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## DOUG'S NOTES

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# Kiawah Reads Welcomes Doug Bridges (Teammate of Pat Conroy)

On July 13, 2005, Kiawah welcomed Mr. Doug Bridges, of Columbia, SC, to discuss *My Losing Season* by Pat Conroy. The book is centered on the 1966-67 Citadel bulldogs basketball team, of which Conroy was captain and Bridges was one of the Team's leading scorers. Conroy tells of the hard-fought season, one filled with wins and losses, and the inevitable life lessons he learned along the way. Following is a critique from Doug's book review at

Kiawah.

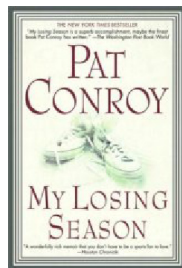
It seems you were a great hit. The staff of the Community Association did an analysis of the response forms that they got back. Among other details, Pat's book rated higher than the next one, though I am not surprised. People really enjoyed the session. Some of the comments from the feedback forms are below:

"Kiawah Reads is one of the highlights of my summer."

"Timing and format worked perfectly."

"Enjoy book related to local area."

"Have them more often!"



"Keep on doing what you are doing."

Doug is available for speaking engagements on *My Losing Season*. He does not charge for the speaking engagement and will be happy to work with your group on a date and time.

Please call Doug to set up a date and time for a speaking engagement on *My Losing Season* - 699-2212.

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## Empty Nesters

In May of 2003, after 24 years in a wonderful home within which we raised our two sons, Teena and I moved into a new home. We sought a low maintenance house with less yard.

However, we did not want to sacrifice luxury or upscale amenities. We wanted our own "piece of jewelry" but just less of it. So we built a courtyard home with all the things in it that we wanted and it's worked out great. We were (and are) empty nesters and baby boomers. More of us are in

our 50's than ever before. Perhaps your last child has just graduated college, gotten married, or moved out and now is the time to think about where you would like to be: busy downtown area, at the Lake/beach, in the mountains, near your children/grandchildren or some place that you always wanted to live.

This house is the one you have always dreamed about, the one that has a darkroom, media room, chef kitchen, four car garage, etc. Maybe you aren't retired yet but now is the time to find the perfect place and move. When you retire, you are already settled and have the house you want.

Downsizing doesn't have

to mean a very small place. It is moving to the place that you want to be, either as a single person or couple.

Maybe the place is smaller than you have now but has luxurious amenities; a mini-retreat where you can entertain children, grandchildren, and guests. It could also mean selling the bigger house and buying more than one place.

You can start the process by writing down what is important in a new house or community. Some examples are:

1. Small or large community
2. Townhouse, Condo, or Single family
3. Activities
4. Lake
5. Low or no maintenance
6. Close to children/grandchildren

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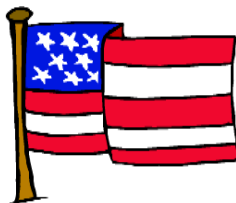
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7. Golf course
8. Club House
9. Restaurants
10. Theaters
11. Shopping
12. Medical facilities
13. High speed internet connections
14. Exercise facilities

A new place could incorporate things that you might not need now but could in the future, a one level floor plan, downstairs master, wider doorways or open kitchen area, light switches that are easy to reach from a wheelchair, a guest suite that could be used for a live-in companion or that child or grandchild that needs to come live for a short time or a visit.

The Capital gain laws have changed, you can sell your current home and exclude up to \$500,000 for a married couple or \$250,000 for a single person from

your taxes. This makes it easier to decide what you want in a house without paying a heavy tax cost. Call me today and get started on selling your home and moving into the home of your dreams.



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## Labor Day

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5,

1882, in New York City. In June of 1884 Congress passed a bill making the first Monday of September a legal holiday in all the states and the District of Columbia.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional

ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.

**Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce**  
**Business After Hours Northeast**  
**Tuesday, September 20, 2005**  
**5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

Business After Hours is an innovative way to meet people outside your industry and share information with business people who have interests similar to yours. During Business After Hours, you can meet new Chamber members, catch up with old friends and learn tips from other business people. All of these benefits can be yours in an informal environment timed perfectly so it doesn't interrupt your workday. Sponsored by Travinia.

Location: Travinia Italian Kitchen  
 101 Sparkleberry Crossing  
 Columbia, SC 29229

Phone: 803-419-9313

If you know of anyone looking to buy or sell a home  
 please call Doug @ 699-2212