

Fiction, Nonfiction & Photos of the Coast

New publications explore Low Country culture, history and scenes from many fascinating angles. Also recently released are novels, memoirs and a delightful collection of recipes.

By Rose T. Wilkins

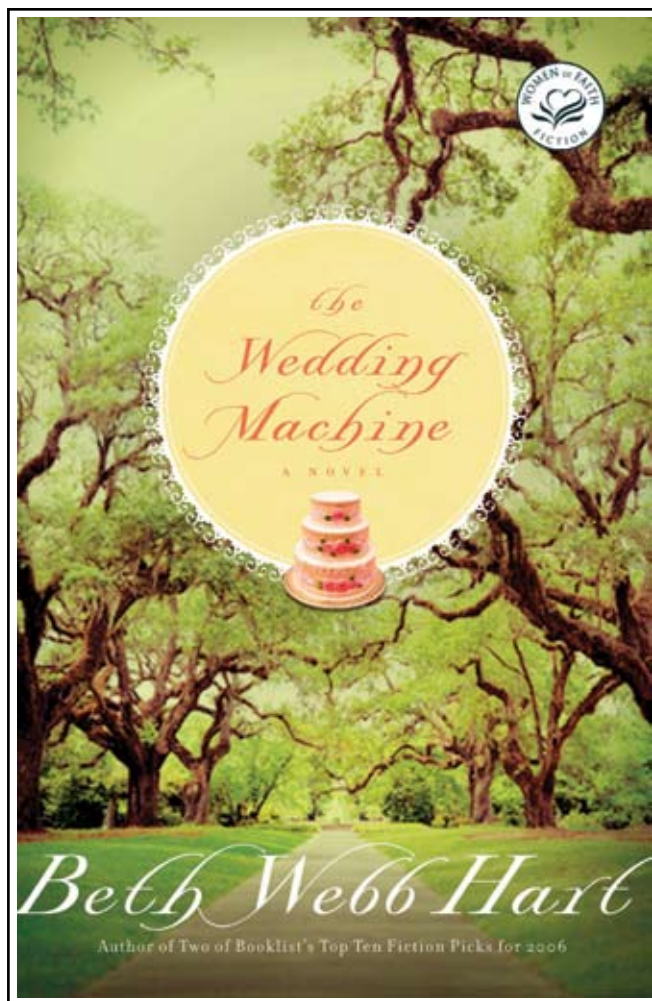
***Vital Rails: The Charleston & Savannah Railroad and the Civil War in Coastal South Carolina* by H. David Stone Jr. (USC Press; (800) 768-2500; hardbound, 352 pages, \$39.95)**

Rich with detailed information, maps and images, Stone's book is a must-read for all those interested in truly understanding the crucial logistical and military operations in the Low Country during the Civil War.

***The Wedding Machine* by Beth Webb Hart (Thomas Nelson; (800) 251-4000; softbound, 320 pages, \$14.95)**

This novel tells the heart-warming story of four women who have been friends since high school and who now run a business in Jasper, South Carolina, called "The Wedding Machine." When all four daughters are each being "married off," the gears of the "machine" begin to grind to a surprising halt.

This novel and the one described below would make good choices for book clubs, since they both have reading group guides in the back.



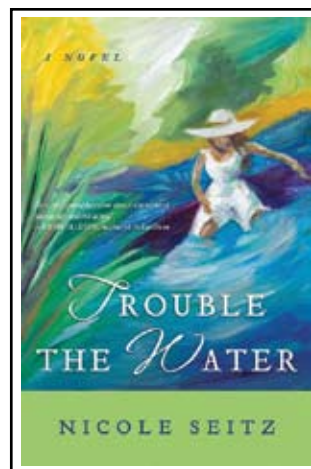
***Trouble the Water* by Nicole Seitz (Thomas Nelson; softbound, 296 pages, \$14.99)**

Another novel by a Low Country author set in the sea islands. This is the story of two sisters' undying devotion for one another and of learning to truly live again. The title is based on an old

African-American spiritual about healing and freedom, "Wade in the Water."

***The History of Cotton: South Carolina Cotton Museum* (USC Press; 64 pages, paperback, \$14.95)**

This concise, illustrated history of one of the South's most impor-



tant crops is distributed for the museum, which is located in Bishopville, by the University of South Carolina Press.

***The Voice of Small-Town America: The Selected Writings of Robert Quillen, 1920-1948*, edited by John Hammond Moore (USC Press; hardbound, 344 pages, \$29.95)**

"The Sage of Fountain Inn" is back in print in this compendium of wit and wisdom. Edited by Moore, these essays, editorials, one-liners, fables and random musings return to print Quillen's insights after a decades-long hiatus.

***Daufuskie Island: Photographs* by Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe, original foreword by Alex Haley with new preface by Deborah**

Willis, Ph.D (USC Press; hardbound, 176 pages, 110 black-and-white photographs, \$49.95)

Composed of photographs of Daufuskie Island, this important work depicts an isolated sea island subculture prior to modern tourism and development.

***Ramblings of a Low-country Game Warden* by Ben McC. Moïse (USC Press; 252 pages, hardbound, \$29.95)**

With a law enforcement officer's eye for details, a conservationist's nose for pluff mud and a seasoned storyteller's ear for the rhythms of a good southern yarn, Moïse recreates here his efforts to protect the Low Country landscape and bring to justice those who would run roughshod over fish and game laws on the South Carolina coast.

***The Letters of Pierce Butler, 1790-1794: Nation Building and Enterprise in the New American Republic*, edited by Terry W. Lipscomb (USC Press; 440 pages, hardbound, \$39.95)**

Enlivened by Irish humor and colorful turns of phrase, this collection of letters offers a new perspective on the most enigmatic of South Carolina's signers of the Constitution and on the formative years of the American republic.

***South Carolina's Williamsburg: A Collection of Articles Appearing in The News of Kingstree, South Carolina, July 11, 2001–August 4, 2004* by Eleanor Winn Foxworth (The Williamsburg Historical Society; 641 pages, hardbound, \$60)**

Miss Foxworth spent many hours compiling these articles for *The News*. The Historical Society was delighted to be able to publish her articles in book form as a great legacy and treasure for Williamsburg County.

***Captivity* by Debbie Lee Wesselmann (John F. Blair Publisher; (800) 222-9796; hardbound, 300 pages, \$22.95)**

Dana, the main character in this novel, runs a chimpanzee sanctuary in the woods of South Carolina. The novel is a unique, surprising world unto itself—a high literary work, a page turner and an issues novel all in one.

***Calling Home* by Janna McMahan (Kensington Books; (212) 407-1573; 326 pages, softbound, \$15)**

The Columbia resident has written a novel set in Kentucky that is a haunting, powerful exploration of issues involving mothers and daughters, choice and regret, the mistakes we make and the ones we hope we can correct before it is too late.

***Office Upstairs: A Doctor's Journey* by Charles H. Banov, MD (The History Press; (843) 577-5971; 192 pages, hardbound, \$34.99)**

A very compelling memoir by a wise, curious, insightful physician practicing in Charleston who shares his life's story. The book is both touching and, at times, humorous. I could not put this memoir down until I was at the end—and then I wanted Dr. Banov to tell me more.

***The Charleston Ripper* by Steve Brown (Chick Springs Publishing; (864) 244-4322; 312 pages, softbound, \$15.95)**

A modern-day Jack the Ripper stalks his victims in Old Charleston. I did a lot of reading this summer and this mystery held my interest to the very end. I am ready for more from Steve, who has written 10 books at last count.

***Robbie Lee: The Wilds of Houston Valley* by R.M. Parrish (Publish America; www.PublishAmerica.com; 137 pages, softbound)**

This historical fiction story takes place in Houston Valley, Tennessee, and the author's grandmother is the main character. This funny and moving tale is based on stories passed down from "Gammy," who had just turned 6 after the devastating stock market crash

of 1929. The hardworking farm family never loses sight of its values.

The author currently lives in New York City with her husband James, where she writes, teaches and works as an actress. Her Gammy and her parents live in Lexington, South Carolina. This was another one of my favorite books that I included in my summer reading program for the grandchildren.

***Savannah Grey: A Tale of Antebellum Georgia* by Jim Jordan (Xlibris; softbound, 507 pages, \$26.99)**

The author relocated to Callawassie Island, South Carolina, in 1995 and has begun a second career as a Low Country historian, lecturer and tour guide in Savannah. This is an unforgettable novel of life in Georgia in the years leading up to the Civil War.

***Cooking With South Carolina Woodmen* (Woodmen of the World—South Carolina; P.O. Box 23287, Columbia, SC 29224)**

My good friend Hugh Rogers wanted me to share this cookbook with you. The recipes were collected from Lodges all over South Carolina. I am a "cookbook reader," and I promise you that I read this one from cover to index. I used many recipes from the book in my own kitchen and they were all very, very good. ❖