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Barred Owls Come Home to the Bluff

BY CHRIS BRANTLEY EDITOR

Every year around this time, "the Bluff" Barred Owls return to a live oak tree at the corner of the Parkersburg and Bluff Drive intersection. If you spend time walking the Bluff from February thru March, you're likely to see spectators or photographers standing with their eyes or lenses aimed at a large cavity in the tree. You may even glimpse "Daddy," "Mama," or one of the freshly hatched owlets peering from the nest. If you're lucky, you may see "Daddy" swooping into the nest with a snake or some other catch to feed the



Calling All Grads

If you're graduating in 2023 or a parent of someone in the Class of 2023, let us know.

We want to honor all the high school and college grads in the IOH News mailing area in the Summer Issue of the Isle of Hope News.

Please send a hi res (if possible) photo (formal or casual) to chris@isleofhopenews.com.



Early 2023 sighting of one of the bluff owls Photo by Dan Biggerstaff

young ones or the fledgling owlets learning to fly.

Barred Owls typically return to their nest, preferably in the cavity of a tree, every year around January or February. The female lays two to four eggs in the nest. First, "Daddy" and "Mama" Owl set up the nest, lining it with leaves, feathers, and other materials. Daddy also feeds Mama Owl and the owlets after they hatch.

During the breeding season, which usually occurs from February to July, male barred owls woo the female owls with courtship displays, including vocalizations, wing-flapping, and other behaviors. Once they find a mate, the owls stay together for life. So the owls we see yearly on the Bluff are the

same ones year after year.

The young barred owls are born featherless and with their eyes closed. Mama stays in the nest while Daddy hunts for food or roosts in a nearby tree to protect the owls' nest. As they grow, the owlets develop feathers, become more independent, and eventually leave the nest and start their own lives.

Barred owls don't live in their nest year-round, only to breed and raise their young. After the breeding season, the adult barred owls abandon the nest to roost elsewhere. So, you may see them in other places throughout the island during the additional months of the year.

My dog, Harper, loves to chase squirrels.

She rarely catches one, but she has yet to lose her enthusiasm.

The other day I was letting her run around near my house, in the vacant lot, and at St. Thomas Church. Don't worry; I always bag her poop. I promise.

Sometimes, she just stands still and stares for a long time. Then, after a while, I usually interrupt her. But on this day, I got into a conversation with a guy born in Ireland who had lived in Savannah for many years.

He asked if she pointed. I said yes, but I don't hunt. I never really wanted to until I got a hunting dog.

He told me he goes back to Ireland yearly to hunt with a buddy. I asked what they hunted. "Woodcock," he said, which I knew about from reading Jim Harrison books. So we talked for a little longer, and I forgot about Harper, standing and still staring.

Then I was interrupted by a quick rustle in the fallen leaves, a pounce or two...and then voilà, a squirrel in Harper's mouth.

My Irish friend was impressed, and I felt like a dad whose son had scored the winning basket.

Harper pranced back to our yard with the trophy in her jaws. She dropped it, and it



twitched a bit, and when it did, she flinched too.

I sat on the front porch for a while so she could "play" with her prize. Eventually, she dug a hole and, I assume, dropped it in. But it was dark, so who knows.

I finally coaxed her back into the house. Not a bad day on Isle of Hope.



The Isle of Hope News is a quarterly publication serving Isle of Hope area residents & advertisers.

It was started by Isle of Hope resident Ed Yannett in 2011 and mails to 2,400 residents in Isle of Hope, Dutch Island, and surrounding areas.

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Memories of an Island

BY RUTH BRIGHT WRIGHT

Ruthie tells the story of her family's life at Isle of Hope while also giving the history of Isle of Hope's development from colonial times. Background information is given for Bluff Drive houses, island events, such as baptisms on the Bluff, as well as Isle of Hope characters, including Nanny Roberts and Sim Jordan.

How Did Isle of **Hope Get Its Name?**

One source says that the French, who had fled their own country from the revolution, called the island L'Isle d'Esperance, which translates into Isle of Hope. The name of Isle of Hope also meant the place of refuge for many people to escape the yellow fever epidemic of 1876 in Savannah.

There are many records kept at the Georgia Historical Library giving a short history of the island and the people who lived there when Oglethorpe set foot on the land he named Georgia.

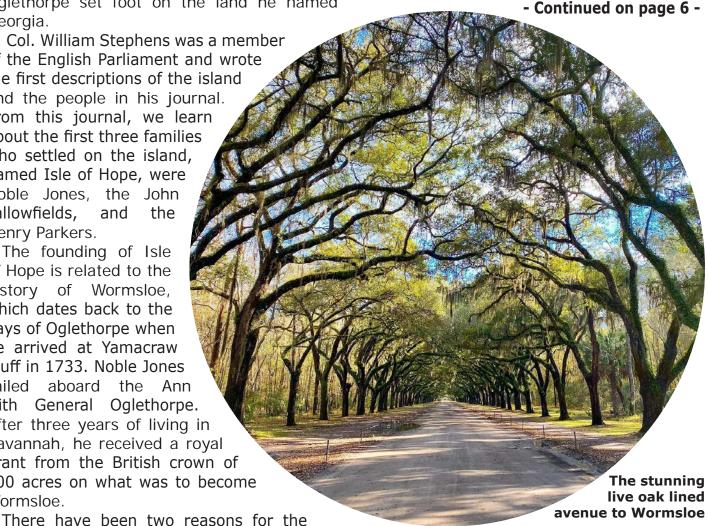
Col. William Stephens was a member of the English Parliament and wrote the first descriptions of the island and the people in his journal. From this journal, we learn about the first three families who settled on the island, named Isle of Hope, were Noble Jones, the John Fallowfields, the and Henry Parkers.

The founding of Isle of Hope is related to the history of Wormsloe, which dates back to the days of Oglethorpe when he arrived at Yamacraw Bluff in 1733. Noble Jones sailed aboard the Ann with General Oglethorpe. After three years of living in Savannah, he received a royal grant from the British crown of 500 acres on what was to become Wormsloe.

name of Wormsloe. Some say it was named because of silkworm production. Another belief is that Jones named his plantation after his county seat in England named, Wormslow.

Noble Jones began building his tabby house in 1739 and completed it five years later. The house was built like a fortress to protect against attacks by the Spanish and the Indians. During the war in 1740 between England and Spain, Noble Jones commanded a company of 12 marines who lived in huts at Wormsloe.

A wooden fort called Jones Fort was also on the property to quard the narrows at the Skidaway



Crabbing Q&A with IOH's Dale Morgan

INTERVIEW BY CHRIS BRANTLEY

One of the activities that folks around Isle of Hope enjoy is catching and eating blue crabs. Some may have crabbed most of your life, but for those of us who haven't, here's a quick primer on recreational crabbing.

Who better to talk about crabbing, then Dale Morgan, Isle of Hope's resident crab trap maker. If you drive down Romney Lane, you'll see the brightly colored traps stacked in and around his house and workshop. You can also go to dalescrabtraps.com to see all the crabbing gear he makes and sells.

What's the best time to crab in and around Isle of Hope?

The best time to crab is very late summer (August and September) especially for good male crabs.

What are the best places to drop your traps?

This is hard to say. All those who crab have



Dale's large crab trap with iron, buoy and line.

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Memories of an Island

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River against the Spanish. Noble Jones and a company of colony soldiers manned the fort with one four-pound cannon. Brig Gen Lawton, as a reward, presented the men with a steel rifle Blakely gun. Today the only reminder of the fort is the tabby walls.

Jones served under Gen. Oglethorpe in the battle of Bloody Marsh against the Spanish in 1742. He was later named coroner, a high post in the colony. His son, Wimberly Jones, later became the first president of the Georgia Medical Society.

Confederate General George A. Mercer commanded the troops on Skidaway Island and when General Sherman began his march to the sea, Camp Claghorn was abandoned, and the camp was moved to an old field near Ferguson's place, a few miles from Bethesda, near an old Indian mound.

From there, they went to Causton Bluff and then to White Bluff. General Mercer decided to move his troops to the mainland after he had heard of a visit to Mr. Waite's house by a number of Yankee soldiers trying to find out information about the Confederates (the Waite house is located on Hopecrest Ave). In December 1864, when Confederate forces under the command of General Hardee evacuated Savannah, Fort Wymberley and Wormsloe Plantation were occupied by one hundred of

Sherman's troops.

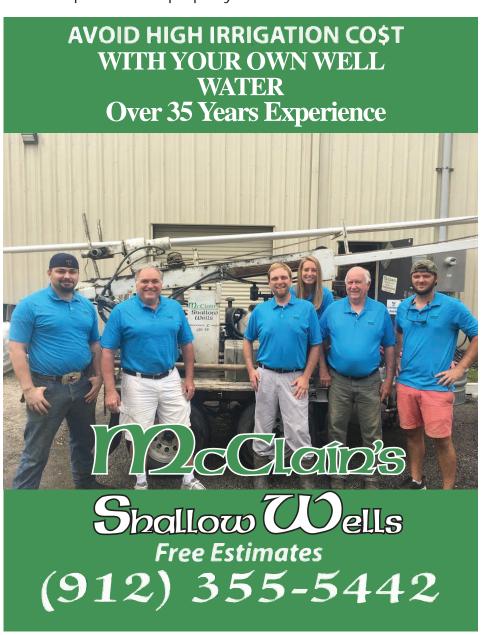
The roadway leading through the arch at Wormsloe was lined with more than 400 oak trees planted by Wymberley Jones to honor the birth of his son. Engraved on the gates are the dates of 1773, the founding of Savannah, and 1913, which marks the year the arch was erected. The library at Wormsloe was the first library in the state.

Direct ancestors of Noble Jones still make their home at Wormsloe. Mrs. Craig Barrow lived on part of the property for many years and this land is still occupied by the Barrow family.

Just past the gates of Wormsloe is the subdivision of Wymberley. Another historical landmark which lies across Cedar Hammock from Isle of Hope is Bethesda, the oldest existing orphanage in America. It was founded by George Whitefield in 1740.

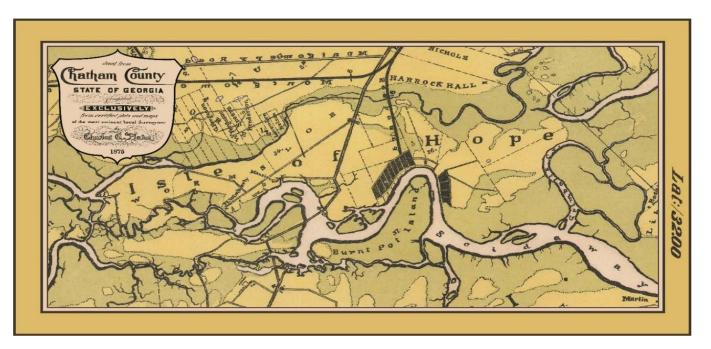
In the next issue:

The Founding of IOH's Churches



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1875 Map of Isle of Hope by Charles Platen from his larger map of Chatham County

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5 Questions About Probate

BY ED YANNETT

What a difficult topic to discuss, death, dying, probate, and wills! UGGG! A will is one of the essential things you NEED to handle NOW before you need it. Because when you need it, it is too late! I wrote this article so you can read each question or topic independently.

It is essential to have a will; we have professionals we've worked with if you need a referral.

What is probate, and what does it involve?

Probate is the judicial process whereby a will is "proved" in a court and accepted as a valid public document that is the true last testament of the deceased. Having probate granted is the first step in the legal process of administering the estate of a person who has died, resolving all claims, and distributing the deceased person's property under a will. A probate court decides the legal validity of a (deceased testator's person) will and grants its approval, also known as "letting probate" to the executor. The will appoints Executors who are responsible for bringing the estate to an end according to the testator's wishes and distributing the estate among heirs. The process can be very complicated, so it's crucial to have an experienced attorney to guide you through it.

How long does the process take, and who can help me through it?

Probate is the legal process of settling the estate of a deceased person. The process can take several months to complete and can be complicated and overwhelming. Fortunately, probate lawyers can help you through the process. These attorneys have experience navigating the probate system and can provide invaluable guidance during this difficult time. In addition, probate courts typically have staff who can answer your questions and help you navigate the probate process. If you're facing the probate process, don't hesitate to seek professional help. We're happy to give you a few names and numbers of attorneys we have used.

What are some of the common challenges faced during probate in Georgia?

The probate process is complex, time-consuming, and confusing. It is often easier to navigate the process with the help of an expert! So, we recommend hiring an experienced attorney. In Georgia, probate typically begins with filing

a petition in probate court. Next, the petitioner must notify all interested parties, including the decedent's heirs and creditors. Then, the probate court appoints personal representative to oversee the probate process. Once selected. the personal representative will inventory the decedent's assets, pay debts and taxes, and distribute the remaining assets to the heirs. Sometimes costly and time-consuming, this process ensures the fulfillment of the decedent's wishes.

What are the specific steps to take if someone dies intestate (without a will)?

When someone dies intestate or without a will, this is what happens. First, the probate court in the county where the deceased person lived will appoint executor to oversee the estate. The executor will then be responsible for gathering all of the deceased person's assets and distributing them according to state law. If there are any disputes over the distribution of assets, the probate court will resolve those disputes. In some cases, it may be necessary to hire a probate lawyer to help with the process. Ultimately, settling an estate without a will can be complex and time-consuming,

but following the proper procedure helps ensure everything gets done correctly. Best advice—create a WILL—consult an attorney!

What are some benefits and costs of using a lawyer during probate in Georgia?

Probate is the legal process of settling an estate after a person dies. If the deceased person leaves a will, the probate court in Georgia will oversee the distribution of their assets according to the instructions in the will. If the deceased person didn't leave a will, the state uses probate to settle debts and determine how to divide their assets. Due to the complexity and time involved in the probate process, many people choose to hire a lawyer to assist

them. A probate lawyer helps ensure that the process goes smoothly and that all probate issues get resolved in a timely way. In addition, a probate lawyer can provide valuable guidance and support during an often difficult time for grieving families.

The cost of hiring a lawyer varies depending on the complexity of your case and the amount of time required. Typically, you pay an hourly rate for the lawyer's time and additional fees for expenses such as court costs and expert witnesses. Some attorneys also charge an upfront payment, called a retainer, that covers the initial stages of the case.

If you hire a lawyer, you must have realistic expectations about

the relationship. The lawyer represents you in court, files all the necessary paperwork, and argues your case. However, you still need to provide information about your case and decisions about how to proceed. Make sure you choose a lawyer you feel comfortable working with and think will get the best results for your case.

If you have more questions or want help with next steps in getting your will in order, contact our team today, and let us help you prepare for the future.

This article is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to provide legal advice or to address all circumstances that might arise. Individuals and entities using this information are encouraged to consult their own legal counsel.

Experience Matters!

With over 50 years of combined experience and a couple of lifetimes living on Isle Of Hope, we know our island and are deeply connected with our community! Our team is proud to have served more families here with their real estate needs than anyone else. So, whether you know someone looking to move here or you have to move away, let us guide you through the process! We are deeply committed to serving and







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Crabbing

- Continued from page 4 -

different opinions. Personally, I like to drop traps closer to the bank. Since the trap has to sit on the bottom of the riverbed, this makes it easier to pull up the traps.

Is there a best time to crab? Incoming Tides? Outgoing Tides?

Everyone has their own preferences, but I like incoming tides better. For the best results, you really need to leave your traps out long enough to catch a couple of tides.

What is the best bait to use?

I use porgie or menhaden. You can purchase some at Southside Shellfish on White Bluff and also Jackie's Seafood on Montgomery Crossroads.

Are there any restricted areas where recreational crabbers can't drop traps in the river or tidal creeks?

There are no restricted areas but you can't crab within 100 feet or so of somebody's dock. It's also NOT a great idea to crab next to or in the middle of another crabber line.

What is the basic equipment that is needed?

For overnight I prefer using the large basic traps, a square 4-hole trap (24" X 24" X 18"). You'll also need a rope, iron and buoy all of which I sell. (See picture of these traps on page 4.)

Which types of crabs do you like best?

Males of course. Save females for future crabs.

RECREATIONAL BLUE CRABBING GUIDELINES - Provided by UGA Marine Extension Center and Georgia Sea Grant

LEGAL CRAB HARVEST

You can distinguish male blue crabs from female blue crabs by looking at the shape of their abdomen or "apron."

Mature male blue crabs, or "Jimmies," have a strongly tapered apron that resembles an inverted T or the Washington Monument.

Mature female blue crabs, or "Sooks," have a broad, rounded apron, similar to the Capital dome.

Immature females, also

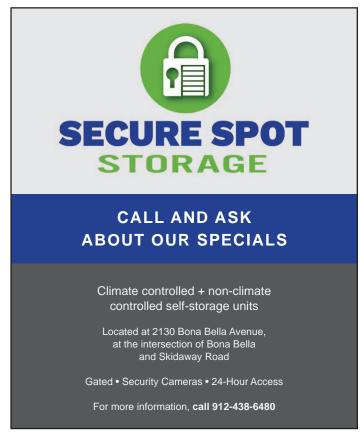
known as "she-crabs" or "Sallies," have a triangular shaped apron.

It is unlawful to harvest female sponge (eggbearing) crabs. Sponge crabs have a mass of eggs on their underside. As the eggs develop, the sponge goes from orange to black in color. Eggs of any color are alive and the sponge crab should be returned to the water.

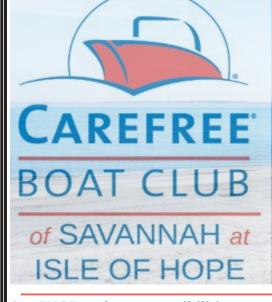
LEGAL SIZE OF BLUE CRABS

It is unlawful to take or possess any crab that is less than 5 inches from spike to spike across

- Continued on page 12 -







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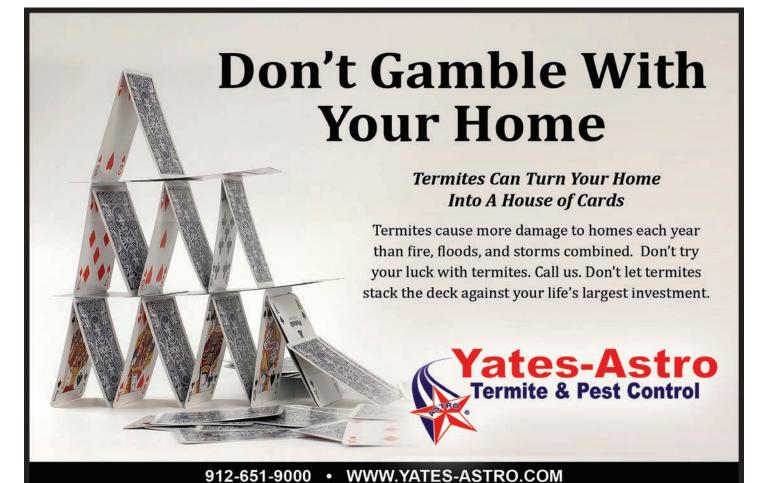
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Blue Crabbing Guidelines

- Continued from page 10 -

the back (other than a "peeler" or a mature adult female crab).

Peelers, or crabs that show signs of molting, must measure at least 3 inches from spike to spike across the back.

BLUE CRABBING REGULATIONS

A fishing license and Saltwater Information Program (SIP) permit is required for those 16 years of age and older.

A recreational crabber may possess up to six standard size crab traps (2 feet by 2 feet) with two escape rings on each trap.

Recreational crabbers may take no more than one bushel of crabs during any 24-hour period or two bushels during a 24-hour period on a boat with two or more people on board.

One and a half 5-gallon buckets full of Jimmy-size (5 to 7 inch) blue crabs is approximately the same as

one bushel of blue crabs. Unless otherwise designated, the saltwaters of Georgia are open year-round for recreational crabbing at any time of day.

CRABBING WITH A CRAB POT Georgia residents and their immediate family living on private docks don't need a license to use a crab trap on their property.

A recreational crabber may possess up to six standard size crab traps (2 feet by 2 feet) with two escape rings on each trap.

Diamondback terrapin excluder devices, or "TEDs," fit on the outer entrance funnels on crab traps. Although not legally required, these devices prevent terrapins from getting caught in the traps and drowning.

Recreational crabbers are required to mark their traps with a fluorescent green buoy bearing the owner's name and address in one-inch letters.









where a trip to the dentist is a day at the beach

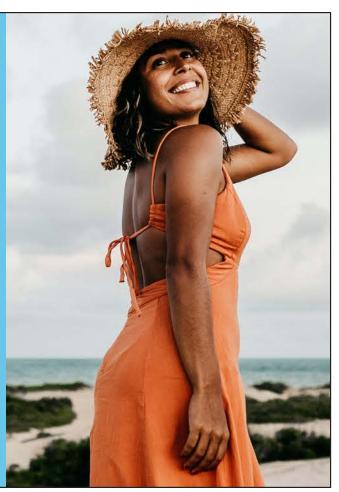
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Thursday, April 6 - Maundy Thursday Worship

6:00pm* -Nursery Provided

Friday, April 7 - Good Friday Worship

12:00pm and 6:00pm* Nursery provided at 6:00pm.

Easter at St. Thomas

Saturday, April 8 - Easter Vigil 8:oopm* - Nursery provided.

Sunday, April 9 - Easter Worship 8:00 am, 9:30am* & 11:15am 10:30AM - Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt

*These services will be streamed to our Facebook and YouTube page

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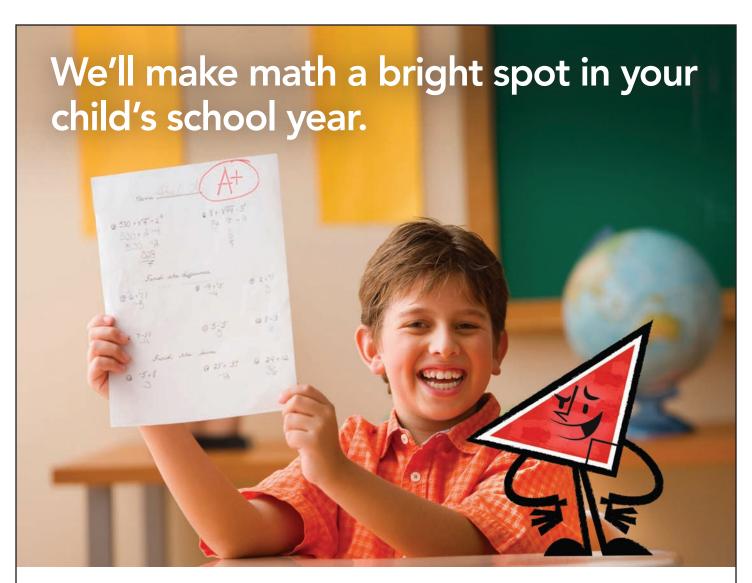
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