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**SC RECIPE**

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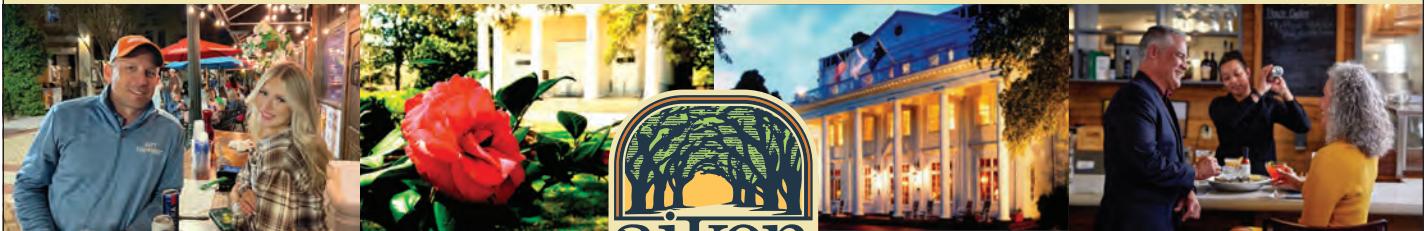
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Read in more than 620,000 homes and businesses and published monthly except in December by

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Colonial reenactors talk in front of the Logan Log House at the Ninety Six National Historic Site during a Revolutionary War battle anniversary event.

## 14 Explore the Revolution

As our nation celebrates 250 years, dive into the significant role South Carolina played in the war for independence by visiting sites where history comes alive.

### 4 CO-OP NEWS

Updates from your local co-op.

### 6 AGENDA

Learn how electric co-ops help women achieve their goals of returning to college.

### 10 RECIPE

#### Order up!

Bring diner-style comfort food to your own table with new takes on classic blue plate specials.

### 12 SC STORIES

#### All for a song

Singer, songwriter and storyteller Patrick Davis left home to pursue his musical dreams but always comes back to his roots.

### 18 CALENDAR + FISH & GAME CHART

### 20 SC GARDENER

#### Pretty Polly

This eye-catching houseplant brings a touch of exotic beauty to your living space. Plus, start saving these items to prep for spring planting.

### 22 HUMOR ME

#### Winter athletes need crazy parents

It takes a special kind of nut to raise an Olympian, Jan Igoe writes in a classic column from 2010, apt for next month's Winter Olympics.

**CORRECTION:** In the Nov./Dec. 2025 issue of *South Carolina Living*, the article "Sculpting Stories" incorrectly identified the birthplace of statue subject "Peg Leg" Bates. Bates was a native of Fountain Inn.



10



20



Revolutionary War reenactors Daniel Aston and Sharon Hollis perform on Nov. 15, 2025, during the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the first battle at Ninety Six. Photo by Sam Wolfe.



[tri-countyelectric.net](http://tri-countyelectric.net)

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## District offices closing, new call center opening

I WOULD LIKE to inform you of an important upcoming change in how Tri-County Electric Cooperative serves its valued members. Effective March 2, our district offices in Santee and Lower Richland will permanently close.

This decision reflects our continued commitment to improving service efficiency and accessibility for all members. Over the past several years, we've seen a significant shift in how members interact with the cooperative. Less than 5% of members now visit district offices, while the majority rely on our online and phone services to manage their accounts and for support.

To better meet these changing needs, we're excited to announce the establishment of a new in-house Member Service Call Center, staffed by our knowledgeable and friendly member service team. This enhancement will ensure you continue to receive prompt, professional assistance by phone and online. Our representatives currently handle more than 7,000 calls per month, and this new center will further strengthen that level of service.

While our service strategy is evolving,

our commitment to quality and member satisfaction remains steadfast. We understand that transitions can be challenging, but these updates will allow us to serve you more effectively—anytime, anywhere.

For members who prefer in-person assistance, our St. Matthews headquarters will remain open, with expanded office hours:

- Monday-Thursday: 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Friday: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

You can also access your account, make payments, apply for service, or report outages 24 hours a day, seven days a week through our convenient online and phone options.

If you have any questions or concerns about these upcoming changes, please don't hesitate to contact our Member Service team (877) 874-1215. We sincerely appreciate your understanding, support and continued trust in Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

*Chad T. Lowder*

**CHAD T. LOWDER**

Chief Executive Officer

### Member service options

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Rebecca Fogle of Santee (right) was ready to take Tri-County Electric lineman, Josh Shealy, home after she registered at the co-op's headquarters.



PHOTOS BY JOSH P. CROTZER

## Getting 'mower' from the co-op

### Tri-County Electric holds annual meeting of members

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

**FRED STABLER** lives within the Calhoun Hills Golf Complex in Saint Matthews, so he has to make sure his lawn is well taken care of. Fortunately, Stabler now has the same John Deere ZTrak riding mower that is used to cut the fairways by his home.

Although, he might not be the one doing the cutting.

"I'll go from my brother-in-law to my wife doing our lawn," Stabler says. "She loves it, and she's excited about this."

Stabler was the grand prize winner of Tri-County Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting drawing on Nov. 15, after taking advantage of the drive-thru registration

just a little over a mile from his home up Old State Road.

Perhaps for next year's annual meeting, Stabler can ride through on his new mower.

Stabler was one of 2,983 Tri-County Electric members who registered for the co-op's 2025 Annual Meeting. The co-op welcomed members to its headquarters, the Richland District office and the Santee District office over a four-day period.

Members in District 3 also reelected Jacqueline S. Shaw to Tri-County Electric Board of Trustees.

All registered members received a \$25 bill credit and a rain gauge.



Fred Stabler, on his new riding lawn mower, was one of 14 door prize winners of Tri-County Electric's Annual Meeting drawings.



It was a sunny day, but Allison Ben, 7, was ready to use the 85th Anniversary rain gauge her mom, Diane, received at registration.



TCEC's Bykia Frederick got to wish Brent Hendricks of Swansea, with his wife, Phyllis, a happy 70th birthday while he drove through registration in Saint Matthews.

## Co-ops help women returning to college

Apply now for the Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship

Jessica Burch Sellers' story is exactly what WIRE leaders had in mind when they established the Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship.

Sellers, of Patrick, earned her licensed practical nurse certification in 2007, just after her first child was born. Then she had another daughter and became a single parent.

"I always wanted to get my bachelor's degree, and then life happened," says Sellers, who has since remarried and is a "bonus mother" to another four kids. "I kind of put myself on the back burner to raise these children."

Now Sellers has returned to school to complete her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. She's taking classes at Coker University while serving as a healthcare coordinator at CHESCO Services in Cheraw, supporting adults with special needs.

The Lynches River Electric Cooperative member is the recipient of the 2025 Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship, a \$2,500 award for women who are members of a South Carolina electric cooperative and are returning to college.

Women returning to college may now apply for financial assistance from the 2026 Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship program. Sponsored by Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE), a service organization associated with South Carolina's not-for-profit electric cooperatives, the scholarship is a one-time award based on financial need and personal goals.

Applicants for the Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship must:

- ▶ Be a member/customer of a South Carolina electric cooperative;
- ▶ Have graduated from high school or earned their GED at least 10 years ago;
- ▶ Obtain acceptance into an accredited college or university;
- ▶ Demonstrate financial need.

The deadline to apply is June 1, 2026. The recipient will receive the scholarship for the fall 2026 or spring 2027 semester, paid to the recipient's college of choice.

To apply online or to learn more, visit [ecsc.org/wire](http://ecsc.org/wire). —JOSH P. CROTZER

energy  
efficiency  
tip

Open the curtains on south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows. SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV



MEMBERS SPEAK ON THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE



I  MY CO-OP

**Diane Haygood**

**EDISTO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

**HOMETOWN:** Allendale

### Boast-worthy service

Diane Haygood's mother always bragged about her utility, Edisto Electric Cooperative. When Haygood moved into Edisto Electric's service territory in Allendale, she got bragging rights, too.

Haygood's mother had several electric poles in need of replacement on her property. Edisto Electric coordinated with her family to schedule the work around a visit from relatives, which was a great relief, Haygood says.

When Edisto Electric's crew came to make the replacement, Haygood says she skipped her exercise class to watch the crew work.

"It was just amazing to see them work," Haygood says. "The precision, it was just awesome."

Edisto Electric's

linemen always answer her questions when they work on her lines, Haygood says.

**"They still give you that one-on-one 'me' time."**

—DIANE HAYGOOD

"Whenever the electricity goes out ... you see them, and they're so approachable."

Edisto Electric's annual meetings are a highlight for Haygood. She says she appreciates the efficiency of the drive-thru format and loves the gifts she's received.

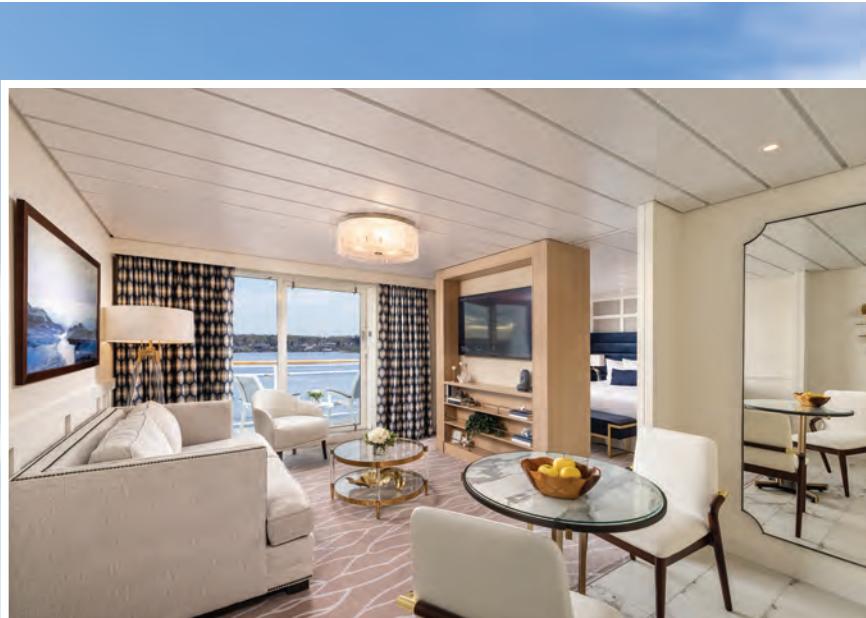
"It's just amazing with the logistics, with the setup that they have that keeps it flowing," she says. "But they still give you that one-on-one 'me' time."

### WHAT'S YOUR STORY?



Scan this QR code or visit [SCLiving.coop/stories](http://SCLiving.coop/stories) to share what you love about your co-op. Entries may be published in future issues of *South Carolina Living*, online and on social media.

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# A new look at the blue plate special

BY BELINDA SMITH-SULLIVAN



## EASY ROAST BEEF AND GRAVY

SERVES 6-8

### ROAST

- 3-pound eye of round roast
- 1-2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme

### GRAVY

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 4 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2½ cups beef stock or pan drippings

Remove roast from refrigerator and let stand at room temperature for at least 30 minutes. Pat dry with a paper towel. In a small bowl, combine oil, salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder and thyme. Rub the oil mixture generously all over roast and place in a roasting pan with wire rack.

Preheat oven to 500 F. Roast for 15 minutes to sear. Reduce oven temperature to 300 F and roast another 40-50 minutes to a temperature of 130 to 135 degrees for medium rare. At 40 minutes, check temperature with an instant-read meat thermometer. (Eye of round can get tough if overcooked.) Transfer to a cutting board and tent with foil for 15-20 minutes. The temperature will continue to rise as the roast rests.

To make the gravy, melt butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Whisk in flour until combined with butter. Slowly whisk in beef stock or pan drippings until smooth, and let simmer until thickened, 5-7 minutes. Taste and season with salt and pepper if needed.

To serve, thinly slice roast against the grain. Layer on top of mashed potatoes and generously top with gravy.

*Blue plate specials* conjure up memories of diner-style comfort food at its best. Easy, yummy and affordable—and at the heart of it all was a big helping of mashed potatoes cooked and seasoned to perfection. Try these new takes on popular diner specials that you can whip up at home with little time and effort.

## MEATLOAF WITH MUSHROOM GRAVY

SERVES 6

### MEATLOAF

- 1½ pounds ground beef (85/15 or 90/10)
- 1 small onion, grated or minced
- 2 garlic cloves, grated or minced
- 1 large egg
- ½ cup rolled oats (or dried breadcrumbs)
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- ½ tablespoon fresh ground black pepper
- ½ cup chopped fresh parsley
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ cup milk

Preheat oven to 350 F. Using clean hands or a large mixing fork, combine ground beef, onion, garlic, egg, oats, tomato paste, Worcestershire, salt, pepper, parsley, cheese and milk. Do not overmix! Shape on a sheet pan lined with foil or put into a loaf pan sprayed lightly with cooking spray. Bake in preheated oven 45-60 minutes or until the loaf reaches an internal temperature of 160 F. Test temperature with an instant-read meat thermometer at 45 minutes.

Make gravy while the meatloaf is cooking. In a skillet over medium heat, add oil and butter. Sauté mushrooms, stirring until tender and liquid is evaporated. Whisk in flour until well blended; turn temperature down slightly and let cook until flour starts to turn a nutty brown color. Add stock and continue cooking, whisking, until gravy starts to thicken. Add Worcestershire, salt and pepper and continue simmering for 3-4 minutes. When meatloaf comes out of the oven, cover with some of the mushroom gravy and place the rest on the table for those who would like to add more.



PHOTOS THIS PAGE BY IULIA NEDRYGAILOVA

### MUSHROOM GRAVY

- 1 tablespoon olive or canola oil
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1 pound mushrooms, cleaned and sliced
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1½ cups unsalted beef stock
- ½ tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- Kosher salt
- Fresh ground black pepper



## FRIED PORK CHOPS WITH PAN GRAVY

SERVES 4

### PORK CHOPS

- 4 bone-in pork chops,  $\frac{1}{2}$ - to  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch thick
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1½ cups self-rising flour
- 1 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- ½ cup canola oil

Prepare pork chops by making cuts  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch apart all around the fatty edges. Place buttermilk in a shallow pan and add the chops. In another shallow pan, combine flour, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder and paprika. Working in batches, shake off excess buttermilk from chops and dredge in flour on both sides, patting flour firmly onto chops to help it stick. Place chops on a rack and set aside for 15–20 minutes.

In a cast-iron skillet over medium heat, add oil. Working in batches, carefully place chops in oil and fry for 4–5 minutes per side or until golden brown and cooked through to an internal temperature of 145 F when measured with an instant-read meat thermometer. Repeat until all chops are cooked. Remove chops to a rack or platter and keep warm.

To make the gravy, remove all but 2 tablespoons oil from skillet and return to medium heat. Add flour and whisk until combined. Cook for 2–3 minutes until golden brown. Gradually whisk in broth until gravy thickens to desired consistency, 5–7 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Place chops on a serving platter and cover with gravy.

**CHEF'S TIP** **Stop pork chops from "doming" in the skillet.** Fried pork chops tend to dome in the pan, which means the first side you cook curls up. Therefore, when you flip them, the other side does not lie flat or cook evenly. This happens because the fatty edge of the pork chop cooks faster and compresses. This is easily remedied. With a sharp knife or kitchen shears, cut the fatty edge every  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch. When the chop is frying, the edges will fan out, and the chop will continue to lie flat and cook evenly when flipped.

### PAN GRAVY

- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1½ cups unsalted chicken stock
- Kosher salt
- Fresh ground black pepper

GWÉNAËL LE VOT



KAREN HERMAN

## RIBEYE CHICKEN-FRIED STEAK WITH SAWDUST GRAVY

SERVES 4

### STEAK

- 4 thinly sliced ( $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch) ribeye steaks
- 2 teaspoons blackened seasoning
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- Canola oil, for frying

### GRAVY

- 2 tablespoons pan drippings
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 cups whole milk
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon fresh coarsely ground black pepper

Cut off excess fat around the edges of the steaks. Using a meat mallet, pound steaks on both sides until thin and tenderized. Season generously with blackened seasoning. In a shallow bowl, add buttermilk and allow steaks to marinate for 30–60 minutes. Add flour to another shallow pan. Shake off excess buttermilk from steaks and dredge in flour on both sides, patting flour firmly onto steaks to help it stick. (If you prefer the steaks extra crispy, dip again into buttermilk and dredge a second time in flour.) Place steaks on a rack and set aside.

In a cast-iron skillet, add  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of oil and heat to 350 F. Working in batches, cook steaks until golden brown on each side, 3–4 minutes. Repeat until all steaks are cooked. Remove to a rack or large platter and keep warm.

To make the gravy, remove all but 2 tablespoons of oil from skillet. Increase heat to medium-high. Add flour and whisk to combine. Add milk and continue to whisk vigorously until gravy starts to boil slightly. Reduce temperature to medium-low and let gravy continue to cook until it thickens to desired consistency, 6–8 minutes. (If gravy is too thick, add milk, 2 tablespoons at a time, until desired consistency. If too thin, add flour, 1 tablespoon at a time, until desired consistency.) Add salt and pepper and stir well. Serve over warm steaks with mashed potatoes or vegetables.

## EASY DINER-STYLE MASHED POTATOES

SERVES 4

- 2 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes or russets, peeled and quartered
- 1 clove garlic, smashed (optional)
- 8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
- ½ cup half-and-half or milk, warmed

- Kosher salt
- Fresh ground black pepper, to taste
- Additional unsalted butter (optional)
- Chopped chives, for garnish

Place potatoes in a large saucepan of cold, salted water, covered by 1 inch. Add the garlic clove and bring to a boil over high heat. Then reduce to a simmer. Cook until potatoes are fork-tender, about 15 minutes. Drain the potatoes in a colander and return to the pan for 1–2 minutes. This removes the excess moisture from the potatoes. Discard the garlic clove.

Add the butter to the potatoes and mash using a potato masher. Slowly pour in warmed milk and continue mashing until reaching desired consistency. Taste and add salt and pepper and stir to combine thoroughly. Transfer to a serving bowl and add additional butter on top if desired. Garnish with chives.



IT'S A MATTER OF TASTE.

SC RECIPE IS SPONSORED BY SC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## All for a song

Patrick Davis is a man of many talents—songwriter, guitarist, storyteller, even television personality—but he admits he's no mathematician. Still, he's run a few calculations in his head.

"In Nashville," he says of the city where he moved to pursue a music career, "there's probably at least a couple hundred thousand people who write music, who write songs. Let's just say ... that's 100,000 songs a day being written."

In other words, it takes a lot of talent and hard work, even a little luck, for songwriters to get heard through all the noise. But Davis has done just that. He has credits for songs recorded by Jimmy Buffett, Jewel, Guy Clark, and Lady A—just to name a few. He's put out five solo albums; started a musical retreat called Songwriters in Paradise; and hosted an ETV and PBS special, *Southern Songwriters with Patrick Davis*, that mixes live performance with small-town storytelling. And he was awarded the Order of the Silver Crescent, one of the state's highest civilian honors, in 2019.

That's a lot of success for a fellow raised in Camden who played more sports than music as a kid. But Davis will be the first to tell you he attributes it to the musical household in which he grew up.

"I grew up with my dad, who is still kind of a local guitar hero in Camden—I always call him the Eric Clapton of three counties—and that's where I was always around music," Davis says.

When he got to USC, he played in bars at a time when the Columbia music scene was thriving. When he moved to Nashville to work in the music industry, he embraced co-writing songs with people "who speak the same musical language." Now, he's hosting them on his television show or having them play at his curated music-and-wine festivals in places like Cabo, the Bahamas and Napa.

Still, for all his travels and success, Davis likes to bring it all back home.

"Life has a tendency to beat you down and tell you that you always need more, more, more," he says, sounding just like a songwriter. "Sometimes, it's great to remember what success would have looked like to that 21-year-old kid playing ... at the University of South Carolina. That gives you a different perspective."

—HASTINGS HENSEL | PHOTO BY LAUREN JENKINS

### Patrick Davis

AGE: 48.

HOMETOWN: Camden.

CLAIM TO FAME: South Carolina-raised, Nashville-based singer-songwriter.

GAMECOCK ALBUM: The USC alum and die-hard Gamecock football fan was inspired after a 2009 victory over No. 4-ranked Ole Miss to pen a song about his favorite team. The ultimate result was *The Gamecock Album* (2013), which, for many Carolina fans, is a get-pumped-up, pregame staple.

NEW ALBUM: Davis' latest album, *Carolina When I Die*, celebrates his roots and includes appearances by such friends (and South Carolina musical luminaries) as Darius Rucker and Edwin McCain.



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# EXPLORE the REVOLUTION in SOUTH CAROLINA



BY JEFF WILKINSON | PHOTOS BY SAM WOLFE

**R**ick Wise walks a newly cleared path in the piney woods of Kershaw County to the place where, on Aug. 16, 1780, nearly 6,000 soldiers faced off in the Revolutionary War's Battle of Camden. He breaks away as he sees two visitors reading a nearby sign explaining the battle. Wise launches into an animated presentation to the men. He describes how British troops under Lord Cornwallis routed Americans led by Horatio Gates, and more than 2,000 Americans were killed, wounded or captured compared to just 324 British troops in a crushing defeat for the Patriot cause.

"I can't help it," says Wise, interim director of the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Society, after the men continue down the trail. "The war is in my blood."

This year marks the 250th anniversary of

**250 YEARS LATER** As the country celebrates the milestone anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, reenactors commemorate a battle between Patriots and Loyalists at Ninety Six National Historic Site. Below, Matt Varnes dresses in colonial attire during the Ninety Six reenactment weekend.

the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America. The milestone will be celebrated with events and commemorations throughout the nation. In South Carolina—one of the original 13 colonies and home to four signers of the Declaration—those remembrances will hold special significance.

Nearly 200 battles and skirmishes took place in South Carolina, more than any other state, Wise says. And most of those battles were fought in what was called the Backcountry—the Upstate, Midlands and Pee Dee today. The vast majority of those battles pitted Americans loyal to the Crown against Patriots who sought independence.

The fights were often small and ugly, where old scores were settled, atrocities were committed and families were torn apart. "In every respect, it was a civil war," Wise says. "It was brother against brother, father against son, and it was brutal."





“In every respect,  
it was a civil war.

**It was brother against brother,  
father against son, and  
it was  
brutal.”**

—RICK WISE, SOUTH CAROLINA BATTLEGROUND PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## ★ THE WAR IN SOUTH CAROLINA ★

The history of the Revolutionary War in South Carolina is complex. But in a nutshell:

In 1775, Patriot leaders, angered by the imposition of new taxes, had driven the royal governor from Charleston, which was the fourth-largest city in the American colonies and the richest.

In 1776, the British tried to retake the Holy City, at that time the capital of South Carolina. But they were defeated in the Battle of Sullivan's Island, in which Patriot troops under Col. William Moultrie built a sturdy fort of palmetto logs and repelled the mighty British fleet. It is why the palmetto tree is featured on the state flag and South Carolina is known as the “Palmetto State.”

In 1780, the British, mired in a stalemate in the North, decided to embark on a “Southern Strategy,” thinking that more folks in the Backcountry of the Carolinas were loyal to the Crown than in more radical New England. In South Carolina, “about 40% of people were Loyalists, 40% were Patriots and 20% just wanted to be left alone,” Wise says.

That year, the British returned in greater numbers and took Charleston by siege. Once reestablished in the city, they built a series of forts in the Backcountry in an attempt to control the colony and draw Loyalists to their cause. Patriots wanted to capture those forts, disrupt British supply lines and force the British back into Charleston.

There were big battles such as Camden, Kings Mountain and Cowpens. And partisan leaders whose names have become iconic in the Palmetto State—Andrew Pickens in the Upstate, Thomas Sumter in the Midlands and Francis Marion in the Pee Dee—conducted relentless raids against the British and their local Loyalist allies.

In South Carolina, “The war began and ended in Charles-



**STROLLING THROUGH HISTORY** Visitors explore some of the 1,000 acres at Ninety Six National Historic Site. Beyond the battle, the story of colonial life is portrayed by reenactors including Kathryn Sellers (left) and Samantha Richards, who demonstrate to visitors how to make bread.

ton but was won in the Backcountry," historian Walter Edgar likes to say.

Here are a few essential sites across the state that represent the war for casual visitors and history buffs alike.

### ★ HISTORIC BRATTONSVILLE ★

Located outside of Rock Hill in York County, Historic Brattonsville is a complex of 30 buildings from the 1700s and 1800s with an emphasis on the Revolutionary War.

Here, on July 12, 1780, about 250 Patriots attacked about half their number of Loyalist cavalrymen commanded by Capt. Christian Huck, who was known for his brutal tactics in trying to quell Patriot activities in the Backcountry.

In the battle, the British were easily defeated, and Huck was killed. It was one of the first Patriot victories in the Southern campaign and is a good example of American-on-American fighting in the War for Independence.

"It was a big morale booster," says Zach Lemhouse, Brattonsville's historian. "Afterward, Patriot numbers began to swell."

The compact battlefield here is well interpreted and easily walked, and it gives a complete overview of the battle. It also provides an enjoyable hike through the hilly, densely forested Piedmont countryside.

The original Bratton family home is here and was featured in the Mel Gibson movie *The Patriot*. The complex also includes a visitors center, larger homes built by subsequent Bratton family members, a working farm with livestock and a burial ground containing the graves of 481 enslaved people.

### ★ NINETY SIX NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ★

The tiny town of Ninety Six in Greenwood County was one of the most significant settlements during the Revolutionary War in the Backcountry. Its star-shaped earthen fort was the site of two noteworthy sieges.

In the largest, on May 21, 1781, a Patriot army of about 1,000 men, commanded by Gen. Nathanael Greene, attempted

to take the Star Fort, defended by about half as many Loyalists. But the eight-pointed fort was a daunting challenge. Greene's men dug trenches to get close to the fort, built a siege tower to fire into it and then unsuccessfully assaulted it. The siege was abandoned when Greene learned that 2,000 British reinforcements had been dispatched from Charleston.

In addition to the original fort, the 1,000-acre site includes a 1-mile walking trail, remains of siege trenches and other earthworks, an observation tower, a cluster of colonial structures and a visitors center operated by the National Park Service.

Beyond the battle, Ninety Six tells the story of colonial life in the Backcountry and struggles between settlers and Native Americans.

"Life was difficult back then," says Eric Williams, a former park ranger at Ninety Six and a Revolutionary War reenactor for nearly 50 years. Ninety Six "gives a glimpse of what America was like in its infancy."

No one knows exactly how Ninety Six got its name, but it's believed to stem from its distance from a main Cherokee town of Keowee, once located near Clemson.

### ★ FORT FAIR LAWN ★

Hidden away in the swampy lowcountry of Berkeley County near Moncks Corner is Fort Fair Lawn. The large, rectangular fort was built in 1780 by the British at the headwaters of the Cooper River, 30 miles inland from Charleston. Its strategic location made it a lightning rod for battles throughout the war.

Today, the fort is one of the most complete Revolutionary forts in the nation. Its 9-foot-tall earthen walls and moat remained largely untouched for more than two centuries due to its remote location in rural Berkeley County's dense woods and swamps. For the 250th commemoration, a new graveled path, interpretive markers and virtual reality features have been installed to explain the fort's significance in the war.

The battles of Moncks Corner and Eutaw Springs were

## Ninety Six “gives a glimpse of what America was like in its infancy.”

—ERIC WILLIAMS, WAR REENACTOR

fought near here. Patriot leader Francis Marion, known as “the Swamp Fox,” made numerous raids around Berkeley County to isolate and harass the fort’s garrison. He is buried at Belle Isle Plantation Cemetery in Pineville.

Mepkin Abbey, a Trappist monastery, is nearby. It was originally home to wealthy planter and merchant Henry Laurens, president of the Continental Congress, and his son John, a lieutenant colonel in the Continental Army and an aide to George Washington. They are also buried there.

The fort is adjacent to Old Santee Canal State Park and the Berkeley County Museum and Heritage Center. The 196-acre park offers canoeing, hiking trails and abundant bird-watching. The museum features an interactive map of the war in the area and displays highlighting Marion’s life and career and Berkeley County’s role in the Revolutionary War.

### ★ CAMDEN ★

Camden in Kershaw County is the state’s oldest inland city. It was located on Old Wagon Road, a major thoroughfare for pioneers migrating into South Carolina from the northern colonies. Like Ninety Six, Camden was a main British outpost in the Backcountry.

In addition to the sites of the Battle of Camden and the Battle of Hobkirk’s Hill, both on the city’s north side, Camden hosts a Revolutionary War Living History Park.

The 104-acre complex features a visitors and conference center as well as a museum focused on Camden’s significant role in the Revolution. The park has several colonial-era structures, including original Revolutionary War earthworks and a reproduction of Joseph Kershaw’s home, which served as British Gen. Cornwallis’ headquarters during the war.

The park also boasts a statue of Revolutionary War hero Baron Johann De Kalb, who was killed at the Battle of Camden. He is buried in Bethesda Presbyterian Churchyard in Camden with a marker by Robert Mills, America’s first national architect and designer of the Washington Monument. Many American municipalities were named after De Kalb, including DeKalb County, Georgia, and the city of DeKalb, Illinois.

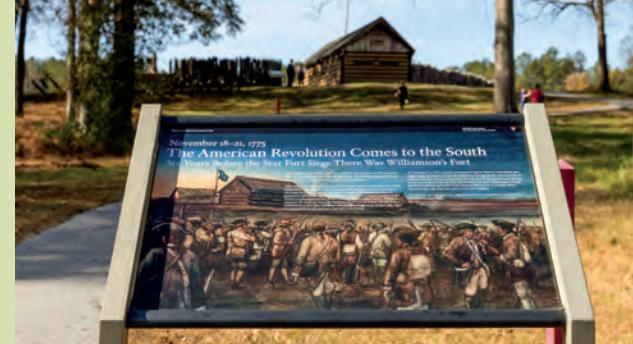
In 2023, the bodies of 14 soldiers killed in the battle of Camden—12 Patriots, one British soldier and a Catawba Indian loyal to the British Crown—were recovered. Thirteen were re-interred in Camden’s Old Presbyterian Graveyard with full American and British military honors. The Native American soldier was transferred to the Catawba Nation for burial.

Together, Brattsville, Ninety Six, Fort Fair Lawn and Camden offer a complete narrative of the war in South Carolina and can serve as launching points for more in-depth exploration of the War for Independence in the Palmetto State. ☀



TIME TRAVELING A boy from the modern era, 10-year-old Joel Robinson, tries his hand at a colonial game that doesn’t involve a screen during the Ninety Six reenactment event.

### GET MORE



### The Liberty Trail



Throughout this year, the South Carolina 250 Commission will shine a spotlight on battles and events central to the Revolution. Events and commemorations are planned in all 46 counties, many celebrating the often overlooked contributions of women, Black Americans and Native Americans in the struggle.

The commission’s website, [southcarolina250.com](http://southcarolina250.com), has a wealth of stories about the Revolution in the state, a listing of public events and a detailed timeline of significant milestones.

Many Revolutionary War sites have received facelifts, including new trails and signage and interactive features and displays, thanks to organizations such as the South Carolina Preservation Society, the American Battlefield Trust and local historical societies and grants.

The organizations have also established the Liberty Trail, a statewide driving tour that winds between many battlefields and historic sites. It is part of a larger Liberty Trail network that extends nationally. An interactive map and detailed information about battles and events in South Carolina can be found at [thelibertytrail.org/sc](http://thelibertytrail.org/sc).



## 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.

## Upstate

### JANUARY

**13** **Comedian Killer Beaz**, Abbeville Opera House, Abbeville. (864) 366-9673 or abbevillecitysc.com.

**17–18** **250th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens**, Cowpens National Battlefield, Gaffney. (864) 461-2828 or nps.gov/cowp.

**27** **Sigal Music Museum presents Andy & Friends: Voice of the Relentless Artist**, Fine Arts Center, Greenville. (864) 520-8807 or sigalmusicmuseum.org.

**29–Feb. 1** **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**, Centre Stage, Greenville. (864) 233-6733 or centrestage.org.

**30–Feb. 15** **Heroes of the Fourth Turning**, Warehouse Theatre, Greenville. (864) 235-6948 or warehousetheatre.com.

**31** **Young Appalachian Musicians presents Winter Bluegrass Jubilee**, Pickens High School, Pickens. yamupstate.com.

### FEBRUARY

**4** **Cupid's Chase 5K Greenville**, Unity Park, Greenville. runsignup.com/cupidschase5kgreenville.

**6–8** **Carolina Carnage FEST Medieval Combat Competitions**, T. Ed Garrison Arena, Pendleton. palmettoknights.com.

**7** **Hub City Empty Bowls Soup Day**, RJ Rockers, Spartanburg. hubcityemptybowls.org.

**12–15** **Children of Eden**, Mauldin Cultural Center, Mauldin. (864) 335-4862 or mauldinulturalcenter.org.

**12–15** **Love Letters**, Centre Stage, Greenville. (864) 233-6733 or centrestage.org.

**13–14** **Central Railway Museum's Model Train Expo**, Rock Springs Church Impact Center, Easley. (513) 325-8850 or crmha.org.

**13–22** **The Hunchback of Notre Dame**, Greenwood Community Theatre, Greenwood. (864) 229-5704 or greenwoodcommunitytheatre.com.

**19** **Upstate South Carolina Coin Show**, Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium, Spartanburg. (864) 293-8416 or upstatecoinshow.com.

**21** **Deep Winter Blues Festival**, Hagood Mill Historic Site, Pickens. (864) 898-2936 or visitthagoodmill.com.

**21** **Sweetheart Charity Ball benefiting Meals on Wheels**, Greenville Convention Center, Greenville. (864) 233-6565 or mealsonwheelsgreenville.org.

**24** **Spartanburg Philharmonic presents Voices of a Nation**, Twitchell Auditorium, Spartanburg. (864) 948-9020 or spartanburgphilharmonic.org.

**27–March 1** **Southern Home & Garden Show**, Greenville Convention Center, Greenville. southernhomeandgardenshow.com.

## Midlands

### JANUARY

**16–31** **The Comeuppance**, Trustus Theatre, Columbia. (803) 254-9732 or trustus.org.

**17** **Aiken Camellia Show**, First Presbyterian Church, Aiken. (706) 495-0633 or facebook.com/aikenacamelliasociety.

**22** **Cultural Series—Scott Kirby's "Main Street Souvenirs"**, The Etheredge Center, Aiken. (803) 641-3305 or usca.edu/etheredge-center.

**23–Feb. 7** **Crowns**, Workshop Theatre, Columbia. (803) 799-6551 or workshoptheatreofsc.com.

### FEBRUARY

**4** **Cupid's Chase 5K Columbia**, Maxcy Gregg Park, Columbia. runsignup.com/cupidschase5kcolumbia.

**6–8** **Aiken Antique Show**, Aiken Center for the Arts, Aiken. aikenantiqueshow.com.

**6–8** **Vintage Market Days of Midlands Upstate**, South Carolina State Fairgrounds, Columbia. (803) 799-3387 or vintagemarketdays.com.

**6–22** **How to Supervise Women**, Chapin Theatre Company, Chapin. (803) 404-0015 or chapinthetheatre.org.

**7** **Ritz Fest Youth Suicide Prevention Benefit**, Ritz Theatre, Newberry. (803) 271-0494 or theritzfest.org.

**13–14** **Columbia Philatelic Society Winter Stamp and Postcard Show**, Tri-City Leisure Center, West Columbia. (803) 309-2534 or columbiascpophile.com.

**13–21** **The Diary of Anne Frank**, Aiken Community Theatre, Aiken. (803) 648-1438 or aikencommunitytheatre.org.

**14** **16th Annual Mardi Gras Columbia**, City Roots Farm, Columbia. (803) 254-2302 or cityrootsfarm.com.

**14** **Lake Murray Polar Plunge benefiting Special Olympics South Carolina**, Lake Murray Public Park, Lexington. (803) 772-1555 or so-sc.org/event/lake-murray.

**17** **Newberry College Music Honors Recital**, Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264 or newberryoperahouse.com.

**20–March 14** **The Crucible**, Trustus Theatre, Columbia. (803) 254-9732 or trustus.org.

**25–March 1** **Aiken Women's Heart Board Benefit Show—Heartbeat of America**, The Etheredge Center, Aiken. awhb.org/heartshow.html.

**25–March 1** **Freaky Friday the Musical**, USCL Bundy Auditorium, Lancaster. (803) 462-4557 or lancasterplayhouse.com.

**28** **Master Gardeners of York County Joy of Gardening Symposium**, Gateway Conference Center, Richburg. symposium.yorkmg.org/home.

**28** **Red Hot Chilli Pipers**, Arts Center of Kershaw County, Camden. (803) 425-7676 or artscenterkc.org.

**29–March 8** **Sense and Sensibility**, Dock Street Theatre, Charleston. (843) 577-7183 or charlestonstage.com.

**23–25** **The Charleston Boat Show**, Charleston Convention Center, North Charleston. thecharlestonboatshow.com.

**24** **15th Annual Bo's Oyster Roast and Chili Cook-off**, James Island County Park, Charleston. bosroast.com.

**25–March 15** **Putnam County Spelling Bee**, Dock Street Theatre, Charleston. (843) 577-7183 or charlestonstage.com.

**31** **Hilton Head Snow Day**, Shelter Cove Park, Hilton Head Island. (843) 681-7273 or islandrecenter.org/events/snow.

### FEBRUARY

**1** **Lowcountry Oyster Festival**, Boone Hall Plantation, Charleston. (843) 853-8000 or lowcountryhospitalityassociation.com/oyster-fest.

**1** **Shucked & Sauced**, Rose Pavilion in Hampton Park, Charleston. (843) 724-5003 or charlestonparksconservancy.org.

**4** **Cupid's Chase 5K Charleston**, James Island County Park, Charleston. runsignup.com/cupidschase5kcharleston.

**6–22** **Garden Lights at Middleton Place**, Middleton Place Gardens, Charleston. (843) 556-6020 or middletonplace.org.

**7** **Dorchester Paws Downs Byrd Memorial Oyster Roast**, Summerville Country Club, Summerville. (843) 871-3820 or dorchesterpaws.org.

**8** **Beaufort Symphony Orchestra presents Mozart and Friends**, USCB Center for the Arts, Beaufort. (843) 476-1310 or beaufortorchestra.org.

**9** **Florence Symphony presents Trumpet & Triumph**, Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center, Florence. (846) 661-4444 or fmupac.org.

**13–15** **Southeastern Wildlife Exposition**, various locations, Charleston. (843) 723-1748 or sewe.com.

**17–22** **Beaufort International Film Festival**, USCB Center for the Arts, Beaufort. beaufortfilmfestival.com.

**20–21** **Mardi Crawl**, Park Circle neighborhood, North Charleston. lowcountryparrotheadclub.org.

**20–22** **Horry Georgetown Home Builders Association Spring Home Show**, Myrtle Beach Convention Center, Myrtle Beach. springshow.hghba.com.

**20–22** **Vintage Market Days of Coastal Carolina**, Myrtle Beach Sports Center, Myrtle Beach. vintagemarketdays.com/market/coastal-carolina.

**21–22** **American Heritage Festival**, Graham's Historic Farm, Lake City. theamericanheritagefestival.com.

**21** **Sea & Sand Festival**, Folly River Park, Folly Beach. visitfolly.com.

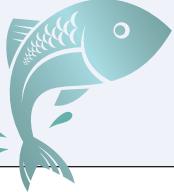
**22–23** **Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra presents Ellis Island—The Dream of America**, First Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island. (843) 842-2055 or hhso.org.

**22–Feb. 1** **Lean Ensemble Theater presents Every Brilliant Thing**, HHSO SoundWaves 7 Lagoon Road, Hilton Head Island. (843) 715-6676 or leanensemble.org.

**23–March 1** **Hilton Head Island Seafood Festival**, various locations, Hilton Head Island. hiltonheadseafoodfestival.com.

**26** **Dr. Neil DeGrasse Tyson: Search for Life in the Universe**, Gaillard Center, Charleston. gaillardcenter.org.

**28** **Isle of Palms Polar Plunge benefiting Special Olympics South Carolina**, The Windjammer, Isle of Palms. (803) 772-1555 or so-sc.org/event/isle-of-palms.



## FISH & GAME CHART

The Solunar forecast provides feeding and migration times. Major periods can bracket the peak by more than an hour, minor periods by a half-hour before and after.

	AM Minor	Major	PM Minor	Major
<b>JANUARY</b>				
<b>14</b>	<b>1:29</b>	<b>7:41</b>	<b>1:54</b>	<b>8:06</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>2:13</b>	<b>8:26</b>	<b>2:39</b>	<b>8:52</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>3:00</b>	<b>9:13</b>	<b>3:26</b>	<b>9:39</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>3:49</b>	<b>10:02</b>	<b>4:15</b>	<b>10:28</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>4:39</b>	<b>10:52</b>	<b>5:04</b>	<b>11:17</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>5:30</b>	<b>11:14</b>	<b>5:54</b>	—
<b>20</b>	<b>6:21</b>	<b>12:09</b>	<b>6:45</b>	<b>12:33</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>7:12</b>	<b>1:01</b>	<b>7:35</b>	<b>1:23</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>8:02</b>	<b>1:51</b>	<b>8:25</b>	<b>2:13</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>8:53</b>	<b>2:42</b>	<b>9:15</b>	<b>3:04</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>9:43</b>	<b>3:32</b>	<b>10:07</b>	<b>3:55</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>10:35</b>	<b>4:22</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>4:47</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>11:27</b>	<b>5:14</b>	<b>11:54</b>	<b>5:41</b>
<b>27</b>	—	<b>6:07</b>	<b>12:22</b>	<b>6:36</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>12:47</b>	<b>7:02</b>	<b>1:18</b>	<b>7:33</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>1:43</b>	<b>7:59</b>	<b>2:15</b>	<b>8:31</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>2:40</b>	<b>8:56</b>	<b>3:12</b>	<b>9:28</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>3:38</b>	<b>9:53</b>	<b>4:08</b>	<b>10:23</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>4:35</b>	<b>10:49</b>	<b>5:03</b>	<b>11:17</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>5:30</b>	<b>11:42</b>	<b>5:55</b>	—
<b>3</b>	<b>6:22</b>	<b>12:11</b>	<b>6:46</b>	<b>12:34</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>7:13</b>	<b>1:02</b>	<b>7:35</b>	<b>1:24</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>8:03</b>	<b>1:52</b>	<b>8:24</b>	<b>2:13</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>8:51</b>	<b>2:40</b>	<b>9:12</b>	<b>3:01</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>9:38</b>	<b>3:27</b>	<b>9:59</b>	<b>3:49</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>10:25</b>	<b>4:13</b>	<b>10:47</b>	<b>4:36</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>11:11</b>	<b>5:00</b>	<b>11:35</b>	<b>5:23</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11:58</b>	<b>5:46</b>	—	<b>6:10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12:20</b>	<b>6:32</b>	<b>12:45</b>	<b>6:57</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>1:06</b>	<b>7:19</b>	<b>1:32</b>	<b>7:45</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>1:52</b>	<b>8:05</b>	<b>2:19</b>	<b>8:32</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>2:39</b>	<b>8:52</b>	<b>3:05</b>	<b>9:18</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>3:26</b>	<b>9:38</b>	<b>3:51</b>	<b>10:04</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>4:13</b>	<b>10:25</b>	<b>4:37</b>	<b>10:49</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>4:59</b>	<b>11:11</b>	<b>5:23</b>	<b>11:34</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>5:47</b>	<b>11:32</b>	<b>6:10</b>	—
<b>19</b>	<b>6:36</b>	<b>12:25</b>	<b>6:59</b>	<b>12:47</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>7:27</b>	<b>1:15</b>	<b>7:51</b>	<b>1:39</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>8:21</b>	<b>2:09</b>	<b>8:46</b>	<b>2:33</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>9:18</b>	<b>3:04</b>	<b>9:44</b>	<b>3:31</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>10:17</b>	<b>4:03</b>	<b>10:45</b>	<b>4:31</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>11:17</b>	<b>5:02</b>	<b>11:47</b>	<b>5:32</b>
<b>25</b>	—	<b>6:02</b>	<b>12:17</b>	<b>6:33</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>12:44</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>1:15</b>	<b>7:31</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>1:40</b>	<b>7:55</b>	<b>2:10</b>	<b>8:25</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>2:33</b>	<b>8:48</b>	<b>3:02</b>	<b>9:16</b>

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JANUARY  
IN THE GARDEN

■ Yes, there can be a drought during the winter. That is why it is a good idea to maintain mulches throughout the cold months and water fall-planted ornamentals regularly if the rains don't come. Also, evergreens will lose less moisture if an anti-transpirant spray, such as Wilt-Pruf, is applied during the cold, dry times.

■ Got milk? Now is a good time to start saving clear, plastic milk containers for use in the early spring garden. By cutting the bottoms out, they can be great hot caps for tender, new plants.

■ Got toilet paper? Also begin squirreling away cardboard toilet paper tubes for use this spring as cutworm collars around susceptible, newly planted annuals.



**SENSE-SATIONAL** Cold-season winter daphne flowers smell as good as they look.

**TIP OF THE MONTH** If you are impatient for the arrival of spring, there are many woody ornamentals capable of putting on unexpected, spring-like shows in the garden during these chilly times, with flowers that are not only a treat for the eyes but for the nose, too. In particular, hybrid witch hazels (*Hamamelis x intermedia*) conjure up their fragrant blooms on the coldest days, as do the aptly named wintersweet (*Chimonanthus praecox*) and winter honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*). Ditto for the perfumed blossoms of two small evergreens, sweetbox (*Sarcococca* sp.) and winter daphne (*Daphne odora*).

Pretty  
Polly

BY L.A. JACKSON

## "UNUSUAL." "PLASTIC."

"Martian." These comments are often made about an eye-catching houseplant named 'Polly,' a tropical alocasia that found its attractive way into American homes way back in the 1950s.

But just how pretty is 'Polly'? Well, she is a visually sassy showoff with long, arrowhead-shaped leaves so shiny they look like wax. And running through these indented, deep emerald-green leaves are broad, bright veins that strike like lime-green lightning bolts.

Although 'Polly' is an alocasia cultivar, it refuses to stick to the script. Alocasias, along with closely related colocasias, are often interchangeably called "elephant ears" in reference to their leaf shape and (especially) large size. However, 'Polly' rarely reaches more than 2 feet tall, making it an ideal houseplant for many indoor settings.

A good location for this beauty is a room brightly washed in natural light. Just be sure to keep it out of direct sunlight because the harsh rays could singe the foliage. Also, avoid spots close to vents since the dry airflow can scrunch up the leaves. Finally, site this alocasia safely because it can be toxic to inquisitive kids or pets if eaten.

True to its tropical roots, 'Polly' likes humidity. In the typically dry environment of a house, setting the pot in a pebble tray that is watered often will help juice up this pretty plant's immediate environment. Misting the leaves might seem like an option, but excessive surface



**CONVERSATION PIECE** 'Polly' alocasia, with its shiny, wax-like leaves, looks like it would be right at home in *Jurassic Park*.

**This houseplant might even go dormant in winter, losing leaves and sending owners into a panic because they "killed" it. Have patience.**

moisture on the foliage could encourage diseases and fungi to come out and play. Occasionally wiping the leaves with a damp cloth is a better way to go.

In the winter, 'Polly,' sensing shorter days, will rest, so hold back on fertilizer and only water when the upper half-inch of potting soil is dry to the touch. This plant might even go dormant, losing leaves and sending owners into a panic because they "killed" it. Patience—wait until late winter to put 'Polly' back on a regular watering schedule with diluted fertilizer added at least once a month, and then watch young leaves emerge to greet the new spring.

As exotic as 'Polly' looks, you would think it would be hard to find. But nope—I have often spotted it in the houseplant sections of big box stores and have certainly found it in quality garden shops. Also, if e-shopping is your thing, it is very easy to find online. ☺

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

# Winter athletes need crazy parents

BY JAN A. IGUE

**LIKE MANY SPORTS FANS** who crave adventure but prefer to experience it from their La-Z-Boys, every four years I would glue myself to the Winter Olympics, watching skiers, skaters and snowboarders declare jihad on gravity.

In their world, what goes up must not come down until it back-flips, spins, triple-twists and catapults above hard, frozen surfaces just waiting to squash them.

Psychologists call these athletes Type T personalities, or thrill seekers. Fueled by adrenaline, T-types don't consider the strong possibility of compound fractures a compelling reason not to jump off a cliff.

Besides steel nerves, lightning-strike reflexes and the cell number of a board-certified orthopedic surgeon embroidered on their long johns, these athletes share another key asset: Their parents were nuts.

In normal households, the first time Junior straps boards to his feet and yells, "Look, Ma, no poles!" from a snow-covered roof, your typical parents will grab the little tyke by the throat—assuming the fire department can get him down—and lock his tush in a cage until his AARP card arrives.

Overprotective parents may even sign him up for curling, the only winter sport generally recognized as safe for preschoolers, nursing home residents and most broom owners.

But faced with the same scenario, a Type-T mom and dad will grab their video camera and urge their toddler to try a full-twisting double while he's



**A Type-T mom and dad will urge their toddler to try a full-twisting double while he's up on the roof. And if he wants dessert, he'd better stick the landing.**

up there. And if he wants dessert, he'd better stick the landing. Years from now, when the gold medal for ski jumping is placed around his neck, he'll still expect Twinkies to go with it.

Type-T parents have also reared some of the world's most successful biathletes. They are almost never Americans due to cultural differences, such as our parental preoccupation with not poking an eye out. (In this country, we won't let our kids run across the room with scissors. In Europe, they encourage them to ski cross-country with guns.)

The biathlon has roots in Norway,

where skis are typically nailed on at birth. Proud Scandinavians can't wait to see little Dagmar take that first kilometer and drop an elk. In competition, however, biathletes only aim at paper targets or ice dancers wearing truly repulsive costumes.

Speaking of what not to wear, snow and ice aren't the worst dangers facing winter athletes. Their cruellest opponent may be Spandex, the stretchy miracle fiber that coats most Olympians from helmet to boot binding.

Spandex will stand up to sweat, body oil and wipeouts, but has been known to burst when bobsledders bend over in front of a video camera.

Yes, a British competitor experienced the ultimate wardrobe malfunction at the World Championships, where her spontaneous seam-splitting was captured, up close and very personal, at the starting line. No one remembers who won that particular bobsled race, but millions of people will never forget the color of her thong.

All these perilous winter sports make me happy to be watching from South Carolina, where ice has its place in frozen margaritas and a biathlon is drinking beer in a bowling alley.

Our parents would be so proud. ☺

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** South Carolina Living is reprinting some of Jan A. Igoe's previous columns. A version of this "Humor Me" originally appeared in the April 2010 issue. Visit [SCLIVING.coop/news/in-memory-of-jan-igoe](http://SCLIVING.coop/news/in-memory-of-jan-igoe).

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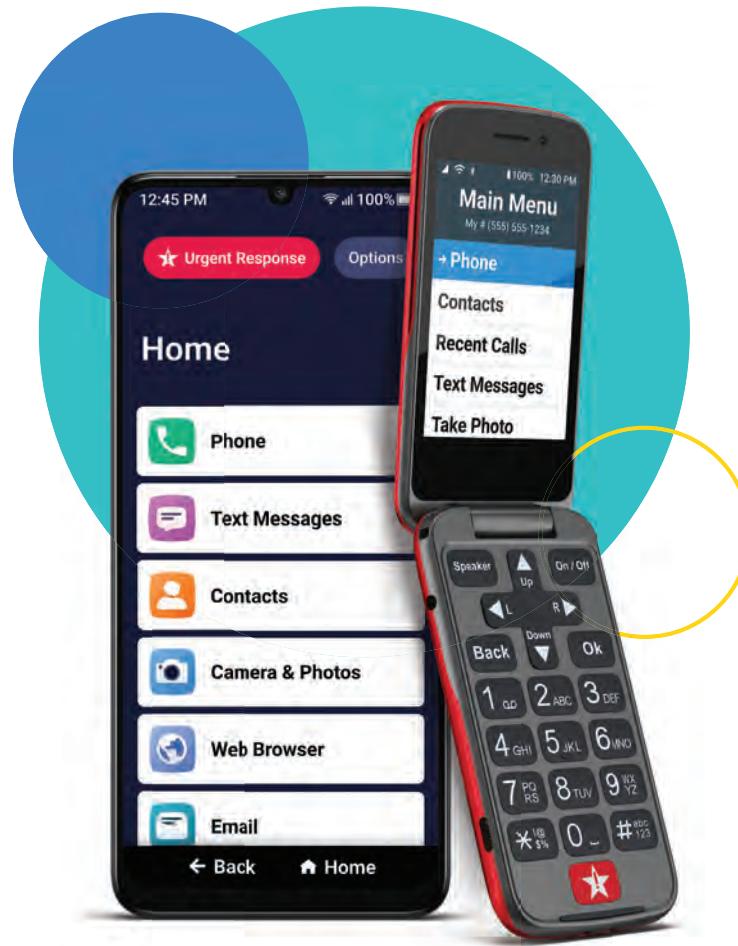
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