

The Lesser Squawk
The Charleston Natural History Society
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THE LESSER SQUAWK

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

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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.



Parris Island, cont. from P. 1

ibis, herons, egrets (with luck maybe least bittern), rails, wood warblers, migrants, and resident species like woodpeckers, titmice, chickadees, blue birds etc.

Mark Your Calendars

Oct. 10—Return engagement of Dr. I. Lehr Brisbin who will speak on his work at the Savannah River Ecology Lab.

Oct. 15—Jean Everett and Julian Harrison will lead a trip to Bluff Plantation for fall flowers, birds and other critters.

Oct. 21— Julian Harrison and Bob Chinn will lead a trip to Burnet Maybank's Point of Pines Plantation.

Nov. 14— Ann Shahid, education director at Beidler Forest, will speak about programs at this National Audubon Society property.

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.



John William "Billy" McCord, biologist with the Marine Resources Division of the S.C. Natural Resources Department, has a passion for butterflies that he will share with us at our meeting Tuesday, Sept. 12 at the Charleston Museum. McCord has two degrees from Clemson University. His undergraduate degree is in zoology and his M.A. is in wildlife biology. His minor in both degrees is entomology.

The title of his talk is: *The Ecology of Coastal Carolina Butterflies*, which will in-

clude tips on gardening to attract these "flying jewels" to your yard. His exhibits of butterflies and moths will be displayed during the reception which begins at 6:30 pm. Program begins at 7 pm.

 The following Sunday, Sept. 17, at 2 pm, McCord will lead a butterfly outing to Ft. Johnson on James Island.

He will demonstrate capture, handling and tagging of monarch butterflies. Take Folly Rd. to Harbor View Dr. to Ft. Johnson Rd. Take a left, go thru gate of DNR complex, park in lot by the main building (Marine Resources Research Inst.)

Birdseed Sale Is Major CNHS Fundraiser

Our annual birdseed sale will take place Nov. 11. See enclosure for details. We are pleased to offer two pick-up points this year: The Sofa Super Store in West Ashley and Abide-a-While Nursery in Mt. Pleasant (the sole location last year).

However, having two drop-off points will

cause an increase in freight charges, so we'll need more orders to break even. Please buy your birdseed from CNHS! We will have extra copies of the order form at the September and October meetings. Pick them up and urge your neighbors, friends and colleagues to participate in CNHS's major fundraiser.



Parris Island Outing Set for Sept. 23

Bob Chinn and Julian Harrison will lead a trip to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, on Saturday, Sept. 23. Parris Island, near Beaufort, has a variety of habitats including a large saltwater pond, tidal creeks, rivers, extensive marshes, mud flats, pine and mixed forests. Some of the species we may see are returning shorebirds and eagles, osprey, wood storks, glossy and white

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Message From the President *by Cornelia Carrier*

Welcome to a new year of programs and outings with the Charleston Natural History Society. As most of you know, we are the local chapter of the National Audubon Society.

The national headquarters is planning a new dues share arrangement designed to increase membership. It is extremely important that we all try to recruit new members and renew our memberships each year.

October and January will be special recruitment months. CNHS will get \$10 extra per member recruited in October.

CNHS will get \$10 extra per member recruited in October. In January, for every five memberships recruited, the chapter will receive one free membership to auction off or

give away. So be thinking of friends you might recruit. Clip out the form on the back of the newsletter. It contains all the necessary information.

We welcome several new board members this year. Some are long-time members and some newcomers. Jill Midgett is our new membership chairman and she will work to welcome our new members and to make our existing members feel at home at our meetings and outings. Molli Hartzog also serves on the membership committee. She will be in charge of our receptions preceding the meetings.

Polly Holden, owner of The Audubon Gallery, 177 King St., is the only business owner who volunteered to sponsor refreshments (in January). If you own a busi-

ness, please consider being a sponsor at upcoming meetings. The cost is about \$75 and you will get good publicity. Sponsors may call me at 577-6437.

We expect this year to be our best ever. Please come hear our interesting speakers every second Tuesday of the month (except Dec.) "Mark Your Calendars" lists future speakers.

Julian Harrison, retired biology professor at the College of Charleston, is our outings chairman. He has planned visits to beautiful plantations and other natural areas. If you aren't a birder, you can learn about birding from Julian, Bob Chinn or other expert CNHS birders or you can just enjoy being outdoors in beautiful Lowcountry settings with other members.

CNHS Program Brings Edisto Students to Turtles

By Sharon Richardson

The ultimate educational goal of Audubon is to develop and sustain a "culture of conservation" through educational programs. We are excited to report CNHS's most recent initiative, the Explorers Program, has been very successful in engaging students in our remarkable coastal ecosystem.

With CNHS funds, Meg Hoyle, SC Department of Natural Resources, chartered a boat to transport children and chaperones from two local elementary schools on Edisto Island to Botany Island one



night in July. On the beach, students went in search of a mother loggerhead turtle. As they walked with Meg, they learned about the turtle, the threat to her species, and the efforts taken to help protect them. Imagine the excitement when they found a turtle digging a nest and laying her eggs!

The response has been tremendous. One student summed it up as the "trip of a life". Two more trips are scheduled in September. These visits will include super-

vised excavations of a nest and an inventory as part of the on-going turtle research DNR conducts. The enthusiasm of the students has been contagious, and a waiting list has already been started for next summer's program.

Students are selected by their principal to participate. It is expected that with another program next summer all the students of the Edisto Beach Primary School will have the opportunity to be forever touched by the experience of witnessing a turtle in her most natural environment.

Backyard Birder *by Van Atkins*

Well here it is September all ready. I hope it will start cooling off a little. I know the birds are ready for some fall weather. I have not had many calls during the summer about on the peanut butter backyard birds. Ben Smith has mix. The purple martins been noticing a few warblers fledged 15 young this year coming to his yard in Mt. Pleasant in the past week.

Ed Conradi has had red-sissippi kite flying overhead starts and a few other warblers just about every day this in his yard, also in Mt. Pleasant.

For the past week a sharp-shinned hawk has staked out our yard as his favorite dining place. He spends most of the day perched in the top of a yellow poplar tree, with a pass at the feeders every so often.

We have a lot of hummers and butterflies in the hinga were everywhere as gardens, with several well as many egrets and hummers coming to the feeders morning and late after-



noon. The redhead and red-bellied woodpecker young, as well as the adults, are feeding on the peanut butter houses. We have had a Mis-



least 150 kites of both types flying over the fields. An-

BOARD MEMBERS

Cornelia Carrier 577-6437
Julian Harrison 795-1694
Christopher Walter 569-1062
Richard Clarke-Pounder 767-9331
Norm Brunswig (843)688-5833
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Molli Hartzog 556-1110
Sharon Hatfield 406-7992
Jennifer Lamar 588-9714
Arch McCallum 883-9818
Morgan McClure 763-0222
Jill Midgett 556-7164
Sharon Richardson 556-2281

NEWS BRIEFS

WANTED: The chapter needs someone to train to be newsletter editor next year. The person can help with the newsletter this year and then become editor next year. Only requirement: a computer. CNHS will provide the software and training.



SAVE THE RAINFOREST — Log onto therainforestsite.com and click on Save the Rainforest. Bookmark or save as favorite and click every day to have 12.0 square feet of rainforest donated by the site's sponsors.



McALHANY — Open houses at our McAlhany property will resume October 1. They are held the first Sunday of each month.



VISIT CNHS WEBSITE — Visit our beautiful website at www.homestead.com/cnhsaudubon. If you have questions or suggestions, call our webmaster Bob Chinn at 843-552-7664.



Photo by R. Bennett