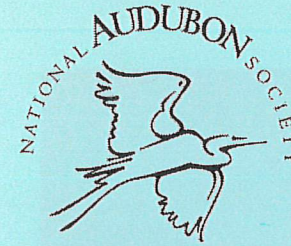


The Lesser Squawk
The Charleston Natural History Society
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THE LESSER SQUAWK

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

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Volume XLVIII No. 3

April 2001

Porcher Will Give Talk, Lead Walk

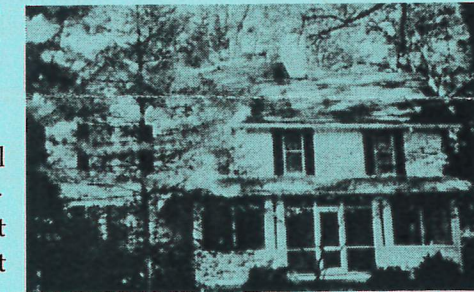
Dr. Richard Porcher, author and professor of botany at The Citadel will talk about wildflowers in Carolina Bays at the meeting **Tuesday, April 10**, at the Charleston Museum. The reception begins at 6:30 pm followed by the program at 7 pm.

As a follow-up to his talk, join Richard **Saturday, April 21** for a trip to Pocotaligo Plantation, an 1150 acre property owned jointly by him and Dr. Michael Pierce. Located on the edge of the Pocotaligo River swamp east of Manning in Clarendon County

and north of Lake Marion, the plantation harbors mixed habitats of woods and fields, some of which are being converted to Long-leaf Pine. Oak-hickory forest occurs along the edge of the swamp.

Meet Richard at 8 am at the service station at the intersection of US

Escape Lowcountry Heat! Win August Week in Spacious Flat Rock, NC, House



There are four tennis courts, a nine-hole golf course and many mountain trails within walking distance. The Green and Davidson Rivers are nearby.

Send your sealed bids to CNHS, PO Box 504, Charleston, SC 29402. The winning bidder will be announced at the membership meeting May 8. Remember the minimum bid is \$500 to win a \$1,000 vacation!

Burnet R. Maybank, who has hosted us at outings on his Point of Pines Plantation, has graciously offered his house in the mountains of Flat Rock, NC, for a sealed bid auction to benefit CNHS.

The minimum bid is \$500 for the week of August 12 in this spacious house that rents for \$1,000 a week. Located on a point jutting out into a large lake full of fish, the house features five bedrooms, four baths, kitchen, pantry, dining room, back and front porches. In the back is a small house with a double bedroom, bath and porch.

A fishing boat is kept in front of the house (no license needed).

Spring Birdathon Set

CNHS will have a Spring Birdathon **April 28 through May 6**. All funds will go to CNHS projects. Here's how it works:

1. Solicit friends, family, customers, clients and/or fellow Audubon members to support your effort. Try to get 10 or 12.
2. Ask them to pledge any amount — the more the better — for each bird you see on your Birdathon day.

— continued on page 3

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.

McAlhany Sanctuary Open House April 1st

At the McAlhany Sanctuary open house **Sunday, Apr. 1**. Jeff Dennis will lead a hike in our outstanding bottomland hardwood forest. You'll get your feet wet, so bring appropriate footwear.

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 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

May 8—James Elliott, executive director of the S.C. Center for Birds of Prey, will speak and bring live birds - an annual tradition and treat.

May 16—**Migratory Bird Day** celebration, birding and dedication of ARK observation platforms at Grove Plantation in the ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge.

May 20 - **Webb Wildlife Center** in Hampton County on edge of Savannah River Swamp.

June 2—Look for swallow-tail and Mississippi kites at **Wambaw Creek, Francis Marion National Forest and Santee Delta**.

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!!!

Beidler Forest Spring Events

Francis Beidler Forest, our National Audubon Society Sanctuary near Harleyville is celebrating spring with a variety of events.

March 31 - "Spring Festival" - Beaufort Boil and other southern foods and a guided night walk along the boardwalk. Seatings begin at 5:30 pm.. Call for reservations. \$15 adults, \$12 children.

Apr. 21 - "Earth Day"- Guided walks throughout the day, Swamp Stomp, canoe trips, and demonstrations. Directions: From Charleston, take I-26 to exit 187 and follow the signs. Call 1-843-462-2150 for reservations, schedules or more information.

Board Nominations

The nominating committee consisting of Cornelia Carrier, Julian Harrison and Christopher Walter have chosen the following slate of officers: Bob Chinn, president; Christopher Walter, vice-president and secretary; Tom Snowden, treasurer, and Julian Harrison, historian. Nominees for the board are Norm Brunswig, Cornelia Carrier, Joe Cockrell, Hal Currey, Jeff Dennis, Polly Holden, Jennifer Lamar, Morgan McClure, Sharon Richardson, and Ann Tiller. Election will be held at the May 8th meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS

Cornelia Carrier 577-6437
Julian Harrison 795-1694
Christopher Walter 569-1062
Norm Brunswig (843)688-5833
Richard Clarke-Pounder 767-9331
Joe Cockrell 762-3868
Hal Currey 883-9114
Jeff Dennis 577-8890
Molli Hartzog 556-1110
Jennifer Lamar 588-9714
Morgan McClure 763-0222
Sharon Richardson 556-2281
Ann Tiller 884-4532



WASHOE RESERVE OUTING — Great weather and birds including yellow-throated warblers, northern parulas, pine and prairie warblers, blue-gray gnatcatchers, and bluebirds. Also ten to fourteen osprey, bald eagle, turkey, black vultures, wood ducks, gadwalls and red-shouldered hawk. Attending were T.F. (Fleet) Hassell, Teri Lynn Herbert, Debbie Faison, John McAnaw, Ann Messick, Gerald Muckenfuss, Alfred and Olivia Smith, Tom Snowden and Bob Chinn, who took this picture.

Backyard Birder by Van Atkins

AHHH SPRING! It may not be by the calendar but all the signs are here. We have had a lot of early birds come through the lowcountry already. There are yellow-throated vireos and many different warblers to be seen. The shore birds have started coming to the beaches, ponds and impoundments in the area. We are even getting some birds that are not normally here.

At Savannah WMA there is a limpkin at the .09 mile area on the main loop road. Also there has been a whiteface ibis seen there for the past month. To get there go south on 95 and get off at the #5 exit and follow the signs southeast to the Savannah WMA, about 1 1/2 hour trip but well worth the drive. You can stop at the Donnelley WMA or Bear Island Wildlife Refuge along US 17 on the way back.

Dot Glover sent me an e-mail that she has a clay-colored Sparrow feeding with the chipping and white-throated sparrows. The purple martins have returned to ours and several other people's martin houses in the past weeks. To find out more about attracting, caring for or watching birds go on-line at <http://birding.about.com/library/blhousespecs.htm>. This will give you access to a lot of different activities. You should have your birdhouses up and ready now, but it is still not too late to put them up and get nesting birds. Remember that supplying birds with fresh water is more important than bird feed. Have a great time watching your birds and contact me with your reports at 766-7000 or vatkins@awod.com.

Arctic Refuge Oil Drilling Big Environmental Battle

On February 28, U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) and U.S. Representatives Nancy Johnson (R-Conn.) and Edward Markey (D-Mass.) introduced legislation to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) from oil drilling. Referred to as the "Alaska Wilderness Bill," (bill number H.R. 770 in the House of Representatives and S.411 in the Senate) designates the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge as a "wilderness area."

Such designation would give the area permanent protection from any oil and gas drilling, or other disruptive activity. The coastal plain is 1.5 million acres that has enormous ecological and cultural significance. It provides habitat for more than 125 species of migratory birds, such as the tundra swan and king eider. ANWR also serves as the central calving grounds for the 130,000-member porcupine caribou herd upon which the native Gwich'in people rely for their subsistence.

H.R.39 and S.388—Audubon-opposed legislation introduced earlier this year, seek to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling. Despite the coastal plain's immense value to wildlife and humans, the oil industry has long sought to open the area to oil exploration and development.

While we've been successful staving off efforts to open this pristine area to oil drilling for the past 20 years, we're now dealing with a President who has made drilling in the Arctic one of the top priorities for his Administration!

We must convince lawmakers to support H.R.770 and S.411 that

would protect the ANWR permanently and oppose HR.39 and S. 388 efforts to open the ANWR to oil drilling. We'll need your help, particularly as these measures begin to move through the legislative process. In the meantime, click here to be connected to Audubon's new PROTECT THE ARCTIC website at www.protectthearctic.com!

In the meantime, write your representatives to let them know you oppose ANWR oil drilling. Clip and save this list for future issues.

Rep. Henry Brown (R)

Congressional District 1
1017 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-3176
Fax: 202-225-3407
writehenrybrown@mail.house.gov

Rep. James E. Clyburn (D)

Congressional District 6
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone- 202-225-3315
Fax -202-225-2313
jclyburn@mail.house.gov

Senator Fritz Hollings (D)

125 Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone— 202-224-6121
Fax- 202-224-4293
senator@hollings.senate.gov

Senator Strom Thurmond (R)

217 Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone— 202 224-5972
Fax— 202-224-1300
senator@thurmond.senate.gov

NEWS BRIEFS

SPRING BIRD COUNT—Meet at 6:30 am Sunday, April 29, at the service station near the intersection of US Hwy 17 and SC Hwy 41 north of Mt. Pleasant. Call Edwin Blitch at 556-2626.

THE LUCKY WINNER of the spotting scope was **Ledlie Bell**. CNHS's profit on the scope raffle was \$580. Thanks to all of you who participated.

SCENIC HIGHWAYS - CNHS member Mayo Read has been appointed to the SC Scenic Highways Committee. Designated highways include Bohicket Rd., Edisto Hwy., Long Point Road, Mathis Ferry Rd., Riverland Drive, Ft. Johnson Rd. and Ashley River Rd. If you see a road you think should receive this designation, call Mayo at 559-1594.

BIRDATHON, cont. from p. 1 —
3. Pick any day between April 28 and May 6. Go anywhere you like on that day; stay as long as you want, and identify as many birds as you can. Document your sightings.
4. Notify your supporters of the number of species you saw and multiply that number by their pledge amount. Collect that contribution. Send your name, your supporters' names and total collected contributions to: CNHS, PO Box 504, Charleston, SC 29402. Thanks!



VISIT OUR
WEBPAGE

www.homestead.com/cnhsaudubon
contact Webmaster Bob Chinn
843-552-7884
rchinn@cchat.com