



The Charleston Natural History Society – a SC chapter (chartered in 1970) of the National Audubon Society, serving Berkeley, Charleston & Dorchester counties – is a nonprofit environmental organization that actively promotes awareness, appreciation and conservation of the natural environment through educational programs, field trips, conservation projects, sponsored research and social activities.

#### ACE, continued from page 2

or threatened species including the shortnose sturgeon, wood storks, loggerhead sea turtles and Southern bald eagles.

From its inception, one feature that made the ACE Basin protection initiative unique was its emphasis on protecting the private property rights and developing ways to balance economic growth with conservation efforts. Due to the efforts of the Task Force, approximately 15% of the land in the ACE Basin study area is protected by state and federal ownership, or conservation easements. Approximately 40% of the protected lands are designated as public land, about 60% are private lands that are protected by conservation easements (about 44,000 acres), and the remainder is protected by organization ownership, management agreements, or other means.

Bear Island Wildlife Management Area, Donnelley Wildlife Management Area, the ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve, and the ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge are large tracts of land managed and protected by state and federal ownership. The ACE Basin Task Force initiative is an outstanding example of how government, conservation groups, and private landowners can unite to protect important natural resources.

Visit <http://acebasin.fws.gov> to learn more, download birdlists and trailmaps.

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## Native Plant Society President Presents Program March 9th

*Landscaping With Native Plants: What They Contribute and How to Grow Them* will be presented by John A. Brubaker, president of the South Carolina Native Plant Society ([www.scnps.org](http://www.scnps.org)) at our March 9 membership program at 7 p.m. with a 6:30 reception at the Museum, 360 Meeting Street, across from the Charleston Visitor Center.

Sharing many goals with the Audubon Society, the South Carolina Native Plant Society (SCNPS) is committed to the preservation and protection of native plant communities in South Carolina. The Society was founded in 1996 with the mission of educating South Carolinians about our botanical heritage, to encourage preservation and restoration of natural habitats, and to promote the use of native plants in public and private gardens. Mr. Brubaker organized the Lowcountry chapter in 1997 and was elected state president in August 2003. A dedicated advocate for environmental causes, he devotes most of his energies to the SCNPS mission, working with the USDA Forest Service, SC Forest Commission, SC Coastal Conservation League, SC DNR. His other passion is the restoration of the property that he and his wife, Gail, have in Awendaw.

In his own words: "I grew-up in south-central Ohio, and held a passion for natural history from my earliest days. I was working as a technician in the Department of Pharmacology at the Medical College of Cincinnati when I graduated from the University of Cincinnati. My intention was to pursue a career in natural history by moving on to graduate school in herpetology, but instead I decided to remain in medicine and continue research in cardiovascular research. I fell in love with the South Carolina Lowcountry during a series of collecting expeditions for the Cincinnati Zoo, and I was delighted at the opportunity to live here when I was recruited to the pharmacology department at the Medical University of South Carolina in 1972." Mr. Brubaker remained at MUSC for 30 years until his retirement in 2002.

"As development around me escalated, degrading the unique wild resource of our landscape into a homogenized urban/suburban setting so typical of what I had witnessed in southern Ohio, I was motivated to do whatever I could to let my neighbors know what was being sacrificed—what we were giving up that could never be recovered—in the name of what most considered progress. By then my perceptions of Nature had matured. The fauna that had always excited me continued to do so, but I had come to have a better understanding of natural communities. I had realized that if the habitats were healthy then the animal species that made their homes in them might be as well. Certainly the wildlife could not thrive as the natural settings upon which they depended were destroyed."

#### UPCOMING EVENTS – details in this issue

Mar. 9	Landscaping with Native Plants: Program mtg. (details pg. 1 & 2) Presented by John A. Brubaker, Pres. of the SC Native Plant Society
Mar. 13	Fieldtrip: Bear Island WMA (details pg. 2) please register by March 12
Mar. 28	Fieldtrip: Huntington Beach State Park: (details pg. 2) please register by March 27
Apr. 13	Carolina Hummingbirds: Program mtg. (details pg. 2) Presented by Gary Phillips of Clemson's Baruch Inst. of Coastal Ecology
May 11	Splendor in Nature: The Biodiversity of Dominica: Program (details pg. 2) Presented by Dr. B. Merle Shepard, Clemson Prof. of Entomology

#### Are We Driven to Conserve?

Some numbers to think about\*:

- Rank of U.S. cars and trucks among the world's top CO<sub>2</sub> producing nations: 5
- Rank of the United States as a whole: 1
- Year Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards were set: 1975
- Number of times the standard has been raised since then: 0
- Percentage change in number of highway vehicles in America between 1970 and 1999: +99.5%
- Number of vehicles per licensed driver in the U.S. in 1999: 1.12
- Rank of gas mileage among the 35 things Americans say they look for in buying a new car or truck today: 20
- Rank of gas mileage among things Americans said they were looking for in 1980: 1
- Percentage change in Florida SUV registrations from 1992 to 1997: +113.3%
- Year in which the Ford Motor Company acknowledged the environmental problems associated with SUVs: 2000
- Year in which SUV and light truck sales surpassed passenger car sales: 2001
- Percentage more carbon dioxide that a Ford Excursion produces over a Honda Insight: 500%
- Percentage of respondents in August, 2000 poll able to name either the Honda Insight or the Toyota Prius as an hybrid car available in U.S.: 2
- Pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> that the average Hummer emits each year: 24,100
- Pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> that the average midsize Honda Accord emits each year: 10,300
- Number of the 10 hottest years on record since 1990: 9
- Rank of 2001 among the hottest years on record: 2

\*From various sources including the Sierra Club and the EPA.

#### Need to Contact Your Elected SC Officials?

Email addresses for Charleston's County Council are online: go to [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org) and follow the links to Elected Officials, County Council and then Contacts.

Information for Berkeley and Dorchester Counties can be found at [www.co.berkeley.sc.us](http://www.co.berkeley.sc.us) and [www.dorchestercounty.net](http://www.dorchestercounty.net).

For State House and Senate Members go to: [www.scstatehouse.net](http://www.scstatehouse.net) and follow the links to either House or Senate and then Email Addresses. The mailing address for all House Members is: P.O. Box 11867, Columbia SC 29211; for all Senate Members it is: P.O. Box 142, Columbia SC 29202.

#### The CNHS/Audubon Board for 2003-04

President: Tom Snowden w 953-0311, h 875-3445

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Membership: Doreen Cubie

Publicity: is open at this time.

Outings: Burton Moore 853-1100, Bob Chinn, Andy Harrison

Programs: Polly Holden h 795-1124

Conservation: Garrett Budds h 571-4668, Andy Harrison

McAlhany: Joe Cockrell, Julian Harrison, Garrett Budds, Marion Page, Jeff Dennis,

Wannamaker: Norm Brunswig (843)688-5833, Julian Harrison, Marion Page, Dan Tufford

Interested in joining a committee? Contact one of the members listed, or talk to chapter president Tom Snowden about how you can help.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

### ►Upcoming Programs, Outings & Lowcountry Events

## Upcoming Program Presentations

### ► Tuesday, March 9 – 6:30 reception, 7 p.m. program Landscaping With Native Plants

#### Landscaping With Native Plants:

#### What They Contribute and How to Grow Them

Presented by John A. Brubaker, President of the South Carolina Native Plant Society (<http://www.scnps.org/>). Full story on page 1.

Join us at the Charleston Museum, 360 Meeting Street, across from the Charleston Visitor Center. Our membership programs are held regularly on the second Tuesday of the month, are free and open to the public.

### ► Tuesday, April 13 – 6:30 reception, 7 p.m. program Carolina Hummingbirds

Presented by Gary Phillips, Wildlife Biologist, Clemson University Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Service

Mr. Phillips, a past president and active board member of the Waccamaw Audubon Society, is actively engaged in hummingbird study in South Carolina. He writes "Bird Notes," a weekly column for the *Myrtle Beach Sun News*. He is a permitted bird bander and active research affiliate with the Hummer/Bird Study Group ([www.naturalsciences.org/nchummers/](http://www.naturalsciences.org/nchummers/)) tracking vagrant hummingbird sightings in the Carolinas.

### ► Tuesday, May 11 – 6:30 reception, 7 p.m. program Splendor in Nature: The Biodiversity of Dominica

Presented by Dr. B. Merle Shepard, Professor of Entomology and Director, Clemson University Coastal Research and Education Center.

The Commonwealth of Dominica (not to be confused with the Dominican Republic) is an independent island nation of approximately 65,000 residents. Located between the islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe in the West Indies, it is known as the "Nature Island of the Caribbean" because of its natural beauty. Over 65% of the island is covered with undisturbed forests. Approximately 167 species of bird inhabit the island, including the rare and endangered Sisserou parrot, the national bird.

A list of avifauna will be handed out, and a general overview of the landscape, climate and natural history presented along with a general description of Clemson's Archbold Tropical Research and Education Center that is located there. ([www.clemson.edu/coastalrec/atrec\\_index.htm](http://www.clemson.edu/coastalrec/atrec_index.htm)).

## Have You Been to the ACE Basin?

Our March fieldtrip to the Bear Island WMA is an excellent chance to experience the beauty of the ACE Basin. And whether you've been there many times before, or never had the opportunity, it is important to recognize the importance of this unique protected area so close to us.

The protection of land and resources in the ACE Basin gained national attention in 1986 with the inception of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). Two years later, the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) portion of the NAWMP made the ACE Basin a "flagship" project. This led to the formation of the ACE Basin Task Force and the protection of significant habitat areas in the Basin.

The reserve is named for the three rivers that drain into the basin – the Ashepoo, the Combahee and the Edisto. It is home to many endangered

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## March Fieldtrips

### ► Saturday, March 13

#### Bear Island Wildlife Management Area

Join CNHS board members Andy and Julian Harrison, for a late winter/early spring trip to Bear Island WMA.

Bear Island has been one of the top birding sites along the SC coast for many years. Tundra swans, white pelicans, wood storks, bald eagles and many other rare species are often found there. This trip, we will probably encounter some late winter species and hopefully some "early" spring migrants. Time permitting, we may make a side trip to Donnelly WMA, which is close by.

Meet at the Food Lion parking lot in Ravanel (jct of US-17 & SC HWY 165) at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, March 13. Bring your binoculars and field guides, water/drinks, and snacks/lunch. Call Andy (795-6934 h, 769-7003 w) to register for trip by Friday, March 12.

### ► Sunday, March 28

#### Huntington Beach State Park

Huntington Beach offers the best preserved beach on the Grand Strand. The park's freshwater lagoon, saltmarsh, maritime forest and beach provide such prime habitat for birds that the park is widely recognized as one of the best birding sites along the East Coast.

Bring lunch and the usual supplies. We'll meet at the Lowe's in Mt Pleasant (just before Town Center) at 7:30 a.m. Call Andy (795-6934 h, 769-7003 w) to register by Saturday, March 27. Note that there is an entrance fee for the park (\$5/\$4.25/\$3 for adults/SC Seniors/children age 6-15; – unless you have the yearly pass).

## \*CNHS Audubon Field Trips

The CNHS/Audubon sponsors at least one field trip/outing per month, September thru May. Field trips are free, unless otherwise noted, and are open to the general public. Please wear suitable outdoor gear and note that a brown bag lunch is often appropriate.

Please register with the trip leader, by 6 p.m. the day before the outing. (This is to allow the leaders to plan appropriately for the size of the group.) All trip participants are required to sign an "acknowledgement of risk" statement as required by our insurance carrier.

## Lobbying for the Environment: A Trip to Columbia

by Andy Harrison

Before February 5th, when the word "lobbyist" came to mind I never imagined myself in that role. At the dark, icy hour of 5:30 a.m. that morning, however, I met April Stallings and Mike Dawson (Education Outreach Specialist and Center Director, respectively, at Audubon's Francis Beidler Forest) in Summerville in order to carpool up to Columbia for the First Annual Conservation Lobby Day and Legislative Breakfast. Numerous environmental groups (including Audubon, the Coastal Conservation League, SC Wildlife Federation, and at least a dozen others) were participating in the event, which was facilitated by Scott Winburn and Christie Renken, of the Coastal Conservation League, together with former SC Representative Robert Barber, Jr.

Lobby Day began with a breakfast at the Clarion Townhouse a few blocks from the State House. About 15 legislators and some 115 other participants listened to short presentations about the four main issues of concern on the current legislative agenda: funding the Conservation Land Bank this summer; opposing a bill (H.3555) that would restrict local control over hog farms; requiring coordination between local governments when it comes to new growth and infrastructure development (companion bills H.4354 and S.788); and protecting isolated wetlands by approving regulations that would grant DHEC authority over these areas and create

late permitting system. After the presentations and a very brief "how to lobby" workshop we were turned loose on our elected officials.

April, Mike and I walked first to the Blatt Building, where we split up to seek out the Representatives we had targeted. I located the office of Representative Wallace Scarborough (R 115), where I learned that he was in a meeting that would last until the beginning of the House session. So, as I had been instructed, I left a copy of our "talking points" with his administrative assistant. Since it was nearly time for the session to begin, though, I decided to wait for Representative Scarborough and ask if I could talk with him on the way to the session. He graciously agreed, and as we rode the elevator down to the garage and then made our way through the halls of the State House we had a good discussion of the Conservation Land Bank (Mr. Scarborough approves funding the Land Bank and was a sponsor of the 2002 bill that created it) and isolated wetlands (he was less committal on this issue but expressed interest in further discussion of the topic).

Next I made my way to the Gressette Building and sought out the office of Senator Glenn McConnell (R 41). He too was tied up in a meeting, so I deposited my "talking points" and returned to the front desk, where I engaged in some interesting discussions with other par-

ticipants while we waited for the beginning of the Senate session at 11:00 a.m. At that time we walked over to the State House and entered the crowded, noisy lobby area. I found the Senate desk and wrote a brief note to Senator McConnell describing who I was and why I wanted to see him.

According to long-standing tradition, such notes are carried into the House or Senate Chamber and delivered to the legislator of interest. During a break, he or she may come out to talk to the lobbyist. As Senator McConnell is President Pro Tempore of the Senate it was unlikely that he would emerge before the end of the session. While I waited, though, our group was summoned to the balcony of the Senate Chamber, where we were officially recognized by the Senate, a surprising and pleasant honor.

At the conclusion of the session I joined several other lobbyists who surrounded Mr. McConnell as he appeared in the lobby. When my turn to talk came I touched on three of the four issues (funding the Land Bank, coordination of new growth between local governments, and protection of isolated wetlands). Senator McConnell indicated support for funding the Land Bank (he was also a sponsor of the original bill) and listened politely to my comments on the other two issues.

Many Lobby Day participants met together at a nearby restaurant for lunch afterwards. April, Mike and I arrived late, and so we decided to get lunch on our own and head back to Charleston. Like most of the other "lobbyists for a day," though, we felt that the event had been a huge success.

Although many of us were nervous at first, the process was easy and most legislators were cordial and very willing to talk. Plans are already underway for a similar Lobby Day next year. However, the fate in the State House of the four issues that we addressed on February 5th is still uncertain. We need all concerned citizens to write, call or e-mail their legislators and let them know that there is significant grassroots support in this state for protecting the environment and ensuring that new development takes place in a coordinated, rational manner.



## New Members, Renewals, Gift Memberships

For only \$20\* you get one-year subscriptions to *Audubon* magazine and *The Lesser Squawk*, and all the benefits of local and National Audubon Society membership. Renew for just \$35/year. \*\$15 for Sr. Citizens and Students

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Webmaster Bob Chinn keeps us up-to-date with details of programs, outings & more.  
<http://cnhsaudubon.homestead.com>