

SULLIVAN'S ISLAND MAGAZINE

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Vol. 2, Issue 3
Winter 2016-17



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SULLIVAN'S ISLAND

Magazine

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NOW ON DISPLAY

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

IT'S HARD NOT TO FALL IN LOVE WITH the natural beauty and charm of Sullivan's Island. A good feeling comes over me every time I drive over the causeway to the island. The views as you cross the Ben Sawyer Bridge are magnificent, and sometimes I find myself grinning just because I'm so blessed to live close enough to the island to visit whenever I want to.



Photo by Brian Sherman.

I love to make excuses to visit all our barrier islands. However, Sullivan's Island is just a little more special for me.

When I met my wife for the first time in 2007, little did I know we would be getting married at Sunrise Presbyterian Church a couple of years later. Rachel and I did a lot of church shopping before we were married, but, as soon as we found Sunrise, we stopped looking. It felt like home.

When you read the story in this issue about the church, you will be reminded that the people themselves are the church. This year, we are celebrating the 25-year anniversary of the current building, which was constructed after Hurricane Hugo blew through the Lowcountry. I would like to personally invite any of you who have not

visited the church to do so during this special time for us.

Over time, I have observed that the churches, businesses and organizations on Sullivan's Island are the hubs that really bring the people in the community together. As most of you know, the island is home to a lot of interesting characters and strong personalities.

While working on a story about the Carolina Coast Surf Club, I was invited to attend a meeting with a small group of people who were breathing new life into the Battery Gadsden Cultural Center. I was impressed by their mission and was later invited to become a board member. When you read the article about BGCC, you will see how active the group has been over the past two years. We have a lot of great events, fundraisers and meetings coming up soon, and we welcome everyone to participate. Please consider getting involved with BGCC and help preserve the history and culture of Sullivan's Island.

I enjoy being part of the enthusiastic, hardworking team that helped create this publication. I also would like to thank all our readers, as well as the businesses and advertisers who make it all possible. 🍷

Enjoy reading our magazine!
Brandon Clark

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Jessie White

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Atlanta, Georgia.

Education: University of Mississippi, bachelor of science in Family and Consumer Sciences.

Employment: Bartender at Hometeam BBQ on Sullivan's Island.

Favorite reading: "Into the Wild,," "438 Days,," "Off the Beaten Path" ; any biography.

Favorite music: Sturgill Simpson, Dwight Yoakam, The Steeldrivers, Ryan Bingham, The Infamous Stringdusters.

Activities: Traveling; fishing; hiking; snorkeling; biking; boating.

Interests: Spending time with friends and family; traveling the world; meeting new people; home projects; road trips.

Likes: Fall weather; listening to live music; fine dining and fine wine; amusement parks; watching Ole Miss football.

Favorite quote: "Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than you did do. So throw away the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover" - Mark Twain



Everett V. Presson

Lives in: Sullivan's Island, South Carolina.

From: Charleston, South Carolina (Avondale).

Education: BA in Journalism, University of South Carolina; master of arts in Teaching, The Citadel.

Favorite reading: American history; David McCullough; Doris Kearnes Goodwin; Mark Twain.

Favorite music: Americana; Mississippi Blues; anything by Bob Dylan; jazz by Patrick Rutledge.

Activities: Travel - Southeast Asia is my favorite area; boating; entertaining with great friends; food and wine.

Interests: Politics; history; philosophy; real estate.

Likes: Beautiful houses; local art (David Boatwright, Mickey Williams, Molly B. Wright).

Favorite quote: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the Earth all one's lifetime." -Mark Twain



Emmett Lynch

Lives in: Sullivan's Island, South Carolina.

From: Charleston, South Carolina.

Education: Golden Gate University in San Francisco; MBA in High Tech Management.

Employment: Sheperd Integrative Dermatology.

Favorite reading: *The New York Times*; "Man's Search for Meaning," by Viktor Frankl.

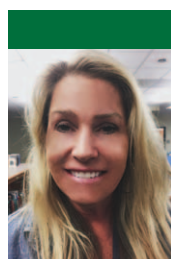
Favorite music: The Grateful Dead and Opera.

Activities: Walking the beach at sunset with my wife and pups; coaching clients to live their dreams.

Interests: Transformation; Shamanism; sailing; family and friends.

Likes: Dawn; staying healthy; being of service; tasty food; and interesting stories.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "Live in this moment - It's the only one we have."



Cindy Beall

Lives in: Isle of Palms, South Carolina.

From: Greenville, South Carolina.

Education: Early Childhood degree from Erskine College and a master's in Early Childhood from The University of Charleston.

Employment: Kindergarten teacher at Sullivan's Island Elementary School.

Favorite reading: Biographies and supporting local authors.

Favorite music: 1970s, 1980s and country.

Activities: Biking; playing the piano; and swimming.

Interests: Learning about other folks' upbringing and family history.

Likes: Laughing with my family; getting out in nature with plants and animals.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "Attitude determines altitude" and "Always stay humble and kind."

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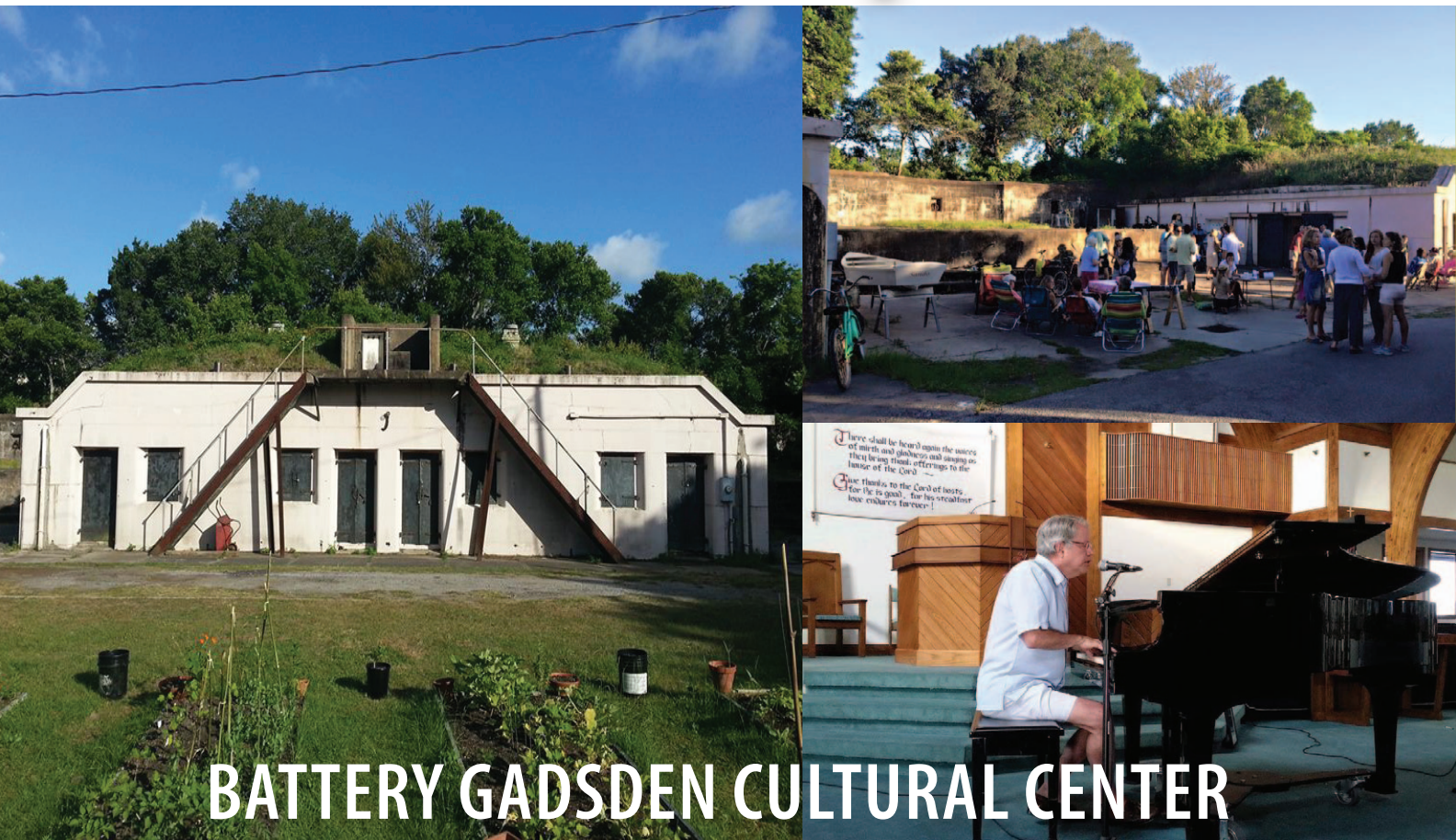
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BATTERY GADSDEN CULTURAL CENTER

By Kalene McCort

Photos courtesy of Battery Gadsden Cultural Center

HAL COSTE'S RELATIONSHIP with Sullivan's Island runs deep – deeper than the mighty Atlantic that hugs the town's shoreline. Born and bred in a house on the very same plot of land he now resides on with his wife Karen, it's safe to say he's seen a lot. The steady evolution and shape

Sullivan's Island has taken over the years has prompted Coste to want to preserve a bit of its history.

As we steadily zip through the tree-lined streets in his red golf cart, I begin to realize I'm getting a tour of Sullivan's Island not usually given. Sure there's Fort Moultrie, but this tour is one off the books. Small details of past residents and hidden landmarks pop their way into our conversation. From his enthusiasm and dedication, it's clear to see why

Coste has such love for the 3.3 miles of coastal stretch. As president of The Battery Gadsden Cultural Center, he hopes to bring a bit of the past into the present.

“I guess you would consider me to be a backyard historian,” said Coste. “I’m not a scholar.”

Currently, the majority of remnants on display at The Battery Gadsden Cultural Center are photographs. Rustically framed moments of residents from the 1930s and 1940s, enjoying an afternoon dip or neighborhood stroll, line the thick walls of this solid concrete artillery structure built in 1903.

Most of the photos Coste has acquired come from his own family, friends and neighbors who also have strong ties to Sullivan’s Island. He’s picked them up over the years at “swaps” and admits he has never really shelled out money for the black and white captures of yesteryear. Most recently, he has obtained close to 800 photographs from The National Archives in Washington, D.C.

“We started this project to provide Sullivan’s Island with a venue for art and artisans,” said Coste. “We want to create a mini-museum, filled with artifacts.”

It’s been a labor of love for Coste when it comes to this ever-expanding living time capsule. The actual structure itself is in need of some serious TLC. While grants have been applied for, it’s obvious this historic landmark needs some essentials.

“I’ve spent a lot of time out here pressure washing and painting,” said Coste. “We’ve made a lot of progress.”

A layer of greenery has sprouted from the roofs of both bunkers, creating a Hobbit-esque feel. There’s even a neighboring garden that gets frequent visits from winged monarchs.

In the center of the room at Battery Gadsden you can find a table that Coste constructed himself from reclaimed wood he salvaged from a pier that was taken down in the 1970s. A sheet of glass covers the planks that still bear the names of teens, carved into the wood after a day catching waves.

It’s small remnants like this that Coste revels in and wants to bring to The Battery Gadsden Cultural Center. He longs to showcase the everyday residents that add to the ever-changing mosaic that is Sullivan’s Island. Shining a light on past and future citizens is of the utmost importance to this organization, which is committed to celebrating island life in all its forms.

As we truck along Officers’ Row, Coste expands on his family history. He later points out a plaque dating back to 1915 and picturing his Coast Guard captain grandfather. He points to another landmark – the birthplace of his aunt. It seems his family tree expands to nearly every pocket of this coastal town, deemed one of the “happiest”

by *Coastal Living* magazine.

With Battery Gadsden still not in condition for indoor events, Coste and the board have hosted many happenings at various locations around town. This past September, they put on an event featuring artist Richard “Duke” Hagerty, whose surreal depictions are boldly splashed upon canvas. Colorful, dreamlike and at times zany, his work has attracted a loyal following. His time spent on Sullivan’s Island has definitely had an influence on his work. At the Fort Moultrie Visitor Center auditorium, Hagerty gave attendees an inside look at his process, inspiration and ties to the island itself.

“Hopefully, the BGCC will continue to grow and gain momentum during 2017,” said Brandon Clark, who serves on the board. “The more people that learn about our organization and get involved, the better we will be. I hope new volunteers will bring new ideas to the group. I’d like to see us focus some more energy on visual and performing arts.”

The elevated outdoor structure forms a natural stage, which is why the Battery Gadsden Cultural Center’s board has chosen it to be the venue for many productions. Last October, “Shakespeare by the Sea” took over the space with unique renditions of “Hamlet,” “Romeo & Juliet” and “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Bands such as Wentworth Underground have jammed out at the historic site as well.

“I love the feeling I get when I’m driving to and from the island over the causeway,” said Clark, who married his wife at Sunrise Presbyterian Church, on Breach Inlet. “The Ben Sawyer Bridge is one of my favorites and is iconic on the Intracoastal Waterway. There is a relaxed vibe I get when I’m on the island, like being transported to a simpler time and space. I think Sullivan’s Island is also a great place to connect with nature.”

Perhaps one of the most exciting days came when Dorothea Benton Frank hosted a book signing to raise funds for the center. The *New York Times* best-selling author and longtime Sullivan’s Island resident read passages from her personal journals. She recounted her youthful summertime days that were dotted with carefree bike rides and hammock sways.

“We are working on an oral history project where we will interview, film and document Islanders who have been around for a long time,” said Clark. “We want to be able to remember what it used to be like, from the people who lived here. Those shared memories and fun stories will hopefully be available for future generations to come.” 🍹

For more on The Battery Gadsden Cultural Center, including ways to get involved, visit www.batterygadsden.com.



Photo by Rick Walo.

By the People, For the People

A NEW TOWN HALL

IN MID-OCTOBER, THE TOWN OF Sullivan's Island opened its brand-new doors to employees and the public. The welcoming front porches and casual island design of the new Town Hall, reminiscent of the island's celebrated lifesaving station, provide a convenient "one-stop-shop" for residents to find the town's administrative offices, Council chambers and Police

BY ANNE TOOLE

Department – and the Fire Department is next door.

For Town Administrator Andy Benke, the new Town Hall represents a lot more than simply an added convenience. As an emergency operations center, the new building will keep the island's necessary staff – water, sewer, fire chief, town administrator – safe during emergencies and immediately available to begin the task of getting the town and its residents safely and quickly back on track. From hurricanes to ice storms, brownouts to bridge-outs, the new facility is equipped to help the island's backbone get back up and running in times of need.

"The design committee and architect were very careful to work with only what was needed and whittle it down as much as possible," Benke explained. "Space for employees now, flexibility for the future, material costs. Everything adds up, but we were very careful to make sure the money was spent only where necessary. A lot of the project cost is what people aren't going to see – flood proofing, moisture guard, hurricane resistance – that's what will be so important this hurricane season, and hurricane seasons 80 years from now."

But the handsome structure was also designed to bring island residents together. Its location is in the center of

town, next to the beloved J. Marshall Stith Park along Middle Street, and it's intended to serve as the backdrop for community events for generations. Its front porch seating will offer yet another vantage point for residents to experience the island's great traditions like the Christmas tree lighting or Fourth of July. Great care was taken to respect the borders of Stith Park, and even some enhancements – including bathrooms – were made to the park itself.

"December of 2017 represents 200 years of local government on Sullivan's Island. This is the first real Town Hall built by the town," said Benke. "There have been buildings repurposed to serve as a Town Hall, but this is the first government building designed to be a Town Hall. While previous structures have served the residents well in the past, the new building will enhance so many different aspects of the town and serve as a source of civic pride for residents."

While the first phase – Town Hall construction – is now complete, the second phase is underway. The two double-wide trailers that had housed town staff since mold and vermin drove them from their previous offices in 2011 will be removed, and a parking lot will be built in its place. When the lot is complete, spaces will be available for visitors to the Commercial District after hours. 🍷

While there are no definite plans in place at this time, a grand opening celebration for the new Town Hall probably will be held in the winter, when the staff has had the opportunity to settle in their new surroundings and when the second phase of the project is complete. Please check back at the town website, sullivanisland-sc.com, for grand opening details, or stop in and see the new Town Hall at 2050 Middle St.

City Hall BY THE NUMBERS

There are a lot of components that go into designing and building a new Town Hall, especially considering the many responsibilities of the town's employees and the thousands of residents who rely on its continued operation. In October, Sullivan's Island was put to the test during Hurricane Matthew, just days before the facility was supposed to open its doors. Town Administrator Andy Benke stayed in the new digs through the storm and thankfully found that it more than lived up to its intended potential as an essential facility. Here's a breakdown of how the building measures up:

HURRICANE MATTHEW STATS:

12-hour ordeal
8 inches of rain
82 mph sustained winds and higher gusts

BUILDING STATS:

It's expected to last for 80 years
18,806 square feet
41-foot, 1-inch building height

18-foot finished floor elevation
198 people can fit in the Council chambers
158 mph wind load design speed
\$3,900,000 project cost

TOWN STATS:

1,875 residents
10 police officers
11 fire personnel
5 water and sanitation employees
10 Town Hall employees

BUILDING WILL ALSO SERVICE:

7 Planning Commission members
7 Design Review Board members
7 Board of Zoning Appeals members
5 tree commissioners
3 municipal election commissioners
1 judge
1 prosecutor

REASONS TO CELEBRATE:

It's been 199 years since this area was originally incorporated as the town of Moultrieville. This is the first building constructed for the sole purpose of serving the residents as their Town Hall. 🏠



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Look in Your Own Backyard

100 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

By Mary Coy

YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD THAT the National Park Service is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Undoubtedly, that conjures up images of the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, the Great Smoky Mountains and so on. But what about in our neck of the woods? Isn't there at least one national park?

Well, yes, but only one – Congaree – and it's near our state capital. However, the NPS manages other places besides national parks.

For instance, one of Charles Pinckney's plantations in Mount Pleasant is a National Historic Site, while Fort Sumter has been given the designation of being a National Monument. However, Fort Moultrie doesn't get much attention when searching the list of 413 sites that are part

of the National Park Service. That's because it comes under the auspices of Fort Sumter. Yet Fort Moultrie is the only location in the National Park System that can boast a role in the 171-year history of America's seacoast defense. Doesn't such a legacy deserve more recognition? Well, it's about to get it.

Currently, consideration is being given to renaming Fort Moultrie – along with Fort Sumter – a national park. Although the two forts will still be linked and no additional funds will be appropriated from the federal government for them, their designation as a national park will certainly give both forts a more prominent title, likely leading to more publicity.

Nearly 15 years ago, former U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond pushed unsuccessfully to change both Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter from national monuments to national parks. Now, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott is renewing that effort.

According to Tim Stone, superintendent at the Fort Sumter National Monument, the difference between a national monument and a national park is really just semantics. But it seems to make a difference when it comes to park awareness. In the world of Google, travelers typically will search the Internet for “national parks” rather than for any of the other sites managed by NPS. Some national parks, including Congaree, saw an increase in attendance when their names were changed. So the new moniker can mean a lot.

And there is even more good news for the island's crown jewel. Fort Moultrie has been chosen as one of the new designs for quarters that are part of the America the Beautiful Quarters Program. Eight years ago, the U.S. Mint began issuing coins each year featuring five different national parks and other national sites. The designs are depicted on the tails side of the quarters. The upcoming Fort Moultrie coin has the iconic image of Sgt. William Jasper replacing the flag on the palmetto fort at the battle of Sullivan's Island in June 1776. With the fort as the focus of one of the new designs, even more recogni-

tion and acclaim is sure to head its way.

On Nov. 17, federal and state dignitaries will attend a special program (open to the public) for the unveiling of the coin's design. Local performers and speakers will also be on hand to add to the festivities. The newly-minted Fort Moultrie quarters will be available for sale, and schoolchildren in attendance will each receive a free

quarter. Teachers can obtain free online lesson plans focusing on the significance of the fort and of Sullivan's Island.

The Sullivan's Island Lighthouse and the historic U.S. Life Saving Station won't be left out of the 100th anniversary celebration. The lighthouse, the last major light built on the Eastern shore of the United States, was completed in 1962 and has been part of the National Park Service for over 25 years. Even the dunes and beach from the lighthouse

area to the high-water mark are protected by the National Park Service. The property includes a two-story quarters building and a boathouse with board and batten siding, typical of 19th century Coast Guard architecture. In the early 20th century, a sighting station, signal tower and garage were added. This was the only lifesaving station built in South Carolina. The entire complex is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, the Park Services uses the buildings. However, the historic boathouse has been restored, and the NPS plans to add exhibits inside to tell the story of the U.S. Life Saving Service on the island. The structure will then be open to the public.

According to Sullivan's Island Town Administrator Andy Benke, “The town is very fortunate to have the presence of the National Park Service on the island. The rehabilitation of Fort Moultrie sets the tone for and complements the historic preservation efforts on Sullivan's Island in so many ways. Moreover, the work by the Park Service offers visitors and residents of Sullivan's Island a rare glimpse into the various periods of coastal defense by our nation.”

So the next time you're thinking of visiting a national park, don't forget to look in your own backyard. 🏰

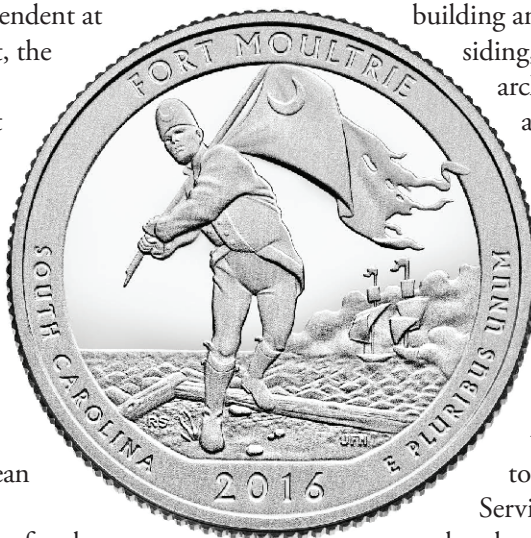


Photo by Chris and Cami Photography.



25 Years and Counting

SUNRISE SURVIVED AND THRIVED AFTER HUGO

Story by Pamela Brownstein



Photo by Brandon Clark.

A photo of Sunrise Presbyterian Church from the air.

WHEN HURRICANE HUGO hit the South Carolina coast on Sept. 21, 1989, the devastatingly powerful storm destroyed Sunrise Presbyterian Church on Sullivan’s Island.

The pastor at the time, Rev. Prue “Mac” Hammett, was among the first to return to assess the damage. He described the shocking impact of seeing the church in ruins – a fallen tower, pews knocked over, hymnals strewn everywhere, the roof mostly gone or collapsed and an entire wing of the building in a heap on the street.

Hammett, who had been a pastor in the mountains of Kentucky, knew from older ministers in that region that when a storm broke windows or took off the roof, the first thing to check afterward was the wind-whipped Bible.

“The communion table was turned over, the pulpit toppled on its side and the pulpit Bible was soaked, lying on the floor,” Hammett wrote. He knelt down to read its text, and the Bible was open to Jeremiah 33:10-11:

“...Yet in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are deserted, inhabited by neither people nor animals, there will be heard once more the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, and

the voices of those who bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord, saying, ‘Give thanks to the Lord Almighty, for the Lord is good, his love endures forever. For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were before,’ says the Lord.”

The passage served as a sign of hope and a promise to rebuild.

Even today, a scroll that hangs prominently behind the pulpit contains the words from this prophetic passage. The pulpit Bible, displayed in the entryway in a stand that was handmade from the front doors of the old church, remains open to the same page.



Hurricane Hugo ripped apart Sunrise Presbyterian Church in 1989.

Photo courtesy of Sunrise Presbyterian Church.

Another extraordinary event occurred about a month after the storm, when a fisherman discovered a gunnysack in the mud of a nearby creek. The sack contained silver pieces used during communion, and the fisherman returned them to the church. The silver pieces were cleaned up but never fully repaired from the saltwater damage. They are still used in the communion services.

The Sunrise congregation met under a large yellow and white tent in the parking lot for two years while the church was under construction.

In September 1991, the first worship service was held in the new building, the one that stands today overlooking Breach Inlet, just across from the Isle of Palms.

Rev. Dr. Vance Polley – or Pastor Vance, as church members affectionately refer to him – has been at the helm

of the church since 1995.

“The location is incredibly important,” he said. “The views from the church windows are deeply spiritual. Our location allows us to hold worship services on the beach.”

Pastor Vance, 59, leads with grace and sincerity. He makes those around him feel accepted and at ease. Under his guidance, the church has flourished, even adding a community-based preschool, Sunrise Children’s School.

“The difference it has made for the children and families of the islands is extremely important to Sunrise and to me personally,” he said about the school.

On Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016, Sunrise Presbyterian marked its 25th anniversary celebration with an estimated 170 in attendance for a special service and a festive luncheon. Plates were piled with ham, deviled eggs and mac n’ cheese. Congregation members sat together at long tables to

enjoy the food and fellowship.

Parish Elder Reece Smith, who led the children’s talk, described to the kids in the congregation how a church is more than just a building.

“The people themselves are the church,” she said. “Faith, love and generosity have kept Sunrise a special place to worship God.”

Just as the sun’s first rays bring the promise of a new day, so is the commitment at Sunrise to remain a center of joy and strength for the Sullivan’s Island community. During the anniversary service, Pastor Vance laid out plans for the church to plant a strong foundation for the future, including projects to improve the appearance and maintenance of the building.

“This is a time of reflection, to look back on seeds that were planted in the past and how they are growing today and looking ahead and planning for the future,” he said. 🌱

THE STORY BEHIND THE STAINED-GLASS CROSS

Directly above the altar in the sanctuary of Sunrise Presbyterian Church, a stained-glass window in the shape of a cross draws all eyes upward. Congregation member Dorothy Monk gave the stained-glass window to the church in memory of her husband, Lowell Monk. The piece was designed by congregation member Michael Strantz, who also designed well-known golf courses nationwide. The stained glass was hand-blown in Germany, and the window was built by Charles Towne Glass Studio of North Charleston.



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Some of the creatures caught by seining – dragging a 30-foot net with two wooden poles parallel to the shore – are brought back to the tanks in the classroom for a short time.

Coastal Connections

EMPHASIZING THE OUTDOORS AT SIES

By Pamela Brownstein

Photos courtesy of Sullivan’s Island Elementary School

THE TWO SCIENCE LABS AT Sullivan’s Island Elementary School are aptly named the “Design and Discover Lab” and the “Wet Lab.” Inside these rooms, science teachers Lindsey Rhodes and Caroline Rambo engage students with hands-on projects and experiments to apply and expand the lessons

taught in the classroom.

But the real learning begins outside these rooms, where students are able to make connections between lessons in a book and the world around them.

SIES’ theme this year is “Using outdoors as a classroom,” a nod to its partial magnet designation for its focus on the coastal environment and the unique and beautiful setting that surrounds the school.

Principal Susan King explained that being a partial magnet “allows us to really capitalize on our location to motivate kids to explore and have a better understanding about their environment.”

The partial magnet status also enables the school to have two science teachers and allows the school to accept children from outside its zoned area. This group makes up about 30 percent of the student body, according to King.

“We encourage teachers to use the outdoors as a classroom and embed coastal themes in regular programs,” King said.

For Rhodes and Rambo, the emphasis on the environment creates an ideal situation to take advantage of the unique opportunities offered at Sullivan’s Island Elementary. A nearby boardwalk leads to beachcombing expeditions, and an entire grade participates in a “Seeds to Shoreline” program that involves re-planting native spartina grass in the marsh. A nature trail behind the school lets students walk in the woods and discover a variety of species.

“When we take classes on the trail, we ask, for example, ‘Why is a maritime forest important?’ and kids can see how it protects this barrier island and their homes,” Rambo said. “To be able to see that visually is important and makes the light bulb come on, the connection about how their surroundings affect their lives.”

Inside the Wet Lab, three 50-gallon touch tanks contain aquatic ecosystems found along the South Carolina coast – freshwater; salt marsh estuary; and near-shore – and the 100-gallon “Mac Daddy” tank holds plants and animals from the ocean. Later this year, the teachers plan to fill the tanks with non-indigenous ecosystems so stu-

dents can study and identify foreign species and different regions, such as the Pacific tropical coast.

Some of the creatures caught while seining – dragging a 30-foot net with two wooden poles parallel to the shore to catch an array of species – are brought back to the tanks in the classroom for a short time. Rhodes and Rambo try to take the students at least once in the fall and spring for what always proves to be an exciting school outing.



Kids are able to examine the fascinating creatures they catch while seining.

The kids help drag the net along the beach, then are able to touch and examine the fascinating creatures isolated in the net – everything from fish and crabs to jellyfish and stingrays. The children learn about the variety of marine life and how to properly handle each species.

“The kids are able to identify almost everything on the beach; it’s amazing,” said Rhodes, who teaches the younger students in pre-k through second grade, while Rambo works with grades three through five.

Both educators have been at the school since the new building opened three years ago, but this is their first year teaching science together. Rhodes and Rambo work closely to coordinate the use of the labs and collaborate with the other teachers while planning lessons for nine-week science units that rotate throughout the year.

“It’s such an awesome opportunity to have the separate labs. We have more space and resources available, and we can make a big mess,” Rhodes said. “Having the science teachers co-teach with classroom teachers is crucial for learning.”

King added: “Teaching children to be careful observers and problem solvers translates to different areas of connection.” 🐞



IMPORTANT PARTNERSHIPS

Rhodes and Rambo see establishing and maintaining partnerships in the community as a valuable way to expand knowledge about the coastal environment. Some of the school’s partnerships include Chris Crowley with Coastal Expeditions, who helps with seining and other trips; the Greenheart program,

which assists with the garden in front of the school, which helps teach children about soil, planting seeds and growing crops; and SC Coastal Friends, which, through the Sewee Center in Awendaw, is able to bring animals – including birds and baby alligators – to the school and arrange for fifth graders to visit the center several times a year.

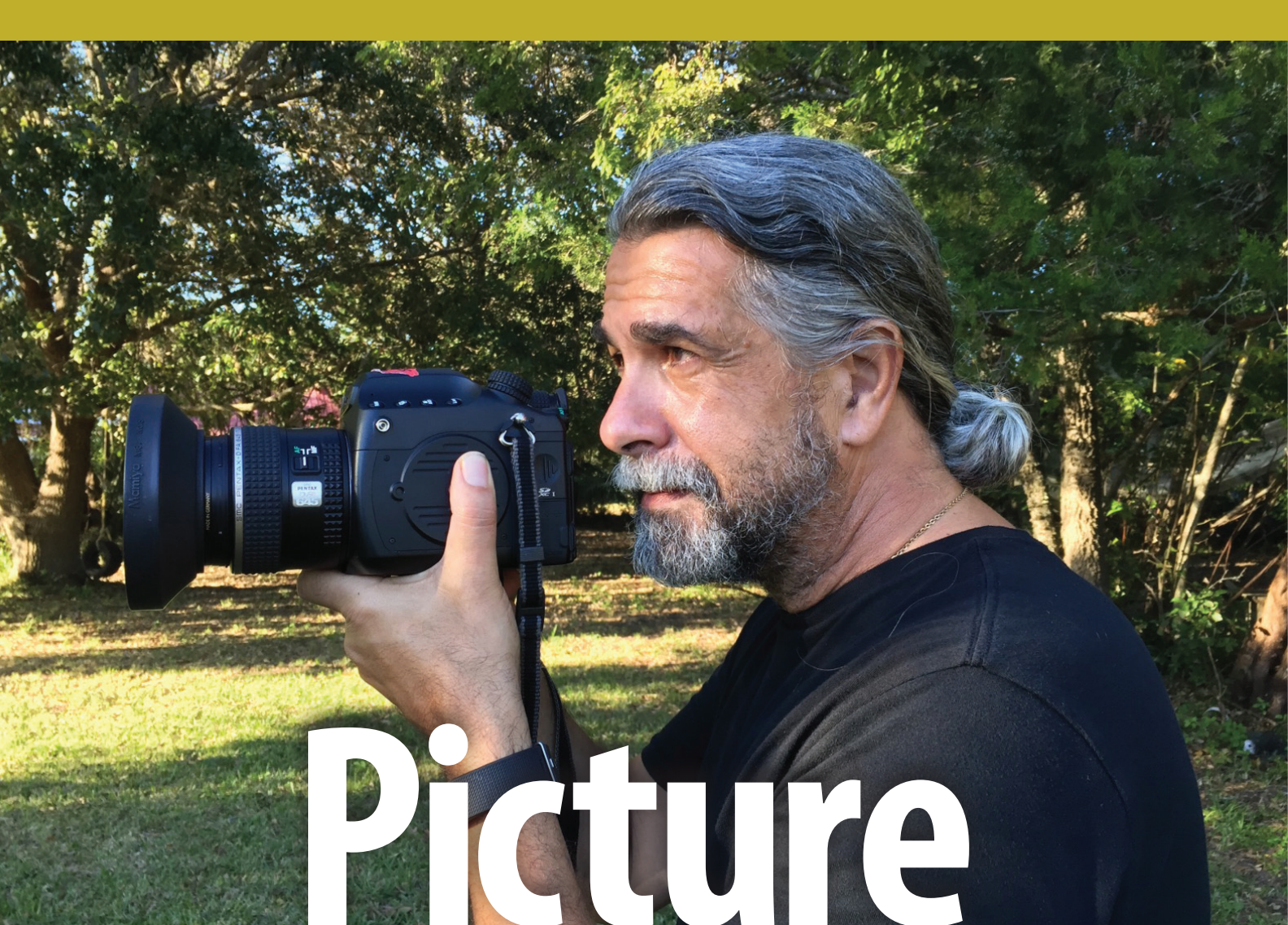


Photo by Margaret Burns.

Picture Perfect

LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER HAS A NATIONAL FOLLOWING

By Mike Sigalas

SULLIVAN'S ISLAND IS HOME TO A sizable group of visual artists, and most of them find their inspiration locally and sell their creations in the Lowcountry. Vince Musi is part of a much smaller group that does most of its work off the island, for consumption by a public worldwide. A photographer for *National Geographic*, the Pennsylva-

nian-born Musi started his career as a newspaper photographer, garnering credits with the *Troy Daily News*, *The Palm Beach Post*, the *Missoula Missoulan* and the *San Jose Mercury News*. He worked on staff on *The Pittsburgh Press* until its demise in 1992.

It was this spell in Pittsburgh that in a roundabout way brought Musi to the Charleston area. He married fellow *Press* staff photographer Callie Shell, and, when their

mutual employer folded, she lined up work as the official staff photographer for Vice President Al Gore. Later, she would enjoy unprecedented access to the Obama family. Though her political work kept the couple in the Washington, D.C., area for eight years, eventually they moved down the coast to Sullivan's Island. A native of Georgia, Shell attended the College of Charleston.

"We were returning home for her as much as it was a new home for me," Musi explained. "I'm only allowed to live south of the Mason-Dixon line because of her."

Musi began contributing photographs to *National Geographic* during the family's time in the D.C. area. His topics tended to be human or man-made. He photographed life under a volcano in the West Indies, along historic Route 66, across the Texas Hill Country and at an archaeological site in Turkey. Over an eight-year period, starting in 2006, when he was actually in-country and in-town, Musi worked south of Charleston, on a spread celebrating the beauty of South Carolina's ACE Basin. That spread would finally be published in the November 2014 edition of *National Geographic*, and, that autumn, Musi presented an exhibit of the project's fruits at the Charleston Library Society downtown.

Musi's own photography heroes include people such as Stan Grossfeld, the two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer for *The Boston Globe*, who "uses photography to affect people's lives" and "tells stories of people in

need." However, For several years, Musi's own work for National Geographic has focused primarily on animal portraits.

Animals can make difficult subjects, and they weren't in Musi's comfort zone, but *National Geographic* has a



Photo by Vincent J. Musi.

Young J.D. Cate takes a break following an early morning duck hunt with his father and the family's retriever, Henry. Hunting waterfowl and other game is a cherished tradition in the ACE Basin, spanning generations and spurring conservation efforts. South Carolina's ACE Basin is one of the largest undeveloped estuaries on the East Coast. This photograph was part of long-term essay on the region originally published in *National Geographic*.

long history of animal photography. Musi soon found himself taking pictures of chimps, fish and hedgehogs for one of the world's most well-known magazines.

"The idea was eye contact. I was going to be the Annie Leibowitz of animal photography," he joked in his 2014 TEDx talk.

But his first efforts met with disaster, until Musi literally learned to talk to the animals.

"I found my inner Dr. Doolittle," he explained.

Today, when not away on assignment, Musi is most likely to show up at High Thyme, his favorite island haunt. But his work will continue to be elsewhere.

"I wish things were different," he said, "but I'm not able to work much in the Lowcountry. Even so, the landscape and people have been a great inspiration." 🐾



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MLS LISTED PRICE	LISTING AGENT LISTING COMPANY	SELLING AGENT SELLING COMPANY	DAYS ON MARKET	SELLING PRICE
1) \$2,900,000	Timothy Reese Dunes Properties of Charleston	Andy Jones William Means Real Estate	1	\$2,900,000
2) \$3,395,000	Ashley Haynes East Island Real Estate	Helen Geer William Means Real Estate	63	\$2,891,342
3) \$2,950,000	Timothy Reese Dunes Properties of Charleston	Chauncey Clark The Peninsula Company	17	\$2,700,000
4) \$2,675,000	Everett Presson Carolina One Real Estate	Everett Presson Carolina One Real Estate	1	\$2,675,000
5) \$2,795,000	Matthew DeAntonio & Avrum Bebergal Carroll Realty	Anna Gregory Carolina One Real Estate	29	\$2,400,000
6) \$2,750,000	Ann Ailstock Carolina One Real Estate	Julia Armstrong Handsome Properties	394	\$2,550,000
7) \$3,000,000	Charlotte Bova Carolina One Real Estate	Eric Biggers Charleston Coastal Properties	17	\$2,300,000
8) \$2,450,000	Everett Presson Carolina One Real Estate	Everett Presson Carolina One Real Estate	10	\$2,250,000
9) \$2,350,000	Paul Boehm & Bradley Haynes East Islands Real Estate	Ashley Haynes East Islands Real Estate	128	\$2,200,000
10) \$2,195,000	Chip Warley Premier Properties Charleston	Stacy Jennings Smith Spencer Real Estate	29	\$2,195,000

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