

The Harborwalk

Serving Historical Georgetown County, South Carolina

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Our 50 Miles of Preserved Coastline

If you are like a lot of first time visitors to Georgetown, and the surrounding county, you might notice that the area from Pawley's Island south to the beaches of the Isle of Palms, is relatively undeveloped (so far) as compared to the majority of the east coast of the United States. This is due in large part to the foresightedness and generosity of a few very wealthy landowners and the State of South Carolina. Subsequently the area has become a major refuge for wildlife, especially waterfowl in their migration routines, as it contains approximately 20 percent of the coastal marshland of the east coast.



The cultivation of rice in the 18th and 19th century required huge tracks of land and was extremely labor intensive. The rice fields consisted of a series of dikes, canals, and water level-controlled structures (trunks) that allowed controlled flooding by the tidal rivers. Georgetown County, being in the terminus of two major river drainage's, the Pee Dee-Yadkin and the Santee, was ideally situated for the cultivation of tidewater rice. This resulted in the accumulation of large wetland holdings, hence the huge plantations of the area, such as Mansfield, Wedgefield, Dirleton, and the several plantations making up the original Hobcaw Barony.

Following the Civil War, with the loss of slave labor, the continuation of the rice industry was nearly impossible and finally ended completely. The huge holdings remained and many were purchased in whole by wealthy individuals for recreation and hunting.

The Hobcaw Barony, originally a colonial land grant in 1718 to Lord John Carteret, one of the Lord

Proprietors, consisted of 13,900 acres. It was subsequently subdivided into 13 plantations located between the Waccamaw River and the Atlantic Ocean. In 1905 Bernard Baruch, a native of Camden, South Carolina and Wall Street millionaire, began to purchase the land that was once Hobcaw Barony and purchased all but two of the plantations. He added additional properties to total 17,500 acres. The property was passed on to his daughter, Belle W. Baruch. Belle, recognizing the uniqueness of the holdings, was determined that it remain unchanged and at her death in 1964, left the property in perpetuity for the people of South Carolina as a foundation for research and instruction of forest and marine science and coastal ecology.

A decade later, the members of the Santee Gun Club, one of the oldest duck hunting clubs in South Carolina donated an additional 22,000 acres to the Nature Conservancy through the Heritage Trust Program. It was subsequently turned over to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Of major significance here was that the property was adjacent to Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. Cape Romain's 64,000 acres encompasses a 20-mile segment of the Atlantic coast and include barrier islands, salt marshes, coastal waterways, fresh and brackish water impoundments, and maritime forest.

In 1911 William H. Yawkey purchased 20,000 acres in Georgetown County for use as a hunting preserve. Tom Yawkey, his adopted son and owner of the Boston Red Sox, enjoyed the South Carolina properties, wintering here every year until his death in 1976. When Tom Yawkey died he left his 20,000-acres to the South Carolina Heritage Trust to be maintained

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Upcoming Community Events

The Strand Theatre - Divorce Southern Style A Play by Jennifer Jarret, Directed by Tracy Crane. Performances May 9,10th, 15, 16th, 17th, 22nd, 23rd and 24th at 8PM. Matinee May 18th at 2:30PM. All tickets are \$15. Call 843-527-2924 for tickets.

Myrtle Beach Spring Rally 2008 May 9th - 18th. Over 300,000 motorcycle enthusiasts make it to the Myrtle Beach Spring Rally every year. Heading into its 68th year, the rally has expanded north into North Carolina, south into Georgetown, west to Conway and beyond to Marion County. The Charlie Daniels' 2008 Volunteer Jam Tour with Shooter Jennings and .38 Special will be one of the headliners at the new Hard Rock Park during Myrtle Beach Bike Week 2008.

The Georgetown County Library will be developing a Georgetown County Cultural Heritage Encyclopedia. There's a lot to know about Georgetown County but relatively little high quality information available on the we. The library will be asking residents to help in collecting and compiling materials suitable for creating an online encyclopedia dedicated to the area's more than 300 years of history, heritage, and culture.

Everyone is welcome to participate by simply sharing knowledge about Georgetown County. It is extremely easy to make a contribution because you can submit input in practically any format; including letter, e-mail, telephone, interview, through their website, or even by posting directly into Wikipedia - an international web-based free-content encyclopedia project. They will work to get all participant's properly formatted contributions posted in this extremely popular world wide web repository of information

The library will soon post some general content creation guidelines on their website. In the meanwhile, please go ahead and start writing. Also, think about gathering related materials to accompany your articles; for example, pictures or other objects of interest that could be photographed. For more information see their website at www.gclibrary.org/heritage/

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A Taste of Georgetown

Buzz's Roost, 715 Front Street: Lunch-Dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Burgers, steak, and fantastic seared tuna with wasabi. Try the Black Mingo Barbeque or the Oysters on the half shell. Eat inside at the new Captains Quarters or around the rustic open air bar. Karaoke or DJ music Friday nights. Live music on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Goat Island Grill (GIG), 719 Front Street: Lunch-Dinner seven days a week. The GIG offers low country fare, but you have to try the Clemson Bleu Cheese Filet Mignon grilled to perfection, topped with Clemson bleu cheese. And the "Big G.I.G" with flounder, shrimp, scallops and a crab cake. Eat inside or on the deck overlooking the harbor.

LaRocca, 713 Front Street:, Lunch-Dinner Monday-Saturday. Authentic Italian cuisine prepared by owner and chef **Charlie Lalomia**. Veal Scaloppini, Chicken and Shrimp Marsala, pasta, steaks, and fresh seafood. Eat in or dine on the deck overlooking the harbor.

Revolve Restaurant, 926 Front Street: Lunch-Dinner Thursday-Saturday. The best Black River crab cakes, soups, salads, fresh seafood, pasta and prime rib. Thursday is theme night with **Chef Dewayne Beaty** serving up specials from different countries along with live jazz. Eat in or on the torch lit patio during the season. Reservations recommended, take out available. Transportation provided to boaters by calling 843 545 1600.

Morsels Grocery, 619 Front St: This might be a grocery store but their deli has superb gourmet sandwiches, pastries, cheeses and coffee to go, or eat in at their window counter overlooking Front Street. Need a bottle of wine for that intimate dinner for two, this is the place.

Rice Paddy Restaurant, 732 Front Street: Lunch-Dinner Monday through Saturday. The Rice Paddy offers elegant dining in one of Georgetown's most historical buildings. Bahamian grouper, rack of lamb, and filet of beef. From seafood to steaks, the food is second to none. Reservations required.

River Room, 801 Front Street: Lunch - Dinner Monday through Saturday. Sumptuous seafood, steaks, chicken, pasta and lots of it. Moderately priced lunch menu includes world famous shrimp and grits and pecan chicken salad. Dinner specialties include herb crusted grouper and McClellanville crabcakes. Enjoy views of the harbor and Harborwalk while dining inside in comfort. **Reservations not accepted.**

Sweeties, 707 Front St.: Although not a restaurant, Sweeties makes the best chocolate and pecan pralines in the low country. Also try their Gourmet chocolates and homemade ice cream. Not even the shops on Market Street in Charleston can match Georgetown's Sweeties.

Thomas Café, 703 Front Street: Breakfast & Lunch Monday through Saturday. Since 1929 one of the oldest establishments in Georgetown. The absolute best breakfast in town and where "all the locals meet". Owner **Ernest Brunson** prepares great home cooked meals with old-fashioned hospitality.

South Carolina's Third Oldest City



If you are a visitor, welcome to Georgetown.

Georgetown is the state's third oldest city behind Charleston and Beaufort. Situated on a peninsula, Georgetown is surrounded on three sides by water. On the east by Pee Dee, Black and Waccamaw Rivers, on the west by the Sampit River, and on the south by Winyah Bay formed by the convergence of these rivers.

As a bustling pre-Revolutionary seaport, sailing ships docked here bringing manufactured goods from Europe and leaving with the trade products of the low country - indigo, rice, and cotton.

In 1729 Elisha Screven laid the plan for Georgetown and developed the city in a four-by-eight block grid. Referred to as the "Historic District", the original grid city is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and still bears the original street names, lot numbers, and many of the original homes. The historical district is bordered by Wood, Church, Meeting and Front Streets. Front Street is lined with quaint shops and restaurants, many with decks overlooking the harbor. The walking map on the opposite page shows the layout of the historical district and some helpful hints as to where important places are today.

You can take a leisurely stroll along the 12 foot wide, 1,500 foot Harborwalk, tour the antebellum homes, of which there are over 50 dating back to the 1700s, take a boat tour of the bay, or even a walking ghost tour through the city streets.

So enjoy your stay and please patronize our advertisers , as they make it happen.



The Kaminski House Museum

Located in the heart of Georgetown's Historic district, the Kaminski House was built about 1769 and con-

tains an outstanding collection of American and English antiques from the 18th and 19th centuries. Through marriage it passed to John Keith, Georgetown's first mayor. Julia and Harold Kaminski purchased the house in 1931. The home was given by Julia Kaminski to the City of Georgetown in 1972 in memory of Harold Kaminski and his mother, Rose Baum Kaminski.

Harold Kaminski served as Mayor of Georgetown from 1931 to 1935. He served in the U.S. Navy during both World War I and World War II and was officer of the Day on December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack on the Naval Base there. He survived the attack to return to Georgetown where he lived until his death in 1953.

The Rice Museum



The 18th Century Brown's Ferry Vessel on Display at the Rice Museum

No visit to Georgetown would not be complete without taking a short tour of the Rice Museum. After all, rice is what built Georgetown. The museum actually occupies two buildings, the clock tower, the most distinctive Georgetown landmark, and the Prevost Gallery next door, once Kaminski Hardware and one of the oldest buildings in town. On the third floor of the Prevost Gallery resides the skeletal remains of the Brown's Ferry vessel, shown above. The vessel was discovered in the Black River near Brown's Ferry and is considered one of the oldest examples of colonial shipbuilding in existence today. Upstairs of the Clock Tower contains displays showing the process of rice cultivation from the colonial period up until the Civil War and the end of slavery in the South.

Yes, There are Alligators



The American alligator is a rare success story of an endangered animal not only saved from extinction but now thriving. State and federal protections, habitat preservation efforts, and reduced demand for alligator products have improved the

species' wild population to more than one million and growing today.

One look at these menacing predators—with their armored, lizard-like bodies, muscular tails, and powerful jaws—and it is obvious they are envoys from the distant past. The species, scientists say, is more than 150 million years old, managing to avoid extinction 65 million years ago when their prehistoric contemporaries, the dinosaurs, died off.

American alligators reside nearly exclusively in the freshwater rivers, lakes, swamps, and marshes of the southeastern United States, primarily Florida and Louisiana.

Heavy and ungainly out of water, these reptiles are supremely well adapted swimmers. Males average 10 to 15 feet (3 to 4.6 meters) in length and can weigh 1,000 pounds (453 kg). Females grow to a maximum of about 9.8 feet (3 meters.)

Hatchlings are 6 to 8 inches (15 to 20 centimeters) long with yellow and black stripes. Juveniles, which are on the menu for dozens of predators, including birds, raccoons, bobcats, and even other alligators,



usually stay with their mothers for about two years.

Adult alligators are apex predators critical to the biodiversity of their habitat. They feed mainly on fish, turtles, snakes, and small mammals. However, they are opportunists, and a hungry gator will eat just about anything, including carrion, pets and, in rare instances, humans.

Live at Buzz's Roost in May

Wednesdays: Karaoke with Prizes 8-Till

Thursdays 8-12PM: 8th Adahsea, 15 Zara Black Project, 22nd PIKs, 29th Jaynie Trudell

Fridays 4-8PM: 9th Scott Lewis, 23rd Wendel, 30th Rick Mariner. Karaoke 8-Till Every Friday -

Saturdays - 8--12PM: 10th & 24th Pastor Pastor Blues Band

Sundays: 4th Shawn & Claude 5-9PM, 11th Bill Krauss 6-10PM, 18th Bill Krauss 3-7PM, 25th Bill Krauss 4-8PM

Live at Pawleys Island Tavern in May

Thursdays - 8th Zara Black Project, 15th ACT II, 22nd Tim Mooney, 29th Menace to Sobriety

Fridays - 16th Regime, 23rd The Freeloaders, 30th The Mullets

Saturdays 10th Villanova, 17th Marc-Simons Band, 24th Sawgrass, 31st Painted Man

Sundays 4th Doc Simons & Patterson Barrett, 11th Dave & Damon 18th Barefoot Wade

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as a wildlife center with limited public access. He wanted the property to be dedicated in perpetuity for the conservation of wildlife. The Yawkey Foundation, a public charity, was established with a \$10 million endowment, a portion of the income being dedicated to maintaining the wildlife center.

So with the Yawkey property joining the Santee Coastal Reserve to the south and the Belle W. Baruch property to the north, a 50 miles stretch of the South Carolina north central coast was given protection in perpetuity. These vast land donations, made by a few far-sighted individuals, were timely and strategic, preserving a magnificent stretch of the east coast in a near natural state free from development. As a visitor you may be able to see some this by taking a tour offered by the several tour boats operating along the Harborwalk, or by touring the foundations noted above. Information on the Yawkey Wildlife Reserve can be obtained at (803) 734-3886. Tours are conducted at the Hobcaw Barony from Tuesday through Friday. Call (843) 546-4623 for information.

Note: The photograph and portions of the text above were provided courtesy of Phil Wilkinson, renowned local wildlife biologist and photographer.

R. G. Burton, The Harborwalk

Francis Marion

“The Swamp Fox”



While Connecticut may have Nathan Hale, South Carolina and the low country's most renowned hero of the Revolutionary War is General Francis Marion, better known to South Carolinians as *the Swamp Fox*. Born in Winyah in 1732, Marion developed his guerrilla fighting skills while fighting the Cherokee Indians during the French and Indian wars.

The character Benjamin Martin in the movie “The Patriot” is loosely based on Marion’s life. In reality Marion was not reluctant to enter the war as portrayed in the movie. In fact he was elected to the South Carolina Provincial Congress in 1775 and commissioned a captain in the 2nd South Carolina Regiment under Colonel William Moultrie in 1776.

Marion evaded being captured when the British took Charleston and formed a small band of irregulars. Marion's Men as they were known, served without pay, supplied their own horses, arms, and often their food. All of Marion's supplies that were not obtained locally were captured from the British or Loyalist (“Tory”) forces. Hated obsessively by the British, Col. Banastre Tarleton, was sent to capture Marion and his men, who eluded him by travelling along swamp paths, hence the name “**The Swamp Fox**”. Once Marion had shown his ability at guerrilla warfare, making himself a serious nuisance to the British, Governor John Rutledge (in exile in North Carolina) commissioned him a brigadier-general of state troops.

When Gen. Nathanael Greene took command in the south, Marion and Lieutenant Colonel Henry Lee were ordered in January 1781 to attack Georgetown, but were unsuccessful. In April, however, they took Fort Watson and in May, Fort Motte, and succeeded in breaking communications between the British posts in the Carolinas. On August 31, Marion rescued a small American force trapped by Major C. Fraser with 500 British. Marion commanded the right wing under General Greene at the Battle of Eutaw Springs.

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Beware, This is Nesting Season for Loggerheads

The loggerhead sea turtle, our state reptile, has a rich reddish-brown carapace and yellow plastron. The loggerhead's large skull provides for the attachment of strong jaw muscles for crushing conchs and crabs.

Loggerheads usually leave the cold coastal waters in the winter and are often seen along the western edge of the Gulf Stream. The major nesting area for the loggerhead in the western Atlantic is the southeastern United States. In South Carolina, the primary nesting beaches are between **North Inlet and Prides' Inlet**. The nesting season runs from **mid May to mid August**.

The loggerhead is the most common sea turtle to strand in South Carolina and the nesting population has declined three percent per year since records began in 1980. These turtles are on the endangered species list and if you see a nest it must be left alone. To report sighting information on mating loggerheads in South Carolina, please email coastbio@dnr.sc.gov with date, time and place and photos if possible. .

Spring Abundance of Leatherback Sea Turtles in South Carolina's Coastal Waters

Leatherbacks are highly migratory and are the widest ranging of all sea turtles. Their movements are no doubt in response to seasonal abundance of jellyfish,



their major food item. An annual migration of adult and subadult leatherbacks from the wider Caribbean to the northwestern Atlantic results in spring and fall concentrations of leatherbacks in South Carolina waters. Nearshore concentrations of leatherbacks can occur from April to June and are frequently seen feeding on cannonball jellyfish that are abundant at that time of year. A smaller secondary peak in abundance occurs in the fall. This abundance has created a rare opportunity to observe adult and immature, male and female leatherbacks in our nearshore waters. Prior to the late 1980's, leatherbacks were rare visitors to South Carolina coastal waters. Since that time, leatherbacks have become a common visitor throughout state waters during spring.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has been conducting aerial surveys to document the distribution and abundance of leatherbacks for the past 15 years.

The South Carolina Flag



To some the South Carolina flag seems rather exotic for a state flag. Living in New York for many years, sometimes I would fly the flag from my sailboat. I was often asked what it meant and where it came from. The answer was always surprising to the questioner.

In the fall of 1775 the Revolutionary Council of Safety asked Colonel William Moultrie to design a flag for the use of the South Carolina troops. Moultrie chose a blue background, which matched the color of their uniforms, and a crescent, which was worn as a silver emblem on the front of their caps.

After it seceded from the union in 1860, South Carolina needed a national flag. The General Assembly considered a wide range of designs, but on January 28, 1861, added the palmetto to Moultrie's original design, creating the flag as we know it today. The palmetto tree represents Moultrie's heroic defense of the palmetto-log fort on Sullivan's Island against the attack of the British fleet on June 28, 1776.

A resolution proposing changing the color to "royal purple" as a memorial to the Confederate dead was resoundingly defeated in 1899, leaving the flag's Revolutionary War symbolism intact.



Unidentified Cruising Couple and "Companion" returning to their boat anchored in Georgetown Harbor