



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cumberland Island National Seashore
101 Wheeler Street
St. Marys, GA 31558



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Brewster Victoria Carriage

By JOHN MITCHELL

Recently the conservation project on the Brewster Victoria Carriage was successfully completed, with last minute adjustments to the front axle and installation of the front wheels. To say this carriage has led a unique existence would be an understatement. She had been on the second-floor of the Carriage House for over a hundred years, still bearing the packing paper placed on her when she was retired to storage. Without wheels, and missing an axle she has waited patiently. Now that her facelift is complete, as layers of old deteriorated coatings have been removed, axles acquired, and wheels manufactured, she has joined the other Carnegie Carriages on exhibit in the mainland museum.



Brewster Victoria Carriage fully restored to its former glory.

This carriage is unique for another reason as well; she bears the monogram "LWC" for Louisa Whitfield Carnegie, the wife of Andrew Carnegie. Why Louisa's Victoria came to be on Cumberland Island is purely conjecture, and only extensive research will be able to decisively answer the question. Suffice-it-to-say, Andrew and Louisa visited Dungeness and stayed for extended visits, and sometimes the simplest answer is the most accurate.

Victoria Carriages were very popular among wealthy families in both England and America during the nineteenth century. Brewster & Company was an American coach builder, active from 1810-1937. It is said by many that Brewster Carriages bear "the mark of exceptional quality." This carriage is an excellent example of the coach builder's art, and proudly bears the company slogan adopted in 1883 "Carriage Builder for the American Gentleman."

Park News

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The Mullet Wrapper



The official newsletter of
Cumberland Island National Seashore
June through September 2011

Chief Ranger Dennis Parsons (far right), Park Guides Sarah Cote (far left) and Alexander Altwater pose with the first tour of the Lands and Legacies tour that started on August 11th. (NPS Photo)

Letter From The Superintendent

By FRED BOYLES

August 11th was an exciting day for the Seashore. After years of planning, bureaucratic wrangling and logistical minutia, the Lands and Legacies Tour began. Ten visitors from Georgia, Florida and Virginia embarked on the inaugural voyage to the north end. It was exciting for me to meet the folks when they returned back to Sea Camp and share their enthusiasm about the trip. The day before, we took four newspaper reporters and a television crew on the same trip. Their reporting created a splash for the program and we now have bookings into March. Since then, we have done more promoting of the program and hope to generate more media interest in the near future.

The program started small. There has been one tour per day for up to 10 people. On October 9th we added a second tour that will allow us to double that capacity. It will be a long time before we get to the five tours offered daily, but at least we are heading in that direction.

Many of us worried, or I should say obsessed, about what could go wrong. Most of those worries have proven to be unfounded. Sure, there will be problems, but thus far they have been manageable and minimal.

The South End Shuttle has not been as popular. Riders on the free, unscheduled service have been spotty at best. However,

that can best be explained by the time of year (August and September) when visitation drops. We will keep offering the service to see how it goes as visitation picks up in the Fall.

Our small, but hard charging crew of Park Guides, is giving great tours. Many park staff and volunteers have worked for years to make this accomplishment possible, but there is one person who was especially responsible for this success. Chief Ranger Dennis Parsons has doggedly pursued this goal for seven years to make this interpretive program possible. Although many have contributed to the success of the Lands and Legacies Tours, Dennis has been its Champion.

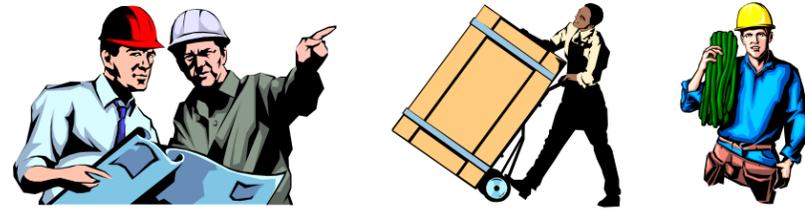


Fred Boyles
Superintendent

Safety Corner

By JAMES OWENS

Afterthoughts and Regrets...



How often have you said or done something and then later, reflecting on your action, thought to yourself, "How should I have done that?" Here are some afterthoughts which, unfortunately, too many of us have experienced:

- "That's how we've always done it before." (...before the accident occurred anyway.)
- "I never thought that a little bolt dropped from that distance would cause so much bleeding." (I should have worn a hard hat, I guess.)
- "If I had taken that first-aid/CPR course, I probably could have helped him." (...and chances are, he would still be here.)
- "I should have taken care of that board with the projecting rusty nails earlier." (Now, I have to take off work to get a tetanus shot.)
- "Wow, I never realized that a fire could get out of control so fast." (If I'd called the fire department before trying to put it out myself, I might still have a place to work tomorrow.)
- "I know they were always preaching that we should lift with the leg muscles instead of the back muscles." (What the heck is a herniated disk?)
- "I should have worn my steel toe boots." (That deep cut in the toe section ruined my new shoes, and this broken toe still hurts.)
- "My safety glasses were in the tool box, but I was just going to grind off this one little piece..." (I wonder if they'll still let me drive with only one eye?)
- "We were only going to use the scaffold for one day. I never thought a hammer would fall off the plank and strike someone." (I had a hunch I should have taken the time to install the toe boards.)
- "They always insisted that the tool rest should be no more than one-eighth inch from the grinding wheel. What difference does another quarter inch make?" (I was lucky not to go blind when the chisel got wedged and the wheel exploded into a thousand pieces.)

Any of this sound familiar? They say hindsight is the only perfect science-but foresight could have avoided these incidents, misfortunes and regrets. Learn from others' mistakes and you'll have no regrets!

2011-12 Hunt Dates

By DENNIS PARSONS

Archery	October 10, 11, 12 Hog and Deer	125 slots 14 and over
Primitive Weapon	November 7, 8, 9 Hog and Deer	100 slots 14 and over
Primitive Weapon	December 5, 6, 7 Hog and Deer	100 slots 14 and over
Adult/Child	December 18, 19, 20 Hog and Deer	50 slots 12 - 16
Modern Weapons	January 9, 10, 11 Hog only	100 slots 14 and over
Modern Weapons	January 23, 24, 25 Hog only	100 slots 14 and over



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Cumberland Island National Seashore
101 Wheeler Street
St. Marys, Georgia 31558
www.nps.gov/cuis
cuis_superintendent@nps.gov

Park Visitor Center:
(912) 882-4336 ext.254
1-877-860-6787 (Reservations)

Park Headquarters:
(912) 882-4336

Graphic Designer:
Justin Helton
Administrative Support Assistant

Editorial Consultant:
Doug Hoffman
Wildlife Biologist

Welcome

By DENNIS PARSONS



Cumberland Island National Seashore would like to give warm welcome to several new employees: Park Guides Sarah Cote and Alexander Altvater, LE Park Ranger Shad Dusseau, and Park Guide STEP Student Barbara Cohea.



Sarah Cote is a New Hampshire native first imported to the southeast, St. Augustine, FL, in 1998. She graduated from University of West Florida and has worked a variety of environmental and recreational jobs in Georgia, New Hampshire, Montana and Oregon. She's excited to be back in this part of the country and part of the new transportation plan for her first National Park Service experience on Cumberland Island National Park Service.

Alexander Altvater

Alexander Altvater was born and raised in St. Louis, MO. He first became involved with the National Park Service as an SCA intern at Colonial NHP and Congaree NP. Both internships were completed while a student at Clemson University, where he graduated in 2009. After graduation Alexander became a seasonal Interpretation Ranger at Thomas Edison NHP and later held the same position at Cape Hatteras NS. He took a brief hiatus from the NPS to ski in Colorado last winter before arriving at Cumberland Island to be a part of the new transportation system.



Shad was born and raised on the West Coast and began his NPS tenure as a climbing ranger at Grand Teton National Park performing technical mountain rescues. Further travels led him to the North Cascades National Park as a back-country ranger and SAR specialist. A 4 year sailing adventure in a 28 foot sailboat across the Atlantic Ocean and into the Mediterranean Sea formed a break in NPS employment. Subsequently Shad returned to rangers as a Chief Ranger at Jordan Lake State Recreation Area for the North Carolina Park and Recreation Department. But the call of adventure was too strong to resist so he returned to the NPS at Alaska's Western Arctic National Parks Units (4 areas comprising 13 million acres of wilderness above the Arctic Circle) as the Park Pilot/Protection Ranger, followed by Cape Lookout National Seashore in North Carolina as the Law Enforcement Field Operations Supervisor. A lifelong sailor, Shad and his spouse Barbara Cohea live aboard their sailboat "Maya" and travel extensively when not working in some of the NPS's more remote and beautiful locations.

Barbara Cohea

Barbara worked for 6 years at Cape Lookout National Seashore in a variety of capacities ranging from on-island interpretive ranger to Outreach Education, Youth Intern Program, and Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Coordinator. Originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, she has lived and traveled around the world, and is a cruising sailor, photographer and writer.



Turtle Stats

By DOUG HOFFMAN



372 Nests
178 False Crawls
13 nests lost to Hurricane Irene
69% Hatch Success (percentage of eggs that hatched)
66% Emergence Success (percentage of hatchlings that make it out of the nest)
27,311 Hatchlings have emerged to make their way to the ocean
58 days average incubation period for all nests
108 eggs average clutch count for all nests
41 nests remain on the beach incubating at press time

2011 is the second highest year on record for CUIS. 2010 was the highest year with 486 nests.

The Maintenance Division Grows

By CARL DAVID

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome one of our newest employee's, Rezvon Hamrang, also known as Ray. Ray is filling the Facility Management Software System (FMSS) Network position. This position also assists Fort Frederica and Fort Pulaski with their FMSS data and quality control. Ray is coming to us from Vicksburg National Military Park in Vicksburg, Mississippi where he served as the FMSS Specialist. Prior to that he was employed by the Georgia Building Authority in Atlanta. He was born in Iran and raised in a family that belonged to the Bahai Faith considered heretics by the Iranian and Muslim authorities alike. To this day, since its founding in 1844, members of the Bahai Faith have been systematically persecuted in Iran. Upon graduating from high school, he was denied access to higher education because of his religion and that was the turning point for him to set out to the United States to achieve his hopes for a better life. The rest of his family escaped after the 1979 Iranian revolution to save their lives due to threats by the local revolutionary guards, which later became known as the Basij militia group.



FMSS Specialist Ray Hamrang

His parents, already in their sixties, came to the United States as refugees. Excited with their newly acquired freedoms, they learned English, memorized the entire U.S. Constitution by heart and passed the citizenship test on their first try. Ray feels that the highlights of his life are meeting his wife in China, the birth of their son, becoming a U.S. citizen and being able to freely go to college.

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THANKSGIVING Luncheon

Tuesday, November 22, 2011 ♦ YCC Kitchen

Who: All Staff, Volunteers & Family

What: Pot Luck Luncheon

When: Tuesday, November 22nd
at Noon

Where: YCC Kitchen

How: RSVP to Justin @
(912) 882-4336 x226
by Nov. 18th

Landbird Community Monitoring

By MIKE BYRNE

Birds are an important component of park communities and their ecological position in most food webs allows them to be good indicators of local and regional ecosystem changes. Long-term trends in the community composition, relative abundance, distribution, and occurrences of breeding-bird populations provide a measure for assessing the ecological integrity and sustainability in southeastern systems. Further, long-term patterns in community composition, relative abundance, distribution, and occurrences in relation to current management practices will improve our ability to implement effective management strategies in the future.

More than 950 birds representing 50 species were detected at Cumberland Island National Seashore during surveys in 2010. Carolina Wren, Northern cardinal, Northern pama, and white-eyed vireo were detected at 90% or more of sampling locations and were the most widely distributed species. No non-native species were detected. Several priority species were detected during the sampling effort including Acadian flycatcher, black vulture, brown-headed nuthatch, Chuck-will's-widow, common moorhen, Eastern towhee,

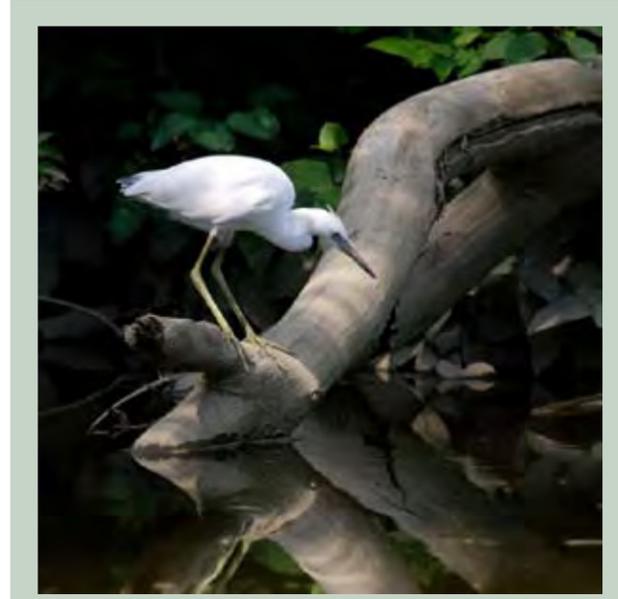


Figure 1. Juvenile little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*) was a priority species detected at CUIS in 2010. Photo by Katherine Whittemore.

Eastern wood pewee, hooded warbler, little blue heron (Figure 1), Northern pama, pine warbler, prairie warbler, redbellied woodpecker, red-shouldered hawk, snowy egret, summer tanager, white-eyed vireo, and yellow-throated warbler.

Data were collected at 30 spatially-balanced random locations throughout the Seashore (Figure 2). An adapted variable circular plot (VCP) technique was used with distance estimation to survey bird communities. Survey locations were visited two times during the breeding season, at least three weeks apart, in order to detect migrants and breeders that arrive at different times of the year.

Bird surveys were conducted at the center point of each location (Figure 2) beginning at 5:30 a.m. and continuing until 11:00 a.m. from April - June. This time period was selected to maximize the detection of bird species that breed within the park and also detect some migrants.

All detections, auditory or visual, resident or migrant, breeder or non-breeder, and flyovers, regardless of distance detected from the observer, were counted and recorded. All detections were made via auditory cues or visual observations with binoculars.

Species accumulation curves indicated that the sample size adequately characterized species diversity at the Seashore.



Figure 2. Spatial-balanced sampling locations at Cumberland Island National Seashore, 2010.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

First African Baptist Church Pews

By JOHN FRY

Beginning this winter the park's carpenters will begin removing pews from the First African Baptist Church to create reproductions of each individual pew. The existing historic pews have deteriorated significantly due to insect infestations and long-term weathering, and need to be relocated to the protective, controlled environment of the mainland curatorial facility. The pews will be removed in pairs, used as models for making the reproductions, the reproductions will then be placed in the church, and then another pair removed until the transition has been completed. Once in curatorial the historic pews will receive some initial stabilization work and eventually more detailed treatment for long-term preservation, with some of the pews being placed on exhibit on the mainland and island.



Wildland Fire

By JOHN FRY

Despite the continuing drought in Southeast Georgia and the extremely dry conditions on the island, wildland fire activity has been relatively quiet on Cumberland. Two small fires were ignited from lightning strikes, with both being quickly contained and controlled. The June 18, Dune Fire burned less than a tenth of an acre in the dune field just south of the North Cut Beach Crossing. After a quick flare-up the July 29, Tortoise Fire on the south end of the island held to approximately a quarter of an acre. While both fires were limited in scope they did provide some good insight for new Fire Management Officer, Ody Anderson. In addition to getting his feet on the ground here at Cumberland Island and beginning to shape the fire program, Ody has been called out on two fire assignments to West Texas and an assignment to the Honey Prairie Fire over at Okefenokee. He also provided mutual aid to Camden County Fire & Rescue and the Georgia Forestry Commission on the 1200-acre Waverly Fire in Camden County.



Tortoise Fire, July 29th

SCA Conservation Crew Cleans Up Dungeness

By JOHN FRY

During a sweltering three weeks in June and July a Student Conservation Association, Conservation Crew tackled multiple rehabilitation projects in the Dungeness Historic District. Crew members came from as far and wide as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and California. Their primary accomplishment was the monumental clearing of debris from the ruins of the Dungeness Recreation Building. The crew removed by hand approximately 170 cubic yards of material from the site. They also trimmed away dense vegetation that had obscured a live oak which at one time supported the Carnegie-era tree house. Additional work included clean-up of debris and vegetation from along the lane to the Beach Creek Dock House, as well as thinning bamboo around the White Cottage Duck Pond.



2011 SCA Conservation crew; left to right: Marisa Gonzalez, Bennie Ehlers, Albert Seoh, Zach Knight, Rachel Eager, Courtney Sink, and crew leaders Emma Tome and Jarred Shaw.

Maintenance Division

By CARL DAVID

Uninvited Guests

The Bachlott House had some visitors that were planning on homesteading. We had reports of noises in the ceiling and wall area of one of the upstairs offices. Our first thought was a reoccurrence of the "bat" invasion that we had years ago (which as you know bats don't provide a pleasant aroma). We were relieved to find that the sounds were not bats but small birds. Mickey Bosworth came over and did some investigating to find out where they were entering the building. He found a small section of the soffit on the South side of the building to be pulled away. This was providing a nice nesting area for the group of birds. Mickey removed the damaged wood and would occasionally cover and uncover the hole to allow the birds to leave and prevent them from re-entering. He made the required repairs to the soffit and all is quiet at the Bachlott House.



Bachlott House soffit converted into bird nest.

Retained Rights Clean-up

In April of this year we hired two temporary employee's to assist the maintenance division in cleaning up and doing some minor, exterior repairs to a few of the retained rights homes that the park had previously acquired. Matt Laricos and Jim Osborne have been doing a great job with the whole project. Wayne Lagasse has been overseeing the project and making sure that materials, tools and all necessary equipment is on hand and ready. They have disposed of over 50,000 lbs of trash and debris and have also donated usable items that are in good condition to the local Habitat for Humanity. Thanks for your help.

Quote Corner

"My favorite things in life don't cost any money. It's really clear that the most precious resource we all have is time."
-Steve Jobs

Termites

In July, the park had an Entomologist from The University of Georgia come to do some visual inspections for evidence of termite activity at a couple of the structures on the island. Dr. Brian Forschler has been providing Cumberland Island with a very beneficial service for about ten years. He uses the Island as a classroom, bringing a few students with him to get valuable hands on training and also providing the park with inspections, treatments and a complete "Inspection and Action Plan" report. This would be a very costly endeavor to the park if Mr. Forschler wasn't willing to participate and give his time to something that he really seems to love to do.



Dr. Brian Forschler inspects the Tabby House for termites.