



Clean Coast

Volunteers Working for Litter-Free Beaches

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The Trash Bag

VolumeXII, Issue 4, October/November 2009

Wassaw Revisited

By Philip Grainery

Two great trips to Wassaw Island this year made up for last year when bad weather, small craft and fog advisories thwarted our every attempt to reach this jewel in the necklace of Georgia's barrier islands.

Our first cleanup was held at the height of our glorious hot summer in August in cooperation with the Caretta Research Project which has conducted turtle nest monitoring on Wassaw for the past 37 years. We were delighted to be invited to network with this important local non-profit scientific research program and enjoyed the tremendous advantage of their local knowledge and fleet of ATVs which collected our bagged debris along miles of Wassaw's beautiful empty beaches. With their help, we collected 1800 pounds of debris – a near record for Clean Coast! Our thanks to Kris Williams and her team for their energy, enthusiasm and help on this cleanup.

In September we returned to the north end of Wassaw for Clean Coast's participation in the International Coastal Cleanup organized annually by the Ocean Conser



Group poses with trash at August 2009 Wassaw Island cleanup. Photo by Melissa Freeman

(WASSAW CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Our Plastic Legacy Afloat

New York Times Editorial
August 27, 2009

Until recently, the earth had seven continents. To that number, humans have added an eighth — an amorphous, floating mass of waste plastic trapped in a gyre of currents in the north Pacific, between Hawaii and Japan. Researchers have estimated that this garbage patch may contain as much as 100 million tons of plastic debris and is perhaps twice the size of Texas, if not larger.

Across the world's oceans there are still many more millions of tons of floating plastic, most of it originating from land, not ships. All of this solid waste is bad news. It traps as many as a million seabirds every year, as well as some 100,000 marine mammals.

Now comes what could be more bad news. A new study, announced at a recent meeting of the American Chemical Society, suggests that plastics in seawater break down faster than expected. As they do, they apparently release contaminants, including potentially harmful styrene compounds not normally found in nature. This was not merely a laboratory finding. The author of the study, Katsuhiko Saito, a scientist at Nihon University in Japan, found the same chemical compounds in seawater samples collected near Malaysia, the Pacific Northwest, and in the northern Pacific.

The effects of these broken-down plastics on marine organisms is as yet unknown, and they will be harder to measure than the damage that plastic refuse does to sea-life. But adding to the contaminant load of the oceans cannot be a good thing.

What we are seeing here is yet another of the large-scale, potentially tragic, uncontrolled experiments that humans have conducted on their environment without intending to. And though we cannot do much about the millions of tons that have already been sent to sea, we can at least begin to ask ourselves, when we get ready to pitch a plastic container, where is this likely to end up?

(WASSAW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

vancy. As part of this global event our volunteers completed data sheets on the numbers and types of marine debris collected for inclusion in the Conservancy's database.

We were especially pleased to welcome the Johnson High School Science Club in a Carolina Skiff captained by teacher Amy Capello.

Our haul this time, with a smaller group, totaled 800 pounds.

With the help of the Caretta Research Project and our fine volunteers and skippers we were able to cover the entire seven miles of Wassaw's Atlantic beach during these two cleanups.

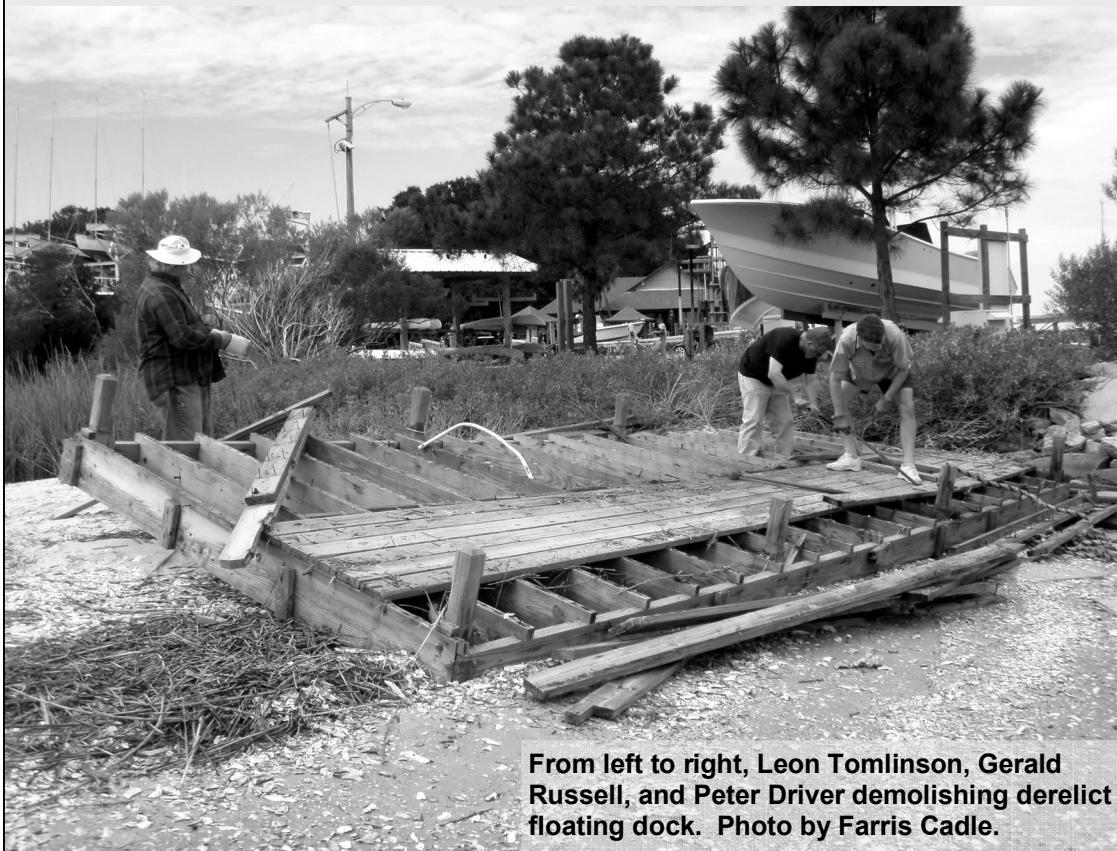
Our thanks to Chef Charlotte for preparing an outstanding lunch for the ICC cleanup and to our terrific volunteer skippers without whom our cleanups could not happen. Hats off to Captain Joe Dobbs, Linda Fisk and Wilson Morris, Rob Littman, Ron Lynch, Julie and Jerry McLean, Steve and Dilys Patterson and Joe Powers – can't thank these guys enough!

Visit the website www.cleancoast.org to see color photos of recent cleanups!

Derelict, Dilapidated Dock Disassembly, Deconstruction, Demolition and Disposal (DDDDDDAD)

By Farris Cadle

A derelict piece of floating dock that had washed ashore at Landings Harbor needed to be deconstructed and disposed of. Clean Coast, of course, had just what it took to do the job, at least the deconstruction part. I gave it a good workout as a sideline to the fish fry on September 26, using a crow bar and sledge hammer. Despite the dilapidated state of the dock and my magnificent physique, it was still one tough cookie, and obviously heavier equipment could be useful. On Sunday, October 4, myself, Peter Driver, Gerald Russell, and Leon Tomlinson assembled to do another disassembly number on it. Leon brought a large pry-bar made for pulling up railroad spikes. With that, the sledge hammer, and a bow saw brought by Peter, the remainder of the dock was demolished in short order and the pieces piled above the high tide line for the County to haul off.



Welcome New Members

Reed & Delores Engle
Jim & Judy Hanna
Jamie Smith
Kelly Whaley

Special thanks to the following for contributing at the \$250 level:

Joe Powers
Miles and Sara Pinckney

And to the Skidaway Island Foundation on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Griffin for contributing \$500.

Dolphin Project Dinner

The Dolphin Project invites you to its quarterly dinner/social on Saturday, October 17 at 6:30 pm at the Shellhouse Restaurant. Our special guest will be Brian Balmer UNCW, who will speak on his study of dolphins in the contaminated waters of Brunswick and Sapelo. You can order off the menu with separate checks.

Please RSVP by calling 912-727-3177 or send an email to GAdolphin@comcast.net.

Directions for Hayners Creek Cleanup—October 17

This cleanup is being organized by the City of Savannah so all we have to do is show up.

Huge amounts of trash wash through the Harmon Canal into this Southside Savannah tidal creek, so if you haven't participated in a cleanup here before, you really should make an effort to come to this event to see how bad it is for yourself.

The October 17 date was chosen to coincide with a 9 foot high tide to facilitate easier access to the floating trash from canoes and kayaks. You can bring your own vessel or use one of the kayaks the city is providing. The city is also providing lunch and free Rivers Alive T-shirts.

Meet at 8:00 am at the Rivers End Road boat landing. To get there turn onto Hurst Drive from Montgomery Crossroad and then make a right turn onto Rivers End Road.



Data Summary for September 19 Cleanup

People: 30
 Pounds: 800
 Miles: 1.5

Shoreline and Recreational Activities

(Debris from beach-goers, sports/games, festivals, litter from streets/storm drains, etc.)

Bags: 16
 Balloons: 28
 Beverage Bottles (plastic) 2 liters or less: 336
 Beverage Bottles (glass): 30
 Beverage Cans: 80
 Caps, Lids: 25
 Clothing, Shoes: 14
 Cups, Plates, Forks, Knives, Spoons: 25
 Food Wrappers/Containers: 41
 Pull Tabs: 1
 6-Pack Holders: 1
 Shotgun Shells/Wadding: 3
 Straws/Stirrers: 2
 Toys: 18

Ocean/Waterway Activities

(Debris from recreational/commercial fishing and boat/vessel operations)

Bait Containers/Packaging: 4
 Bleach/Cleaner Bottles: 10
 Buoys/Floats: 27
 Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps: 10
 Crates: 0
 Fishing Line: 150
 Fishing Lures/Light Sticks: 7
 Fishing Nets: 6
 Light Bulbs/Tubes: 8
 Oil/Lube Bottles: 12
 Pallets: 0
 Plastic Sheeting/Tarps: 2
 Rope: 14
 Strapping Bands: 0

Smoking Related Activities

Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters: 1
 Cigarette Lighters: 9
 Cigar Tips: 5
 Tobacco packaging/Wrappers: 2

Dumping Activities

Appliances: 0
 Batteries: 0
 Building Materials: 2
 Cars/Car Parts: 0
 55-Gal. Drums: 0
 Tires: 0

Medical/Personal Hygiene

Condoms: 0
 Diapers: 1
 Syringes: 0
 Tampons/Tampon Applicators: 1

Other Items of Interest

Styrofoam: 74
 Plastic Bucket: 1
 Boat Seat: 1
 Propane Tank: 1
 Tent Pole: 1
 Fishing Pole: 1
 Life Jacket: 1
 Steel Cable: 1
 Deodorant Bottle: 1
 Powder Bottle: 1
 Medicine Bottle: 1



Opposite page: Photos of September 19 Wassaw Island Cleanup (clockwise from middle) 1. young woman carrying trash bag, 2. Joe Bonds stowing anchor, 3. Peter Driver hauling trash, 4. sand dollar, 5. boneyard beach, 6. Felton Jenkins adding to trash pile with Fort Morgan in the distance. Photos by Kelly Whaley and Sammy Moore.

Cumberland Island 2009/2010

By Charlotte Dixon

I am happy to announce that I have finally heard back from the good folks at Cumberland Island, and they are delighted to have us come twice this season! The first dates will be November 20-22 and the second dates are March 19-21 2010. As many people have repeated these trips for the last few years, this year's trip will be for people who have never been before- with the exception of board members who are being asked to choose 1 of the 2 trips, and trip captains and cooks- Dixon and Graineys- who get to go on both.

The plan this year is a little different- we want to go to Cumberland on the Friday 11:45 a.m. ferry and return on Sunday- last ferry in the day. There can be a few exceptions for people who can't escape work on Friday (teachers for example) and they can come on Saturday. I will have to see if I can book both departures- or if Saturday arrivals will have to do their own. Friday afternoon will involve settling into the dorms, and reconnoitering the island- we do have more vehicles and drivers this year I think- but this can be erratic! Saturday will be the hard work of cleaning beaches, and Sunday we try to go to Plum Orchard-which is an extra \$6 cash for the ferry.

We are going to limit the number of participants to 20 for each trip- that will mean nobody has to sleep in the barrack style dorms, and will make the transporting of people around the island much easier.

I will be making reservations for the ferry in November as soon as I have everybody's registrations. THE ONLY WAY to reserve this trip is to email me- if you make a call to the CC voicemail or through our website you will be out of luck. My email address is cdixon604@aol.com. When you email me- tell me which dates you want, and if you will be coming on Friday or Saturday.

I will get back to you on food arrangements- what we have done in past years is have everybody bring their own lunch, and Phil cooks dinner and I do breakfast. With 2 nights to cook for and 2 breakfasts this could change!

Last year the cost of the ferry was about \$17- and we added something to cover breakfast and dinner costs- so expect to spend about \$25 a person.

Clean Coast can earn a donation every time you search the Internet and shop online!!!

GoodSearch & GoodShop



Search the web with Yahoo-powered GoodSearch.com and they'll donate about a penny to your cause each time you search!

Coming Soon! SCAD Students to Produce Film Shorts for Clean Coast

By Karen Graineney

The Film and Television graduate students in professor Andy Meyer's Professional Development course have been assigned to organize a fundraiser for Clean Coast. They have come up with a creative project that looks like a promising and entertaining way to both draw attention to the issue of marine debris and raise money.

They have decided to employ their talents in film-making to produce amusing film clips which will draw people to our website to make a donation via PayPal. The students plan to be out on Tybee Island on Thursday, October 15 where they will produce the 30 second films. Keep your eyes peeled for the debut of the films on our website in November.

(FISH FRY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

Jenkins for pitching in and helping where needed, and to Chris and Melissa Freeman for providing the entertaining game of corn hole.

Special thanks also to Savannah Area Applebees for donating the fish and coleslaw; and congratulations to Rick Bayard who won the 50/50 raffle.

Crabbing Tournament and Fish Fry Garner Funds for Clean Coast

By Karen Grainey

Despite rainy weather which threatened to halt both the August Crabbing Tournament and the September Fish Fry, these two events combined raised \$1400.

All of the credit for the success of the Crabbing Tournament belongs to Jodi Arledge and Bubba Strickland at Hogan's Marina who planned and implemented the whole thing. Eleven boats braved the rain to enter the contest. Six prizes were awarded to the winning entrants and we had so many gifts in the raffles that everyone who bought a raffle ticket won something. The best part though was at the end when we got to eat the delicious catch.

Thanks to Hogan's Marina, Boat US, Bull River Cruises, Joe's Bait Shop, the Waterside News, and Savannah area Applebees for donating prizes.

Judging by the downpours happening in Savannah on September 26, it looked like the Fish Fry wasn't going to happen. But the sun was shining at Landings

Harbor Park and a pleasant breeze off the Wilmington River kept us cool and bug free.

Cameron Morris entertained us with guitar, keyboard and vocals as some played the challenging game of corn hole and others enjoyed Chef Charlotte's delicious brownies and the succulent fried fish prepared by Phil Grainey, Joe Bonds, Jim Darby and Peter Driver.

Special thanks to Bill Buckley for coming up with idea in the first place, his help with planning the event, organizing the 50/50 raffle, and keeping everyone's glass of Sangria full. Thanks also to Julie and Jerry McLean, Tonny Glick, Farris Cadle, Leon Tomlinson, Cindy Stevens, Gerald Russell and Karen and Felton

(FISH FRY CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Use this form to become a member or to renew your membership.
Please indicate category of membership :

Student or Senior Citizen (\$15) _____

Individual (\$25) _____ Family (\$35) _____

Special Categories:

Sustaining (\$100) _____ Patron (\$500) _____

Life (\$1000) _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE

Home: _____ Work: _____

Fax: _____ Cell or Pager: _____

Email: _____

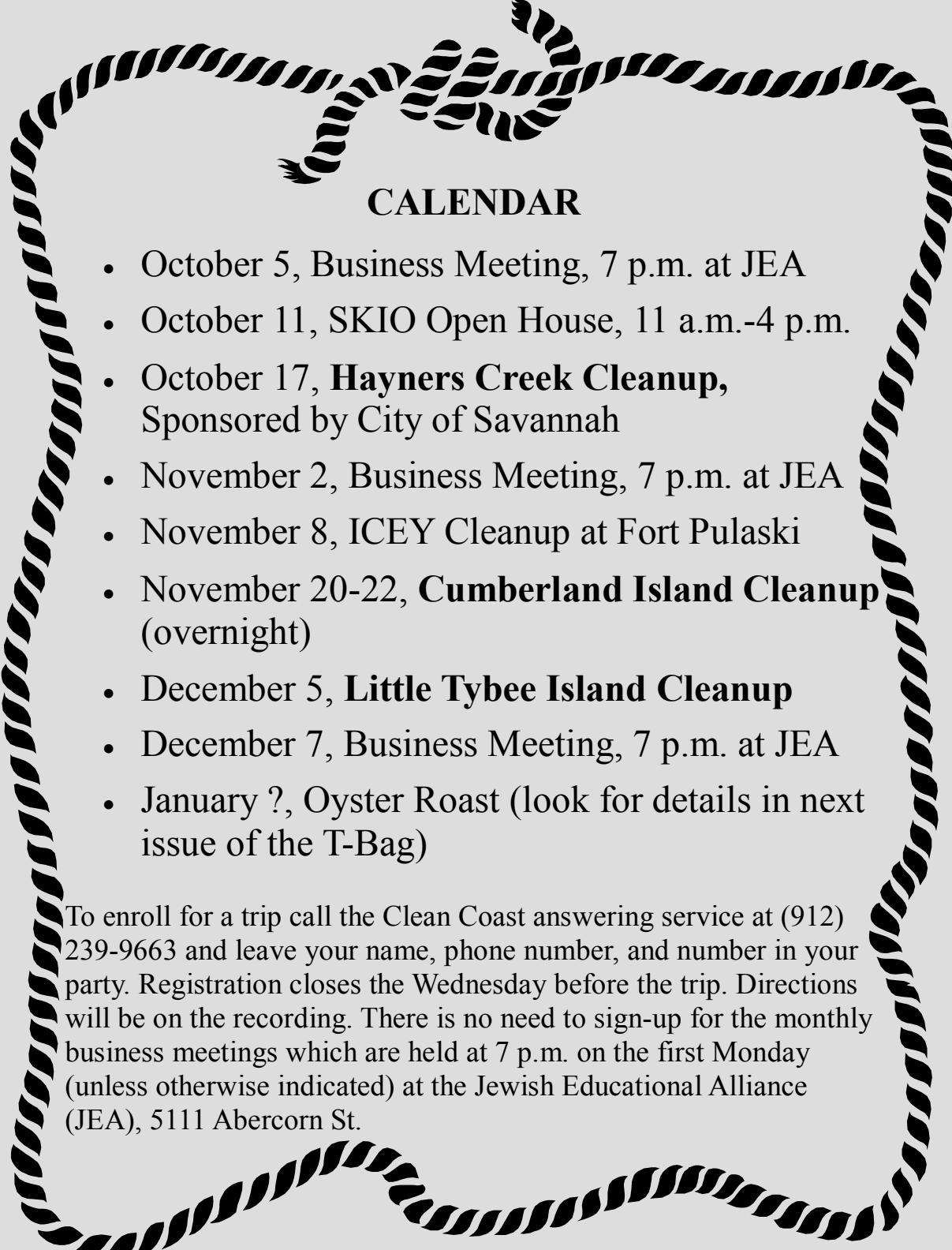
BEST TIME TO CONTACT: _____ a.m. _____ p.m.

DO YOU OWN A BOAT SUITABLE FOR OUR TRIPS? _____

IF YES, HOW MANY CAN IT CARRY? _____

HOW MANY LIFEJACKETS ARE ABOARD? _____

Dues and contributions to Clean Coast are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to Clean Coast, Inc., add our IRS No. 58-1984908 to the check, and mail it to Membership Chairman , 216 E 58th St., Savannah Ga 31405-3436. ≈ CC



CALENDAR

- October 5, Business Meeting, 7 p.m. at JEA
- October 11, SKIO Open House, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- October 17, **Hayners Creek Cleanup,**
Sponsored by City of Savannah
- November 2, Business Meeting, 7 p.m. at JEA
- November 8, ICEY Cleanup at Fort Pulaski
- November 20-22, **Cumberland Island Cleanup**
(overnight)
- December 5, **Little Tybee Island Cleanup**
- December 7, Business Meeting, 7 p.m. at JEA
- January ?, Oyster Roast (look for details in next issue of the T-Bag)

To enroll for a trip call the Clean Coast answering service at (912) 239-9663 and leave your name, phone number, and number in your party. Registration closes the Wednesday before the trip. Directions will be on the recording. There is no need to sign-up for the monthly business meetings which are held at 7 p.m. on the first Monday (unless otherwise indicated) at the Jewish Educational Alliance (JEA), 5111 Abercorn St.

Officers and Board Members 2009/10

President, Karen Graineny, 961-6190, karengrainey@bellsouth.net; **Vice-president**, Farris Cadle, 398-5202, fcadle@bellsouth.net;
Secretary, Gail Bowers, 897-3069, bagal@bellsouth.net; **Treasurer and Membership Chair**, Patsy Bucky, 844-2979, patsy-bucky@aol.com; Tracy Adams, 897-4995, tadamsster@gmail.com; Clete Bergen II, 924-3832 or 233-8001, CBergenII@aol.com.; Joe Bonds, 399-7710, joe@joebonds.com; Charlotte Dixon, 897-0922 or 657-2927, cdixon604@aol.com; Peter Driver, 898-7494, drivers980@att.net; Phil Graineny, 961-6190, philipgraineny@yahoo.com; Peach Hubbard, 727-3177, peach31324@comcast.net; Karen Jenkins, 308-5706, kabnoir@hotmail.com; Felton Jenkins III, 308-5706, afeltonj@hotmail.com.