

---

# SEWEE Association Annual News

---

The Newsletter for the Friends Group for the National Wildlife Refuges and Forest of Coastal South Carolina Summer, 2010

## Changes and Challenges!!

As I walked by the salt marsh this morning, the huge orange ball of a Sun rose and the laughing gulls began their "welcome today" chorus. Another person watching the Sun ascend into the sky remarked, "I'm glad to see it rise today". This made me realize how much we take for granted. We assume the sun will rise, the pelicans will fly over looking for the morning meal and that the grasses and pluff mud will always be there. However, we do have to acknowledge that things are changing, both from natural and man-made events. I cringe to think of seeing our spartina grasses full of oil as those in Louisiana now see. I am amazed how much Cape Island in Cape Romain NWR changes through a summer. There is a small refrigerator that just a couple of years ago had been buried in the marsh on the back side of the island yet now it is in the intertidal zone on the beach! This refrigerator did not move --- the island did!! The beach is constantly eroding as the ocean pushes further into it. We are all witnessing changes in our natural environs at a quickening pace, so we know that what we have now will not be the same as our grandchildren will see.

To me this means that the work of SEWEE Association is more important than ever. We continue to support through funding and/or interns research on Loggerhead Sea Turtles and wildlife management techniques to aid in the survival of these hatchlings and also those from nesting colonial birds. We have supported spraying of invasive plants on the refuges for several years so that the managers are seeing positive results from this project. And we are working to inform the public of the incredible research being done by our partners so that they understand the great challenges they are facing. More about these projects can be found inside.

Our greatest project remains managing the environmental education for our partners. This year we have expanded our work with the opening of the Waccamaw EE Center in Georgetown County and are extremely proud to say that in 2009 we worked with nearly 10,000 students, parents and teachers. This is a major accomplishment especially since we

did not hire an intern last year as part of our cost-cutting measures. Like all non-profits, meeting our operational budget is a major challenge in this economic climate, so we have instituted cutbacks where we can without affecting programs.

We believe that these programs are more important now than ever. We can take students to places they have never seen and show them how each unique habitat of the Lowcountry is a part of the web of this coastal plain ecosystem. They are learning their state-mandated requirements, but we know they are also learning about where they live and how we can preserve it for the future. These students will have a frame of reference as they advance into adulthood and are asked to make decisions about land-use and land management practices.

So we continue to need your support to allow us to continue this work. Our members have been generous over the years and we ask that you continue to support us through your membership and donations. We also ask that you spread the word about SEWEE Association and our work! We received lots of support through votes on our Pepsi Refresh project (which sadly we did not win) and many of you used your email connections to ask for votes. Why not use those connections again to tell others about our work and ask them to join the Association or send in a donation? This newsletter will be on our web site, so point them there to see what we are doing. Every donation adds to our capability to reach students and teachers and the demand from that arena is not diminishing. With your support, we will find ways to increase our impact!

- Karen Beshears, Executive Director

### Look Inside:

- Education programs keep growing pg. 2
- Meet the SEWEE board pg. 4
- Partner projects pgs. 5, 6, 8
- Regional Director's award for SEWEE pg. 5

**Riddle: What could be found in Ion Swamp in groups that has a loud call and sometimes camouflages themselves by rubbing dirt on their legs? Answer at the end of this article!**

We have had another exciting year of engaging many little inquiring minds as well as the adults with them! Even without an education intern for this year, the SEWEE Association was still able reach as many people as last year. In 2009, we reached almost 10,000 people through our education programs ranging from Earth Stewards, daily environmental education, summer camps, to scout groups and teacher workshops. Out of those people, over 2,000 visited Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center and so should you if you haven't been there yet.

We are celebrating a 10 year anniversary this year, can you guess what is 10 years old? Our Sewee Earth Stewards program. This program started taking students from one local school out on our public lands and educating them multiple times about our beautiful National Forest and all of our National Wildlife Refuges. We now have five schools that participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade program, five that participate in our shortened Brevis program, and three that participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade program. Earth Stewards provides invaluable outdoor experiences to children that do not spend nearly enough time in nature. We were way ahead of the "Last Child in the Woods" movement started by Richard Louv a few years ago! We have observed with our own eyes the benefits to children's physical and mental health by enjoying some time in the forests and beaches of the Lowcountry.

Our teacher workshops were a special success this year. The SEWEE Association partnered with Charleston County School District to offer two teacher workshops in which we took research that is being conducted on the Refuges and Forest to create lesson plans for teachers to use with their students. We plan on continuing to offer these workshops this year as well. We created a workshop titled, "Let's Go Outside" to help teachers become more comfortable teaching their students outside even if it is only in the school yard. The workshop was first presented at SC<sup>2</sup> (South Carolina Science Council) conference to a full room with people spilling into the hallway. Then it was repeated at the Berkeley County Teacher Forum to over 80 teachers and yes we do go outside for this workshop even in the snow! We also worked in partnership with local teachers and the South Caro-

lina Aquarium to create a Climate Change teacher workshop called, "Oceans and our Changing Climate".

Climate change is touching all of our natural resources in many complex ways and it is important to make our future leaders understand these relationships and effects. This year we are incorporating the issues that the Forest and Refuges are facing due to climate change into our existing education programs. These problems range from sea level rise reducing shorebird nesting habitat and temperature shifts affecting sea turtle nesting, to insect infestations attacking our trees in the forest.

We would like to thank all of our members and donors that contribute invaluable funds and time, allowing us to continue educating our children about the beauty of our natural resources and the factors that threaten them.

And lastly, did you figure out the answer to the riddle? Our Sewee Earth Stewards of course!

*-Submitted by Julie Binz, SEWEE Association Educator*

**Music & Oysters for Wildlife - Success Regardless of Weather!**

Once again we were hit by rain for our event this year, but that did not affect the over 800 who came to slurp those oysters and dance to music from the Blue Dogs, Cravin' Melon and others. Students from Wando High and many volunteers and sponsors made this a major success again.

With over 6000 sq. feet of tents, everyone stayed dry and the heaters were only needed at the end. YOU did an amazing job of reducing our waste from this event too, as the Wando students reminded everyone to reuse their drink cup and then recycle them at the end. Our waste was reduced by more than 50% this year!!

Thank you for coming in the rain and bringing your friends! This is our MAJOR fund raiser each year, so we count on the proceeds to meet our budget.

The planning for the next event has begun, so **Save the Date: Saturday, January 22, 2011!**

We need sponsors to help support the event and offer auction items and volunteers to keep it running, so if you can help, just contact us!! Ticket sales will begin in December, just in time for those holiday gifts!!

# SEWEE Association Annual News, 2010



*Slurp those oysters and dance to the music at Music and Oysters for Wildlife Every January*



*Loggerhead Sea Turtle project — building hatcheries, refrigerator on beach that used to be in marsh, and the turtle track freeway you find each morning on Cape Island*



*There has to be something in this mud!!  
McDonald Elementary Student*

*Students learn how to relocate a sea turtle nest when needed!*



*An alliance of researchers are working with Waccamaw NWR to radio-tag Swallow-tailed kites in an effort to get an accurate population count. Read more on pg. 8*

*Sullivan's Island teacher Ashley Meeks conducts class in l'on Swamp*



*Rocking chairs donated by SEWEE members line the river side of WEEC waiting for you!*

*Tara Hall Summer Campers build wood duck boxes with Jason Hunnicutt and Bryana Libby at Waccamaw EE Center*



*A Donor Tree was added at WEEC to acknowledge our contributors*



*The Annual Meeting in 2010 involved WORK! Signs were added to the new trail at Waccamaw EE Center.*

## Meet the SEWEE Association Board

**Tom Badgett** – It was with interest that I followed the building of the new center at Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, since I live in Conway, and led to my involvement with the board. I have spent many years whitewater canoeing in the southeast. I own a cabin in the mountains of northeast Georgia, twenty-nine miles away from the great whitewater of the Chattooga River. My local paddling (in a kayak) includes the Waccamaw River.

**Chris Crolley** - As the owner of Coastal Expeditions I have the opportunity to spend the majority of my time actively participating in the outside world in many different facets. These opportunities include: kayaking, canoeing, hiking, biking, swimming, birding, botanical studies, leading environmental education programs for groups of all ages and interests, and general natural observation and environmental interpretation. My career choice as a naturalist dictates that I spend a great deal of time outdoors providing environmental interpretation.

**Rhonda Ewing** - Since the late 90's I have been involved with environmental education in the Lowcountry. I continue to carry the torch of my former neighbor, the late yet infamous Linnea Rogers-Notton, to preserve and conserve our natural lands and resources. Each morning I spend at least 30 minutes of my day in nature. However, when time allows, I slip away to Awendaw, McClellanville, and Huger to capture the beauty of the forest, glimpse the change of tides on the dock, or simply hike a trail seeking the beauty along the paths. My most favorite days are those kayaking along the tidal creek with other nature lovers.

**Grace Gasper** - I believe nothing in conservation is as critical as instilling a strong conservation ethic in our next generation. My current job, doing field research, keeps me well connected to the natural world on a daily basis. I love learning from my colleagues and sharing the connection we all have to the natural world. And I especially love finding new and out of the way places to explore like some small creek off the Pee Dee River or cypress swamps, well hidden, within the Francis Marion.

**Diane Girardeau** - My friend and colleague Rhonda Ewing nominated me to the board. To experience the natural world, I participate in a number of outdoor activities pretty much any time I have a free minute. If I'm not kayaking, I'm walking with my dogs in the Francis Marion forest, biking, gar-

dening, or reading in my hammock.

**Sarah Hartman** - Joining the SEWEE Association board lets me take an active role in providing more opportunities for getting in touch with nature especially for our youth. I try to get out every weekend to a favorite retreat, like Folly Beach at sunrise, or a new adventure. Every trip, I get to peek at nature close up, and become inspired all over again. Volunteering with the Cape Island turtle crew to patrol the beach last summer, I watched the endangered loggerhead sea turtle mamas lay their eggs under the moon and a nest boil with baby loggerheads all on the same night. That's about as full circle as you can get!

**Brent Hill** –Larry Davis (formerly with CRNWR) recognized the need for strong fiscal accountability for the SEWEE Association, and due to my background as an accountant I was recruited for the board as treasurer. This involvement for me opened the door to the great outdoors. I learned the value of the Association's conservation mission, and educating the next generations to our natural heritage. Conserving the Association's fiscal assets has been my main task with the board.

**Bob Raynor** – I have been a friend of the SEWEE Association for a while, and starting volunteering at the MOW events. I am incredibly fortunate to live so close to Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. I regularly slip out into the creeks, bays, and the ocean on my trusty sailboat *Kingfisher* to explore our amazing coast in the refuge and points beyond. My trips to Bull Island inspired me to write my first book, *Exploring Bull Island*. A lifetime of nature study and discovery awaits me each day I am able to set sail.

**Eddie White** - My children went through the Earth Stewards program at Pinckney Elementary and I became a life member of the association. What made the decision easy to join the board was the message, and it still does. Teach young people about nature and it changes their lives. I am naturally curious about living things and have lived with dirt under my nails my entire life. I have a family camp on the edge of the Francis Marion forest and it delights all who enter. Bike, walk or paddle the day away. *-submitted by Bob Raynor*

*From left—Diane Girardeau, Rhonda Ewing, Eddie White, Grace Gasper, Bob Raynor, & Sarah Hartman. (not included: Tom Badgett, Chris Crolley, Brent Hill)*



***FMNF Research on threatened and endangered species***

Francis Marion National Forest (FMNF) encompasses more than 250,000 acres in Charleston and Berkeley counties of diverse habitat from salt marsh at Buck Hall, Tibwin and the Sewee Shell Mound; wetlands of all sorts including creeks, swamps, Carolina Bays and isolated wetlands; and upland long-leaf pine stands. Throughout this area there is an incredible diversity of plant and animal communities which are monitored to maintain a healthy forest.

For the past 21 years, a major project within the FMNF has been to recover the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) population that was decimated by the destruction of habitat from Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Since most of the nest trees for these birds were destroyed by the winds, biologists of FMNF created artificial nesting boxes to insert in remaining trees in hope that the surviving birds would use them during their next nesting season. Thankfully they did and the recovery began. According to the Recovery Plan for the RCW, the recovery goal for the FMNF was to have 350 potential breeding groups on the Forest. A potential breeding group is a term used to describe an adult female and adult male that occupy the same cluster.

Now, according to Wildlife Biologist, Mark Danaher, the Forest has exceeded that goal and supports about 412 breeding groups and 3 single bird groups! (The new goal is to have 450 active clusters in FMNF.) With this success, they have begun a project to translocate sub-adult pairs to other sites throughout the Southeast. Since 2009 they have sent a total of 24 pairs to places like Ft. Jackson, Okefenokee NWR, Ocala and Talladega NF and others. These recipient populations were able to use the artificial cavities to provide new nests for these pairs so they can begin new clusters. This year they hope to move another 10 pairs as a part of this exceptional project. This work has also allowed them to learn more about these birds and their cooperative breeding habits which has been beneficial to all areas working with RCW's. For more information about this translocation project, go to <http://www.serppas.org/Projects.aspx> and click on the reports about RCW's.

Francis Marion NF is also a prime spot for threatened and endangered amphibians. Danaher and others have 'Frog Call Routes' that they use to monitor the frog population. A species of particular interest is the Carolina Gopher Frog, a state endangered and forest sensitive species. Over the past few years, a very small population of Frosted Flatwood salamanders (a federally threatened species) has also been found. This salamander is likely

one of the rarest vertebrates on the forest as only 6 adults have been found on the forest during annual surveys. FMNF is one of only 3 locations where this salamander is known to exist in SC. Both of these amphibians rely on isolated wetlands for reproduction and upland Long-leaf Pine forests for their habitats. Controlled burns are critical to maintain this ecosystem for these species as well as for the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, so this is one of the most important management tools that biologists use.

FMNF is for people, too, and our recreation. So, be sure to **Leave no Trace** of your trip there and respect these animals' home.

***SEWEE gets USFWS Regional Director Honor Award!***

SEWEE Association was selected to receive the USFWS Regional Director Honor Award for Volunteers at the Atlanta office in May, 2010. This award is given to acknowledge the efforts of volunteers to help the National Wildlife Refuges in Region 4 accomplish their mission.

SEWEE was nominated by Waccamaw NWR Manager, Craig Sasser, who also received an Employee Honor Award. Awards were given to Virginia Prevost, past President, and Karen Beshears, Executive Director, as there is no category for a Friend's Group, but the award is for all the work of the organization and its members. In acknowledging this work, Cindy Dohner, Regional Director, noted that **SEWEE Association had given more than \$1.1 million in products and services to our partners since our inception in 1996.** Our education programs through the Sewee Center in Awendaw and the new Waccamaw Environmental Education Center in Georgetown were noted as we had nearly 10,000 students, parents and teachers in these programs during 2009. Our role in the creation of the new Waccamaw EE Center and the Cox Ferry Lake Recreation Area was also noted, including the contributions toward the buildings, exhibits and trails. Cape Romain NWR also acknowledged our role in funding major biological projects like the Loggerhead Sea Turtle nesting, shorebird surveys and eradication of invasive species on Bulls Island.

The Association is very grateful for this honor and to be able to be a vital partner to all our Refuges.

*Cape Romain NWR has Multiple Research Projects Ongoing*

Many people think of our Refuges as places where wildlife and plants have a protected ecosystem in which to flourish. They don't realize, however, all the research that is done there and the work that has to be done to provide the habitats that are needed.

Cape Romain NWR is busy with research this year which will have major impacts for wildlife. The Loggerhead Sea Turtle Nesting project is one of the most intense projects each year. Managed by Refuge Biologist, Sarah Dawsey, over 4000 hours of volunteer labor are contributed annually on Cape, Lighthouse and Bulls Islands to find new sea turtle nests, cage or relocate all the nests based on where they were laid, then to inventory the nests after hatching. 2010 is becoming a strong year for nesting with over 1200 nests —the first nest laid on May 7<sup>th</sup> and hatchings beginning on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to managing the nests, the Refuge is also participating in a DNA Sequencing project through the University of Georgia using an eggshell from each nest. This work will provide an analysis of each female turtle and will help us know exactly where she nested this year. They will also be able to identify any familial relationships of the turtles. Since this research is being conducted with all turtle teams in NC, SC and GA, we will have better information about nesting habits than ever before.

Shorebird surveys continue on the Refuge on a monthly basis for the 4<sup>th</sup> year. This year there is a new survey on Secretive Marsh Birds, including rails, grebes and bitterns. Also, Clemson is in the second year of trying to determine causes for the low reproductive success of the seabird colonies on the Refuge through regular surveys. Monitoring of all these species help wildlife managers better understand how the refuges are being used and allow them to make appropriate management decisions.

Clemson students are also involved in 2 other studies: 1. Determining the diet of minks in the Refuge, as it is believed they are preying on seabird colonies; and 2. Implementing 'head starting' of American Oystercatcher young by artificial incubation of eggs away from typical nesting sites that get overwashed and predated. The eggs will be returned to the nest when they are ready to hatch so that the parents can care for the hatchlings. This research has implications for how the Refuge can deal with rising sea levels and that effect on these birds.

Diamondback Terrapins have been a species of concern, so a College of Charleston student is working to determine the abundance and distribution of this species and possibly their health. Finally, researchers from Boston University have established SET stations at tidal marsh creeks in the Refuge to determine how these are migrating further into the marsh and if there is an accretion or sinking of the sediment levels in these places. All of this research can be helpful as resource managers try to understand how our changing climate is impacting the coastal landscape.

**Thanks to the Sponsors & Musicians of Music & Oysters for Wildlife  
2010!!**

**We Couldn't Have Done it Without YOU!**

**Supporters**

*All Out Adventures  
Barrier Island Ecotours  
BB&T Bank  
Ben Moise Catering  
Blue Waters Commercial Pools  
Carolina Seafood  
East Cooper Auto Pros  
Lowcountry Door & Hardware*

*Palmetto Brewery  
Patrick Smith Insurance  
Piggly Wiggly  
Sewee Dental Care  
Stage Presence Entertainment  
Suncoast Promotions  
Tamsberg Plumbing  
The Nature Conservancy*

**Musicians**

*Blue Dogs  
Cravin' Melon  
Danielle Howle  
Doug Jones  
Whisperjets  
Ed & Sarah Hunnicutt*

**Comings and Goings**

**Goings:** In June we said goodbye and good luck to **Kevin Godsea** and **Ray Pattera** of Cape Romain NWR. Kevin is now the refuge manager of Florida Panther NWR and Ray has moved to Blackwater NWR in Maryland. We will miss them and wish them the best in their new assignments.

After serving on the SEWEE board for 10 years, Ginny Prevost decided to move to other opportunities, but will still volunteer to teach! Ginny's leadership as President for 6 years was greatly appreciated.

**Coming:** We welcome **Jason Hunnicutt** to Waccamaw NWR as the new Visitor Services Manager! The Association lobbied for this position for WNWR and we are delighted that Jason was able to fill the need!

***TOURS OF BULLS WITH RUDY OCT. 10TH***

How lucky can we be!! The **Annual Tour of Bulls Island with Rudy Mancke** is now scheduled for **Sunday, October 10th**. We are so fortunate that Rudy will continue to lead this tour for us—a regular event since 1996! If you have not been on this trip, you don't want to miss it.

We will take 2 groups to Bulls Island and you will be able to ride to various spots on Bulls Island and listen to Rudy's magnificent interpretation of what is there. It is different every time as his knowledge is so vast he can talk on anything that is seen. Your donation of \$75 per person includes the ferry ride to Bulls Island, transportation on the island with Rudy, a fulfilling lunch, and a 1 year membership in the SEWEE Association. Learn about our educational activities while enjoying one of the jewels of the Lowcountry. To register, send the completed registration form below with payment as soon as possible. You may call the Sewee Center (843-928-3368) to register, but we **MUST** receive your payment within 10 days of your call to confirm the reservations. These tours sell out FAST!! Limited to 35 people per tour.

**Want to help our education programs, including Sewee Earth Stewards, even more?** Extra donations will help us expand our programs in Charleston, Berkeley, and Georgetown counties. Sewee Earth Stewards fosters an interest in science and math through a child's curiosity of our natural resources!!

**RUDY MANCKE TOUR OF BULLS ISLAND**

I WANT TO SUPPORT THE SEWEE ASSOCIATION AND ENJOY THE TOUR OF BULLS ISLAND. SIGN ME UP FOR THE FOLLOWING TOUR:

Tour of Bulls Island, Oct. 10th, 8:45 am

Tour of Bulls Island, Oct. 10th, 11:00 am

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

DAY TIME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EVENING PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER FOR BULLS ISLAND: \_\_\_\_\_ \* \$75 = \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

EXTRA DONATION FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my credit card : (total amt) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Check included for : (total amt) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Make Check payable to SEWEE Association

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: MC VISA

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

CVV number: (a 3-digit number on the back of your card) \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN FORM TO:**

**SEWEE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
PO Box 1131  
MT. PLEASANT, SC 29465-1131**

All donations to SEWEE Association are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

## **New projects abound at Waccamaw NWR**

As the newest Refuge in SC, Waccamaw NWR continues to grow in land, in facilities and in research. With the new Environment Education Center and Headquarters building in full use now, visitors are able to learn more about the refuge and take advantage of special events to highlight its protected lands. Education programs are ever increasing and visitors enjoy the incredible "Tale of Two Rivers" exhibit hall and shopping in the Trading Post during regular hours of Monday—Friday, 9-4.

As of August, 2010, the Refuge is protecting 22,870 acres along the PeeDee and Waccamaw Rivers. They have been working with US Geological Society on a study of the historic rates of carbon storage in tidal freshwater wetlands and managed wetlands through carbon-dating of the organic layers. There is also an ongoing archaeological study on Yauhannah Bluff through Dr. Cheryl Woods of Coastal Carolina University that was kicked off this summer as part of CCU's Field School of Archeology. You can read more about this on the student blogs at <http://archaeologyatcoastalcarolina.wordpress.com/>. They were able to recover many artifacts this summer dating from the late 1800's—early 1900's that indicate the area was a major gathering place during the time of the operation of the ferry across the river.

Also, the Swallow-tail Kite Initiative continues in the Refuge and other areas north of Charleston. This summer the Avian Conservation Research Institute identified 18 nests that were completed and had successful hatchings of a total of 24 chicks. 11 of those chicks were banded and equipped with radio transmitters which will be used to track their movements through mid-August. Eight of these nests were on the PeeDee River (in or near the Refuge) and 2 were found within 60 meters of each other—the closest ever documented by these researchers. Seven nests were found in the Francis Marion NF and the others were on Black Mingo Creek and Waccamaw River. Researchers are now following the marked hatch-year kites to see what the young kites do after they fledge and before they migrate south to catch up with their parents in the migration to South America. This work has been incredibly important as it helps land managers better understand the relationship between the nesting habitat and the larger land-

scape which provides essential forage for Kites to fuel up before migrating.

Public use and research will continue to grow at Waccamaw NWR and several groups from CCU are showing interest in working with the Refuge on multiple projects. One of the most recent developments on the Cox Ferry Lake Recreation Area was the completion of an additional 200 linear feet of boardwalk which completes blue trail. Additionally, phase one of a new mountain bike trail was also recently completed through help from volunteers, CCU and the International Mountain Bike Association. Volunteers are needed to help at the EE Center on Hwy. 701 to greet visitors and to help with our education programs, so if you want to help, contact Jason Hunicutt at 843-527-8069.

### **Eradication of Invasive Species continues**

**Through a Coastal Service Program grant managed by SEWEE Association, our Refuges have been working to eliminate Chinese Tallow, Phragmites, and Water Hyacinth from their lands. This grant has given us 2 years of funding for major spraying, and it is making a difference. The best results have been with the tallow — over 250 acres have been treated on Bulls Island and in the ACE Basin NWR!**

### **Quick Notes:**

SEWEE wants to send a major thanks to the students from the Art Institute of Charleston for our new web site design. They have given us a fresh new look that we should use for a long time! Check it out!!

There will be construction on the ponds of Bulls Island through the end of the year to improve the water control structures and allow for better water level management. Signs will let you know when areas are closed as the work progresses. This is a major project that came from the stimulus funding of 2009-2010.

**Many Refuge personnel have been helping with the efforts to save wildlife in the Gulf! We thank them for this special effort and time away from home and normal duties!**

# Your Support is Invaluable

## RENEWAL/DONATION FORM



SEWEE ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 1131  
MT. PLEASANT, SC 29465-1131

Make checks payable to  
SEWEE Association.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$20    Family \$30    Supporter \$50    Contributor \$100    Lifetime Member \$250    I want to assure the Education Programs of SEWEE continue with an Extra Donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I support SEWEE's GREEN efforts—please do not mail me the newsletter next year

MY CHECK IS ENCLOSED FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR  PLEASE CHARGE \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TO MY CREDIT CARD

Credit Card Type: circle one   MC   VISA   Account # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIPS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW

*Be sure to give us your email address to get regular notices!!!!*

**MORE THAN EVER** we need your support this year. The need for our education programs is growing and we continue to support our partners in every way we can. We have reduced our costs, but we still need to cover salaries and office expenses for THIS YEAR!

**Please help us** again by renewing your membership at the highest level you can and/or sending an extra donation for these services. (Your renewal date is on the address label.)

You can also help by telling your friends about us and asking them to join in the support of the worthwhile education programs we provide. Make a copy of this page to give them or tell them to check out our web site: [www.seweeassociation.org](http://www.seweeassociation.org).

Foundations continue to support us, but they are feeling the pinch from the economy and more needs by many organizations. So we need YOU to keep us functioning!!  
Thanks,  
Karen

### What does your donation do?

- **\$200** pays for staff and materials for **one Earth Stewards field trip**. (Over 40 field trips next year.)

- **\$100** pays for staff and materials for **one in-school SES class** (About 25 in-class lessons will be scheduled.)
- **\$75** pays for staff for **one on-site class**, generally scheduled 3-4 days each week.
- **\$50** helps to pay for **food and care of our educational wolves for 2 months**. The Association has regularly bought the dry food for our Sewee Center wolves and helps with vet costs when needed.



### SEWEE is going GREEN

As an environmental organization, we are trying to conserve our resources. Next year we hope to reduce paper by offering this newsletter on the web to many of our members. If you can do without a 'hard copy', please note that on your renewal form. We will send you an email with the link to the newsletter when it is ready!!

Also, we are communicating via Facebook and our web site regularly. Join our group on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=119554113982&ref=ts>.



**SEWEE Association**  
PO Box 1131  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29465-1131



**Friends Group for the  
National Wildlife  
Refuges and Forest of  
Coastal South Carolina**

*Non-Profit  
Organization  
U. S. Postage*  
**PAID**  
*Permit #373  
Mt. Pleasant, SC*

**Return Service Requested**

**SEWEE Association Annual News 2010**

***Music & Oysters for Wildlife scheduled  
for Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011!  
Rudy Mancke returns to Bulls Island—  
October 10th***

***Check out our new web site design!  
[www.seweeassociation.org](http://www.seweeassociation.org)***

See all the details inside

**SEWEE Association  
PO Box 1131  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29465  
843-884-7539**

**[sewee.association@earthlink.net](mailto:sewee.association@earthlink.net)**



*Belle Hall students pre-  
pare our Turtle Cloth Bags  
for distribution during Fan-  
tabulous Friday. Are you  
using your Bags?*

**SEWEE  
Association  
Board of Directors**

Grace Gasper, *President*  
Sarah Hartman, *Vice-President*  
Rhonda Ewing, *Secretary*  
Brent Hill, *Treasurer*

Tom Badgett  
Chris Crolley  
Diane Girardeau  
Bob Raynor  
Eddie White

Ex-Officio members:  
*USFWS*  
Jannah Dupre, *USFS*

**Staff**  
Karen Beshears,  
*Executive Director*  
Julie Binz,  
*Educator*