



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cumberland Island National Seashore
P.O. Box 806
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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



The Mullet Wrapper

The official newsletter of
Cumberland Island National Seashore

December through February 2008

The Plum Orchard fireplace decorated for the holiday festivities. (Photo by Dennis Curry)

Visitors Enjoy Holiday Celebration at Plum Orchard

By GINGER HOLLINGSWORTH-COX

Many of the holiday traditions we celebrate today began at the turn of century, historically known as the Victorian and Edwardian Era. Caroling, collecting money for charities, decorating the home, bringing in trees and greenery from field and forest, making handmade ornaments, sleigh rides, baking pies and cookies, parades, window shopping, and of course gift giving, were all customs that Victorians heartily embraced.

In keeping with the customs of holidays past, on Sunday December 16th guests took part in a tour of historic Plum Orchard and enjoyed seeing the house decorated for the holidays with a 12 foot tree hung with beautiful Victorian ornaments, which were both purchased and handcrafted, as well as the dining room set for a lavish



The Victorian Holiday Tree

holiday feast. With guest performers, visitors also enjoyed the beautiful sounds of traditional carols and excerpts from Dickens "A Christmas Carol", then topped off their visit with mulled cider and cookies.

Look for this event to be part of the Holiday Tour of Homes next year.

Plum Orchard is one of the Carnegie family's ancestral homes, built for Lucy's son, George and his wife Margaret. Today this 22,000 sq. ft. Georgian Revival mansion stands as a visible reminder of the opulent social and recreational lifestyle of the industrial era tycoons. You can visit Plum Orchard on the second and fourth Sundays of each month and learn about lifestyles during the Gilded Age.



Jeanie Curry, Park Volunteer and wife to Ranger Dennis Curry, sings and shares historic prose.



Volume One Singers, a vocal choir from Camden County High School, shared the spirit of the holidays with their rendition of classic holiday songs.

Meet Your Acting Superintendent



Acting Superintendent Aleta Knight

I am very amazed by my first impressions of this awesome resource, the community, the friendliness of the people of the area and last but far from least is the way the staff seems to be coping with a significant workload and doing a wonderful job. The

National Park Service has a gem of a park that is a truly special place. I know this is high praise from someone that has been here less than a week but when things are this obvious they are easy to see and they should be recognized. My tour will be a short 60-day detail but I hope that my experience will provide for some assistance to the park.

As you all know this is a busy park with a variety of on-going activities and just when you think you have a handle on things something new pops up. In previous editions of *The Mullet Wrapper* the Transportation Management Plan has been discussed. The Plan is getting much closer to implementation. The park's management team is working on the park Housing Management Plan and a variety of projects on the island.

My National Park Service career has been exciting. I did not grow up wanting to be a ranger, I sort-of fell into the career. After a tour in the Marine Corps I took a part-time position at Joshua Tree National Monument (now a National Park) as a GS-2, Park Aide. I am currently the Deputy Superintendent at San Juan National Historic Site with eight parks in between. Law enforcement, interpretation, maintenance, and resources management (both cultural and natural) have been the many roads I have traveled to get to the position of Acting Superintendent at Cumberland Island National Seashore. I am lucky enough to enjoy what I do and be able to visit and learn about so many exciting areas our National Park Service has to offer.

Thanks to everyone for making my first few days here special and let's work together to make everyone's visit special.

Aleta E. Knight



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Sparks Fly at Bachlott House

By JUSTIN HELTON



Fire pit that used to be Electrical Junction Box

On the morning of January 22nd, employees located in the Bachlott House noticed an unusual amount of power surges occurring throughout the building, but could not locate the cause. On my way back from the museum building, I noticed what looked and sounded like firecrackers going off in the electrical junction box outside the front of the Bachlott House. Upon further investigation, I realized it was electrical sparks coming out from the junction box. As the sparks continued, a small electrical fire began. The fire department was called and the situation was resolved without further incident. After the fire was extinguished, Georgia Power had our power restored within the hour. A big "Thank You!", goes out to the Camden County Fire Department as well as Georgia Power for handling this situation like real professionals!



Hints from Helton

Protecting Personal Information

By JIM GUGLIELMINO

We've all heard about identity theft in recent years. Identity theft is costly to the individual victims and to America's national economy. NPS staff have the responsibility to show due diligence in protecting all of the sensitive data for which we are custodians against threats that might be aggressively pursued.

Most recently, DOI CIO office has implemented the ability to detect Personally Identifiable Information (PII), especially SSN, in the body of unencrypted e-mail messages as they pass through the NPS network. When these unencrypted (thus readable) messages are detected, an IT security incident is reported to DOI CIRC (Computer Incident Response Center) and NPS is notified for investigation. In each verified case of an NPS employee, contractor, or partner sending unencrypted PII in e-mail, response actions must be taken which may include disciplinary actions. As a rule, PII should never be sent via unencrypted e-mail. Also, consider that a facsimile or telephone call might be the best and simplest solution for small and infrequent transmissions.

E-mail messages are not the only risk to PII protection. Organizations, including NPS, still generate huge amounts of paper reports containing PII, most alarmingly SSNs. There are some simple steps we can all do to protect PII in hardcopy form. Do not include PII in hardcopy reports unless it is absolutely necessary; use truncated (last 4 digits) of the SSN. Hardcopy PII should be secured (locked away) while still needed, and shredded when no longer needed. PII is far too sensitive to recycle or trash without shredding. Some users have access to PII and other sensitive information that is safely stored on the NPS network. We must lock our computer access when left unattended and choose strong passwords.

Quote Corner

"Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds."
-Albert Einstein

UPCOMING TELNPS COURSES:

For the full schedule, go to <http://www.nps.gov/training/tel/schedule.htm>

February 12th
"Recruiting for the National Park Service"

1:00 - 4:00pm ET
Course Code: NPS-ADM6620
This program helps recruiters with tools, techniques and additional training sources that will allow them to conduct improved, coordinated and effective recruitment efforts that are consistent with law, policy, and the directions of the senior management of the National Park Service.

February 18th
"Legal Update"

12:30 - 4:30pm ET
Course Code: NPS-LAW2000
These sessions feature updates on current legal issues from recent court decisions affecting commissioned employees as well as reviews of legal standards affecting law enforcement. Details for a specific broadcast can be found on the NPS Law Enforcement Training Center website.

February 19th
"Handy Tips for Dealing With Electronic Records"

1:30 - 4:30pm
Course Code: NPS-ADM6642
Nearly all employees of the NPS create and receive electronic records, but most do not know what to do with them. This TEL broadcast provides guidance on how to identify Federal records in an electronic format and provides suggestions for the economical and efficient management of these valuable resources. Particular attention will be given to managing electronic email and other records that most employees create and re-

ceive in the course of their daily work.

February 20th
"Law Enforcement Refresher"

12:30 - 3:30pm ET
Course Code: NPS-LAW2010
This course will cover a variety of topics dealing with law enforcement. Each session will have a different topic. Because of changing schedules and availability of instructors, check the NPS Law Enforcement Training Center website for the topics to be covered during each session.

March 3rd
"Basics of Cemetery and Monument Care"

1:00 - 3:00pm ET
Course Code: NPS-HPS1022
Basics of Cemetery and Monument Care course will provide detailed information on the care and maintenance of historical monuments and grave markers similar to those found in cemeteries within the NPS. The course, to be offered by the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, will be taught with a combination of Powerpoint, video clips, and visuals of the speakers. The first portion of the course will cover an intro to cemetery maintenance care. This includes the importance of cemetery documentation and sample survey forms. The course continues with demonstrations of how to do long term maintenance plans for historic cemeteries, emphasizing settling priorities and long term goals. The is followed by discussions on deterioration mechanisms of stone types commonly found in cemeteries.



You might want to check out the L Funds when making a decision on how to invest your Thrift Savings Funds. It is a good way to diversity your account among the G, F, C, S and I Funds. The TSP will automatically rebalance each L Fund daily and following each quarter the investments in each L Fund will shift to a slightly more conservative mix. Also, experts will review the investment mixes periodically to be certain they are still appropriate. The exact funds where they place your funds will be determined by your 'time horizon'. Your 'time horizon' is the date you set to leave the Federal service and you think you will need the money in your TSP.



Make certain that even if the date has not expired on your Bank of America charge card you do NOT use it! DOI no longer has a contract with Bank of America and you must now only be using your JPMorgan Chase cards for purchases or travel.



Please make certain to double check your Leave and Earning statements in the new year to verify that all of your deductions are correct.

Until next time.....*julie*

Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all others.

- *Winston Churchill*

Mating Bald Eagles

By DENNIS CURRY



These American Bald Eagles were spotted on the Cumberland Island beach mating on January 10th. After I shot this still, I was able to capture this event on film with my HD video camera. This enabled a preservation of an event that very few will ever witness in this life. I waited 2 years to get any images of these eagles and they provided much more than I ever could have hoped to capture.



A Familiar Face



Jennifer Flynn

You might have noticed a new face around these parts recently. Her name is Jennifer Flynn and she has served as our Acting Superintendent from November to January. Jennifer Flynn is the Program Manager for Basic Academy Law Enforcement Training for the National Park Service at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Brunswick, GA. She is currently enrolled in the USDA Graduate School Executive Potential Program.

Jennifer was born in Rochester, NY and grew up in Massachusetts. She graduated from Holyoke Catholic High School and Mount Holyoke College with a BA in Environmental Studies.

Her current responsibility is to manage the National Park Service's Basic Law Enforcement Academy at the FLETC in Brunswick, GA. She manages the candidate selection, orientation and participation in the 19 week law enforcement academy. She serves as the agency representative on a multi-agency steering committee that reviews curriculum and policy issues relative to the 18 week FLETC land management academy, and directly coordinates, facilitates, and teaches sessions of the one week National Park Service specific training. She serves as the "de facto" supervisor for all conduct and performance issues that arise while students are on the FLETC campus.

Jennifer has worked for the National Park Service for 17 years in five national parks. She started her career at Cape Cod National Seashore, Massachusetts and has served as a ranger in Yosemite National Park, California; The Natchez Trace National Parkway, Mississippi; and Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona. Her last field assignment before going to the FLETC was as the Chief Ranger of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, West Virginia. Jennifer has worked in the Visitor and Resource Protection Division of the Nation Park Service her entire career. She has served as a federal law enforcement officer, an EMT-Intermediate, structural firefighter, wildland firefighter, high angle search and rescue technician, swift water rescue technician, jailer, dispatcher and fee manager. She is an Operations Chief on the National Park Service Incident Management Team and has responded to incidents including Hurricane Katrina in Everglades National Park, Florida; Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Presidential visits, Fourth of July at Mount Rushmore, South Dakota; and other planned events.

Her proudest accomplishment is her marriage to her husband Mike Flynn, also a park ranger, and the family they have with their three children, Connor, Mary and Michael Seamus.

Museum Curator Participates in Historic Guadalupe Mountains National Park Event

By JOHN MITCHELL

In October, 2008, I traveled to Guadalupe Mountains National Park to participate in the 150th anniversary of the Butterfield Overland Mail. The event celebrated the first successful overland mail route between St. Louis, Missouri and San Francisco, California in the history of the United States, a stagecoach route covering 2,975 miles.

Over 600 people attended the 3-day celebration. During the event, I gave more than a dozen interpretive presentations on the history of the overland mail. I also provided interpretation of Pine Springs Station, the site of the original home mail station in Guadalupe Mountains. In addition to this, I developed a PowerPoint presentation for park interpreters to use after the event ended.

My involvement dates back to the early 1990's when I worked at the park in interpretation and research of the Butterfield Overland Mail. It was during this time I discovered a fascination with early stagecoach operations in the United States. My work there did not go unnoticed, as the Superintendent made an official request for my participation in the anniversary celebration. Being name requested and my ultimate involvement in this project was a great honor.



Cumberland Island N.S. Curator John Mitchell answering questions from visitors attending the 150th Butterfield Overland Mail anniversary.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Archeological Field Work at St. Andrews Site

By JOHN FRY



SEAC archeological investigation, Fort St. Andrew, Summer 2007

Beginning in late March, archeologists from the NPS Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) will be in the park for approximately three weeks to conduct field work at the site of Fort St. Andrews.

The Colonial-era outpost was one of two British installations built within a 5-year span on Cumberland Island during that period to counter the Spanish presence in Florida. The archeological work is part of a mitigation project that will include data collection (excavation, collection, and documentation of artifacts), data analysis, report production, and preservation of recovered materials and associated records. Any features associated with the fort will be completely excavated and mapped.

The project is necessary due to severe and insurmountable erosion conditions along the bluff where the remnant fort is located. Erosion rates along the back side of the island are as much as 1-meter annually and the area of the fort is subject to gradual wearing as well as sudden, massive slides. It had been feared that Fort St. Andrews may have been completely lost to nearly 270 years of erosion. However, recent archeological investigations indicate that significant features do remain, although they are certainly in imminent danger of being lost. Field work by SEAC in the summer of 2007, disclosed numerous period artifacts as well as intact architectural elements of the fort. Alarming, these materials were discovered within two feet of a section of the bluff that recently underwent major slumping.



Gun flint - Fort St. Andrews, circa 1740's

This next step of archeological mitigation will recover the full range of significant archeological information that otherwise would be lost to erosion. It will also likely provide a wealth of information and material for study and interpretation of this little explored period of Cumberland Island history.



Hand-blown, hand-tooled bottle top - Fort St. Andrews, circa 1740's

Mid-Winter Waterbird Survey Conducted

By DOUG HOFFMAN



The Red Knots are one of the 35 different species surveyed on the island. The annual mid-winter waterbird survey was conducted on January 16th. This survey, coordinated by the Georgia DNR's non-game conservation section, is conducted each year on all the barrier islands. When the survey started years ago, the initial goal was to count and record locations of the federally endangered Piping Plover. It has since grown into a count of numerous bird species that are not only important to the Georgia coast, but the entire Atlantic Coast and beyond. A dedicated group of birding experts are assembled from across the state to conduct the survey. This year's results for Cumberland recorded a total of 25,833 individual birds representing 35 different species. The lack of development and human disturbance plays a major role in the attractiveness of our beach to birds, resulting in consistently high counts and species diversity each year.

Maintenance Division

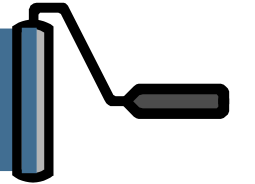
By DAVID CASEY

Fresh Paint



Dungeness Dormitory

Recent painting work on several contracts have been completed on the Captains House, Dungeness Dormitory, Staff Quarters, Dairy Managers House and the Black Barracks. The buildings were last painted ten years ago by a seasonal NPS day labor work force. Next on the agenda for these structures will be roof shingle replacement. Just in case you did not know, all buildings in the Dungeness area were once Five V crimp metal, until the NPS changed over to wood in the mid 1970's.



Restoration of Dungeness Carriage House

Dungeness Carriage House Exterior Restoration Project is on tap for funding through the repair rehab funding program in FY 2009/2010. The Dungeness Carriage House is over 100 years old. Examination of some of the exterior underlayment reveals that the exterior façade was originally lap siding which was used on the majority of buildings constructed in that period on the Island including the Plum Orchard, Greyfield and Serendipity Carriage houses. The existing lap siding is covered with stucco material and metal lath. The stucco is cracked, failing and wicking up moisture out of the ground. The metal lath in turn is exposed to moisture and is exfoliating at a rate that causes continual fragmentation of the stucco and therefore needs to be removed. Leaving the stucco as is would be detrimental to the structural integrity of the building by accelerating rot, decay and termite habitat.



Dungeness Carriage House

