



The Mullet Wrapper

The official newsletter
of Cumberland Island National Seashore
September through November 2006



Dunghness Ruins as seen from the air, NPS Photo

Letter from the Superintendent

We have just closed out another year in the short history of Cumberland Island as a national park. I would like to thank the employees and friends of the park for their hard work protecting the park resources, while providing the visitors with a safe and enjoyable experience.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Editor:

Justin Helton
Administrative Assistant

The coming year will be busy with many new challenges and opportunities on the horizon. I look forward to working with everyone as we endeavor to protect this national treasure for future generations, and improve the quality of the visitors' experience. Phase II of the restoration of Plum Orchard will be completed and we will attempt to negotiate a contract or historic lease that will produce enough revenue to maintain the historic district and make it more accessible to visitors. Stabilization of Dunghness Ruins will begin in February 2007. This project will halt the deterioration of the ruins, provide interpretive media, and allow visitors more access to the site. We will complete the Transportation Management Plan, and follow that up with implementation efforts.

Again I would like to thank everyone for their support, and I am looking forward to a safe and productive year for Cumberland Island.



Jerre Brumbelow
Superintendent

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

THANKSGIVING Luncheon

November 21, 2006 ♦ YCC Kitchen



Photos by: Justin Helton

Table Decorations by: Ginger Hollingsworth-Cox

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Ranger DIVISION

As many of you know Cumberland Island NS hosts 6 hunts each year. These hunts are very popular and require a lottery type drawing to select the participants from the numerous applications. While most of the hunters are from Georgia and Florida they have come from as far as Minnesota. Many of the hunters return each year while a few have been attending for over 20 years. The hunts are designed to help maintain a healthy herd of deer and reduce the number of feral hogs.



Hunters camp out with their own gear.

The hunters camp near Plum Orchard or Brickhill. They arrive on the island by ferry or private boat, bringing all their camping and hunting equipment with them. The hunts are five days. The first day is setting up camp and scouting out the area. The second, third and fourth days are for hunting and the fifth day is breaking camp and departing the island. All hunters agree the Cumberland Island hunt is difficult due to the effort in getting their gear to the island and the amount of walking during the hunt, but they also agree the effort is well worth it because

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of the beauty, diversity, and wildness of the island.



Scott Layfield with his 3 1/2 year old 8 point.

This year has seen many improvements at hunt camp. A cooperative effort between park

personnel, contractors and volunteers have replaced the old hunt “shack” with a new cabin. Volunteers from Warren Wilson College with park carpenter Fred Forbes built a 14’ by 24’ deck onto the cabin. The students also built 10 benches for the deck and rest areas along trails.



The deck has already been used to give hunters an evening slide program about the history of the island. The hunters are enjoying the new facilities and are very appreciative of the Park Service in allowing the hunts to continue.

With the new facilities hunt camp will also be used to host Scout Troops. Troops willing to volunteer and work on projects such as clearing trails, beach cleanups, and removing exotic vegetation will be able to utilize the facilities at hunt camp. We already have two troops scheduled for hunt camp this spring. If you are involved in scouting and interested in volunteering call Dennis Parsons at 912-882-4336-258 for information.

-Dennis Parsons
Chief Ranger

VOLUNTEER!

Volunteers have supported park operations in nearly every division. Significant accomplishments this year include CUIS hosting a teacher workshop in which volunteers served as curriculum specialists, provided logistics support, served as chief cook and bottle washers, provided digital imaging, copied, collated and bound curriculum guides, taught educational modules, crafted



Trail crews "ready and willing" to begin

activities, and served as liason with schools. Four college crews volunteered this year with three as part of Alternative Spring Break Crews, clearing over 15 miles of trails and removing fence and other debris removed from the wilderness. Another college group of Volunteers contributed substantially by creating two new interpretive programs, building a mock archeological dig, covering 150 historic books with archival paper, and creating a volunteers in parks



volunteers do the "dirty work" of an archaeological excavation

exhibit. Volunteers served in museum operations by staffing the museum and constructing museum exhibits. Volunteers also contributed over 450 man hours in the Great American Clean-up and Keep America Beautiful events. Overall, VIP's assist by conducting annual visitor use surveys, staffing the mainland museum, conducting fire and safety inspections, building museum exhibits, creating and conducting educational activities, cleaning historic buildings, cutting grass, removing invasive plants, facilitating interpretive programs, providing GPS coordinates for invasive plant locations, as well as old fence lines, and large trash items. They also do numerous beach and trail clean-ups, assist in bird and horse counts, and work on special projects related to interpretation.

"Tuesday Training" coming in Jan. and Feb.

Take advantage of some interesting training opportunities coming up every Tuesday in Jan and Feb. This years schedule includes North End Historic Tours, Trip on DNR Research Vessel, Session on Archaeology, Interpretation and Resource Protection, Inventory and Monitoring, Varied Dockside programs, Guided Age, Emergency First Responder etc. Schedule is being finalized and will be posted ASAP.

"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them something more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it."

- President Lyndon B. Johnson, on the signing of the Wilderness Act of 1964

-Ginger Hollingsworth-Cox

THE RUINS OF DUNGENESS

By John Wright III

Where the dark wood meets the sunlit shores, there the
haunting world of secrets begins.

The winds of Cumberland whisper at night
Stark chimneys faint memories caress
Time passes slowly to the rhythms of tides
In the Ruins of Dungeness

Murmuring sounds betray ghosts of the past
Air tinged of Myrtle, sweet Jasmine and Bay
Mingle 'neath shadows by great Live Oaks cast
Tireless winds sweep all footprints away.

Saw grasses sway by tannin stained pools
Birds flitter among the moss festooned trees
Skimmers and Curlews on diamond shores play
Resurrection ferns now cling to my dreams

Wild roses climb once resplendent grand walls
Which echo of soft voices and laughter
Palmettos now grow in gardens once tilled
Only Love endures 'til the hereafter.

Green cloaked subdued was this apparition
Long ago grandeur now barely to see
By degrees mankind's works rendered lowly
Naught but God's purpose reigns eternally

And the winds of Cumberland whisper at night
Stark chimneys faint memories caress
Time passes slowly to the rhythms of tides
In the Ruins of Dungeness

Three decades ago in silence I came
To find life pristine to seek purity
To live the deep mystery look upon truth
On Cumberland's shores was I destined to be

In ancient magnolias did bright Warblers sing
Mellifluous sounds pierced its green canopy
In sun dappled branches sweet nameless hymns
The sounds and the color of God's symphony

Marsh grasses rippled the Fiddler Crabs filed
Along tidal creeks where Herons kept watch
The seas, the forests, the sands had beguiled
My soul's deepest corners awakened and
touched

My heart and mind were soil to be tended
In that deep fertile earth that garden divine
They grew like serpentine flowering tendrils
That reached toward the sun, toward beauty
sublime

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Now I walk once again beneath these same
trees
For years I have searched and still wisdom I
seek
Susurrus leaves my heart hears them calling
Not yet yields my passion to Death's dreamless
sleep

The song of wild places ethereal muse
Fill this cathedral with heavenly sounds
Though bricks and grey mortar crumble
through time
Mortality's chill withers not sacred ground.

What then is given to Man in his days
To build up great temples tall mountains to
climb
To master earth's forces to conquer the sea
To re-channel rivers wage war upon Time

A worn path now leads through the cradling earth
Past the transient works of Man ne'er to trust
I'd live with the sands the waves and the trees
And leave far behind the empires of dust

And the winds of Cumberland whisper at night
Stark chimneys faint memories caress
Times passes slowly to the rhythms of tides
In the Ruins of Dungeness

October 1, 2006

Note on the poem's author:

John Wright is an architectural designer. He resided in Georgia for twenty years and studied philosophy at the University of Georgia. He and his family reside in New Jersey. John has been visiting Cumberland Island for over thirty years.

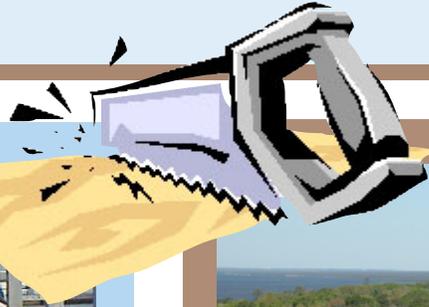
Maintenance Division



The Bachlott-Merrow-Peebles House now has a sign! After two years in the making, the sign has arrived and been installed. Thanks to Richard Hagford for constructing the stands and to Mickey Bosworth and Fred Forbes for a job well done on the installation.



Fred Forbes and Richard Hagford measures the distance.



The St. Marys Visitor Center is receiving a new look to help maintain a more historic appearance on the waterfront. Mickey hand fabricated the pickets that he and Rick will be installing over the next couple of days.. After completion of the railings the decking will also have been replaced.



Dungeness Ruins Stabilization project is a reality and will start in the Spring of 2007. It was awarded to Enola Contracting out of Chipley Florida. Initially the project will involve carefully removing visible vegetation throughout the mansion without disturbing the structural stability. The general intent of the project is to stabilize the remaining ruins.

-David Casey, Facility Manager



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Stay Alert in the Work Zone!!!

Heavy equipment safety - what does that have to do with you? Plenty, if you work at construction sites.

Mobile machines such as backhoes, front-end loaders, compactors and cranes take a great deal of training, planning and skill to operate safely. But even staying safe in the vicinity of this equipment is something that takes attention and effort. Many pedestrians and motorists have been killed in collisions with heavy equipment.

One reason for these incidents is that most heavy machines have a blind spot where the operators cannot see some of their surroundings. The person on foot or in an automobile may assume the operator knows he is there. Then the heavy machine moves or turns unexpectedly and the passerby doesn't stand a chance.

When an unauthorized person is near heavy machinery, there is also the chance of being struck by the load. Many fatalities have occurred when the load fell from a crane or loader onto a person beneath. Never walk under an elevated load, and always wear the required hardhat if you work in

these zones. A swinging hook on a hoist or debris falling from above can cause a fatal head injury.

There is also the chance of getting caught between two pieces of heavy equipment or in a pinchpoint



such as that created when an articulated loader turns.

Never hitch a ride on heavy equipment. Authorized passengers ride only if there is a seat and seat belt for them. Never ride on any part of the equipment not designed for human occupancy. A loader bucket or

a hoist on a crane is not a safe substitute for a proper personlift.

If you work around heavy equipment, know the correct hand signals to direct equipment. The operator must take direction only from the designated signalperson, but must respond to an emergency stop signal from any worker on the ground.

During refueling of heavy equipment, stop all engines in the vicinity and do not smoke. Do not do any work, such as welding, cutting or grinding which could ignite fuel vapors.

Be alert to backup alarms, but never rely on them to keep you from being struck or run over.

Operators and bystanders should remain aware that the danger zone of heavy equipment includes the area reached by any attachment or by the load itself.

-Safety Smart

Your EAP is Here to Help!

Remember, your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is always available to help you or your dependents with any type of personal, family or work-related concern. All EAP services are FREE and strictly CONFIDENTIAL. Contact the EAP at 800-869-0276 or securely access services on-line by visiting our website at www.eapconsultants.com, then go to the

Member Access page and click on Request EAP Services.



Coastfest



Kids discover Cumberland Island off-site at the annual Coast Fest event in October. This family event is sponsored by

Georgia DNR and is attended by over 7000 people. Numerous resource stewardship agencies provide inspiration and education about our incredible coastal resources. Families enjoyed entertainment, interactive exhibits, live animal demonstrations, take home information, reenactments, and much more.

32nd Annual Frank F. Kowski Memorial Golf Tournament



On October 26th, Cumberland Island National Seashore participated in the the 32nd annual Frank F. Kowski

Memorial Golf Tournament. There was a total of 10 participants which raised a total of \$88.00 to be donated to the Education Trust Fund of the Employees and Alumni Association of the National Park Service. Thank you to all who participated.



Willys-Overland-Knight Registry

The WOKR (Willys-Overland-Knight-Registry) serves enthusiasts throughout the world who are interested in the preservation and restoration of these vehicles powered by sleeve-valve engines. The WOKR is incorporated as a nonprofit organization from the State of North Carolina.

The Dixie Chapter (the southeastern states) meets twice annually for fellowship and a tour hosted by a local member. The Fall of 2006 was St. Marys and Cumberland Island; Spring 2006 was Crystal River, FL. On this tour, in addition to touring Cumberland Island and St Marys, the chapter drove as far south as Jacksonville, FL; drove thru St George and Amelia Island, and participated in a vehicle display at Fernandina Beach. The Dixie Chapter of WOKR had a great time and enjoyed the hospitality.



-Jerre Brumbelow
Superintendent

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Horse Barrier Constructed at Water Wheel



The new horse barrier in place at the Dungeness water wheel.

The old water wheel behind the Dungeness ruins has seen its share of visitors over the years. While most visitors have been tourists an occasional horse decides to get a closer look at the wheel. During recent years several horses have wandered into the structure through the narrow entrance and subsequently fallen into the water pit. Through the construction of makeshift earthen ramps and friendly persuasion personnel were able to coax the animals safely out of the pit. Earlier this fall the Resource Management and Maintenance Divisions worked together to construct a barrier similar to the ones in place in front of the Tabby House. Rick Hagford (Maintenance) provided the necessary masonry skills to design and construct tabby footings to match the existing walls surrounding the water wheel. With the barrier in place hopefully the horses will enjoy the wheel from a distance.

Resource Management Division Conducts Monthly Work Days

Earlier this year the Resource Management staff began incorporating division work days into their monthly schedules. A day is set aside each month for all members of the division to work together on a common project dealing with cultural and natural resources on the island.

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A different staff member is responsible for identifying the project each month. While the division has three permanent employees, we were able to involve the turtle techs and several temporary technicians during the summer. Some notable projects that have been undertaken thus far include relocating cultural artifacts from the



Resource Management staff John Fry and John Mitchell work to dismantle remains of the shrimp boat at South Cut.

Carpenter's Shed to the second floor of the Carriage House for better protection, and the dismantling and removal of a large section of shrimp boat that had been on the beach at South Cut for several months. Most recently, RM staff lent a hand as Maintenance surgically removed a massive dead tree that posed a serious hazard to one of the Stafford chimneys.

-Doug Hoffman
Wildlife Biologist



Mickey Bosworth operates the man-lift as Jeff Lewis saws off a chunk of dead tree, with Fred Forbes on the ground operating a guide-line to direct and swing the falling log away from the chimney.

Administration

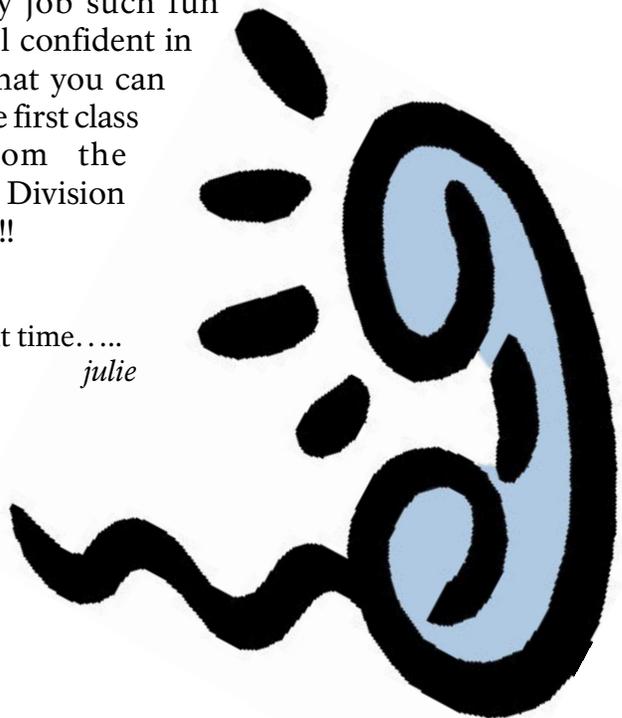
Our Division has seen some major changes this year. Our Budget Technician **Mary Jones** transferred to the Kings Bay Submarine Base in September and **Gary Head** replaced her. Gary worked with budgets for the US Navy during his 23-year career and was able to easily utilize previous knowledge and had no problems adapting to the fiscal regulations of the National Park Service. He has also been doing a great job with PMIS. He is a welcome addition to our staff! He took over the administration of the Employee's Association and has been keeping all the refreshments well stocked. Thanks, Gary!

Purchasing Agent **Larry Pilcher** has decided to take a position with the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia. It is sad for our park that Larry is leaving but he is getting a promotion so who can blame him? We all wish him well but will miss his wonderful sense of humor and great work ethic. Larry's family lives in Albany and so he will be right at home there but he promises to keep in touch! Thanks for the memories, Larry.

Administrative Assistant **Justin Helton** was converted from a SCEP appointment to Career Conditional status in June. Justin is now our GPRA Coordinator and is our resident computer expert. AND... because of Justin's expertise there is a *Mullet Wrapper* of this caliber!

As 2007 begins, I thank my lucky stars to have such a stellar staff working in Administration. My heartfelt thanks to them for making my job such fun every day. I feel confident in assuring you that you can expect the same first class assistance from the Administrative Division again next year!!

Until next time.....
julie



Hints from Helton

We now have network connection on the island. For those who have not already heard the news, this means that one can access all shared files via the network (i.e. - the "I" drive, your "H" drive, etc.). Also, now that all island computers are connected to the network they also have access to all of the network printers. I would like to take this opportunity to remind those employees who now have network access of the following:

1. Please remember to log off the computer once you are finished. If you do not, this allows those who come after you to assume your network identity. It is essential that you protect our network security and your network identity by practicing this step after each use.

2. In the previous issue, I advised you of a way to lock your computer while you are away from your desk.

This is achieved by:

1. Right clicking on your desktop.
2. Click on "Properties".
3. Click on the "Screen Saver" tab.
4. Find where it says "Wait", which is approximately in the middle of the Properties window.
5. Ensure that the box is checked next to "On resume, password protect".
6. Click "OK".

This step is also essential in protecting our network security as well as your network identity.

-Justin Helton
Administrative Assistant

Quote Corner:

"Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work."

-Aristotle

Upcoming TELNPS Courses:

January 23rd
1:00-4:00pmET

"Managing Electronic Records in the NPS"

Course Code: NPS-ADM6640

Last Day to Register: Jan. 21

This broadcast includes an overview of basic principles of records management (how to identify records, understanding basic maintenance of records for active use and disposition) and a more in-depth discussion of how to organize and maintain electronic records for active use and then long-term storage and use.

January 25th

Times 12:30-4:30pmET

"Accident Investigation: Getting to "Why?" So You Prevent "It Happened Again!" "

Course Code: NPS-RSK6350

Last Day to Register: Jan. 21

Accident investigations are an essential component of a comprehensive safety program. Using a combination of web-based media, on-site activities and interactive television, this course provides participants with the basic knowledge and skills they need to plan and conduct an investigation, analyze the data gathered, make recommendations and prepare a final report related to the accident.

February 15th
1:00-3:00pmET

"Retirement Planning for New Employees"

Course Code: NPS-UNC6300

Last Day to Register: Feb. 11

This training is designed to enable employees who are just beginning their careers to plan prudently for their retirement.

February 23rd
12:30-4:30pmET

"Deciding to Keep Wilderness Wild: Four Cornerstones for Wilderness Management"

Course Code: NPS-VRP3301

Last Day to Register: Feb 19

The overall objectives are to list several resource management principles and emphasize those which are unique to wilderness management, know as the four cornerstones for wilderness managers: 1. Manage Wilderness as a Whole 2. Preserve Wilderness and Natural Conditions; 3. Protect Wilderness Benefits; 4. Provide and Use the Minimum Necessary.

March 19th
12:30-4:30pmET

"Congratulations, You're the Collateral Duty Safety Officer(CDSO)"

Course Code: NPS-RSK6250

Last Day to Register: Mar. 19

This workshop provides an overview of the OSHA standards that apply to parks and how the CDSO can work with others at the park to help prevent employee injuries and illnesses.





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