think one has a basic understanding of the ocean and the creatures that inhabit it. But even for born-and-bred islanders, the waters that seem so familiar have a formidable mystery to them. The aquarium is where we really get to see what goes on beneath the surface. These organizations pull back the curtain to reveal a whole other world just below the boat, and they can help us to get in touch with the place we call home. If you want to discover the wonder of marine life, there is certainly no shortage of nearby places to do so. Here are our favorites.

Georgia Aquarium

ATLANTA

Explore the mysteries of the deep at the biggest aquarium in the Western Hemisphere. Georgia Aquarium is home to hundreds of species and thousands of animals across its seven major galleries, all of which reside in more than 10 million gallons of fresh and saltwater. The aquarium's notable specimens include **whale sharks** (the largest fish known to have lived on this planet), beluga whales, California sea lions, bottlenose dolphins and manta rays. The Sharks! Predators of the Deep is the newest gallery to be added. It features a dive cage, where visitors can be submersed in the tank, and a wading pool where visitors can walk with rays and zebra sharks.

South Carolina Aquarium

CHARLESTON

In 2019 the South Carolina Aquarium was awarded the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, "not for having a massive living collection of exotic species from around the world, but for keeping its collection's focus local." This Charleston-based aquarium houses thousands of species native to South Carolina, like the Atlantic spadefish and tripletail. Currently, they are featuring an exhibit called Monsters: From Micro to Mega, which features everything from the micro monsters found in your own backyard to the mega monsters of oceans, both past, and present. This nonprofit organization also offers free educational material for teachers and students, including an entire K-12 STEM-based learning curriculum (shout out to everyone whose kids have been learning from home/homeschooling, this could be a great resource for you!). You can tune in Wednesdays and Fridays on its Facebook page for turtle talks and live virtual visits. And if you're looking for a good date night, South Carolina Aquarium After Hours offers 21+ experiences with small plates, beer, wine, and entertainment, surrounded by water and wildlife.



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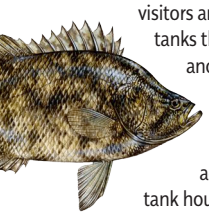
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UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium

SAVANNAH



Located in Savannah on Skidaway Island, the Marine Education Center and Aquarium hosts around 25,000 visitors annually and is home to Georgia's first saltwater aquarium. The center features 16 exhibit tanks that showcase a variety of Georgia's marine life, and a touch tank allows visitors to get up close and personal with some of Georgia's marine invertebrates such as snails and crabs. Most of the species are caught by aquarium staff right off the coast, so it's an excellent way to really get a hands-on understanding of our ocean-dwelling next door neighbors. Visit bottom dwelling horseshoe crabs and stingrays, schooling fish like striped mullet and pompano, and fun additions like the longnose gar, seahorses, and invasive species like the red lionfish. Its freshwater tank houses two American alligators, and the display cases on the aquarium's upper level house fossils of sharks, giant armadillos, whales, mastodons and wooly mammoths dredged from the Skidaway River. Reserve a one-hour slot for your visit, and be sure to arrive early or stay awhile after your appointment to enjoy the Jay Wolf Nature Trail and Boardwalk, which is wheelchair accessible. Picnic tables line the bluff outside the back door along the Skidaway River and provide a perfect spot to take a break and eat lunch.





Tybee Island Marine Science Center

TYBEE ISLAND

This facility on Tybee Island is brand spanking new. Opened in March, this $7.5 million upgrade is finally serving the community that made it happen. Overlooking the northside beach on Tybee, the center is 5,000 square feet with an amphitheater, an underground level with classrooms, an open-air classroom, turtle workshop, gift shop, several galleries, and a sky loft with views of Calibogue Sound and the shipping channel. One notable resident of the center is Addy, the 2-year-old loggerhead turtle. Addy drew national attention when a watchful housekeeper noticed the federally protected turtle hatchlings in the garbage outside of the Admiral Inn (which Addy is named for). Addy's siblings were quickly released, and Addy stayed at the center to help educate the public about loggerheads. Just a few months ago she packed her bags and moved into the new center, upgrading her 800-gallon tank to a 5,000-gallon tank. When Addy is released next summer, hopefully she will come back to lay her eggs on the same beach where she was born.



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The Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens Aquarium Reptile Complex

COLUMBIA

The Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens has a lot to offer, including an award-winning, 20,000-square-foot Aquarium Reptile Complex. The ARC has four galleries: the Desert, the Tropics, South Carolina, and the Ocean, featuring a 55,000-gallon Pacific coral reef tank with sharks, moray eels and more. The South Carolina Gallery has 24 individual exhibits displaying local amphibians, reptiles, fish, and invertebrates. Visitors can view native fish such as bream, crappie, bass, and even the rare Atlantic shortnose sturgeon.



Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach

MYRTLE BEACH

At the Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach, you can touch the stingrays in the Ray Bay exhibit, explore the interactive multimedia playground of the discovery center, or pop over to the new penguin playhouse and watch them get their waddle on. Ripley's also offers a variety of experiences, like diving with the sharks, swimming with the stingrays, a glass-bottom boat ride, and penguin encounters. Filled with thousands of fish of every shape and size, Dangerous Reef is its largest and most popular exhibit. Feel like you are swimming with the sharks as you move through the tunnel, surrounded on every side by green sea turtles, stingrays and more. Be sure to keep an eye out for the sandbar shark, which is commonly found in the coastal waters of the Atlantic and Indo-Pacific oceans, and the Atlantic tarpon, which can exceed 100 pounds.The current record in South Carolina is a 154-pound tarpon that was caught off the coast of Hilton Head Island in 1987. *LL*

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Denver

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BY ADDY CODISPOTI

If you're craving a trip out West, Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport is offering nonstop service to **Denver**. Known as the "Mile-High City," Denver offers fun experiences all year round with lots of history and unique sights. Denver benefits from low relative humidity in the summer, making it the perfect place to visit in these upcoming months. From unique hotels to delicious restaurants, we've put together a list of the must-dos in Denver. LL



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WHAT TO DO

LARIMER SQUARE

Denver's oldest and most historic block is a must-see on your trip — day or night. The first downtown area of Denver has been restored as a trendy and hip shopping area. Step inside specialty boutiques and world-class restaurants housed in Victorian buildings. The canopy of lights strung above the street will make you feel like you're walking under the stars. Eat food from the city's best chefs and maybe even catch some live music. From one-of-a-kind daytime shopping to vibrant nightlife, this historic block has it all.



DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

If you need an escape from the city, spend a couple of hours in a bountiful oasis in this botanic garden. The 24 acres of beautiful lush greenery highlight diverse plants from all over the world. From Ornamental to Water Gardens, the Denver Botanic Gardens has it all. You'll easily spend your entire day here getting peacefully lost amongst the tropical plants and full blooming flowers. You'll even see some koi fish in the Japanese garden. There is also a sunken amphitheater which hosts concerts during the summer months. $15



WHISKEY, HISTORY AND OUTLAWS TOUR

How do you make history entertaining? Whiskey sampling! Dive into a three-hour walking tour of Denver and learn all about the city's Wild West history. Travel all the way back to 1850 and hear stories about gunfights, pioneers, con men, outlaws and the history of whiskey. Each one of the three drink stops is dedicated to its own piece of Denver history. Find out how Denver really began, and sample some whiskey along the way. $45



WHERE TO EAT

NUMBER THIRTY EIGHT

If you're on the hunt for good food, a taproom, or some live music, Number Thirty Eight can cure all of those needs in one place. Open Thursday through Sunday, it's one of Denver's most popular weekend spots. The indoor/outdoor venue celebrates Denver's best taprooms, tasting rooms, food, and entertainment. It's also dog friendly so if you brought your furry friends on your trip, they're welcome too. $



DENVER BISCUIT COMPANY

If you're missing home or craving a bit of Southern comfort on your trip, this biscuit eatery is a must. This biscuit heaven was featured on Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives so you know it's the real deal. Pick from four locations across the city and get ready to indulge. Choose from a variety of breakfast sandwiches and plates such as a biscuit pot pie and biscuit French toast. As if that weren't enough, there's also a pizza place in the same building, so if biscuits aren't your thing, don't worry — the pizza is just as good. You'll be thinking about this meal for the rest of your trip. $$



TAVERNETTA

Inspired by the phrase, "Authentic Italian, Genuine Hospitality" this Italian eatery strives to honor Italy's culinary traditions with selections that celebrate the classics. Located right next to Union Station, the modern yet welcoming decor provides a unique dining experience for a date night or a night out with friends or family. The fresh handmade pastas are a must-try along with any of the carefully selected Italian wine selections. An open kitchen concept allows guests to see their food being made just steps away. If you're looking to splurge on a dinner while you're in Denver, Tavernetta is the place to go. $$$



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WHERE TO STAY



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If you're looking to experience the beauty of Colorado during your trip, check out this playground amidst the Rocky Mountains. A 90-minute scenic drive from downtown Denver, Keystone Resort offers a range of year-round activities for your whole family to enjoy. In the winter, take advantage of Colorado's beautiful mountains and bring the whole family skiing. During the warmer months, experience the lush golf courses, take a scenic gondola ride, or hike up the Dercum Mountain. Make sure to explore the spa, exercise facility, and the three on-site dining options during your stay. And the best part of it all: each one of the guest rooms offers breathtaking views of the mountains so you'll wake up every morning in a picturesque paradise. $104-$149



THE CRAWFORD HOTEL

Right above the iconic Denver Union Station is the city's best place to meet, eat, shop, and sleep. Each guest room tells a different story, offering a unique perspective on Denver's rich history while offering comfort for your stay. You'll find Union Station's top-notch dining and retail options just seconds away from your room. Take a seat and relax for a bit in Denver's Living Room, otherwise known as the Great Hall: a perfect place to get work done or admire the architectural beauty of the building. Whether you're traveling for business or pleasure, this luxury hotel will be sure to take care of you during your stay. $230



HALCYON AT CHERRY CREEK

Located in the heart of the Cherry Creek shopping district, Halcyon is sure to make you feel right at home. You'll check in at the "Kitchen Counter" and be treated to either coffee or a glass of wine. With breathtaking views of both mountains and the city, you'll find a peaceful retreat in any one of the rooms. Relax on the rooftop pool or explore the hotel's Gear Garage, where you can find everything from yoga mats to scooters. When you're ready for dinner, choose from one of the three on-site restaurants: Local Jones, Elevated, or Quality Italian. No matter what your business in Denver is, Halcyon strives to be your home away from home. $230







Fish tales

BY CAROLYN MALES

A fish tale is generally a big lie, something not to be believed. But for this story we asked eight artists to share their true fish experiences along with their aquatic artwork. And we caught a bit of fish philosophy along the way.

Mira Scott

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

Acrylic and Gauche

When I was a young child, my father was a dolphin trainer at the Montreal Aquarium. I spent many hours there roaming between the dolphin aquarium and the adjacent aquarium, which housed every imaginable sea creature. One tank in particular held a great fascination for me because right in the middle of it sat something that looked like a giant dark-colored rock. But it wasn't. It was a huge grouper. And so the game began. Every chance I had, I would run into the building hoping to catch him moving or in a different location. But it never happened. The grouper was glued to the spot. Many years later I wanted to paint a fish and remembered the giant grouper. I imagined, if given a choice, where he would have wanted to live. In this fantasy world, the grouper would be a multicolored vision accompanied by colorful friends as they swam through tropical coral reefs.



Lennie Ciliento

RED DRUM

Washi Tape

When my firstborn son was five, I decided to take him fishing so he could gain the same sense of father-son bonding I'd experienced as a child. On a lovely spring day, I drove him to the Sea Pines Forest Preserve, set up his tackle, and brought out a pole I'd borrowed from my dad — a connection to that past bonding ritual. I'm not much of an 'in the moment' person, but standing out there, I soaked up the sun, the oxygen of the trees, the sound of near silence, and most importantly, the shared experience with my child. And after a few more fleeting moments passed, my beautiful baby boy looked up at me with shining brown eyes and asked with a tad bit of frustration, "Can't we just go to Walmart and buy fish?"

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Chase Allen

IRON FISH RAINBOW TROUT
Sheet Metal Forging

I was raised in Charlotte, North Carolina, but my grandfather lived on the North Carolina coast. When I'd visit him, I'd spend my time fishing on the community dock. I would sit there all day even when I was as young as seven years old — and my parents swear to this day they would have to pry me away to come home for dinner every night. My favorite memories are of my elderly grandfather slowly walking down the dock to bring me something to eat and drink and to reapply my sunscreen. Those were simple times and they were also when my obsession with fish began.





Brian Vaughn

LOW COUNTRY OCTOPUS
Gyotaku

In fall of 2012 I was shrimping with my father when, to my surprise, I pulled up my cast net and inside was this beautiful octopus. I was born and raised here in Hilton Head and have been a full-time fishing captain for more than 25 years, but this was the first time I'd ever seen an octopus inshore in shallow water. So I put it in a cooler to bring home to show my wife, daughter and friends. That evening I left the octopus in the sealed cooler on our back porch with plans to return it to the ocean the next morning. Unfortunately, overnight the octopus had somehow crawled out and passed away before I could do that. As an artist, I was already practicing the ancient art form of Gyotaku (Japanese for "fish print") with fish I'd caught locally and on my travels abroad. But I'd never heard of anyone doing a Gyotaku print of an octopus so I gave it a try, and it turned out to be one of my all-time favorite fish prints!



Joan Moreau McKeever

CURIOUS KOI II

Washi Tape

Washi tape is a not-very-sticky tape originating in Japan. The tape, made with rice paper, is often used for crafting projects like scrapbooking or decorating calendars and lunch boxes. It comes in solid colors as well as patterns, which are usually theme-based like pumpkins and skeletons for Halloween. I had previously created two koi fish paintings; one in acrylics and the other in watercolor. Then, with all this washi tape I had collected, I thought, Why not "paint" a koi with tape? I never use patterns for what they were intended – I use them for their color and value. A friend said viewing my washi tape paintings is like going on a treasure hunt. And, if you look closely at *Curious Koi II*, you'll see airplanes, crowns and flowers in the water.



Kadie and Chris Signore

FISH NO. 20F025

Reclaimed wood from dock

In October 2016 Hurricane Matthew slammed into the Atlantic coast, causing a destructive path from Florida to Virginia. Here the storm's fury tore apart docks on the Colleton River. In the aftermath, residents hired contractors to haul away debris strewn across their yards. But one homeowner who'd neatly stacked the ruined boards on his property advertised "50-feet of dock looking for a good home." When we stumbled across the ad, we knew exactly what we'd do. We'd create furniture and fish art from the weathered wood. The owner agreed, and we worked our tails off for two straight days breaking down, organizing, and loading the wood into our pickup truck and unloading it at our wood shop. Less than a week later, we had our first furniture order — a rustic farm table with matching benches.





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Michelle Wixon

TIGHT LINES
Watercolor

My grandmother was an incredible woman with "waste not, want not" mindset and an unrivaled can-do spirit. Having lived through the Depression and raised nine children, there was very little that Grandma Taylor could not do. As a young child, I was fascinated with the ocean and spent hours each day exploring Hilton Head's beaches. Fishing was a natural extension of this passion, and Grandma T taught me how to take string, attach it to a stick, and bait a minnow onto the hook. I actually caught a few fish with that improvised rig in the Port Royal Sound. As I got older, we bought a proper rod and shrimp for bait, and I was able to reel in enough fish to feed the family. Naturally, when I brought my bucketful of bounty back to the house, my grandmother was there, knife in hand, to teach me how to fillet and prepare each fish.

Fish philosophy

Amos Hummel

FLO
Enamel



"Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach him to paint a fish, and feed him and his cat." Fish are beautiful models. They look great in any color, as any shape, and those lips! There are plenty of reasons why fish are so much fun to paint, even if you don't have a cat.



Bevan Brynne Bowler

LARGE OVAL PLATTER WITH WAVE TEXTURE AND FISH WITH MATCHING OVAL BOWL
Blue Slip Under White and Blue Glaze

Jacob Preston, "Bluffton's tallest potter," gave me the opportunity to show my work at his gallery, and I took it. Using fish motifs in pottery is a natural thing to do, especially when you live on the coast. Fish have been an added decoration to pots for thousands of years. Just doing my part to keep it going.

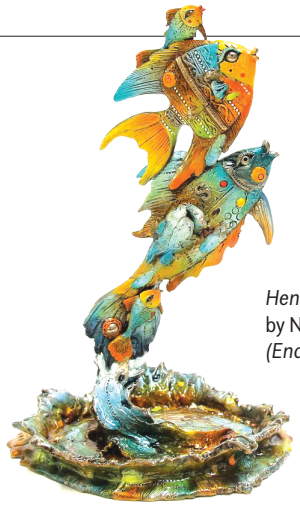
From local galleries



Chatter Bait by Dan Laurie McIntosh *(Camellia Art)*



Summer Fishing by Stephen Scott Young
(Red Piano Art Gallery)



Henry, Stella and the Twins
by Nano Lopez
(Endangered Arts)



Two Fish
by Ali Leja
(Camellia Art)



Lunch
by Sandy Scott
(Red Piano Art Gallery)



Good as Gold by Terri Gilecki *(Endangered Arts)*



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FEATURED ARTIST



Labyrinth 12

Daniel E. Smith: Of Light and Solitude

BY CAROLYN MALES

Daniel E. Smith paints solitude. Lush marsh scenes bathed in yellow light. Portraits of buildings in the process of construction or decay. Abstracts that are all about color and mood.

No birds disrupt the serenity of his Lowcountry panoramas. No people distract from the line and form of the buildings. Instead, the artist creates a space for private moments between viewer and scene.

Perhaps this tranquility is a legacy of Smith's 23-year immersion in monastic life or perhaps a counterpoint to his full-house childhood in upstate New York where he, as the third child of 10 in an Irish Catholic family, packed into a Cape Cod with parents and siblings.

The first time I saw a Daniel E. Smith work was when I was walking down a hallway of an art museum and came across a small gem of a painting that stopped me in my tracks. There on the gallery wall sat a 12x12 inch, oil-and-encaustic canvas of a bold red, white, and green structure punctuated by dynamic arcs of black and red lines. Those linear strokes, I would learn, were scaffolding on the very building I was then standing in — Savannah's iconic Jepson Center. Smith, who had watched it rise from his apartment window, had captured the Moshe Safdie-designed landmark mid-construction in 2004 before it was encased in white limestone.

My next encounter with Smith's work was in a restaurant on Hilton Head's south end before the dinner crowds arrived. There in Redfish's main dining area sat four large paintings, all depicting the same room with a window at different times of day. Moving down the line of canvases, experiencing the shifting light and changing colors as the sun made its passage through the sky in each piece, felt like a spiritual or religious experience.



Kremlin 2

Smith would later tell me that he'd based "The Hours" series on a monastic prayer-and-meditation cycle, depicting the aisle of a church from pre-dawn to a candle-lit dusk.

Back in 1999, his oil and encaustic canvases rendered with palette knife caught the eye of gallerist Judy Costello, who began showing his work. This month she'll be showcasing Smith's latest abstracts, Lowcountry landscapes, and architectural paintings at her J Costello Gallery.

Now 15 years after that portrait of the Jepson had first captivated me, I had the opportunity to talk to Daniel Smith and discover the man behind these mesmerizing images.

[Q] What I find intriguing is that you grew up in a family of 12, yet your paintings, whether they're architectural or landscape, reflect a very solitary experience.

[Daniel Smith] It's the idea of creating little private universes. They're places to escape to, to be in by yourself. My sister MaryAnne and I would build palaces out of blocks or Lincoln Logs. Or we'd scavenge the woods, find scrap lumber and build little forts. Sometimes we'd grab small pieces of wood and moss, find two roots coming out of a tree and design little gardens and towers. It was basically just imagining other places driven by wanting our own space in the world.

[Q] What made you embark on a monastic path after graduating from college?

[DS] I went to Iona College, which is a Catholic college, and majored in English with an art and classics minor. But I didn't know what I wanted to do, so I was encouraged to look at religious life and think about teaching. The religious order I chose did a lot of inner-city work, and I was assigned to teach a range of subjects in both suburban and inner-city schools in New York and Boston. But when I was up in Rochester, I was asked to help with the art department which at that time only had eight students. By the third year, we had 100.

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Stage 8



[Q] After more than two decades of regimented monastic life, what sparked your leap into the uncertainties of the art world?

[DS] I'd been taking art classes while I was teaching so I'd know more about it. When I came down to SCAD in 1996 to take a master's in painting, the deal was that I was going to return to the monastery and teach college-level art courses. But then they decided that I'd be the head of theology for a grade school instead. That didn't make sense to me. They weren't going to use me for my best skills.

[Q] Your work goes from abstracts to the soft fluid lines of the marsh to the geometric shapes of architecture. In the latter there are no quaint cottages or finished structures, and many sit in a state of decay.

[DS] The beginnings of a building look very similar to the ruins of a building. So I like to play with the idea that these images can be a beginning or end. Spaces express a psychology. When we make a space, we're choosing everything that we see. It's taking some concept in your head and making it a reality. Why am I interested in it and why do I want others to see in it? So I leave out any details I think are just distractions.

I like looking at the bones, massing of them, their relationship to the rest of the environment. I used to paint the abandoned gas stations and the half-finished foundations that I 'd see driving through Bluffton 20 years ago.



I found this one ugly abandoned building right on the marsh, but in a way it was also beautiful. I like that tension. But to get people to see that, I can't paint its dingy cement block and corrugated metal. I have to give it a color that says "I can be beautiful."

[Q] Your work doesn't include people, and your marsh scenes don't have the ubiquitous egret in the grass.

[DS] To me objects that move and change things interrupt the viewer's ability to be at peace in that place. If I'm going to be in this space, I don't want to worry about that bird, or that woman in the hat, or that man with a fishing pole. It's for the viewer alone. And they may not be seeing what I'm thinking of, but that's not important to me. It's just that they have a place to do that.

It's all probably related to that crowded childhood ...

[Q]And your abstracts?

[DS] All my paintings start out as abstracts. I want to break-in the canvas, so I begin with an idea of mood or something. Then I'll put in a color and see where the paint takes me. There's usually a point where I say, "I really like this as an abstract." Or I remember this spot in the marsh, so I'll send these shapes into landscape. Or this reminds me of that cellar I saw up the road and I think I'll move it in that direction. But even if I'm purposely starting out to make a smaller landscape, I'll do something wild on the canvas and then think, "oh that works. Let's go there." LL

As Through a Glass Darkly





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CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS

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Geisha



Lennie Ciliento: Washi Tape Artist

BY CAROLYN MALES

"Discovering the vivid display of washi tape rolls amid the cards and paper supplies would become a life-changing experience."



©ALLISON HEARD

It's not every artist who finds his passion in the stationery department of a Japanese department store. But for **Lennie Ciliento**, discovering the vivid display of washi tape rolls amid the cards and paper supplies would become a life-changing experience.

At the time, he and his wife, Jennifer, were living with their two sons in a small rental house in Tokyo while they taught English at an international school there. The only place with enough space for Ciliento to create art was in a room lined with tatami mats. Paints, he knew, would be much too messy.

But standing in the store on that day back in 2010, he was struck with an idea. The fabric-based adhesive tape was used for crafting, but maybe he could do some sort of artwork with it, perhaps collages that would only involve scissors and paper. No messy tubes of pigment, water buckets or drippy paint brushes.

He brought the tape home and gave it a try. The rest, as they say, is history. Today collectors prize his impressionistic collages, which range from portraits to landscapes, sea life, cityscapes, humorous commentary on contemporary issues, and so much more.

Ciliento recently filled me in on his adventures in washi tape collage.

[Q] After graduating from the University of South Carolina with a degree in interdisciplinary studies, you began teaching elementary school. Where did art come in?

[Lennie Ciliento] I was always interested in drawing, so when I had a summer off back in 2006, I told myself I'm going to read *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain* by Betty Edwards and do every exercise in it. And I did. Edwards promised that after doing this, you'll be able to see differently and draw. It worked! It was amazing how much I started looking at things in a different way.

[Q] What was your first washi tape project?

[LC] We were in Japan for two years, and at the time I was drawing goofy little comics for my son who was about three years old. They were filled with elephants and bears having conversations about making good choices. But when I showed them to him, he started laughing because the elephants looked more like bats. I thought, "there's gotta be a better way." So when I saw this washi tape display, I must have been reading something about color and emotion because I decided to make this book for him where bright colors were happy, and dark colors were sad. I illustrated it with abstract blotches of tape on top of tape on top of tape. It was just about the colors.

[Q] How did you make the transition to more complex subjects?

[LC] I grew up in the 1980s on Saturday morning cartoons. So if I was going to be an artist, it would be cartoons — not fine art. But I always loved clean crisp lines, and that's what the tape offered. The earlier pieces I did were very linear. For example, my first washi collage was of the house across from us in Japan. Everything in the piece was very vertical and horizontal. Even the bushes were spiky like palmettos.



Crab

But then I began shaping the tape with scissors and started doing flamenco dancers because I was interested in the colors, the excitement, and the passion. Meanwhile my wife had always liked my flower paintings, so figured I could impress her and collage them as well. But it was really all about learning how to use the tape.

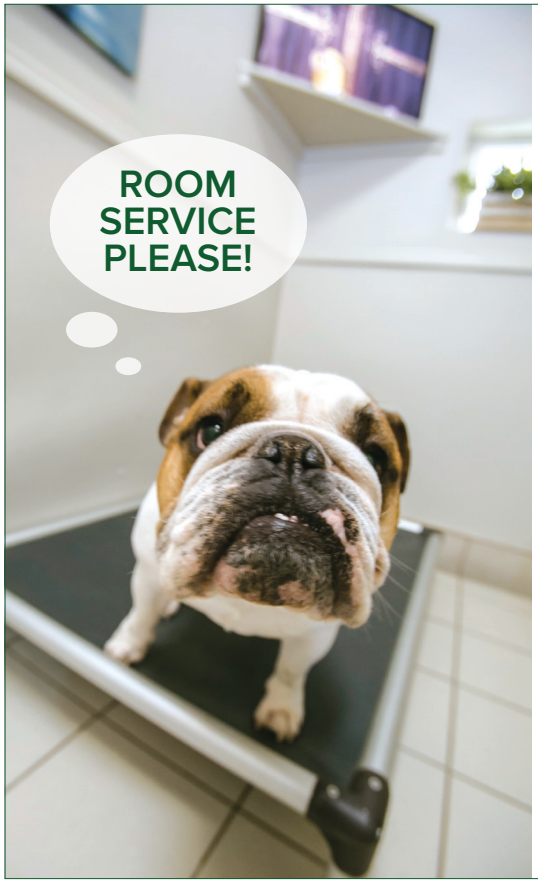
[Q] When did you turn professional?

[LC] At first I had no intentions of showing my work. I just wanted to create tape art. It wasn't until we moved to Chattanooga in 2011 that I entered a local poster design contest for my son's school fundraiser. I made an Impressionist portrait of him holding a guitar. The school made it into a poster and put it on a T-shirt. Once I saw my work was accepted by the public, I thought, 'OK, this is cool. Now I'm going to make art with the intention of getting it out in front of an audience.'

[Q] Your work now spans a variety of subjects.

[LC] The variety is due to the fact that Location Gallery in Savannah, where my work is, has different show themes. So, many of my subjects were in response to that. For instance, we had one on junk food, so I did a scene of a family picking lollipops out of the ground like they were vegetables. Another was portraits.

In the end, what matters to me is that as long as I'm using the tape and keep my integrity intact, the subject matter isn't important as long as I'm creating. I'll go to a show and someone will say, "I love your work, do you have pictures of bears or turtles?" I'll do whatever the design calls for.



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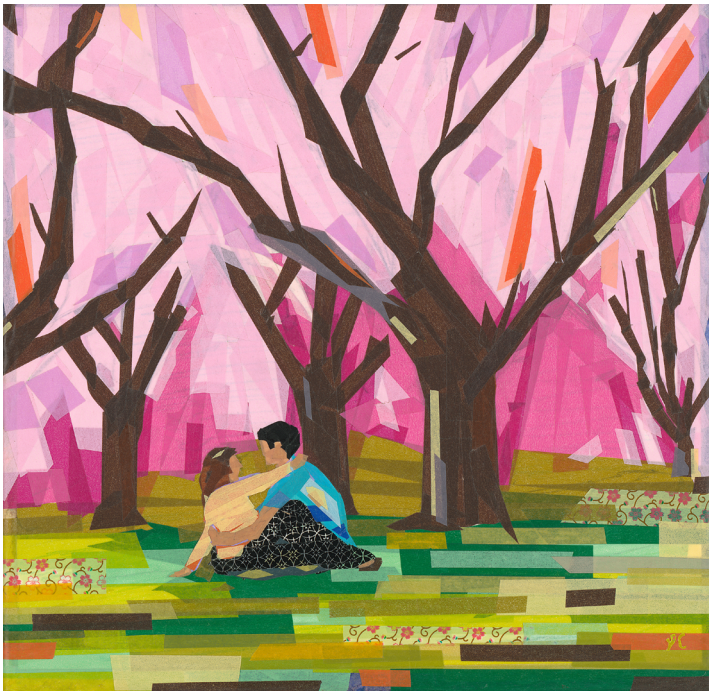
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[Q] What is your design process?

[LC] I consider myself a designer first of all, and then the art comes in. The planning takes a lot of thought. I'll make a sketch on the computer, and then I'll move around elements and make sure everything is in the right place, that the colors match and that the values are balanced. I want it to look original. I'm not doing it to stand out. I'd still do it even if the audience were just me.



Hanami

[Q] Tell me about your studio.

[LC] I create on my living room couch on my coffee table in front of the TV. I've got one small box, maybe 14 inches by 10 inches high, filled with about 16 boxes of tape that I carry from the bedroom to the living room and back. It's very compact. When I'm working, everything is spread out on that coffee table, and when I'm done working everything goes back into that box. Neat and tidy.

When I'm planning a collage, there has to be silence — no music, no nothing. I wake up early and before going to work, I'll look at photos I've taken for reference and draw them in pencil in my sketchbook. That gets me in the zone and quiets my mind. But once a picture is underway and there's this one moment where I know its going to work, I can put on music or the TV.

[Q] You teach a range of subjects, including an open art studio, at The Island Academy of Hilton Head. Any advice for your students or anyone else in creative mode?

[LC] Don't compare your art to anyone else's. When I started learning to draw. I'd look at other people's work and think, "Oh, they're great. I can't do that." That kind of chatter in your head can prevent you from doing art. This is why when I teach art to kids, we call it "open studio." I don't stand over them and say, "Today we're going to paint this vase and everybody is going to do the same one." Then you'll have kids comparing themselves to everyone else, so either they end up copying or giving up. My advice is to have courage and be yourself in your art. LL

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where the opening
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and the Robin where the worm in silent earth
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— Jacquelyn Markham



In the Blue, Too
by Hilarie Lambert



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Sweet Cink-cess!

Fan favorite **Stewart Cink**, 47, had a record-breaking week at the **2021 RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing**, shattering the lowest 36-hole score and breaking the tournament's 54-hole score on his way to his third Heritage title with a 19-under 265 at Harbour Town Golf Links. For those lucky enough to attend, it was an unforgettable experience.







Hoppy day

Village at Wexford's Spring Shop Hop included all things Easter where kids were able to receive a basket and fill it with fun treats from participating merchants. The **Easter Bunny** was also there for photo ops.











A grand celebration

The Hilton Head Christian Academy celebrated its grand opening with live entertainment, food trucks, family friendly activities and campus tours. The tours were available to see the two-story education building and their recently opened gymnasium and fine arts building.









Art all around

The Town of Hilton Head Island's **Office of Cultural Affairs** have implemented **Tiny Free Art Galleries** as part of their **Community Creates initiative**. These "galleries" spread around various locations on the island are light gray wooden boxes that sit five feet off the ground. Each box showcases neatly arranged art pieces designed by participating artists. Residents, guests, and local artists of all levels are invited to take a piece of art, leave a piece of art, or do both. Public galleries can be found at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina and at the Shops at Sea Pines Center.





Celebrating Martin Family Park

Town Council, staff, and members of the **Martin family** attended the ribbon cutting that honored the Martin Family's legacy of service to the Town of Bluffton. **Jacob "Jake"** and **Ida Martin** hold a number of achievements including Ida's founding of **Bluffton Self Help, Inc.** and the **Bluffton Community Soup Kitchen**, Jake's public service career serving as a police officer and district office administrator, and **President Barack Obama** awarding Ida the Presidential Citizens Medal in 2011.





Jenny Brasington, RN
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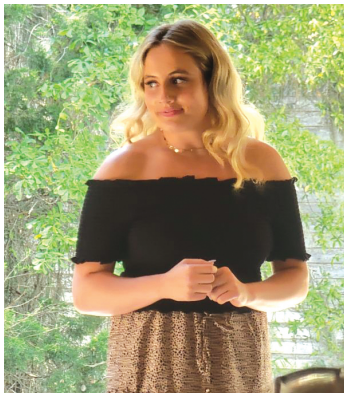
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Doing good in the neighborhood

Students **Ella Brooke Simons, Grace Weismantel, Madison MacCabe, Emma Drury,** and **Jack Paul Barney** received the **Youth Community Service Award** by the **Women's Association of Hilton Head Island** for their community service and were awarded $1,000 each. Each individual has managed to balance academic achievement, participation in school clubs, sports, and outstanding community service.

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BravoPiano! Festival: Celebrating the music of the Americas

Tickets for Hilton Head International Piano Competition's BravoPiano! Festival will go on sale on May 5. The festival is presented every three years to celebrate the music of the Americas with performances of solo piano, piano with small ensembles, and piano with orchestra. All repertoire will be by composers living or having lived in countries from Canada to Argentina. BravoPiano! will take place from June 4 to 12 at various venues throughout the Hilton Head and Bluffton areas. The full schedule and tickets are available at **hhipc.org**.





On the Edge: Our Maritime Forests

Renowned Atlanta collage artist Laura W. Adams is working with Mystic Osprey Gallery to create awareness about the country's diminishing maritime forests. *Money will be raised for Port Royal Sound Foundation, and 15 percent of proceeds from the show's art sales will be donated to the foundation. Adams will have 15 original works in the show, which will feature animals found in the maritime forest, such as woodpeckers, kingfishers, bobcats, migratory neotropical songbirds, raccoon and deer.*

When: *4 -6 p.m., May 7* ***Where:*** *Mystic Osprey Gallery, Habersham*

2021 Savannah Music Festival

The Savannah Music Festival will take place May 23-30 in various Savannah venues. *There will be performances from renowned artists in classical, jazz, and American roots music, such as Wynton Marsalis, David Finckel, Wu Han, Rodney Crowell, and Jeremy Denk. Free live streaming will be available for specific performances. Tickets, full list of performers, and the schedule are available online at* ***savannahmusicfestival.org****.*


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May 21-22: *The Jalen Baker Quartet*
May 28-29: *Rising Star Devon Gates with The Kevin Bales Trio*



The Roasting Room

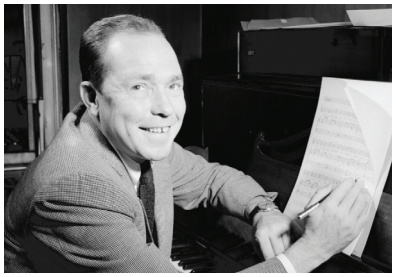
May 1: *Young Mister + Isaac Smith*
May 21: *Cranford Presents: The New Stuff*
May 22: ***Sam Burchfield***



The Rooftop at Poseidon

Saturdays: *Island's Best DJ Dance Party*
Wednesdays: *Coastal Country Night*
Thursdays: *Dueling Piano Shows*
May 14: *La Bodega*
May 21: ***Lyn Avenue***





Johnny Mercer: The Man and His Music

This show will take you on the musical journey of Lowcountry songwriter Johnny Mercer. *He wrote lyrics to over 1,700 songs from the 1930s to the 1970s, co-founded Capitol Records in 1942, and was nominated for 19 Academy Awards. This cabaret-style musical showcases Mercer's timeless songs that were inspired by southern African American music and language. Performers include Terry Burrell, Kim Steiner and Roger Moss. Tickets are available at* ***artshhi.com****.*

When: *May 7-15* ***Where:*** *Arts Center of Coastal Carolina*



Black Jacket Symphony's Rumours

Performing at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, ***Black Jacket Symphony*** *will be covering songs from Fleetwood Mac's Rumours, along with more of the band's greatest hits. Tickets can be purchased online at* ***artshhi.com****.*

When: *7:30 p.m., May 28 and 29* ***Where:*** *Arts Center of Coastal Carolina*

The Enchanted Bookshop Musical



Presented by Beaufort Children's Theatre, this musical tells the story of an ordinary bookshop that becomes a magical place each night. *Due to a spell from the Book Fairy, the characters inside the books come alive, including Dorothy Gale, Robin Hood, Pollyanna, Sherlock Holmes, Heidi, and Tom Sawyer. They're not allowed to leave the bookstore or be seen by human eyes, but they long to help shop-owner Margie save her struggling store. Along with in-person showings, at-home virtual screenings can be purchased for $25 from May 21 to 28.*

When: *7 p.m., May 21 and 22* ***Where:*** *USCB Center for the Arts*
Tickets: *uscbcenterforthearts.com*

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Festivals & gatherings






Maison Beaufort

This four-day home furnishings show will showcase between 20 and 30 vendors that offer a variety of items for your home and garden. Items include a blend of antiques, art, vintage and one-of-a-kinds, lighting, furniture, linens, and garden accents. The event will be held at The Beaufort Inn's Tabby Place in downtown Beaufort starting on May 20 through May 23. The Preview Party, taking place from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on May 20, will include cocktails, wine, and nosh and admits you into Maison Beaufort on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. General admission tickets are available for purchase and include all three days — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are available for purchase at **masionbeaufort.org**.



Lowcountry Home and Garden Show

This year's Lowcountry Home and Garden Show will take place May 14-16 at Buckwalter Place in Bluffton. *Some show highlights include over 90 home and garden exhibits, Parade of Homes tour, DIY workshops, product and cooking demonstrations, activities for kids, various giveaways, and daily lunch specials with local food truck vendors. Admission cost is $5, and kids 17 years and younger are free. Tickets are available for purchase at* ***lowcountryhomeandgardenshow.com****.*

When: *10 a.m.-4 p.m., May 14 and 15; noon- 4 p.m. on May 16*
Where: *Buckwalter Place*



Annual Memorial Remembrance Day

The Hilton Head Island Council of the Navy League announced its Annual Memorial Day Remembrance scheduled for May 31 at Shelter Cove Veterans Memorial Park. *Brigadier General Julie Nethercot, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, will be the guest speaker. A proclamation from the Town of Hilton Head will be presented along with a performance from the Hilton Head Choral Society. Due to Covid restrictions, social distancing will be in effect and attendance will be limited to 250 guests.*

Local markets



Mother's Day Artisan Market

Lowcountry Made is hosting a special Mother's Day shopping event from 1 to 5 p.m. on May 2 at Burnt Church Distillery. *The Bluffton Artisan Market will feature booths from local vendors, food trucks and live entertainment.*



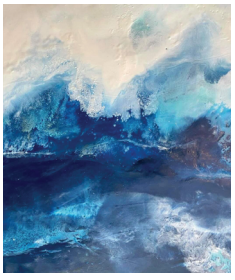
Bluffton Farmers Market

Every Thursday from noon to 5 p.m., the Bluffton Farmers Market will be open at 71 Green Street. *Vendors include 7th Heaven Spices, Clark & Sons Farm, Palmetto Pops, Myers Family Farms, Sprout Mama, and Tuten Farms, just to name a few. Check the market's Facebook page the morning of the market for a complete list of vendors.* ***farmersmarketbluffton.org***

Farmers & Makers Market

Celebrate fresh and local from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Tuesday with The Farmers & Makers Market in The Shops at Sea Pines Center. *Now in its eighth year, the market will present more local produce, seafood, breads and cheeses, and crafts and artisans than ever before.* ***theshopsatseapinescenter.com***

First Thursday Art Market



Browse the works of local artists from 4-6:30 p.m. on May 6 at The Shops at Sea Pines Center. *See their work, chat with the artists, and make your selection if something suits you.* ***theshopsatseapinescenter.com***

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Fishing for a Compliment

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Fundraising events

May Day 5K



The race starts at the Bluffton Oyster Factory and winds through Historic Old Town Bluffton and along the May River. *Run, walk and bring the kids. The race is fun for the entire family. Stroller-friendly, and dogs are welcome. Proceeds will benefit the LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth. Register at* ***palmettorunningcompany.com****.*



Pedal Hilton Head Island

A cycling event for all skill levels, this fundraising event will benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Hilton Head Island. *Participants will enjoy the beauty of the island while raising money to help support kids that are in need. Along with the new routes and new location of the Lowcountry Celebration Park in Coligny, the May Pedal event (May 2) is offering a virtual fundraising option. This includes a 100 percent match for every dollar raised. You can register for the event at* ***pedalhiltonheadisland.org****.*



Mindful Triathlon

This 5k run or walk is followed by a 45-minute yoga session on the beach and a 15-minute guided meditation and gong experience that will clear your mind, relax your body, and complete a mindful triathlon. *The event is open to all ages and skill levels. Cost is $25 and free for kids 12 years and younger. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Sea Turtle Patrol Hilton Head Island.*

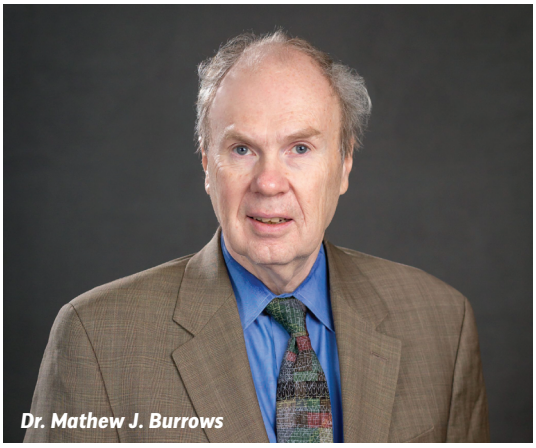
When: *8 a.m., May 22* ***Where:*** *Coligny Beach*

Mother's Day Charity Fundraiser

The 15 female artists at Maye River Gallery have worked together to create the Hopeful Horizons Fundraiser. *From May 1-16, all profits from the sales of any item designated towards this fundraiser will benefit Hopeful Horizons. These items include a wide range of prices and various types of styles of artwork, jewelry, decorative objects and giclee prints.*



Virtual talks


Dr. Mathew J. Burrows

Russia and China: Benign Friendship or Malignant Gamechanger?

Part of the World Affairs Council of Hilton Head's Great Power Rivalries series. *Dr. Mathew J. Burrows, director of the Atlantic Council's Foresight, Strategy, and Risks Initiative in the Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, will be discussing the topic of old communist enemies growing closer five decades after Kissinger's opening to China. Both Moscow and Beijing share a deep resentment against Washington, but is Moscow willing to be the junior partner to China? Or is the growing friendship a tactical move until Russian sanctions are dropped and China is on better terms with the U.S.? Register for this event at wachh.org.*

When: *10-11:30 a.m., May 7* ***Where:*** *Online*

Party payroll services: Common questions

SCORE SC Lowcountry will be hosting a complimentary session via Zoom for businesses with questions about managing payroll and hiring third-party payroll services. *Experts from Truist will provide a basic understanding of third-party systems and what to consider during the selection process. The event will take place from noon to 1 p.m. on May 27. Register at* ***sclowcountry.score.org****.*

Veteran entrepreneur coaching series

SCORE SC Lowcountry is hosting a complimentary series via Zoom that focuses on developing as a veteran entrepreneur. *Veteran business-owner guest speakers will discuss various topics from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays. The topic on May 5 is "Defining and Marketing Your New Business," May 12 is "Making Your Business Legal," May 19 is "Financing Your Business - What Do I Need to Know?" and May 26 is "Thrive in a Recession: The Power of No-Bid Federal Contracts." Register at* ***sclowcountry.score.org****.*





The 2021 Rankings are In!

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Enter at CraftedInTheLowcountryAwards.com.

Coastal Discovery Museum

Fish Form and Function

Lisa Kovalanchik, the assistant aquarium curator of the UGA Aquarium in Savannah, will discuss fish form and function and what makes fish so beautifully adaptable to the watery world in which they live. Attendees will learn the basics of fish, what distinguishes them from other vertebrate groups, and the external and internal anatomy of these finned creatures.

***When:** 2 p.m., May 24 **Where:** Online*
***Details:** coastaldiscovery.org*

Other events at the Coastal Discovery Museum

***May 1:** Sweetgrass Basket Class*
***May 5:** The Story of Santa Elena*
***May 5:** The Natural Communities of the Longleaf Ecosystems*
***May 10:** Animal Mothers **May 12:** Osprey Watch*
***May 19:** Wood Ducks and Nest Boxes: History, Current Research, and Management Tips*
***May 26:** Lowcountry Insect House*

Learn more about these events at coastaldiscovery.org.

Long Cove Club selected as site of two U.S. Open Qualifiers

The road to the 121st U.S. Open Championship at Torrey Pines Golf Course (South Course) in San Diego, Calif., will begin with 18-hole local qualifying at 110 sites in 43 U.S. states and Canada between April 26-May 18.

Final qualifying, conducted over 36 holes, will be held at 11 courses, including two international, to determine the last spots in the 156-player field for the U.S. Open, June 17-20, 2021. Long Cove Club was selected for local qualifying on Monday, May 10 and a final qualifying site on Monday, June 7. The addition of Long Cove Club as a final qualifying site is due to the recent addition of the PGA Tour event at Congaree Golf Club in Ridgeland, which will be held June 10-13. Long Cove Club has held two other local qualifying events in the past, but this is the first time the Club has been host to a final qualifying site. Due to Covid-19, the course will be closed to spectators, but you can find results on the USGA website.



Estate planning seminars set

***Montgomery Law Firm is hosting two estate planning seminars this month** — May 12 at the Best Western in Beaufort and May 13 at the Hampton Inn in Bluffton. Sign up at **montgomeryestateplanning.com/seminars**.*

MORE ONLINE

Find more events happening around the Lowcountry online at ***LocalLifeSC.com***

Real Estate Marketplace



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Fish out of water



"I took this picture off my back deck in Sea Pines during the fall migration. I really like how the light is reflecting off the fish scales, creating an almost translucent look."

- BRIAN ALLMAN, HILTON HEAD ISLAND

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