

Page 2 THE DARIEN NEWS January 25, 2024

Strain

Continued from Page 1

collapse. It took until November of that year to finalize the stabilization. On board for the work have been archaeologists, architects, and landscape architects, as well as engineers specializing in mechanical, electrical, civil, structural and plumbing.

Greg Jacobs, co-founder of Landmark Preservation in Savannah, said in 2020, "There is no textbook for how to save a 200-year-old two-story tabby warehouse that is failing in five different directions."

The stabilization phase included installing interior and exterior wooden shoring; installing steel supports working in conjunction with hydraulic jacks; installing steel rods and plates; removal of the heavy slate roof to relieve the stress on the building; removing areas of crumbling brick and tabby where necessary. Walls and buttresses were out of plumb up to 12", and the engineers had to design a method to bring them back to as close to plumb as possible.

Next, structural

engineers designed the system of support that would be required from the ground through the second floor, which took over a year. The support system was comprised of a network of vertical and horizontal I-beams. These steel beams had to be manufactured, shipped and installed very carefully through narrow window and door openings. Additionally, the engineers specified the installation of exterior Patress plates (stars) with rods attached to the interior steel. Once this support system had been installed, Landmark staff used hydraulic jacks to gradually push the bowed walls and buttresses back into position.

Now, the exposed steel beams are in place to hold up the exterior walls. Windows that could be salvaged were restored, and windows that had to be replaced were fabricated to match the originals, utilizing mahogany wood.

A major project during January is rebuilding some of the exterior tabby walls utilizing the historical method

of making tabby. This process is labor-intensive.

Because the south wall was not repairable, the oyster shells in that tabby wall were salvaged to be reused to repair other walls of the building. The shells were thoroughly washed before recycling. Among the oyster shells were found Native American pottery shards. Fred Ecker, Project Manager for Landmark Preservation, explained that oyster shells during those days were taken from Native American oyster middens, where pottery had also been discarded.

To better understand the process of making tabby, according to the Spalding technique, Buddy Sullivan describes it in his book, "Old Tabby", about Spalding's Ashantilly home on the mainland.

"The simple method of tabby casting at both Ashantilly and Sapelo entailed one-foot boards spread apart and fastened with wooden pins at the top and bottom, the lower pins resting upon the previously cast portion of tabby wall. The mixture of sand, water, lime and oyster shell was mixed to equal proportions and poured between the wooden mold boards, which extended around the entire outline of the walls of the structure."

See Strain, Page 9



Exterior Patress plates (stars) with rods attached to interior steel beams provide a support system for the exterior walls of the Adam Strain Building. (Photos by Kathleen Russell)



The method of pouring tabby for the Adam Strain Building is being replicated from the original tabby making process developed by Thomas Spalding, using one-foot boards spread apart and fastened with wooden pins.



Left photo: oyster shells for a crumbling tabby wall are being washed before recycled to create more tabby. Above photo: the recycle oyster shells are



A MODERN DAY GENERAL STORE

The LOCAL EXCHANGE

- All Things Local
- Farm Fresh Produce, Honey, Eggs & Meats
- Frozen Prepared Meals
- Jams, Jellies & Pickles
- Fresh Baked Bread
- Hand Dipped Ice Cream
- Craft Root Beer & Kombucha on Tap
- Natural & Organic Soaps & Body Care
- Books, Puzzles & Cards
- Gifts & Gift Baskets

109 N Walton Street, Darien, GA, 912-437-3675
Hours: Monday-Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 1-5pm
Facebook & Instagram @thelocalexchangedarien



CHEERS TO DAILY HAPPY HOUR

Unwind & Indulge With Our Unbeatable Happy Hour, Everyday From 4:00pm - 6:00pm!

Enjoy \$3-4 Beers, \$4 Wines, \$4-5 Cocktails, & \$5-9 Bar Bites:

- Black & Blue Bites
- Smoked Cheese Fondue
- Goat Cheese Fritters
- Pork Pot Stickers
- Short Rib Quesadilla



☎ 833-550-OAKS(6257)

📍 205 Fort King George Drive Darien, Ga 31305

@OaksOnTheRiverResort.Com/Dining

@TheOaksClubAndCedarBar

ADVERTISE

in

The Darien News

Call

912-437-4251

SINERR Hires New System-Wide Monitoring Program Manager

Sapelo Island, GA: The Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve (SINERR) announces that Dylan Bedortha has joined its staff as the new System Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP) Manager. Bedortha will primarily manage and maintain SINERR's long-term water quality, water nutrients, and meteorological monitoring systems on Sapelo. Each of the 29 National Estuarine Research Reserves around the U.S. operates a SWMP, using the same instruments and methods, collectively creating a nationwide coastal monitoring network. Bedortha will also assist with other SINERR estuarine research priorities as they arise.

"Dylan's work at the Reserve is absolutely critical to monitoring the health of Georgia estuaries and is a core component of SINERR and its larger monitoring program," says SINERR Research Coordinator Rachel Guy. "He has worked for us for several months as a contractor, and we are excited to have him

poured into a concrete mixer, followed by sand, water, lime, quick lime putty and wood ash to create tabby.



Dylan Bedortha is SINERR's new System Wide Monitoring Program manager. (Photo submitted)

brought him to SINERR.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to run the SWMP on Sapelo as I continue to learn about the program and about Sapelo Island," he says.

Considering his background, it's no surprise that, in his free time, Bedortha likes to spend time outdoors. He also enjoys discovering new music and playing with his cat, JuJu.

Sapelo Island is one of the largest of the barrier islands that fringe the south Atlantic seaboard from South Carolina to Northeast Florida. The Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve encompasses 7,500 acres along the western perimeter of Sapelo and is dedicated to research, education, stewardship, and sound management of coastal resources. The Reserve's outreach and research initiatives focus on the island's natural ecosystems and the cultural and historical resources of Sapelo Island and the greater Altamaha River estuary. For more information, please visit www.sapelonerr.org.



Film FESTIVAL

Presented by Green Scene of Coastal Georgia

Sunday, Feb 4th
2-5pm

at the Historic Ritz Theatre in
Brunswick, GA

Free admission!

www.GreenScreen.eventbrite.com
for more information

FEATURE FILM:

THE FUTURE OF ENERGY

Lateral Power to the People



A powerful new film about the people and communities leading the way towards a renewable energy future.

