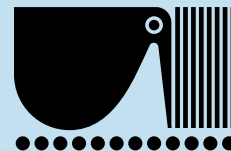


MARSHKEEPERS

December 4, 2022

Issue 2



We were so thrilled with our turnout on November 13th, for our seed collecting bonanza. We hope everyone enjoyed the kayaking session & our afternoon along the banks of Halsey Creek. We couldn't have done it without you & our team of volunteers & Master Naturalists. We hope to have many more occasions to lean on & learn from our wonderful community in the future.

Together, we were able to harvest & process upwards of 75,000 spartina seeds!!! & we want to see all of them returned to the marsh as healthy, happy stalks of carbon-capturing, marsh hen sheltering, silt settling, & floodwater filtering spartina. There is certainly a lot of work ahead of us to get to that point, so stay tuned for further opportunities to get involved. We have some high-minded marsh restoration goals, & your help is critical to making that happen.

Follow along @marshkeepers on Instagram to stay up to date.

HOST A PLANT OR TWO. OR 20.

If you, or someone you know, owns property along the Halsey creek edge, be in touch. We want to replant our seeds back to where they will bolster our community of soil microbes, marsh wrens, saltmarsh moths, & other living things that are counting on us for food & shelter!



"I believe the best way to begin reconnecting humanity's heart, mind, & soul to nature is for us to share our individual stories."

J. DREW LANHAM

Helping out our Feathered Friends this Winter



While it might not snow often in Charleston (Ahem, January 3, 2018), winter can still be a difficult time for our birds. We did a little digging & found a great article in the SCDNR archives about helping out our friends:

From December 23, 2014, "Want to help wildlife during holidays? Here are some simple ways."

Lex Glover, wildlife technician with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources says "Winter is...a culling-out time; a time when mortality for many animal species is the highest because of predation & lack of food."

Cold weather, & its deadly effect on insects, is the main reason many birds leave the state & go south to find an area where insects are more active. Birds staying in SC year-round are mostly seed & berry eaters, like cardinals, titmice, chickadees & mockingbirds, or predatory birds... Carolina wrens & a few other species, which feed primarily on insects but remain here in winter, are the exception.

"Somehow Carolina wrens find enough insects to survive during the cold months," Glover said. "Wrens really have to work at it when the temperature drops below freezing, but they search bark & crevices & look under dead leaves & in spider webs trying to pick up bugs." Some foods that people can put out to help wrens through a hard winter include mealworms, crushed nuts, hanging suet & peanut butter...

PLEASE NOTE

If there is one seed to offer this winter, Glover suggests *Black-Oil Sunflower Seed*. High in fat & protein, this seed is extremely nutritious & their shells are thin, which makes them easy to open.



The Surge Sessions
Friday, Dec. 9 • 7 PM
446 King Street

HOSTED BY
CHARLESTON CLIMATE
COALITION

We'll be hearing from some of the vanguards of our climate-conscious future, the people working to build new solutions & fresh ways of being with the world. Featuring yogi Alex Seaman, Keith Bowers of Biohabitats, Rebecca Fanning of Community Hydrology, Dr. Merrie Koester of University of SC Center for Science Education, Harold Singleton of Brightma Farms, Joshua Robinson of Robinson Design Engineers, & Belvin Olasov & Dr. Jen Wright of the CHS Climate Coalition.

This event will deepen your understanding of the climate crisis & connect you with the Lowcountry energy & expertise rising to meet the crisis.

GET YOUR TICKETS:



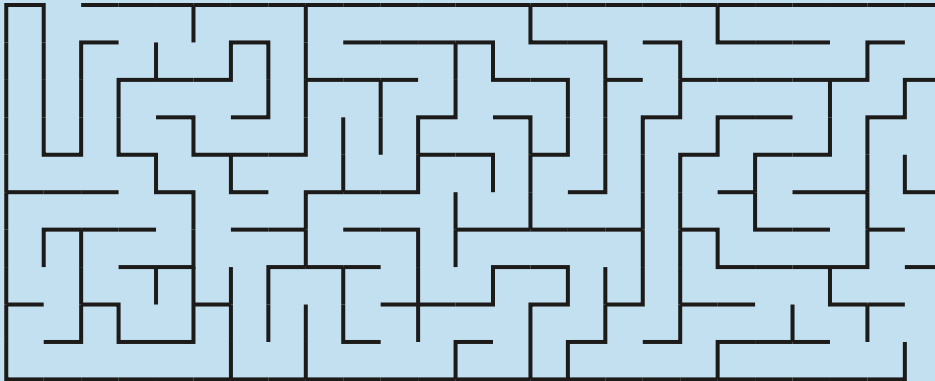
FOR THE KID IN YOU! OR AN ACTUAL KID!



A BUMBLEBEE IS ABOUT TO POLLINATE IN THE WRONG YARD!
(A YARD SPRAYED FOR MOSQUITOS!) CAN YOU HELP OUR LITTLE
FRIEND FIND A SAFER YARD?

BUMBLEBEE DRAWN BY RICHARD SCARRY. KIND OF.

PSST! DID YOU KNOW?

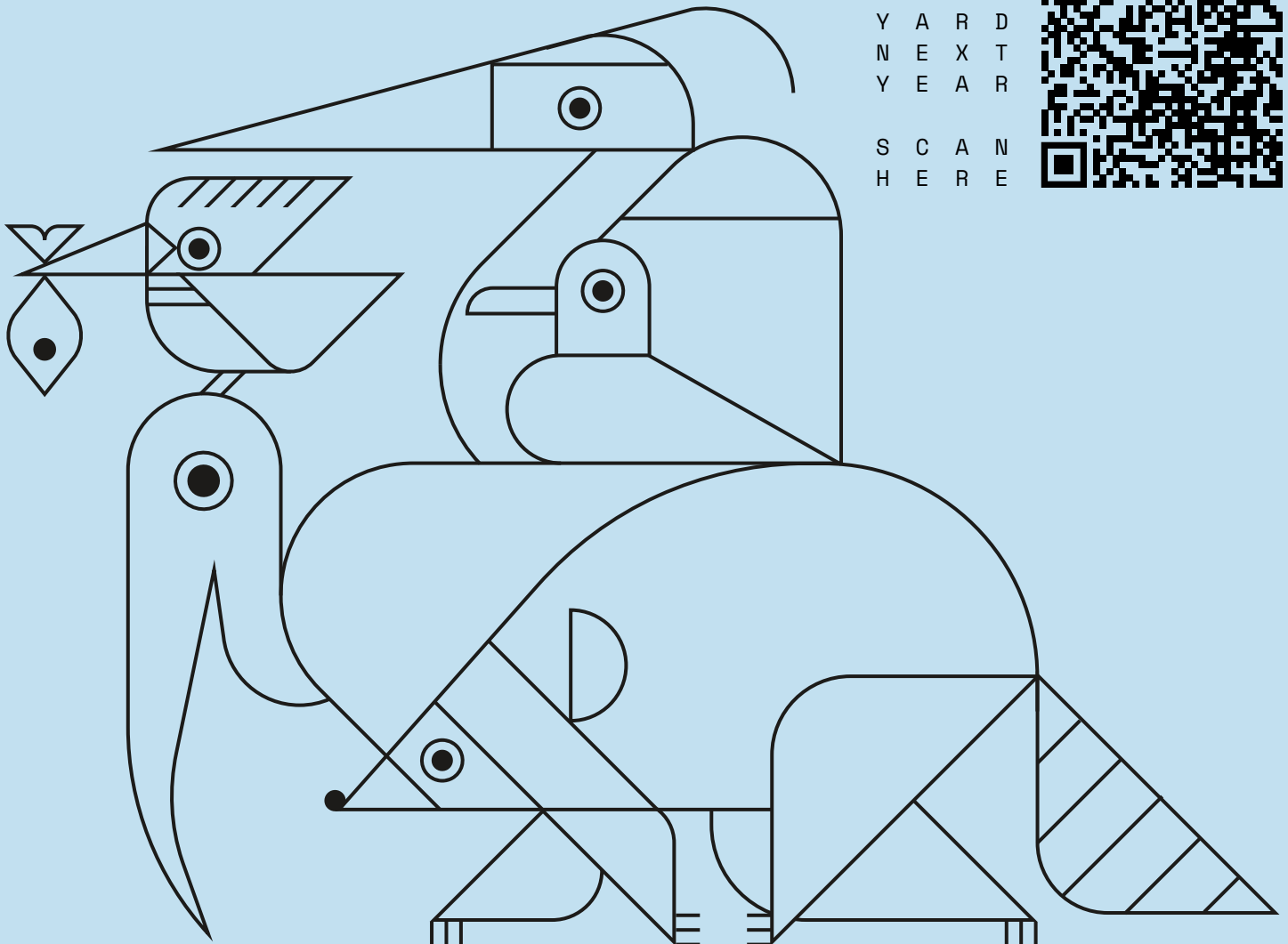


Contrary to what Mosquito Dave may have told you, the pyrethroid-based insecticides used by mosquito foggers indiscriminately kills ALL insects, not just mosquitos. "Ironically, targeting adult mosquitos is the worst & by far the most expensive approach to mosquito control." Professor Douglas W. Tallamy, an entomologist at the University of Delaware & our crush, suggests controlling mosquitos at the larval stage instead of the adult stage.

THERE IS A BETTER SOLUTION

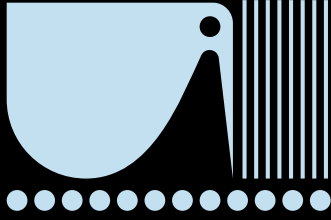
S A V E
Y O U R
Y A R D
N E X T
Y E A R

S C A N
H E R E



OUR MARSHES SHOWCASE A WIDE SPECTRUM OF COLOR ALL YEAR LONG, BUT THESE CREATURES ARE BLANK! CAN YOU COLOR THEM IN?

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 4, 2022 • FROM 4 TO 8 PM



MARSHKEEPERS X BAR ROLLINS HOLIDAY MARKET

THANK YOU FOR COMING OUT TO OUR FIRST ANNUAL?!?! (MAYBE) HOLIDAY MARKET!

**COMMUNITY
HYDROLOGY**

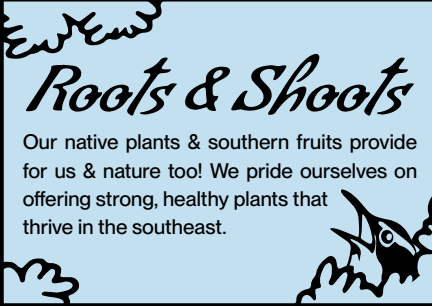
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DETAILS BELOW FOR SOME
SOLID HOLIDAY KARMA



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CONTENTS
CO.**

Such a cute spot! Staff is super friendly & the wine selection is great. I will definitely be back :)

★★★★★
**CONGRATULATIONS
BAR ROLLINS! WOW!
5-STAR YELP RATING!**

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for a Neighbor**

.....
This holiday season, for just \$22 you can provide anyone in the Tricounty area a bundle of fresh produce & eggs valued at \$20-25.

WHERE IS THIS?

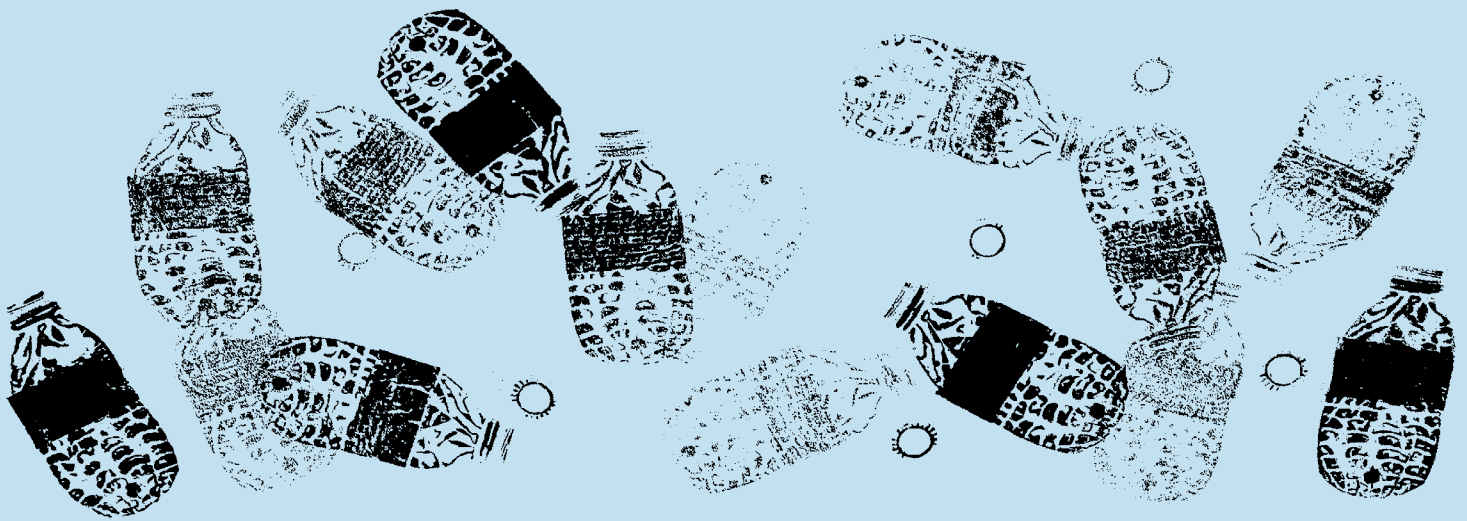
BAR ROLLINS
194 JACKSON ST

CHARLESTON,

SOUTH

CAROLINA

29403



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

K. KIM THOMAS

Earth Thirst, Water Bottles, 2022, monprint of found plastic water bottles, 48 inches x 19 inches
Available for Purchase - DM @iamkimthomas

We're big fans of the ol' impromptu litter cleanup over here at Marshkeepers HQ. It is a simple act that can keep our waterways clean of trash & plastic debris that might otherwise break down into teeny-tiny particles; particles that ultimately end up in the bellies of fish & even the insides of our oysters.

It doesn't have to be an all out river sweep. Woodsy Owl taught us well, right? "Lend a hand, care for the land!" If you see some trash, dispose of it properly.

Artist Kim Thomas, however, takes it a step further & her work has us frustrated with the reality of single-use plastics & throwaway culture. We were incredibly drawn to Thomas' monprints. Made using single-use plastic cup lids, straws, bottles & styrofoam containers, which she finds near her studio at Redux Contemporary Art Center, Kim inks these disposables & passes them under the printing press to create stunning works of art.

We especially loved one titled after a "McDonald's lid, which says 'Aaah So Tasty!'. These words & the materials, last beyond it's single use. The composition replicates the industrial method of creating these plastics that ultimately fall into a mess/mass of debris."

Simply viewing Kim's work had us researching things we didn't want to swallow. Nearly 1 million plastic bottles are purchased every minute around the world.¹ The United States recycles just 9% of its plastic trash.² Some 18 billion pounds of plastic waste flows into our oceans every year. (Imagine five grocery bags of plastic along every foot of coastline around the world.)³

Giving these items a second life has us acknowledging the convenience of their first lives. This isn't anything new, but it does give us pause. Their use & existence has been ubiquitous long before many of us were born, yet somehow we

remain tied to them & their impact. Perhaps this little newsletter is simply preaching to the choir, perhaps everyone reading this has a reusable water bottle or two & a mountain of reusable bags. The nature of convenience & the oil lobbyists that continue to push for more & more plastic, however, are beyond our echo chamber. Perhaps this is where fine art can reach. Crossing our fingers & see you at the next cleanup.

Visit kkimthomas.com



A Little History For You

In partnership with the Preservation Society of Charleston, the Marshkeepers have been busy - not only in the marsh - but also in the archives studying the history of the creek we've come to love. Here's a short snippet of what we've learned so far, & what we're currently preparing with the Preservation Society for an historical marker along Halsey Creek, once famously known as Gibbs Landing.

During the colonial days of Charleston, Gibbs Landing was a key site of waterfront access, composed of wooden docks located where the Ashley River meets present-day Halsey Creek. Enslaved laborers deepened the waterway at the juncture of the creek & river, allowing vessels to navigate further inland within a few hundred feet of the "Broad Path," now King Street. The landing's name is derived from former property owner John Gibbs, who purchased

the land stretching from the Ashley River to the current site of Hampton Park in roughly 1769. Gibbs called the tract Orange Grove, which was later subdivided & known as the Grove Plantation, & now Lowndes Grove.

During the American Revolution, Gibbs Landing also became a principal staging ground for British troops who attacked the city from the north in the 1780 Siege of Charleston. Before the British army burned Gibbs plantation home & ransacked the gardens, occupying soldiers commented that it was "one of the most beautiful pleasure gardens in the world."

After the war, the Gibbs Landing area reemerged as a plantation dependent on slavery. Denmark Vesey, a formerly-enslaved sailor & community leader who plotted & was executed for organizing the most famous revolt (that failed to happen)

in US history, was enslaved at the Grove Plantation.

Later in the early 20th century, the landing & adjacent grounds were transformed yet again as part of the South Carolina Inter-State & West Indian Exposition, a trade exhibition that included the construction of numerous temporary buildings & the creation of a man-made pond called "Lake Juanita." These alterations to the landscape resulted in the loss of any physical features associated with the colonial Gibbs Landing. The waterway, however, eventually returned to its ebb & flow with the tides & marsh grass has since reclaimed the waterfront. All of this & the fact that Halsey Creek is one of the last remaining tidal salt marshes on the Charleston peninsula, serving as a critical habitat, is why we love the creek & its story.

-Dr. Blake Scott