



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cumberland Island National Seashore
P.O. Box 806
St. Marys, GA 31558



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Park News

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The Mullet Wrapper

The official newsletter of
Cumberland Island National Seashore

September through January 2008



Stafford Lion, located at the entrance to the Stafford Beach House (NPS Photo)

From the Acting Superintendent

It is truly an honor and privilege for me to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the acting Superintendent of Cumberland Island National Seashore. I am currently the Superintendent of Fort Donelson National Battlefield, Tennessee/Kentucky, where I have been for over three years. I have worked for the National Park Service since 1981 from the coast of Alaska at Sitka National Historical Park to the river of grass at Everglades National Park. I have been fortunate to experience every discipline of work performed by the most passionate and hard working individuals in this country.

Ralph W. Sockman once stated, "Our growth depends not on how many experiences we devour, but on how many we digest". I would like to share my thoughts with you on "digesting" the opportunities we face together at Cumberland Island in the near future.

The Plum Orchard mansion restoration and rehabilitation continues. Phase II, which began in March of 2006, is nearing completion. Primary work accomplished on the interior of the mansion included documentation, cleaning and conservation of the wallpaper; lead-containing paint and asbestos remediation; structural steel installation; wall and floor repair; installation of detection and suppression systems for fire and intrusion; improved accessibility; and mechanical and electrical systems repair.

Likewise, a project to stabilize the Dungeness Ruins is beginning. Over \$1.2 million is being invested in the stabilization of the masonry walls, tabby walls and chimneys; conservation of decorative wrought-iron metal; and the removal of vegetation to stop further deterioration or loss of the historic ruins. Scaffolding and safety fences will be

installed around the ruins and will remain on-site until the project is completed. Expected completion date of the Dungeness Ruins project is early fall. Please bear with us as we anticipate additional work crews and activities surrounding the ruins until restoration and stabilization is complete.

I wish to thank all of the staff and community that I have had the pleasure of meeting. Everyone has been very kind and supportive and I appreciate it very much. And, speaking of this wonderful staff, the curatorial staff remains busy working with the collection. Interpretation and visitor services staff have met to plan a busy year educating and inspiring our visitors, as well as, sharing the museum exhibits with them. Spring will bring a flurry of activity managing the natural and cultural resources while the staff prepares for additional opportunities to work outdoors. And a special thank you to the administrative staff for their assistance, especially the patience displayed in assuring me computer access during this transition. And finally, all of the members of the staff look forward to the furtherance of our mission to preserve and protect these treasured resources for the enjoyment of the many generations yet to come.



Steven A. McCoy

-Steven McCoy
Acting Superintendent

Dungeness Ruins Stabilization



The Dungeness Ruins Stabilization project has been awarded to Enola contracting out of Chipley Florida and they will proceed work this month. Scaffolding will be put in encapsulating the walls for inspection and restoration. Please use caution in the area during the stabilization which may last up to ten months.



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Cumberland Island National Seashore
101 Wheeler Street
P.O. Box 806
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

Editor In Chief:
Justin Helton
Administrative Assistant

Editorial Consultant:
Doug Hoffman
Wildlife Biologist

Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes



Bachlott House portion of the tour. This year's tour also included a tour of a yacht that was moored at the St. Marys' City Pier. Good job Ron!

On Saturday, December 8th we welcomed the community to view the Bachlott House during the annual St. Marys Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes. Visitor Use Assistant Ron Crawford was the Cumberland Island representative on site to oversee the event and give the tour.

Around six hundred tickets were sold by the St. Marys Tourism Office for the Christmas 2007 Tour of Homes and a little over three hundred took advantage of the

Hints from Helton

Noticeable Changes

In an attempt to increase network security, the Department of the Interior has implemented a new directive that is effective no later than February 1, 2008.

As part of this new directive, you will notice several changes to how you access and use your computer. The following changes will be noticeable after the deadline:

1. All computers will only be "remembering" the last two people to log on to it. This is especially important to note regarding the laptops. This means that in case the network is not available, the computer will only allow access to the last two people to log on to the computer. Therefore, if you are unsure if you were one of the last two people to log on, I suggest you connect the computer to the network so the computer may recognize you without access to the domain controller.
3. All "Autorun" features for all drives will be disabled. This means that when you insert a CD or DVD into your computer, it will no longer start automatically.
4. The option to save passwords will no longer be available. You should already not be using this feature but for those of you who do, you will no longer be able to after February 1st. So, please take time to reeducate yourself on your current passwords so you will not be at a loss when the implementation takes place.
5. The last username to log on to the machine will no longer be stored and displayed when logging on again. Everyone is required to **remember their username** from now on.

-Justin Helton
Administrative Support Assistant

Quote Corner

"Govern thy life and thoughts as if the whole world were to see the one, and read the other."

-Thomas Fuller

Upcoming TELNPS

Courses:

February 20th
"Legal Update"
12:30 - 4:30pm ET
Course Code: NPS-LAW2000
Last Day to Register: Feb. 18th
Four hours of Legal Update presented by NPS and FLETC staff.

February 25th
"Retirement Training for New Employees"
1:00 - 3:00pm ET
Course Code: NPS-UNC6300
Last Day to Register: Feb. 23rd
Course is designed to enable employees who are just beginning their careers to plan prudently for their retirement.

March 5th
"LE Refresher"
12:30 - 3:30pm ET
Course Code: NPS-LAW2010
Last Day to Register: Mar. 3rd
This course will cover a variety of topics dealing with law enforcement. Each session will have a different topic. Because of changing schedules and availability of instructors, check the NPS Law Enforcement Training Center website for the topics to be covered during each session.

March 12th
"Accident Investigation"
12:30 - 3:30pm ET
Course Code: NPS-RSK6260
Last Day to Register: Mar. 10th
Accident Investigations are an essential component of a comprehensive safety program. At the end of this course, students will be able to conduct a comprehensive accident investigation according to NPS procedures. This will allow the participant to identify actions that can be implemented in order to prevent or reduce the number of injuries in a workplace.

March 19th
"Avoid Pitfalls in Hiring: Navigating Through the Hiring Process"
1:00 - 4:00pm ET
Course Code: NPS - SML6215
Last Day to Register: Mar. 17th
For most hiring officials the process of hiring an employee can be somewhat daunting and confusing. This course is designed to help Supervisors better understand the basic rules associated with the hiring process and options that are available so that the ultimate goal of getting the best person can be realized.

March 20th
"Interview Skills for Supervisors: Finding the Best Match"
12:30 - 3:30pm ET
Course Code: NPS-SML6116
Last Day to Register: Mar. 17
As the selecting official, you have worked very hard up to the point of interviewing candidates by verifying your position descriptions, developing KSAs and crediting plans, questionnaires, and reviewing the job announcement in order to find the best candidates for your vacant position. This course provides tips and techniques on choosing the "right" person. This is a companion course designed to be taught with SML6215.



Administration

As of this writing, we have not received the FY2008 Program Authorization for the park's operating budget. We have been operating under a Continuing Resolution since the beginning of the fiscal year and have been diligent to follow the spending restraints.

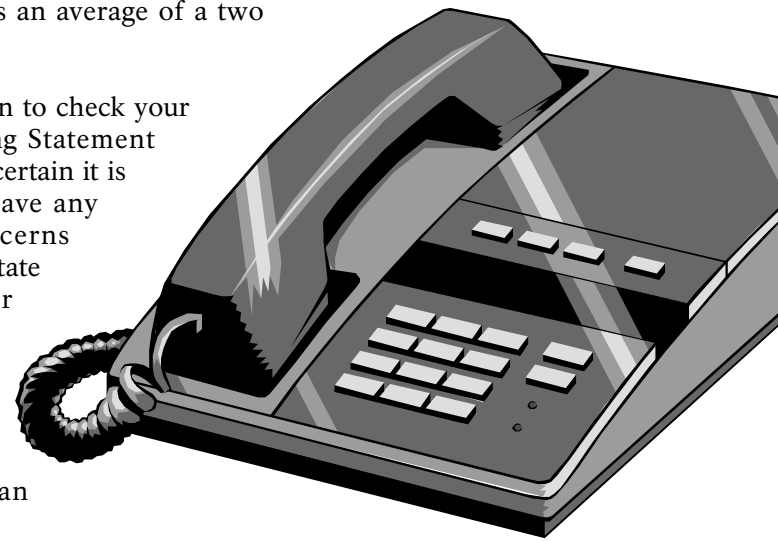
The Division Chiefs have been working on updating the park's projects in PMIS [Project Management Information System]. There was mutual agreement from the Division Chiefs in selecting the priority order of the park's projects in PMIS. After the priorities were locked, each Division Chief was responsible for selecting the pertinent funding categories for their projects.

The projects that have been included on the SER Draft Listing for FY2008 are: Grande Avenue Rehabilitation; Catalog Backlog Archival Collections; Cultivate Educational Partnerships through Teacher Workshops; Re-Roof Non-Historic Structures; Repair and Rehab the Exterior of Stafford Mansion; Maintain Trails and Grounds through YCC Outreach; and Volunteer Program.

January 6, 2008, began the first full pay period of CY2008 and the 3.5% pay raise was effective on that date. However, it will not be noticed until late in the month by general schedule employees and in March by wage grade employees.

Also, beginning in January the new premium rates for Federal Health Benefits program will be effective. The change will depend on the type of coverage you signed up for but there is an average of a two percent increase.

Please make certain to check your Leave and Earning Statement carefully to make certain it is correct. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact either Administrative Support Assistant **Justin Helton** or myself and we will try to assist you. Many changes can



now be accomplished by each employee directly in *Employee Express*. Also, Leave and Earning Statements are posted on Employee Express each pay period and can be printed from the site for your records.

The \$15,500 IRS-imposed dollar limit on allowable individual contributions to the TSP [Thrift Savings Plan] will remain the same in 2008 as it was in 2007. Also, investors age fifty and older during 2008 can make special 'catch-up' investments over and above the dollar limit of \$5,000, again the same limit that applied in 2007.

During 2008, the Government's contract with Bank of America to administer the Charge Card Program will expire. The new vendor for the program will be J.P. Morgan Chase. More information will be forthcoming regarding this change in the next few months.

Please note . . . every charge cardholder must submit proof of completion of training to their supervisor before March 31, 2008 for the Mandatory DOI Integrated Charge Card Training. Any employee who took the training prior to May 1, 2007 is required to successfully complete the revised training by March 31, 2008. As with previous cardholder training courses, you are only required to complete the modules that apply to you and in this case you will go to: <https://chargecardtraining.nbc.gov> click on Cardholder Training. Please follow the instructions for printing your certificate upon your successful completion and provide your supervisor and Administrative Support Assistant **Justin Helton** with a copy.

Until next time. . . .*julie*

Historic Anchor Recovered From St. Marys River

January 13 marks the 193rd anniversary of one of the last known armed conflicts in the War of 1812. The "Forgotten Invasion" exhibit tells the story of the skirmish at Pt. Peter and the occupation of Cumberland Island by British forces under the command of Sir George Cockburn, the last known occupation of U.S. territory during the War of 1812.



This date should take on added significance to Cumberland Island National Seashore with the fast approaching bicentennial celebration of the War of 1812 and the National Park Services role in what will prove to be a great celebration. However, this is not about the bicentennial of the War of 1812 or the exhibit. It is about an anchor recovered by the City of St. Marys on October 25, 2006. The artifact was discovered by a local diver while untangling a sailboat's anchor in the brackish waters of the St. Mary's River, across from Cumberland Island National Seashore's visitor center in St. Marys, Georgia.

The anchor is related to the War of 1812, and is most likely associated with the British Sloops-of-War HMS Erebus or the HMS Primrose, part of Sir George Cockburn's squadron. This squadron operated off the southern coast of Georgia and occupied Cumberland Island from January 9 to March 10, 1815. These two ships formed part of

a division sent up the St. Marys River to destroy the Battery at Point Peter and plunder the City of St. Marys.

Initially it was thought that the sailboat anchor was caught on a log. As it turned out it was caught on a piece of history. The historic anchor was raised from its watery resting place of 193 years, placed on a float, and tied to the public dock waiting to be repatriated back in the St. Marys River. This is where Cumberland Island National Seashore, the City of St. Marys, and the State of Georgia's three separate paths merged with that of a 9 1/2' long, 7 1/2' wide, 1300 lb anchor.



After forwarding photographs to the Southeast Archeology Center, an expert in Florida identified the anchor as an "Admiralty Anchor CA. 1800" from a sloop-of-war. Since then, Cumberland Island National Seashore has worked to ensure that the anchor is preserved and kept here in St. Marys. The park secured funding to preserve the anchor and is presently working with the City of St. Marys and the State of Georgia on an agreement to exhibit the anchor either as part of the "Forgotten Invasion" or on the park's waterfront.



On November 7, 2007, the anchor was placed into a case, covered in protective muslin cloth, soaked in water and delivered to Texas A&M in College Station, Texas. For the next two years it will be treated by experts in the conservation of underwater objects. For most this is where the story ends, but I cannot help but think back to a day in 2006 when I was staring at an old rusty anchor on a float tied to the public dock. Since that time, my thoughts have fluctuated between excitement and utter panic, looking to the future when this anchor returns.

-John Mitchell
Curator

THANKSGIVING Luncheon

November 20, 2007 - YCC Kitchen



In Memoriam



Lucy Sprague Foster
1928-2008

*On January 6th, Miss Lucy passed away on Cumberland Island.
It was a privilege to know her and she will truly be missed.*

Visitor Satisfaction

Each year a survey is taken of park visitors to try and quantify each visitor's perception of the park. These surveys are then processed to try and give us an idea as to what our strengths and weaknesses are. Our overall rating of Visitor Satisfaction for the year of 2007 was 92%. There are 3 categories of which we are rated: Recreational Opportunities, Park Facilities, and Visitor Services. On this year's survey our highest scored category was Recreational Opportunities where we scored 92%. Our lowest scored category was Visitor Services where we scored 88%. In addition to a multiple choice section of the survey cards, there is always a short answer question as well as a section where the visitor is asked to explain what they believe to be the significance of the park. Every year there are both positive and constructive responses to these sections. This particular year, the most popular constructive criticism was about the need to reevaluate the bike rental program. On the other hand, the most popular praises were about personnel excellence. Each one of these sections of the survey play their part in helping the park to report to several goals in compliance with the Government Performance Results Act of 1993. All in all, I would like to congratulate all park employees on a job well done in scoring an overall satisfaction of 92%. Good job and keep up the good work!

-Justin Helton
Administrative Support Assistant

Kid Korner

Dear Rangers,
May 8, 2007
My Class, the fourth and fifth grades of The Atlanta School, took a week-long camping trip to Cumberland Island, April 30 through May 4. I really loved it! We camped at the group campsite at Swacamp. Thank you so much for protecting the absolutely amazing and beautiful wildlife.

I believe that our whole class appreciated your help to the Island. You helped us find Cumberland's natural beauty. I hope you keep the island beautiful! You are a great role model and I am pondering being a ranger when I grow up. I love the island so much that I would love to come back and explore the whole island.

Dear Rangers,
I really appreciate what you are doing for the environment. Please keep it safe for me! Save the animals for me to. I really liked hiking to dunes, my favorite parts were seeing the snake, going in the marsh and getting stuck, and catching clabs.

Dear Rangers,
May 8, 2007
Our class went to Cumberland Island. We started our expedition on April 30th, but we did not arrive on the island until May 1st. You are so lucky to be working on the island. You and your fellow rangers are doing a great job keeping Cumberland beautiful. I hope you succeed through your attempts to keep Cumberland's beautiful wildlife safe.

VOLUNTEER!

Contributing..Time and Talent

Students of Warren Wilson College spent a week on the island in October cranking out 8 benches, and 8 picnic tables, 2 of which are accessible.



During the week of December 16th, students from West Michigan University spent their Spring Break putting together 10 camping carts, giving the dorms a good scrubbing, and picking up trash on the beach.



Debbie Britt helps kids with animal and shell stamping at the recent Coast Fest held on October 7th and sponsored by Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Cumberland

Island staff joined other local resource and land management agencies for another successful coast fest event which draws over 7000 visitors. Participants had the opportunity to learn about the fragile coastal resources, what they can do to be better caretakers, as well as enjoyed puppet shows, live animal demonstrations, tours of the Georgia DNR research vessel, and more.

Volunteers and park staff enjoyed another holiday crafts on the island. Busy as little elves, Ms. Lucy Foster, Connie Manning, Ed and Diane Torgerson, Paul and Penny Antic and granddaughter Zoe, make their personal masterpieces, while



below even the "law dawg" Dennis Curry gets into the spirit of things.



On September 21st Ranger Ginger Cox, shown here with one of the dancers of the Muscogee Nation, served as the Master of Ceremonies at the Native American Festival at Ocmulgee National Park in Macon, Ga.

Volunteer Mark Storch poses with his paintbrush at the Education Center where he single-handedly cleaned, primed, and painted the entire center. Storch also hiked and surveyed 30 miles of trails; worked with Sea Turtle Crews on loggerhead turtle surveys; served as public relations staff at two outreach events (Coast Fest drawing nearly 7000); washed Government vehicles and boats; primed, sanded and painted Hunt Camp; cleaned fire pits; served



as work leader for several beach clean-ups; cleared 10.9 miles of trails; worked in resource management clearing building debris; painted signs; and provided logistics support for incoming work groups.

-Ginger Hollingsworth-Cox
Interpretive Ranger & Volunteer Coordinator

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Re-visiting the Beach Creek Fire 1 Year Later

In August, 2006 a lightning strike ignited a fire on the south end of Cumberland adjacent to Beach Creek and the south end ponds. Although the fire burned only 15 acres, drought conditions at the time enabled areas to smolder for more than a week. Fire personnel monitored the site for 2 weeks before finally declaring it safe. Most areas on the site burned to bare soil, with some areas burning several inches deep into ground and leaf litter. Heat scorched a portion of the live oaks and some hollow trees burned to the point where they split and fell.

The CUIS Resource Management Division established a series of photo points after the fire to monitor long term recovery of the site. The dominant understory vegetation in this area is saw palmetto, which can survive fires of varying intensities. The saw palmetto began re-growth almost immediately after the fire and has returned to its pre-fire level. Several live oaks were scorched to the point that they did not survive, but the majority of live oaks on the site have rebounded. While smaller trees and shrubs were lost, they will be replaced through natural regeneration. Fires are a naturally occurring element in barrier island ecosystems. The Beach Creek site is well on its way to recovery.

-Doug Hoffman
Wildlife Biologist



Point 3 taken on 8/25/06



Point 3 taken on 7/11/07

*“When the odds are against me I prove them wrong,
When all else fails I succeed,
When all else ceases to live I breath,
When all turns to ashes from it I rise,
So it doesn’t matter what you throw at me or what you do,
I am, I do, that’s all that matters.” -- Heather Griggs*

Maintenance Division

Recycling

Recycling on Cumberland Island has stepped up a notch with the addition of the brown three bin container based at the Carriage House at Dungeness. The collection of aluminum, glass and plastic was going very well as everyone was pitching in helping manage the collectables until it was time for our first deposit on the mainland. The Sub Base now wants our recyclables separated even further. Aluminum is fine (cans cans and more cans) but glass has to be either clear, brown or green and must be separated. Plastic has to be clear or shaded. Clear plastic meaning water bottles and shaded meaning milk type jugs. Until we can get more bins please deposit only aluminum cans, plastic water bottles and clear glass. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.



The aluminum can is the most valuable container to recycle and is the most recycled consumer product in the U.S. today. In 2003, 54 billion cans were recycled, saving the energy equivalent of 15 million barrels of crude oil — America’s entire gas consumption for one day.

In 2006, Americans drank about 167 bottles of water each, but only recycled an average of 38 bottles per person, which equals about 50 billion plastic bottles consumed, with only 23% being recycled. That leaves 38 billion water bottles in landfills.



Jeff Lewis

Cumberland Says Goodbye

I first met Jeff At Big Cypress National Preserve in 1993. He was working as a temporary maintenance worker assigned to install hurricane shutters on ALL of the houses and buildings throughout the preserve. It was very obvious immediately that Jeff was a hard worker and could withstand the elements of south Florida “HEAT, MOSQUITOS and HUMIDITY.” It was a no brainer when I had the opportunity to offer him a job at Cumberland Island a few years later. Everyone on Cumberland and in the community has had the opportunity to observe his talents whether it was swinging in a tree canopy with a chain saw, grading the roadways or operating the landing craft which are just a few of his many talents. The only living things around Southeast Georgia that will not miss Jeff are the SHRIMP, MULLET and FLOUNDER who he actively and skillfully hunted. Thanks Jeff for a great nine years, and I hope you have many great ones to come!

-David Casey
Facility Manager

