



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Other captions considered for the front page picture were:

On June 3rd, at 7:30am, this eight foot guy (or girl) decided to walk the streets of St. Marys. With the help of Doug Hoffman, John Fry, and some city workers, he was encouraged to go back to the St. Marys River. He did manage to pass through the Visitor Center and admire the exhibits.

"Hey, get back in that river and go back to Florida. That's where you Gator's belong," stated Doug Hoffman, Wildlife Biologist and part time Alligator Wrestler on June 3rd, when this eight footer decided to take a stroll in downtown St. Marys.

This park visitor arrived at the St. Marys waterfront ready to take the ferry to Cumberland Island early on the morning of June 3rd. He was sent packing because he did not have a reservation on the ferry.

At Cumberland Island, we follow the motto: "Safety First". However, John Fry and Doug Hoffman are questioning that our boat hooks are not long enough to be safe.

Snakeroot and Swallowtails: Hiding in Plain Sight!

By SARAH CORBETT

Few of us give a second glance to the diversity of insects that inhabit Cumberland Island. The insect diversity of Cumberland Island, however, is tremendous! Insight into the insects that are present can also give us insight into other flora and fauna that live and depend on our coastal jewel. Since last summer, Dr. Marc Minno and his wife Maria have visited Cumberland Island several times as part of an ongoing butterfly survey project. Marc and Maria are valued volunteers in this effort. In one of their trips last summer, Marc witnessed several Pipevine Swallowtails (Figure 1) fluttering about near the north end of the island. Marc wrote to me after observing the Pipevine Swallowtails, and asked me if I knew where Virginia snakeroot (*Aristolochia serpentaria*) may occur on the island. Both he and I scoured species accounts from the island, and found no evidence that Virginia snakeroot had ever been recorded. What does this plant have to do with butterflies?

Virginia snakeroot is the sole food source for the caterpillar of the Pipevine Swallowtail. Thus, even though snakeroot was not on any of the published species list for the island, Marc knew that it had to be present. On a return trip to the island, I accompanied Marc and Maria back to the north end near where he had observed the Pipevine Swallowtail adults. Almost immediately upon getting out of the vehicle, we witnessed several more adult butterflies. An intense search for the host plants began, with intern Casey Harris, myself, and Marc and Maria carefully searching the area. I had almost given up, when Marc pointed at the spot I was about to step and shouted, "There it is!" Sure enough, my foot was hovering over the tiny snakeroot plant. A tiny green shoot and a few leaves was all we could see (Figure 2), but it was a significant find! After developing a search image for the diminutive plant, we found about 5 plants in the surrounding area. Thus, not only did we add a beautiful butterfly to the park's species list, we also added an unusual plant to the species list! If you have any reason to venture to the north side of the island, look for the little plant with funny flowers and elongated heart-shaped leaves. . . . a Pipevine Swallowtail may be nearby! Also keep an eye out for the strange smoker's pipe-shaped flowers of Virginia snakeroot that will begin to bloom in May!

Steven Durren Photo, Bugguide.net, 2008



Figure 1. Adult Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*)



Figure 2. Virginia Snakeroot (*Aristolochia serpentaria*)

Park News

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This issue of the Mullet Wrapper is mostly about new employees, but this eight foot Gator is not new to the Park staff. In fact, he was a visitor to the Park's St. Marys Visitor Center on June 3rd until Wildlife Biologist Doug Hoffman, Resource Manager John Fry, and some city workers encouraged it back into the St. Marys River. (NPS Photo)

Letter From The Superintendent

By FRED BOYLES

One of the more challenging aspects of my job is hiring people. The process has gotten more complex than ever, making sure that you follow all the procedures and rules governing hiring. I have an overriding concern about being fair to all candidates. Hiring is also very time consuming with interviews, reference checks and reviewing stacks of documents. It is not unusual for a position to be vacant and it taking up to a year to fill the job. But in the end, you have to make a judgment about who will be the best person for the position that person is being hired for. A wise fellow Superintendent told me that he made it a policy to always hire the best possible candidate for every position. That is one piece of advice I have tried to follow. Our Division Chiefs and I work together to hire for all the positions that report directly to them. Our rule is that each Division Chief will consider all the eligible candidates and then come to me before making the offer to the best candidate. I ask them to justify their decision before the offer is made. In my 26 years of being a Superintendent, I have only overruled a Division Chief's hiring decision once and I lived to regret that decision.

I share all this to let folks know that the hires we make are a very deliberative and carefully considered process. This practice can be filled with surprises, such as a recent vacancy that had 40 applicants apply as opposed to others that

get only a few applicants. You can only hire a person who applies for the job. You can't hire Superman/Superwoman if he/she doesn't apply.

In looking at this Mullet Wrapper, there are lots of new faces on the team here at Cumberland Island and more are on the way. New people are the life blood of any organization. One of the great things about the National Park Service is that we have lots of movement and people bring new ideas from other parks and even other organizations. This is especially true when we hire folks new to the NPS. I hope you will join me in welcoming the new staff to the park to help us serve our visitors and take of the resources that make the Seashore so special.



Fred Boyles
Superintendent

Volunteer Spotlight

By MAGGIE TYLER

On Saturday May 14, the second annual International Migratory Bird Day Festival was held. The annual celebration raises awareness of issues faced by migratory birds. In addition participants learn about birds in general.

Twenty volunteers, including students from the Youth Engaged in Stewardship and Service program, set up and manned eight stations around the Laundry House area. Activities ranged from information on bird basics to binocular and field guide usage, to bird arts and crafts. Two stations demonstrated, through simulations, migration hazards and the impact on migrant populations. (We

are sorry to report the entire group of our visitor “migratory birds” died en route.) Although the rain dampened the afternoon activities, the visitors who participated in the morning were happy to learn new information in a fun, informal way. With visitors from all over the country, the knowledge imparted during their visit will hopefully extend beyond our boundaries and help other feathered friends, too.

Thank you to Brad and Sharon Bond, Bernie and Mary Huber, Chuck and Judy Molnar, Ed and Dianne Torgerson and all the Y.E.S.S. participants for their help in this celebration.



Bird Identification Board



Volunteers Bernie and Mary Huber assist students in practicing the use of their binoculars.

2011 Horse Count

By DOUG HOFFMAN



Thirty-three volunteers assisted with the annual Cumberland Island horse count this year. The 2-day event tallied 148 horses, which is higher than recent years' counts. However, the herd still appears to be stable in numbers.



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Smoke Inhalation

By JOSEPH DEVINE

“Due to the recent invasion of smoke from the local Georgia and Florida fires, I thought it appropriate to provide an article about the dangers of smoke inhalation. Please take heed of the following article and make sure to stay vigilant in checking yourself for symptoms of excessive smoke inhalation and seek medical assistance when necessary.” said Administrative Support Assistant Justin Helton.

Although most employers go to great lengths to make sure their employees operate in a safe and healthy environment, some industries and vocations require employees to be regularly exposed to health hazards like chemicals, heat, and smoke. Although the effects may take a while to truly develop into harmful symptoms, smoke inhalation is a serious issue and can severely affect an individual’s ability to perform the duties of his or her job.

Factory workers, firefighters, restaurant kitchen crews, hazardous clean-up crews, and other workers may be exposed to smoke on a daily basis and may suffer serious injuries as a result. While many employers attempt to provide a smoke-free environment for the workers in their employ, it may be difficult to completely prevent the inhalation of smoke in the workplace.

Common symptoms of smoke inhalation often include:

- Irritation of the lungs
- Eye, nose, and throat irritation
- Persistent cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Lack of energy and appetite

Persons who are suffering from the effects of smoke inhalation may experience mild symptoms at first that may worsen over time. They may continue to work without seeking medical attention and may eventually find that the symptoms prevent them from being able to perform the duties required by their employer.

If a worker is exposed to smoke for a long period of time, he or she may face serious health complications as a result. Many people complain of shortness of breath, lung problems, headaches and vertigo, and other health issues that may make it difficult to work. If a person finds himself or herself unable to work for a sustained period of time, he or she may be eligible for worker’s compensation from his or her employer.



Smoke has blanketed Cumberland Island National Seashore for the better half of two months.

Welcome

By FRED BOYLES

The park is pleased to welcome our new Fire Management Officer (FMO) Alton (Ody) Anderson. Ody started his career on the Stanislaus National Forest in 1990 as a wildlife biologist conducting Spotted Owl surveys and served part time on fire duty. He moved to the White River N. F. in Colorado in 1992 and worked seasonally as a Range Technician with fire responsibilities. While there he served as a saw squad boss on hand crews, worked on engines as needed and worked as a helicopter crew member with Rifle Interagency Helitack. In 2007 he became the Prescribed Fire and Fuels Specialist with the BLM still with the Upper Colorado Interagency Fire Management Unit in Glenwood Springs. In this position he planned and implemented all the hazardous fuels reduction for the Field Office and coordinated cross jurisdiction work with cooperators, landowners, and local governments. This work required a great deal of planning and effort to secure fire management funding.



Ody is sporting his flare gun on the Reservoir Gulch prescribed fire in Colorado last fall.

Ody’s family consists of his wife Noel, his 3 1/2 year old boy Jake, and the family dog Maverick. “We are very much enjoying Southeast Georgia/Northeast Florida with the exception of Maverick. He’s not taking the heat and humidity so well. I have enjoyed my first five weeks at Cumberland Island and hope to build a professional and admired fire program here at Cumberland,” Stated Ody about his new position. In case you want to know he was tagged with the nick name Ody while High School in Concord, California when he was a DJ on the radio.

Welcome Your New Administrative Officer

By FRED BOYLES

Lisa Nielsen has been selected to be the new Administrative Officer of Cumberland Island National Seashore. She replaces Julie Meeks who retired at the end of 2010. Lisa is a career National Park Service employee who brings years of service to Cumberland Island. Lisa is currently the Administrative Officer at Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota. Prior to that she held the same position at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (Alaska), Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park (NW Georgia and Tennessee) and Great Basin National Park (Nevada). She also held other positions in administration, maintenance and interpretation at Agate Fossil Beds NM, Isle Royale NP, Independence, NHP, Boston NHP, the C&O Canal NHP and on the Mall in Washington, DC. She earned a degree in Natural Resources from the University of Wisconsin.



Administrative Officer Lisa Nielsen

As Administrative Officer, she will be responsible for human resources, procurement, property management, housing, budget and finance. She will serve as a Division Chief and part of the Seashore's management team.

"I'm truly excited to be coming to Cumberland Island National Seashore and the St. Marys area. I look forward to working with the park staff and community members. And I look forward to exploring the park resources and learning about the incredible rich history of the area," stated Lisa Nielsen about her new assignment.

The Administrative Division Grows

By FRED BOYLES

James Owens was selected as the Budget Technician of Cumberland Island National Seashore. He reported for duty on February 27, 2011, replacing Gary Head who left the National Park Service in August 2010. James is a retired Senior Chief Petty Officer with



Budget Technician James Owens

over 26 years of honorable active duty service in the Navy. He served in many arduous assignments while on active duty. His most notable was his tour as the Leading Chief Petty Officer onboard the USS George Washington (CVN 73), the first United States Navy Nuclear Aircraft Carrier homported abroad in Yokosuka, Japan and at the Afloat Training Group Mayport, Florida, where he served as the Safety Officer and Team Lead in Supply/Logistics department. James attended Southern Illinois University at its Jacksonville, Florida site.

As the Budget Technician he will be responsible for preparing and tracking the park's operating budget and providing the staff with the status of funds available. He also provides assistance to park employees with the formulation and execution of their divisional budgets.

"I am very excited at the opportunity of working with the outstanding staff of the Cumberland Island National Seashore," stated James about being a part of the Cumberland team.

New SECN Team Member

By MIKE BYRNE



Jack Pressnell has joined the Southeast Coast Network (SECN) team here at Cumberland Island National Seashore as a Student Conservation Association 12-month intern. Jack will be playing an integral role in helping the SECN team conduct long-term natural resource monitoring in several parks in the Southeast Region on fire fuels, plants, amphibians, and reptiles, and assisting with various other SECN activities. Jack is from northern Alabama and a recent Auburn University graduate, where he received a B.S. in Zoology. Please join us in welcoming him!

Welcome

By CARL DAVID



I'm sure by now you have all met our newest maintenance employee Keith Wendorff. Keith was born in North Western Montana and grew up in Renton, WA. He graduated from high school in 1974 and served in the United States Marine Corps from 1976-1979. Keith began his NPS career in August 2010 as a seasonal employee at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Empire, MI. He was working at Olympic National Park in Port Angeles, WA prior to accepting the position here at Cumberland Island National Seashore. Once again, I would like to say welcome to Keith and that we look forward to working with you.

Visitor Use Study Continues

By FRED BOYLES

Phase II of a visitor use study conducted by Clemson University and the University of Vermont was recently conducted on Cumberland Island in May. This part of the study was done to get visitor reaction to different scenarios of what constitutes the most optimal visit. Specifically, visitors were shown different photos of visitors at both natural and cultural sites on the Island and asked for their reaction. The lead researchers for the study are Dr. Bob Manning from the University of Vermont and Dr. Jeff Hallo from Clemson. Both Drs. Manning and Hallo have extensive experience in doing similar studies in parks and other public lands. The goal of the study is to determine the optimal visitor density and carrying capacity for the Island.

The study was initiated in 2008 and has completed the first phase in 2010.

Visitors were surveyed for their reaction about their visit to the park. This included front country campers, day use visitors and wilderness campers. The study was recommended in the park's General Management Plan. The data gathering for Phase II was led by Carla Mora Trejos and Matthew Brownlee. Both are Ph.D. students at Clemson and Carla is from Costa Rica.



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2011 Sea Turtle Interns Have Arrived

By DOUG HOFFMAN



The Cumberland Island sea turtle interns have arrived for the summer nesting season. Emily Mitchell arrived on May 13th and Corie O'Brien arrived May 16th. Emily is currently attending the University of Georgia and majoring in Wildlife Management. Corie is attending the University of Illinois, majoring in Biology. The interns will conduct the daily sea turtle nest monitoring and protection program on Cumberland. While here, they will also get the chance to work with the Georgia DNR sea turtle program coordinator and the Georgia Sea Turtle Center staff in Brunswick. Please welcome them to the park when you see them.



Emily Mitchell (left) and Corie O'Brien (right) stand by a loggerhead sea turtle nest recently deposited on Cumberland's beach.

CUIS Sends Sea Turtles to the Hospital

By DOUG HOFFMAN

The beginning of sea turtle nesting season in May saw the discovery of two stranded live juvenile green sea turtles on our beach, one on May 4th and the other on May 20th. Both turtles appeared to be suffering from some kind of internal ailment and were transported to the Georgia Sea Turtle Center for evaluation and rehabilitation. As of press time, both animals were still alive and doing well. No release date has been set for either turtle. Cumberland normally has 40 to 50 sea turtle strandings each year. While most stranded turtles are dead, occasionally one is alive when found. When this happens, CUIS and GADNR have a system in place to provide prompt response, recovery, and transportation. Statewide, Georgia is already seeing stranding numbers above recent years with 101 turtles reported since January 1st. Cumberland has accounted for 31 of these so far.

More Critters Wash up on Cumberland's Seashore

By DOUG HOFFMAN

In the last issue of the Mullet Wrapper, we reported a pygmy sperm whale and Atlantic white-sided dolphin stranding on the seashore in February. Since that time, we have recorded strandings of a humpback whale, another pygmy sperm whale, and several bottlenose dolphins. While the sperm whale and dolphins are regular occurrences, the humpback whale was unique in the fact that very few exist. They are classified as "endangered." The Cumberland stranding was 30 feet in length and believed to be a juvenile whale. Interestingly, soon after the stranding, several reports were received from campers and residents who saw a small group of whales offshore in the general area of the stranding.



Clay George of GADNR talks to a school group visiting CUIS' beach at the time of the humpback whale stranding.

Maintenance Division

By CARL DAVID

Newly Acquired Property

The park has acquired multiple retained rights property's over the past year. We have started the clean up and repair process for a few of these structures. We hired a couple of temporary employee's, James Osborne and Matt Laricos, to work with Wayne Lagasse to complete this project. They will be with us for approximately five months. The biggest obstacle is cleaning up all of the containers that contain oil, pesticides, herbicides, paints, gas and other possible harmful chemicals and disposing of these items properly. The crew will then concentrate on cleaning up the grounds around the structures. Repairs will be done to the exterior features of the buildings, once the cleanup is complete. These repairs will include windows, doors, exterior siding and roof work. The crew has done a great job so far. Keep up the good work.



Temporary employees James Osborne and Matt Laricos work to clean up newly aquired properties.

Seacamp Apartment

The Seacamp apartment got a much needed facelift earlier this year. There were minor repairs done to the sheetrock on both the ceilings and walls. These surfaces were then repainted. Carpet was removed in the bedroom and new carpet was installed. The carpet was also removed in the small living room and laminate flooring was installed in the living room, kitchen and entrance hallway. Vinyl flooring was installed in the bathroom and minor plumbing repairs were done to the shower. These improvements will make staying in the apartment a more pleasant experience.



Laminate flooring gives the Seacamp apartment a fresh, new look.

Quote Corner

"A loving heart is the truest wisdom." -Charles Dickens