Vol. 30 • Issue 7 • July, 2020

Seabrook Island:
"A Great Place to Live, Work, and Play"

John Gregg

Re-Openings

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a State of Emergency was declared to exist within the Town as of March 17 and Executive Order 2020-01 was issued on March 20 to prohibit gatherings of more than ten people and require that persons in groups of two or fewer practice social distancing. Since then the Town issued Emergency Ordinances and seven additional Executive Orders. In the same span of time, Governor McMaster declared a statewide State of Emergency (March 13) and issued thirty-two Executive Orders to respond to the ongoing spread of COVID-19 in South Carolina. The Governor’s Orders expressly recognized the objective of encouraging social distancing and expressly provided for enforcement of state law authorizing law enforcement officers to disperse gatherings of three or more persons if determined to pose a threat to public health. The Governor’s Order prohibiting movement outside one’s residence except to engage in “essential businesses” or “essential activities.” All of the foregoing governmental interventions were directed to “flattening the curve” of spread of COVID-19 to reduce the potential for overwhelming resources that would be required to care for the seriously ill. The mandatory restrictions of those interventions were not marked or individually, in some instances being subject to particular end dates, in other instances subject to the duration of an associated State of Emergency unless expressly extended. Moderate relaxation of restrictions began in the middle of April and continued into early May.

As of April 2, data disseminated by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (“SCDHEC”) reflected the rate of confirmed positive tests for infection, i.e., the ratio of the number of confirmed positive results to the number of tests performed at the time a total of 1,747 was twenty-two per cent (22%). By the middle of May, SCDHEC data showed the rate of confirmed positive tests for infection was below five per cent (5%) of more than 101,000 tests performed. As of April 2, projected peak hospital beds required for COVID-19 was expected to exceed 3,000 on April 28. By April 30, SCDHEC data reflected the peak use of hospital beds had occurred on April 27 at less than 600 beds.

By the middle of May, most governmental interventions had been peeled or had expired. The remaining governmental interventions in effect in the Town included restrictions on gatherings of people within the Town under Executive Order 2020-01 and officially sanctioned guidelines for safe “reopening” of certain businesses, including restaurants remaining on-premises indoor dining, close contact service businesses, retail shopping, and commercial swimming pools. The relaxation of governmental interventions at the State and local level was undertaken in light of experience with the rate of confirmed cases of infection resulting in illness requiring hospitalization, increased testing for infection and the preceding encouraging trends in the utilization of hospital resources for COVID-19 patients. With relaxation of interventions and increased interactions among people in the state, there were, by the second week of June, increased occurrences of infection. SCDHEC reported the rate of confirmed positive tests for infection was over fourteen per cent (14%). As of June 15, SCDHEC data reflected more than 500 hospital beds were needed for COVID-19 patients and projected continuing need for about the same number of hospital beds for COVID-19 patients through early October. SCDHEC data concerning use of hospital resources were understood to illustrate the effectiveness of the statewide governmental interventions that had been put in place and a reduced expectation of unmanageable demand on hospital resources. With the issuance of an Order 11 June further relaxing restrictions on “non-essential businesses,” the Governor affirmed he did not contemplate re-imposition of restrictions on businesses or activities except to impose new restrictions on businesses and activities within the Town.

As of the time of this writing, the Town has not been notified by any public health agency of confirmation of COVID-19 infection of any resident of Seabrook Island. While SCDHEC has commenced reporting results of testing for the presence of coronavirus antibodies, results of that testing are not recognized as confirmative of COVID-19 infection. Persons who have positive tests for the presence of coronavirus antibodies and who have symptoms of infection are encouraged to be tested for COVID-19 infection. While recently reported increases of the rate of COVID-19 infection is certainly concerning for our residents, the recent SCDHEC data show the highest rates of new infections occur in extended care and detention facilities. SCDHEC, in conjunction with other public health organizations, issued a statement on June 9 emphasizing that social distancing and use of masks in confined spaces remained the most effective practices for reducing the spread of COVID-19. Residents are encouraged to continue to protect themselves through social distancing and protect others through use of masks in public spaces. Our residents are best served by adhering to established policies to exercise their individual responsibility to protect themselves and others.

Seabrook Island is a great place to live, work, and play. While the Eastern Seaboard offers an exhaustive list of communities to call home, Seabrook Island’s vibrant, diverse lifestyle distinguishes it as a singular destination. A private, welcoming oceanfront community located just miles from historic Charleston, S.C., Seabrook attracts residents from all over the world with its combination of healthy, meaningful living, superb amenities, and responsible planning and, in other harbors in the island’s significant natural assets. This sublime list of qualities starts with the almost three miles of serene, unspoiled beaches and breeze-swept dunes. Endless amenities blend seamlessly with the stunning natural environment, starting with the Seabrook Island Clubhouse, perched overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and North Edisto River. Thirty-six holes of championship golf on two challenging and uniquely designed Audubon-certified courses offer uncrowded playing conditions set among spectacular ocean, marsh, and maritime forest surroundings.

Outdoor dining, shrimping pools, and plenty of space for basking in the sun are available at the impressive Beach Club and pool complex. A full-service, 22-acre Equestrian Center includes 42 stalls, miles of trails, and one of the only beach rides on the East Coast. Ranked a “Top 25 U.S. Resort” by Tennis Magazine, the Racquet Club sports 15 Har-Tru courts, a pickleball court, and a clubhouse with pro shop. The Lakehouse community center offers a state-of-the-art health and fitness facility, indoor and outdoor pools, and more. The magnificent Atlantic Ballroom, along with the Carolina, DeVaux, Cooper rooms, and Ocean Terrace, offer idyllic settings for receptions and special events, wedding ceremonies, or corporate retreats. Fabulous shopping, dining, and entertainment options are available for members and guests to enjoy.

A deliberate sense of community creates the feeling that you’re exactly where you should be—an island paradise.
passed away on May 26, 2020 in Mt. Pleasant, SC, 88, of Seabrook Island, Charleston, SC 29401. He was the son of William F. and Helen M. Bissett.

Russ is survived by his wife Shirley Ann and two daughters: Jane Beth Curley and Debra Ann Bissett Ayres; his grandchildren, Michael Thomas Ayres, Catherine Jane Ayres Ficus, Christopher James Russell Curley, and Alexander William Michael Curley; his great-grandchildren, Quinn Aaron Ficus, Lola Eden Ficus, Zoe Olivia Ayres, and the expected great-grandson Curley in July 2020. Expressions of sympathy may be viewed or made at www.jenyustyle.com. In lieu of flowers donations may be sent to: Charleston Friends of the Library 68 Calhoun St. Charleston, SC 29401 charlestonlibraryfriends.org

Dear Cap'n Sam,

Last week I sent many Seabrookers an email thanking you for supporting our collective effort to encourage the POA’s regulation for the safe use of e-bikes on our pedestrian pathways inside the Gate. I acknowledged that our appeals were not successful, and informed you I was cutting short our effort before coming to the ending I envisioned. I know that this was discouraging to all of us.

However, also last week the Town Council had a virtual meeting and one of the items discussed was ebikes and their safety on the roads and paths that fall under the jurisdiction of the Town. Well, I would like to let you know that the Town has not finished its assessment of the introduction of the bikes on its roads and paths. From discussion during the meeting, I understand that the town will be retaining a traffic engineer and is also consulting with its outside attorney to look into what can be done both practically and legally to make the path from the gate to Freshfields as safe for users as is reasonably practical. I hope they will look at various alternatives such as eliminating blind spots, introducing speed bumps and mirrors at dangerous curves. All of these suggestions we have raised previously I am certain that these two experts can offer other safety measures.

In any event, I am proud that the Town’s staff continues to work the issue, and I and all of the Seabrook residents should thank the Town Administrator, the Mayor, and the Public Safety Commissioner, and the other Town staff for their continued effort.

Thank you,

Valerie Doane

REPLY: The answers were actually on the bottom of the last page, which in June’s issue was page 20. Our typical issues are 16 pages, thus the error.

DEATH NOTICES

Death notices include basic information about the deceased: the person’s name, age, occupation, date of death and place of death information. Notifications can be sent to theseabrooker@yahoo.com.

Richard Russell Bissett (Russ), 88, of Seabrook Island, passed away on May 26, 2020 in Mt. Pleasant, SC. He was born in Bayonne, New Jersey on September 21, 1931. He was the son of William F. and Helen M. Bissett.

He was an avid sports fan and participant. He lettered in four sports at Upsala College in East Orange, New Jersey where he met his wife of 68 years, Shirley.

In his junior year he signed a baseball bonus contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers and played three years in the minor leagues, before being released in 1954. Russ worked for the International Nickel Company in their Sales Department and progressed in the company from assignments in Bayonne, NJ, New York City, Pittsburgh, PA, and finally in the US headquarters facility in Huntington, WV. He retired in 1987 as Vice President of Marketing and took up residence on Seabrook Island.

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GLASS HALF FULL

To maintain my reputation as a master of the obvious statement, let me start with “Wow! What a rally!” Now all we have to do is determine if it will be validated by the resolution of the pandemic and a solid economic recovery or if both take another nasty turn for the worse.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not over. While hospitals have not been overrun thus far, the impact of the reopening of the economy is not known. So far, there is no effective treatment for the coronavirus and widespread application of a not-yet-discovered vaccine may be months or years in the future. The future path of the pandemic remains unclear.

Economic validation of the stock market rally does not require a U-shaped GDP recovery, but it does require continued optimism that the pandemic will be in the rearview mirror in 2021. I hope that is the case, but employment woes could still dampen consumer spending. The economic Glass was clearly emptied by the shutdown, but recent data is moving in the right direction. That is, it’s still very bad but is improving from the historically negative levels hit this Spring.

Likewise, the stock market Glass went from temporarily overflowing at the February altitude highs to empty just a few weeks later in March. However, rather than gradually improving from that “very bad” level, stocks staged one of the strangest rallies ever seen over the past three months. There’s nothing like a powerful stock market rally to change one’s view of economic data to spotlight the differences between types of investors. Per

spectives on the markets can reasonably differ. Younger investors are more likely to own cryptocurrency. Asset allocation strategies will range from aggressive to very conservative. Many are fortunate enough to have sufficient retirement income from pensions, Social Security, and/or annuities to fund their lifestyle. They may employ a more aggressive strategy because they can take a very long term perspective based on the robust historic returns from stocks. For investors who must liquidate stocks, they can take a very long term perspective.

Others need or desire more conservative investment portfolios that generate income to meet expenses, thus postponing portfolio liquidation. Such investors are likely to agree with Will Rogers, who is quoted as saying “It’s not the return ON my money that I care about, it’s the return OF my money.” Sadly, folks in this category have been ill-served by the Federal Reserve’s policies that suppress interest rates across the yield curve. They are forced to take more risk by owning lower quality bonds or dividend-paying stocks. They should always assume the Glass is half full (at best) to protect themselves.

Younger investors in the asset accumulation phase should try to contribute as much as possible to retirement savings vehicles such as 401(k) and IRA accounts. Unless they have significant investment expertise, they should probably adopt a diversified asset allocation and stick to it, rather than attempting to trade in and out of stocks. History is a guide, the ups and downs of financial assets will not set out to good growth over the longer term.

As for the speculative trader, I have no comment other than trading risk on momentum is a two-edged sword. Only extremely well-disciplined traders win over time and it’s unlikely they are day trading fractional shares at Robinhood Financial.

In summary, I believe the recent pace of the stock market rally is unsustainable. However, in the absence of renewed shutdown mandates (or wide- spread decisions to self-isolate), the economic outlook should continue improving, lessening the risk of another bear-driven plunge in stocks. As always, take your Glass Half Full position with a grain of salt, as your investor profile will determine the options for actions you may take with the funds or donated items. If you have not received any communication from a Board Member, please contact Lucy Hoover at lucyhoover@gmail.com.

20th Anniversary SIGSC Gala Cancelled

As you are aware, Seabrook Island Green Space Conservancy postponed our 20th Anniversary Gala in March to a date in October 2020. In our June Board of Directors meeting we voted unanimously to cancel the 2020 Gala primarily because it is impossible to maintain social distancing during a large event. This was not an easy decision to make, but the health of our guests and ourselves must be our first priority. We expect to schedule an event in 2021 to celebrate our 21st year, and we hope to see you there.

Our ticket holders, sponsors and donors have been notified of the cancellation and given directions on the options for actions they may take with the funds or donated items.

Stay well!

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

The opinions voiced in this commentary on current economic outlook should continue improving, lessening the risk of another bear-driven plunge in stocks. As always, take your Glass Half Full position with a grain of salt, as your investor profile will determine the options for actions you may take with the funds or donated items. If you have not received any communication from a Board Member, please contact Lucy Hoover at lucyhoover@gmail.com.

Our mission is to preserve and enhance the natural environment on Seabrook Island through acquisition of land and land easements, through education on environmental topics, and through advocacy of conservation issues. SIGSC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Federal Tax ID# is 57-1090055.

On behalf of our Board, our community, and the natural environment that we so enjoy, thank you for your continued support of the Seabrook Island Green Space Conservancy.

Sincerely,
The Board of Directors
Seabrook Island Green Space Conservancy
South Carolina Venomous Snakes

Warmer weather in South Carolina means more people are active outdoors. It also means certain animals are more active, including snakes. Thus, chances are greater of human and snake encounters, often leading to questions about whether or not a snake is dangerous to people or pets. Most times, they’re not, according to Will Dillman, herpetologist for the S.C. Dept. of Natural Resources.

Of the 38 snake species that call South Carolina home, only six are venomous, according to Dillman. “In general encountering snakes is rare, and encountering a venomous snake is even more rare,” Dillman says. And being bitten by one of those venomous snakes is extremely rare, according to Dillman. A lot of bites occur once people have seen a snake, and choose to engage with it further by moving it somewhere, for example, says Dillman.

Dillman warns people who see snakes not to disturb them. “If you don’t interact with it, your chances of getting bitten are extremely low,” Dillman says.

As a means of protecting yourself and your property this time of year while outdoors, Dillman says it’s best to keep yards and shrubbery mowed and trimmed short, and to wear gloves, boots, and long pants when working outside.

**SOUTH CAROLINA’S VENOMOUS SNAKES**

Five of the six venomous snake species in South Carolina are pit vipers, which means they have distinct triangle-shaped heads, and the pupils in their eyes are vertical like a cat’s eye.

Find information below from SCDNR and the University of Georgia about each species, including their appearance and size, their habitat and range, and more.

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**Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake**

Eastern diamondback rattlesnakes are South Carolina’s largest venomous snake. Adults are typically 3-5 feet long, but sometimes grow to more than 6 feet, and can weigh up to 10 pounds. The largest ever recorded was 8 feet long.

Diamondbacks are named for the dark brown-to-black “diamond” pattern that runs along the snakes’ backs. They also have distinctive “masks” of black coloring around their eyes. Their overall body color varies from light tan to dark olive.

The snakes are typically found only in the outer coastal plain region of the state.

**Canebrake (Timber) Rattlesnake**

Another large species of rattlesnake, canebrakes typically reach 3-5 feet long, with the largest ever recorded being more than 6 feet.

Canebrakes rattle in a variety of colors, including pale shades of pink, orange and yellow, as well as tan. They have distinctive black, zig-zag “chevron” bands running across their back. The bands range across the rows of hourglass shaped bands on their bodies. Timber rattlesnakes are considered the same species as canebrakes, but are distinctive in that they’re only found in the mountains, and have darker bodies. Their tails are black. Timber rattlesnakes are considered extremely rare. Biologists have never observed a person being bitten by a rattlesnake, but they are sometimes active in urban settings.

**Copperheads**

Copperheads are medium-sized pit vipers, usually ranging from 23.5 to 3 feet long. Their bodies are often gray or tan in color, sometimes varying between pale shades of orange and brown. These snakes are identifiable by the rows of hourglass-shaped bands running along their backs. Their tails are black. Copperheads thrive in a variety of habitats from the mountains to the coast, and are even common in suburban and urban settings.

Copperhead venom is not very potent and deaths from copperhead bites are exceedingly rare. If people see a venomous snake in an urban or suburban area, it’s most likely going to be a copperhead, says Dillman.

**Dusky Pigmy Rattlesnake**

As evidenced by its name, the pigmy rattlesnake is a small rattlesnake species that rarely reaches a foot in length, with two feet being its maximum size. Because they are so small, sometimes people cannot hear them rattle.

Two subspecies, the Carolina pigmy and the dusky pigmy, are found throughout South Carolina, except in the mountains.

The Carolina pigmy rattler can be gray, tan, or lavender, while the dusky pigmy ranges from bluish gray to nearly black. Both subspecies have a row of well-defined black spots running along their backs down the length of their bodies. Pigmy rattles are found in numerous habitats, both near water and in dry areas.

**Cottonmouths (Water Moccasins)**

Cottonmouths, which are also known as water moccasins, are typically 3-4 feet long, but have been known to grow to more than 5 feet.

The water moccasin comes in a variety of colors, ranging from dingy pale yellow to olive drab on the lighter side, to deep brown, olive, or nearly black on the darker side. They have irregular dark bands across their backs running down the length of their body.

**Coral Snake**

The coral snake is the only venomous South Carolina snake that is not a pit viper, so it can’t be identified as venomous by its head or eye pupil shape. Instead, coral snakes can be identified by the wold red, yellow and black color bands on their bodies.

Other non-venomous snakes, such as the scarlet kingsnake, have similar patterns, but coral snakes can be differentiated by how the colors are arranged.

With coral snakes, the red bands will always have smaller yellow bands on either side, and the red bands will never be connected to black bands.

As the old saying goes “Red touching yellow will kill a fellow / Red touching black is safe to Jack.”

Coral snakes are very uncommon, Dillman says, but can be found from the coast to the midlands in habitats with sandy soils. They spend much of their time underground, and are secretive.

Dillman adds that coral snakes when encountered usually will try quickly to escape. “It’s very difficult to get bitten by a coral snake unless you’re handling it,” Dillman says.  

**Sources:**

• S.C. Dept. of Natural Resources
• University of Georgia Savannah River Ecology Laboratory University of Georgia
• Will Dillman, herpetologist for the S.C. Dept. of Natural Resources

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**COPPERHEAD COLOR VARIATIONS**

Diamondbacks are typically found only in the outer coastal plain region of the state. Canebrakes and timber rattlers are usually ranging from 2-3.5 feet long. Their bodies are often gray or tan in color, sometimes varying between pale shades of orange and brown. These snakes are identifiable by the rows of hourglass-shaped bands running along their backs. Their tails are black. Copperheads thrive in a variety of habitats from the mountains to the coast, and are even common in suburban and urban settings.

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Jestine’s Kitchen closes after 24 years in downtown Charleston

Dana Berlin St, owner of local favorite Jestine’s Kitchen (251 Meeting St.), has announced the restaurant’s permanent closure.

Dana opened the southern food restaurant on February 6, 1996, naming it after her lifelong house-keeper and her caretaker, Jestine Matthews. Jestine was born in the Lowcountry in 1885 to a Native American mother and a father who was the son of a freed slave. While she doesn’t recollect exactly where she was born, she claims her first memories of her childhood home were on Rosebank Plantation on Wadmalaw Island.

In the early 1900s, Jestine moved to Charleston and began working as a housekeeper. In 1928, she was hired by Aleck Berlin and his wife, who were expecting a child – Shera Lee Berlin. Jestine quickly befriended the small family, and went on to play a major role in Dana’s life, who was Shera Lee’s only child.

Dana opened Jestine’s Kitchen to honor her beloved caretaker and friend, wanting to share Jestine’s style of home cooked meals and the warm atmosphere she provided the family throughout the years. She gathered friends and members of Jestine’s family to create the menu and get their approval.

Almost two years after the restaurant’s opening, Jestine died on Dec. 18, 1997 at the age of 112. While she is greatly missed, her legacy has lived on through Dana, Jestine’s Kitchen, the restaurant staff + the community that gathers daily to converse and dine.

On its closing day, many came to celebrate the legacy that the restaurant has made in Charleston, including Dana’s niece Helen and both local and traveling regulars. People came to celebrate, reminiscence + order their favorite dishes one last time. While Dana would have hoped for a longer run, she took pride in the fact that Jestine’s was one of the longest standing culinary staples in Charleston. With the quick onset of the recent pandemic, the restaurant was unable to stay afloat despite a valiant effort from Dana and her team, who she praised in her farewell letter.

Dana and her staff always took good care of folks whether they were visitors or locals, whether they needed a meal, a smile, or a story about Jestine, and whether or not they were paying customers. Dana and the managers often sent people who were down on their luck out the door with a hearty meal on the house. Their heart was to serve people well and celebrate Jestine’s legacy, which they accomplished admirably serving the Lowcountry for over two decades.

Source: CHStoday

▲

Jestine’s Kitchen closes after 24 years in downtown Charleston

Tree trimming is a small price to pay for the damage that can be done once a storm occurs!
There are two things that happen to skin as we age. One is the normal changes that aging produces called "chrono logical aging" (just as other organs in our body are altered by age) and the other is the result of exposure to the sun called "photaging." Both fall into normal processing since, as we get older, we accumulate more sun exposure as we experience more time on earth.

Normal Skin Changes of Age

Age causes our skin to become thin, drier, less resilient, more efficient in heat exchange, and discolored. Wrinkles are a result of the change in the matrix of the collagen in the skin and are a normal response to both chronological aging, but if one has more sun exposure then the normal aging of the skin is accelerated – meaning the more sun exposure the more advanced the skin aging process. Both are cumulative processes so the longer we live and the more we are in the sun, the more age-related changes we can expect to see.

The color changes along with the formation of wrinkles are the most prominent and observable changes to the skin. The variants of motiled pigmentation from age and sun exposure include actinic lentigines or "age spots" (see Figure 1) and the skin condition called actinic keratosis. The actinic lentigines are harmless and do not cause problems, but when lesions of seborrheic keratoses are not hartlingers but of cancer are sometimes difficult to distinguish from skin cancers. Because of skin changes that occur with aging, the older we are the less we are able to perceive through the skin. Diminution of our ability to cool off in hot weather as efficiently as when we were young renders us more vulnerable to heat effects. This is why the older we are the more careful we must be in conditions of high heat and humidity.

Skin Cancer and Its Prevention – The Latest Information

Skin cancer is diagnosed in almost 3,500 people in the U.S. every day – making it the easiest common form of cancer. There are two types of skin cancer because the cancers derive from either melanocytes or epidermal cells. The non-melanoma cancers represent 95% of skin cancers, but it is melanoma that is considered the most serious of the two. Each year in the U.S. nearly 200,000 new cases of skin cancer are detected, half of them in the invasive variety. Excision of the entire cancer can be done in many cases, but in advanced disease immunotherapy and targeted drug therapy are used. Radiation can also be used.

The predominant types of epider mal cell cancers are basal cell and squamous cell. Basal cell is the more common of these two cancers. The usual treatment for non-melanoma cancer is simple excision or Mohs micrography (where repeated excisions are done until microscopic examination shows a clear, safe margin). The American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) (https://www.aad.org/media/ages/7) reports that three million Americans have non-melanoma cancer – namely, that women and older people are experiencing a higher incidence than men and younger Americans. Melanoma affects more women earlier in life than men but by age 60 the incidence of melanoma in men is three times higher than in women.

Prevention

The cause of the majority of cancers is the environment and the way we are exposed to the sun, skin. And that women and older people are experiencing a higher incidence than men and younger Americans. Melanoma affects three million Americans have non-melanoma cancer – namely, that women and older people are experiencing a higher incidence than men and younger Americans. Melanoma affects more women earlier in life than men, but by age 60, the incidence of melanoma in men is three times higher than in women.

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Seabrooker Volunteers in Asti, Italy

One Italian Hospital’s Response to the Covid Crisis

David Garvey, PhD, MD, FACEP
Emergency Medicine Physician

In late March I became aware of a field hospital that was being construct-
ected in Bergamo, Italy by an elite Italian rescue organization, the Asso-
ciazione Nazionale Alpini (ANA). Bergamo at that time was the epicenter of the Co-
vid-19 pandemic. I contacted the Medi-
cal Director of the organization, Dr. Fa-
da De Giuli, and was accepted as a volunteer to work for the ANA at the field hospital. My trip to Italy was arranged to coincide with the
opening of the hospital in early April, and I purchased a one-way ticket to
Italy, not knowing when I would be able to return to the United States due to the
imposed travel restrictions. By the time I arrived in Italy the operations of the
hospital had changed hands. The ANA was no longer in control of the facility and my contract was null and void. I was not made aware of any of these changes until the day I ar-
rived in Italy while driving across
Bergamo to Asti. Instead of just returning home I decided to contact an old ac-
quaintance, Dr. Gianluca Ghiselli, who I had first met 25 years ago while in Italy.
I was invited to visit me in his hospital in Asti about 2 hours south-west of
Bergamo by car.

Anti is a city in the Po Valley, and Dr. Ghiselli along with his medical colleagues, have
provided a steady flow of updates about their experiences. I have
decided to pass along his observations and describe my own feelings as we
both continue to care for patients in Italy. We do not have the
resources to convey the details of each and every case, nor do we have the
space to describe the complexities of the medical system in Italy.

A large group of nursing home residents were moved from a nursing home in the
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I was invited to visit me in his hospital in Asti about 2 hours south-west of
Bergamo by car.

Anti is a city in the Po Valley, and Dr. Ghiselli along with his medical colleagues, have
provided a steady flow of updates about their experiences. I have
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space to describe the complexities of the medical system in Italy.
BIRDWATCHING AMONG A PANDEMIC

Birdwatching can be a solitary hobby, as you certainly don’t need a birding group to compile a list of every bird you locate during a year. However, on Seabrook Island, birding activities and programs held before the pandemic had become quite the social events. The more activities, the merrier! The more participants, the merrier!

March 2020

Then came a contagious virus that changed socializing as we knew it and, sadly, the Seabrook Island Birders had to cancel all programs and activities. Fortunately, the birds were still here. Birdwatching didn’t have to stop. With everything closed and canceled, there was actually more time to take advantage of the many resources available online about birds and birding.

Social Media

As it turned out, birdwatching didn’t have to be solitary. Many photos were shared and questions asked using social media. Our neighborhood social media app Nextdoor alerting neighbors about the nesting Bald Eagle and Great Horned Owl on the golf course along with the Ospreys near the amenities office. In all cases, there were successful sightings. With the help of the Nextdoor readers, birds were identified from cell phone photos. Our local photographers got to use this platform to share some amazing photos of the many birds found at the beach, in the marsh, on the golf course, and in our backyards. Though not as personal and local, Facebook offers another way to connect with birders in Charleston, in all of South Carolina, in your home state, and beyond. Photos and experiences can be shared, questions can be answered, and information disseminated. If you use Facebook, check out Audubon South Carolina, Charleston Audubon & Natural History Society, Birding in South Carolina, Carolina Bird Photo Sharing Group, Breller Forest Audubon Center & Sanctuary, and of course Seabrook Island Birders. Engaging in this type of social media is for everyone! You don’t have to participate, just enjoy the photos and learn from the questions asked and information given.

Webcams

Webcams have become a popular way to observe nature. Remember April the giraffe in 2017? Even without orders to shelter in place many people were checking the webcam in her zoo stall hoping to witness the birth of her baby. It was a wonderful distraction from everyday life that year. The webcam is a virtual window and “Bird Cams” are that window for birds feeding, nesting, and nesting all over the world. These webcams offer views that even the best binoculars could not give you. As people were asked to stay at home, bird nesting season was beginning and the Cornell Lab Bird Cams were set up all over the world for anyone to access and follow a multitude of different birds nesting. These cams are always accessible by going to allaboutbirds.org and searching for Bird Cams. You can even engage with other followers by checking out their comments or adding your own. If you want something local, access the Kiawah Island bird feeder cam at their town hall at kiawahisland.org. Lots of birds common to our area and some surprise visitors can be seen on a variety of different feeders.

Bird Watching While Social Distancing

While everyone was not comfortable with this, there were times this spring when a few of us would go out birding. Spring migration for birders is like receiving gifts daily for a few weeks. For this short period you have an opportunity to view birds traveling through the area that you would normally see. Unless you are an experienced birder, identifying a bird is always easier when you have more than one brain to access, especially if the bird is not common to your area. So occasionally two or three of us would bike and bird around Seabrook Island keeping the appropriate distance apart when on and off our bikes.

It gave us outdoor time, a minimal amount of exercise, some social interaction, and that needed extra help in identifying those migrating warblers and shorebirds.

For those not interested in any contact, there were updates through text messaging and the Google Group for SIB that kept us updated on what was being seen at our feeders and nearby. A good example was when a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was spotted at a feeder and verified with a poor quality grainy cell phone photo through text. Over the next couple weeks others were spotting this beautiful bird and luckily many of us got to see one during the birds’ short stopover. Through Google Groups, members were alerted of the arrival of birds like the Great Crested Flycatcher and the Summer Tanager.

Meetings and Activities Resume

Even though large groups are still not allowed to flock together, the Seabrook Island Birders have been able to resume their executive committee meetings and some activities through Zoom. You will have to provide your own popcorn but the movie mantis are back via Zoom. Also, SIB’s first Virtual Evening Program was held and well attended on June the 3rd. The program was on nesting and presented by two of SIB’s friends from Audubon South Carolina. For a schedule of what’s to come virtually or, hopefully soon, in person keep checking our website at seabrookislandbirders.org.

Getting Back to Normal

Even as our country strugles to get back to normal some of us may need to keep our distance for a while longer. During the past few months we have adapted to a new cautious way of living and adding some new activities that incorporate social distancing might spark a whole new hobby. The Seabrook Island Birders, through our website, SIB posts, and Facebook are trying to entertain and inform and

SIB always welcomes the opportunity to teach anyone about birds and birding. Join our group, follow our posts, or contact us through our email seabrookislandbirders@gmail.com with any questions.

Stay Safe Everyone!

John Ardaiolo

2 Cornell Lab FeederWatch Cam at Sapsucker Woods

SIBs Virtual Evening Event on Zoom

Great Horned Owl – PHOTO BY DEAN MORE

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – PHOTO BY ED KONRAD

Social Distancing while Birding on Bikes (PHOTO BY JOLEEN ARDAIOLO)
Seabrook has an abundance of natural wildlife. Let’s see how knowledgeable you are!

**NAME THAT PHOTO – AND NO CHEATING!!!**

Thank you to Ralph Secoy for the amazing photos!

ANSWERS ON THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 16.
“Thank you for going above and beyond to help us secure what is now our new home! We were blown away by the care and attention to detail you poured into the process. It has been such a pleasure working with you.”

~ Kimberly & Dylan
KIDS ON SEABRICK

JULY 2020 PAGE 11

Who knows, you might like reading one island enjoyed so you can try them out!

It’s Okay to be Different

Another book he enjoyed and recommended is Red Rising Game, by Neal Shusterman. When a Californian turns 18, she joins a group of girls who are determined to show others she is more than a girl with cerebral palsy and just as smart as them. Another book she likes is Diva by Neal Shusterman. When a diva drogus gets serious, a young teen must make tough decisions to get herself out of the struggle and survive the test. A teenage girl, rising senior in high school, recommends one of her favorites is The Nightgiver by Kristin Hannah. When a New Orleans storm destroys all, the New World II we do not hear of in history class: the women’s perspective. This book portrays a woman’s role to be tributed, helped, and suffered in the war as much as any other. If you are interested in metals or recognition. With the current problems and ruin, The Hate Curse by An- thony Thomas may guide you deeper in understanding the injustice facing the black community.

You may enjoy these book recommenda- tions and have a great July! Please continue to support local booksellers and share your story of a book that has changed you or your family is considering reading. You may even want to share your favorite book to the kids. Please share your story with us on our social media pages.

Emily Hixon
Day Camp at Camp Saint Christopher

If you know of any children looking for something fun to do on Seabrook Island this summer, they should check out the Day Camp programs being offered at Camp Saint Christopher. Session are held at the camp from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday through July 17th. Campers who have completed 2nd-8th grade have the option to register for the entire week (Monday-Friday). Each session is half a week (Monday-Wednesday or Wednesday-Friday). Most weeks will include activities such as sailing, kayaking, crabbing, camp games, a visit to St. Christopher’s Herpetarium, mud pit, chapel, and much much more! Campers will be led by Camp Saint Christopher’s trained and passionate, college aged staff, who have years of experience leading elementary and middle school aged children. Campers are welcomed to register for multiple sessions if space is available. Please visit www.stchristopher.org or contact Justin Johnson (jjohnson@stchristopher.org) for more information about Camp Saint Christopher’s Day Camp.

Specials Price for Seabrook Residents
$200 OFF ANY SERVICE THROUGH JULY 31, 2020
 Mention Code SEABROOK200

Roof Savers South Carolina
Roof Savers® uses a scientifically formulated, and 100% safe, plant-based roof rejuvenation spray treatment that was developed by Battelle Labs, the world’s largest private research and development company.

How Does It Work? We use a revolutionary award-winning technology allowing millions of micro-beads of all-natural oil to penetrate your old brittle roof. This process restores your roof’s flexibility and preserves the life of your roof. Treatments come with a five-year transferable warranty. Repeating treatments every five years can extend your roof’s life by up to fifteen years.

And Much More! Roof Savers uses a roof rejuvenation product with sustainable eco-friendly products dedicated to keeping your roof out of the landfill with more money remaining in your pocket. Be green and save some green at the same time! We also offer cleaning services for many other products such as: Slidings, Sidewalks, Awnings, House Exterior, Monuments, Domes, Walls, Rocks

We Extend the Life of Your Roof:

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New Home Collection at Seabrook Island
4-pc approved plans 2,095-5,691 sq. ft. turn key construction
Bill Britton 843-421-6360
bill@battleroadvolumesolutionsguru.com Seabrookislandnewhomes.com

C.O.V.A.R.
C.O.V.A.R.
Joanne Fagan Secretary for C.O.V.A.R.

COVAR, the Council of Villa Associations and Regimes, represents 41 member associations/ regimes consisting of 1316 properties on Seabrook Island. COVAR was established in 2001 to be a voice for its members with matters involving not only SIPOA, but the Town of Seabrook Island as well as The Seabrook Island Club.

The Villa Association that I reside in, Treeloft Villas, is one of the smaller associations on the island, with a total of 19 villas. With fewer homeowners, our board of directors works in a collaborative manner to ensure that any exterior home improvements are compliant with our standards. However, our standards were last reviewed and approved by the ARC in July of 2012. Our management company encouraged us to undertake the process of updating our standards, to make the approval process of a renovation a more streamlined process. By having current standards approved by the ARC in place, both the regime manager and board can give approval in a timely manner.

As a fulltime resident who is required, in addition to being a Treeloft board member, I volunteered to undertake this project. A template of the preferred ARC format was used to make me as a starting point, with the understanding that each section of the standards would be thoroughly evaluated and tailored to our homes. Fortunately, or not, the Covid-19 pandemic and its related shelter in place order provided me with ample time to gather the information needed to bring our standards into the year 2020.

Much of the information required could be found online, cut and pasted into the new format. Pictures and descriptions of windows, doors, exterior light fixtures, roofing and siding materials and paint colors. Designs of exterior elements approved in the past, such as IVAC stands and shower enclosures, mailboxes and street number plaques were available from SIPOA. The list went on! Every day I tried to chip through one section, often walking through my neighborhood, cellphone in hand, to take photographs of structures specific to our villas. With my limited computer experience with Word and much invaluable guidance, suggestions and edits by my “mentor” Lynn Crane, I was finally, after 4½ months, able to produce a set of standards to present for approval to the Treeloft Board of Directors, for further submission to the SIPOA ARC.

Out of our 41 members, Beach Club Villas, Golf Shore Villas, Homes of Hidden Oaks, Sealoft Villas and Summitwood Cottages have completed the process of updating their standards.

So, what did I learn from this process? Having done a major renovation to our villa in 2012, with additional projects in 2020 that included re-roofing our home, building a new code-compliant HVAC stand and repaint our home, I felt that I had a better understanding of the required process. Along with our contractors, we had submitted the required “Exterior Alteration/Improvement Conditional Approval Request” which can be found on the SIPOA.org website under the “Forms” tab. This form is submitted to the regime management company as well as the ARC and needed for all exterior improvements. However, our 2012 standards were not very specific and could be left open to creative interpretation. By having a more concise set of approved standards, the homeowner will have a much better guide for reference. These new standards will also allow for a more rapid approval by our regime board and management company-a real time-saver.

These new standards will also maintain consistency among the neighboring villages. If a homeowner bypasses this process or strays from the standards, our association will have the means available to ensure compliance.

Our ARC does daily to make Seabrook Island the community that it is today. The ARC, chaired by our SIPOA Vice President Ray Hoover and co-chaired by Chuck Cross works in conjunction with Katrina Burrull, CMCA, AMS, Director of Administration and Architectural Review for SIPOA. Assisted by ARC volunteer committee members, the ARC guides our community through the construction and remodeling process.

While it is a time-consuming project, I would strongly encourage our COVAR membership to consider updating their standards in 2020.

Joanne Fagan Secretary for COVAR

Thank you to the Seabrook Island Beach Club for allowing us to preserve the life of your roof. Now we’re ready to preserve the life of your residents’ roofs.

Call us today for your FREE estimate
843-708-9600
RoofSaversSC
LOCALLY OWNED • VETERAN OWNED
Odd Duck on Seabrook

The photo of the two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks was taken in the marshy area by the 17th green of Ocean Winds by nearby property owner Sybil Ryan. Noting that these ducks were unfamiliar to her and unable to identify the critters, she sent the pic to her daughter and son-in-law in Norfolk, England. Nick (son-in-law) followed up by suggesting the website (ebird.org) Sybil sent the photo there and a birder in Texas responded to her inquiry.

"Congratulations Sybil, That was a good find in SC. You are quite right, as far as I know these birds are found in Texas, southeast Arizona, southeast California, and New Mexico. So yes it does appear to be quite out of its normal range on Seabrook Island. No spring many unusual sightings are possible. "

Good Birding, Larry

SEASON DELAYED UNTIL 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on live events. From Broadway to Charleston, venues are dark, and event producers everywhere are re-thinking how we can once again gather together for a show.

Given the unique set of challenges and budgetary constraints this pandemic has created, the Town ofKiawah Island has decided to delay the start of the upcoming Arts & Cultural Events season until early 2021.

We are saddened that we will be unable to provide residents with fall programming but feel this is the most responsible course of action given the demographics of our citizens and the priorities of the Town as a whole. Arts Council events are sustained through the efforts of a dedicated group of resident volunteers. In order to create a safe environment, we will be working diligently to develop procedures that, among other things, may:

• limit capacity
• minimize contact
• increase spacing
• modify ingress and egress

It will be our goal to implement these measures seamlessly while pre-senting our programming at the highest quality possible.

If medical experts and government-provided guidelines still advise against resuming events like ours in 2021, we will announce further changes to the season.

We thank you for your patience and look forward to welcoming you back to performances. Look for more information coming later this year.

Lowcountry Eats Founder & NV Realty Group
Agent Christine England Receives
The Jefferson Award for Assisting Local Restaurants During the Pandemic

Christine England, a real estate agent with NV Realty Group who has ties to the Charleston restaurant industry, formed the now-famous Facebook Group - Lowcountry Eat Out! for one primary purpose: to help restaurants communicate directly with residents and provide real-time updates regarding service status. England's husband Ray, is the executive chef at Tavern and Table on Shem Creek.

When the Pandemic hit and stay-at-home orders began, England said she could not find one, timely source of information from restaurants and put it in one spot. Within a few short days, restaurants began showcasing daily specials, foodies began posting pictures, and the popularity of the site exploded.

"I love Charleston," says England, "and the food scene is a big part of Charleston culture. Restaurants cannot do it all, and many will have to find a balance to stay in business. Once again, the community will need to do its part by supporting local dining options in some form or fashion. For her part, England will continue to administer Lowcountry Eat Out and promote engagement between the community and restaurants."
SIPOA CARES ABOUT YOUR SAFETY

Safety is everyone’s responsibility

Please maintain social distancing and other health/safety guidelines for COVID 19

Wear masks at SIPOA facilities when required

Do not feed wildlife or swim in lakes/lagoons

Obey all beach signage. Pets and their humans must stay off dunes and away from habitat areas

Alligators can be dangerous – do not feed or approach

Beach Rules for Pets

- Pets must always be on leashes when off their owners’ property, and their dropings must be picked up and disposed of properly. Waste bags and receptacles are posted at the beaches and on townofseabrookisland.org.

- Dogs are allowed on the beach only in specific areas and at specific times. Rules are posted at the beaches and on townofseabrookisland.org.

- Beach Rules for Pets

- Recreational vehicles, boats, trailers, campers and resident business vehicles with logos, signs, etc. must be stored in an enclosed garage on the owner’s property or in spaces available at the Seabrook Island Club Maintenance area. Contact the Seabrook Island Club at (843) 364-3204 for additional information and fees.

- Parking at the Boardwalk I area reserved for persons with disabilities, is limited to vehicles with government issued “Disabled License Plates or Placards.” To access the area, contact the Security gate to obtain an access pass and gate code.

- The SIPOA Community Center parking area on Oyster Catcher Court is for ONLY for use by Property Owners with black & white owner barcodes or Property Owner gate passes.

A friendly reminder to please adhere to the speed limit on the Island:

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PRESIDENT’S LETTER

Dan Kortvelesy
2020 President
SIPOA Board of Directors

Wherever family and friends ask me about visiting Seabrook Island, I often say, “if possible, come for the 4th of July Holiday. It is usually a time of high energy, family gatherings and reunions. The weeks around the holiday are usually our busiest with many PO’s and visitors sharing in the good times of summer vacation, relaxation and honoring our nation’s birthday. The fireworks are outstanding and if you want to participate, the planned activities span a wide range of ages and interests. From all indications, 4th of July on Seabrook Island is a special time.

Unfortunately, we continue to find ourselves in the middle of a COVID-19 health emergency that appears to know no end. Your SIPOA Board engaged in a vigorous discussion during its past 2 meetings on how to proceed or if we can proceed with our usual July 4th celebration. The questions asked and the comments made ensured that all matters were raised. In addition, the activities committee and our Executive Director studied the issues carefully and provided their recommendations.

While many events and activities were cancelled, the outcome of this debate was that we would hold a scaled back version of our Annual 4th of July Parade. The biggest changes from past parades were that there would be no bicycles allowed this year, participants riding in the cars must be from the same household or family, and responsible health practices (masks, social distancing, sanitiser, etc.) must be observed by participants and those viewing the parade.

As with any course of action taken during this health emergency, many will feel that this was the wrong decision and an equal amount will feel that with the precautions in place, this event can take place. However, before you make your decision to participate in the parade or view the parade, you need to ask yourself some questions.

Can I risk possibly exposing myself or my family to the virus if I attend or participate?

Should I risk possibly exposing others I encounter to the virus if I attend or participate?

As I noted at the top, 4th of July on Seabrook Island is a special time. There are many ways that we can choose to celebrate our nation’s birthday: If you are going to observe by going to the beach, pool, into Charleston, or participating in holiday activities, or visiting family or friends, we all hope that you remain safe. Where appropriate, wear a mask. Maintain safe distances. Engage in all the safe practices outlined by our healthcare professionals.

And most importantly, have a happy and safe 4th of July! ▲
UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Golf Tournament
September 15th 2020
Cassique at Kiawah Island Club
Registration is open for players and sponsors! Please join us for this incredible outdoor event!
seaislandhabitat.org/golftournament

Auction & Dinner
October 11th 2020
Seabrook Island Club
We will be working on planning an event that will keep our supporters safe and limit the spread of Covid-19.
seaislandhabitat.org/auction

Women Build
November 7th – 14th 2020 | AM & PM Shifts
Building on Johns Island
Sign up for as many half or full-day building shifts as you like. We welcome individuals and groups of all skill levels.
seaislandhabitat.org/womenbuild
Natural Oceanfront Living Near Historic Charleston

If you are looking to purchase a new home, cottage, villa or homesite, or list your property on Seabrook Island, contact the local experts at Seabrook Island Real Estate. We list and sell more real estate on Seabrook Island than all other companies combined. Contact one of our expert Realtors today.

SeabrookIslandRealEstate.com | 843.768.2560

1/ Sweetgrass on the bike trail to Freshfields,
2/ Angel Oak,
3/ Slider turtles in Palmetto Lake,
4/ Merganser ducks and slider turtle,
5/ Bottlebrush,
6/ Zucchini Blossom (SI Gardens),
7/ Confetti Lantana next to Lake House,
8/ Spicebrush swallowtail butterfly,
9/ Downey woodpecker,
10/ Anhinga,
11/ Pileated woodpecker,
12/ Ruby-throated hummingbird,
13/ Ghost crab,
14/ Seabrook Island Equestrian Center