

# South Carolina Living



## SC RECIPE

## Mardi Gras favorites

## HUMOR ME

## Rebel on ice

# 2021–2022 LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORY



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# 2021 | feb

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South Carolina's not-for-profit electric cooperatives  
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Use this special edition of *South Carolina Living* to  
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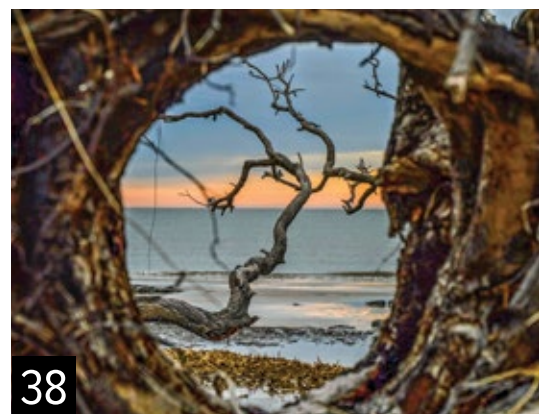
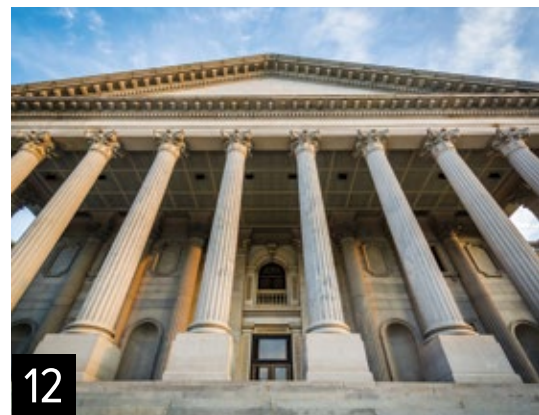
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Walk a mile in Jan A. Igoe's  
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From the  
mountains to  
the sea, South  
Carolinians  
can keep  
tabs on state  
and federal  
lawmakers  
with our

**2021–2022 Legislative Directory.**  
Illustration by Gary Hovland.

# sc | agenda

NATIONAL ENERGY NEWS

## Plugging into electric buses

**MILLIONS OF AMERICANS** rely on bus transportation in their daily lives, and while the vast majority of these vehicles are powered by diesel, electric buses are gaining a toehold as a cleaner alternative for school and public transportation fleets.

There are three types of electric buses in use today: hybrid electric buses, fuel cell electric buses and battery electric buses. Each technology has pros and cons.

A hybrid electric bus uses both an electric motor and a combustion engine. Electricity is generated through regenerative braking to charge a battery connected to the electric motor, which lowers fuel consumption and tailpipe emissions. However, hybrid electric buses are heavier than traditional buses and

**Battery electric buses have no tailpipe emissions, are the most energy efficient and have low operating costs.**

may have reduced passenger capacity.

Fuel cell electric buses have an electric motor powered by hydrogen fuel cells. These buses have no tailpipe emissions, and the hydrogen they consume is a renewable resource, but the initial cost is higher than other electric bus technologies.

A battery electric bus is plugged directly into the grid to charge the battery that fully powers the bus. Battery electric buses have no tailpipe

emissions, are the most energy efficient and have low operating costs; however, they have a limited driving range per charge.

For all electric bus technologies, the main barrier is cost. For example, battery electric school buses can cost up to \$200,000 more than a comparably sized diesel school bus. Additionally, new charging infrastructure is necessary, which adds to the overall cost.

While electrified fleets aren't mainstream yet, pilot projects across the country are proving that electric buses can provide cost-effective and clean transportation.

—MARIA KANEVSKY



**MAKING THE GRADE** Electric school bus programs are in progress in a few states such as Virginia, Maryland and Minnesota, but California leads the transition with a goal of replacing all of the state's school buses with electric buses by 2040—a total of 30,000 buses.

### GONE FISHIN'

The Vektor Fish & Game Forecast provides feeding and migration times. Major periods can bracket the peak by an hour. Minor peaks, ½ hour before and after.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
14	8:16	1:31	2:01	7:31
15	8:31	2:01	8:16	2:46
16	8:46	2:16	9:16	3:16
17	2:31	9:01	10:31	4:16
18	2:31	9:16	—	5:16
19	—	9:31	—	6:46
20	—	9:46	—	8:01
21	11:46	5:31	—	9:01
22	10:16	5:31	1:46	9:46
23	10:46	5:31	3:01	10:31
24	11:01	5:46	4:01	11:01
25	11:31	6:16	4:46	11:46
26	—	6:31	12:01	5:31
27	7:01	12:16	12:31	6:16
28	7:16	12:46	1:16	7:16
<b>MARCH</b>				
1	7:46	1:31	8:01	1:46
2	2:01	8:01	9:01	2:31
3	2:31	8:31	10:31	3:31
4	3:16	8:46	—	4:31
5	1:01	9:16	—	6:01
6	3:46	10:01	—	7:46
7	9:31	4:31	12:16	9:01
8	10:01	5:01	2:16	10:01
9	10:31	5:16	3:16	10:31
10	11:01	5:46	4:16	11:16
11	11:31	6:01	5:01	11:46
12	—	6:31	12:01	5:31
13	6:46	12:16	12:31	6:16
14	7:01	12:31	6:46	1:01
15	7:16	1:01	7:31	1:31

## ONLY ON SCLiving.coop



### Laissez le bon temps rouler!

Before you start making Chef Belinda Smith-Sullivan's recipe for shrimp and andouille jambalaya (see Page 37), we have a little lagniappe for you. Check out her video on deveining shrimp, exclusively at [SCLiving.coop/food/chefbelinda](https://SCLiving.coop/food/chefbelinda).

### Win a golf getaway

Sign up today for our February Reader Reply Travel Sweepstakes and your chance to win a Golfing Weekend Getaway Package, courtesy of Santee Cooper Country, and a \$100 gift card. One lucky winner will be drawn from all entries received by Feb. 28. Register online at [SCLiving.coop/reader-reply](https://SCLiving.coop/reader-reply).

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**South Carolina**

# Rhythms of my grandparents



**MIKE COUICK**  
President and CEO,  
The Electric  
Cooperatives of  
South Carolina

**AS I GET OLDER, I SEEM TO RECALL** more and more memories of my grandparents. When times become turbulent, like now, I particularly miss the reassuring rhythms and simplicity of their habits. These moments were like gifts I received every time I was with them.

As I came to an age of awareness in the rural Upstate in the late 1960s and early 1970s, there was controversy swirling in Washington, a war in Southeast Asia, and sometimes violent unrest over civil rights. But my grandparents' homes and farms were havens from this turmoil and the fears that grew out of it.

My mom's dad was a truck farmer. I particularly enjoyed two of his crops—watermelons and tomatoes. He pulled me into his operations. As he unloaded his trailer full of melons, I was tasked with washing them off and sorting them: Cannonballs, Sugar Babies and Charleston Greys. I culled the smallest Cannonballs from those to be sold and stacked them in the cool crawlspace under his house.

During summer's hot days, my granddaddy had me fetch a couple of the "rejects." Armed with his Old Timer pocketknife and a saltshaker, he would join us in the shade of an oak tree. With juice-smeared faces, we would lean against its trunk and look at clouds passing by.

In my memory, his tomatoes are unrivaled—one slice big enough to cover your piece of white loaf bread. To each his own taste, but to this day I swear by salt, pepper and a lot of Duke's mayonnaise.

My dad's mom raised and cooked for nine children on a farm in the Upstate. It is said that she could go from hoeing cotton to baking biscuits in the blink of an eye. She apparently got used to cooking for nearly a dozen family members because as I came along, there were always leftovers warming in the oven. Family lore is that oven was never empty between lunchtime and bedtime. I loved the fried chicken I found in there.

My favorite spot in her kitchen was the "pie drawer." It was just a regular drawer—one where you might store aluminum foil, wax paper and Saran wrap. But for us grandkids, it was the treasure chest where leftover biscuits and sweet potato pies were to be found. Like magic, the drawer never seemed to be empty.

Spending the night with either set of grandparents

**Inevitably, they discovered their own secrets of simple living that gave them joy, whether in the kitchen or in the field.**

was a special experience every time. At my dad's parents, through open windows, we were treated to a nighttime orchestra of tree frogs, whippoorwills and other night creatures. You'd also hear the cadence of my grandmother's rocking chair and her low hum, as her favorite hymn emerged from her chest and settled in her throat.

At my mom's parents' home, I knew the day was over when my grandfather shut off the lights and sank to his knees by his bed. I could not hear all of his conversation with his maker, but occasionally my name was mentioned.

These memories of my grandparents really resonate with me now—how they grew up and what they left behind. They came of age early in the 20th century. They lived through the Spanish Flu epidemic, the boll weevil, World Wars I & II and the Great Depression. Inevitably, they discovered their own secrets of simple living that gave them joy, whether in the kitchen or in the field.

As I sometimes wrestle with my pillow when going to sleep now, I might try to listen for the "chink-chink-chink" of my grandfather's hoe as he worked grass out of his row crops. Sweat drenched, tobacco juice running out of both corners of his mouth (he was a levelheaded man), he would sometimes pause and do a quick 360-degree inventory of all that was around him. Satisfied that all was OK, and that he was OK, he would start his music again: "chink-chink-chink."

I'm sure you've got your own memories and stories about your grandparents that, like magic, bring you joy when you think about them. In these turbulent times, I encourage you to reflect on those memories and find peace in the rhythms of their simplicity, reassurance and love.

It will be another one of those gifts from them that will always be there.



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# Kitchen appliance upgrades

BY PATRICK KEEGAN AND BRAD THIESSEN

**Q** My husband and I just bought a home that was built in the 1970s. The kitchen appliances are so old that they may be originals, but we only have enough money for one appliance upgrade. Which appliance replacement will help reduce our energy bills the most?

**A** You're smart to consider energy use as you look at replacing appliances because most new appliances use much less energy than they did in the past. Manufacturers have found innovative ways to reduce appliance energy use without sacrificing performance. The federal government began tightening appliance standards in the 1980s and has continued as technological innovations have become more cost-effective.

It may seem like the oldest appliance should go first, especially if you want the looks and features of a newer oven or dishwasher. But the appliance replacement most likely to produce the greatest energy savings is your refrigerator.

An older fridge can cost about \$20 to run every month. Replacing an old fridge with a new Energy Star-rated model can cut that down to less than \$5 a month. The Energy Star label certifies that the appliance has been tested to federal government standards and proven to use substantially less electricity than comparable models.

New refrigerators will include an additional label, the Energy Guide label, which shows how much energy it uses annually and compares that to the most and least efficient models available. It's also possible to measure how much energy your fridge is using with a kilowatt-hour meter. Energy auditors use these meters to measure energy use for common household appliances.

When you're looking to replace an old fridge, style counts. A top-freezer setup is



SCOTT VAN OSDEL

Resist the urge to keep the old fridge in the basement or garage—that won't help you reduce your energy use.

the most efficient, while a lower-freezer unit offers medium savings, and a side-by-side style is the least energy efficient.

If your goal is to save money on your energy bill, resist the urge to keep the old fridge in the basement or garage—that won't help you reduce your energy use. An old fridge in an uninsulated garage on a hot summer day can use a lot of energy. Maybe you just need more freezer space. If so, we recommend the most efficient freezer you can find. You can find recommendations on [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov).

If your current fridge is in good condition, another appliance you may want to consider upgrading is the dishwasher. With most of us spending more time at home these days, chances are you're using your dishwasher more than you used to.

As with any major purchase, be sure

## ◀ BIGGEST BANG FOR YOUR UPGRADE BUCK

Replacing an old fridge with an Energy Star-rated model can cut the monthly cost to operate from \$20 to less than \$5 a month.

▼ **MONEY MATTERS** The Energy Guide label provides important information for comparing the annual energy use of appliances.



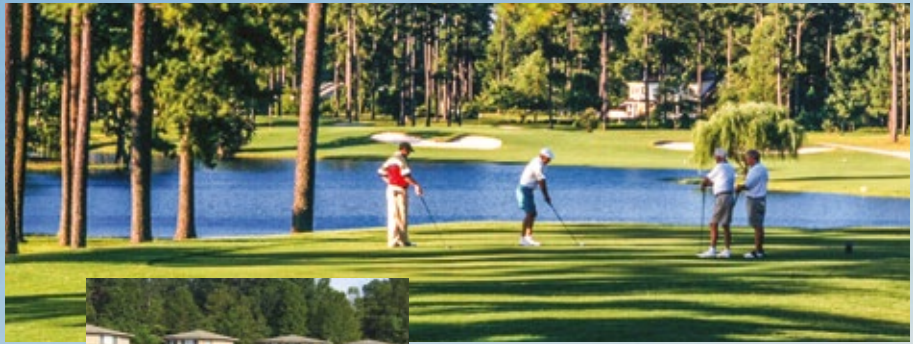
to read customer reviews for any brands and models you're considering, and look for additional opportunities to save money, like an upcoming Presidents Day appliance sale. ☺

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# What happens now?

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

**Co-ops seek to protect utility consumers as the General Assembly debates what to do about Santee Cooper**

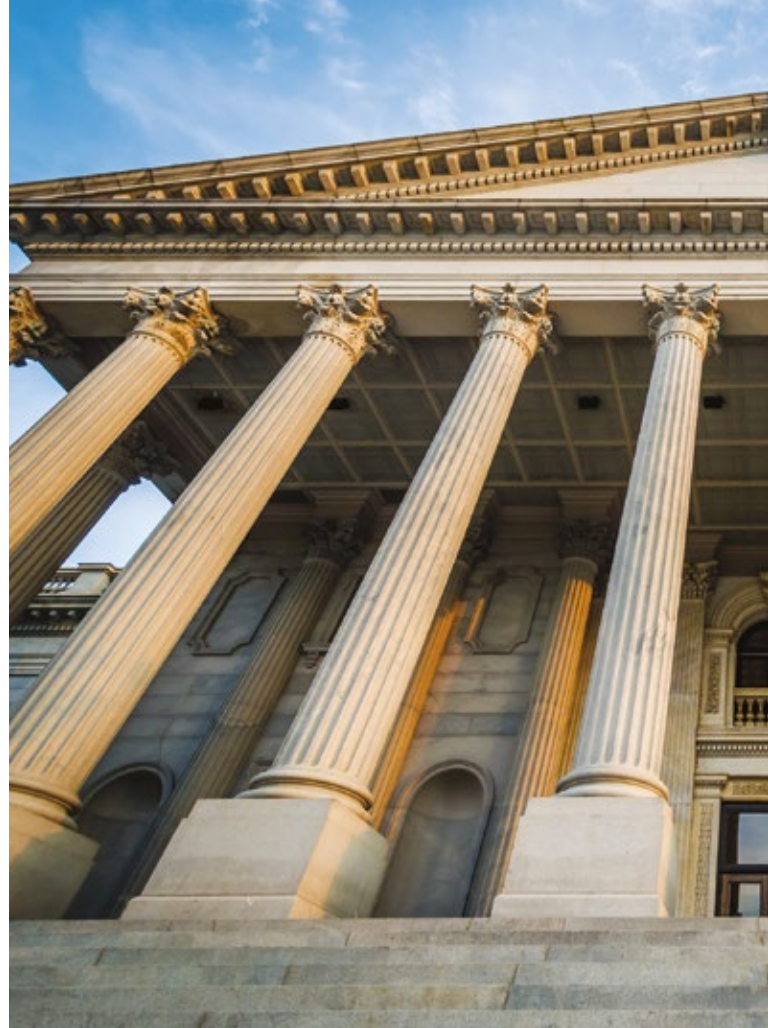
**D**etermining the future of Santee Cooper has been a challenge for South Carolina's General Assembly for the past four years.

Although the state-owned utility's fate is still being examined and debated by legislators, there is consensus for change. State senators, House members and ratepayers—including those served by the state's electric cooperatives—want to make Santee Cooper a better, more accountable utility and prevent poor decisions from happening in the future. Whether that change results in another energy company purchasing Santee Cooper is still to be determined. However, lawmakers have already pushed the utility to work on consequential reforms.

As the march toward a changed Santee Cooper continues in earnest in the 2021 legislative session, South Carolina's electric cooperatives want to protect their members, whether that means reforming or changing ownership of the utility that has supplied power for 80 years. Cooperative members make up 70% of Santee Cooper's load so their voices should be heard throughout ongoing and future discussions.

## How we got here

The impetus for the change is, of course, the failed nuclear project at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station in Fairfield County. Santee Cooper and South Carolina Electric & Gas (SCE&G) invested \$9 billion in the construction of two nuclear reactors that were supposed to provide South



**Although the state-owned utility's fate is still being examined and debated by legislators, there is consensus for change. State senators, House members and ratepayers—including those served by the state's electric cooperatives—want to make Santee Cooper a better, more accountable utility.**

Carolina consumers with carbon dioxide-free energy for decades to come.

Instead, the project ran way behind schedule and well over budget, forcing the two homegrown utilities to abandon it in 2017 before things got worse. (A similar project at Georgia Power's Vogtle Electric Generating Plant is currently twice its projected budget and running five years late).

Santee Cooper and SCE&G were left with lawsuits, criminal investigations and massive debt, while their consumers were saddled with the high costs of building a nuclear power facility without the benefit of any of its energy. Audits, hearings in both chambers of the General Assembly and investigative reporting by the state's two largest newspapers revealed deceptive practices by SCE&G corporate executives and a lack of oversight by Santee Cooper, despite the project's continually missed benchmarks.





At the beginning of 2019, Virginia-based Dominion Energy purchased SCE&G's parent company, SCANA, and absorbed its debts. As the South Carolina General Assembly began the 2019 regular legislative session, they focused on what to do with Santee Cooper, and how to protect the two million consumers—served directly and through electric cooperatives—from the initial \$4 billion nuclear debt, which increases daily.

In March of that year, Senate President Harvey Peeler introduced legislation to explore the sale of Santee Cooper. It was a move championed in the House but met with resistance in the Senate. The resolution was adopted and became Act 95, adding language to also seek a reform proposal from Santee Cooper and a management proposal from interested entities along the way to becoming law. The process, managed by the Department of Administration (DOA), began in August 2019.

DOA reported recommendations to lawmakers the following February that included a management proposal from Dominion Energy and a bid to purchase from Florida-based

**NextEra's original bid to purchase Santee Cooper would have eliminated the utility's debts, but it projected rates slightly higher than Santee Cooper's reform plan rates. The proposal also didn't fully fund Santee Cooper's long-term liabilities, such as pension plans and health care costs for its retirees.**

NextEra Energy. The management option was quickly rejected by both chambers since it offered no plan beyond Santee Cooper's own reforms to reduce the utility's debt.

While lawmakers rejected both the NextEra initial offer to purchase and Santee Cooper's initial plan to reform, there was interest among the members of the General Assembly in improving the two proposals.

NextEra's original bid to purchase would have eliminated Santee Cooper's debts, but it projected rates slightly higher than Santee Cooper's reform plan rates. The proposal also didn't fully fund Santee Cooper's long-term liabilities, such as pension plans and health care costs for its retirees.

Perhaps the largest concern expressed by lawmakers was NextEra's request for a pre-approved spending plan that would allow them to build electricity generators without going through the regulatory process. While the proposed solar and gas projects were not necessarily controversial on their own, access to such a regulatory loophole seemed too much like the controversial Base Load Review Act to members of the General Assembly.

Passed in 2007 when the state appeared headed toward energy demand shortages and higher regulatory costs tied to coal-fueled resources, the Base Load Review Act allowed utilities to raise rates to pay for nuclear reactors while they were under construction. The law is seen as one of the primary reasons for the nuclear debacle.

In 2020, the Senate gave Santee Cooper more time to improve on its reform plan. In its original submission, the plan pledged to reduce Santee Cooper's workforce by nearly 10% through attrition, pay off the nuclear debt over a 12-year period and increase oversight of future projects. The utility also pledged to reduce its proportion of coal-fueled power production from 52% to 33% and more than triple its renewable resources mix without large capital spending.

Throughout this journey, electric cooperative leaders have encouraged a deliberative process toward finding the best solution for Santee Cooper ratepayers. While these efforts are not finished, the events of the past two years have helped reveal the kinds of changes that are needed at the state-owned utility and have resulted in a focus on producing a Santee Cooper which is optimized, reformed and increasingly accountable. ►►

**Santee Cooper and SCE&G were left with lawsuits, criminal investigations and massive debt, while their consumers were saddled with the high costs of building a nuclear power facility without the benefit of any of its energy.**

**While the General Assembly debates the future of Santee Cooper, South Carolina's member-owned electric cooperatives are committed to remaining a voice for consumers and ratepayers, a role they are uniquely situated to fulfill.**

The pandemic forced the legislature to delay an ultimate decision on Santee Cooper, which leaders intend to accomplish by the end of the 2021 session. In the interim, Santee Cooper has settled a series of lawsuits, bringing into clearer focus projected finances and rate structures in the near future.

In July 2020, former state Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Toal, who was assigned to oversee litigation surrounding Santee Cooper, approved a \$520 million settlement with its ratepayers. The deal required a freeze on Santee Cooper's rates for the next four years and disbursements to the consumers—including electric cooperative members. Ratepayers received those checks at the end of 2020.

A litigation settlement with contractor Westinghouse Electric Corporation last fall will allow Santee Cooper to receive most of the profits from selling the abandoned project's leftover parts. A \$2 million deal with holders of Santee Cooper mini-bonds was also reached, ending one of the last lawsuits the utility faced following the failed project. In November, Santee Cooper refinanced its existing debt with a \$638 million bond deal that it claims will save ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars. The deal also includes \$100 million in new debt for capital projects.

## Reform agenda

The South Carolina Legislature seems intent on fulfilling its promise to determine the future of Santee Cooper, preferably soon.

The General Assembly began the 124th legislative session with three working subcommittees focused on the issue, one in the House and two in the Senate. Both the House Ways and Means Committee's Santee Cooper Oversight Subcommittee and the Senate Finance Committee's Santee Cooper Review and Policy Subcommittee were created with the stated intent from their chairs to bring the utility's uncertain future to a resolution this year, either with a sale or reform.

The Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Oversight of Santee Cooper, which was created during the last legislative session, has thus far focused on vetting NextEra and its potential bid to purchase. However, members of the subcommittee have expressed a desire to eventually channel their efforts toward Santee Cooper reform.

While these evaluations are taking place, South Carolina's member-owned electric cooperatives are committed to



**Cooperatives are proposing to lawmakers a layered approach for immediate reform at Santee Cooper, a combination of enhanced information, prioritizing consumers and increased oversight.**

remaining a voice for consumers and ratepayers as the process moves forward, a role they are uniquely situated to fulfill.

“Cooperatives are proposing to lawmakers a layered approach for immediate reform at Santee Cooper, a combination of enhanced information, prioritizing consumers and increased oversight,” says Mike Couick, president and CEO of the state trade association for electric cooperatives.

Cooperatives have offered these specific proposals:

**PRIORITIZE CONSUMERS.** Electric cooperative leaders have encouraged lawmakers to use the opportunity of reforming Santee Cooper to prioritize the interests of both its retail and wholesale consumers in their board room.

Currently, a Santee Cooper board member is obligated to act in the best interest of the utility by balancing two needs—economic development and the financial integrity of Santee Cooper and its ongoing operations. However, consumer interests—those of both direct-serve and wholesale consumers—should carry equal weight, says Couick.





PHOTO COURTESY OF HIGH FIVER © 2020

Santee Cooper is now attempting to sell unused construction material stored at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station.

When the construction of two nuclear reactors at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station was announced way back in 2008, it took about nine years to design, begin building and then abandon the incomplete project. We are now entering our fourth year of recovery from that failure.

“The financial integrity of Santee Cooper, appropriate investments in facilities and the promotion of economic development are laudable goals,” says Couick. “But we believe customer interests should carry equal weight, especially since cooperative members represent two-thirds of the utility’s electricity demand and have a massive stake in its outcome.”

**REGULATORY OVERSIGHT.** Electric cooperatives would also like to see state regulators take an increased role in the oversight of the state-owned utility by requiring Santee Cooper to go before the Public Service Commission before building any new, major power production facilities. Santee Cooper’s retail rate process should allow interested parties to intervene and provide information about the allocation of costs between rate classes. State regulators should also be able to take a more active role in evaluating proposals for investments.

**LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT.** Santee Cooper is ultimately accountable to the General Assembly. Due to the nature of Santee Cooper’s structure, its bond-centric financing and the obligations that come with it, there are limits to standard regulatory authority, making legislative oversight crucial. Cooperatives suggest the State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee (PURC)—created by the legislature with both legislator and public members—conduct an annual performance review of each member of the Santee Cooper Board of Directors, evaluate the actions of the board as a whole, and submit those evaluations to the General Assembly.

“What body performs legislative oversight is less important

than the manner in which the oversight is performed,” asserts Couick. “For oversight to be effective, goals and benchmarks should be well defined, reviewed annually, and there should be accountability for failure to meet them. The stakeholders should be allowed to participate, and there should be input from independent expertise similar to what’s available through the Office of Regulatory Staff.”

**A BETTER INFORMED BOARD.** Santee Cooper board members should be privy to all current information and perspectives when making decisions that will impact their ratepayers. That is why cooperatives are advocating for two additional ex-officio seats on the Santee Cooper board that would be occupied by current trustees of Central Electric Power Cooperative, the wholesale power purchaser for South Carolina’s 20 local distribution cooperatives. Central trustees consist of the CEO and a board member of each distribution cooperative.

### Next steps

If the General Assembly decides on additional consideration of a sale or management bids, cooperatives have advocated that they should have at least as much involvement in that process as they did in the Act 95 process, when Central participated in negotiations with potential buyers and Santee Cooper. The events of the past two years have led to significant changes since those negotiations ended, making them obsolete.

“From the beginning, we’ve advocated for fair and deliberate analysis of Santee Cooper and its future,” says Couick. “The journey so far has been educational, to say the least. I’m hopeful that we can put that data to good use.”

When the construction of two nuclear reactors at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station was announced way back in 2008, it took about nine years to design, begin building and then abandon the incomplete project. We are now entering our fourth year of recovery from that failure.

We don’t know how much longer recovery will take, but electric cooperatives appreciate and applaud the General Assembly’s determined and consistent march forward. A positive consensus is building that ratepayer focus, enhanced oversight and accountability are needed for that recovery to occur. ☺

# 2021-2022 LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORY

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## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Each legislator's name is followed by his or her district number and the counties he or she serves, along with contact information.

State Senate and House offices are on the State Capitol grounds. State Senate offices are in the Gressette Building. State House offices are in the Blatt Building.

*All information is current as of Jan. 20, 2021, but is subject to change without notice.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We extend our grateful appreciation to South Carolina lawmakers for their cooperation in the creation of this directory.



### NEED REPRINTS?

Due to overwhelming demand for this directory issue, *South Carolina Living* can only supply a limited number of extra copies for schools and

civic groups. To request additional copies or download a free PDF version, visit [SCLiving.coop/2021-2022-legislative-guide](http://SCLiving.coop/2021-2022-legislative-guide).

## The Co-op Commitment

**ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES HAVE SERVED** the people of South Carolina for over 80 years. From their beginnings as small companies formed and owned by the members they serve to their role today as leaders in economic development, community involvement and industry innovation, each of South Carolina's not-for-profit electric cooperatives has been guided by seven basic principles:

- ▶ Voluntary and open membership
- ▶ Democratic member control
- ▶ Members' equitable economic participation
- ▶ Autonomy and independence of each cooperative
- ▶ Education, training and information for the public, members and opinion leaders
- ▶ Cooperation between cooperatives
- ▶ Concern for community

The energy challenges to our state and nation over the next decade will continue to evolve. Cooperatives are dedicated to balancing the goals of affordability, reliability and environmental responsibility to meet these challenges in a way that maximizes the benefits to the consumers and the communities we serve. Electric cooperatives serve some of the most economically prosperous and some of the most economically depressed areas of South Carolina. Ensuring that all South Carolinians have access to new energy innovations, and the opportunities they present, is our top priority.

As we embark on the ninth decade of cooperative service in this state, we are dedicated to honoring the great legacy built by those who came before us by constantly renewing our dedication to exemplifying cooperative principles, to improving the lives of those we serve and to being the most innovative force for positive development our state can offer.

Electric cooperatives are grateful to the General Assembly for remembering that our member-owners and their voters are one and the same, and we thank them for their continued support of the cooperative program. To them, we pledge to continue to not only measure our policies by what is best for our members, but also what is best for our state. If we can be of service, please contact us.

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**WRITTEN IN 1787, RATIFIED IN 1788**, and in effect since 1789, the United States Constitution is the world's longest-surviving written charter of government. Its first three words—"We the People"—affirm that the government exists to serve its citizens. The supremacy of the people through their elected representatives is recognized in Article I, which creates a Congress consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives. The positioning of Congress at the beginning of the Constitution reaffirms its status as the first branch of the federal government.

The Senate is composed of two senators from each state, elected by voters, for six-year terms.

Under the Constitution, each state is entitled to at least one representative.

Additional seats are apportioned on the basis of the state's population. Congress fixes the size of the House of Representatives and the procedure of apportioning the number among the states. Each state is apportioned its number of representatives by means of the Department of Commerce's decennial census. South Carolina has seven representatives elected by voters to serve two-year terms.

**NOTE:** All information is current as of January 2021, but is subject to change without notice.

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**THE SOUTH CAROLINA EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT** includes the governor, lieutenant governor and seven constitutional officers. All serve four-year terms. The governor is the chief magistrate with supreme executive authority. The lieutenant governor assumes the position of governor if the governor is incapacitated. The secretary of state is responsible for the statewide registration of corporations, uniform commercial code interests, business opportunities, employment agencies, trademarks and notaries. The state treasurer is responsible for the receipt, investment and disbursement of all public funds for the state. The attorney general heads the state legal department. The comptroller general is the state's chief fiscal officer and fiscal watchdog. The superintendent of education leads a system to enable students to become educated, responsible and contributing citizens. The adjutant general heads the state's military department. The commissioner of agriculture promotes and nurtures the growth and development of South Carolina's agriculture industry.

**NOTE:** All information is current as of January 2021, but is subject to change without notice.

## CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS



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## S.C. Senate

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- (H) Home district  
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**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY** crafts South Carolina state laws and consists of two bodies: the South Carolina House of Representatives and the South Carolina Senate. There are 124 members of the S.C. House, who are elected every two years, and 46 members of the S.C. Senate, who are elected every four years, concurrent with the United States presidential election. The legislature convenes at the State House in Columbia from the second Tuesday in January until the second Thursday in May. The session may be extended if the House fails to pass a budget by March 31, or the BEA submits a forecast reduction, or by a vote of both bodies.

**NOTE:** All information is current as of January 2021, but is subject to change without notice.



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## How to reach your legislators

Writing an email or letter to your legislator is the most effective way to communicate your support, concern or interest in an issue before the General Assembly. As you begin this process, consider the following tips:

- 1) Take a little extra time to **educate yourself** on the topic you wish to address.
- 2) When you write, **identify yourself** and your status as a constituent.
- 3) **Be specific.** Use bill numbers and state your position plainly.
- 4) **Use examples** that illustrate how the issue affects your local area.
- 5) **Be respectful.** Use appropriate greetings, such as "Dear Senator Smith" or "Dear Representative Jones."
- 6) Provide a way for your legislator to respond by including **your mailing address or email address.**
- 7) Even if you disagree with a lawmaker's position, end your correspondence by **thanking them** for their service.

## Public Service Commission

The Public Service Commission (PSC) essentially functions as a court for cases involving utilities and other regulated companies. The PSC has broad jurisdiction over matters pertaining to the investor-owned electric and gas utility companies, water and wastewater companies, telecommunications companies, motor carriers of household goods, hazardous waste disposal, and taxicabs.

Utility regulation in South Carolina had its beginning with the passage of an act by the 1878 General Assembly, creating a commission for the purpose of regulating railroads operating within the state. In 1910, the General Assembly established a Public Service Commission, empowering it with the authority to “fix and establish in all cities of the State rates and charges for the supply of water, gas or electricity furnished by any person, firm or corporation to such cities, the inhabitants thereof, and to proscribe penalties.” In 2005, the PSC began operating as a restructured, quasi-judicial body, as prescribed by Act 175 of 2004. Under the new law, the PSC’s principal duty is to hear cases involving the state’s regulated utilities, while the Office of Regulatory Staff is responsible for many of the non-adjudicative functions associated with utility regulation.

A joint session of the General Assembly elects the PSC for a term of four years, with one commissioner from each of the seven congressional districts. The PSC’s staff is composed of the Administrative Staff, Advisory Staff, Docketing Staff and Legal Staff.

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DISTRICT 4



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DISTRICT 5



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DISTRICT 7



## Office of Regulatory Staff

The Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) represents the public interest of South Carolina in utility regulation. The agency fulfills its mission by representing the concerns of the using and consuming public with respect to public utility services and preservation of continued investment in and maintenance of utility facilities so as to provide reliable and high quality utility services.

Act 175 of 2004 created the ORS as a part of an initiative to provide a revised structure for addressing the public interest in utility regulation. This revised structure clearly separates the adjudicative function—which belongs to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC)—from the investigative, legal, prosecutorial and educational roles necessary for utility regulation. Specifically, the ORS has sole responsibility for the inspection, auditing, and examination of public utilities. The agency must be considered a party of record in all filings, applications or proceedings before the PSC.

The utilities and industries that fall under the regulatory purview of the ORS are as follows: telecommunications, investor-owned electric, natural gas, water/wastewater and transportation.

The ORS has responsibility for oversight of railroad safety and natural gas pipeline safety in South Carolina, as well as limited oversight authority over electric cooperatives and municipal systems. Further, the South Carolina Utilities Consumer Advocate, housed in consumer affairs, is responsible for monitoring South Carolina utilities as well as representing and providing protection for the ratepayer.

The Energy Office, the principal energy-planning entity for the state, became part of the ORS July 1, 2015. In addition, the South Carolina Equipment Distribution Program—which provides specialized telephone equipment to South Carolinians with a qualifying hearing or speech challenge—is administered by the ORS.

The agency is organized as follows:

- ▶ Administration
- ▶ Auditing
- ▶ Consumer Services
- ▶ Energy Policy
- ▶ Human Resources
- ▶ Information Services
- ▶ Legal
- ▶ Safety, Transportation, and Emergency Response
- ▶ Telecommunications
- ▶ Utility Rates
- ▶ Utility Services

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FOOD STYLING AND PHOTOS BY GINA MOORE

## CLASSIC RED BEANS AND RICE

SERVES 6

- 1 pound dry kidney or small red beans
- 2 large ham hocks
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 large onion, chopped (about 2 cups)
- 4 cups water (or combination of water and chicken stock)
- 1½ cups chopped celery
- 1 cup chopped bell pepper
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 teaspoons Cajun or Creole seasoning
- Kosher salt
- Fresh ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons Tabasco sauce (optional)
- Cooked rice

Sort through beans to discard any rocks, debris and damaged beans. Place dried beans in a large bowl and cover them with cold water. Let soak for 8 hours or overnight. (See additional quick-soak tip below.) Drain and set aside.

Place beans, ham hocks, garlic, onion and water or stock in a large (8-quart) pot and bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and cover. Simmer for 1½ hours or until beans and ham hocks are tender.

Remove ham hocks from the pot to a dish. Let cool slightly then shred the meat away from the bones. Return the meat back to the pot. Add the celery, bell peppers, Worcestershire and seasoning. Add additional water or stock if needed. Cover and cook for another hour or until the mixture gets thick. Season to taste with salt, pepper and Tabasco sauce. Serve over or with rice.

**CHEF'S TIP** **Quick-soak method for dried beans.** You don't have to soak dried beans overnight anymore. Sort through beans to discard any rocks, debris and damaged beans. Add beans to a large saucepan and cover with cold water two inches over beans. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat for 2 minutes. Turn off heat, cover pan and let sit for 1 hour. Drain beans and continue with recipe instructions. You can also strain and reserve the bean water, and add it to the actual cooking water of the beans for additional flavor.

# MARDI GRAS favorites

BY BELINDA SMITH-SULLIVAN

New Orleans is home to one of the most unique culinary experiences in the country. Steeped in the rich culture of the American South and seasoned with French influences, the city's cuisine is as famous as the popular Mardi Gras celebration. What happens in N'Awlins, doesn't necessarily have to stay in N'Awlins—if you prepare these timeless treasures in your own kitchen.



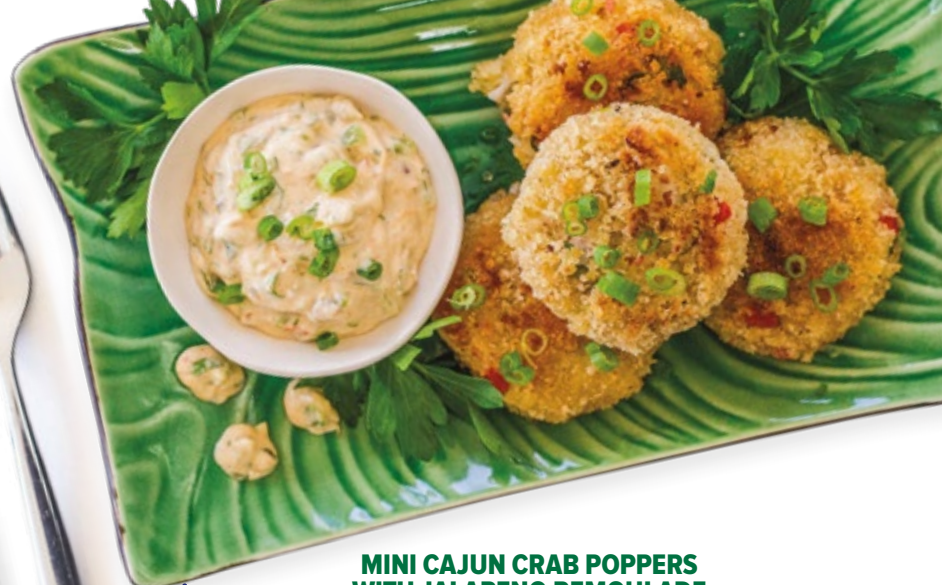
## SPICY CRAWFISH DIP

MAKES ABOUT 2½ CUPS

- 8 tablespoons unsalted butter (1 4-ounce stick)
- 1 cup chopped scallions
- 1 small green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 serrano pepper, minced (optional)
- 1 16-ounce package frozen crawfish tail meat, thawed and drained
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 4-ounce jar pimentos, drained and diced
- 2 teaspoons Creole or Cajun spice
- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese, cubed
- Additional sliced scallions, for garnish

In a large saucepan or skillet over medium heat, melt butter. Add onions and peppers, and cook until peppers are tender, about 5–7 minutes. Add crawfish, garlic, pimentos and seasoning. Stir and cook 10 minutes, until all liquid is cooked out. Reduce heat to low and add cream cheese. Cook and stir until smooth and bubbly. Spoon into a serving dish and garnish with additional chopped scallions. Serve warm with toasted crusty bread.





## SHRIMP AND ANDOUILLE JAMBALAYA

SERVES 6-8

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 pound shrimp, peeled, deveined and tails removed | 1 cup chopped celery            |
| 1 tablespoon Creole or Cajun seasoning             | 2 tablespoons chopped garlic    |
| 2 tablespoons butter                               | ½ cup diced tomatoes            |
| 8 ounces andouille sausage, sliced ¼-inch thick    | 2 bay leaves                    |
| 1 tablespoon ground cumin                          | 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce |
| 2 tablespoons paprika                              | 1 teaspoon Tabasco sauce        |
| ½ teaspoon cayenne                                 | 1 cup rice, uncooked            |
| 1 cup chopped onion                                | 3 cups chicken stock, unsalted  |
| ½ cup chopped bell pepper                          | Kosher salt                     |
|  | Fresh ground black pepper       |
|  | Fresh chopped parsley           |

In a medium bowl, season the shrimp with Creole or Cajun seasoning. Set aside. In a large saucepan or Dutch oven over medium heat, heat butter. Add sausage and cook until brown, about 5 minutes. Stir in cumin, paprika and cayenne and cook for 1 minute. Stir in onions, bell pepper and celery and cook for 3 minutes. Add garlic, tomatoes, bay leaves, Worcestershire and Tabasco.

Stir in rice and slowly add stock. Reduce heat to low, cover and cook until rice absorbs liquid and becomes tender, stirring occasionally, about 25 minutes.

Add shrimp, replace lid and cook for 5 minutes. Season to taste with salt, pepper and more Creole seasoning, if needed. Serve and garnish with chopped parsley.

## What's cooking at **SCLiving.coop**

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## MINI CAJUN CRAB POPPERS WITH JALAPENO REMOULADE

MAKES 16 SMALL CAKES (8 LARGE)

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 3 tablespoons unsalted butter  | 2 tablespoons fresh-squeezed lemon juice |
| 2 tablespoons olive oil        | 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard               |
| ½ cup chopped scallions        | Kosher salt                              |
| ½ cup chopped red bell pepper  | Black pepper                             |
| ½ cup chopped celery           | ⅛ teaspoon cayenne pepper                |
| 1 large clove garlic, minced   | Olive oil, for frying (or vegetable oil) |
| 1 pound lump crabmeat, drained | Jalapeno remoulade (see recipe below)    |
| 1 cup breadcrumbs, divided     |  |
| 2 tablespoons chopped parsley  |  |
| ⅓ cup heavy cream              |  |
| 1 large egg                    |  |

In a medium-sized skillet or saute pan, over medium heat, melt butter and oil. Cook scallions, bell pepper and celery until soft. Add garlic and cook an additional minute. Set aside to cool.

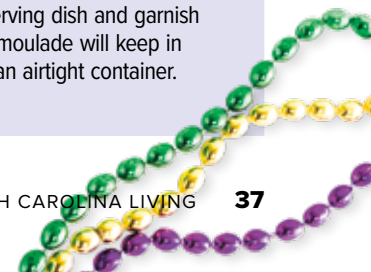
In a large bowl, add crabmeat, 1/4-cup breadcrumbs, parsley, cream, egg, lemon juice, mustard, salt, pepper, cayenne and cooled vegetables. Mix well to blend all ingredients. Using a small scoop or tablespoon, measure out 16 equal portions and form into cakes. Place on a large platter or parchment-lined baking sheet and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. While waiting, prepare remoulade.

When ready to cook cakes, place remaining breadcrumbs in a shallow bowl; coat cakes on all sides. Brush off excess crumbs. In a large skillet over medium heat, heat oil. Working in batches, cook cakes until done, about 3 minutes per side. Add additional oil as needed. Drain on paper towels and keep warm until served. Serve with jalapeno remoulade.

### JALAPENO REMOULADE

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 cup mayonnaise                                   | ½ jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced (or serrano if you prefer more heat) |
| 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard                        | 1 teaspoon Creole or Cajun seasoning                                      |
| 1 tablespoon chili sauce                           | 1 tablespoon fresh-squeezed lemon juice                                   |
| 2 teaspoons prepared horseradish                   | Scallion tops, thinly sliced, for garnish                                 |
| ¼ cup capers, coarsely chopped                     |   |
| ¼ cup parsley, fresh chopped                       |   |
| 2 scallions, chopped (save green tops for garnish) |   |

In a medium bowl, mix all ingredients—except scallion tops—until well combined. Transfer to a serving dish and garnish with sliced scallion tops. Leftover remoulade will keep in refrigerator up to 1 week, stored in an airtight container. Makes about 1½ cups.





# Journey to St. Phillips Island

BY CELE AND LYNN SELDON

**IMAGINE SETTING FOOT ON AN ISLAND** where few have gone before. Sandy beaches sans footprints. Rugged vegetation that hasn't been cultured or coiffed. A massive maritime forest and endangered animal habitats living in harmony. Sounds almost prehistoric. And certainly not something that you'd find along the South Carolina coast. However, the South Carolina State Parks system

has changed all that with the addition of St. Phillips Island as the crown jewel of Hunting Island State Park.

"Scientifically and from a natural standpoint, it is really unique," says Phil Gaines, retired director of State Parks who assisted in the island purchase for the state. "The huge magnolias, large dwarf palmettos, evidence of secondary dune lines—a lot of things showcase that this is a really interesting island, not only from its beauty, but from what you can teach and talk about scientifically."

Located at the mouth of the Port Royal Sound between Hilton Head and Beaufort, the 4,680-acre barrier island—accessible only by boat—was previously owned by media mogul and land conservationist Ted Turner. Purchased in 1979 with the intent to save a piece of the Lowcountry from development, Turner attached a conservation easement to the deed and proceeded to make it a private family refuge for almost 40 years.

During that time, the island's caretaker, Ray "Boogie" Tudor, cut a path through the interior of the island with a tractor and a bushhog to create a four-mile-long rough-cut trail. In addition to a robust trail system throughout the island and the restoration of many endangered animal habitats, Tudor also built two ocean-front homes: a 2,177-square-foot

"It's great for hiking and birding —there are close to 300 species of birds categorized seasonally. The jewel of the island are the trails." — CHRIS CROLEY

caretaker house and a relatively modest 3,351-square-foot main residence, featuring screened porches and open decks to take advantage of the water views and ocean breezes. "The house is nothing fancy," says Tudor. "Just big and spacious and it really breathes nice."

Turner decided to sell the property

## GET THERE

St. Phillips Island is accessible via the St. Phillips Island Ferry offered through Hunting Island State Park. Tours leave from the Hunting Island State Park Nature Center, 2809 Sea Island Parkway, Hunting Island.

**TOURS:** The winter ferry runs Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. through February. Beginning March 1, ferry service will expand days and hours. Private charters are available year-round.

**ADMISSION:** Hunting Island State Park admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for South Carolina seniors, \$4 for children ages 6–15 and free for children 5 and younger. St. Phillips Island Ferry Tours are an additional \$45 for adults and \$25 for children under 15.

**TIP:** Wear closed-toe walking shoes and bring a backpack with only the essentials (water, lunch, sunblock, insect repellent).

**DETAILS:** For more information, visit [southcarolinaparks.com/hunting-island](http://southcarolinaparks.com/hunting-island) and [coastalexpeditions.com](http://coastalexpeditions.com), or call (843) 881-4582.



**HOLIDAY HAVEN** You, too, can vacation like a media magnate if you rent Ted Turner's former getaway.





**HIKING HEAVEN** A four-mile-long trail winds through the island's unique ecosystem and leads to a beach usually accessible only at low tide.

in 2017—ultimately to the state at a bargain price.

Two years after the deal closed, the once-private island opened to the public for the first time as part of Hunting Island State Park. Day trips, offered by Coastal Expeditions, depart from the Hunting Island Nature Center and include a naturalist-led ecotour up the Story River to the St. Phillips Island boat dock, where guests board a tram for the ride through the forest to the inland trail system and unspoiled beach.

Be warned: St. Phillips is not your typical beach experience. With 80% of the barrier island being a maritime forest, beach accessibility is fleeting and generally only during low tides. Even then, the sand is studded with trees and roots.

"It's a wilderness island that isn't focused on a tropical beach experience," says Chris Crolley, owner of Coastal Expeditions. "It's great for hiking and birding—there are close to 300 species of birds categorized seasonally. The jewel of the island are the trails."

The main house is now available for rent on a seasonal basis. With five bedrooms and five baths, the house is ideal for multiple couples or extended families and comes with a full complement of amenities for the perfect getaway, including outdoor cooking spaces, a fire pit, fishing equipment and kayaks. 🌿

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## FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

■ Is creating a stone walk one of your late winter landscape projects? If you are using sand instead of mortar to set the stones, include one extra step: Before laying the stones and sand down, add a sheet of plastic weed block to the pathway to help cut down on unwanted weeds popping up between the stones. Ditto for new brick paths.

■ Summer-blooming woody ornamentals such as althea, butterfly bush, crepe myrtle, oleander, hydrangea and vitex flower on new wood, so now is a good time to prune to stimulate new springtime branches.



Snow on a variegated aucuba can be a Kodak moment but also a possible branch breaker.

**TIP OF THE MONTH** When snows visit your garden, if they are light, sit back and enjoy the winter scenery. If they are heavy, think about suiting up in your favorite warm coat and using a broom or leaf blower to remove as much of the white powder as possible from the foliage of your evergreen plants to prevent the extra weight from breaking branches. Do this sooner rather than later, before the snow partially melts and then refreezes into solid, clinging chunks of ice.

# The riddle of Swiss chard

BY L.A. JACKSON

## WHAT IS SWISS CHARD?

First, let me tell you what it isn't. It isn't from Switzerland but rather the European Mediterranean region. I'm sure this factoid doesn't help solve the riddle of Swiss chard, so let's dig deeper before you think about digging it into your spring veggie garden.

Swiss chard is related to spinach and also grown for its tasty leaves, which can be eaten raw or cooked. Trailing not far behind spinach in healthy nutrients, Swiss chard has a slightly stronger—yet not unpleasant—flavor but handles summer heat better, resisting bolting, which can lead to bitter leaves. The sturdy stems are also edible and have a satisfying, tasty, celery-like crunch.

The stems can be a feast for the eyes, too. Many popular cultivars sport sassy colors such as the sizzling crimson stalks of Ruby Red and the multicolored shoots of Bright Lights. For creative gardeners, this visual pop from such showoffs means Swiss chard is an edible that can easily blend into an ornamental setting.

Swiss chard does love the sun, so give it as much exposure in the garden as possible. Also, a rich, well-worked growing ground heavily amended with organic additives, along with a good dusting of a complete fertilizer such as 8-8-8 or 10-10-10, at planting time will produce a better crop of tasty leaves and stems.

Starting seeds indoors around the middle of this month is an option, but, whether from the sun or an artificial source, light must be served up in liberal doses or the resulting seedlings



Bright Lights Swiss chard is not only pretty but also pretty delicious and nutritious.

will be weak, leggy transplants. Because this light requirement can be attention intensive, my preference is to simply buy young, strong plants from nurseries, which usually begin offering them by the middle of March.

As I mentioned, Swiss chard resists going to flower in summer heat better than spinach, but long periods of hot, dry weather can still take a toll on its tastiness, so I cheat. Along with adding this crunchy delight to the veggie patch, I also pot up several plants and move them into areas of light afternoon shade during periods of extended scorch.

For a constant crop, pick the outer leaves first and pick often. Doing this, my harvests have often stretched through the summer and beyond. No kidding.

Bottom line, with Swiss chard being so versatile, nutritious and productive, the only riddle left is why did it take you so long to discover its edible and ornamental possibilities? ☺

*L.A. JACKSON is the former editor of Carolina Gardener magazine. Contact him at [lajackson1@gmail.com](mailto:lajackson1@gmail.com).*



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## Upstate

### FEBRUARY

**13 Cupid's Chase 5K**, Conestee Park, Greenville. (864) 233-6270.

**13 Love Notes: Music From the Heart**, Twichell Auditorium at Converse College, Spartanburg. (864) 948-9020 or music@spartanarts.org.

**22 VOCES8**, Twichell Auditorium at Converse College, Spartanburg. (864) 596-9724 or boxoffice@converse.edu.

**26 Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers**, Chapman Cultural Center, Spartanburg. (864) 948-9020.

### MARCH

**5–14 The Savannah Sipping Society**, Spartanburg Little Theatre, Spartanburg. (864) 585-8278 or sltheatre1@gmail.com.

**11–April 8 Young Women in Art 2021 Juried Virtual Exhibition**, virtual event hosted by Converse College's Department of Art and Design, Spartanburg. (864) 596-9178 or jena.thomas@converse.edu.

**13 The Planets: From War to Peace In Seven Movements**, Twichell Auditorium at Converse College, Spartanburg. (864) 948-9020 or music@spartanarts.org.

**18 Opening Reception: Fiber Filled**, Spartanburg Art Museum, Spartanburg. (864) 582-7616.

**22 Spektral Quartet**, Twichell Auditorium at Converse College, Spartanburg. (864) 596-9724 or boxoffice@converse.edu.

### ONGOING

**Daily through Feb. 27 "The Art of Survival,"** Artists Collective, Spartanburg. (864) 804-6501 or hello@artistscollectivespartanburg.org.

**Third Thursdays ArtWalk**, downtown cultural district, Spartanburg. (864) 542-2787.

**First Fridays First Fridays Open Studios**, Mayfair Art Studios, Spartanburg. (864) 278-3228 or aheckel@spartanarts.org.

## Midlands

### FEBRUARY

**14 ColaJazz Little Big Band: Cupid Swings**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264.

**19 Sawyer Brown**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264.

**19 Virtual Lunch and Learn: "An Indigenous Analysis of the Grotesques of the Southeast,"** Native American Studies Center at USC–Lancaster, Lancaster. (803) 313-7172 or lowrimoa@mailbox.sc.edu.

## SCLiving.coop/calendar

Our mobile-friendly site lists even more festivals, shows and events. You'll also find instructions on submitting your event. Please confirm information with the hosting event before attending.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** As this issue went to press, South Carolina was still in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic, forcing many festivals and events to be canceled or postponed. Please check with organizers if you plan to attend these events and follow current health recommendations to stop the spread of the coronavirus. For updates on the pandemic, visit [scliving.coop/covid19](https://scliving.coop/covid19).

**20 Blue Dogs**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264.

**20 Painting Skies with Marcia Kort Buike**, Center for the Arts, Rock Hill. (803) 328-2787.

**25 Sister Hazel**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264.

**26 Rhonda Vincent and The Rage**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264.

**27 James Gregory (two shows)**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264.

**28 Dick Goodwin and His Big Band**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264.

### MARCH

**3 Asleep At The Wheel**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264.

**5 Capitol Steps**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264.

**6 Tony Orlando**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264.

**7 Fairytale on Ice**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264.

**9 "How to Survive Middle School" with comedian Robert Post**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264.

**13 2021 Cottontown Art Crawl**, historic Cottontown neighborhood, Columbia. (803) 609-7598.

**13 Basic Drawing with Brad Sabelli**, Center for the Arts, Rock Hill. (803) 328-2787.

**19–April 25 Arts Council of York County Members Show**, Dalton Gallery at the Center for the Arts, Rock Hill. (803) 328-2787.

**19 The Malpass Brothers**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264.

**19 Shovels & Rope**, Columbia Speedway Entertainment Center, Columbia. [contact@colaconcerts.com](mailto:contact@colaconcerts.com).

**19 Virtual Lunch and Learn: "Just Like an Animal?" Native American Studies Center at USC–Lancaster**, Lancaster. (803) 313-7172 or usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu.



COASTAL DISCOVERY MUSEUM

"Passing Storm on the Intracoastal" by Mary Steffen is part of the National Association of Women Artists SC show "Treasures of Our Coastal State," through Feb. 28 at the Coastal Discovery Museum in Hilton Head.

**20 Exploring Color in Pastel with Marcia Kort Buike**, Center for the Arts, Rock Hill. (803) 328-2787.

**20 The Led Zeppelin Experience**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264.

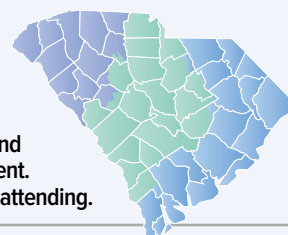
**21 Tribute to the Guitar Legends presented by Doug & Bunny Williams**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264.

**27 Puccini's La Bohème**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264.

### ONGOING

**Daily through March 19 Going... Going... Gone... Exhibition**, Aiken Center for the Arts, Aiken. (803) 641-9094.

**Every second Saturday until March 2nd Saturday Market on Main**, Main Street, Edgefield. (870) 703-0778 or [edgefieldmarket@gmail.com](mailto:edgefieldmarket@gmail.com).



**19 Hopeful Horizons Walk4Love**, downtown, Beaufort. (843) 379-6151.

**20 Historic African American Sites in Horry County**, The Horry County Museum, Conway. (843) 915-5320.

**20 Hopeful Horizons Race4Love**, Cat Island, Beaufort. (843) 379-6151.

**20–21 The American Heritage Festival**, Graham's Farm, Lake City. (904) 200-1232.

**23 Wash Day at the L.W. Paul Living History Farm**, L.W. Paul Living History Farm, Conway. (843) 915-5320.

**24 Documentary Film Series: Carolina Hash: A South Carolina Folk Heritage Tradition**, The Horry County Museum, Conway. (843) 915-5320.

**27 Lowcountry Glass Mosaic Workshop with Pat Stone**, Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage, Charleston. (843) 284-9227.

### MARCH

**2 Virtually Speaking: Antebellum Women and Music in South Carolina**, virtual event hosted by Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage, Charleston. (843) 284-9227.

**13 The Art of Indigo Dyeing Spring Session**, Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage, Charleston. (843) 284-9227.

**18–21 The Edisto Players: Dixie Swim Club**, Edisto Beach Civic Center, Edisto Island. (843) 869-3099 or [jademo@live.com](mailto:jademo@live.com).

**20 Martha and the Vandellas**, Sumter Opera House, Sumter. (803) 436-2616.

**23 Virtually Speaking: Backyards for Birds and Butterflies**, virtual event hosted by Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage, Charleston. (843) 284-9227.

**25 Sons of Mystro**, Sumter Opera House, Sumter. (803) 436-2616.

### ONGOING

**Daily through Feb. 28 "Treasures of Our Coastal State" Juried Art Exhibit**, Coastal Discovery Museum, Hilton Head Island. (843) 689-6767.

**Daily (except Mondays) through Feb. 28 Noises Off**, Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, Hilton Head Island. (843) 842-2787.

**Daily through April 18 Manning Williams: "Reinventing Narrative Painting,"** Gallery 8 at the Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston. (843) 722-2706.

**Daily through April 24 "Diversity Endangered" Exhibit**, Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage, Charleston. (843) 284-9227.

## Lowcountry

### FEBRUARY

**15–19 Beaufort International Film Festival**, The Beaufort Inn, Beaufort. (843) 522-3196.

**16 Virtually Speaking: Honey Hill Archaeology**, virtual event hosted by Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage, Charleston. (843) 915-5320.

**17 Documentary Film Series: Discovering Dave, Spirit Captured in Clay**, The Horry County Museum, Conway. (843) 915-5320.

# Rebel on ice

BY JAN A. IGOE

**FEBRUARY WOULD BE** a pretty lack-luster month, except for Groundhog Day and, for some, the Super Bowl. I understand how the groundhog thing works, but football still eludes me. My game day role has historically been keeping the chip bowl full, fetching Buds and staying mute.

Still, one Super Bowl weekend made my highlight reel for all the wrong reasons. Even when my kids were young, I knew that my primary contribution to society would be keeping the youngest one out of prison. She had the brain power to do good, but the inclination to appear in front of a judge.

So one frigid Saturday morning—aka Super Bowl Eve—my hub decided to share the joy of ice skating on a frozen pond with our progeny, but no one had skates. By the time we found everyone's size, we'd been to six stores, and the kids made sure to pee in every one. After all that hand-to-zipper combat with their snowsuits, all Mommy wanted was a nap.

Instead, we pulled up to a Norman Rockwell scene where happy families glided effortlessly around the frozen pond. Jessie, my 5-year-old, leaped out of the minivan, eager to experience frozen water that didn't come from our Maytag.

But our 3-year-old mini rebel was a tad less eager to join *Disney on Ice*. "Too cold," she squealed, slamming the door shut. So Daddy guarded the van while Jessie and I tried skating.

Muscle memory is not all it's cracked up to be. My brain remembered skating much better than my extremities did. In seconds, I was flat on my back. Stars were still spinning as I clambered to my feet to calm Jessie, who expressed concern that Mommy was dead. Thirty seconds later, I went down again. This time on my face.

On Super Bowl morning, my body was a rigid, black-and-blue corpse. Hub left early to party with friends whose



© 2021 Jan A. Igoe

Jessie was sure we'd starve since our survival rations consisted of one mangled tube of Crest.

drinking kickoff was noon, so Jessie helped me dress. The mini rebel pursued us into the bathroom, the one with the broken door that locked by itself. I gently reminded her not to close it, which was her cue to slam it shut and trap us inside.

The rebel screamed with delight while Jessie cried. She was sure we'd starve since our survival rations consisted of one mangled tube of Crest, and we had no way to pick the lock from inside.

Although my knees were in rigor mortis, I knew I had to escape my kids. (Whoops, I meant, "I had to escape *with* my kids.") Clad in a sports bra, antique sweatpants and my brother's idea of a Christmas present—oversized, green-spotted dinosaur slippers that roared

every time I took a step—I flumped my rigid carcass out the window into a white wilderness, where my emergency house key was buried somewhere under 2 feet of snow. That's when I realized why you never see Eskimos posing in a bra and slippers. Tyrannosaurs, either, for that matter.

Fortunately, a police cruiser spotted me. The officer approached cautiously, curious about my attire and the faint screams of small children. But he agreed to pick the locks and freed both kids. I was going to ask if he could leave the small one in the bathroom but decided not to push my luck.

Twenty-seven years later, I still avoid ice, football and short criminals. But I'm here if you need more chips. ☺

*Maybe JAN A. IGOE should have included Valentine's Day in the February lineup for Cupid fans, but she doesn't understand those rules either. Insights from football fanatics and hopeless romantics are always welcome at HumorMe@SCLiving.coop.*



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**3-Ply Disposable Face Masks** ★★★★★ (3755)

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Blue Black  
ITEM 57393 ITEM 58065  
Non-medical. Compare to FaceDy 801711ZX14 \$8.99

35132207 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/14/21

**PITTSBURGH SERIES 2** ★★★★★ (1116)

\*1 SELLING JACKS IN AMERICA

**Rapid Pump® 3 Ton Steel Heavy Duty Floor Jack**

**\$94.99** ~~\$104.99~~ **Save \$40**

Compare to Powerbuilt 647593 \$135.27  
ITEM 56621/56622/56623/56624 shown

35132381 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 3/14/21

**WOW! SUPER COUPON**

**SAVE 89%**

**PITTSBURGH** ★★★★★ (7838)

**4" Magnetic Parts Holder**

Hardware sold separately.

**\$2.99** ~~\$6.99~~ **WOW! 63¢**

Compare to Titan 11194 \$5.99  
ITEM 62535 90566 shown

35132954 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 3/14/21

**McGRAW** ★★★★★ (760)

**8 Gallon, 150 PSI Oil-Free Air Compressor**

**\$119.99** ~~\$139.99~~ **Save \$113**

Compare to Campbell Hausfeld HLS40100AV \$233  
ITEM 56269/64294 shown

35182358 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 3/14/21

**200 Lumen LED Super Bright Flip Light** ★★★★★ (6432)

**\$1.99** ~~\$2.99~~ **Save 60%**

Compare to Promer SW-SWITCH-12/24 \$4.99  
ITEM 64723 64189/63922 shown

35133552 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/14/21

**HaulMaster** ★★★★★ (5547)

**18" Working Platform Step Stool**

**\$19.99** ~~\$27.99~~ **Save 61%**

Compare to Neocraft 60635 \$51.45  
ITEM 62515/64911 shown

35144574 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/14/21

**VIKING** ★★★★★ (2300)

**4 AMP High Frequency Battery Charger/Maintainer**

**\$27.99** ~~\$39.99~~ **Save \$83**

Compare to Snap-on EEBM500A \$111  
ITEM 63350

35144829 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 3/14/21

**HaulMaster** ★★★★★ (5636)

**40" x 72" Moving Blanket**

**\$3.99** ~~\$4.99~~ **Save 60%**

Compare to Pratt Retail Specialties HOMOVBLAN \$9.98  
ITEM 69504/62336 47262 shown

35145566 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/14/21

**PITTSBURGH** ★★★★★ (2126)

**4" Ratcheting Bar Clamp/Spreader**

**99¢** ~~\$1.99~~ **Save 84%**

Compare to Irwin 1964747 \$6.49  
ITEM 46805/62242/68974 shown

35145583 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/14/21

**drillmaster** ★★★★★ (7151)

**4-1/2" Angle Grinder**

**\$9.99** ~~\$13.99~~ **Save 56%**

Compare to Ironlon 614651 \$22.99  
ITEM 69645/60425 shown

35145962 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/14/21

**PREDATOR** ★★★★★ (872)

**9000w Max. Starting Extra Long Life Gas Powered Generator**

**\$649.99** ~~\$699.99~~ **Save \$2,279**

Compare to Honda EM5500SXK2AT \$2,929  
ITEM 63971/63970 shown  
ITEM 63968/63968 CALIFORNIA ONLY

35176431 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 3/14/21

**Quantum** ★★★★★ (5915)

**588 Lumen Tactical Flashlight**

**\$8.99** ~~\$12.99~~ **Save 85%**

Compare to Streamlight ProTac 1L \$59.99  
ITEM 64799/63934 shown

35146122 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/14/21

**PITTSBURGH** ★★★★★ (4999)

**300 lb. Capacity Pneumatic Adjustable Roller Seat**

**\$19.99** ~~\$27.99~~ **Save 73%**

Compare to Duralast TR6201C \$74.99  
ITEM 61160/63456/66319 shown

35148193 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 3/14/21

**U.S. GENERAL** ★★★★★ (873)

**44" x 22" Double Bank Extra Deep Cabinet**

**\$449.99** ~~\$499.99~~ **Save \$2,285**

Compare to Snap-on KRAAB13FPB0 \$2,735  
ITEM 64446, 64955, 64443, 64954, 64281, 64956

35149625 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 3/14/21

**PITTSBURGH** ★★★★★ (4271)

**Click-Type Torque Wrenches**

**\$9.99** ~~\$19.99~~ **Save 88%**

1/4" Drive ITEM 61277/63881  
3/8" Drive ITEM 61276/63880  
1/2" Drive ITEM 62431/63882 shown  
Compare to Husky H2DTWA \$89.97

35157790 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/14/21

**WARRIOR** ★★★★★ (1397)

**18v Lithium-Ion 3/8" Drill/Driver Kit**

**\$24.99** ~~\$29.99~~ **Save 68%**

Compare to Ryobi P215K \$79  
ITEM 56122/64118 shown

35162885 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 3/14/21

**CHICAGO ELECTRIC WELDING** ★★★★★ (1953)

**125 AMP Flux Core Welder**

**\$99.99** ~~\$134.99~~ **Save \$100**

Compare to Ironlon 45433 \$199.99

35165724 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 3/14/21

**Safety Glasses** ★★★★★ (1669)

**\$1.29** ~~\$1.79~~ **Save 78%**

Smoke Lens ITEM 66822  
Yellow Lens ITEM 66823  
Clear Lens ITEM 63851/99762 shown  
Compare to 3M 900551-000008 \$5.97

35167694 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/14/21

**COVERPRO** ★★★★★ (749)

**10 ft. x 10 ft. Portable Shed**

**\$129.99** ~~\$164.99~~ **Save \$70**

Compare to ShelterLogic 70833 \$199.99  
ITEM 56184/63297 shown

35170828 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 3/14/21

**WARRIOR** ★★★★★ (1113)

**4-1/2" Flap Discs**

**\$2.99** ~~\$4.79~~ **Save 66%**

36Grit ITEM 61500/67639  
60Grit ITEM 69602  
120Grit ITEM 67636/69604 shown  
Compare to Diablo D3CX445080N01F \$8.97

35176208 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/14/21

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