



PLAYERS

PART NINE

by **Dickie Odom**

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He once floated down the **Edisto River** on a log he had found and it is “still one of his proudest days,” says former professional cook **Dewey Kirkland** of St. Helena Island, South Carolina. Now, I grew up fishing with my Daddy from a small power boat on the Edisto River in Orangeburg, SC. The Edisto is swift, black water winding through dark, shaded cypress swamps. As an adult on a canoe trip down the Edisto, my canoe partner and I capsized and the first images to flash through my mind were **cotton mouth moccasins and alligators**, creatures we would regularly see on the river when I was growing up. So, I can understand at least two reasons why Dewey is proud of his voyage upon that log.

Dewey was born in Charleston and grew up in Edisto Island where his desire to light the fire on the grill to help his parents cook steaks ignited his excitement for food. He has worked as a professional cook, bartender, and caterer for several restaurants over the past thirty years having started bussing tables for the Sunset Grille in Edisto at 13 years old. He went on to be a server assistant and then a

server at several restaurants before landing a job as a prep cook for Cru Catering in Charleston in his early 20s. After a brief stint as a pile driver, he returned to food and beverage as a server, bartender and assistant manager at Rosebank Farms Café at the Bohicket Marina and Market in Seabrook Island, SC. He eventually made it back to Edisto (on a log, lol) to become the floor manager for the Old Post Office restaurant, cooking and learning while he was there too. It was in 2015 that he and his wife moved to St. Louis where his wife started her career, and he went to work at the Four Seasons hotel where he met several Master Sommeliers and “countless talented individuals who helped to influence my style and polish my manners.”

Upon growing tired of the snow, they returned to Charleston where things had grown to the point that it didn't feel like the same place, so they bought some land on St. Helena Island where he grows chickens and ducks for their meat and he works at the Foolish Frog restaurant and bar in Frogmore, SC as a server and bartender.

On personal preferences Dewey enjoys drinking wine, beer and aged rums. And his favorite cooking techniques are sauteing, frying, braising and whisking.

Besides being a real talent in the kitchen and behind the bar, Dewey has an engaging personality and flair for telling stories. You will all enjoy getting to know this man.

You will all have the opportunity to see Dewey and taste his cooking at the next event on May 19th when the SMASHDOWN at *Lily's Bistro* in Lake Wylie, SC will feature Dewey Kirkland and Willie Tural who grace two different restaurants/bars in quaint and peaceful Frogmore, South Carolina, birthplace to the ever popular Frogmore Stew.

MORE TO COME! Again, I hope to eventually introduce you to all of our members in the same manner as above. In the meantime, **FELLOWS**, keep on cookin.'

“Creativity is inventing, experimenting, growing, taking risks, breaking rules, making mistakes, and having fun.” Mary Lou Cook