



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Governor Deal Visits Cumberland Island

By FRED BOYLES

Within less than a month of being inaugurated, Governor and Mrs. Nathan Deal visited Cumberland Island National Seashore on Saturday. The visit by Georgia's first couple was part of the annual Weekend for Wildlife event held at Sea Island. The day-long tour allowed park rangers and state wildlife officials the opportunity to share the Seashore's historic and natural resources with the 82nd Governor of the Peach State. The weekend offers participants excursions to learn about coastal and other natural resources. More than 30 guests accompanied Sandra and Nathan Deal on the trip to Georgia's largest barrier island.

The trip was the Governor and Mrs. Deal's first visit to Cumberland. Arriving at Plum Orchard that morning, they visited various sites on the south end of the Seashore. Park Rangers Maggie Tyler and Pauline Wentworth shared stories with the group, along with many of the challenges that face the park. Trip leaders also included Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division Director Dan Forster, Assistant Chief Jon Ambrose and wildlife biologist Phil Spivey of the division's Nongame Conservation Section, and Gogo Ferguson, whose family has lived on Cumberland for six generations. In addition to Plum Orchard, the group visited the Dungeness Historic District, Greyfield Inn and the beach.



Governor Deal pauses with wife Sandra for a picture while touring Plum Orchard Mansion.

Park News

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The official newsletter of
Cumberland Island National Seashore

December through February 2011

Front view of The Grange. (NPS Photo)

Letter From The Superintendent

By FRED BOYLES

*A*s we all learned in English Literature, Shakespeare is attributed to the statement, "parting is such sweet sorrow." Usually that means when we are forced to part with a loved one, but can have many other connotations. In my Park Service career, every community I have left to move to another job caused me to think of that quote. It is very difficult to leave a home that gives us a sense of place and the people that give us a feeling of community.

That phrase from Romeo and Juliet has often come to mind as I have helped work through the transfer of homes of the first four Retained Rights properties that expired this past year. Just as I and my family have felt upon leaving a community that I came to love, so too have various families who have let their 40 year estate expire, packed up and have moved out. However, I am sure their sense of loss has been even more profound than mine ever was. For families who spent decades living and playing on Cumberland Island, they have seen children grow up, experienced amazing events of nature, been a part of the Island's history and even observed the evolution of a National Seashore. These memories over the years must have been powerful.

Nothing moved me more to realize this than to receive a letter from Joe Graves, one of the Seashore's original founders who led the effort to make this place open to all Americans and even gave of his own holdings to make it so. Joe's letter to me is reprinted in our newsletter for all to read. (Page 3)

On behalf of the National Park Service, I am deeply grateful to all the families who have made this process work. Specifically, I want to publicly thank Joe Graves, Cap Middleton, Bruce Bullock, Larry Phillips, Dick Goodsell, Margaret Graves and their respective families for being so helpful in this process. Saying thank you like this is such a small gesture for what they have done for all of us. I can't forget the cooperative spirit of Frances Cox, Buck Davis and Lucy McKinstry whose Toonahowie property is to expire in May of this year. Each home had its own story and its own set of memories which made each place unique to Cumberland. As a bureaucrat who often deals with property rights issues, I often loose sight that these places are someone's home but

thanks to Joe and others I have come to realize how important their help has been for us and for future generations.



Fred Boyles
Fred Boyles
Superintendent

Volunteer Spotlight

By MAGGIE TYLER

While it seems there isn't really a slow time on Cumberland Island, January is often used to refocus our volunteer efforts within the seashore. Two ways we do this is through volunteer training and partnership programs. Each year, Georgia Conservancy helps kick off our volunteer group program season with their MLK volunteer weekend. Working on a variety of projects including cleaning six miles of beaches, servicing nine miles of trail, clearing plants from historic structures and taking down a the 30-foot Christmas tree at the historic Plum Orchard mansion the Conservancy group tackled a wide variety of projects head on. The Georgia Conservancy is able to gather a diverse work force each year, including 30 volunteers this year from REI's



Participants in the GA Conservancy service weekend pause for a picture.

Outdoor School and Seed, a consortium of environmentally aware students and recent graduates from Atlanta's historically black colleges and universities, Keeping it Wild, the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, and Conservancy members.

Another way we support our volunteer program and our partners is by bringing them together to learn from one another. Driftwood Education Center is an environmental learning center for school age children on St. Simon's Island which brings

school groups to Cumberland throughout the school year. We partner with them to offer educational opportunities to school groups and special groups when we can and in turn, Driftwood offers environmental education training to our staff and volunteers. This year, nine of our staff and volunteers were able to attend this training. Thanks Driftwood for sharing your knowledge with us!

December, January, and the early weeks of February were busy for the volunteer program on Cumberland Island. Nell Nunn carried us through the holiday season at Plum Orchard. Sadly, Nell left us for her next volunteer opportunity at Gila Cliff National Monument in New Mexico. We look forward to Nell's return. Following Nell, Jean Amoudt soon arrived in early January and has continued the wow visitors with her knowledge of Cumberland Island. We currently have a break in volunteer caretakers at Plum until early April. Dale and Bonnie Lee Blumer supported our Sea Camp operations throughout the fall. Barry Puhr is our current Sea Camp welcome host. Please keep an eye out for Barry and welcome him to the Island.

Many of our St. Marys Museum volunteers continue to return. We are currently advertising and interviewing interested local residents for shifts at the museum. Soon, you'll see some new faces; be sure to stop in and say hi. If you know of anyone wanting to volunteer their time to staff the museum or assist with research, please have them contact Maggie Tyler, Chief of Interpretation and Education at 912-882-4336 ext. 257.



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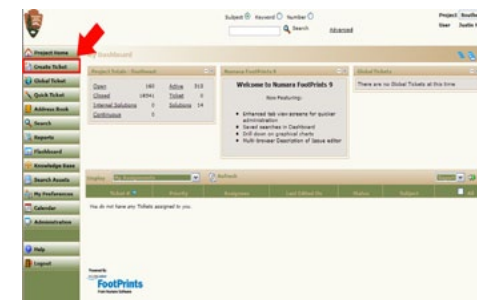
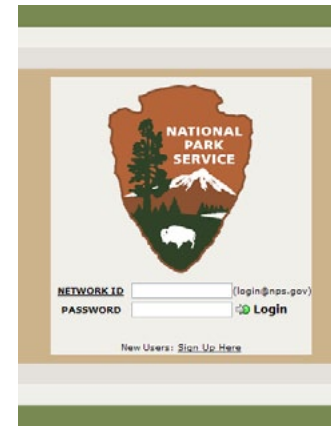


On February 6th Steve Shackleton (Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection) led a team from Washington to visit Cumberland Island. Steve is down on his knee and often referred to as the Chief Ranger of the NPS. Standing from left to right are Louis Rowe (Deputy Associate Director), Sonya Rowe (Program Analyst) and Gary Oye (Servicewide Wilderness Coordinator). They took advantage of a trip for training at FLETC to visit Cumberland.

NPS Help Desk

By JUSTIN HELTON

In an effort to better organize the process of requesting Information Technology support, the National Park Service has instituted a ticketing system that is similar to the work order process previously used with maintenance operations. You can access the site system by browsing to <https://npshelpdesk.nps.gov/MRcgI/MRentrancePage.pl> (Figure 1) and using your network username and password (the credentials you use when logging into Windows). Make sure to append "@nps.gov" at the end of your username when logging in to identify to the system which domain you are associated with. You will be unable to login without appending "@nps.gov" to your network username (i.e. JustinHelton@nps.gov).



After successfully logging in, you should notice a bunch of options on your left hand side. The only

one you will be using is the second from the top called "Create a Ticket" (Figure 2). After clicking on this link, you will be brought to the Ticket page. For your records, you will want to note the ticket number located at the top of the Ticket page in green lettering. From here, you will proceed to fill out your ticket. Work your way down the ticket from top to bottom filling in all of the pertinent information. Remember the old saying: "garbage in, garbage out", well that is just as applicable to this system as well because the more information you tell me, the better equipped I will be to fix your computer. If you have any questions, you are more than welcome to give me a call at extension 226 and I will do my best to help you.

Quote Corner

"Many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices."

-William James

Upcoming TELnet Courses

For more information,
go to www.nps.gov/training/tel/

April 13th
12:30pm-4:30pm ET
Search Catalog: LE Refresher
Last Day to Register: April 13th
"LE Refresher"

The NPS-LETC produces in-service law enforcement training sessions for NPS rangers from across the country, covering the latest legal updates, use of force policy, and a full range of other topics in law enforcement. Student questions are answered live, on-air, via the NPS's two way satellite television training system--TEL. Visit the Participants Guide tab of this website or the LETC often to find out what topics will be discussed.

May 10th
1:00-3:30pm ET
Search Catalog: Retirement Planning
Last Day to Register: May 10th

"Retirement Planning for New Employees"

This training is designed to enable employees who are just beginning their careers to plan prudently for their retirement. Discussion includes the importance of planning for retirement from the beginning of a career. Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) options, and pitfalls to avoid when investing for retirement. This course is most appropriate for employees enrolled in FERS. This course is part of the NPS Fundamentals III: Taking Charge of Your Future. The online course, "Retirement Planning" in the NPS Fundamentals III should, ideally, be completed before participating in the TEL class.

May 18, 2011
12:30-4:30pm ET
Search DOI Learn Catalog = Legal Update
Last Day to Register: May 18, 2011 at 11:30amET

"Legal Update"

The NPS-LETC produces in-service law enforcement training sessions for NPS rangers from across the country, covering the latest legal updates, use of force policy, and a full range of other topics in law enforcement. Student questions are answered live, on-air, via the NPS's two way satellite television training system--TEL. Visit the Participant Guides tab of this website or the LETC often to find out what topics will be discussed.

May 23, 24, 26, 2011
12:00-4:00pm ET
Search DOI Learn Catalog = Retirement Planning
Last Day to Register: May 23, 2011 at 12pmET

"Retirement Planning for FERS Employees"

Designed for FERS employees and FERS transfer employees within 5 years of retirement eligibility to help employees better understand their federal benefits to make informed decisions regarding retirement and insurance. Target audience is FERS employees within five years of retirement. This is a 12-hour class over 3 days.

Jun 15, 2011
12:30-3:30pm ET
Search DOI Learn Catalog = LE Refresher
Last Day to Register: Jun 15, 2011 at 11:30amET

"LE Refresher"

The NPS-LETC produces in-service law enforcement training sessions for NPS rangers from across the country, covering the latest legal updates, use of force policy, and a full range of other topics in law enforcement. Student questions are answered live, on-air, via the NPS's two way satellite television training system--TEL. Visit the Participant Guides tab of this website or the LETC often to find out what topics will be discussed.

PLUM ORCHARD CHRISTMAS

By MAGGIE TYLER



Park Staff and Volunteers get in the "Spirit of Traditional Holidays" at Plum Orchard Mansion. (L to R, Back row: Art Cody, Nell Nunn, Diane Torgeson, Debbie Lanning, Ed Torgeson, Ginger Cox, John Mitchell, Jennifer Cody, Dale Bulmar, Bonnie Lee Nugent, Rene Noe, Brad Bond, Linda Bond.) (Kneeling are: Lisa Ward, Jennifer Asper(I & E), Ashley Sutton, Christina Martin, Karen Martin.)

While the forecast for December 12th, predicted cold and rain, that didn't keep 120 visitors away from the Cumberland Island annual Plum Orchard Christmas. When the full boat docked at Plum Orchard, visitors were greeted by volunteer Brad Bond. Mr. Bond, dressed in Edwardian period costume provided living history stories as "the hunter"; sharing the importance of sporting activities on Cumberland Island at the turn of the Century. From the dock, guests wandered the grounds of Plum Orchard and in small groups were able to enjoy the spirit of an Edwardian Christmas of long ago. Over 14 volunteers including members of the Camden County Beta club worked for weeks before the event to clean and decorate the almost 22,000 square foot mansion from top to bottom for the festivities. During the celebration day, 12 volunteers and 4 staff members dressed in period clothing to welcome guests into Plum Orchard. They interpreted the history of the Christmas holiday, played songs on the historic piano, and told stories and tales about celebrating life on Cumberland island both for the Carnegie family and the

servants who worked for them. The final tour stop concluded with refreshments including 500 freshly baked cookies by NPS maintenance worker Kelly Kennard.

Strange Critters Wash Up on Cumberland's Seashore

By DOUG HOFFMAN

Cumberland Island National Seashore (CUIS) normally accounts for half of Georgia's sea turtle stranding events each year. We also record several bottlenose dolphins beaching annually. Occasionally we have unique species wash up on our beach, and this February saw two such events. On February 14th, a pygmy sperm whale was located on the beach near the Stafford Campground area. CUIS normally averages 1 sperm whale stranding each year. This rare species is believed to inhabit primarily off-shore waters, as very few sightings have been reported.

The second event occurred on February 26th near the North Cut Road beach access with the finding of an Atlantic white-sided dolphin. This occurrence is unique because this species is normally found in the colder waters of the north Atlantic, with Massachusetts being listed as its southernmost range. The recent CUIS stranding is the first recorded for this species in Georgia.

In addition to the park's Resource Management Division, personnel from GA DNR Coastal Resources Division, the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, and Virginia Tech responded to the strandings. Both animals were necropsied and further testing is pending to determine the cause of stranding.



A researcher from Virginia Tech assists with data collection from a stranded Atlantic white-sided dolphin found on CUIS.

Letter from Joe Graves

On December 15, 2010, when the most recent chapter concludes and another begins in the 107-year-old story of The Grange, I will be there in spirit to thank that venerable house and to thank the Cumberland Island National Seashore.

Thank you, The Grange for being so hospitable, such a lovable house, so appropriate for Cumberland Island. During the forty-year-long concluding chapter, generations of guests from across America have stayed week to week with you - parents, children, grand children - old people, younger folks - farmers, musicians, painters, photographers, public servants, poets, writers, teachers, students. You have been a facilitator. You have enabled your guests to come to terms with themselves on Cumberland Island, away from their day to day busyness on the mainland.

The Grange and Cumberland Island experience sometimes inspires by appealing to the "better angels of our nature". The Great Egret cover photograph together with Note 17 about The Grange, indeed the entire book Cumberland Island Saved was created in large part by people who love Cumberland Island.

Fred, there are tears in my eyes while drafting this letter with a pencil in one hand, a handkerchief in the other. Yet my heart is rejoicing. Why am I crying while rejoicing? I think it has to do with love. Love for the memories, love for Hart, our daughters Lucy, Margaret, and Elizabeth, six grandchildren, their fathers and love for the Cumberland Island National Seashore which takes such loving care of this beautiful Island.

I rejoice every time I am with park visitors on a CINS boat, or when I am with them on the Island. I will be forever thankful this Island was saved by "a narrow squeak". Mine would not have been the only heart broken if it had been mined for titanium or developed commercially.

Heartfelt thanks, Fred to you and every one of your CINS associates for the excellent management and stewardship of this National Treasure. Accolades also for CINS hospitality to park visitors.

Best wishes to all of you for a wonderful future.

Sincerely, Joe Graves

The Frogs are Back!

By MICHAEL W. BYRNE

Some of you may have noticed a few frogs calling recently... a sign that spring is around the corner! What we are hearing now are spring peepers (*Pseudacris crucifer*) (Figure 1), Southern chorus frogs (*Pseudacris nigrita*) (Figure 2), and Southern leopard frogs (*Rana sphenoccephala*) (Figure 3). Spring peepers are often the first species we hear each year and can begin calling even as early as January if the conditions are right. As the season progresses and temperatures increase, you can expect to hear a lot more species of frog and toads calling; close to 20 different species by mid-summer.

Spring peeper calls are a high-pitched and single-note whistle that sounds somewhat like a bird. Southern chorus frog calls sound like a hollow ratchet with evenly spaced notes. Southern leopard frog calls are a low-pitched and short guttural trill. Southern leopard frogs are almost always close to permanent sources of water and spend most of their time either in the water or on the bank. Spring peepers and Southern chorus frogs can be found in trees and shrubs away from water.

During the Southeast Coast Inventory and Monitoring Network's long-term monitoring work at Cumberland Island National Seashore in 2009, we detected all of these species in the wetlands and adjacent uplands at the Park. This year the SECN plant and wildlife team is working at our inland parks but we will be conducting amphibian monitoring again at Cumberland Island National Seashore next year in 2012. You can find the results of the Cumberland Island National Seashore amphibian monitoring work, in both the Final Report and the Resource Brief, on our website: <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/SECN/reports.cfm>.



Figure 1. Spring peepers (*Pseudacris crucifer*)



Figure 2. Southern chorus frogs (*Pseudacris nigrita*)

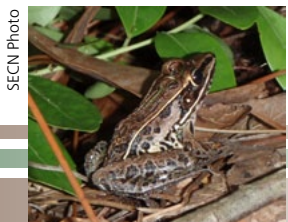


Figure 3. Southern leopard frogs (*Rana sphenoccephala*)

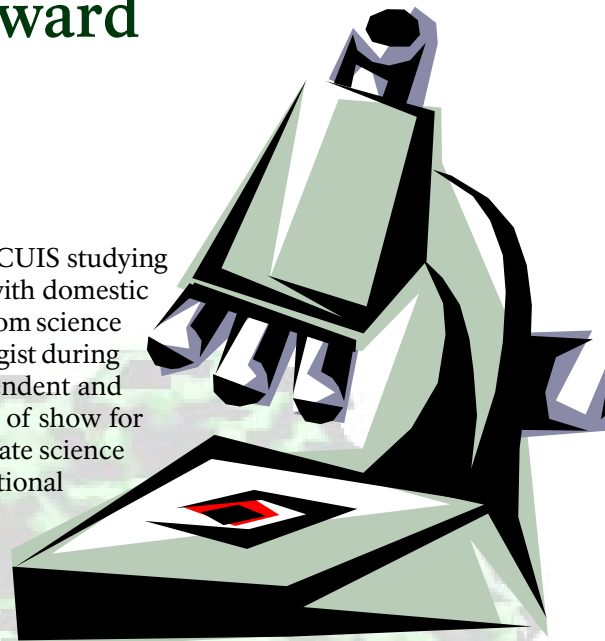
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Student Receives Science Fair Award for Cumberland Island Project

By DOUG HOFFMAN

Over the last year, 14 year-old Addison Hilyard has conducted a project on CUIS studying gastro-intestinal parasite loads in the feral horse population in comparison with domestic horses. Hilyard, a resident of Hernando County, Florida received guidance from science teachers in his school district, a large-animal veterinarian, and the park's biologist during the project. What started out as a chance meeting with the park's superintendent and a simple idea for a science fair project ended up with Addison winning best of show for the high school division. As a result of this, he will be attending the Florida state science fair competition in March and has already been chosen to attend the international science fair in Los Angeles, California in May.

Hilyard collected samples of fresh horse droppings from numerous locations on CUIS throughout all seasons of the year. Standard veterinary techniques were used to analyze the droppings for parasites. Preliminary results of the project show that CUIS' feral horses have different seasonal cycles and abundant levels of intestinal parasites than domestic horses. This finding is expected because most domestic horses are treated for parasites on a regular basis. CUIS horses appear to have adapted to the parasites, which would cause poor physical condition and even mortality in domestic animals. This adaptation is to be expected also, since the CUIS feral horses essentially function as a wild herd of ungulates similar to white-tailed deer, which normally carry a wide variety of parasites.



Georgia Southern University Students Conduct Graduate Projects on Cumberland Island

By DOUG HOFFMAN

Cumberland is the site for two graduate research projects conducted by students attending Georgia Southern University in Statesboro. Lisa Dlugolecki, a former sea turtle intern, is getting her Master's degree studying bird species inhabiting the freshwater wetlands of the island. CUIS is an important site for migratory birds to stop over during their flight and also for those using the area for nesting in the spring. She will document bird species diversity and abundance during the different seasons of the year. Feral horse impact on the wetlands will also be monitored during the project.



Spanish moss hangs from a Live oak on Cumberland Island.

Kathryn Sutton, also getting a Master's degree, is studying the relationship of atmospheric mercury levels using Spanish moss as an indicator. She is using CUIS as an unpopulated site to compare to the heavily populated Jacksonville area. The theory of the study is that since the moss obtains all of its nutrients from the air, it may show higher levels of contaminants in areas where they exist in the atmosphere from emissions. She has selected three study areas: Savannah/Ossabaw Island; Brunswick LCP Chemical Site/Sapelo Island; and Jacksonville/Cumberland Island.

Maintenance Division

By CARL DAVID

ADA Assessment

In January, a team from Indiana University's National Center on Accessibility came to the park to assist Cumberland Island, with a self assessment and consultation of various park programs and facility's. The team gave the park some insight into a self evaluation process as well as a comprehensive physical and programmatic assessment. The team was here for two and a half days and spent time with the Ranger and Maintenance Divisions. During the visit, park staff was able to gather much needed information that will allow the park to improve their understanding of the requirements of accessibility. One point to remember, a person with a disability is not only one in a wheelchair, which I think is what most people think when they hear "Disabled". This term can be associated with visually impaired, hearing impaired, those who wear a prosthesis and even the elderly. These are only a few examples of people that may be physically challenged for one reason or another. This whole process will allow the park to move forward with improving "Accessibility" in the park. Thanks to all involved.

Park Maintenance & Operations

There are many things that go on behind the scenes that usually go unnoticed because they are not associated with a large project. The day to day operations of the park are accomplished, due in large part to the service and maintenance provided by my whole staff. Bathrooms are cleaned and maintained in a presentable manner, the parks large fleet of boats, vehicles and equipment are maintained to allow daily functions. Vehicles, equipment and materials are transported to and from the island, as well as enormous amounts of solid waste in forms of house hold garbage, construction debris and recycling. Thank you all for everything you do and making my job easier.



Automotive Mechanic Brian Wentworth works on the park's fleet.

South Cabin

The interior of the South Cabin is in the process of being rehabilitated. Mickey Bosworth, with the assistance of John Hannans, has replaced the shower stall, kitchen cabinets, counter tops and light fixtures. In addition to these improvements they installed new vinyl flooring in the bathroom and new laminate flooring in the remaining rooms. These improvements will make staying in the South Cabin a more pleasurable experience. Many thanks to both. Keep up the good work.



YCC Kitchen

The projects to install two ADA compliant restrooms in the Southwest room of the YCC Kitchen and accessible ramps at the Kitchen, Dorm and Staff Quarters have begun. This will provide a more accommodating room for the numerous park functions that are held in this area. Fred Forbes has been working with Eddie Forbes on the initial preparation and design. They have repaired all the windows and doors in the room, repaired cracks in the walls and ceiling and replaced missing tongue and groove flooring. The floor has been sanded and protected with multiple coats of polyurethane. The project will continue through the Spring and into the Summer.

