

## FOHI Year in Review—2020

### January

January 1—Pelican Plunge—great turn out, coolish day, smoothly run with over 200 plungers and many more spectators.

Kiosk at the Wildlife viewing area was installed—paid for by FOHI with funds from DoT.

January 25—Annual meeting and opening of the refurbished Visitor Center.

We welcomed new people:

Linda Miller built a growing relationship with social media purveyors in Beaufort

Andy Stephens brought website work inhouse.

Debra Klavohn took on Outreach, but covid intervened for the spring events.

Kate Hudson and Debra Klavohn amped up the FOHI Birding program, although the kick-off event planned for April, “South Carolina Birds in a Changing Climate,” was canceled due to covid. Nevertheless, six International Shorebird Surveys were conducted, three in the spring and three in the fall. In addition, the Shorebird Steward Program took place in Spring and Summer. The team successfully protected Least Tern and Wilson Plover nests—both are threatened species.

FOHI agreed to pay for the following items at the park which have been completed: volleyball net and cornhole for campground, ADA mulch for campground playground, dump station beautification, plexiglass washroom stall inserts, additional trash receptacles, gravel for marsh boardwalk drive and parking lot, replacement kiosks at trailheads, and admission booth bulletin board.

### February

Created new documents for FOHI including an Environmental Policy, a Diversity Statement, etc.

Ted Panayotoff and volunteers did a beautiful job of cleaning the Fresnel lens at the lighthouse.

### March

We helped Carl Berube plant 100 plants as a test. They all survived.

New education program introduced—“Kids to the Beach” including Denise, Dick Geier, Debra, Penny, and Carol.

“Community Collaboration Rain, Hail, and Snow Network” (CoCoRaHS.org) gauge purchased and installed. This is a grassroots volunteer network of observers who input their information into a database (WeatherYourWay.com) that maps out weather in real time.

Lighthouse flip pages and signage in the tower were replaced.

Printed Nature Center/Visitor Center rack cards, Turtle rack cards, and new FOHI brochures with enclosed application. Debra distributed rack cards and HISP brochures throughout the town.

### **COVID shut down—mid-March**

April and May Board Meetings were canceled, and park was closed from March 28 to April 30.

Email votes were taken; shorebird steward training program canceled; turtle season was curtailed by DNR, leaving Buddy and very few volunteers to handle all the work.

### May

May 17—Zoom Board meetings begin.

Agreement to reprint HISP brochure and later increased the quantity from 15,000 to 30,000 for \$2100.

Agreed to install a wayside sign for the “Famous Tree” which JW positioned near the dunes by the lighthouse. It was installed over the summer.

Idea of a coffee table book about Hunting Island introduced.

### June

A short film was made of the lighthouse that is now on the website.

### July

Post-4<sup>th</sup> of July Beach Sweep held which precipitated a huge rainstorm that dumped 15.5” on the park and closed it for 3 weeks.

SM7, a professional architectural service, commissioned for Virtual Lighthouse design plan.

## August

Laundromat plans underway overseen by Richard Knieriem

Randal Brown joins board as nominated Construction Director, jumps right in and fixes the bird feeders, then takes on the repairs needed to the Turtles' clubhouse.

Linda arranged a travel writers fam trip to Saint Phillips, and several good articles resulted.

## September

Commitment from Lydia Inglett to publish the HI coffee table book, requiring no FOHI financial commitment.

Playground at lighthouse idea revived and Richard and Randal discuss and research thoroughly. It was put on hold until after January 1, and funds were diverted to the tent site material request from HISP.

## October

County Councilor for the District becomes ex officio board member—York Glover currently in that position.

Website refurbished by Andy and Linda.

Board agreed to support billboards promoting HISP for January and February in 2 locations supplemented by social media boosts.

Nature Center Dedication of the Veronica Miller Memorial Garden was well attended and a beautiful service.

## November

We thank Barb and Ted Temple for their many years of service to FOHI. We will miss them.