

N Jekyll Island Citizens Association NEWSLETTER

--- January, 2009 ---

Thoughts from the JICA Presidents

By Norman Haft and Bob Lelli

The holidays are over and I trust you enjoyed them with friends and family as we did.



We will continue to monitor the JIA contract with Linger Longer as well as to continue to address with them our concerns

relative to the extension of residential leases in order to provide stability and certainty for the future.

We feel it is particularly important to be represented during the Legislative Session in Atlanta and are very pleased to continue our relationship with Pam Davidson as our lobbyist at the State Capital.

It is inevitable that our major national economic downturn would affect Jekyll Island and are truly saddened by the layoff of staff and the cuts required to balance the budget. Nevertheless, we look forward to better days as we continue to enjoy our wonderful Island.

We truly appreciate the input of members of JICA and their participation in the affairs of the Island. You are encouraged to contact Bob or me with any suggestions or criticism that you may have.

Norman Haft

I want to take this time to wish all our members and guest readers of our newsletter a Happy and



Healthy New Year. I do hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends and that you are now looking forward to a much better 2009 with great

expectations. As we all know there is much to be thankful for and especially for the wonders of our beautiful Jekyll Island. The Hampton Inn & Suites continues to make progress in the construction phase, with completion expected sometime in late summer or early fall 2009. The Canopy Bluff development will soon get off the ground and the old Georgia Coast Inn legal issue has finally been settled and that piece of land will soon begin their construction. The island has great potential for the enjoyment of all and we as a citizens association will continue to make sure the redevelopment will monitor sensitive issues and keep in mind that we want the best for our residents, business community and all guests of Jekyll Island.

Bob Lelli

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Payment Status**

Jekyll Island Citizens Association

P.O. Box 13101
Jekyll Island, Georgia 31527

JICA meetings are normally held on the first Monday of the month unless it is a holiday, then it will be held on the second Monday. Meetings are held at the Convention Center, Beachside Hall at 2:00 P.M.

A newsletter is published on the 1st of October, December, February and April. The annual meeting and election of Officers is held in May.

Officers

Norman Haft and Bob Lelli, Co-Presidents
Mindy Egan, Vice President
Steve Newell, Secretary
Dawn Zenkert, Treasurer
Frank Mirasola, Immediate Past President

Executive Committee

Richard Van Iderstyne
Mindy Egan
Norman Haft

Directors Terms End

2009: Steve Newell; Lee Willnow; Dawn Zenkert
2010: Mindy Egan; Rick Hoffman; Bob Lelli
2011: Norman Haft; Richard Van Iderstyne; Larry Waldhauer

Standing Committees - Chairs/Alternates

Communications

Darrell Davidson; Bob Lelli; Richard Van Iderstyne; Ron Willnow (web site)

Logistics

C.J. Jefferies; Dawn Zenkert

Quality of Life on Jekyll

Lee Willnow

Membership

Megan Jeffries

From the Editor's Desk

By Bob Lelli

Some of the more interesting and exciting happenings since our last publication include:

1. MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY "THE WANDERER" - The 150 year commemorative event took place on November 25, 2008 at St. Andrews Beach. The exhibit was unveiled during the ceremony along with Ron Stock, current President of the Friends of Historic Jekyll Island, making some comments and presenting the exhibit on behalf of The Friends. Erik Calonius, author, spoke about his book and the history about the Wanderer. The performers included the The Darien Geechee Shouters from McIntosh County, Amir Jamal Toure' an historian who gave a presentation regarding the Gullah-Geechee culture and Denise White Fields the founder and curator of From Africa to Eternity, Inc. who discussed the Gullah-Geechee history. The program was well attended on a somewhat brisk evening. I recommend Jekyll residents and visitors make a point of seeing this memorial.

2. WILDLIFE VIEWING PLATFORM - This new two-story facility is located next to the western side of the Welcome Center. The facility was dedicated on November 10 and is now open to the public. Nature lovers can experience the vast marsh area surrounding Jekyll and take pictures of Mother Nature at its' best.

3. RECYCLE PARK - Dedication of the new Recycle Park and ribbon cutting was conducted on December 15, with Executive Director Jones Hooks and JIA Board Director Bob Krueger officiating at the ceremony. The maintenance personnel along with Gary Odum (Facility Maintenance Superintendent), Cliff Garwon (Superintendent Landscape & Grounds) were in attendance and received accolades regarding their work on the project.

4. NEW BOAT RAMP - The new boat ramp was also dedicated on December 15 with an official ribbon cutting ceremony. All personnel who were in attendance for the Recycle Park dedication were also in attendance for the Boat Ramp ceremony. DNR representatives were also in attendance and spoke highly of the new facility.

5. NEW ENTRY GATE AT BOOTH - We now have a new gate entry before you enter the island which hopefully will prevent entrance of non registered vehicles. If a vehicle does not have a valid or current decal they will not be able to come on to the island. This will also give further security to the island. To go along with the gate arm which works in an up and down motion, there are also two speed bumps to slow the traffic through the gate.

A Message from Jekyll Island Authority Executive Director

By Jones Hooks

Since I arrived on Jekyll Island seven months ago, the time has flown by quickly, and I wanted to take just a moment to thank members of the Jekyll Island Citizens



Jones Hooks

and friendly reminders, I am grateful.

Over and over again, persons have shared with me how they first came to know about Jekyll or their first visit to this special place. These personal testimonies are important in understanding why Jekyll Island is so attractive, and I am genuinely awed by the responsibility that I have to assure that Jekyll continues to attract guests while at the same time preserving the natural and recreational assets that are the Island's hallmarks.

Thanks also for your personal welcome to my wife and me. Stephanie definitely has established a reputation among many of you as the worker in our family as she has overseen the renovation of our home on Captain Wylly. We look forward to having you visit with us once construction is finally completed!

I hope at the end of 2009 that you and all of us who are part of the Jekyll Island family will be able to look back on a year that will have been filled with pleasant memories, good fortune, and fun times!

Jones Hooks
Executive Director

Jekyll Island Arts Association Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, February 10, 2009 - Convention Center, Beachside Hall - "YOU KNOW ITS COUNTRY" LARRY HUBBARD - Larry was born in rural North Carolina and his roots were enriched at an early age in the sounds of country music and gospel by his parents and his Uncle Jim. Larry has played on stage with some of the greatest stars in country music including Carl Parkins. Larry has written numerous country and gospel songs and is looking forward to sharing them with you. Come and enjoy an evening filled with great music.

March 13, 14, 15 2009 - JIAA FESTIVAL - Please mark your calendar to visit Goodyear Cottage during this annual event!!! Once again, the committee, under the leadership of Carol Healy and Kate Hamer, is hard at work preparing the way for a fabulous show. This event started 33 years ago and is a major fund raiser for the arts association. There will be further information in the JIAA newsletter. Stay tuned.

NOTICE: MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

PLEASE LOOK AT THE ADDRESS LABEL FOR THIS ISSUE WHICH INDICATES WHETHER YOUR DUES ARE PAID UP OR IN ARREARS.

WE WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TO BE A MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF THEY ARE IN ARREARS. TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO JICA TO THE ADDRESS LISTED BELOW:

MEGAN JEFFERIES, MEMBERSHIP
CHAIRWOMAN, JEKYLL ISLAND CITIZENS
ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 13101, JEKYLL ISLAND,
GA. 31527

DUES WILL BE FOR THE 2008/2009 YEAR

FAMILY - \$40.00 INDIVIDUAL - \$25.00

WE WOULD HOPE THAT PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO REMAIN CURRENT ON THE NEWS OF JEKYLL ISLAND. WE ALL KNOW THERE IS ALOT ABOUT TO HAPPEN ON THE ISLAND WITH THE NEW HOTELS, VILLAGE, AND BUSINESS AREA, ETC. PLEASE STAY INFORMED AND AWARE OF OUR FUTURE.

Hotel Corner

By Bob Lelli

The Jekyll Island Club Hotel

This issue of the “Hotels of Jekyll Island” is about the granddaddy of all the hotels our historic “Jekyll Island Club Hotel.” I sat down with General Manager Kevin Runner recently to discuss some of the changes with the



Kevin Runner, The Club Hotel Gen. Manager

Hotel, Cherokee, Crane and the new Hampton Inn & Suites, which will be opening October 15, 2009.

Most people know that the club hotel has a very significant place in Georgia history. The club was founded in 1886 and was once the retreat and vacation spot for some of the wealthiest families in America. Much has happened to the island and historic district since the state took over its' operation. Kevin Runner has been with the Club hotel since December 1986 and has seen some extraordinary changes in all the facilities since then. Some other employees who have been with the Club Hotel since December 1986 are Barbara Casebier (Comptroller), Patty Henning (Dir. of Sales and Marketing), Eileen Powers (Executive Housekeeper), and Sarah Steffan (Accounting & Gift Shops).

Originally the Club Hotel was operated as a franchise of the Radisson Resort chain by the MHM management group out of Dallas, Texas. In 1992 Kevin was hired by the ownership to operate the facility. In 1995 there was an opportunity to get out of the lease with the Radisson

franchise and the operation went independent. Kevin became a partner with the new management group in 2001 and thus the change in the overall management of the Club Hotel. Crane and Cherokee Cottages opened up in 2001 with Crane having 13 guest rooms and Cherokee having 10 guest rooms along with unique meeting rooms.

The Club Hotel has recently gone through some interior renovations, which are very obvious by guests and island customers, who come to vacation or dine on occasion. The dining room has just completed its' overhaul along with the lobby. The ballroom with its' 3,000 sq ft of space will soon be remodeled when there is a window of 6 to 8 months of available time to get the work done. The renovations in all 134 guest rooms consisted of carpets, curtains, tile, vanities, electric fixtures, florescent lighting in bathrooms, flat screen tv's, mirrors and all other furniture fixtures as well as bedding and other amenities. The total cost for all the renovations to date was 2.9 million. So, with the most recent renovations, the Club Hotel, offers to guests the most up to date accommodations with exquisite appeal. You truly feel like the millionaires of old when you walk in the confines of the facility.

I asked Kevin about the downturn in the economy and if it has affected his operation. He answered that the group sales have dropped somewhat by some 20 to 25 %, but not appreciably in overall customer bookings. The most recent holiday business was excellent and the bookings for 2009 are similar to 2008 and slightly ahead of last years figures.

The Hampton Inn & Suites is the perfect compliment to the Club Hotel, with a more modest pricing and the ability to handle hopefully a lot of wedding activity. A total of 88 of the 138 rooms will be suites and hopefully will be able to attract families who wish to stay for an extended period as well as the snowbirds, who winter down at Jekyll. Some of the amenities that will be apparent will be the boardwalk, which will enable guests to walk from the hotel, over the dunes and onto the beach. The pool will be situated in a shaded area, where guests can eat and have cocktails at their pleasure. Kevin was very pleased with the progress of the construction and is looking forward to having an outstanding facility, with many amenities to accommodate the appetite of all guests.

In closing, Kevin wanted all readers to know that the Club Hotel is promoting dinner for two specials both at the grand ballroom and Crane Cottage. Look in your club newsletter for details or call the hotel for more information. Most of all the Club Hotel strives to be a permanent fixture in the Jekyll community and state and will strive to constantly improve for the relaxation of all their guests who choose Jekyll Island and the Club Hotel for a vacation.

The People of Jekyll Island

By Bob Lelli

This issues article about the interesting people of Jekyll Island is about Jack and Pat Overholt. As I have said in previous issues about the wonderful people of Jekyll, the backgrounds and experiences of the residents never



Pat and Jack Overholt

a house in less than 24 hrs. They rented their house out for 10 years prior to moving here permanently, after early retirement in 1987.

They have fond memories about the restoration of the Historic District, which began during their early residence, and Jack became very involved over the next 10 years where he helped to restore the cottages, Faith Chapel, Trams and help make various signs. I would say Jack has his hand print on many items relative to the historic district. Jack also served as VP of the Friends of Jekyll Island, and Treasurer of the Citizen's Association. He served as President of the Men's Golf Association and has worked as a volunteer at the Great Dunes course for many years.

Pat became one of the first docents on the island giving bus and walking tours of the Historic District and working in educational activities with school groups. She served as acting educational director while Leslie Hicks was on maternity leave. Pat also served two terms on the Friends of Jekyll Island board, one as program chairman and VP and the other in charge of the historic writing project for high school students. She is an original member of the long time running Jekyll Singers and chaired the Christmas "Sing Along Programs" for the Garden Club. Pat continues to be a

cease to amaze me. Jack and Pat bring a wonderful blend of experience to the island and their efforts bear that out. Pat and Jack found

Jekyll Island in 1977 after their daughter had a college interview at Emory Univ. in Atlanta. They fell in love with Jekyll and bought

member of both the Garden Club and Art Association and the Jekyll Island Catholic Women's Association.

Pat and Jack also coordinated Elderhostel programs for Mercer Univ. and Pat has taught a weeklong course on Coastal Ga. History for both Mercer and Southern Georgia College Elderhostel. Pat still does bus tours of Jekyll and St. Simons Island and is a docent at the Light House.

Both, Pat and Jack continue to volunteer at the new Turtle Center and are active in the Catholic Community of Jekyll as Eucharistic Ministers.

Jack and Pat are originally from Pennsylvania and met while they attended Millersville University in Pennsylvania, where they both graduated.

Jack served in the Marine Corps for four years and served on the USS Wisconsin for two years. He then served two years at Camp Lejune where he played football and received a number of college scholarship offers. He played at the Univ. of Maryland for two years and then transferred to Millersville Univ. where he received his degree. After coaching and teaching for two years he was recruited by Campbell Soup Co. for their management training program. He also later did graduate work at Toledo Univ. while working for Campbell Soup Co. His employment with Campbell Soup took him to Camden, NJ and Napoleon, Phil. He then worked for Mrs. Paul's Seafood and finally 15 years in Deerfield, Illinois for Sara Lee, retiring as VP of operations.

Pat taught school in Pennsylvania and NJ and when they moved to Illinois taught 15 years and did graduate work at Northwestern Univ., Northern Ill. Univ. and National College of Education. Pat has a life long love of history and spent time attending classes and researching the area before teaching Elderhostel classes.

Jack and Pat have been blessed with three children and eight grandchildren. They spend a lot of time visiting their family in Illinois, Arkansas, and Utah where they spend part of the summer every year.

As you can see, Jack and Pat Overholt are truly representative of the type of people who migrate to Jekyll Island. They truly have a love of Jekyll and are very passionate about its' future. You can always count on them to help wherever they can and will continue to be an ambassador for Jekyll Island.

THE JEKYLL ISLAND WELCOME CENTER SERVES EVERYONE

By Bob Lelli

I recently had the pleasure to sit with Debra Wilkes, manager of the welcome center for the past 25 years. It was eye opening to learn all the Welcome Center does for Jekyll Island visitors and residents. As an extension of the Jekyll Island



Debra Wilkes, Marilyn Krakowski and Susan Maxey

Sales Department the Welcome Center represents the JIA's desire to extend Southern Hospitality to our visitors starting right at our front door. The center provides a pleasant and quiet atmosphere, where our guest's can feel free to ask for all kinds of information. They can browse the gift shop for the perfect souvenir or they can sit back relax and watch an 11 minute video about Jekyll Island and the surrounding area.

Along with Debra, the Welcome Center is staffed with the following people:

Marilyn Krakowski, 11 yrs. FT	Susan Maxey, 4 mo. PT
Sandra Davis, 12 yrs. PT	Yvonne Farrey, 5 yrs. PT
Beth Herrin, 11 yrs. PT	Carol Healey, 3 yrs. PT

The Welcome Center staff is responsible for presenting all the positive aspects of Jekyll Island to prospective guests. This includes lodging, dining, shopping, the Historic District, boating/fishing, biking, miniature golf, summer waves, camping, and walking on the beautiful Jekyll Island beaches. They also assist visitors with any questions they may have, sell tickets to special events on the island and help with reservations, which includes providing a direct phone line to Island motels. The Welcome Center personnel also provide information pertaining to the surrounding areas, such as Brunswick, St. Simons, Darien, and Savannah. They provide a complete inventory of Jekyll Island brochures, area attraction brochures, and state wide brochures for guests as well as providing Jekyll Island brochures to the 11 state

Welcome Centers and 30 local Welcome Centers. For convenience to guests they sell 3-Day, 7-Day, and annual decals year round.

The Marketing Department is responsible for the advertising of Jekyll Island. There are numerous publications, such as magazines, newspapers, T.V., Radio etc. that have our toll free number listed. In addition to greeting 100,000 visitors annually, Welcome Center personnel answer these calls, 50,000 annually, and respond by mailing the vacation planner, which is a 32 page booklet that contains all the island information. They also respond to inquiries generated from their website and maintain an online gift shop. Guests can purchase Jekyll Island souvenirs, books, etc. by visiting the Welcome Center online at www.jekyllisland.com.

In November 2008 a Birding Platform for viewing the vast marshland was opened just to the west of the Welcome Center. This new feature provides a great opportunity for nature lovers to view the marches and wild life.

The Welcome Center is open Monday thru Saturday from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. and Sunday from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. During peak summer season hours are extended to 6 P.M. on Friday and Saturday. They are closed Christmas Day, Thanksgiving and New Years Day. All other holidays the Welcome Center is open. For the convenience of guests, the restroom facilities and vending area are open 24 hours a day.

So, as you can see the Welcome Center contributes every time they talk to someone on the phone and convince them to come to Jekyll Island for a vacation, convention, family reunion, or just a day visit. They contribute every time they greet our guests with a smile, because they will go back and tell other people how well they were treated when they arrived at the Welcome Center. Therefore Southern Hospitality goes a long way when you look at all the ways it can bring tourist dollars to Jekyll Island.

Jekyll Island Web Sites

The following is a partial list of web sites to help keep you informed about Jekyll Island activities.

JICA - www.jekyllcitizens.org

JIA - www.jekyllislandauthority.org

Sea Turtle Center - www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org

Jekyll Island - www.jekyllisland.com

Jekyll Club Hotel - www.jekyllclub.com/events.asp

Initiative To Protect Jekyll Island State Park - www.savejekyllisland.org

LLC Development - www.rediscoverjekyll.com

Tidelands 4-H Nature Center - www.tidelands4H.org

Meet the New Episcopalian and Methodist Ministers

By Bob Lelli

The Rev. Tony Powell (Episcopalian Minister) - Is the new Vicar for St. Richard's of Chichester, Jekyll Island and Holy Nativity Episcopal Church, SSI. Rev. Powell is married and his wife Ann is an office manager for Kids R Kids in Brunswick. They have two children Ben, married to Gennifer Bridges, of Tallahassee, Fl. and Nick, who lives in Savannah, Ga.



Rev. Tony Powell

Rev. Powell received his B.A. in Philosophy from Valdosta State in 1978 and his Masters of Divinity from Univ. of the South in 2008. Rev. Powell's comments were as follows: God is awesome! Ann and I are thrilled to be back in the Diocese of Georgia. This 30 year plus journey has come full circle as God has returned he and his wife to the Golden Isles, where he gave his life to Christ at Epworth-by-the Sea in 1971. He felt God's call while serving as a lay minister at Christ Church, Valdosta in the mid-seventies.

Rev. Powell and his wife Ann married and eventually moved to Central Florida where they raised their boys and served at Ascension Episcopal Church in Orlando. Rev. Powell felt he and Ann have been blessed tremendously and after their boys left for college, he began the discernment process over again in the Diocese of Central Florida. He and Ann knew that God would shut the doors

if it was not meant to be. He is delighted to serve as vicar at St. Richard's, Jekyll Island and Holy Nativity, SSI.

In conclusion, Rev. Powell stated that he and Ann are grateful to so many who have supported them in their journey, especially Bishop Henry Louttit of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia and Bishop John Howe of the Diocese of Central Florida, their Ascension family and scouting family and the new families of the Golden Isles.

Rev. Beau Taylor (Methodist Minister) - Is the new minister of the United Methodist Church of Jekyll Island.



Rev. Beau Taylor

Rev. Taylor has had a long and wonderful career serving the Lord. He served in the South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church as an ordained minister and retired in June 2008. He has an undergraduate degree in education and graduate degrees in Social Services and Pastoral counseling. He completed five years of theology at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He has been married for 47 years and has four children, twelve grandchildren and three great grand children. Beau and his wife enjoy living in Coastal Georgia and look forward to serving his congregation on Jekyll Island.

JEKYLL SEA TURTLE TAG LICENSE PLATES

This is an update from the marketing dept. on the JIA's program regarding the purchase of the Georgia Sea Turtle license Plate. Manufacturing of the plates can only begin after they get at least 1000 paid fees, and only a fraction of the people who said they would do it, have. They have also sent out emails about purchasing the GSTC license plate as a gift. The marketing dept. has purchased VISA cards that you can buy for \$75.00, this covers the application fee, then the recipient is given a paper that tells them to contact the marketing dept. with their information so the marketing dept. knows who to tell when their ready. The VISA card can be used to pay the rest of the fees at the tag office (if their tag office doesn't accept VISA, they can be used anywhere).

The links to pay the application fees are below, but they can also be paid at the GSTC gift shop.

LICENSE PLATE: https://www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org/store/general-items/the-gstc-dmv-license-plate-registration/prod_198.html

LICENSE PLATE AS A GIFT: https://www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org/store/general-items/gstc-license-plate-gift/prod_213.html

For more information contact: Larissa Harris (Assistant Marketing Director)
Office: 912-635-4191 Cell: 919-637-0626 Fax: 912-635-4156



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From the JICA MEMBERSHIP desk...

Those of us who are JICA Board members take pride in the fact that our membership is growing yearly and that you, the members, seem ever more interested in the growth and direction of our Island.

A yearly membership runs from June 1 to May 31 and the cost is going up in the light of expected needs to address critical issues the JICA is facing. At the special board meeting on March 21, the group voted to make annual dues \$40 for family, \$25 for an individual. If you have a question about the status of your membership, please don't hesitate to call me. I may not be able to give you an immediate answer, but I will get back to you ASAP.

If I am not available, please leave a message with your telephone number and I'll get back to you. You can reach me during the day at (912) 635-3301, or in the evening at (912) 635-3357.

Many thanks for your continued support and input.
Jefferies

Megan

Jekyll Island Citizens Association Membership Form

My check for \$_____ is enclosed for my 2008–2009 membership in the Jekyll Island Citizens Association. (Family - \$40; Individual - \$25)

Member		Email Address
Jekyll Address	Street	Phone Number
Other Address	Street	Phone Number
City	State	Zip

Return this form with your dues to: Megan Jefferies, Membership Chairwoman, Jekyll Island Citizens Association, P.O. Box 13101, Jekyll Is., GA 31527

