



The Brunswick News



EVENTS

Today
• **The Brunswick-Glynn County Library**, 208 Gloucester St., will host Wayne Morgan photographer and author of "Satilla Solitude." He will talk about and sign his new book about the at 7 p.m. at the library. Details: 267-1212.

Sunday
• **Coastal Georgia Historical Society** will host author Peter J. Hatch, director of gardens and grounds at Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home in Charlottesville, Va., at 3 p.m. at the Cloister Ballroom on Sea Island. He will be speaking on Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden. Tickets are \$25 for non-members and free for members. For security access onto Sea Island, pre-registration is required for all attendees. For registration, call 634-7090.

• **"Plantations of St. Simons Island,"** an open house at the Mildred Huie Plantation Museum, 1819 Frederica Road, St. Simons Island, will be from 3 to 5 p.m. The event will feature paintings by Mildred Huie and sculptures of plantation figures by Mary Whitty. Meet descendants of early founding families. Details: 638-3017.

Thursday
• **Waterfront Wine and Gourmet**, 107 Broad St., Darien, will host author Taylor Schoettle from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the shop. Schoettle will be signing his new book "A Beachgoer's Guide to Georgia's Barrier Islands."

Jan. 25
• **"Partners in Art,"** will be from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Glynn Art Association Visual Arts Center, 529 Beachview Drive, St. Simons Island. David Ouimet of Purple Sage Caterine will conduct a hands-on garnishing seminar. Tickets are \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members. Details: 638-8770.

Jan. 28
• **"Cabaret 2012: An Evening in Monte Carlo,"** will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Cloister Ballroom on Sea Island. The event, hosted by The Symphony Society, will feature dining, dancing, auctions and live entertainment to benefit the Coastal Symphony of Georgia and The Coastal Youth Symphony. Tickets are \$175. Details: 222-5686.

Jan. 31
• **"Dinner at the Club,"** hosted by Friends of Historic Jekyll Island Inc., will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Grand Dining Room of the Jekyll Island Club Hotel, 371 Riverview Drive, Jekyll Island. Author Steve Berry will be the guest speaker. Proceeds will benefit the restoration of the DuBignon Cemetery. Tickets are \$125 per person, of which \$65 is tax-deductible. Reservations: 635-9651.

PERFORMANCES
Saturday
• **"Songwriters in the Round"** concert will begin at 8 p.m. at the King and Prince Beach and Golf Resort, 201 Arnold Road, St. Simons Island. Doors open at 7 p.m. and admission is free. Dining and a cash bar will be available. The event will feature guest songwriters. Reservations recommended. Details: 268-5067.

Through Sunday
• **"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,"** presented by The Island Players, will be at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays at the Casino Theatre, 530 Beachview Drive, St. Simons Island. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for 18 and under. Details: 638-0338.

Jan. 22
• **"Opera-tizers,"** performed by the Peach State Opera, will be at 3 p.m. at the Historic Ritz Theatre, 1530 Newcastle St., Brunswick. Sponsored by Golden Isles Arts and Humanities Association. Tickets may be purchased by phone, at the Ritz Theatre from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, or online. Details: 262-6934 or goldenislesarts.org.

• **More Coastal Scene calendar, 3B**

A legend's green side

Historian talks of Thomas Jefferson the gardener

By LINDSEY ADKISON
The Brunswick News

There's no denying Thomas Jefferson's place in history: A Founding Father, statesman, governor of Virginia, third president of the United States.

Yet he was also a man of the soil, who envisioned a nation built on agriculture and who considered himself a farmer. He experimented with more than 330 varieties and some 99 species of vegetables at his sprawling estate of Monticello, at Charlottesville, Va.

It is that aspect of Jefferson's life — not the author of the Declaration of Independence who created the framework for a nation — that Peter Hatch, director of gardens and grounds at Monticello, will address Sunday at a meeting of the Coastal Georgia Historical Society.

"Thomas Jefferson's garden at Monticello is really an autobiographical statement, in a lot of ways. There are few topics that tell us more about him than his garden," Hatch said.

Most of all, it shows the deep-seated curiosity that was a trademark of Jefferson's character.

"He became a gardener in his early 20s and he just had a wide-eyed appreciation of the world around. He first expressed an interest in gardening at Shadwell (his home before Monticello). He was growing flowers at Shadwell," Hatch said.

"Jefferson later said that 'the greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add a useful plant to its culture,'" Hatch said.

After establishing Monticello, the grounds, much like the man himself, became a constant work in progress. Jefferson was



Provided photo

Peter Hatch, director of gardens and grounds at Monticello, will talk about Thomas Jefferson's home in Charlottesville, Va., during a lecture Sunday on Sea Island.

If you go

The Coastal Georgia Historical Society will present Peter Hatch, director of gardens and grounds at Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home in Charlottesville, Va., at 3 p.m. Sunday at The Cloister Ballroom, on Sea Island. He will speak about Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden. Tickets are free for historical society members and \$25 for non-members. Registration for or purchase of tickets is required in advance for security access to Sea Island. Call 634-7090.

always building and rebuilding. Over his 50-plus years at Monticello, he constructed ornamental, experimental and food gardens.

The flower gardens there include 20 oval beds that border the main house and extend to the winding trails that define the West Lawn. Jefferson added

an 18-acre grove of trees and a 400-tree fruit orchard, which included pomegranates, apples and peaches.

Then, there was the vegetable garden.

"This is what Jefferson called 'the garden,' and it was really an expression of Jefferson's idea of a true American garden," Hatch

said.

This "home garden," however, was massive.

Evolving over many years, beginning in 1770, the 1,000-foot-long terrace was carved into the side of a mountain to provide plants with protection from the elements.

"It was supported by a massive stone wall that stood over 12 feet in its highest section," Hatch said.

All of this work and the results of his gardening labors were meticulously documented by Jefferson in a book he called his "Garden Kalendar." In it, he recorded all the details of his efforts. It included entries like the fact that his Hotspur pea crop was "killed by frost Oct. 23," or



that his yellow squash "came to nothing" in 1809.

It is this kind of detailing that intrigues Hatch.

"It's amazing. Jefferson's diary was actually published as his 'Garden Book.' There are 67 pages, and it can be read online today. It really documents one man's dance with the elements," he said.

It is a common thread that Jefferson shares with gardeners today. Hatch says that learning more about Jefferson and his gardening passion will be appealing to many because of this connection.

"Jefferson was such a multidimensional figure, but his gardening was his lifelong passion," Hatch said. "Jefferson once wrote, at age 83, that he was an old man but a young gardener."

Hatch can relate. He concedes, that even after 34 years of helping to maintain Jefferson's gardens, he still has more to learn.

"I'm still a young gardener, too," he said with a laugh.



Provided photo

Members of True North Brass, an ensemble from Canada, will perform Tuesday at St. Simons Presbyterian Church.

Concert series continues with brass ensemble

By SARAH LUNDGREN
The Brunswick News

The Island Concert Association's 26th season is under way, and it is looking to give a "warm" welcome to its next performers, True North Brass, from the north winds of Ontario, Canada.

The five-member ensemble will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at St. Simons Presbyterian Church, 205 Kings Way, St. Simons Island. After debuting in 1997, the group has traveled the world, including to China, but this will be its first trip to the Golden Isles.

Rhonda Hambright, artistic director of the Island Concert Association, and in charge of booking the talent featured in the association's season, is looking forward to Tuesday's event.

"Each year, the Island Concert Association books four to five concerts that begin in late fall and end the following year in the spring. Variety of instruments is important in our classical series, so

I try to book individuals and groups," Hambright said.

Trumpeter Barton Woomert, trumpeter Richard Sandals, horn player Christine Passmore, trombone player Alastair Kay and tuba player Sasha Johnson, who make up True North Brass, will present a program entitled "Beginning to See the Light."

The performance will include works by Duke Ellington, Vittorio Monti, James McGrath and others.

In addition to the concert, the association will have a student concert and workshop from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday at the church.

"Area band directors and brass players have been encouraged to bring students to this event, and those students are encouraged to bring their instruments and a portable music stand," Hambright said.

The remaining concerts in the Island Concert Association's schedule include a Swedish cellist with a Russian pianist Feb. 21 and a string quartet March 20.

Whet your appetite with an 'Opera-tizer'

Traveling company presents samples from popular works

By SARAH LUNDGREN
The Brunswick News

Whether you have memorized the libretto of "Madame Butterfly" or think that Iron Butterfly and "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida" are high culture, the Golden Isles Arts and Humanities Association has a program Sunday that will open a new door to opera.

The association will present "Opera-tizers," a "musical appetizer," featuring samples from popular operas, performed by the touring group the Peach State Opera from Atlanta.

Rob Nixon, marketing and communications manager for the Ritz Theatre, 1530 Newcastle St., Brunswick, is waiting to open the theater's doors to share one of his great passions with the Golden Isles.

"I love opera. (When) I used to live in New York, I'd go to the opera in the park and other events, and I've really missed it," he said.

Following a successful performance of "La Boheme" last year, Nixon said bringing the Peach State Opera to Brunswick was based on popular demand.

"Last year was the first time we'd done opera here at the Ritz in many years. It completely sold out. People were crazy about it," he said. "(People) immediately came out and asked us to please do it again."

And the association was more than happy to oblige. After getting in touch with the touring group, the association discovered the Opera-tizers performance, said Nixon.

"(The performance) has work from Mozart to Bernstein to George Gershwin, pieces from the 'Magic Flute,'

If you go

Golden Isles Arts and Humanities Association will present "Opera-tizers," performed by the Peach State Opera, at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Ritz Theatre, 1530 Newcastle St., Brunswick. Tickets are \$15 to \$25 for adults and \$10 to \$20 for seniors, depending on GIAHA membership status and date of purchase. Tickets for persons under 18 years old are \$5. Tickets may be purchased in advance by phone at 262-6934, at the Ritz Theatre from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday or online at goldenislesarts.org.

'Marriage of Figaro,' 'Carmen,' and so much more," he said. "What (the audience) is getting is a real good sampling of pieces from a wide range of styles and periods and composers. It's just going to be a real eclectic and fascinating program."

The performance has been an ongoing production of the tour group, formed in 2008, that is updated each year. Its ever-changing nature makes the show easy to take to different places, like Brunswick.

"Because (Opera-tizers) is a 'whet your appetite' kind of thing, it doesn't require a lot of scenery and set pieces," said Evelyn Hughes, artistic director for the group. "We're a touring company, so we don't like to sit in one spot."

And the group is excited about bringing its show to Glynn County.

"I hope after they hear our performance, they'll want us to come back," Hughes said.

"The beautiful music pretty much speaks for itself. If you love beautiful music and singing, this is the place for you," she said.

While the event is fast-paced and energetic, the group stages each part of the performance so an audience can feel what is going on, Hughes said.