



Friends of Hunting Island

LOGGERHEAD LOG

Winter 2008

President's Message

Bonnie Wright, President

Dear Friends,

Your FOHI Board of Directors cordially invites all members to usher in the holiday season at the **Annual Membership Meeting/Election of 2009 Board of Directors at 10 am Saturday, December 6th at the Hunting Island Visitor Center.** After light refreshments and tree trimming there will be a short meeting to elect 2009 Board of Directors and recap accomplishments that have taken place this year and some exciting news about 2009.

The following Directors have decided to leave the Board. We wish to thank them for their years of service as they will be missed, but they promised to stay involved.

- Ben TenEyck, Visual Arts
- Connie Brotzman, Public Relations
- Joe Mix, Business Liaison

The Nominating Committee recommends the following candidates to the 2009 Board for your vote of approval:

- Bonnie Wright, President (second term)
- Tom Valentino, Vice President (second term)
- Elaine Gantt, Secretary (filling Ann Hyde's unexpired term)
- Bruce Doneff, Public Relations
- Terry Stone, Government & Business Liaison

The following Board of Directors wish to remain for 2009:

- Alan Welch, Treasurer
- Tim Bruner, Environment
- Barry deSatnick, Lighthouse
- Cyndi Follrich, Communication/Website Manager
- Roberta Gunderson, President ex-officio
- Randy Lumb, Trails
- Neville Patterson, Docents & Nature Center
- Denise Parsick, Educational School Programs
- Merl Redfern, Construction / Maintenance
- Bill Tyner, Financial Advisor
- Vivian Wayne, Turtle Program
- Karen Whitehead, Litter Control

FRIENDS OF HUNTING ISLAND STATE PARK

Please come greet and meet your dedicated 2009 FOHI Board of Directors who will need your support in the coming year. I ask that you please help then in any way you can. Together we can continue to make a dynamic difference at this doorstep treasure we all have to enjoy.

Attention: Membership renewal applications will begin arriving in the mail mid-January. Don't forget to bookmark the FOHI website on your computer. Check the website often for updates, events, list of monthly programs on the calendar, frequently asked questions, and much much more: <http://www.friends-of-hunting-island-sc.org>.

Warmest wishes for a joyous and safe holiday season to all!!

Bonnie



Season's Greetings

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Park Manager Report

Jeff Atkins, Park Manager

We can all agree that 2008 has been a challenging year. From financial, to environmental, and political, there have been many issues brought to the forefront. As we are constantly bombarded with negative issues, it is refreshing to know that we all have our places of peace and solitude that let us recharge our batteries. For many people that place is Hunting Island State Park. A walk on the beach, a hike along the trails, a quick swim in the ocean, or just being surrounded by family and friends in the outdoors is important to reduce our stress level and thus improve our health.

You all have seen the economic worries throughout the nation, and of course we are dealing with those struggles as well. We are adapting budgets and reducing expenditures like everyone else. During these times, it is reassuring to know that we have a group of dedicated Friends like you. While reviewing the mission statement of the Friends of Hunting Island State Park, which says "to support Hunting Island State Park in its mission of conservation, education, interpretation and protection of the park's natural and cultural resources," I think of how well we have worked together through the years to accomplish our mission. The park is truly a better place. The improvements will benefit genera-

tions to come.

We have worked together on fun promotions and events, and I am excited for us to hold the inaugural "Pelican Plunge" on January 1, 2009. I believe this event will be well received. It has proven to be successful nationwide. Most people call it the "Polar Bear Plunge," but we wanted to add a local flare to the name. Nothing brings in the New Year like a quick swim in the ocean in the middle of winter. The intent is to just have fun. Life is complicated enough, so it is nice just to have simple fun things to do.

So as we bring in the New Year, let's try not to make our lives too complicated. Let's have fun. Let's get outside. Let's invite others to: COME OUT AND PLAY !!!!!!!!!!!

Jeff



Bonnie Wright, Kelly Thorvalson, Vivian Wayne and Barbara Bergwerf

Turtle Volunteers Honored at Appreciation Dinner

Elaine Gantt, Secretary

Do the loggerheads of Hunting Island know about the volunteers that wake up at 4:30 am to protect their nests? Rumor has it that on October 7th a few loggerheads ventured up the Morgan River to observe an enthusiastic group of 65 of those turtle volunteers attending an appreciation dinner in their honor at the Dataw Island gazebo. The event was catered by Jimmy Fitts who served a tasty barbeque meal topped off with apple cobbler a la mode.

Vivian Wayne, Turtle Program Director, thanked the volunteers for their service and dedication to the program and presented each volunteer with a turtle-themed gift.

The highlight of the evening was the presentations by the guest speakers—Barbara Bergwerf, Nature Photographer, SC Aquarium Turtle Rescue Volunteer, and Kelly Thorvalson, SC Aquarium Sea Turtle Rescue Program Coordinator. Barbara shared a collection of her amazing photos and some personal stories about her turtle rescue experiences. She also brought a supply of her 2009 Sea Turtle calendars available for purchase and autographed. The calendars are filled with Barbara's creative photographs of the beloved sea turtles. A percentage of the calendar sales proceeds are donated to the SC Aquarium Sea Turtle Rescue Program.

Kelly's presentation covered the history and future plans of the Sea Turtle Rescue Program. She also had a number of personal stories, particularly related to the many children who visit the rescue facilities. Kelly explained that some of the children are so enamored with the program that they have returned home and devised fund raising projects to help the program. The volunteers were captivated by Kelly and Barbara's passion and excitement for the Seal Turtle Rescue Program.

For the finale FOHI President, Bonnie Wright, and Vivian Wayne presented a \$1,000 donation from FOHI to the Sea Turtle Rescue Program. They announced this will be an annual donation. Kelly and Barbara were surprised and delighted with the donation. It was a perfect ending for the evening.

It was a great event for all, especially for those Loggerheads!



Trails Signage Improvements

Randolph Lumb, Trail Maintenance & Enhancements

FOHI continues to work with local park officials to improve the trails and signage for the visitors to the Park. The trail identifications and directional signage began installation in June and was dedicated on “National Trails Day,” Since then the park rangers and staff have been working to install the trail markers for the nine trails within the Park. This work, while a bit behind schedule, is soon to be completed.

These cool autumn days are perfect for hiking the Hunting Island trails. So, before you hike, stop by the Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center in Beaufort, the Park Visitors Center on Hunting Island, the Nature Center/Fishing Pier, or the Campground Store and pick up a copy of the new trail map brochure. You will find it easy to use and good to keep as a reference during your future visits to the Park. Murr’s Printing in Beaufort deserves special thanks for their time and

expertise in the design and printing of the trail maps.

Due to the current financial condition in the country, many decisions to proceed with many government sponsored programs have been placed on hold or their implementation slowed. This is the case of the trail head posters for visitors to use to help define their hiking activities and determine key landmarks and other destinations within the park. Friends of Hunting Island have been working the State Parks personnel in Columbia to design and contract for the printing of a trails head poster. Recently we were told that the government matching funds for this project have been put on hold until internal budgets for FY09 can be rationalized. While this may slow our progress, it does not change our commitment to the Trail Improvement Program of the Park.

So! If you should have the occasion to talk to one of our elected officials at the County or State level, ask him or her to help us complete the funding for this project.

Cool Weather—Warm Appreciation

Betty Huntley, Social Co-Chair

The cool weather was a perfect setting for the Fall Appreciation Dinner held at the 11th Street Docks on Oct. 30th. Over 80 members gathered to celebrate another year of countless volunteer hours to the Hunting Island State Park. This dinner is held each fall to express appreciation to the volunteers who have donated their time to FOHI projects, and made the organization so successful. Bonnie Wright, FOHI President, thanked the members for their support during the year and mentioned several events coming up and encouraged more participation by the membership.

Bonnie then took a few minutes to remember a dear friend and FOHI Secretary, Ann Hyde, and pay tribute to her contributions to FOHI. Bonnie read from a note to FOHI from Ann’s children that best described their mother as one who “enjoyed life in a big way and left big footprints on all the hearts she touched.” A certificate of appreciation was presented to Gerry Hyde for his personal service and contributions to aerial reconnaissance.

Jeff Atkins, Park Manager, along with several members of the park staff attended the dinner. Jeff addressed the volunteers and talked about the year’s successes and emphasized that no matter what the level of volunteer, every person make a difference.

During the cocktail hour, the volunteers were treated a slide show of photos from 2008 FOHI activities assembled by Cyndi Follrich. It takes a great deal of time and effort to produce this kind of presentation, and it was enjoyed by everyone very much.

It is hard to believe another year is almost over, but it is gratifying that FOHI volunteers have once again made a difference.

Community Day with Tri-Command

Merlin Redfern, Construction

On Thursday, Sept. 25th, fifteen employees of the Tri-Command Communities/Actus Lend Lease spent their “Community Day” partnering with the FOHI on construction and repair projects at the Park. The employees volunteered their time and expertise to



replace planks on the boardwalk at North Beach, install handrails on three concrete walks at South Beach to make them ADA compliant, and replacing rope dune barriers at beach access points. The “Community Day” is a program that encourages all employees of the worldwide Lend Lease Company to participate in a volunteer activity that can make a difference to their community. The employees were: BJ Cozart, Director of Property Management; Bob Bible, Assistant DPM; Kristin Miller, Marketing Director; Derrick Wright, Service Order Manager; Robert Quinn; Dylan Foote; Glen Scott; Harry Scot; jim Lang; Doug Hart; Larenza Simmons; Dale Pocian; Dan Liston; Christopher Owens, and Eddie Moris. The FOHI wish to sincerely thank Tri-Command Communities/Actus Lend Lease and these employees for their time and effort in helping us make a difference in the appearance and accessibility of our wonderful State Park.

FOHI Donate Map of ACE Basin

Merlin Redfern, Construction

On Wednesday, October 25th, the Friends of Hunting Island presented a framed map of the ACE Basin to the Nature Center at the Park as another educational tool for the visiting public. This map depicts the geological make up of all of the ACE Basin, including Hunting Island State Park. It is color coded to indicate various geological materials and has several representative photographs, including some of Hunting Island. Pictured with the map at the presentation are Wendy Pollitzer, Interpretive Program Manager for Hunting Island State Park, and Merlin Redfern, Construction Director for the Friends of Hunting Island. The map was mounted and framed by the Charles Street Gallery in Beaufort, and their financial assistance is appreciated.



FOHI Docent Programs

Neville Patterson, Docent/Nature Center

A total of 18 different Friends of Hunting Island docents made 180 educational presentations on our “Lighthouse History” and “Alligator Neighbors” through November 1 this year. Thousands of visitors attended one or both talks. During the cooler months, each talk is done once weekly on Saturday mornings. The “Lighthouse” talk is at 10 am at the circa 1873 lighthouse compound after which visitors pay \$2 to climb the 132 foot structure. The “Alligator” talk is at 11 am at the Visitors Center because of the pond outside that hosts the resident gator. From April through August each talk is given on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Being a docent in these programs is a great way of “giving back” to the park and the enjoyment derived from spending time at HI. By the time this issue is received, the Nature Center staff will have given four “how to” programs on being a docent at HISP for the Alligator and Lighthouse presentations, as well as other programs at the Nature Center itself. But it is never too late. If anyone is interested in becoming a docent, you are encouraged to contact Wendy Pollitzer 838-7437, or Neville Patterson 838-9966.

Appreciation goes out to our 2008 docents. The programs could not take place without all these wonderful volunteers. Alligators: Steve Brotzman, Dave Clinkenbeard, Angela Julian, Janet Lovell, Diana Madden, Mike McKeown, Ron Manyin, Bill Mounce, Neville Patterson, Nancy Rudy, Stan Sagar, and Al Wood. Lighthouse: Dick Browne, Barry de Satnick, Harold Freeman, Nancy Grimaldi, Angela Julian, Ed Moneagle, Bill Mounce, Neville Patterson, Nancy Rudy, Stan Sager, Karen Whitehead and Al Wood.

Sea Oats Planting

Tim Bruner, Environmental Director

On September 27th, the Lady’s Island Middle School planted 200 sea oats in the campground area on Sept. 27th. The FOHI funded the supplies and the plants were grown with the help of Coastal EcoScapes, Inc., SCDNR, Clemson Ext., and the South Coast Native Plant Society. The plants were planted by 24 volunteers from the Lady’s Island Middle School, Troop 15 GSA Hilton Head, South Coast Native Plant Society, Master Naturalist, Master Gardeners’, DNR Ridgeland, and Timberland Associates. Great Job! If anyone would like to volunteer for the Landscaping Committee or Environmental Projects, please contact me.



Turtle Thanksgiving

Vivian Wayne, Turtle Director

Well here we all are, adjusting to the cooler temperatures and setting into the low country fall season. During this time, our turtles have all returned from their Hunting Island nesting shores and are enjoying the warmer off shore currents. Many will stay slightly east of us, somewhere between our lighthouse and Bermuda. And others will take a longer voyage and head deep into the Azores. There will be a few that we will call "Turkey Turtles," that will elude us and recluse themselves in ocean paradises, not seen by man.

But all of our turtles will be taking time to reflect on our 2008 season.: the 60 nests, many turtle sightings, and best of all the slight increase in live hatchings. For the 150 volunteers in this project, there should be a most deserved sweet sense of gratification. How proud and privileged I am to be part of this amazing Sea Turtle research team. A team who



everyday excelled over challenging environmental conditions. Every day they disciplined themselves to be marine scientist and Sea Turtle biologist. They turned the Hunting Island beach into a field laboratory, interacting with each other and the turtles, collecting, analyzing and interpreting. The turtles could not have picked a better group to partner with to maintain our ecology.

The turtles are thankful this Thanksgiving and if you want to check up and see where a few are spending their holidays, check out Satellite Tracking Update:

<http://www.scaquarium.org/seaturtle/tracking.html>

Happy Turtle Thanksgiving!

Fall Beach Sweep

Karen Whitehead, Litter Control Chairperson

This year was wonderful. We had over 200 volunteers. You picked up over 350 pounds of trash. THANK YOU !!!!

The Turtle team this summer gathered over 312 bags of trash from May 15th to August 1st.

The most unusual item found was an aluminum junction box with insulator and cable attached. Here are some of the totals for the most common items found. Plastic bags, 179; plastic bottles, 250; caps and lids, 472; food wrappers, 817; cigarettes/cigarette filters, 1,437; and we were lucky to find only 10 diapers. The sandbag total was 124 along with building materials and PVC pipe.

I thank everyone that participated in our beach sweep, our faithful Friends volunteers along with the Low Country Rotary, Scouts, and high school groups.



Dues Increase for 2009

Alan Welch, Treasurer

In January invoices will go out for the 2009 Membership Fees. In order to continue to meet the objective of Friends, while continuing to maintain a financially sound position, the Board voted to increase membership fees from \$30 to \$35. Please remember that since Friends is a non-profit corporation, these dues may be deductible on your income taxes depending on your situation.

FOHI Donates \$1,000 to SC Aquarium's Sea Turtle Rescue Program

Bruce Doneff, Public Relations

Friends of Hunting Island State Park (FOHI) presented a check for \$1,000 to representatives of the SC Aquarium's Sea Turtle Rescue Program at the October 7th appreciation dinner for the Friends organization's turtle rescue volunteers.

Kelly Thorvalson, Program Coordinator, and Barbara Bergwerf, nature photographer for the Charleston based aquarium's Sea Turtle Rescue Program were guest speakers at the dinner in honor of "Friends" rescue volunteers. Now numbering 150, the volunteers comb the park's beaches morning and evening during the Loggerhead sea turtle nesting season from July to October.

Thorvalson and Bergwerf shared their experiences with the some 65 FOHI members in attendance that evening. The aquarium accepts sea turtles from a variety of rescue circumstances and rehabilitates them so that they can once again return to the sea. The gift of \$1,000, which will become an annual FOHI bequest, came about as the result of visits to the aquarium by some members of the Friends board of directors and representatives of the "Take Pride in America" national program encouraging volunteerism.

FOHI received the Take Pride in American 2006 National

Award in the non-profit category. After receiving the award, the FOHI invited the Washington DC based representatives of the program to the Low Country to see first hand the work the Friends are doing. During their visit to the Beaufort area, they also accompanied Friends representatives on a visit to the aquarium in Charleston.

Friends President, Bonnie Wright, and Turtle Program Director, Vivian Wayne, made the presentation to Thorvalson and Bergwerf at the end of the evening's festivities held at the Marina Gazebo on Dataw Island. The festive and informative event was catered by Jimmy Fitts.

For more information on FOHI visit:

www.friends-of-hunting-island-sc.org

For the SC Aquarium visit:

www.scaquarium.org/seaturtle/default.html

For the Take Pride in America Program visit:

www.takepride.gov

For media queries please contact:

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We're On the WEB
www.friends-of-hunting-island-sc.org



Lighthouse

Barry de Satnick, Lighthouse

All of the out buildings have been painted including the steps. The fence surrounding the Lighthouse compound has also been painted.

The exterior of the lighthouse will be painted before the 150th Anniversary Celebration. We have submitted a request for a grant to help defray the cost of painting. If we do not win the grant request we will still have funds for the re-painting. The contractor has been selected (Rohm & Hass) and also painted the lighthouse 1990's. Paint will be supplied by Tnema Corp. and Rohm & Hass as a donation.

A contract has been signed with the local law service company to upgrade the area inside the compound. The Dataw Garden Club is considering planting the area for the 150th Anniversary Celebration.

Handicap Access Highlighted

Alan Welch, Treasurer

In late September, FOHI participated in an interview by the Beaufort Gazette Online featuring the handicap access features at the Park, many of which have been made possible through the efforts of the Friends. Jeff Atkins, Park Manager, discussed these features which include the campground bath addition, installation of Mobimats at 4 locations, concrete walkways from remote parking areas with protective handrails near drainage areas, and the planned features on the Lagoon Trail. Alan Welch, FOHI Treasurer, discussed the two beach accessible wheel chairs which have recently been made safer by installation of new custom harness belts made and donated by new member Nikki Hooks, a Clinical Orthotist with Hanger Prosthetics.

Park Store

Paula Bérubé, Park Store Manager

Fall is finally here and winter is on the way. It's time to think about your winter clothing needs. The Park Store has a large selection of Page & Tuttle outerwear on sale now. These are fantastic prices for quality clothing. Shop early for Christmas, only two months away.



Public Relations Round-Up

Bruce Doneff, Public Relations

Get those Speedos and overcoats ready! We are pleased to announce the inaugural Pelican Plunge on January 1st at Hunting Island State Park. Modeled after highly successful Polar Bear Plunges around the country, we will now have our own low country variety of this New Year's Day hangover cure. The event kicks off at 1:00 p.m. at the Hunting Island lighthouse beach. Registration will be in the picnic area near the lighthouse. In cooperation with the park, this event is presented by Friends of Hunting Island and The Exchange Club, and all donations will go to benefit the Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA). More information, along with registration and donation forms will be available on our website: <http://www.friends-of-hunting-island-sc.com>

FOHI had another successful day of outreach and fun on October 25th at the Bluffton Arts and Seafood Festival. The rain held off, we had a great table location, and the crowd was plentiful. Special thanks to Karen and Bruce Whitehead, Joan Hedley, Terry and Jane Stone, Cyndi Follrich, Bonnie Wright and park staff member Kevin Palmer for volunteering time to

Nature Center

Wendy Pollitzer, Interpretive Program Manager

The turtle season came to a close with a final inventory conducted on September 23, 2008. This year, we had 60 nests, down four from last year. Six nests were left in situ, which means they were not relocated. Our volunteers moved a total of 5,946 eggs, and 4,569 hatched successfully. We had a 76.84% success rate, up 16% from last year. Way to go volunteers!

We will have volunteer training workshops November 18th—21st for alligator talks, lighthouse tours, a Secrets of the Salt Marsh talk and an interpretive nature walk. Training lasts only one hour, and volunteers may choose between the hours of 9 am, 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm on any of these days. Please call Wendy at 838-7437 to schedule a time. Any volunteer conducting any of these programs must complete this one-hour training workshop.

SCDNR, Clemson Extension and Hunting Island Nature Center will be hosting a rain garden workshop on January 22, 2009 from 9 am to 4 pm. Anyone interested should call Wendy at the Nature Center at 838-7437. For more information, please go to:

<http://hgic.clemson.edu/>

Thank you volunteers for everything you do!

meet the public south of the Broad and tell them about all of the great work our Friends are doing.

Following on the heels of our very successful 75th anniversary celebration for SCPRT this summer, plans are already underway for an even bigger weekend of events to mark the 150th anniversary of our venerable lighthouse. Please mark your calendars for October 17 & 18, 2009. Keep an eye out for more information over the next several months.



Friends of Hunting Island State Park
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A 501 (C)3 Organization

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South Carolina
State Parks

**HUNTING ISLAND
STATE PARK**
**Friends of
Hunting Island
&
Beaufort Exchange Club**

Present the Inaugural




Pelican Plunge

JANUARY 1, 2009

1:00 PM
Hunting Island Lighthouse Beach

Welcome in the New Year!
Jump in the Ocean for Charity!
Hot Beverages!
Fun!

Personal and Team Donations Benefit
Child Abuse Prevention Association



Information & Registration On-Line at:
www.friends-of-hunting-island-sc.org

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Angel 525-0102

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