

# THE LESSER SQUAWK

Newsletter of the *Charleston Natural History Society*/local chapter of *The National Audubon Society*

Founded 1905

NAS Affiliation 1970

Volume XLVIV No. 4

September, October, November 2002

## Fall Programs Feature Variety of Topics

Please join us at the Charleston Museum for our fall programs about a variety of topics — all entertaining and informative. Meetings begin with a reception at 6:30 pm followed by the program at 7 pm. Here's a description of our fall programs:

### September 10

Steve Bennett with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' Heritage Trust Program will talk about **Heritage Trust Program** and its current project on radio-telemetry of rattlesnakes.

### October 8

Dr. Phillip Dustan of the College of Charleston's Dept. of Biology will present a talk entitled "The Global Coral Reef Crisis" addressing his Florida Keys work and the more global issue of the diminishing coral populations around the world.

### November 12

Ken Bible with the Space and Naval Warfare Systems will present a program of "Birding with Radar." He will discuss his joint work with Clemson ornithologist Dr. Sid Gauthreaux using radar technology to monitor birds and their migratory habits.

## Message from the President by Bob Chinn

Welcome back for another year of CNHS programs, outings and conservation projects. However, there will be some changes from the last few years. As you may have already noticed, we will be publishing "The Lesser Squawk" only three times per year, in September, December and March. This is due to:

1. increased costs for printing and mailing.
2. reduction in member dues that National Audubon is sharing with the local chapters. Our share has been reduced by 80%! Consequently it is costing us more to service our 1,100 members than we receive from National Audubon. We will publish the newsletter on our internet site, and members

can keep up with news and other happenings between newsletters by logging onto our webpage.

Above all, try to recruit new members, because we receive a larger dues share from new members than from existing ones.

The reduction in the dues share from National will mean that we must make up the difference in order to continue our support of education and conservation programs in the Low-country. We will be conducting more fundraising events (bird-

a-thon, raffles, yard sales etc.) and trimming expenses wherever we can. For example, we must  
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## Birdseed Sale: Major Fundraiser

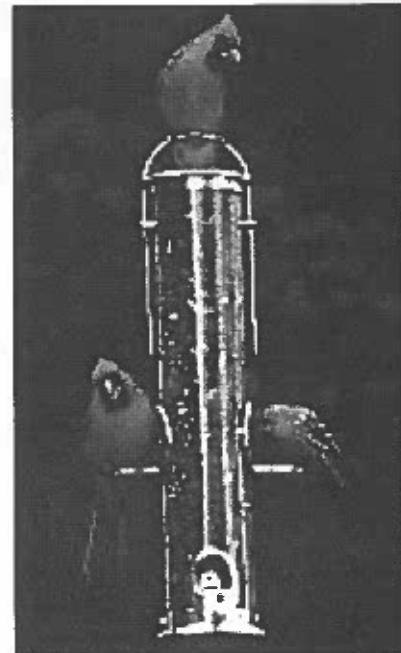
With the cutback in National Audubon dues share, the success of our birdseed sale is even more important than in past years.

Order your birdseed now with the enclosed order form. There will be extra forms at our September and October meetings, so pick up some more and urge your friends to participate in this fundraiser. Deadline for or-

dering is Oct. 23 with pick up Nov. 9.

Although you can find cheaper birdseed for sale in discount stores, the seed we offer is of the highest quality - so buy from us!

Again, this year you can pick your seed up at Abide-a-While Nursery in Mt. Pleasant, or at the Sofa Super Store in West Ashley. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Cockrell, 762-3868.



# Field Trips for Fall Months

## September

### Charleston Birding

Sunday, Sept. 15 — CNHS President and birder Bob Chinn will lead a half-day outing to **Pitt Street Causeway and Bridge, Mount Pleasant, and Fort Moultrie, Sullivan's Island**, to look for migratory shorebirds, egrets and herons, and other birds of the marshes, tidal flats and beach. Bring binoculars, telescopes, bird guides, water and snacks or lunches if you decide to stay later that day.

Meet Bob at 7:30 am in the parking lot of the Shriner's Temple at Patriot's Point in Mount Pleasant.

### McAlhany Preserve

Saturday, Sept. 28 — College of Charleston botanist Jean Everett and CNHS's Julian Harrison will lead an all-day field trip to CNHS's **McAlhany Nature Preserve** in Dorchester County to look for fall wildflowers, birds, amphibians and reptiles.

Meet Jean & Julian at 7:30 am in the parking lot of Barnes & Noble in West Ashley (at the intersection of Sam Rittenberg Avenue and SC Hwy 61). They'll be in the section of the lot nearest the Hwy 61 entrance.

We'll stay in the field until early to mid-afternoon. Bring bird and wildflower guides, binoculars, mosquito repellent, water, and lunches or snacks. If time permits, we'll try dip-netting in the reserve's oxbow lake to look for various species of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and mollusks.

**VISIT OUR WEBPAGE**  
 [www.homestead.com/cnhsaudubon](http://www.homestead.com/cnhsaudubon)  
contact Webmaster  
Bob Chinn  
843-552-7884  
[rchinn@awod.com](mailto:rchinn@awod.com)

## October

### Grove Plantation

Saturday, Oct. 19 — Brian Scholtens (College of Charleston biologist), an expert on butterflies and other insects, Jennifer Koches (Public Outreach Specialist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service), and CNHS's Julian Harrison will lead an all-day field trip to **Grove Plantation, headquarters of the ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge**. There will be no hunting on the refuge that day so we'll have the area all to ourselves.

This is a repeat of our successful visit to CNHS's adopted refuge last year. We'll be looking for butterflies & other insects, wading birds, shorebirds, raptors, neotropical songbird migrants, and - if the drought has broken - various species of amphibians & reptiles.

Meet the leaders at 7:30 am at the West Ashley WalMart parking lot on the Hwy 61 Expressway across from St. Francis Hospital. Bring water, lunch and/or snacks, binoculars, field guides (butterflies & birds), and insect repellent. We'll be walking and driving on the refuge. There are no admission fees.

### Laurel Hill Plantation

Sunday, Oct. 27 — CNHS President and birder Bob Chinn will lead a half-day field trip to **Laurel Hill Plantation**. Meet Bob at 7:30 am. in the parking lot of Lowe's in Mount Pleasant, in the section nearest the IHOP restaurant.

Laurel Hill extends over several hundred acres with salt marsh, a freshwater pond, and mixed woods as the principal habitats. We'll have an opportunity to see wading birds, raptors, and migratory songbirds on easy trails throughout the property. Bring water, snacks, binoculars, field guides, and mosquito repellent.

## November

### Huntington Beach

Saturday, Nov. 16 — Julian Harrison will lead what has become CNHS's traditional trip to **Huntington Beach State Park** in the fall. There will be a favorable low tide during the day, thus increasing our chances of seeing many kinds of shorebirds and waders, together with all or most of the other species one expects at what is touted to be the best birding area on the South Carolina coast.

We will be birding in or near freshwater and saltwater ponds, mudflats, marshes and tidal creeks, beach front, and an ocean jetty. Be prepared to walk (leisurely) about 1.5 miles to the jetty where rare or uncommon birds are frequently spotted. As the state park is about a 1.5 hour drive, meet Julian at Lowe's parking lot in Mt. Pleasant at 6:30 am. He'll be in the corner of the lot nearest the IHOP restaurant. The weather could be windy and perhaps chilly so dress accordingly. Restrooms & other amenities will be available at the park. Bring lunches and/or snacks, water, binoculars & field guides. Entrance fees to the park: adults \$4.00, Children (6-12) \$2.00, Senior Citizens free (Bring ID).

### Folly Beach St. Park

Sunday, Nov. 24 - Julian Harrison will lead an afternoon outing to **Folly Beach County Park** to look for shells, other marine organisms and birds. There will be an outgoing tide. Shell hunting is said to best in late fall and winter, particularly after a northeast storm, so if we're lucky one will have occurred just prior to our outing.

According to the park's website  
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# Urgent Request to all Audubon Members

It is now costing the Charleston Natural History Society more to send out this newsletter (just three times a year) to our 1,100 members than we receive from National Audubon. Please help us out!

If you do not read this newsletter or would agree to read the newsletter online, please let us know! No need to fill in your name and address, they're on the back of this form. Just check one of the boxes, fill in your e-mail address if applicable, cut this notice out, put it in an envelope and mail it to CNHS, PO Box 504, Charleston, SC 29402.

Remove me from your mailing list.

Notify me by e-mail when the newsletter and updates appear on the CNHS website.

My e-mail address is \_\_\_\_\_

## **Message – cont. from page 1**

start asking for donations for the wine and cheese which we have offered free for the past few years. To make our fundraising successful we will need more participation by members. I encourage you all to volunteer when asked to participate in these events.

One of the first things we need is volunteers to help with the refreshments at the meetings. The refreshments will be delivered, but we need help setting up, serving, meeting and greeting people, and cleaning up. If you would like to help, please call me at 552-7884 (email [rchinn@awod.com](mailto:rchinn@awod.com)) or Cornelia Carrier at 577-6437.

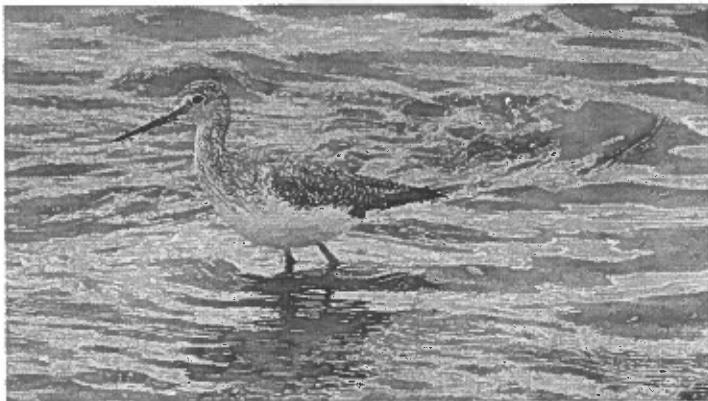
We are hoping to have a CNHS yard sale in early spring. We are looking for a place to hold this sale. We need a location that would be willing to store the items for a couple of days before the sale. If anyone knows of a church, commercial location or member's house suitable for a yard sale, please let us know. If any member has ideas for fundraising, let us hear about them!!

National has also reduced the number of issues of AUDUBON, the magazine. It will now be published quarterly instead of bi-monthly. All members who joined prior to May, 2002, will have their membership extended till they receive all six issues they were promised. The new expiration date will appear on the address label of the magazine.

## **Outings – cont. from page 2**

there is no admission fee to the park in November. Should this prove incorrect, the fee would be \$4.00 per vehicle. Meet Julian at 1:30 pm in the part of the South Windemere Shopping Center parking lot closest to Folly Rd. at the movie theater end of the lot. We'll plan to stay on the beach until about 4:30 pm. Bring water, snacks, shell & bird guides, and be prepared to walk a mile or so down the beach to Stono Inlet.

This year we are asking all outings participants to call the trip leader or field trip chairman by 6 pm the day before the outing. This "RSVP" will insure that the trip leaders not spend time going to the meeting point if there are no participants for the trip.



The Lesser Squawk  
The Charleston Natural History Society  
PO Box 504  
Charleston, SC 29402

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*The Charleston Natural History Society is a nonprofit environmental organization and chapter of the National Audubon Society that actively promotes awareness, appreciation and conservation of the natural environment through educational programs, field trips, conservation projects, sponsored research and social activities.*

## XXXXXX Fall Visits to McAlhany Nature Preserve Planned for Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1

This fall there will be three Sunday open houses at CNHS's McAlhany Nature Preserve. On Oct. 6, come help us maintain trails and clean up the roads. On Nov. 3, get your feet wet and tour some of our beautiful hardwood bottomlands. The Dec. 1 open house will feature a walk through the uplands with a talk about native plants and prescribed burning. The gates to the preserve are open from 9:30 am. Directions: Take Hwy. 61 to Cannadys Crossroads and turn right onto Hwy. 15. When you reach

the small community of Grover, take the first left onto Wire Rd. Go over 1-95 and across a small creek. Look for our sign on the left side of the road. Questions? Call Jeff Dennis at 577-8890.

### BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Chinn, president, 552-7884  
Cornelia Carrier, v-p, newsletter 577-6437  
Thomas Snowden, treasurer, 875-3445  
Julian Harrison, historian, outings 795-1694  
Ann Tiller, membership, 884-4532  
Steve Bleezarde, webmaster, 406-2061  
Joe Cockrell, birdseed sale, 762-3868  
Morgan McClure, programs, 763-0222  
Jeff Dennis, McAlhany, 577-8890  
Norm Brunswig, State Office, (843)688-5833  
Garrett Budds, conservation, 571-4668  
Polly Holden, 853-1100  
Melissa Davis, 216-3833  
Doreen Cubie, (843)928-3702

### **Recruit New Members!**

CNHS / National Audubon Society membership  
(First Time Members)

Regular \$20      Sr. Citizens/Students \$15

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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