

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.



Visit the McAlhany Sanctuary on March 5th

The open house at the McAlhany Sanctuary **March 5** will feature a walk in the upland fields. Directions: Take Hwy. 61 to Cannadys Cross-roads and turn right onto Hwy. 15. When you reach the small community of Grover, take the first left onto Wire Rd. Go over I-95 and across a small creek. Then look for our sign on the left side of the road. Questions? Call Jeff at 577-8890.

Mark Your Calendars

April 10—Membership meeting: Daniel Edelstein will teach us about the songs and habits of wood warblers. **Note change in date: second Monday instead of Tuesday.**

April 15—Dixie Plantation with Julian Harrison

April 22—Suburban Birding with Bob Chinn.

May 9—Membership meeting: George Folkerts, ecologist at Auburn University. See www.auburn.edu/~folkerts.

May 13—Migratory Bird Day. Birding and dedication of viewing platforms at Ace Basin National Wildlife Refuge.

May 20—Point of Pines Plantation hosted by Burnet R. Maybank.

Recruit New Members!

CNHS / National Audubon Society membership

(First Time Members)

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

Name _____

Address _____

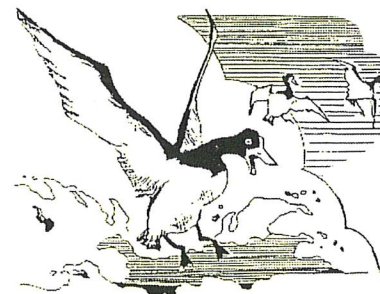
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to:

National Audubon Society,
Membership Data Center, PO Box 51003,
Boulder, CO 80323-1003

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society

Write Chapter Code U-51 on your check.



THE LESSER SQUAWK

Newsletter of the Charleston Natural History Society / local chapter of The National Audubon Society
Founded 1905 NAS Affiliation 1970

Volume XLVII No.2

March 2000

Richard Porcher Is March Speaker

Dr. Richard Porcher, professor of biology and director of the herbarium at The Citadel and author of *Wildflowers of the Lowcountry and the Lower Pee Dee*, will speak at the **March 14th** meeting at the Charleston Museum.

Dr. Porcher will speak on the flora of native Indian mounds. The program begins at 7 pm, preceded by a reception at 6:30 pm.



View Port Expansion Site With Experts On Afternoon Boat Trip March 25th

We hear so much about the port expansion, but it is hard to visualize the scope. So join us for a boat tour of the Daniel Island site. We'll have some interesting speakers to outline the impacts on our harbor.

Meet at the Maritime Center at 12:45 p.m. on Saturday **March 25**. The tour on the Charleston Explorer will last about two hours. The cost of the tour is \$15. Of that

amount \$10 goes to rent the boat, and \$5 will be donated to More Than a Port. There'll be light refreshments. The boat holds 60 people. Reserve by **March 13** with your check to CNHS, Attn: Boat, PO Box 504, Charleston, SC 29402. If we have not filled the 60 spaces, we will offer them to other groups.

The Charleston City Council will vote on the expansion **March 15**, so make your views known. Ask officials of other local city and county governing bodies to oppose the port and write your state representatives. The fight has just begun.

Let's gather for a little twilight birding and sunset viewing from the Pitt Street Bridge in Mt. Pleasant on the vernal equinox **March 20**. Meet at 5 p.m. or thereabouts. After sunset at 6:45 pm, we'll move to Vickery's Bar and Grill, for a Dutch treat dinner.

Celebrate the Equinox at Pitt Street Bridge Mar. 20

Remember the deadline for commenting on the environmental impact statement is **April 14**. For more information on the port, contact www.danielisland.org/port and www.containtheport.com.

Moonlight Walk In Beidler Forest

Much like a Grand Strand nightclub, swamps come to life at night. Join us for an after hours walk through Beidler Forest in the Four Holes Swamp **March 18**. We'll meet in the parking lot of the Summerville Walmart (take the 17A exit off I-26) at 5:30 pm to carpool. The walk begins at 6 :30 pm and lasts two hours.

Most CNHS members know that Beidler Forest is a National Audubon Society sanctuary and center. (On each visit you will receive \$1.00 off the entrance fee). For those of you who have never visited, we invite you to come visit a virgin baldcypress/tupelo black-water creek swamp, home to over 300 vertebrate species of animals and numerous species of plants. Besides the tour of the boardwalk we offer canoe trips in the spring and nightwalks.

In addition to the CNHS nightwalk on the 18th, there will be nightwalks on April 8 and 15 at 7:30 pm. and May 6th at 8 pm (please call ahead for reservations at 843-462-3150)

Canoe trips (call for reservations and prices) are available on Fridays from 1-4 pm, Saturdays from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm and 2 - 4 pm, and Sundays from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

In the spring there are Community Days for surrounding communities and neighborhoods. Residents of the See Beidler, p.2

Help Slay the Dragon That Threatens to Eat Charleston

By Norm Brunswig

The proposed Global Gateway Terminal, if built, will change the Greater Charleston community into a place we will scarcely know.

The specific environmental impacts resulting from this immense port expansion are profound, legion and well documented. They, however, pale in comparison to the human quality of life impacts. Noise, lights, huge ships and their wakes moving through the harbor at all times, constant dredging, homes and neighborhoods destroyed, property values reduced, perpetual dangerous numbers of trucks on major roads and difficult driving conditions made impossible, are but a few of the obvious and direct impacts.

To this point, modern Charleston has maintained a delicate balance between its environment, history, culture, natural resources and economy. On any given day, some would say the scale had tilted this way or that, but overall, that a balance had been maintained. The scope and scale of the port expansion are so huge that they would forever destroy that equilibrium. Once gone, this cannot be reestablished. The Global Gateway is, in a phrase, totally out of proportion for Charleston. No redesign or mitigation can change that fact.

"SC-More Than A Port" is a broad based, state-wide alliance



of individuals and organizations (including CNHS) joined together to oppose the port. For months it has engaged in an intense effort to educate all stakeholders about the Global Gateway and its impacts. It will continue its education efforts, while shifting more and more to scientific and legal research, legal initiatives and influencing state and local decision-makers.

This work costs lots of money. The Ports Authority admits to having already spent \$500,000 on PR and lobbying in support of the Gateway Project. We must now put our money where our mouth is and oppose it.

The board of directors of the Charleston Natural History Society, this chapter, your chapter, has pledged to match, one to one, all of the gifts from its members, up to \$1,000.00. Obviously, if member gifts total more than \$1,000, we will contribute all of it and the chapter's \$1,000.

Please send the most generous gift you can to fund this very important effort. Send it to: **CNHS, Attention: Port; PO Box 504; Charleston, SC 29402.**

BOARD MEMBERS

Cornelia Carrier 577-6437
Jeff Dennis 577-8890
Sharon Richardson 556-2281
Christopher Walter 569-1062
Laura Jewell 769-9945
Richard Clarke-Pounder 767-9331
Julian Harrison 795-1694
Joe Cockrell 762-3868
Norm Brunswig (843)688-5833
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VISIT OUR WEBPAGE
www.audubon.org/chapter/
sc/charleston
contact Webmaster Bob Chinn
843-552-7884
rchinn@cchat.com



Ideas on Increasing Membership? Help!

Membership of CNHS and Audubon chapters across the nation has remained static over the past ten years while other organizations have grown. If you have ideas on how to increase our membership, please attend the board meeting **March 1** in Meeting Room B of the Main Charleston Library at 7 p.m.

Beidler - cont. from P. 1 featured communities will be admitted two for one and receive a discount in the gift shop. There will be special naturalist guided walks and talks. Local artisans will be featured. If you know of local talent we should include, please let us know. You are invited to visit on these weekends to experience local talent and possibly visit a part of the sanctuary not usually open to the public. The dates are as follows: Harleyville/Rosinville, Mar. 25-26
Orangeburg/St. Matthews, Apr. 1-2
St. George/Reevesville/Grover, Apr. 8-9
Summerville/Knightsville, Apr. 15-16
Branchville/Bowman, Apr. 29-30
Holly Hill/Eutawville/Santee, May 6-7.

In honor of Earth Day 2000, there will be activities for adults, children and families April 22-23. For more information, please check out www.pride-net.com/swamp or call 843-462-3150.

Message from the President

By Cornelia Carrier

The World is Too Much With Us

by William Wordsworth

*The World is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. — Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn,
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn.*

That poem, which I memorized as a child, was written by one of England's poet laureates. I am no poetry critic, but to me, Wordsworth is lamenting the materialism of the Industrial Revolution and longing for ancient times when man felt at one with nature. He remembers how, long ago, man saw deities in various aspects of nature.

Wordsworth lived in England's Lake District from 1770 to 1850. Had he lived in Charleston today, I'm afraid he would feel a good bit worse than "forlorn." He would probably be suicidal! What would he think of the "getting and spending" of our rampant throwaway consumerism or of a church that is selling one of the last undeveloped natural enclaves on James Island?

Wordsworth would see only a few remaining "pleasant leas" in the urban sprawl that is growing around Charleston. If he had read the *Post and Courier* last week, he would have read about still another subdivision that will eat up a 153-acre tract near Cainhoy.

He would have opened Sunday's paper to glimpse an aerial photo of Parker Island and a story about a pending 516-acre development that will include 740 homes and an 18-hole golf course. The photo caption said "Rivertowne Country Club will encompass virtually all of the forested area." These, plus stories about the port expansion, would likely make Wordsworth reach for poison.

NEWS BRIEFS

You will notice there is no *Backyard Birder* in this issue. That's because Van Atkins has been recovering from surgery. But send your sightings to him for the next issue. Van Atkins 766-7000 or vatkins@awod.com.



STILL WANTED: — An outings chairman for next year. Duties include planning outings and finding leaders. Any volunteers? Call Cornelia 577-6437.



At Mar. 14 Meeting—Petitions to oppose the port expansion will be available. Pick some up and get your friends and neighbors to sign them. Buy tickets for the raffle of *The Birds* by David Attenborough videos.

Platform Construction Dates For Ace Basin Changed to Mar. 13-17

Construction of the observation platforms at the Ace Basin National Wildlife Refuge will take place the week of **March 13**. Those of you who have generously volunteered to help will be paired with members of Americorp's National Civilian Conservation Corps. CNHS board members and wildlife refuge staff will have built the foundations the week of March 6.

If you are interested in helping and have not yet been called when this newsletter arrives, please call Richard at 571-1266 x38. Your can help make this first Audubon Refuge Keepers project a huge success.

In addition to our volunteers, we want to thank the following: Richard Clarke-Pounder, who wrote the grant; the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (which administers US Fish and Wildlife Service funds) for awarding the \$5,000 grant and the National Wildlife Refuge Support Group Steering Committee for selecting our project. Members of the committee are the foundation, the USFWS, the National Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

Be First to Enjoy Platforms Mar. 18

Join Richard for a birding outing at the refuge's Grove Plantation **Saturday, March 18**. Meet at 7:30 am at the Food Lion Shopping Center in Ravenel on Savannah Hwy just past the Hwy. 165 intersection. If you know the way, meet at the gate to the house at 8 am. Bring water, lunch and a camera to record this historic event!