



Friends of Hunting Island

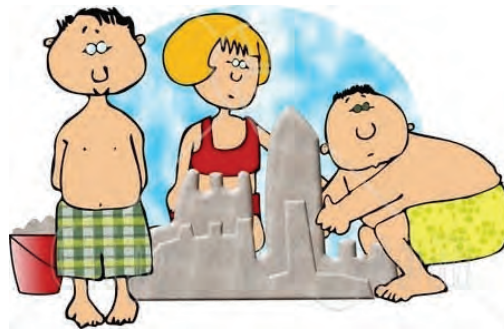
LOGGERHEAD LOG

Summer 2010

ANNOUNCING THE **THIRD ANNUAL SAND SCULPTURE CONTEST**

COME AND JOIN THE FUN

Saturday, July 31, 2010 on the beach at Hunting Island State Park in front of the Lighthouse. Gather your kids, friends, or co-workers and put a team together. You can also enter as an individual or in pairs. We have some great prizes lined up. It will be a fun way to spend an afternoon at the beach. Hope to see you there.



Prizes awarded in each of several age and group categories

- Location:** On the Beach in front of the Lighthouse -
Listen to the Heritage Steel Band playing beach music during the contest.
- Date:** Saturday - July 31, 2010
- Time:** 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM - Register at the Beach
Award presentations: 3:30 PM
- Tools Permitted:** Hand and sculpting tools including: buckets, shovels, sand scoops, carving tools, putty knives, spray bottles for water, kitchen utensils, scrapers, strainer rakes, etc.
- Materials:** Use only natural materials found on or near the beach.
Decorations such as shells, reeds, and small rocks may be used
No artificial decorations or materials are permitted (exception: category #5 below)
- Categories:**
- 1 Sand Fleas (up to 8 years old – Must have an adult as a leader)
 - 2 Sand Hoppers (ages 9 –15)
 - 3 Sand Tribes (families)
 - 4 Sand Shapers (adult or small team of adults)
 - 5 Sand Fantasies – (only families with children age 7 and under)
Multi-media presentation – artificial decorations or materials permitted – dolls or action figures plus small accessories
- Judging:** Based on originality, composition and technique

President's Message

Bonnie Wright, President

Dear Friends,

As you read this edition of our newsletter you will quickly realize how dedicated our volunteers are and what a positive impact YOU have on the quality of the experience for over 1.2 million visitors to the park each year. It is the continued dedication, support and talent of our members that have won the distinguished national, regional, and local awards for our volunteer projects that we have received over the years.

In today's economy not just Friends, but all non-profits are struggling to meet ever-growing needs for their services on smaller and smaller budgets. The only way they can do this is to increase the ranks of volunteers and the number of hours they dedicate to their chosen cause. According to a recent report by Volunteering In America (www.VolunteeringInAmerica.gov) there are many advantages to volunteering for the volunteers as well as the organizations. A few such advantages include an increase in social and political participation and trust in others; a positive, good feeling referred to as a "helper's high"; and more positive health outcomes. The national study also predicts that the number of volunteers should increase by 50 percent, from just under 9 million in 2007, to more than 13 million in 2020.

The organizations also benefit because volunteer time on a specific grant project can be an "in kind" investment based on the volunteer dollar value (in SC it is \$16.26 per hour) often required to qualify for a variety of 50/50 matching grants. In recent years funding resources have dwindled and become much more competitive.

Friends conducted an informal study of our volunteer hours for 2009 not only to support possible grant applications, but also to document the dedication of our hard workers. The

results astounded us! 12,130 hours! Words cannot express my personal gratitude to each and every volunteer who gives so generously of time and talent. I hope you all are experiencing that "helper's high" of knowing the park, its environment and its visitors truly benefit as a result of your dedication. The praises you our volunteers have received say "Friends" continue to make a positive difference and are leaving a legacy for others to follow.

Even though 2010 will not have the 150th Lighthouse Anniversary major event of last year, this year there are many areas of increased need at the park due to budget cutbacks and fewer employees. I would encourage our membership, veteran volunteers and new ones alike, to please consider signing up to help either at the Nature Center with educational programs, construction projects, trail and environmental maintenance, or for our annual events which include New Years Day Pelican Plunge, July Sand Sculpture contest, and the October 5-K walk-run marathon. Also, our VP, Jon Green jonathanmgreene@yahoo.com is in the process of forming a new "Outreach Speakers Bureau" and is looking for volunteers who would be interested in promoting Friends, the park and our programs at occasional community events, organization meetings and other speaking engagements in the area.

Please, if you have not yet joined Friends this year, do it right away! Your membership fees help to finance all of our projects and provide you and your families with an annual volunteer pass to the park. In return, we ask for only a few hours of your time, or a lot of your time if you have it to give, to help us continue our mission of coastal stewardship in preserving the natural beauty of the park for future generations. Come join our group of volunteers and meet new friends, lift your spirits, and help your heart while matching or surpassing last year's total volunteer hours!

Hunting Island License Plates

Jon Dittmer, Treasurer

As many of our members and other supporters around the lowcountry and throughout South Carolina have discovered, the Hunting Island license plate issued by SCDMV is an easy way to show both your interest and financial support for the Friends projects at the park. FOHI receives a significant portion of the \$50 annual fee. But there is no need to wait until your annual DMV renewal. By your application to the local DMV office (located at 28 Munch Drive, south of SC 280, Parris Island Gateway, east of SC 170) or via mail, you can obtain your own Hunting Island plate at a pro-rated annual charge.



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A 501 (C)3 Organization

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Oyster Habitat at Hunting Island

Bruce Doneff, Public Relations

On Tuesday, May 25th, about 50 volunteers from Friends, AMI Beaufort Kids (formerly Beaufort Marine Institute), and the Coastal Conservation Association joined DNR SCORE, and Hunting Island State Park staff for our 5th year of building oyster habitat on Hunting Island. What a great day it was and what a wonderful project this is for the volunteers and the oysters.

Our hardy group of oyster lovers put out 530 20-lb mesh bags of oyster shells at low tide to form a reef. We built the 763-square foot reef next to last year's build and together they constitute a pretty impressive amount of oyster habitat. Last year's reef is already showing a substantial amount of growth ("recruitment") and the entire reef will soon be filtering water, creating habitat, and supplying food for a variety of marine life, while helping to stabilize this section of our beautiful low country marsh.

Thanks to Rob Holquist at RiverSmart who posted photos on their website of the build: www.riversmart.net. Also, big thanks go to our friends and partners on the Hunting Island State Park staff who pitched in; as well as the dedicated South Carolina Oyster Restoration and Enhancement Program (SCORE) staff, who do some important and often overlooked work for our community and the state as a whole. Take a look at the SCORE website to learn more about all their great projects: <http://score.dnr.sc.gov>. Finally, a shout out to Terry Stone, FOHI Board Member, who helped to coordinate the project with SCORE and make sure we had enough volunteers to throw those oyster bags!

Need Volunteers for Speaker's Bureau

Jon Greene, Vice President/Marketing

The Friends of Hunting Island is looking for a few volunteers to join our Speaker's Bureau. We frequently receive requests from local civic groups to visit their meeting and tell our story. There are also many opportunities throughout the year to staff our booth at one of the local festivals. Don't be concerned about information—we'll provide all that you need. The most important tool is your own enthusiasm for Hunting Island. If you're interested in speaking about the beauty and activities of Hunting Island State Park please let Jon Greene or Cyn Follrich know. We'll get you trained and ready to be an advocate for the Park.

Park Store

Paula Bèrubé, Park Store Manager



You've seen it here first.
Come by the park store
and check it out.

Loggerhead Sea Turtle Conservation Program

Karen Whitehead & Denise Parsick, Turtle & Education Program

The 2010 Loggerhead Sea Turtle Conservation Program is alive and well! A big thank you to the co-directors who have met regularly throughout the “non-turtle season” to ensure volunteers have everything they need to oversee the largest volunteer turtle project in the state! Hunting Island has 122 volunteers, with 100% having completed the required training.

Hunting Island State Park and the Friends of Hunting Island have conducted the turtle project together for years. For the first time this year we increased that partnership by both parties holding a dual license from DNR—Mitch Helms, HISP and Buddy Lawrence, FOHI. Cooperation and mutual respect are evident.

Earth Day / Beach Sweep

Vicki Anne Nestor, Litter Control Director

Hooray for Hunting Island State Park!!! The Earth Day/Beach Sweep was a complete success. The weather was overcast, wet, and windy but did not deter volunteers on Saturday, April 24th. There were 190 volunteers that policed the beach, the trails, and the interior of the park. Young people accounted for half of the volunteers. Events like these we hope are creating a new generation of volunteers to lend a hand with our public lands. 121 bags of trash, one large pickup truck bed and 2,300 pounds of trash was removed from the Park.

A special thank you to all the groups that were represented at the Earth Day/Beach Sweep. Thank you to JROTC—Wade Hampton High School and Commander Murtaugh; Sodexo—Parris Island; Baha’i Faith group; Beaufort High Interact Club; Girl Scout Troop #23; and Friends of Hunting Island. Thank you Ranger Ben Holmes for all your help on coordinating with the park.

We would like to give special thanks for the partnerships with Veronica Miller, Keep Beaufort County Beautiful, who supplied the bags, the gloves, and the litter picker uppers, The Rotary Club of the Lowcountry, who supplied the hot dogs and hamburgers, the Dataw Garden Club who have adopted the Lagoon, and the Friends Social Committee headed up by Bobbi Weber who set the tables, and all of the accompaniments that went with the hot dogs and hamburgers.

A special thank you to the following donors. Walgreens on Lady’s Island donated 100 pounds of ice. Bi-Lo of Beaufort donated the condiments. Publix on Lady’s Island donated two cases of fruit, gallons of ice tea and a gift certificate. The FOHI would also like to recognize Walmart for their generous grant that is being used to purchase other items

Erosion and raccoons continue to be our biggest problems, but the turtles are finding places to nest and we are there to protect those nests. Our most notorious momma, Stumpy, is back this year and was a real treat for a few turtlers when they found her still on the beach.

If you are interested in our project you can keep up with our activities on the FOHI web site. For those who thought about joining this year but uncertain about the responsibilities, you are always welcome as a guest to observe—we meet daily at 6 am at the visitor’s center parking lot. A special thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers who are key to our success in covering 4.5 miles of beach (under a variety of challenges) to help protect this endangered species. We are so grateful the turtles come to our beach.

needed for the Beach Sweep lucheon (i.g. table covers, plates, napkins). Thank you also to all the members who donated desserts and helped the day of the sweep.

A very special thank you Bonnie Wright and Karen Whitehead for their mentoring on my first beach sweep. Thank you ladies.

Thank you all for making this a successful Earth Day/Beach Sweep.

On a new note—on Tuesday, June 1st an anti-cigarette butt campaign began at the park. Veronica Miller with Keep Beaufort County Beautiful and Carol Murphy with Beaufort County Solid Waste and Recycling along with Friends of Hunting Island and Hunting Island State Park are working together to bring awareness to the park on disposing of cigarette butts correctly. There are posters in the area, plus four new ashtray receptacles for your use. Volunteers from Friends who are working on the project are John and Judy Hulquist, John and Marge Barber, Carol Welch, Karen McDowell, and Teresa Roundy. Many thanks to Ranger Carl Bèrubè for his valuable advise and participation with this campaign. Please adopt the slogan “Keep our butts off the beach— the park is not an ashtray.”



Park Management Report

Carl Bèrubè, Park Ranger

Anyone who has visited the park in 2010 has noticed that “something” is going on near the front entrance. During the winter, you may have noticed many of the trees along the roads that had white or blue flagging tape on them. Many folks stopped at the fee station and asked, “You aren’t going to cut all those trees down, are you?” The flags were the result of a tree survey conducted as one of the first steps toward the addition of a second entry lane to the park. By February, you may have noticed that many of the flagged trees were surrounded by water as Hunting Island experienced one of the wettest winters in recent memory. All of that rain was actually a good thing—it brought to light the fact that the area where the trees were flagged (and where the new roads and fee station were planned) was not going to work out as planned. While this caused a delay on the project, it was much better than finding out after the work had started that the proposed locations were too low-lying and prone to flooding.

So the engineers went back to the drawing board and came up with alternate building sites and alternate routing for roads. Once that was completed, the real fun started. Park staff members determined which trees needed to be removed, and close attention was paid to removing the fewest trees as possible. The trees were taken down and removed, and park staff was joined by several members of the central maintenance staff out of Columbia in order to bulldoze the new roadbeds. Fill dirt was delivered, and the new roads were leveled and compacted in preparation for paving. That is the current state as I write this report to you.

Bids were awarded for the construction of two new fee stations, and for the installation of their septic system. This

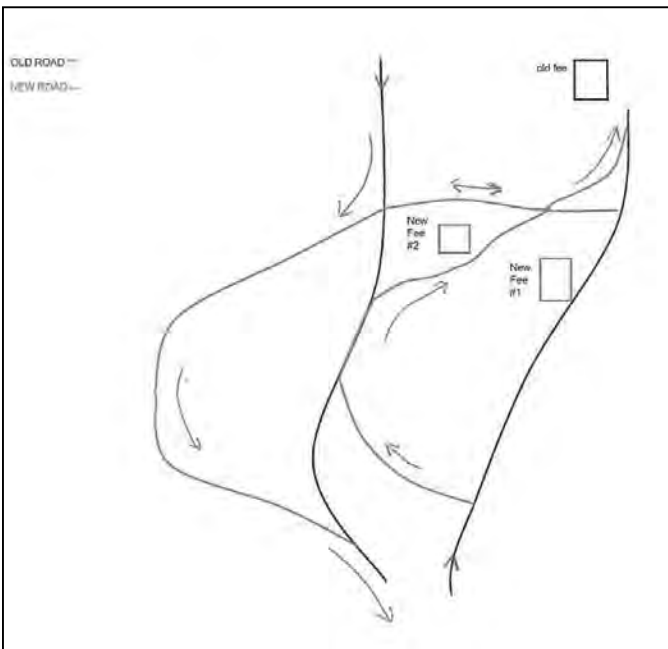
past week, the foundations for the new buildings were poured, and soon you will see the carpenters and electricians hard at work. The paving of the new roads should begin in the next couple of weeks. Parts of the old roadbeds will be removed, and landscaping will be put in place. The big question lately, of course, is “When will it be finished?” The plan right now is to have the new fee stations in operation by mid-to-late July.

The project is one that has been totally “customer driven.” For quite a few years, park staff members—myself included — have dealt with thousands of customers who have expressed concerns about how long it takes to get in the gate on busy days, who offered what they felt was the obvious solution: “Why don’t you just add another lane?” I only wish it were just that simple! By the time of completion, this project will have involved hundreds of people, thousands of man-hours in planning and labor, and tens-of-thousands of dollars. Funding for the project comes from the Park Service general fund - money from the “pool” coming back to Hunting Island State Park.

So, will this solve all of the traffic problems and make for non-stop entry into the park on a busy weekend? I can’t promise you that. Will it speed up the process? Without a doubt. Some people may be concerned that this second lane is not a “passes only” lane, but while that sounds like a great idea, what the park service has found at other coastal parks that have tried it is that there isn’t a practical way to limit any lane to only vehicles with passes. Once people waiting in line see the “other” lane moving swiftly, the lane switching will soon follow. They get to the fee booth and have to go through the payment process and slow the express lane down.

We are taking other steps in order to speed up the process. The new fee stations will be outfitted with more modern registers and faster credit card machines, for example. Also we are streamlining the process of purchasing a Passport, and trying to direct as many questions as possible to the Visitor’s Center in order to reduce the “per-vehicle” time at each fee booth.

No matter what we do, the long lines on holiday weekends will remain fact of life. What we can promise is that with a well-trained, highly motivated and dedicated staff assisted by an incredible group of volunteers like yourselves, we can and will make our visitors feel that a day on Hunting Island is well worth the wait!



Discover Carolina

Clifford Campbell, Education Report

What a year! In our first year of sponsoring and promoting the Discover Carolina Program in Beaufort County, park staff has conducted 11 programs for fifth and seventh graders in public and non-profit schools. Although we want to reach more (and will) this is a great first step since there were ZERO programs in the past two years for Beaufort County students.

We thank the FOHI Board for their commitment to this project and to all participants in our annual fundraiser, the Pelican Plunge, which enables us to continue and grow. We are well on our way to introducing Hunting Island State Park as a destination for all Beaufort County students.

11-0 is a score any team would be proud of accomplishing! We appreciate the great team at the Nature Center with Mitch Helms

What A Deal!

Jon Greene, Vice President/Marketing

What a deal! That is exactly what most of us think when we write our annual check to Friends of Hunting Island. Just 35 bucks and the whole family receives admission to the beach and park for a year!

But, if you look closely at the bottom portion of your vehicle sticker you'll notice a very important word: Volunteer. That's right, each time you use your sticker to gain admittance to the park it's not only because you have paid your \$35.00 but also because you've agreed to be a volunteer. It doesn't need to be much; an hour or two each season from everyone would make a huge difference.

So, next time you use your volunteer pass to visit the park, do so with pride because you have contributed your time to one of the important projects of Friends of Hunting Island. You'll feel good about your commitment, and the park will forever be a better

Nature Center Team "Mitch's Angels"

Mitch Helms, Interpretive Program Manager/Information Coordinator

I am extremely happy to welcome aboard the nature center team, "Mitch's Angels"! Natalie Bailey is our new Program Specialist and is doing a fantastic job implementing existing programs as well as creating new ones, including her "Spineless Wonders" program designed around invertebrates to be put on the schedule in June. We are hoping to use our salt water tank to display animals such as sea cucumbers, sea stars, sand dollars, sea urchins, etc. Jennifer Milbert has already put her stamp on the nature center by rearranging, organizing and redesigning displays, and has some great ideas about some new ones. She is researching the possibility of acquiring and designing an interactive "touch screen" exhibit, which would be an awesome addition I know our guests would love. We are hoping the Friends can help us out on this exciting project. I am so glad that Nat and Jenn are on the nature center



Natalie Bailey was born and raised in upstate New York where she discovered her passion for wildlife. When she graduated from high school, she moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, studied at the university and worked at the Waikiki Aquarium in the education department. She met her husband by chance and together they endured his third seven-month deployment to Iraq. In December of 2009 she graduated from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa with her BA in Zoology. She and her then fiancé were re-stationed in Beaufort, SC in February and married by Easter Sunday of this year. They love Beaufort and are looking forward to making the lowcountry their permanent home. Natalie's excitement and enthusiasm with interpretative programs help provide our guests with a memorable experience here at the Nature Center of Hunting Island.

Jenn Milbert relocated to Beaufort from Bel Air, Maryland in 2009 finding Beaufort with a map and a dart. She received an AA degree from Harford Community College and is currently a student at USCB, in their biology program. After her youngest child left for the Navy, Jenn decided to retire from her multimedia company and pursue a new career in a warmer climate. She and her husband Tyson, a former computer consultant, packed what they wanted in a u-haul truck and headed south. Jenn welcomes our guests to our island and assists with programs. She has also brought organization to our materials and signage with bright new images and content.



Trails

Alan Welch, Environment

TRAILS: The trails work crew cleaned and cleared the trails during the Beach Sweep. The 4-1/2 miles of improved trails were cleared using leaf blowers and very little to no trash was found. Visitors hiking our trails do not leave trash! The 4-1/2 miles of unimproved trails were pruned except for the Diamondback Rattlesnake Trail, which is maintained by the bicycle club. This trail is the best mountain bike trail in the low country as it follows an ancient dune line with steep grades and tight turns for a challenging ride.

The improved trails are in excellent shape and can be enjoyed by wheelchair, bike, stroller or just a walk on a wide smooth surface. Park at the south beach "J" parking lot and



take a pleasant walk along the lagoon.

BEACH ACCESS: Bruce Doneff, Terry Stone, Tom Valentino and Jeff Atkins formed a committee to submit this project to Beaufort County Council. We are gathering data to apply for the County 3% Accommodation's Tax Grant to improve beach access. We propose to add bicycle racks, changing rooms, showers, beach wheelchairs, and we are getting cost and other data to prepare our proposal.

5K: SAVE THE DATE: The second annual Hunting Island 5K race is planned for Saturday, October 9, 2010 at 10:00 am.



· SPECIAL NOTE: Friends of Hunting Island, Inc. donated five boxes of adult 150th Anniversary t-shirts (both white and green in color) to relief efforts in Haiti.

Spring Kickoff Dinner

Bobbi Weber, Social Chair & Elizabeth Lewis

The Spring Kickoff Dinner was held at the Lady's Island Country Club on April 1, 2010. Members of FOHI enjoyed cocktails and had a chance to socialize before dinner.

After the meal, President Bonnie Wright introduced the new board members and the park staff to the seventy-five members present. Bonnie thanked all the volunteers for their hard work. She looks forward to another successful year.

There were two guest speakers for the evening. First, Deborah Johnson spoke about the Beaufort Three Century Project (B3C Project). In celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the city of Beaufort, Ms. Johnson is heading up the committee to record the history of the area's first 300 years. Forums have been taking place throughout the area on a multitude of topics. The information will be archived for the benefit of Beaufort citizens. She encourages everyone to take part in this project and record memories that they might

have of the history of the area, especially the connection of Hunting Island to Beaufort. The city will be 300 years old on January 17, 2011. On that date the B3C Project will cease to exist since Beaufort will enter its 4th Century.

The second guest speaker of the night was Mike McFee, a Beaufort city councilman and Tri-Century Committee Chair. Mr. McFee presented information for the celebration that the city is planning for the 300th anniversary in January 2011, and continuing throughout this year. The Tri-Century committee is cooperating with the B3C Project committee, helping the community celebrate this historical anniversary. Mike posed a question to everyone, "Who here is a native of Beaufort?" He was the only one in the room that could answer "yes," making the point that the rest of the group has adopted Beaufort and stressing why we cherish the area and want to continue to take care of our home.

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Friends of Hunting Island State Park

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St. Helena Island, SC 29920



2010 Earth Day Award

Bonnie Wright, President

National Volunteer Appreciation Week and the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day happened to fall on the same week this year. How fitting it was that South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) awarded its 2010 Earth Day Award to the Friends of Hunting Island State Park for our anti-litter and environmental stewardship. What an honor.

Former litter control director Karen Whitehead (instrumental in implementing the many anti-litter programs), present litter control director, Vicki Anne Nestor, and I were extremely proud to be your FOHI representatives at the April 14th awards ceremony at DHEC's headquarters in Columbia, SC.



Bonnie Wright, Karen Whitehead, Vicki Anne Nestor, Ranger Ben Holmes

