



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Park News

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U.S. Department of the Interior



The official newsletter of  
Cumberland Island National Seashore  
March through May 2012

The Cumberland Island National Seashore Bookstore located in the mainland Visitor's Center. (NPS Photo)

## Letter From The Superintendent

By FRED BOYLES

The longest and most productive partnership that exists at Cumberland Island National Seashore is our relationship with Eastern National. For those who may not know, Eastern National is the park's Cooperating Association. Cooperating Associations are in virtually every National Park Service area to provide an important service to our visitors. By providing retail sales, visitors can purchase books to learn more about the park story and purchase items that show their support of Cumberland Island. Like many of our park visitors, my brother proudly wears his Cumberland Island ball cap to advertise our special place and to cover up a rather sensitive spot from the sun. Profits made by Eastern National are returned to the park to help us purchase items and services that limited government funding does not provide. Eastern National was formed in 1947 by a group of National Park Rangers at Gettysburg who took up a collection to provide funds needed for startup. Today Eastern National has over 150 outlets in places like Cumberland Island. Since its modest beginnings Eastern has donated over \$100 million to its parks and published books, funded events, built exhibits and other important enhancements to the parks. At Cumberland, Eastern National's operation is ably headed up by Pauline Wentworth who is the Agency Coordinator and Gail Planas who is our Store Manager. Pauline and Gail work tirelessly to find new items, keep the store stocked with

the popular items that are top sellers and guide visitors to merchandise that will improve their visit along with learning more about Cumberland's history and natural beauty. Gail and Pauline do great work in this program area which often goes unnoticed.

Just like the dynamic in the retail book and gift markets of today, Eastern National's business is changing dramatically. In late May we were fortunate to have a visit from some of the headquarters and regional office staff of Eastern to help us make some of those changes. As with any kind of retail business, change is a constant. It is our desire to keep up with these changes and provide our visitors with the merchandise

they want. And remember, anything you purchase from Eastern National helps the park – so keep buying!



Fred Boyles  
Superintendent

# Safety Corner

By JAMES OWENS

When exposed to the great outdoors, it's easy to forget about some of the things that aren't so great about being outside. Out there among the trees and grasses, especially during the months of May, June, and July you might come in contact with a tick that would like a free ride and meal from you.

### Know How to Recognize Ticks

Ticks have eight legs. Most ticks, range in size from no bigger than a pencil point to as big as a sesame seed, can be found in wooded and grassy areas throughout the continental United States. Ticks can transmit Lyme disease, and other infections.

### Removing Ticks

If you do find a tick on you, it's essential to get rid of it as soon as possible. Ticks latched on to you in certain sensitive parts of your body, may require a doctor to handle the removal. Otherwise follow these steps:

- \* Using tweezers or other gripping devices, grab the tick as close to your skin as possible
- \* Pull with a steady grip
- \* Keep the tick intact
- \* After removal, clean the area and your hands thoroughly

\* Save the tick in a covered jar in case you need to show it to the doctor

\* Do not use matches, kerosene, or Vaseline to remove the tick

### Watch for Symptoms

Although it's unlikely you will develop an infection if the tick is removed soon after it latches on to you, early treatment is important. Be on guard for the increased redness or a bull's eye mark around where the tick bit you -- that can indicate Lyme disease. The American College of Emergency Physicians says other signs of trouble include fever and/or chills, headache, muscle aches, vomiting and fatigue.



# Eastern National Visits Cumberland

By FRED BOYLES



Karen Peters, Tripp Bates, Patty Davis and Adam Webster pause after a visit to the Island on May 22nd. Adam and Tripp are the the Coastal SE Management Team for Eastern National. Patty is the Product Sourcing Manager and Karen is the Store Design Manager for Eastern National.



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# The Today Show Visits Cumberland

By JUSTIN HELTON

NBC's Today Show visited Cumberland Island National Seashore on May 23rd for a story that aired during the week of July 4th. The crew spent a long day visiting sites all over the Island to include Dungeness, Sea Camp, the beach, Plum Orchard and the the Settlement. The correspondent was Jenna Bush Hager, daughter of President George W. Bush. Ms. Hager has done several stories as part of the Today Show's series on visiting National Parks. In the photo, Ms. Hager interviews a young visitor to the Island at the Sea Camp Dock. The story is available by searching on the Today Show website.



Jenna Bush Hager interviews a young visitor to Cumberland Island for the Today Show on May 23rd.

# Chief Ranger Dennis Parsons Retires

By FRED BOYLES

On April 30, 2012, Chief Ranger Dennis Parsons retired after 26 years with the National Park Service. Dennis started his career as a Park Aid (Law Enforcement) at Gulf Islands National Seashore in April of 1979. Throughout his time at Gulf Islands, Dennis held various positions in the Law Enforcement Division. Dennis transferred to Cumberland Island National Seashore on April 4, 2004. During his time at Cumberland Island, Dennis was instrumental in the implementation of the Lands and Legacies Tours. That included the public input for the transportation system and the fee. Dennis also played a pivotal role in the development of an agreement between the park, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Navy. He also did a myriad of tasks from boat operator training, managing the hunts, special use permits, festival permits in St. Marys and many other things.

A retirement party was held on the Island on April 26th. Park staff, volunteers, Island residents and several of Dennis' family members attended in wishing Dennis and his wife Julie the very best in this new chapter of their life.

The park wants again to say thank-you to Dennis for a job well done and for the many years of service to the National Park Service.



Chief Ranger Dennis Parsons accepts his retirement plaque from Superintendent Fred Boyles.

## Going Green

By LISA NIELSEN

We need your help! We'd like to go "green" with the Mullet Wrapper. And here is how you can participate. With an e-mail address, the park can electronically e-mail you the Mullet Wrapper or you can go to the park's website [www.nps.gov/cuis](http://www.nps.gov/cuis) and read the Mullet Wrapper under the Park News section. Either call Justin at 912-882-4336 extension 226 or e-mail Justin at [justin\\_helton@nps.gov](mailto:justin_helton@nps.gov) to add you to the electronic Mullet Wrapper mailing list and/or to have your name removed from the current mailing list. It's quite simple! And it saves time, money, and valuable resources by participating in the park's "going green" campaign. Of course, if you would still like to receive the Mullet Wrapper in its paper form, you will continue to do so. Thank you for your consideration!

## 2012 Stafford Family Reunion

By FRED BOYLES



On May 19th the Stafford Family held their reunion on Cumberland Island. The visit included trips to the the Chimneys, Stafford Cemetery, Plum Orchard and the Dungeness area. They also toured the mainland museum. Over half of the group of 20 had never been to the Island before. The Stafford Family reunion began in 2006 and has been held every two years since then. Pamela Stafford (wearing the Michigan Visor) first initiated the event and has organized the gathering. The Stafford Family are descendants of the enslaved Africans who lived and worked on Robert Stafford's plantation on Cumberland Island prior to the Civil War.

## A First For The Lands and Legacies Tour

By JUSTIN HELTON

Elizabeth Dixon and her family from New Jersey were the first to bring a service dog along on the Lands and Legacies Tour on May 24th. Seven year old "Lord Paxton" commented afterwards that he enjoyed the sites on the North End of the Island.



Lord Paxton



### Quote Corner

"Men best show their character in trifles, where they are not on their guard. It is in the simplest habits, that we often see the boundless egotism which pays no regard to the feelings of others and denies nothing to itself."

-Arthur Schopenhauer

## Bird Community Monitoring at Cumberland Island National Seashore

By MICHAEL W. BYRNE

The Southeast Coast Inventory and Monitoring Network (SECN) continued its long-term monitoring of bird communities at the Seashore this spring. The focus of this monitoring effort is to characterize the bird community during the spring migratory and breeding periods. Standard point counts were conducted at 30 sampling locations spread across the Seashore in both late March and early May of this year. These data have not yet been summarized, but a cursory overview of the data indicate that over 900 individuals in over 70 species were detected. Some noteworthy species detected this year include: Baltimore Oriole, Indigo Bunting, Hermit Thrush, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Philadelphia Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Cedar Waxwing, Chuck-will's Widow, Sedge Wren, Swamp Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Ovenbird, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Green Heron, Mottled Duck, Common Ground Dove, and Eastern Screech Owl.

A summary of our 2010 bird-community monitoring work, in addition to reports summarizing data from other components of SECN's long-term natural resource monitoring program at the Seashore, is currently available in the "Report & Publications" section of our website (<http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/secn/>). The data summary for this year's monitoring can also be found here at the end of the calendar year.



Scarlet Tanager - *Piranga olivacea*



Baltimore Oriole - *Icterus galbula*



Indigo Bunting - *Passerina cyanea*



Cedar Waxwing - *Bombycilla cedrorum*

# RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## Cumberland Island Turtle Techs Have Arrived

By DOUG HOFFMAN

Cumberland Island's Sea Turtle interns arrived in mid-May to an already busy nesting season. "Turtle Girl #1", Mackenzie Stevenson, is obtaining a degree in Wildlife Ecology and Management from Auburn University. She states that completing an internship with our park will further her experience in conservation and environmental stewardship. "Turtle Girl #2", Ashton Turner, will receive her degree in Recreation and Park Management from East Carolina University this summer. Her interest in conservation of natural resources with an emphasis on coastal resources fits well with the sea turtle program. Upon their arrival, both interns were thrown immediately into long days on the beach monitoring nesting activity. Thus far, they have recorded over 1100 sea turtle emergences and 580 confirmed nests on Cumberland's shoreline, which appears to be well on the way to the highest year on record for CUIS.



Mackenzie Stevenson (left) and Ashton Turner (right) pose with a nesting loggerhead sea turtle as she returns to the ocean.

## 2012 Sea Turtle Nesting

By DOUG HOFFMAN

- 580 Nests Laid
- 578 Loggerhead Nests
- 1 Leatherback Nest
- 1 Green Sea Turtle Nest
- 556 False Crawls
- 61,204 Estimated Eggs in Beach
- 1859 Nests Laid in the state of Georgia



Cumberland Island is experiencing its biggest sea turtle nesting season on record. This year's warm March temperatures brought turtles to the Georgia coast early. Cumberland Island recorded the first loggerhead nest in the state on April 25th, a full two weeks earlier than normal. Since then, nesting activity has been constant and heavy with no end in site (although nesting activity normally stops by mid-August). The 2010, 2011, and 2012 nesting seasons have produced the highest nest numbers since surveys began on Cumberland in the mid-1970's. Cumberland Island's 18 miles of undeveloped beach normally has the highest number of nests on the Georgia coast each year. This year we will likely account for one third of the entire state's nest total.

## Fire Wise

By JUSTIN HELTON



On June 20, 2012, Cumberland Island Fire Management Officer Ody Anderson conducted a Fire Wise planning meeting with representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Georgia Forestry Commission, and Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. The goal of the effort is to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and achieve a Fire Wise status for Cumberland Island.

## Tropical Storm Beryl Hits Cumberland Island

By FRED BOYLES

Without much warning and several days prior to the official start of Hurricane season, tropical storm Beryl hit Cumberland Island the evening of May 27th. Using the park's Hurricane Plan, the staff began the preparation and shutdown process a little over 24 hours before the storm's landfall. The Island was officially closed to visitors on Sunday, May 27th at 4:45 PM (time of the last ferry departure) to ensure that no campers would be on the Island. The Island remained closed on Monday May 28th through Friday, June 1st. Most of the damage was caused by downed trees and limbs. There was no damage to structures. To date the Seashore had 133 turtle nests. Of those, six nests were lost and 56 nests were washed over. Those nests will either fail completely or experience low hatchling success rate.



Fallen tree at Mainland Visitor's Center caused by the flooding and winds of Tropical Storm Beryl.



Employees (from left to right) Doug Hoffman, Fred Forbes, Jim Osborne and John Fry work to cut up the fallen tree at the Mainland Visitor's Center.



Employees Dennis Bingham (left) and Paula Messing (right) turns debris from Tropical Storm Beryl's wake into mulch.



The sea wall's erosion at Dungeness dock was accelerated by the heavy flooding brought by Tropical Storm Beryl.