

The Lesser Squawk
The Charleston Natural History 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.

Open House at McAlhany Sanctuary Dec. 2nd

Enjoy fall leaves on the banks of the Edisto River at the McAlhany open house, **Sunday, Dec. 2.** From St. George in Dorchester County, turn from US 78 onto Road No. 26 (Maple Branch Rd.) and follow Rd. No. 26 to Rd. No. 19 (Wire Rd.). Turn right onto 19. Go

approximately 1/2 mile and look for the drive and sign on the left. If you plan to come, please call Joe Cockrell by Saturday night at **762-3868**. Joe will open the gate at **9 am** if members want to visit.

NOTE: There will be no open house in January.

Mark Your Calendars

February 12— University of South Carolina professors, John Nelson of the Herbarium and Steve Elliott of the Dept. of Botany.

February outing—Capers Island (date to be announced later.)

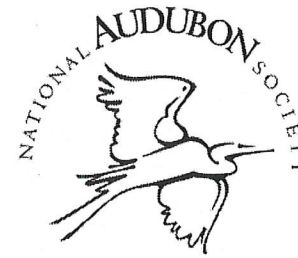
March 12—Whit Gibbons, Savannah River Ecology Lab and Research Programs.

April 9—Dan Connelly, National Audubon Society Silver Bluff Sanctuary

May 14—Sally Murphy, SC Department of Natural Resources, will speak on sea turtles.



Membership Chairman Ann Tiller works booth at College of Charleston's Environmental Awareness Day.



THE LESSER SQUAWK

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

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December/January 2001

Rudy Mancke Will Speak on Dec. 11

Rudy Mancke, renown South Carolina naturalist and host of nationally -syndicated Public TV program *Naturescene*, will speak to CNHS at a special meeting **Tuesday, Dec. 11.**

His talk will focus on wetlands and other aquatic habitats (swamp, fen, marsh, bog, stream, creek, river, lake, ponds, estuary and the ocean) in SC. We can expect him to throw in a few things

from his favorite subjects (snakes, butterflies and fossils). Members are urged to bring in interesting and obscure natural history objects (animal, vegetable or mineral) for identification.

The reception begins at **6:30 pm** followed by the program at **7 pm** at the Charleston Museum.

This Year's Green Party December 16 Will Offer Oysters at Bowen's Island

The tradition continues **Sunday, December 16**, with the Fourth Annual Green Holiday Party - a time for local conservation groups to mix, mingle and celebrate.

This year will be even better! We're spicing up this huge potluck with a dash of a Lowcountry favorite: oysters! And there is no place better for fresh oysters than right off the boats at Bowen's Island - just off Folly Road past James Island. Combine a little live music,

marsh views of Folly Creek, home-cooked food, and fresh oysters - and you have an unbeatable afternoon! You bring the covered dish, and we'll provide everything else.

The afternoon party is from **3 to 6 pm**. Oysters served from **3 to 4 pm**. This year there will be a \$5 charge to cover music, drinks (beer and soft drinks) and oysters. This year we're asking for RSVP's so please call Bob Chinn at **552-7884**.

Gift Memberships: Great Last Minute Xmas Idea

No ideas for people on your Xmas gift list? Give them a membership to Audubon and CNHS. In this special offer memberships are just \$15 and the entire amount goes to CHNS even if the memberships are for chapters in other states! Fill out the form. Put U51 and

7XCH on your check. Send the form with check for total to National Audubon Society, Membership Dept., 700 Broadway, NY, NY 10003.

HURRY! ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED IN NEW YORK BY DECEMBER 15TH!

Santee Nat. Wildlife Refuge Saturday, Jan. 12

Join CNHS president and field trip leader Bob Chinn on an all-day outing to Santee National Wildlife Refuge in Clarendon County on **Saturday, Jan. 12**.

This refuge's very diverse 15,000 acres include mixed hardwoods, pine plantations, marshes, old fields, ponds, impoundments, and other habitats. Four management units extend over 18 miles of Lake Marion's northern shore. The refuge's primary functions are to provide food, water, and shelter for migratory ducks, geese, swans, and many other species.



CNHS has visited Santee NWR many times over the years, rewarded frequently by good sightings of Canada and white-fronted geese, tundra swans, several kinds of ducks, bald eagles, short-eared owls, and peregrine falcons, to mention a few possibilities.

We will first check in at the Visitor Center, then explore the Bluff Unit where there is a trail and observation tower. Later in the day, we'll visit to the Cuddo

Unit where there is an auto tour route and other impoundments.

Meet Bob at 7:30 a.m. at the Walmart in Summerville. He'll be in the corner of the parking lot closest to the first entrance off

Comb Edisto Beach Jan. 26

Join CNHS on **Saturday, Jan. 26**, on a beachcombing trip to Edisto Island State Park. We'll be looking for shells and fossils and observing other critters washed up by the tides on the 1.5 miles of beach. Winter is traditionally the best time to look for shells. There'll also be opportunities to do some bird watching as well.

Field trip leader Julian Harrison was a shell collector earlier in his life and knows most, if not all, of the common species, and a few rare ones as well. Edisto Beach, especially at the State Park, is a famous fossil locality with the teeth and bones of such things as saber-tooth tigers, mastodons, camels, horses, tapirs, and others showing up on occasion. Fossil hunting is best at low tide, espe-



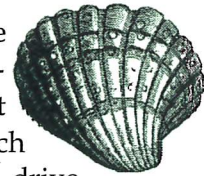
Hwy 17A from I 26 (Exit 199).

Wear warm/protective clothing as the day could be windy and cold. Bring binoculars, telescope (if you have one), field guides, water, and lunch..

cially near Jeremy Inlet at the island's north end, and we'll have one at about 11:40 a.m. After lunch, some of us may wish to hike the 3-mile Spanish Mount Trail through the Park's Maritime Forest.

Meet Julian at the West Ashley Walmart parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Edisto Beach is about a 50 mile drive from Charleston. We'll be on the beach much of the time, so come prepared for wind and possible cold.

Bring water, lunch and/or snacks, binoculars, field guides, and perhaps sacks or bags in which to store things you may find. There is an entrance fee of \$2 for adults, but children (15 and under) and seniors (65 and older) are admitted free.



BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Chinn, president/web master 552-7884
Christopher Walter, vice-pres., secy. 569-1062
Thomas Snowden, treasurer, 875-3445
Julian Harrison, historian, outings 795-1694
Ann Tiller, membership, 884-4532
Cornelia Carrier, newsletter, 577-6437
Joe Cockrell, birdseed sale, 762-3868
Morgan McClure, programs, 763-0222
Jennifer Lamar, conservation, 343-5862
Jeff Dennis, McAlhany, 577-8890
Norm Brunswig, State Office, (843)688-5833
Polly Holden, 853-1100

Birdseed Sale Results

This year's coordinator Joe Cockrell, has reported that the Birdseed Sale earned CNHS \$1,148 that will go to our many projects. We had 68 orders for a total of 4,834 pounds. MANY THANKS to all members who bought seed and to Tom Snowden, Ann Tiller and Clyde Hamilton who helped on pick-up day.

Join Christmas Bird Count by Bob Chinn

The holiday season is upon us, and I urge you to participate in the **Christmas Bird Count**. It's the largest and longest running wildlife survey ever undertaken. Each count circle is 15 miles in diameter (approx 177 Square miles), and birders attempt to tally all species and individual birds within their designated area.

With such a large area and the large number of birds in our area we need more people to help with the count. You do not need to be an "expert" birder to participate. Each pair of eyes available contribute to the accuracy of the count. This is also a good start-

ing point for beginners to learn about the area and local birdlife. I encourage you all to participate and help determine the status of birds in the wild.

Here are the dates for the counts;

Dec. 15: McClellanville--Same as last year--Perry Nugent, 556-3841

Dec. 16: Congaree National Monument -- Robin Carter--803-728-8820, e-mail rcarte@sc.rr.com

Dec. 23: Charleston-- Bob Chinn-552-7884 or e-mail rchinn@awod.com

Dec. 29: Santee NWR--Lex Glover--803-419-9645(w) or 803-438-9855(h) or e-mail

bglvr@clemson.edu
Dec. 30: ACE Basin--David Chamberlain--884-0019

Jan 2: Litchfield-Pawleys Island--Jack Peachey 843-347-5810 or e-mail, paw@sccoast.net or Tonya Spires 843-397-0384.

As the new year approaches, I would ask you to resolve to be more active in our chapter. We are always looking for additional members for our standing committees, helpers for special projects and persons to help with monthly meetings. Please contact any board member to volunteer.

John Celey Will Speak at Jan. 8 Meeting

John Celey of the SC Department of Natural Resources Sandhills Research Center near Columbia will be the speaker at the

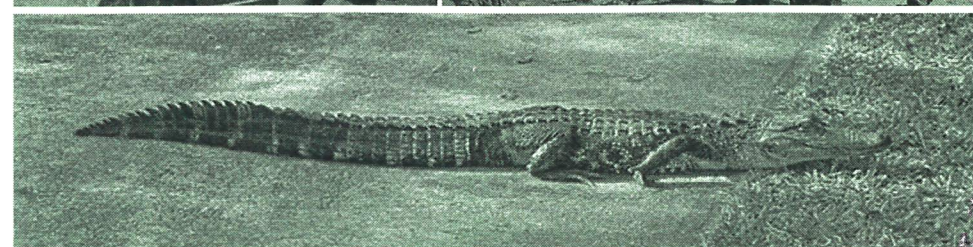
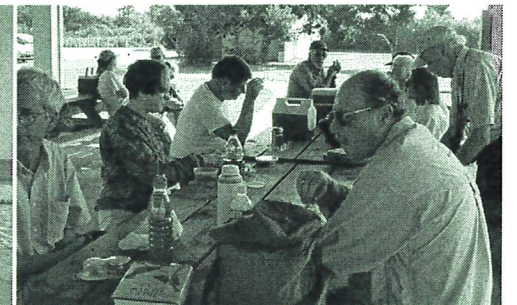


meeting **Tuesday, Jan. 8** at the Charleston Museum. He will speak on swallow-tailed kite re-

search.

The reception begins at 6:30 pm followed by the program at 7 pm.

Huntington Beach State Park Outing: Great Weather, 71 Bird Species!



VISIT OUR
WEBPAGE
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rchinn@awod.com