



The Jekyll Journal

FALL 2026

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The President's Corner...

Justin Wilbur

Welcome to the Friends of Historic Jekyll Island 2026-2027 season. I hope everyone had a fantastic summer, and everyone is ready for some cooler weather to arrive.

I am excited to be the new President after serving on the Board for the past four years. We also have some new faces on the FOHJI Board this season. Sarah Tallu Schuyler is our new Secretary replacing Debbie Boyd. Cindy Lubbers and Jackie Folsom also joined the Board. I want to thank Debbie Boyd, Tim Kinsey, Ellen Rothstein, David Lodge, Bradley Hoyt, and Ruthmary Williams for their service to the FOHJI Board. Their contributions to our organization were greatly appreciated. And a huge shoutout to Ruthmary Williams for serving as President of FOHJI for the past several years. Ruthmary did an amazing job and now serves as an Advisor to the Board.

We are still short one Board position so if anyone is interested in joining, please contact me or any current Board member know.

We kicked off the program season with a very well attended Open House/Membership Drive at Hollybourne Cottage on September 17. Jim McKenna and members of the Historic Resources Department did a fantastic job putting this event together. Be sure to read Jim's report.

Thank all of you for your support of the Friends of Historic Jekyll Island. Without the memberships, volunteers, donations and fundraising contributions our mission would not be possible.

Sincerely, Justin Wilbur, FOHJI President

FOHJI Calendar

Board Meetings are on the **2nd Tuesday** of each month - 3:00 PM at Villa Ospo (unless notified otherwise).

Programs are the 3rd Thursdays at 6:00 PM at Mosaic, unless noted.

Membership Report

Pamela Harris, Membership Chair

The Friends of Historic Jekyll Island is excited to announce a new Membership Program. The program went live in September, and we have had 109 memberships added using the new system. Check your **SPAM** folder because some members have found the announcement email and information were sent to Spam.

We encourage you to go to the FOHJI website at www.friendsofhistoricjekyll.org to join.

There are two ways to arrive at the Membership form.

1. On the Home Page, scroll down and click on the **“Learn More” button** in the Become a Friend Section.
2. Click on the 3 small lines at the top right corner of the page. It will take you to the directory. Click on Membership and scroll down to complete the form with mailing address and email.

An email is required because your Membership card will be emailed to you to be printed off for use.

If joining as a couple, add both names in the First name line so both names will be on card. The one-year membership starts with the day joined and will be for one calendar year.

Payment is either online via Stripe or checks can be mailed to FOHJI P.O. Box 13031 Jekyll Island, Ga 31527. Please include all information as noted online with an email.

Mailing has become very expensive with stationery, printing, and stamps so we are predominantly using email so more of your membership dues are used towards projects.

Let us know if you have trouble joining by emailing us at www.jekyllfriends.org.

Pamela Harris

Tom Alexander

Membership Team

Programs Report

Jim McKenna, Program Chair

The Friends of Historic Jekyll Island kicked off its 2026 – 2027 program season with an Open House and Membership Drive at Hollybourne Cottage on September 17. Guests were treated to light refreshments and the opportunity to tour the first and second floors of Hollybourne. Guests were greeted by the mistress of Hollybourne Charlotte Maurice, aka FOHJI Board Member Cindy Lubbers. The event was deemed a success as we gained new members in addition to some renewal memberships. We hope, in the future, to have more open houses featuring the historic cottages.



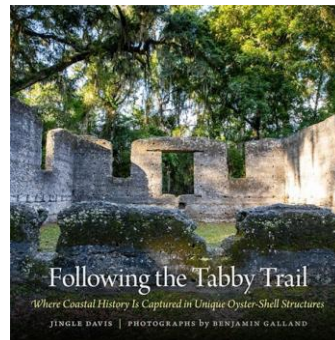
Charlotte Maurice (aka Cindy Lubbers) and Pamela Harris promote FOHJI to guests.



Second floor bedroom in Hollybourne

The October 15th Program will feature local photographer Benjamin Galland. His presentation, “Portraits of the Southeastern Barrier Islands”, will be in the Tack Room of Mosaic, starting at 6 PM. Following his presentation, Benjamin will be available to sign copies of his books. Light refreshments will also be available.

Please reserve a seat at <https://www.eventbrite.com/manage/events/2002715513011/tickets>.



Programs continued from Page 3...

A “field trip” to Temple Beth Tefilloh is planned for November 19. Details will follow via email.

Tentative Programs for 2027

- ❖ February 18, 2027: Chef Matthew Raiford at Mosaic’s Tack Room 6 PM
- ❖ March 18, 2027: Linda Olsen presents “Dora Lasserre Peckham” at Mosaic’s Tack Room 6 PM
- ❖ May 20, 2027: Patrick Carmody will present "True Crimes During the Millionaire Club Era" at Mosaic's Tack Room 6 PM

Historic Resources Report

Will Wagner, Historic Resources Director

Happy Fall FOHJI, and welcome back! It may seem strange for this mountain man to say that while it’s still 90 degrees outside, but the mornings are beginning to feel a little cooler.

This summer’s heat and humidity certainly put our cottage dehumidification systems to the test. We have made improvements to several environmental control systems and have seen encouraging results in protecting the collection of objects inside. Our historic buildings are cultural resources, and we’re excited to begin painting the Club employee residences along Pier Road this year. We’ll work around seasonal programs and the weather, with the goal of finishing in the spring.

The first weekend in October marks the return of our annual ***Gilded Age Ghosts & Ghouls*** “spooky” trolley tour, offered on weekends throughout the month except during the Shrimp & Grits Festival. This year’s ride features all-new recorded narration drawn from true stories of tragedy during the Club era. We’ve also added several scenes along the route, including a special effect that makes the DuBignon Cottage kitchen appear to be on fire. Or is it? I can’t give away too much.

Historic Resources Report continued from Page 4...

We're also gearing up for **Holly Jolly Jekyll**. This year's scavenger hunt collector's pin features ***Christmas at Moss Cottage***, the third pin in the series. Complete the hunt, and you can choose this year's pin or one of the remaining ***Christmas at Hollybourne Cottage*** pins from last year, while supplies last.

Whether you join us for a special event or take a daily Landmark Trolley Tour, you'll see our new trolley tugs and a few new touring trailers. We've retired the two airport tugs dating to 1980 and replaced them with new units. All four of our trolleys now have nearly identical configurations, with wheelchair ramps and designated wheelchair spaces. We hope you'll ride with us soon!

One of the projects we're most excited about this season is the expansion of the Mistletoe Cottage exhibit. This winter, we plan to reopen four staged upstairs rooms. Our team has been hard at work on plumbing, plaster repairs, and painting. We've also sent collection objects out for conservation, purchased furnishings selected to fit the period, created reproductions of historic paintings, and chosen wallpaper in keeping with the Club era. **FOHJI has funded the entire project, and we're grateful for your support.**

We hope to see you soon!

Treasurer's Report

Tom Startk and Susan Rodgers, Co-Treasurers

As of August 31, our General Account has a balance of \$20,981.08 and our Money Market \$224,373.31 for a total of \$245,354.39. Committed funds include renovations for Baker-Crane Carriage House, Hollybourne Gun Room, and the new Mistletoe Cottage project totaling approximately \$96,000 in outstanding grants. The Mistletoe project in particular is developing rapidly, and we are looking forward to seeing the impact that Historic Resource Director Will Wagner can have with FOHJI's financial assistance.

We have also been working on upgrading some FOHJI technology resources such as a new QuickBooks program. Many Thanks to Tim Kinsey and Ted Fleshman for setting us up for success as we begin our tenure.

The Legacy Program

FOHJI has a LEGACY PROGRAM for planned giving that makes it possible for you to donate through your will, investment portfolio, charitable trust or other beneficiary designations. We encourage you to support FOHJI's mission of preserving the historical nature of Jekyll Island through these tax deductible avenues.

One of the easiest ways to give is a one-time donation of a specified amount that may be provided through a single or multi-payment structure. Donors have the flexibility of providing contributions as a recurring monthly automatic disbursement to FOHJI.

Additional avenues of giving include:

- ❖ Designating FOHJI as a beneficiary in your will or life insurance policy;
- ❖ Providing for a distribution to FOHJI from your charitable trust;
- ❖ Transferring stocks, bonds and other securities to FOHJI for sale and the benefit of FOHJI's projects;
- ❖ Providing a restricted contribution to a specific FOHJI project that you would like to see move forward;
- ❖ Designating FOHJI to benefit from the sale of real estate or specified personal property.

Thank you in advance for considering these avenues of supporting FOHJI's mission. If you are interested in one of these methods of providing support, please consult your financial planner and/or tax consultant, if needed. You may then contact a FOHJI Board member at jekyllfriends@outlook.com.

REMEMBER YOUR RENEWAL...

The FOHJI membership year starts July 1, which is the start of the fiscal year. All our money goes toward historic preservation endeavors, and we need your continued participation. You might consider increasing your level of membership. The various levels are:

Membership Levels

- Supporting Partner \$ 50.00
- Preservation Partner \$ 150.00
- Business /Sponsor \$ 250.00
- Patron \$ 500.00
- Benefactor \$ 1,000.00

2026-2027 Board of Directors

President Justin Wilbur
 Vice-President
 Secretary Sarah Tallu Schuyler
 Co-Treasurers Tom Stark and Susan Rodgers
Members

Term 2027: Larsen Anderson, Jackie Folsom, Jim McKenna

Term 2028: Tom Alexander, Pamela Harris, Cindy Lubbers, Tracy Perkins, Susan Rodgers, Tom Stark, Justin Wilbur

Term 2029: Sarah Tallu Schuyler