

Well, I think we have a rather interesting newsletter for you this month. The highlight of the month, as the title above indicates is about *The Gullah People of Sandy Island*, in SC. This is another wonderful trip organized by Robin McCall of Storehouse Tours. This island and it's people represent a piece of history, that goes back to the 1800's, and has not been tampered with by modern society. The island is surrounded by the waters of two rivers and two creeks. The only way to get there is by boat. The people on the island are direct decedents of the people of West Africa's rice coast, who were brought here specifically for the purpose of growing rice as they did in Africa. Slavery, of course, is not a proud part of our US History. At this point in time, 25% of the Island is privately owned, with 9,000 acres of the remaining property owned by the SC Dept. of Transportation, with the purpose of preserving it forever for the people of SC. There are three settlements on the Island, with Mt Arena being the largest and is where the boats are docked. This is where we arrived with the tour boat. There are children living on the Island, who travel to school on the mainland via the School Bus Boat. At the boat dock, there is a General Store with essentials for residents and souvenirs for tourists. Electricity was not added until 1965. Other pictures include the church to the right with the insert showing the original date of 1880. Below that is the original school house, now used for general functions. The Gullah people have always been a very self sufficient people.



Memorial Day!!!!

How was your Memorial Day? Ours was **wet** thanks to tropical storm **Alberto**. We are grateful, however that we did not get anything close to what surrounding areas got!! Think of the heaviest rainfall you can remember and then have that come down without relief for 6 hours plus. Our lake raised about 3+ feet in that time. It was a bit anxiety provoking. The pictures on the right are from this month. The two pictures below show the post that we use to tell how much the lake has risen. The smaller picture with the visiting swan was taken earlier this month and shows the normal water level. You can clearly see the difference. The next picture below that is of the road in front of the house from our driveway. Needless to say, when the water in the lake gets to a certain height, the water in the road is not going to drain into it. No one expected the rain to come down like it did here. We may have to re-think what precautions we can take prior to predicted storms. This was something I didn't expect to write about this month.

Earlier in the month we watched the *Estate Management Services* taking care of our lake by eliminating algae that was spreading over the surface. Our neighbor, Bill, was talking to the fellow doing the job. It was interesting to watch him.

Earlier in the month we also attended a talk on pain management, not that any of us have issues in this area! By the way the hall had a good sized crowd.

The last picture is of a Restaurant called the Parson's Table, in Little River. Bob & I celebrated our 34th Wedding Anniversary on the 26th of the month. Well, we may still have to try again at the Parson's Table as it was closed that day. Needless to say we should have called ahead and did not. Oh well, we will just try again another day. We ate instead at one of our local favorites, Brother Shuckers, which was excellent.

