

# S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture to host event featuring world-renowned mushroom expert

McCORMICK – World-renowned mushroom expert and author Tradd Cotter will visit the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe on Thursday, April 21 for a public event at the school's dairy barn.

Cotter will offer his fascinating presentation, "Opportunities With Fungi That Can Change The World," at 6:15 p.m. There will be a social hour beginning at 5 p.m. featuring food truck items for sale by Michelle's and live music from The Voyagers. A book-signing will follow the event

Seating is limited to 150 tickets. Advance tickets may be purchased for \$6 at the school and at the McCormick County Chamber of Commerce office, 100 Main Street in downtown McCormick.

Cotter is a microbiologist and best-selling author who grew up near Charleston but now owns and operates Mushroom Mountain, a 26-acre farm and research facility near Easley in Pickens County. He is regarded as one of the premier authorities in mycology, the study of mushrooms, and has been featured in "National Geographic" magazine and in the 2019 documentary "Fantastic Fungi."

In 2015, he published his book, "Organic Mushroom Farming and Mycoremediation." It was described in "Publishers Weekly" as a "comprehensive introduction to growing and utilizing fungi (that) has something for all mushroom-inclined readers, be they individuals curious about growing edible fungi in their backyards or basements, prospective mushroom farmers setting up large growing systems, educators from kindergarten to college levels or innovators experimenting with eco-friendly materials." The book is just part of Cotter's larger mission at Mushroom Mountain.

"To me, this book is much more than a cultivation guide. It is about healing the people and the planet, one mushroom and one cultivator at a time, reversing destructive cycles into creative forces," he is quoted as saying on his Amazon.com profile. "If we think with an opportunistic yet minimalistic approach much like a mushroom, taking what it needs to survive and then returning resources to its ecosystem so they can be used by others, the future looks like somewhere I want to be ... From old-growth forests to mulched urban sidewalks to fruiting growths on debris floating out at sea, fungi are everywhere – and there's much to be learned from them."

During his talk at the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture, Mr. Cotter will discuss practical techniques for growing mushrooms, including building materials, medicinal compounds, soil building and cultivation. He also will explore the latest research into mushrooms and what innovations in mycology could be on the horizon involving fungi and human civilization.



**Noted mushroom expert Tradd Cotter holds one variety of mushroom he has studied and will discuss during his April 21 presentation at the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe in McCormick County.**

-Mushroom Mountain/Tradd Cotter photo



# Congressman Duncan acknowledges school during National Agriculture Week

McCORMICK – As part of National Agriculture Week celebrations across America, U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-Laurens) acknowledged the hard work and dedication of students at the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe (JDLH) with a Wednesday afternoon shout-out on social media.

Rep. Duncan called the students at the McCormick County school "South Carolina's future leaders in the agriculture industry." Students in grades 10-12 from across the Palmetto State are enrolled at the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture. "John de la Howe is training up the next generation of South Carolina's leaders in the agriculture industry to meet the demands of modern farms," Rep. Duncan wrote on his Facebook page, "by providing a challenging, hands-on agricultural education in areas like agriculture, agribusiness, forestry, land management (and) food science."

National Agriculture Week is observed annually by the Agriculture Council of America, a Kansas-based nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public awareness of agriculture's vital role in our society. The highlight of the week is National Agriculture Day, celebrated this year on Tuesday, March 22.

Congressman Duncan's public acknowledgement of the school's diverse and growing student population followed a March 8 visit by JDLH agriculture teacher Hunter Morton and student Anna Grace Cross of Clinton to Rep. Duncan at his Washington, D.C. office. They were in the nation's capital to attend the three-day National Young Farmer Educational Association's annual "Agriculture's Promise" Conference.

"Agriculture's Promise" gave agriculture teachers and students from around the country the opportunity to visit with their congressional representatives and other agriculture policymakers in Washington, D.C.

The South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe is a 1,300-acre high school and working farm once owned by French physician Dr. John de la Howe. It has been an educational institution since 1797, and in December 2020, it was designated an official Governor's School by Gov. Henry McMaster. It is the nation's only residential high school dedicated solely to agriculture education.



**U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-Laurens) visits with agriculture teacher Hunter Morton from the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe and student Anna Grace Cross during a March 8 visit to Washington, D.C. Duncan celebrated National Agriculture Week on Wednesday by acknowledging the school and its students. -photo provided by Rep. Jeff Duncan's office**



**Senator Billy Garrett (second from left) met with Jessica Kidd (far left), Bernice (center), Trixy (second from right) and Brandon.**

# Disabilities Awareness Month

By Linda Kidd

March is Disabilities Awareness Month in South Carolina. On Wednesday, March 2, a group from the Burton Center in Greenwood attended Disability Advocacy Day at the State House in Columbia. While at the capitol they had the opportunity to visit with Senator Mike Gambrell, Senator Billy Garrett and Representative Craig Gagnon. Disability Advocacy Day provides the opportunity for organizations all across the state to talk with their legislators about the challenges and needs of individuals with disabilities and their families.

Some of the issues addressed during Disability Advocacy Day were transportation, home and community-based services (HCBS), respite, Medicaid waiver waiting lists, aging caregivers, direct support professionals, COVID-19 and how it has affected individuals who have disabilities, special education and affordable housing.

Burton Center for Disabilities and Special Needs is a non-profit, multi-county agency, providing services for over 500 people with disabilities and special needs (autism, intellectual disabilities, head injuries, spinal cord injuries and related disabilities) in Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Lexington, McCormick and Saluda counties. Burton Center's mission is to discover and develop unlimited potential.

Services are provided to help each individual reach their full potential. Services include day services for adults at four centers located in Greenwood, Lexington, Saluda and Ware Shoals; residential services (26 community residences, three supervised living programs, four community training homes); and respite.

# SLV Men's Golf Association Results

By Ken Bastow

The Savannah Lakes Men's Golf Association results for Thursday, March 24, are as follows:

Event: Two player team, one best ball of two.

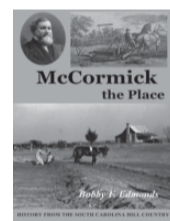
First flight: First place, 11 under par, Greg Walker and Nelson Hagy; second place, 11 under par, Paul Westmoreland and Ron Logan; and third place, 8 under par, Chris Cassidy and Wayne Gish.

Second flight: First place, 8 under par, Michael Hunter and Barry Fairley; second place, 8 under par, Harry Hager and Matt Flanagan; and third place, 7 under par, Wayne Davis and Bob Edwards.

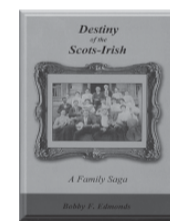
Third flight: First place, 12 under par, Dave Markle and Michael Payne; second place, 12 under par, Jim Orr and Bob Millar; and third place, 7 under par, Kevin Burnick and Harry Tian.

**Deadline for all news and advertising is Monday at noon!!!**

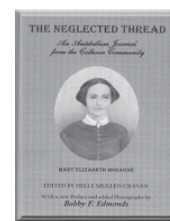
# Books by Bobby F. Edmonds



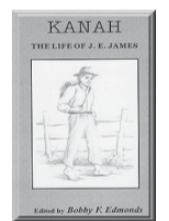
**McCormick the Place (softcover) \$25.00**



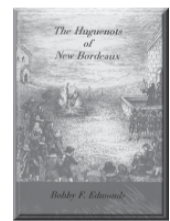
**Destiny of the Scots-Irish \$20.00**



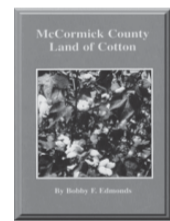
**The Neglected Thread \$25.00**



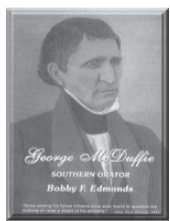
**Kanah: The Life of J.E. James \$8.95**



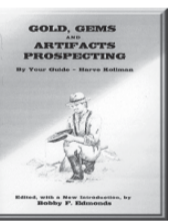
**The Huguenots of New Bordeaux \$20.00**



**McCormick County Land of Cotton \$30.00**



**George McDuffie: Southern Orator \$20.00**



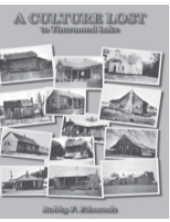
**Gold, Gems and Artifacts Prospecting \$10.00**



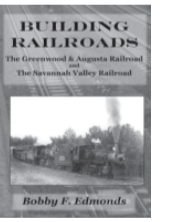
**Growing up Southern \$20.00**



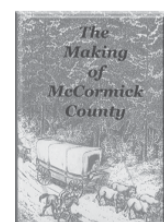
**The British Partizan \$12.00**



**A Culture Lost to Thurmond Lake \$25.00**



**Building Railroads \$25.00**



**The Making of McCormick County \$25.00**



**McCormick County Cemeteries \$25.00**



**Echoes from Bygone Days \$25.00**

Books may be purchased at the Willington Book Store, Strom's Drug Store, Chamber of Commerce and Books on Main

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