

# FRIENDS OF HUNTING ISLAND LICENSE PLATE!



Show your support for Hunting Island State Park by owning the DMV specialty South Carolina Friend of Hunting Island license plate.

The cost of the license plate is only \$50 every two years, in addition to your normal registration fee. The approximate \$40 per plate proceeds will help FOHI with improvements to the park's lighthouse and surrounding grounds and other important projects. Show your support for one of South Carolina's true treasures every time you pull out of your driveway!

To order your plate, visit [www.scdmvonline.com](http://www.scdmvonline.com) or contact your local SCDMV office.

## CONTACT US

Please send any contributions or correspondence to:

Friends of Hunting Island State Park, Inc.  
P.O. Box 844  
St. Helena, SC 29920

FOHI is a 501(c) (3) Organization  
(ID# 57-1012715)

All contributions are tax-deductible  
Visit us at

[www.friends-of-hunting-island-sc.org](http://www.friends-of-hunting-island-sc.org)

# THE FRIENDS OF HUNTING ISLAND STATE PARK



*Leave Your Footprints  
for Future Generations*

## WHAT IS FOHI?

The Friends of Hunting Island State Park, Inc. (FOHI) was founded in 1993 to help preserve and enhance the unique bio-diversity of South Carolina's Hunting Island State Park. FOHI offers its members an effective and fun way to augment Hunting Island State Park in conserving the natural wonders and promoting the educational opportunities that exist on the island. Since our founding, membership has swelled from a handful of individuals to hundreds of active families. However, as the park's popularity and use increase, so do its many needs...and more help is always welcome.

It's a huge job to maintain and improve four miles of beach and 5,000 acres of rare maritime forest. It also requires many volunteer hours to support the diversity of activities and programs available to the more than 1.2 million annual park visitors. There's only so much that stretched State budgets can fund and the hard-working park staff can accomplish—that's where FOHI steps in.

Our members are passionate coastal stewards in preserving the natural beauty of Hunting Island. That's why hundreds of us enthusiastically pitch in every year to safeguard this "treasure on our doorstep" for future generations.



What don't we do?! FOHI volunteers conduct tours at the park's historic lighthouse and maintain and improve the lighthouse complex.

## WHAT DO OUR FRIENDS DO?

We give talks on alligators, go on litter patrols, and participate in the turtle rescue program. We contribute to construction projects and trail maintenance. We've created educational exhibits, water gardens, built oyster reefs, improved beach access, and continued dune building and maintenance. FOHI supported such projects as the marsh boardwalk and improvements to the park's nine miles of trails, half of which are ADA accessible.

In addition, we lobby local and state legislators for their support and funding for a variety of projects and programs crucial to the park's current and future success. Whenever the park needs our help, we are there.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

New members are always needed and deeply appreciated! For your modest family membership dues and a commitment to volunteer in some capacity, you will receive a FOHI volunteer vehicle sticker with complementary park admittance as well as other member-only benefits. How can you help?

- Join the Endangered Loggerhead Turtle Rescue Program
- Conduct lighthouse tours and give alligator talks
- Participate in educational programs at the Nature Center
- Work on trails, dunes stabilization, and landscaping projects
- Share your expertise through committee and Board service
- Donate funds personally and through Corporate Matching Programs



## THE FUTURE LOOKS GREAT!

In looking forward, Friends plans to continue to make a positive difference. We support the "Discover Carolina" SC State Park schools initiative and other environmental programs. Students young and old learn through hands-on education using local resources such as our Maritime forest, beach ecology, salt marsh ecology, and the history of our lighthouse.

The FOHI focus in future years on all our projects, both new and on-going, will help maintain the effort and investment we put into protecting and beautifying our magnificent barrier island park for all who come to visit.

But it's not all work! We host a variety of activities to celebrate our friendship, our accomplishments, and our shared commitment to Hunting Island by hosting membership social gatherings and fun events at the park such as the Pelican Plunge, 5K Walk/Run, and the annual sand sculpture contest.

## OUR TURTLES NEED YOU!

Thanks to our participation in the Endangered Loggerhead Turtle Rescue Program, more Loggerhead turtle hatchlings will reach the sea from Hunting Island than ever before. The island's high hatch rates continue to support the survival of this endangered species.

Turtle season extends yearly from mid-May until the end of September. Our volunteers are fully trained and licensed each year in the proper procedures for locating, probing and, if necessary, transferring the newly-laid eggs to a safer location, where they remain until the hatchlings begin their journey to the ocean.

Ask any seasoned volunteer what it means to be a "turtler" and you'll hear about breathtaking sunrises... the excitement of discovering a nest...the joy of encountering one of these magnificent creatures...the deep satisfaction in seeing the tiny hatchlings return safely to the sea.

## "FRIENDS" MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE...

In a single year, the FOHI gives some 15,000 volunteer hours to make the park a better place.

Our work has been recognized multiple times. Our awards include the 2007 "Take Pride in America" National Award, Non-Profit Category, for FOHI's Loggerhead Sea Turtle Conservation Project; the 2006 Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce Civitas Non-Profit Award; a 2006 "Take Pride in America" Certificate of Appreciation by the US Department of Interior; the 2003 SC Parks Recreation and Tourism Ambassador of the Year Award; and the 1998 Heritage Tourism Award, Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation.

FOHI has committed energy and funds toward making and keeping our park available to the physically challenged. Construction and maintenance crews completed concrete walkways, restroom renovations, and hard surface trail improvements making the park more accessible for everyone.

In a typical year, our regular trash patrols and twice yearly major clean-ups collect more than 1000 bags of litter—keeping our park beautiful.

Friends have planted hundreds of thousands of beach grass and other seedlings to provide long term turtle nesting protection and dune stabilization.

Membership dollars and volunteer hours make so many things possible. Friends serve as goodwill ambassadors to Hunting Island, the City of Beaufort, and the entire Low Country, interacting one-on-one with park visitors every day.



## WE ALWAYS APPRECIATE YOUR HELP

Friends of Hunting Island is always looking for volunteers to join our growing family. There is so much to do and so many new "friends" to make. For a membership application go to our website:

[www.friends-of-hunting-island-sc.org](http://www.friends-of-hunting-island-sc.org)

Volunteer labor and commitment go a long way, but FOHI also needs additional funding for our many activities and projects in support of the millions of visitors to Hunting Island each year. If you would like to make a donation or your company would like to donate or sponsor, we would love to hear from you.