

From: SC News from SCIWAY <sciway-news@sc-news.net>
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Subject: Enjoy Them Here: SC Photos of the Month + July's Best SC Events

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{ SC's July Calendar + Our Featured SC Event }

July 18 — This year's [July Calendar of SC Events](#) is brought to you by Columbia's [Palm Tomato Festival](#) at City Roots Farm. Presented by Sustainable Midlands, the festival is a celebration of locally grown food – the people who grow it, the restaurants that place it on their menus, the markets that sell it, and the people who eat it. Continuing its traditions of old-time festival fun, Tasty programming includes a free heirloom tomato tasting, live music on two stages, local food, a garden, tomato bobbing, and the highly anticipated Tasty Tomato Contest! Festival food will feature restaurants serving local food with a tomato theme!

[See all the other great South Carolina events coming up in July.](#)

{ Murrells Inlet: A Great Catch for Fish and Fun }

Summer is officially upon us, and the sea – and seafood – are calling. If you're looking for a fun way to spend July Fourth, look no further than [Murrells Inlet](#), an historic fishing village located just north of [Myrtle Beach](#). Murrells Inlet has long enjoyed a reputation for excellent dining, and in fact the Grand Strand haunt has positioned itself, quite rightly, as the "Seafood Capital of South Carolina."

([Matt Trudeau of Murrells Inlet](#) © Do Not Use Without Written Consent)

Uniquely situated for such an honor, Murrells Inlet lies between the Waccamaw River and the Atlantic Ocean; it is further divided by its namesake creek, which gives fishermen three separate sources of fish from – black water, creek water, and deep water. Originally home to the [Waccamaw Indians](#)

John Murrell (sometimes spelled Morrall) settled here in 1731. He was soon followed by the area's most well-known families, including the Flaggs and Allstons, who established prolific rice plantations during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Many of these planters kept slave "creek boys" who collected bounties such as [shrimp](#), [oysters](#), clams, crabs, and fish.

([Matt Trudeau](#) of [Murrells Inlet](#) © Do Not Use Without Written Consent)

This epicurean appreciation soon gave rise to a fraternity called the Hot and Hot Club. During half of the 1800s, wealthy white males (including future South Carolina governor [Robert Francis Allston](#)) would gather with their black boat hands each Friday, June through October, to fish. Elaborate rules dictated which members were responsible for which dishes (and drinks!), and each contributed their day's catch to the meal, which could stretch long into the night.

([Matt Trudeau](#) of [Murrells Inlet](#) © Do Not Use Without Written Consent)

Following the [Civil War](#) and the demise of [rice culture](#), Murrells Inlet's economy evolved to fit the estuarine environment. During a time when local seafood could not be safely shipped, people traveled to Murrells Inlet for rustic oyster roasts and fish fries, often hosted by the families of former planters. Over time the community became renowned for its fresh fare, and demand has never waned. Today Murrells Inlet continues to draw fans to its famous row of restaurants, many of which have thrived for generations.

([Matt Trudeau](#) of [Murrells Inlet](#) © Do Not Use Without Written Consent)

Murrells Inlet is more than just salt water and seafood, of course. Please visit our [complete Murrells Inlet](#) to learn more about the community's legendary landmarks, including the [Marsh Walk](#), [Island](#), [Crazy Sister Marina](#), [Belin United Methodist Church](#), [Brookgreen Gardens](#), [Huntington State Park](#), [Atalya Castle](#), and the [Hermitage](#) – home to the ghost of Alice Flagg. Also helpful is our [guide to Murrells Inlet hotels](#), which will make planning your trip a (summer's) breeze.

([Matt Trudeau](#) of [Murrells Inlet](#) © Do Not Use Without Written Consent)

{ [Matt Trudeau: True Friend to the SC Picture Project](#) }

This month we're pleased to introduce [Matt Trudeau](#), the artist behind each of these photos.

The enduring popularity of the Waccamaw Neck and Grand Strand keeps us in search of great photos to go with the fascinating history of the area. Fortunately for us, [Matt Trudeau](#) of Murrells Inlet has been contributing his work to the [South Carolina Picture Project](#) for years. His spectacular images, taken at beloved sites such as Brookgreen Gardens and the Murrells Inlet Marsh Walk, give us a visual window into these timeless destinations.

Originally from the state of New York, Matt developed his talents as a photographer in the salt marshes of South Carolina. For those in search of a scenic escape to waters awash with plantation history, and pristine salt marsh vistas, visit [Matt's photos within the South Carolina Picture Project](#).

([Matt Trudeau of Murrells Inlet](#) © Do Not Use Without Written Consent)

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