

# Kiawah Island

## ~ DIGEST ~

The Official Publication of the Kiawah Island Community Association

## Two Members File for Open KICA Board Seats

### PROPERTY OWNER DIRECTOR NOMINEE RUSSELL G. WARREN

#### Biographical Data

- Born in Baltimore, MD; raised in Richmond, VA.
- Graduate of the University of Richmond, Doctorate in Economics from Tulane University.
- Served two years in the U.S. Army.
- Career highlights: Professor of Economics and Dean at University of Richmond, chief academic officer at the University of Montevallo, James Madison University, and Mercer University, President of Truman State University, author of two books.
- Kiawah property owner since 1991, full-time resident since 2001.
- Joined KICA's Community Services Committee in 2001, Chair for 2004-2005.



#### Position Statement

KICA, the Town, and other organizations have made great strides in improving the physical make-up of Kiawah and KICA member relations. The bar has been set high and needs to be sustained. That means quality maintenance of property, safeguarding wildlife, and providing rich recreational opportunities for members. Work on the Community Services

See RUSSELL G. WARREN, pg. 7

### PROPERTY OWNER DIRECTOR NOMINEE JOHN R. WILSON

#### Biographical Data

- Retired Managing Director and head of the Structured Finance Group, a unit of Prudential Investments, managing approximately \$4 billion of investments for institutions. Career included assignments in portfolio and asset/liability management, strategic planning, interest rate risk management, information systems, accounting, and auditing.
- Earned a BS in Economics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, attended Boston University Graduate School of Management, completed the AIMR Investment Management Program at Princeton and The Program on Futures and Options at Northwestern, passed the Registered Principal, Registered Representative and Investment Advisor examinations, earned the Chartered Financial Analyst designation, member of the CFA Institute.
- A full-time resident of Kiawah since 2001 with his wife, Linda, John is Chair of KICA's Finance Advisory Committee and has been a member of that committee since 2002. The Wilson's have been Kiawah property owners since 1987 and visitors since 1985.



See JOHN R. WILSON, pg. 7



## Sandcastle Exhibits the Curious Mister Catesby

On February 18 and 19, perfect facsimiles of the original paintings of English naturalist and artist Mark Catesby (1682-1749) will be on exhibit at the Sandcastle. Catesby traveled to the virtually untouched wilderness of South Carolina in 1722 to record the plants and animals unknown in his homeland. The

original paintings, which became the first fully illustrated study of the natural history of North America, were thought lost until 1994 when they were re-discovered in the collection of Windsor Castle.

Exhibit hours are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. both days. This free exhibit is open to KICA members and their guests. The exhibit,

Painted Finch, Courtesy of Alecto Historical Images  
© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

See MISTER CASTESBY, pg. 8

### KICA Board of Directors

Fred Peterson - President  
 Faith Dodge - Vice President  
 Dwight Freeburg - Treasurer  
 Avril Fenwick - Secretary  
 Dick Sula - Property Owner Director  
 Pat McKinney - Director  
 Buddy Darby - Director

### KICA Staff

Joe Bunting - General Manager

Administration Phone (843) 768-9194  
 Toll Free (866) 226-1770  
 Fax (843) 768-4019

[KICAadmin@kiawah-owners.org](mailto:KICAadmin@kiawah-owners.org)

Security Phone (843) 768-8240  
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Recreation Dept. Phone (843) 768-3875  
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[Sandcastle@kiawah-owners.org](mailto:Sandcastle@kiawah-owners.org)

### Website

[www.kiawah-owners.org](http://www.kiawah-owners.org)

### Communications Advisory Committee

Carol Hacker	Chair
Ron Pollitt	Vice Chair
Kathy Abrams	Member
Bill Dunnivant	Member
Bill Hindman	Member
Steve Lapp	Member
Darwin Perry	Member
Jessica Shockley	Staff Liaison

### ~ DIGEST ~

## Mission Statement

We are committed to accurately and effectively reporting news affecting KICA, its board, its committees and its members, and to presenting discussions of significant issues in a balanced and constructive manner.

### Statement of Editorial Policy

Under delegation by the KICA Board of Directors, the Communications Advisory Committee is fully responsible for the editorial content of the Digest and the KICA website. Accordingly, we shall endeavor to report objectively and completely all significant news relating to KICA, its board, its committees, and its members. We shall also publish editorials, identified as such, where we feel that there is a need to clarify, expand or express views and opinions on relevant issues. These views and opinions will not necessarily represent the views of the KICA board unless they are signed as such. Finally, we welcome suggestions from all members on issues deemed significant and deserving of publication or discussion.

## 2005 KICA Budget

KICA entered its second year of zero-based budgeting this year. As part of this process, staffing and expense data was obtained from various other community associations in the Southeast. This data suggests that KICA is generally in line with our peer group, though some areas appear to offer opportunities for either outsourcing or increased internal efficiency. In addition, the departments developed internal volume measures to analyze the factors driving staffing. As we gain more experience with both of these benchmarks, we should be able to more precisely forecast staffing/expense needs and test our expenditures against a peer group.

**General Fund:** Significant changes for 2005 include the second year of implementation of a salary grading plan, resulting in an overall increase in wages of 4%, increases in the cost of employee insurance benefits by 15%, and an estimated 45% increase in the cost of worker's compensation insurance. The 2005 budget provides for increasing the number of pages in *Digest* from 8 to 12 for half of the issues, and mailing all issues of *Digest* using First-Class postage. Specimen tree pruning, increased irrigation areas, and increased mulched areas are also paid from the General Fund.

**Pool Amenity (Recreation) Fund:** KICA is in the process of considering renovations for the Sandcastle, to begin in 2005 (information available on the Sandcastle page of the website at

[www.kiawah-owners.org](http://www.kiawah-owners.org)). The first phase of the renovation will be design and installation of a service elevator and second floor renovation. While the cost of these items will be paid from the Reserve Funds, the renovation project will reduce the revenues and expenses of the Sandcastle for 2005 and no special events will be held after August. The Sandcastle will also be purchasing equipment to implement a photo ID system for members this year.

**Reserves Fund:** Major projects planned for 2005 to be funded from the Reserve Funds include the maintenance facility renovation, repaving Kiawah Island Parkway from the Main Gate to the V-Gate, and the beginning of the Sandcastle renovations. Other projects will be installation of erosion control measures at Cinder Creek, irrigation and landscaping of some regime transition areas, landscaping of certain cul-de-sacs, lake dredging, culvert repairs, and other paving projects. The Reserves Fund balance at the end of 2004 is projected to be \$7.7 million, and at the end of 2005 it is projected to be just under \$5 million.

To review the Consolidated Funds Summary spreadsheet for the 2005 budget, please visit our home page at [www.kiawah-owners.org](http://www.kiawah-owners.org) or refer to your annual meeting packet. Should you have further questions or comments about the budget, you are welcome to contact Joe Bunting toll-free at (866) 226-1770, locally at (843) 768-9194 or via email at [joe.bunting@kiawah-owners.org](mailto:joe.bunting@kiawah-owners.org).

## Drawing Winner Announced

A big thank you goes out to all of the members interested in volunteering on Kiawah who completed and returned the Interest Inventory forms found in the November *Digest*. All who submitted forms by December 17 were eligible for a drawing for a \$100 dinner gift certificate to the Ocean Room at the Sanctuary. And the winner is . . . Mrs. Debbie Stanitski of 87 Surfscoter. Thanks, Debbie, and we hope you enjoy your evening!

## Emergency Services on Kiawah

Many people who live on or visit Kiawah Island have expressed concern about the distance one must travel to reach a hospital should they experience a medical emergency, particularly a life-threatening medical emergency. This concern has generated no small effort to study the situation, assess needs, resources, and make appropriate recommendations for improvement.

The Kiawah-Seabrook Medical Study Group is comprised of physicians, surgeons, medical professionals, and other interested parties from Kiawah and Seabrook Islands. This group has become very involved in determining how medical services are provided on the islands. They have conducted resident surveys, visited hospital emergency rooms, met with administrators of those hospitals and with EMS and fire officials, studied the state of medical response and service on the island, and served as a general watchdog group over medical safety issues. Numerous recommendations made by this group have been positively received and implemented. The existence of this group alone should reassure those concerned with emergency services on the islands that there is someone watching to assure the best possible utilization of medical resources available.

When considering the delivery of

emergency services, it is most important to be treated initially by an Emergency Response Team. In fact, it becomes an eye-opener when one finds out how important initial stabilization is to the success of treatment provided by physicians. It has been said that an EMT, Police Officer, or Firefighter, through the use of CPR and other first aid skills, oftentimes keeps patients breathing, prevents bleeding, and keeps their hearts beating long enough for a doctor to save them. This is due to what some call the "golden hour," a term used in emergency medicine, which refers to the first sixty minutes after an accident or the onset of an acute illness.

In relation to Kiawah Island alone, significant strides have been made to ensure delivery of emergency medical services in recent years. For example, there are currently 18 AED's on the island at all times. They are located at the fire stations, at each of the golf courses and their clubhouses, in the Charleston County Sheriff's vehicles that patrol the island, in the Resort's Security vehicles, in KICA's Security vehicles, and in the Beach Patrol vehicles. Both the Resort and KICA have ongoing CPR/AED training programs for employees. KICA offers certification to its members at no cost. During the first year of KICA's program,

over seventy-five people have been CPR/AED certified.

Close communication and cooperation with the St. John's Fire Department has enabled the quick response of firefighters to the scene of life-threatening emergencies where their lifesaving skills may be expeditiously utilized more often than has been the experience in the past.

With the ability of a quick response from the fire department, the Sheriff's office, Resort Security, KICA Security, employees of the Town of Kiawah Island, or any combination of the above, should reduce many of the concerns relative to the distance to the nearest hospital.

For the emergency medical system to work on Kiawah, it is important for those needing help to call **911** at the first sign of trouble. Without this call, none of the emergency safeguards will take effect.



## Golf Tournament to Benefit Local School

A golf tournament, Calling All Angels, for the benefit of after school enrichment programs and the playground facilities at Angel Oak Elementary School, Johns Island, will take place on February 28, at Kiawah Island Golf Resort's Oak Point golf course. In addition to generating funds for these programs, tournament organizers wish to increase public awareness for the students' need for additional tutors.

The Pro/Am, ABCD Scramble format will tee off at 10:00 a.m. The entry fee of \$75 includes a buffet luncheon where tournament and

additional prizes will be awarded. Two hundred dollars will sponsor a hole, but donations of any amount are needed and thankfully accepted. All donations are tax deductible; please make checks payable to Angel Oak School.

Sponsors and non-player donations should contact Charlie Smith at [cjs843@aol.com](mailto:cjs843@aol.com) or at (843) 768-8434. Those wishing to play should contact Steve Mitchell, Director of the Golf Learning Academy at Kiawah Island Golf Resort via email at [steve\\_mitchell@kiawahresort.com](mailto:steve_mitchell@kiawahresort.com) or at (843) 266-4034.

Angel Oak Elementary School's students attend up to grade 5. The school is located at 6134 Chisholm Road.



# Construction begins on Maintenance Facility

Construction on the long-planned KICA maintenance facility on Kestrel Court began in January. A 3500-square-foot office building will provide workspace for about 30 employees, replacing three old trailers now in use. In addition to the new building, the entire maintenance area will be upgraded with improved fuel and chemical storage, adequate paved parking, and a vehicle wash down area with a water recycler.

The Mitchell Construction Company of Walterboro is the contractor for the project that was designed by Liollo Architecture, Inc. Total cost is projected at \$1,013,000 and will come from the Major Repair & Replacement Fund rather than member assessments.

Looking forward to the project's planned July completion, Maintenance Department project manager Connie Samford says that the new building "can't come soon enough" for the employees who have had to work so long in the antiquated trailers.



The KICA Maintenance offices are currently housed in trailers ranging from 15 to 25 years old.



Equipment and chemicals are presently stored in sheds such as these.



Approximately 30 employees use this restroom trailer.

# Kiawah Real Estate Sales at Record High

Kiawah Island Real Estate (KIRE) announced recently that the company closed almost \$353 million dollars of property for Kiawah owners and over \$30 million of KRA owned property in 2004. The \$383 million total is a new one-year record surpassing 1998 when \$313 million was closed.

According to Pat McKinney, President of KIRE, "People continue to choose Kiawah for its natural beauty, beach, environmentally sensitive development, and active lifestyle. We are creating both short and long-term value for our property owners, which makes Kiawah a sound financial investment."

The breakdown for KIRE brokered sales is \$90 million in resale lots, nearly \$90 million in villas and

cottages, \$172 million in homes – all for current owners – along with \$30 million in KRA homesites.

The adjacent charts show comparisons with the year 2003, along with totals since 1998.

### KIRE Real Estate Closings

1998	\$313 million
1999	\$299.4 million
2000	\$281.9 million
2001	\$219.6 million
2002	\$213 million
2003	\$275 million
2004	\$383 million

### KIRE Real Estate Sales Closed

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
<u>Resale:</u>		
Lots	\$64,763,650	\$90,928,445
Villas/ Cottages	\$53,463,450	\$89,663,867
Homes	\$129,210,720	\$172,045,384
KRA/Lots	\$25,871,800	\$30,504,750

**PLEASE BE ALERT!**

Watch for lane changes  
and road workers during construction  
of the  
Roundabout at Kiawah Island  
and Betsy Kerrison Parkways.

# February

## Sandcastle Information

Phone (843)768-3875 • Fax (843)768-3889

[sandcastle@kiawah-owners.org](mailto:sandcastle@kiawah-owners.org) • [www.kiawah-owners.org](http://www.kiawah-owners.org)

Kay Narmour, Director

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>HOURS OF OPERATION</b>						
		Monday - Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.				
		1 1:00 pm POPs Bridge 	2 4:00 pm Weight Watchers	3 8:00 am Investment Club  5:30 pm <b>Members' Dinner</b> - Deborah Beam's Yummy Stuff	4 5:30 pm "Wine Down Friday" 	5
6	7 8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Stitches and Conversation 1:00 pm Book Club 2:00 pm KICA Board Meeting 4:00 pm Opera Lite III	8 1:00 pm POPs Bridge	9 9:30 am KPOG meeting 9:30 am Art Guild 4:00 pm Weight Watchers	10 8:00 am Investment Club  5:30 pm <b>Members' Dinner</b> - The Helping Hand's Valentine Dinner	11	12
13	14 8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Garden Club 4:00 pm Opera Lite III	15 1:00 pm POPs Bridge	16 4:00 pm Weight Watchers 	17 8:00 am Investment Club  5:30 pm <b>Members' Dinner</b> - The Casual Gourmet	18 8:00am - 5:00 pm Catesby Exhibit	19 8:00am - 5:00 pm Catesby Exhibit
20	21 8:30 am Bible Study 1:30 pm Duplicate Bridge 4:00 pm Opera Lite III	22 1:00 pm POPs Bridge	23 4:00 pm Weight Watchers	24 8:00 am Investment Club  5:30 pm <b>Members' Dinner</b> - Red Sky Grill	25	26 10:00 am Ladies Day 
21	28 8:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Opera Lite III					

## SANDCASTLE COMMUNITY CENTER February Events and Programs

### February Fitness Schedule

#### Body Shaping

MWF 8:15 am  
\$5 member/\$8 guest

#### Light Conditioning

MWF 10:00 am  
\$5 member/\$8 guest

#### Pilates

Tuesdays and Thursdays  
10:00 am AND 4:30 pm  
\$7.50 member/ \$10 guest

#### Stability Ball for Peak Performance

Wednesdays 9:30 am  
\$3 member/ \$5 guest

#### Yoga Fusion

Saturdays 9:00 am  
\$5 member/ \$8 guest



\*Personal Training is available at the Sandcastle. Call us at (843) 768-3875 for more information. \*

### Opera Lite III

Opera productions, new and old from around the world, on video, with English subtitles, will be presented - a different one each week! Audio, literary and historical sources add flavor in a mix of entertainment and education.



Previous opera knowledge is not necessary - we're eager for participants unversed in opera to give it a try! All are welcome for any and all sessions! Presented by John Benzel (843-768-1174).

Dates: Mondays, January 10  
- March 14, 2005  
Time: 4:00 - 5:30 pm  
Cost: FREE  
Venue: Sandcastle

### Upcoming Special Events

Registration is required for the following events.

#### "Wine Down Friday"

A "TGIF" Cocktail Party

Join us at the Sandcastle for a "Thank-Goodness-It's-Friday" cocktail party! We'll pass the hors d'oeuvres and catch up with friends, new and old! Bring your own beverage, as cups and ice will be provided for you. Reservations required, as space is limited. Call the Sandcastle at (843) 768-3875 or send an email to: [sandcastle@kiawah-owners.org](mailto:sandcastle@kiawah-owners.org).

Date: Friday, February 4, 2005  
Time: 5:30 - 7:30 pm  
Cost: \$12 per member  
Venue: Sandcastle

#### Ladies Day 2005



Join us on Saturday, February 26, for a much deserved "spa day" with the girls, where it's all about you! You'll learn different ways to pamper, care for and treat yourself,

while relaxing in an enjoyable environment. The day will include a core stability, balance and flexibility class, a light lunch and healthy living presentation by Dr. Pamela Morris of Charleston's Prevecare, mini-massages, professional beauty tips, a discussion of pain management and natural remedies and much more. Ladies Day is sure to rejuvenate body, mind, soul and spirit! Reservations required.

**Upon registration, you will be entered into a drawing for various spa services valuing from \$25-\$80!**

Date: Saturday, February 26, 2005  
Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Cost: \$30 per member/\$40 per guest  
Venue: Sandcastle

### FEBRUARY THURSDAY NIGHT DINNERS

February 3	Deborah Beam's Yummy Stuff
February 10	The Helping Hand Valentine's Dinner
February 17	The Casual Gourmet
February 24	Red Sky Grill

*We hope to see you soon!*

# Street Resurfacing on Kiawah Island

About ten years ago, KICA started a program of annual street resurfacing on Kiawah. At the time, many of the island's streets had been in place for close to twenty years and were starting to show signs of age with patches and temporary repairs

KICA's Major Repair & Replacement Committee decided on an aggressive program of repaving fifteen to twenty-five streets a year. The streets with the most patches, ruts, cracks, potholes, etc. were paved the first year. Then an inspection schedule was created for the remainder of the streets, with the oldest streets first. Streets with chronological age that are still in good shape are moved down the schedule accordingly. Streets that may be newer but in poorer repair are moved up.

There are a few streets constructed twenty-five years ago that will not have to be repaved for another five years or so.

Broken curbing, valley gutters and the street edge of some concrete driveways are typically replaced before resurfacing. Over the years, through trial and error, KICA's Maintenance Department has found that taking up the existing asphalt (milling) rather than overlaying works best. This way, any existing drainage problems can be corrected before resurfacing. After milling the old asphalt and sub-surface repair has been accomplished, an inch-and-a-half to two inches of new wearing surface asphalt is laid. The new asphalt is then rolled to a certain degree of compaction, and the street is ready to be driven on. Any

street markings such as striping or stop bars are repainted about two weeks after the asphalt is laid. If this is done too soon after paving, the white paint will turn brownish.

The newly paved streets will now have a new life of approximately twenty years. Most street markings are repainted annually. On the paving schedule for 2005 are: Governor's Drive from the V-Gate to the first Flyway intersection, Masters Court, Marsh Edge Lane, Marsh Elder Court, Marsh Island Drive, Sweet Gum Lane, Trumpet Creeper Lane, and Wax Myrtle Court. Kiawah Island Parkway may be resurfaced in the fall.

From JOHN R. WILSON, pg.1

## Position Statement

KICA is one of the most financially sound community associations in the country. The continued careful and conservative use of property owners' resources to maintain and improve the island's critical infrastructure is essential

to our lifestyle and property values. KICA's board must make difficult choices on scarce resource allocation to accomplish this while controlling the growth of KICA's assessments, fees, and the other tax-equivalent revenues.

From RUSSELL G. WARREN, pg. 1

Committee has convinced me that we can do even more to develop a stronger sense of community.

Perhaps most importantly, I pledge to be a good listener. My agenda will be set by the priorities of our full- and part-time residents, not my own interests.

## Celebrate Kiawah!

Join your Kiawah neighbors on Saturday, March 19th for the 3rd annual "Celebrate Kiawah" event at the Sandcastle! This year's event promises to be bigger and better than 2004!

**4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.**

The Tommy Gill Jazz Quartet, featuring Ms. Ann Caldwell

**5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

The Tommy Gill Jazz Quartet

**5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

Free Buffet! Cash bars!

**6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

Dance the night away with **The**

**Headliners**, one of the most requested dance bands in the Southeast! Big band, Classic 50's & 60's, Rock & Roll, Beach Music, Motown, Disco!

There is no cost to attend, so please RSVP today to KICA Member Services, toll-free at (866) 226-1770, locally at (843) 768-9194, or via email at [KICAadmin@kiawah-owners.org](mailto:KICAadmin@kiawah-owners.org). Thanks to the Town of Kiawah Island's Arts Council for sponsoring the Tommy Gill Jazz Quartet and Ms. Ann Caldwell.



## West Beach Developments

Kiawah Island Golf Resort recently confirmed that the Kiawah Island Inn and its related facilities, including conference rooms, the pools, and Sundancer Bar would not reopen during 2005. Prem Devadas, Managing Director for KIGR, told representatives of KICA, Seascapes, Courtside, Shipwatch, and Fairway Oaks that the Inn was closed August 21, 2004, after the opening of The Sanctuary and that the pools and Sundancer remained open until October 2004 when they were permanently closed.

KICA facilitated Devadas' meeting with the group of villa managers and owners to investigate the potential for

the regimes to provide a swimming pool for their owners and rental guests. An initial offer was to construct a pool to the oceanside of Seascapes, but this was not acceptable to the manager and owners of that regime. Currently being considered for the private regime pool is the site of an underutilized Resort-owned parking lot on Shipwatch Road.

KIGR is in the process of securing the Inn property, prior to demolition, to lessen its liability for the deserted structures. The Resort will be developing a Master Plan for its holdings in the West Beach area during 2005.

## Access for Taxis and Limos

As mentioned in the Board Briefs section of the January *Digest*, the KICA Board of Directors recently amended Section VII. C. of the Gate Access and Procedures for Vehicle Decals and Passes policy. The new procedure is outlined as follows:

Taxis and limousines servicing KICA property owners will not be charged a vehicle access fee – they will be issued a “No Charge” Commercial Pass instead.

Property owners using a taxi or limousine service are asked to notify the Main Gate at (843) 768-5566. Security personnel will ascertain the taxi or limousine service's company name, the name of the property owner, the destination on Kiawah to which the vehicle will travel, and the date and time of the service. Upon receipt of this information, Security personnel will issue a “No Charge” Commercial Pass. The pass will be kept at the gate and provided to the taxi or limousine driver upon arrival. When a property owner arrives at the Main Gate in a taxi or limousine, the same policy will apply.

## Slip-Lining and CIPP

Until about eight years ago, anytime KICA had a major problem with a drainage pipe, the pipe had to be dug up and repaired or the entire pipeline had to be replaced. This is called the “open lay” method and too often, repairs involved members' landscaping, sod, lighting, etc. It was also rather costly to KICA!

In 1996, KICA Maintenance personnel learned about a process called slip-lining of pipe. Slip-lining involves pulling a piece of thick PVC pipe through the existing damaged pipe and sealing the gap between the two at both ends. The new pipe is just smaller than the inside diameter of the old pipe and has a smooth interior. The drainage box where the slip-lined pipe enters must be rebuilt, but there is no damage to the member's property.

In 2000, the Maintenance Department learned about another process of lining drainage pipe called CIPP, or “cured in place pipe.” This newer process, first developed in Great Britain, involves introducing a chemically treated “sock” or “sleeve” into the damaged pipe. When hot water or steam is fed through the sock over a period of time, the liquid chemical in the sock turns to a very hard solid liner. The new liner takes the form of the inside of the old pipe but is smoother

and very, very durable. As with slip-lining, there is no damage to the member's property. However, with CIPP, there is no drainage box to rebuild.

Both of these processes are considerably less expensive than the older open lay method and can be done at any time of year regardless of weather. Typically though, this type of work is done in preparation for the annual street resurfacing that takes place each spring.

## Notice . . .

The 2005 KICA Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 20 at the East Beach Conference Center. Key dates include:

Annual Meeting Packets Mailed:

Approximately February 2, 2005

Advisory Motions due:

February 18, 2005, 5:00 p.m.

Ballot/proxy return deadline:

March 16, 2005, 5:00 p.m.

Celebrate Kiawah event:

March 19, 2005

Annual Meeting date:

March 20, 2005, 2:00 p.m.

Watch for more information in upcoming *Digest* issues!

### From MISTER CATESBY pg. 1

produced by KICA member Dave Elliott, will culminate in a special one-hour presentation and Q & A about the artist, his explorations and craft on Saturday at 3:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Elliott has had a lifetime interest in history and ornithology, and is founder and former chair of the Kiawah Island Natural Habitat Conservancy. He serves as Executive Director of the Catesby Memorial Trust, which is producing a documentary film, “The Curious Mister Catesby” depicting the artist's adventures and artwork. It is anticipated that the film will be offered to public television for broadcast next year.

# Beach Kudzu Approaches Kiawah

Kiawah Island property owners appreciate the importance of the beach dune ecosystem in protecting property from storm damage and erosion as well as providing habitat for wildlife. As a result, members are frequently quick to notice small changes in the dune environment that may have consequences for the entire island. These days, dune watchers may have something new to look out for on their trips to the beach: beach kudzu or beach vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia*).

Beach kudzu, a Pacific Rim native, arrived in Georgetown County in the 1980's when it was used as a landscape plant to prevent erosion. The fact that the plant's salt-tolerant seeds are spread by the tides has enabled *Vitex* to spread along the coast. It is now found on Pawley's Island, Debordieu, Isle of Palms, Folly Beach and a number of other coastal locations. "Given its distribution patterns and history in coastal South Carolina, it is inevitable that it will get

here eventually," states Norm Shea, KICA Director of Lakes Management.

Scientists are just starting to study the ecological impact of beach vitex, an invasive plant that has already wiped out vast expanses of sea oats, sea beach amaranth and sweet grass. The North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) reports anecdotal observations that *Vitex* does not trap sand as well as native grasses, and therefore may lower the dune profile. However, there are, as yet, no definitive scientific studies on this issue.

In terms of habitat, Shea notes that the plant's very dense growth pattern is the source of a major concern for communities currently experiencing *Vitex* invasions. Thick mats of *Vitex* covering the dunes may interfere with sea turtle nesting. Once *Vitex* has taken hold, its thick vegetation and deep roots pose obstacles for female turtles attempting to

dig nests and lay eggs as well as for newly hatched turtles trying to escape predators and reach the sea.

At this point on Kiawah, watchfulness is the key. The Town's Environmental Committee is aware of the plant and has informed the Turtle Patrol.

Further information about beach vitex can be obtained from the following online sources:

North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve:  
[www.northinlet.sc.edu/resource/vitex.htm](http://www.northinlet.sc.edu/resource/vitex.htm)

US Geological Survey:  
[www.usgs.gov/features/beach\\_vitex.html](http://www.usgs.gov/features/beach_vitex.html)

South Carolina Native Plant Society:  
[www.scnps.org/PDFs/vitex.pdf](http://www.scnps.org/PDFs/vitex.pdf)

Folly Beach Turtle Watch Program:  
[www.follyturtles.com/issues2.html](http://www.follyturtles.com/issues2.html)

## Cable Channel 60

In the December issue of *Digest*, we announced the availability of the Town of Kiawah Island's local cable channel. Since then, the Town has informed subscribers that, due to the current cable television configuration, Channel 60 is not available on the basic service level. Comcast is working to correct the problem, and all subscribers should receive Channel 60 by the end of March 2005. In case you missed the notice in the December *Digest*, Channel 60 features information on Town of Kiawah meetings, Arts Council Programs, local wildlife, and KICA news including Sandcastle events and activities.

## Board Briefs - January

- Approved a request from the Kiawah Island Natural Habitat Conservancy to hold its second annual Bobcat Ball at the Rhett's Bluff Boat Landing on April 21, 2005. The Conservancy is planning for 450 guests to enjoy an evening of dining and dancing at the fundraising event to benefit its goal of keeping Kiawah unique in America.
- Approved the contract with Glick-Boehm Architects for design of the service elevator for Sandcastle with a not-to-exceed construction budget of \$242,000.
- Viewed a presentation by Jim Jordan, naturalist of the Town of Kiawah Island, which showed the ongoing erosion of the beach in the vicinity of the Ocean Course. Jordan briefed the board on the Town's monitoring plans for 2005.

## Town of Kiawah Arts Council Presents

Plan a special evening with dinner and a string quartet performance featuring principal chairs of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. The performance will be held on Sunday, February 13 at 4:00 p.m. at The Sanctuary. For more information, please contact Karen Andrews at (843) 768-9166 or [kandrews@kiawahisland.org](mailto:kandrews@kiawahisland.org).

## 20% Reassessment Cap Vetoed

Governor Mark Sanford has vetoed the 20% Reassessment Cap passed by the South Carolina Legislature last June. At this time, it is uncertain whether or not the veto will be sustained. A challenge to

the 15% cap by the City of North Charleston is still being reviewed by the South Carolina Supreme Court. A decision could come this spring.

# Kiawah Island

≈ DIGEST ≈

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## Beach Kudzu Approaches Kiawah *See full article on page 9*



Among the characteristics of beach vitex are: oval-shaped, semi-waxy leaves; woody stem; purple flower in the summer. Please refer to the websites provided in the full article for more information.



Beach vitex overtakes a dune on Pawley's Island, SC. While the plant is not yet found on Kiawah, it is anticipated to spread here eventually.