



# The Skinnie

VOL 24: ISSUE 05 MARCH 13, 2026

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*“What’s in a name?” Juliet (Capulet) inquires of Romeo in the Shakespearean play. Her rhetorical gambit suggested that Romeo’s surname, Montague, should not define his destiny.*

As names go, Romeo and Juliet, in their shared context, are universally known. Capulet and Montague – less widely familiar. Back in the day, first names were a thing.

Communication between societies was difficult in ancient times and the world’s population was significantly smaller than today. Estimates peg it between 150 and 300 million at year 100, two and a half millennia ago. The global headcount has since increased by roughly 4,000 percent. These two factors likely contribute to the historical tendency to refer to people by a single name, often the one they were given rather than the one they inherited by birth. This practice continues today, though rarely, and seemingly limited mostly to musicians (Cher, Madonna, Bono, Beyonce, Adele) and Brazilian or Portuguese soccer players (Pele, Neymar, Ronaldo, Marta). But for a long time, almost everyone who was anyone was a one-name wonder, of sorts.

St. Patrick. You don the green. You drink the beer. But do you know his last name? Probably not, because he doesn’t have one that is agreed to by unanimous consent. Few of his own writings have been recovered, and in them he refers to himself as Patricius, a Latin precursor to the Gaelic Padraig or the Anglicized Patrick that we use now to identify him. Why a Latin name? Because he was Romano-British, rather than Irish, a missionary-Bishop from what-is-now England to the Emerald Isle.

Using only one name can be confusing. Even uber-famous first names have been historically modified for clarity – like “Henry the Eighth” or “Erik the Red.” Some people insist on “Jesus of Nazareth” to distinguish the messianic figure from other lesser-known J’s while avoiding tagging him with a surname (which he didn’t really have). Though the community of Catholic saints is a very exclusive club with a membership estimated to slightly exceed 10,000, there is redundancy among the mononymic ranks.

Yes, there’s more than one St. Patrick. There are at least two.

There’s the guy with the snake-charming legacy, despite no fossil evidence that snakes have populated Ireland at any time. The serpents in the story are metaphors for sin and evil, and the saint, through his Christian preaching, nudged the culture towards the light of good.

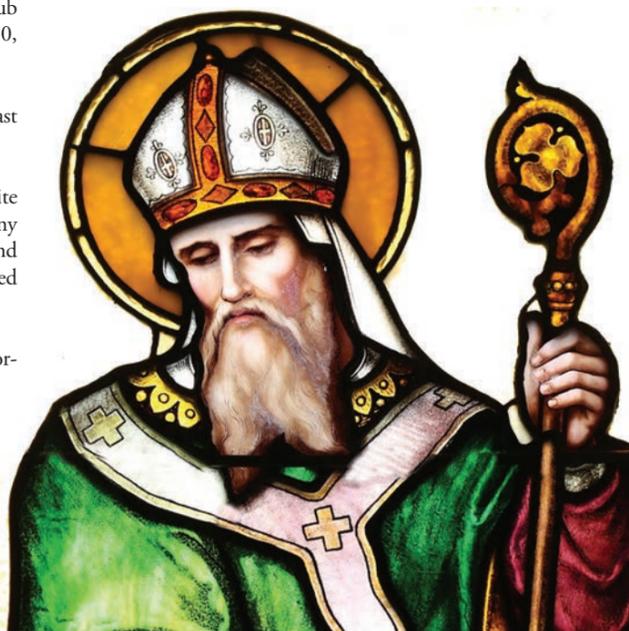
There’s the other St. Patrick, too. Imagine the inferior-

ity complex his spirit suffers when he looks down on the March 17 parades. Adding insult to injury, St. Patrick of Malaga, an early Christian leader in Spain, came before the Irish-Brit, but his fame has been wildly overshadowed by the man who is now synonymous with their shared name. Well, not exactly shared – Patricius versus Patricio, a la Juan, Giovanni, Ivan, Ian, and John. And let’s not get started with Johns – there is something like 600 saints with this oft-used handle in the Christian world.

What’s in a name? Cultural significance, in the name of the latter Patrick. A celebration of all things Irish, which is an amazing phenomenon given the relatively small size of the place and its diaspora, which is less than 1 percent of the world’s current population. Only two other saints have transcended their religious origins in a similar way to preside over a “holiday” celebrated broadly by people of various faiths – Valentine and, to a lesser extent, Nicholas. But, of course, there are several Valentines and Nicholases among the catalog of saints.

If all this is enough to make you want to grab a pint of Guinness, I get it, although I’ll have a 0.0 myself. It’s March 6 as I write this. It’s been a steady stream of green outfits walking the downtown streets this week, and it will get greener by the day. Enjoy the season, and your town’s unique embrace of it. Cheers, or Slainte, as the Irish say.

*Scott A. Lauretti*



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I am a 1956 refugee from Hungary.

I love America. No other nation has accomplished as much in 250 years as America, perhaps imperfectly, but better than any other nation throughout history. I hope we and our progeny have 250 more to go.

Thank you for your thoughtful opinion.

Peter Mezei

**PROUD AMERICAN**

Your editorial in the February 27th issue brought the tears. I wish all Americans could read your perfectly written thoughts. (I have sent several folks your editorial.) You spoke from your heart just as our American hero, Jack Hughes, did on February 22.

Thank you for reminding many of us that we are so fortunate to live in this country with so much to be proud of. Like you, I'll always be cheering for the Red, White, and Blue. With appreciation –

Susan Helms

**ADJUSTING THE LENS**

Your commentary on Jack Hughes was so on target and well said. They always are. Possibly some of the malcontents will see themselves in your description and consider looking at life through a nonpartisan lens going forward. Thank you.

Dee Robertson

**GRATEFUL NATION**

Thank you for a wonderful piece in your recent Skinnie. In a few words you expressed what is so hard for us to understand that is happening in our country right now. Thank you for reminding us that we should be grateful for where we have landed and proud to be Americans.

Leta Martin

**ED. NOTE: ONE MAN'S TREASURE...**

We/I appreciate the kind words and thank each of our readers for taking the time to enjoy our magazine. We are especially grateful for those who engage with us and share their thoughts.

Lest you think we print only favorable feedback and suppress criticism...check these out. Although we maintain a core principle: We don't publish letters without signatories, I'm making an exception... sort of. These are excerpted actual emails from readers, with the gist of my replies, and the senders' subsequent final words. Neither writer agreed to signing his/her name to his/her opinion(s). Even so, it's generally a good thing to entertain diverse points of view. So, here you go:

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**on the cover:**

Terry Schwartz snapped this rainbow over Romerly Marsh. Erin Go Bragh!

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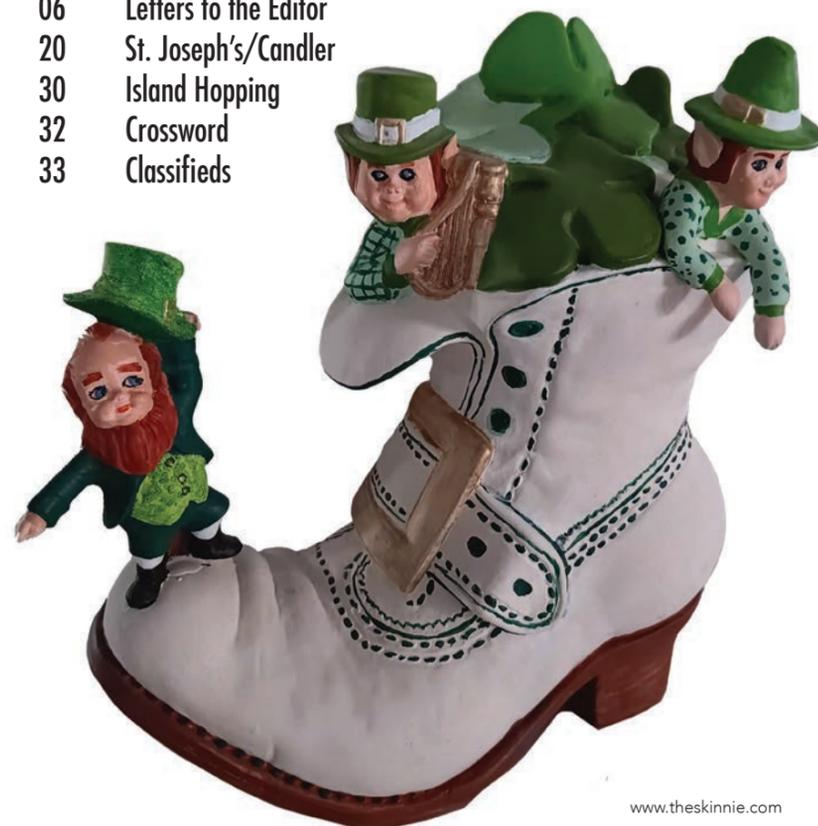
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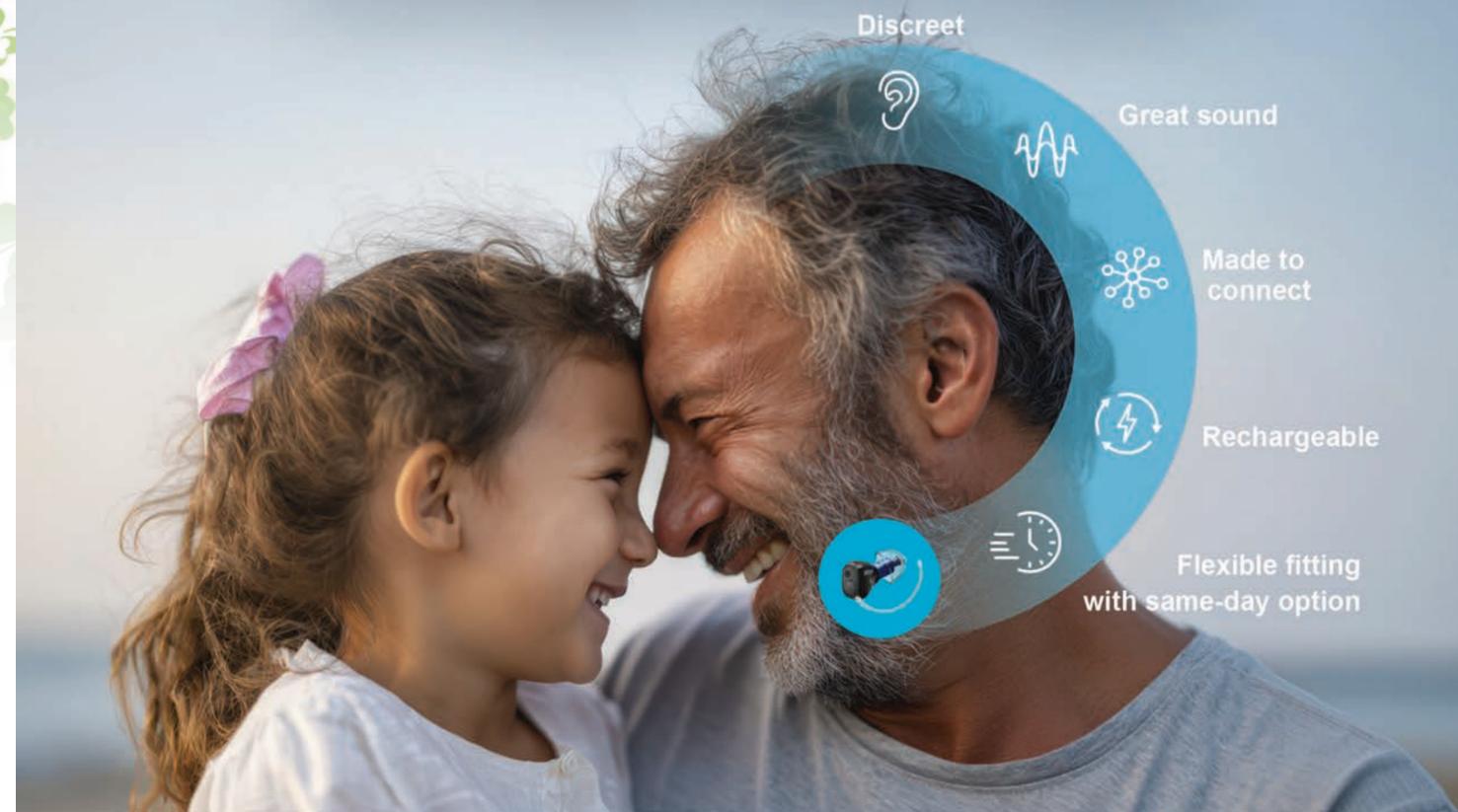
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# ANDERSONVILLE

## Daytripping to Middle Georgia

**WHAT:** Andersonville National Historic Site

**WHEN:** The historic prison site and national cemetery grounds are open daily, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., while the Prisoner of War Museum is open 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.

**WHERE:** Andersonville is located approximately 60 miles southwest of Macon on GA Hwy. 49. It's clearly signed from the road and there is ample free parking.

**HOW MUCH:** Entrance to the national park and museum is free.

**CONTACT:** For complete details, please visit [www.nps.gov/ande](http://www.nps.gov/ande)

**WHAT ELSE:** Most visitors spend at least two hours in the park. Park rangers offer prison site walking tours at 2 p.m. on weekends, staff and weather dependent.

*Located approximately an hour's drive southwest of Macon is the tiny farming community of Andersonville. Founded in 1853, the town is most famous as the location of a military prison established by the Confederates in February of 1864. Today, Andersonville Prison, with the Andersonville National Cemetery and National Prisoner of War Museum, is a historic site.*

### THE PRISON

At the start of the Civil War, neither side was prepared to detain enemy combatants. To ease the burden of providing for prisoners, some were conditionally released. A formal exchange program was adopted in 1862 but failed when Confederates refused to return captured black Union soldiers.

At first, Union captives were held in warehouses near Richmond, Virginia. In February of 1864, Camp Sumter opened in Andersonville to house prisoners farther away from much of the fighting. It quickly became notorious for terrible conditions. It was originally built to hold 10,000 prisoners within 16.5

acres, but immediately became overcrowded, its population swelling to more than 45,000. Inadequate food and fresh water led to major outbreaks of scurvy, dysentery, and diarrhea throughout the camp. Many prisoners, weakened by starvation and illness, succumbed to exposure when winter set in.

The dead were buried side-by-side in trenches on land adjacent to the prison site. Graves were marked with numbered posts. Among the prisoners was 19-year-old Dorence Atwater. While working in the prison hospital, he recorded the names of the deceased and the location of their graves. He secretly copied the list and smuggled it out

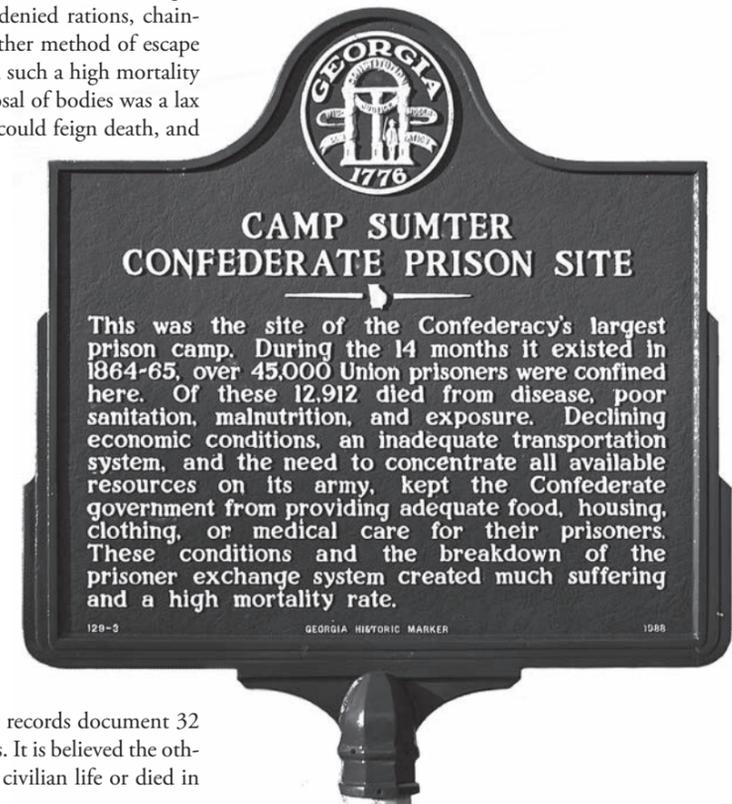
when he was eventually released. (*For Atwater's full story, check out this issue's He Served.*)

Cramped conditions naturally contributed to outbreaks of violence among the prisoners, and survival often depended on a prisoner's social network within the stockade. Partnerships among the prisoners provided the men with food, clothes, shelter, moral support, and protection from other prisoners. One group, calling themselves the Andersonville Raiders, targeted their fellow inmates, stealing food, valuables, and clothing. Armed with clubs, they killed to get what they wanted. In response, a second group calling themselves Regulators was organized by Peter "Big Pete" Aubrey, to stop the larceny. They caught nearly all the Raiders, who were tried by the Regulators' judge, Peter McCullough. The jury, chosen from a group of new prisoners, found the Raiders guilty and set their punishment, which included running the gauntlet, being sent to the stocks, and, in six cases, hanging.

Escape attempts were common. Many prisoners formed units to burrow out of the camp using tunnels aimed towards forests 50 feet from the wall. However, once beyond the outer wall, escape was nearly impossible due

to the poor health of prisoners. Those caught trying to escape were denied rations, chain-ganged, or killed. Another method of escape was to play dead. With such a high mortality rate in the camp, disposal of bodies was a lax procedure. A prisoner could feign death, and the guards would carry him out to the row of corpses beyond the walls to be buried later. When night fell, the man would slip away in the darkness. When Capt. Henry Wirz, the prison commander, learned of this, he ordered surgeons to examine each body taken out of the camp.

Confederate records show that 351 prisoners escaped, though many were recaptured. U.S. Army records document 32 returned to Union lines. It is believed the others quietly returned to civilian life or died in



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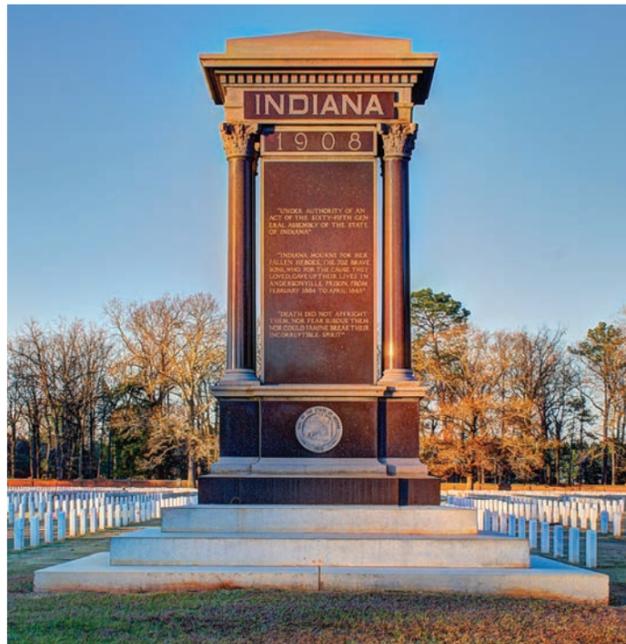
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BY PHILIP SCHWEIER



Throughout the national cemetery are monuments (above) recognizing the states from which many of the Civil War POWs originated. The Hoosier State lost 702 sons at Andersonville. Many of those who died there were buried side-by-side in a common grave (above right).



the wilderness.

When the war ended in April of 1864, approximately 13,000 prisoners had perished during the prison's 14 months of operation. Most succumbed to disease, malnutrition, and exposure. Having failed to provide adequate care for the prisoners under his command, Wirz was tried for war crimes. Overwhelming evidence led to his conviction and execution by hanging in November of 1865.

### THE CEMETERY

Not only is Andersonville National Cemetery the final resting place for soldiers who died during the Civil War, but also a permanent place of honor for more than 21,000 veterans. It remains an active burial place for those who served in uniform. Any veteran who has served in the U.S. military and received anything but a dishonorable discharge is eligible, as well as their spouses.

In 1890, the Grand Army of the Republic, a Union veterans' organization, purchased the site. Its Women's Relief Corps took charge of the property, making strenuous efforts to turn the site into a memorial park. Between 1899 and 1916, monuments honoring the men who suffered and died at Andersonville were placed throughout the grounds. In most cases, the monuments were funded by their respective state governments. They form a prominent part of Andersonville's physical and emotional landscape. Today the site is managed by the National Park Service.

### THE MUSEUM

In 1998, Andersonville was chosen to host the National Prisoner of War Museum, to commemorate the sacrifices of all American prisoners of war. The exhibits share stories of POWs using historical pieces, text, and oral history. Because few artifacts from the Civil War are available, most of the displays contain items from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam – letters and journals detailing time in captivity, and handcrafted utensils created by prisoners during their confinements. The museum features two 30-minute introductory films throughout the day: "Voices from Andersonville" and "Echoes of Captivity." Other audio/visual displays include interviews with former POWs, as well as their family members conveying the emotional toll of knowing their loved ones are held in captivity, and the relief for those fortunate enough to be released and reunited.

According to museum literature, POW experiences connect soldiers of all generations. When William Fornes, held in captivity in Korea, visited Andersonville, he recalled, "A feeling came over me that I had

something in common with these people, and I feel that way about all wars."

Once filled with desolation, despair and death, Andersonville continues to honor the memory of Union soldiers who suffered there, while offering today's veterans a final resting place, and their loved ones an opportunity for remembrance and reflection.



### YODER'S DEITCH HAUS

The road to Andersonville is a pleasant drive along rural roads through Southern farmland. On GA Hwy. 26, just outside the town of Montezuma, sits Yoder's Deitch Haus, which has been serving up home cooking for more than 40 years. Operated by members of the local Mennonite community, this roadside restaurant serves healthy portions in a cafeteria style, with each item individually priced. Selections are varied, and sure to appeal to even the most finicky customer. We suggest you save room for a slice of homemade pie: cherry, custard, pecan, blueberry, apple, peanut butter, and more. But if your eyes are bigger than your stomach, don't worry. Many people leave carrying a to-go box, as well as cakes, cookies, and pastries from the adjacent bakery. And how about some locally sourced jams to go with that home-baked bread?

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# what **DEMENTIA** taught me . . .

## Five Lessons from My Caregiving Journey • By Linda Pounds

*Dementia is not simply a medical diagnosis; it's a life-altering journey that reshapes the experiences of both the afflicted and the loved ones who support them. When my husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, I quickly realized how much I would need to learn about medicine, emotions, planning, and resilience. Reflecting on our 12-year odyssey, I offer these lessons for those who may be embarking on a similar path.*

### 1. EARLY RECOGNITION IS ESSENTIAL.

This was one of my first lessons. Initially, I attributed his subtle changes, such as forgetting a word, repeating a question, or becoming disoriented in a familiar place, to normal aging. However, the signs added up. I am grateful we sought medical evaluation sooner rather than later. Understanding his specific type of dementia, its stages, and treatment options provided clarity and allowed us to prepare. While there is no cure, treatments had the potential to slow progression and

improve our quality of life. Early recognition also opened the door to clinical trials, educational resources, and support groups. Most importantly, it gave my husband a voice in the decisions that lay ahead.

### 2. PREPARATION IS CRUCIAL AND EMOTIONAL.

Following his diagnosis, preparation became necessary. On a practical level, we had to address financial planning, health care directives, and legal matters such as power of attorney. These conversations were difficult but indispensable. I had to prepare emotionally, knowing there would be good days and bad. Accepting this reality helped me embrace the good days more fully and handle the hard days with greater patience. Formulating a plan allowed me to seek help, delegate responsibilities, arrange respite care, and acknowledge the emotional and physical demand of caregiving.

### 3. ENGAGING THE BRAIN IS VITAL.

I learned that the brain, even when affected by dementia, thrives on stimulation. Activities such as listening to music, working on puzzles, or walking outside brightened my husband's days and offered moments of clarity. Social connection was equally important. Participating in a local program allowed him to feel engaged rather than isolated. Although these activities could not halt the disease,



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they created opportunities for meaningful interaction while maintaining dignity and joy. For me, finding ways to keep my husband's brain active helped maintain our connection and eased our sense of our loss.

**4. SUSTAINING THE CAREGIVER IS IMPORTANT.**

Caring for someone with dementia is demanding, and caregivers often underestimate the toll it takes. Exhaustion, frustration, and guilt were common companions on my journey. I eventually realized that supporting my well-being improved the care I could offer. Respite care, support groups, and simple self-care practices were not luxuries; they were lifelines. Talking with others who had walked the same path was invaluable. It reminded me I was not alone and gave me permission to step back when needed. Caregiver survival was not selfish; it was the key to long-term sustainability.

**5. SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE.**

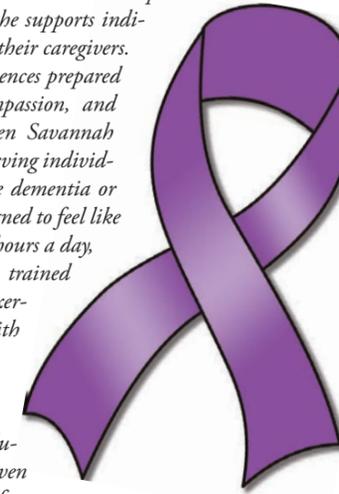
Caregiving often felt isolating, yet support was available once I learned to reach for it. I took advantage of the services, resources, and guidance provided by non-profit organizations, medical professionals, legal advisors, and faith communities. I learned to accept help whenever friends and neighbors offered. This was one of the hardest lessons, but also one of the most rewarding. Every bit of support – whether it was a meal, a ride, or simply a listening ear – made my burden lighter.

**SHARING WHAT I HAVE LEARNED**

Looking back, caring for my husband with dementia reshaped my life in ways I never could have anticipated. By acting early, preparing for the future, keeping the brain engaged, prioritizing my well-being, and welcoming support, I created a framework that enabled me to

navigate the challenges while creating meaningful moments of grace and connection. By sharing these lessons, I hope others facing this disease may find guidance for their own journeys.

*Linda Pounds is a dedicated volunteer at Hope Haven Savannah Respite, where she supports individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. Her personal and volunteer experiences prepared her advocacy for education, compassion, and community resources. Hope Haven Savannah Respite is a faith-based program serving individuals living with mild to moderate dementia or other cognitive impairments. Designed to feel like a social club, members spend four hours a day, twice a week, engaging alongside trained volunteers in games, music, art, exercise, meals, and service projects. With no distinction between members and volunteers, the program fosters connection and independence while offering caregivers valuable time for themselves. Hope Haven Savannah Respite also offers a free monthly support group for caregivers of loved ones with cognitive challenges. Visit [savannahrespite.com](http://savannahrespite.com) or contact Cathy Baxter at 912.231.7310.*



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**COLONOSCOPY FEARS  
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A colonoscopy is a scary proposition to some. Many reasons for this fear are unfounded. Here are some of the main concerns and facts to debunk them:

*"I can't handle the prep."* There are low-volume and split-dose options for patients who are worried about the infamous gallon of prep. Talk with your doctor about the best way to make this crucial step manageable.

*"It will be painful."* Most people sleep right through the procedure and wake up with no memory of it.

*"I'll have a hangover from the sedation."* Patients require a ride home and cannot drive for the rest of the day, but quick-acting sedation wears off quickly. Symptoms of grogginess or nausea are typically mild to non-existent.

*"It's embarrassingly invasive."* Gastroenterologists and their surgical teams understand the sensitive nature of a colonoscopy and do everything in their power to make it a respectful, private experience. They perform thousands of colonoscopies each year, and their focus is clear – finding and removing polyps to prevent colon cancer before it starts.

*Colon Cancer and Younger Patients:  
A Disturbing Trend*

Over the last 15 years, incidence rates of colon cancer have dropped overall. There are various reasons for this, but Travis F. Wiggins, MD, of Gastroenterology Consultants of Savannah, sums up the most important factor in two words: "Colonoscopies work."

Older adults are regularly getting colonoscopy screenings, leading to early disease detection and mitigation of disease severity. However, for people under the age of 50, colon cancer incidence rates have been increasing. The world was reminded of this last month when "Dawson's Creek" actor James Van Der Beek died from stage 3 colorectal cancer at age 49.

"This continues to be an ongoing trend, unfortunately," Wiggins says. "After years of corroborating data, the recommendation for people at average risk of colorectal cancer is to start screening at age 45."

Researchers have not been able to definitively determine why colon cancer rates are rising in those under the age of 50. "We don't know," Wiggins says. "As with most cancers, there's not one smoking gun. It tends to be a culmination of lifestyle factors coupled with changes happening on a genetic and molecular level."

This is why raising awareness is so important to Wiggins and his colleagues. "What I try to make clear to patients is that the recommendation of age 45 is for all people of average risk," he explains. "In the past, if you were under the age of 50 and had no symptoms of colon cancer and no family history,



Travis F. Wiggins, MD

there seemed to be no reason to get screened. But that has changed. If you're 45 and haven't had a colonoscopy, it's time to schedule one."

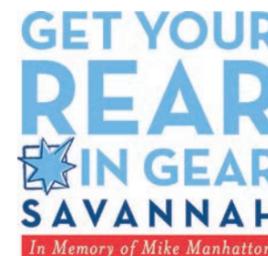
The effectiveness of colonoscopy screening has long been confirmed by the data on patient outcomes. "There's nothing magic about colonoscopy," Wiggins says. "It works because it allows us to find and remove polyps, growths that occur in the lining of the colon."

Many polyps are benign, but some can be pre-cancerous or have the potential to become cancerous over time. "We find polyps and take them out during your colonoscopy," Wiggins says. "It is a unique screening in that way. In addition to early detection of cancer, we can prevent it, reducing an individual's risk of getting colon cancer to begin with."

Wiggins encourages patients of all ages

*Get Your Rear In Gear 5K*

For the 11th year, St. Joseph's/Candler will host the Get Your Rear In Gear 5K Run/Walk at the Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer and Research Pavilion on Saturday, March 28. The event will honor the life of WTOC's Mike Manhattan, who lost his life to colon cancer in 2014.



Get Your Rear In Gear is a nationwide running series to raise awareness of colon cancer, and money for early detection programs and treatment for patients currently fighting the disease. Funds raised from this event will remain in the Savannah area.

This is a family-friendly, no-pressure race. A free Kids Fun Run starts at 8:15 a.m., followed by the 5K Run/Walk. Sign up today at [sjchs.org/GYRIG](http://sjchs.org/GYRIG).



to take preventative steps for their colorectal health. This includes knowing your family history and bringing it to your doctor's attention, especially if a family member under the age of 60 was affected by colon cancer. Management of modifiable risk factors is also important for reducing cancer risk and preventing other chronic diseases. These steps include:

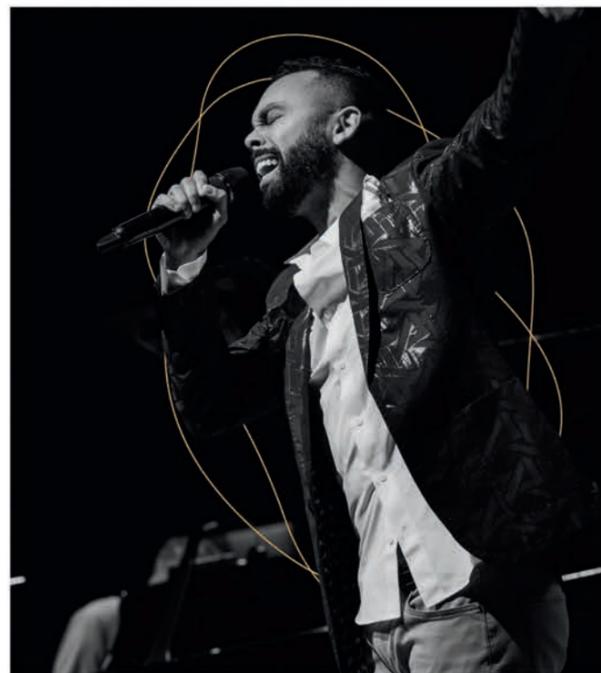
- Regular exercise
- Balanced diet (high in fruit, vegetables, and whole grains; low in red or processed meats and saturated fat)
- Minimal alcohol consumption
- No smoking

Wiggins stresses the importance of noticing symptoms and getting them checked quickly. "Persistent rectal bleeding at any age, unexplained weight loss, or progressively worsening abdominal pain should prompt a medical evaluation," he recommends.



Many patients delay their colonoscopy due to embarrassment, but gastroenterologists and their surgical teams understand the sensitive nature of the procedure and make every effort to address the patient's concerns in a professional, dignified manner.

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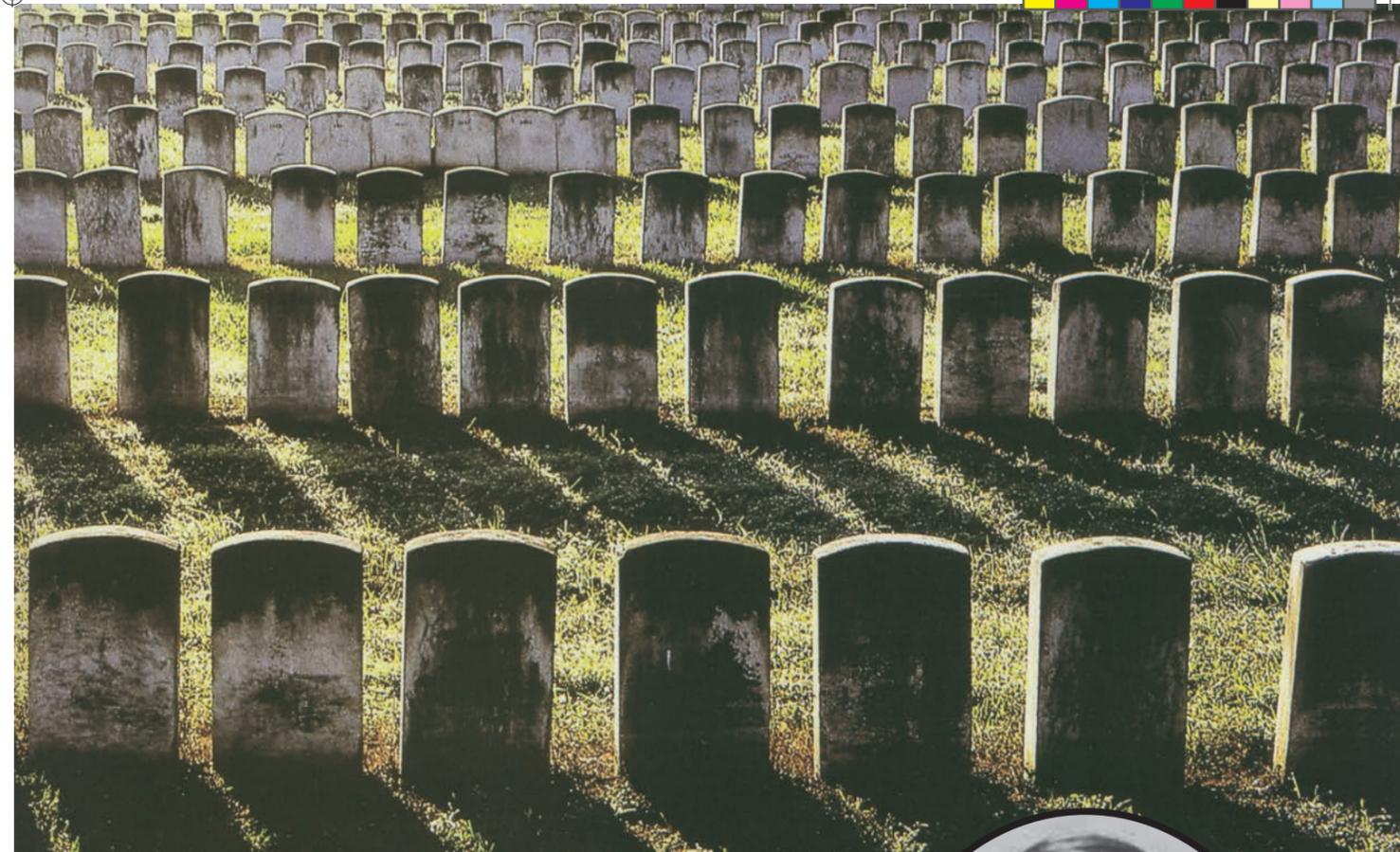
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## DORENCE ATWATER

*He Served • By Philip Schweier*

In 1845, Dorence Atwater was born in Connecticut, where he later worked as a store clerk. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, he was only 16 but lied about his age to enlist in the Union Army, serving in the 2nd New York Cavalry as a scout and messenger. In July of 1862, while exercising his horse in the woods near Hagerstown, Maryland, he was captured by two Confederate soldiers and sent to Belle Isle in Richmond, Virginia.

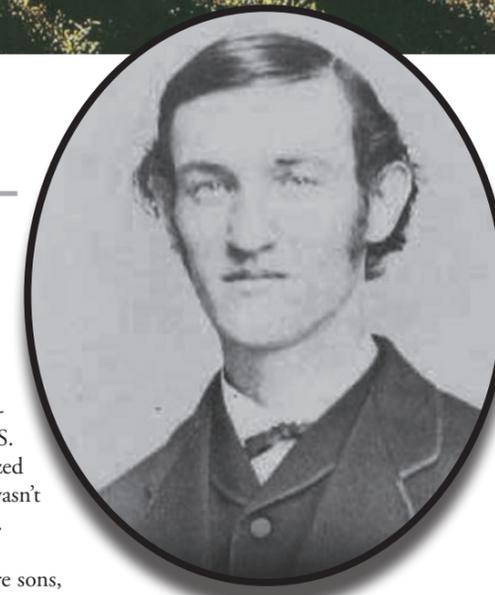
On March 1, 1863, Atwater arrived at Camp Sumter, a Confederate prisoner of war camp in Andersonville, Georgia. The conditions were hellish – no shelter, contaminated water, and inadequate food. Dysentery, scurvy, gangrene, and starvation were rampant. Approximately 50 men died every day. Sick himself, Atwater was hospitalized at the camp.

His clerical skills drew the attention of his captors, and he was assigned the task of main-

taining a ledger containing the name, rank, regiment, and date of death of every Union prisoner who died at Andersonville. He was instructed to produce two copies – one for the Confederates, the other to be given to the U.S. government. But Atwater recognized something crucial: The Confederacy wasn't systematically reporting Union deaths.

These weren't just names. They were sons, brothers, fathers, and husbands. Many of these men would simply disappear – listed as missing, with families back home never knowing their fate. Atwater secretly created a duplicate copy of the death register, hidden among the prison records, knowing that if it were discovered he would likely be hanged.

When the war ended and Andersonville was shut down, Atwater was released to Union authorities. He smuggled his list out with him, showing it to his father and siblings



when he arrived home. But his time in captivity had cost him his health, and he suffered from diphtheria, typhoid, and scurvy. Any one of these diseases could have been fatal, but under his family's care, Atwater managed to recover.

As soon as he was able, he took his list to Washington, D.C.; but, while aboard the train, he learned of President Lincoln's assassination. Washington was in chaos when he

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Many of the original Civil War era graves include a number to identify the soldier buried at Andersonville.

arrived. Almost immediately, he received a telegram informing him his father had contracted diphtheria and was dying. Atwater rushed home, arriving just before his father's passing.

Following the funeral, Atwater returned to Washington, where he witnessed first-hand how military bureaucracy worked. The War Department showed little interest in his list, and he feared the Army would suppress it, or lose it, or that it would disappear into some file cabinet where families would never see it. Atwater had risked his life to preserve information the government chose to ignore.

While working as an intern, he met Clara Barton, beginning a lifetime of friendship. Already famous as a battlefield nurse who'd worked

tirelessly during the war, Barton had established the Missing Soldiers Office to help families locate their loved ones and provide them with closure. Eager to help one another, Barton and Atwater led an expedition commissioned by the War Department to Andersonville in August of 1865. For several weeks, they worked to identify and mark 95 percent of the graves of Union soldiers who had died in captivity.



Clara Barton

Upon Atwater's return to Washington, the War Department demanded he turn over his list. When he refused, the Army claimed Atwater had "stolen" government property – the death register he'd copied. Atwater was court-martialed under claims he had no ownership of the list he compiled while a prisoner in Andersonville. He was convicted and sentenced to a dishonorable discharge and 18 months of hard labor.

Barton recognized Atwater's poor health and feared the hard labor would likely kill him. She lobbied for his release, drawing newspapers and public opinion to the cause. After serving just two months, Atwater was released and later pardoned by President Andrew Johnson.

Finally, in January of 1866, the list was published in the New York Tribune, earning Atwater a great deal of publicity. He and Barton toured the country lecturing on Andersonville and raising money for her Missing Soldiers Office. In 1868, he joined the State Department and was named U.S. Consul to the Seychelles, a chain of islands off

**Edward Jones**  
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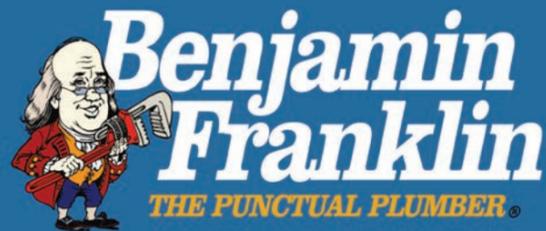
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the eastern coast of Africa.

Three years later, Atwater was appointed Consul to Tahiti, where he fell in love with the sister of Queen Marau, Princess Moetia Salmon. "Moe" was the daughter of an English merchant and had been educated in France and England. When they married in 1875, Atwater took a Tahitian name: Tupuataroa, or "Wise Man." Deeply integrated into Tahitian society, he was a proficient businessman who owned several trading vessels and pearl fisheries, as well as a vanilla plantation. Though Atwater resigned from his position as Consul to Tahiti in 1888, he continued his entrepreneurial and charitable works, earning the affection of the Tahitian people.



**Princess Moetia  
Salmon**

Atwater died on November 26, 1910, in San Francisco, at the age of 65. The royals of Tahiti arranged to have his body returned, the first non-royal to be given a royal funeral in Tahiti. He was interred beneath a 7,000-pound stone. One side is inscribed "Tupuataroa." The other side reads, "He builded (sic) better than he knew that one day he might awake in surprise to find he had wrought a monument more enduring than brass." Princess Moe, who died in 1935 at the age of 87, is buried at his side.



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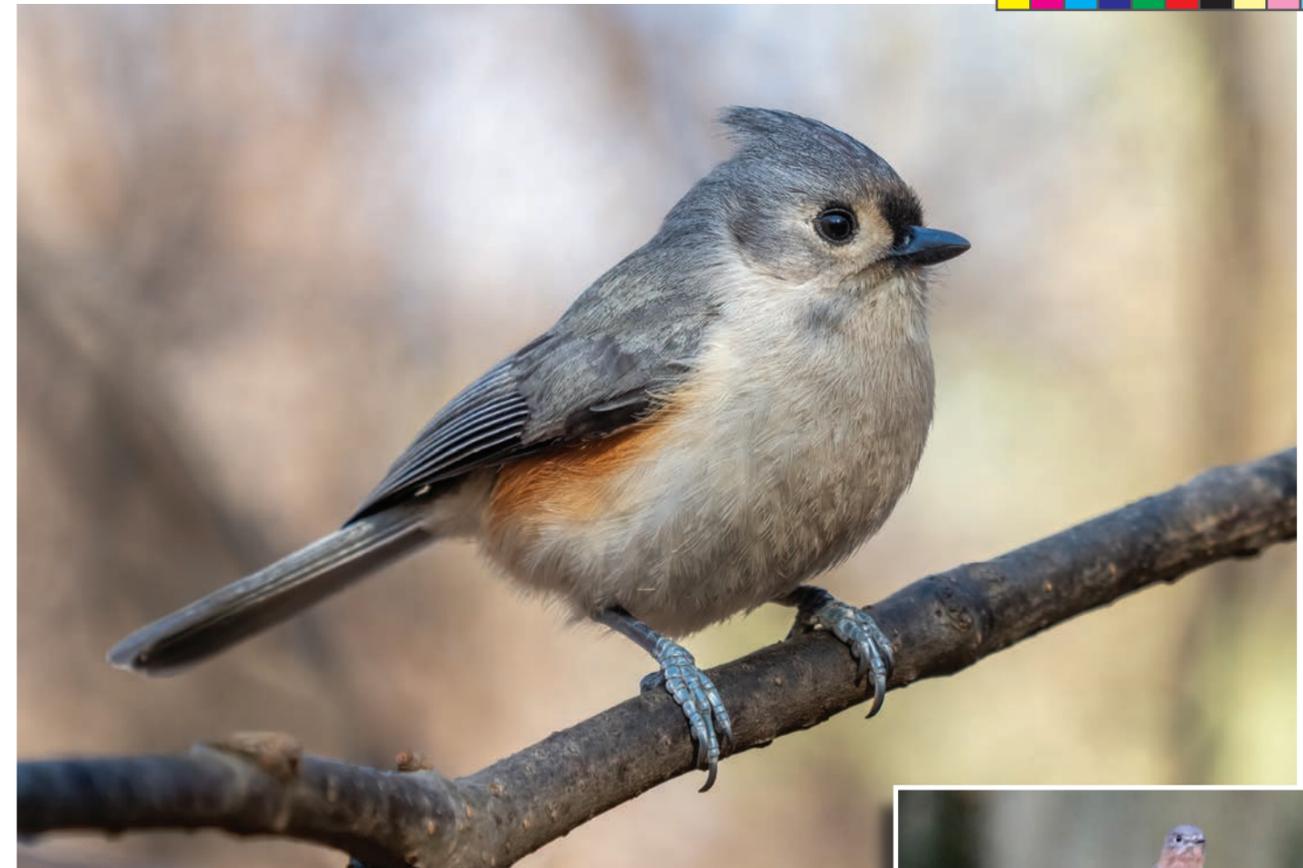
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Some of the birds we see around Skidaway Island include Eastern Bluebirds (right), Brown-headed Nuthatches, Carolina Chickadees, and Tufted Titmice (above).

## FOR THE BIRDS

### *Protecting Skidaway's Songbirds, One Nest at a Time*

Each year as spring rolls in, we look forward to songbirds as they return to Skidaway Island. Many make their ways to Skidaway Audubon's Dave Scott Bird Trail, named in honor of Dave Scott, a retired Navy pilot who moved to the Landings in the early 1990s. Since then, Skidaway residents have volunteered to monitor the trail, track bird activity, count fledglings, and maintain birdhouses.

With sweltering summers and extreme humidity, the wood of the birdhouses expands and is prone to splintering or rotting, demanding constant maintenance to properly and safely house the various bird species. Each February, volunteers check the birdhouses once a week, monitoring the birds

who nest early in the spring – brown-headed nuthatches, Carolina chickadees, and tufted titmice. Sometimes, the occasional bat finds its way into the mix. As the season progresses, Eastern bluebirds start to make their presence known. While the bluebirds often bully smaller birds out of their nests, monitors keep them at bay by changing the portal size and putting up additional houses.

There are currently 240 active birdhouses along all six of the Landings golf courses, as well as many community spaces, including trails at The Marshes and South Harbor. The birdhouses are the cornerstone of avian conservation on Skidaway and important to the protection of the local ecosystem for generations to come.

*By Catherine Kristoff*



A pair of Eastern bluebirds lay claim to one of the birdhouses on the Dave Scott Bird Trail on Skidaway Island.



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Thursday, March 19 5-7 pm @ Palmetto

*Auctionmania is Landlovers annual silent auction of unique and higher-end items, along with incredible experiences!! Proceeds from the auction go directly to the Landlovers Foundation to award grants and scholarships to non-profits and deserving students.*

Please scan the QR code to pre-register (required) for this free event. To bid, please bring your fully charged cell phone.




Catherine Kristoff and Claire Corbin in front of a birdhouse on Songbird Village Trail.

In 2023, Sarah Lucas, co-leader of the trail (and my third-grade teacher), wrote and published Songbird Village, detailing the history behind the trail and information concerning the songbirds of Skidaway island.

Over the last few years, Skidaway Audubon has been awarded numerous awards, such as the North American Bluebird Society's Barbara Chambers Memorial Award, for two decades of educating and mentoring neighbors about native birds and conservation. Skidaway Audubon also earned the Award of Merit from The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., which recognizes the trail for conservation and wildlife education, the highest award that can be given to a non-member.

I started volunteering with the Dave Scott Bird Trail while in middle school, but my story began long before that. As a small child, I helped my grandmother check her birdhouses when she volunteered as a monitor. Seeing the bird population grow year after year has been one of the highlights of my high school years. As I approach my senior year at St. Vincent's Academy, I've learned the value of giving back to my community. Next year, I will train Claire Corbin to become the new monitor for my trail when I go off to college.

I am organizing the Songbird Village Sponsor fundraiser, which includes a Songbird Village Trail tour, a personalized letter of appreciation, an informational fact sheet, and an end-of-season update that provides details and data regarding the birds you are helping. To become a Songbird Village Sponsor, please email [ForTheBirds430@gmail.com](mailto:ForTheBirds430@gmail.com).

*The Skidaway Audubon is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For information about Skidaway Audubon, visit [SkidawayAudubon.org](http://SkidawayAudubon.org). To donate to the Dave Scott Bird Trail, please go to the DONATE NOW button on the website home page and click Bluebird Trail in the drop-down.*

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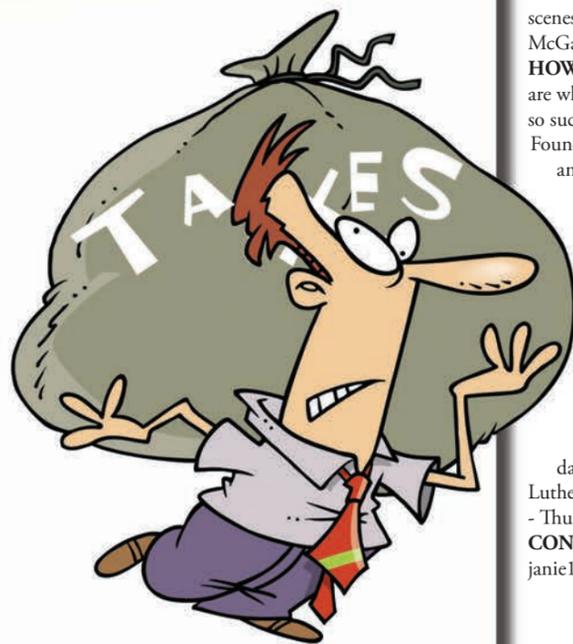
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## TAXATION REPRESENTATION

**WHAT:** Opportunities for volunteer income tax assistance with Neighborhood Improvement Association  
**WHEN:** starting in January, flexible hours from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Several sites in Savannah, Pembroke, Rincon, Richmond Hill and Hinesville  
**CONTACT:** Tiffany Carter, tcarter@niacdc.org or 912.447.5577  
**WHAT ELSE:** This program helps underserved communities by offering free tax preparation. No experience necessary. Volunteers include greeters/screeners and tax preparers.

## FINANCIAL AID

**WHAT:** AARP Tax-Aide Program needs volunteers  
**WHEN:** Training in Dec. and Jan.; Tax preparation starts Feb. 2 for 10 weeks; hours and days are flexible  
**WHERE:** Chatham SW and Bull Street Libraries  
**CONTACT:** Volunteer coordinator John Gerardi, 912.661.8705 or johngerardi@hotmail.com  
**WHAT ELSE:** This program provides free tax preparation for low- to moderate-income families, as well as the elderly and people with disabilities. AARP Tax-Aide saves underserved individuals/families millions in preparation fees and helps taxpayers claim millions in refunds, which can be used to reduce poverty. Tax preparers will be trained to become IRS-certified. Volunteers are also needed to help with intake/front desk.



# island hopping

Please email content to [mail@theskinnie.com](mailto:mail@theskinnie.com).  
 Deadline is the Friday prior to publication.

## HEAR GREAT SPEAKERS

**WHAT:** Kiwanis Club of Skidaway  
**WHEN:** Thursday mornings at 8 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Palmetto Club  
**HOW MUCH:** Free to attend, including any refreshments, which includes coffee/tea (compliments of Morgan Stanley) and occasional pastries from Auspicious Bakery.  
**CONTACT:** Michael Klavon, 912.306.0474 for gate pass  
**WHAT ELSE:** Membership is open to Savannah/Chatham area residents. Visit [www.kiwanisofskidaway.com](http://www.kiwanisofskidaway.com) for more information.

## WHO NEW?

**WHAT:** New Neighbors  
**WHEN:** Visit [www.landingsnewneighbors.com](http://www.landingsnewneighbors.com) to see our calendar  
**CONTACT:** Visit our website or contact Jody at [nnewmember@gmail.com](mailto:nnewmember@gmail.com)  
**WHAT ELSE:** The club offers more than 250 different activities from biking, golf, pickleball, walking groups or fishing to Mahjong, Bridge, needle-arts and Canasta. We have exciting military tours and special events for you to enjoy right here on Skidaway Island.

## PICKUP ARTISTS

**WHAT:** Landlovers Flea Market intake  
**WHEN:** March 12 - 13, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 W. Ridge Rd.  
**CONTACT:** Want to be part of the behind-the-scenes preparation for the sale? Contact Maura McGarry at [LLFMVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:LLFMVolunteers@gmail.com)  
**HOW MUCH:** Donations of gently used items are what makes Landlovers biggest fundraiser so successful. Proceeds benefit the Landlovers Foundation, which provides grants, scholarships, and merit awards within our community. For a list of acceptable/unacceptable items, visit [landingslandlovers.com](http://landingslandlovers.com). For large items like furniture, email [fleamarketintake@gmail.com](mailto:fleamarketintake@gmail.com) to arrange a pick-up.

## FLEAMARKET FESTIVITIES

**WHAT:** Landlovers Annual Flea Market and Auctionmania  
**WHEN/WHERE:** Fleamarket - Saturday, March 14 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 W. Ridge Rd.; Auctionmania - Thursday, March 19, at the Palmetto ballroom  
**CONTACT:** Flea Market: Janie Florenz at [janie1040@gmail.com](mailto:janie1040@gmail.com); Auctionmania: Judi

Threlfall at [judi.threlfall@gmail.com](mailto:judi.threlfall@gmail.com) or Christin Street at [Jcsstreet@comcast.net](mailto:Jcsstreet@comcast.net); To volunteer, contact Maura McGarry at [LLFMVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:LLFMVolunteers@gmail.com)  
**HOW MUCH:** Everyone is invited to drop saleable items off at Messiah Lutheran on Thursday and Friday, March 12 and 13, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## GATHERING GROCERIES

**WHAT:** Drive-by food collection to benefit All Angels food pantry for local families and the homeless who are food insecure  
**WHEN:** Sunday, March 15, 3 - 4 p.m.  
**WHERE:** St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 2 W. Ridge Rd.  
**CONTACT:** Regina Poulos, 305.323.5353  
**WHAT ELSE:** Requested food items include canned chicken, tuna, spam, beef stew, chili, corned beef, canned fruit, individual snacks, granola bars, crackers, canned vegetables, boxed potato dishes, small bags of nuts or dried fruit, packaged boxes of individual snack cakes, and boxed cereal (not sweet).

## DEAR ABBIES

**WHAT:** The Abigails Speaker Series  
**WHEN:** Thursday, March 19, 3:15 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 W. Ridge Rd.  
**CONTACT:** To learn more about the Abigails, visit [skidawayabigails.org](http://skidawayabigails.org).  
**WHAT ELSE:** Coco Guthrie-Papy will discuss building communities where justice and opportunity are the rule, not the exception. Drawing on her work in restorative justice, public policy, and community organizing, she will explore how individuals can channel passion into meaningful, lasting change. All Abigails and guests are welcome.

## AWESOME OSSABAW

**WHAT:** Friends of Skidaway Audubon Speaker Series  
**WHEN:** Thursday, March 19, 4 p.m.  
**WHERE:** St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 W. Ridge Rd.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free for FOSA members, \$5 for guests, payable online or at the door  
**CONTACT:** [fosa@skidawayaudubon.org](mailto:fosa@skidawayaudubon.org)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Ossabaw Island Foundation Executive Director Elizabeth DuBose shares a fascinating overview on the history of Ossabaw Island and the renovation of its famous estate, the Torrey West mansion. Attendees are asked to park in the rear lot. All are welcome. Please pre-register online at [SkidawayAudubon.org](http://SkidawayAudubon.org).

## DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

**WHAT:** Skidaway Island Democrats general membership meeting  
**WHEN:** Thursday, March 19, 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** The Landings Association, 600 Landings Way South  
**WHAT ELSE:** Guest speakers will be Keisha Lance Bottoms, who is running for Georgia Governor; Joyce Griggs, candidate for Congressional District 1; Patrick Daley, candidate for Georgia House District 166; The Hon. Judge Claire Cornwell-Williams, running for reelection as a member of the Recorder's Court Judiciary. Please Email Rosemary Mackey ([rwmackey1@gmail.com](mailto:rwmackey1@gmail.com)) if you need a gate pass. If you need a ride from The Marshes or Thrive, contact Mitzi Toth at [mlanetoth38@gmail.com](mailto:mlanetoth38@gmail.com).

## SAINTLY SUPPORT

**WHAT:** Martin de Porres Society of Savannah Fundraising Gala  
**WHEN:** Saturday, March 21, 5 - 10 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Palmetto Ballroom at the Landings  
**HOW MUCH:** \$150/person includes appetizers, dinner, and dancing to the tunes of the Fabulous Equinox Orchestra  
**CONTACT:** [dorward.tina@gmail.com](mailto:dorward.tina@gmail.com)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Martin de Porres Society raises funds to help underserved children of Savannah. Evening will also include a live auction of three fabulous trips and other items. Visit [martindeporressociety.org](http://martindeporressociety.org) to register before March 15.

## NATURAL FORCES

**WHAT:** The Landings Garden Club Meeting and Program  
**WHEN:** Monday, March 23; 9:15 a.m. social, 10 a.m. meeting, 10:45 program  
**WHERE:** Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 W. Ridge Rd.  
**CONTACT:** Joni, 925.787.9800 or [joni-bro2022@outlook.com](mailto:joni-bro2022@outlook.com)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Greg Freeman, natural resources manager at The Landings Association, shares wildlife challenges he has faced at the Landings as well as other communities in the Southeastern Coastal Plain.

## MILES OF SMILES

**WHAT:** Mile Marker Party on Moon River  
**WHEN:** Thursday, March 26, 6 - 9 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Bethesda Pavilion, 9520 Ferguson Ave.  
**HOW MUCH:** Tickets are \$100  
**CONTACT:** Virginia Zart, [virginia@onehundredmiles.org](mailto:virginia@onehundredmiles.org)

**WHAT ELSE:** Celebrate the beauty of Georgia's 100-mile coast at our signature coastal auction. Savor local cuisine and drinks, experience Southern music, and connect with others passionate about protecting our special coast, while supporting the vital work of One Hundred Miles. Tickets at [onehundredmiles.org/milemarkerparty](http://onehundredmiles.org/milemarkerparty).

## FULL BLOOM

**WHAT:** Orchid Fest, presented by the Deep South Orchid Society  
**WHEN:** Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, 2 Canebrake Rd.  
**HOW MUCH:** Orchid Fest is free with a \$5 admission to the Botanical Gardens  
**WHAT ELSE:** Includes orchid displays, speakers, and classes throughout the day.

## HERE COMES THE SON

**WHAT:** Skidaway Community Church's Easter Sunrise Service  
**WHEN:** Sunday, April 5, 6:45 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Priest Landings Marina  
**CONTACT:** Please visit [skidcc.org](http://skidcc.org) for more information.  
**WHAT ELSE:** Led by Rev. Dr. Jon Hauerwas and director of music Nick Klemetson, this annual sunrise service celebrates the beauty of Skidaway Island and the gift of our Risen Lord. All are invited to bring folding chairs and gather at daybreak in the Marina Park. Coffee will be provided by OVERFLOW. In the event of inclement weather, the service will relocate to 50 Diamond Causeway. An announcement will be posted on [skidcc.org](http://skidcc.org) on Saturday, April 4.

## HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

**WHAT:** The One Hundred Children's Foundation 5 Million Moments of Hope Celebration  
**WHEN:** April 9  
**WHERE:** Palmetto Ballroom  
**COST:** \$165  
**CONTACT:** Tickets at [theonehundredchildrensfoundation.org](http://theonehundredchildrensfoundation.org)  
**WHAT ELSE:** An evening celebrating the OHCF's impact on our community's vulnerable children, featuring a cocktail reception, gourmet dinner, live auction, and entertainment.

## FORE EYES

**WHAT:** 11th Annual JIT "FORE Vision" Charity Golf Tournament  
**WHEN:** Monday, April 13  
**WHERE:** Landings Golf Club Community

**HOW MUCH:** \$600 registration fee includes 18 holes of play for a four-person team, cart, lunch and drinks along the course  
**CONTACT:** Leslie at 931-205-3725 or [leatherly@savannahcbv.org](mailto:leatherly@savannahcbv.org).  
**WHAT ELSE:** Join us for a fun-filled day with great people, special on-course activities, delicious food, awards, and plenty of excitement, all for a great cause. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

## WHERE ART THOU?

**WHAT:** Landings Art Association Spring Art Show and Silent Auction  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, April 14, 5 - 8 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Palmetto Ballroom  
**HOW MUCH:** Tickets are \$5 cash at the door  
**CONTACT:** Molly Garone, [sbc81@aol.com](mailto:sbc81@aol.com)  
**WHAT ELSE:** This annual one-day event brings together dozens of local artists competing for prizes in more than seven categories. Member and cash bar, door prize, plus a silent auction to benefit the LAA's "Arts in Education" programs. Golf carts encouraged; parking will be limited.

## POSTAL PEOPLE

**WHAT:** Landings Stamp Club  
**WHEN:** Friday, April 17, 10 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Messiah Lutheran Church conference room  
**HOW MUCH:** Free  
**CONTACT:** Carl Luecke, [cluecke@comcast.net](mailto:cluecke@comcast.net) or 631.766.5002 for meeting details.  
**WHAT ELSE:** Beginner, advanced, or anyone in between is welcome to join our monthly meeting. Learn about buying, selling, or preserving your collections, and discover different types of stamps from all over the world.

## HELLO, SAILOR

**WHAT:** Basic Sailing Class, sponsored by the Landings Sailing Club  
**WHEN:** Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. plus four hours on the water  
**WHERE:** TLA Meeting Room, 600 Landings Way South  
**HOW MUCH:** \$100, of which \$25 will be refunded if you join TLSC within 30 days.  
**CONTACT:** Angela Margolit, [amargolit@hotmail.com](mailto:amargolit@hotmail.com) or 973.296.8011  
**WHAT ELSE:** Open to all Landings residents 21 or older who are either new to sailing or want a refresher course.

Complete Island Hopping listings are available at [www.theskinnie.com](http://www.theskinnie.com)

ACROSS

- 1. Elgar's "\_\_\_ and Circumstance"
- 5. Instruments with pedals
- 11. Soap opera \_\_\_ *My Children*
- 14. Assert confidently
- 15. Containing iron
- 16. Game cube
- 17. Driver's license info
- 19. Ryan or Tilly
- 20. \_\_\_ Butterworth's
- 21. Molotov cocktail ingredient
- 23. Drifting on the Pacific
- 26. Equine beast
- 27. Like Cheerios
- 28. Urban baseball field
- 30. Left over
- 31. La-la opener
- 32. One might be early or late
- 35. Certain alcoholic beverage
- 41. Bad movie rating
- 42. Retirement planning opt.
- 43. Kidnap
- 46. Half of a dancing duo
- 49. To some degree
- 50. \_\_\_-Chi
- 52. Stylebook concern
- 53. Insufficiently filled, as a printed page
- 55. Kiki, Sandra, or Ruby
- 56. Judge of the Simpson trial
- 57. 14 pounds of maraschinos?
- 62. Author \_\_\_ Harper
- 63. Skin moisturizer
- 64. Kill, as a dragon
- 65. Magazine money makers
- 66. Odorless fuel gas
- 67. Skating movie *Cutting* \_\_\_

DOWN

- 1. Skateboarder's knee protector
- 2. Eggs, scientifically
- 3. NYC opera house
- 4. Aspiring doc's course
- 5. Whacks
- 6. Antietam soldier

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62				63							64			
65					66							67		

- 7. Crickets or grasshoppers
- 8. Hanging tapestry
- 9. Insect eggs
- 10. Covered wagon or prairie \_\_\_
- 11. Confesses to
- 12. Person with property
- 13. Popularly accepted tale
- 18. Spoken aloud
- 22. Dern of Hollywood
- 23. *The Thin Man* canine
- 24. Waterproof cover
- 25. Word with "decision" or "dragon"
- 26. Rand McNally book
- 29. \_\_\_ d'art
- 30. Celestial shadow
- 33. Qtr. starter
- 34. Giraffe relative
- 36. Wingless parasite
- 37. Completely surround
- 38. The smallest of three famous ships
- 39. Small amount of residue
- 40. Agile on the sea
- 43. Altair's constellation
- 44. Tapped without swinging
- 45. Carpenters' grooves
- 47. Streets of Quebec
- 48. Sleep-inducing fly
- 50. Molars, for instance
- 51. Skylit courtrooms
- 54. Took a photo of
- 55. A little force?
- 58. Director \_\_\_ Howard
- 59. \_\_\_ Yeller
- 60. Worthless horse
- 61. Optical organ

Puzzle answers, page 35

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Dr. Saucedo Baza provided some dietary suggestions and referred Sarah to a St. Joseph's/Candler cardiologist, who found no serious underlying issue. The team continued to closely monitor Sarah as her condition improved. However, at birth, respiratory complications required her newborn son to spend five days in the hospital's NICU. Having this specialized nursery and a broad team that provides lifesaving care throughout the entire pregnancy are major reasons Dr. Saucedo Baza chooses to practice at St. Joseph's/Candler.

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