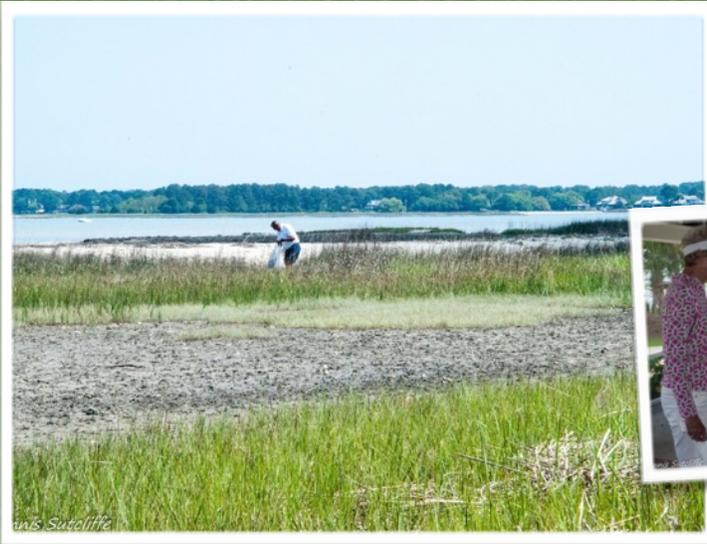


DAUFUSKIE ISLAND CONSERVANCY

FEBRUARY 2017

DAUFUSKIE ISLAND, SC

ANNUAL UPDATE



Thanks to all our members for your support and tremendous volunteer efforts in 2016

Letter from the President

We kicked off the year last February with our annual meeting. We introduced two new board members at the meeting and went over plans for the year. The meeting was held at The Daufuskie Wine & Woodworks Barn and was well attended. Everyone present enjoyed themselves as we recapped 2015 and went over plans for 2016.

We held various, interesting and enjoyable educational events during the year which are all listed in this publication. 2016 was "The Year of The Oyster" and we were lucky to partner with **Jenny Hersch** as she presented numerous educational events celebrating this remarkable animal and the role it plays in the low country. We tagged horseshoe crabs at night on the beach at Bloody Point after an informative presentation that South Carolina DNR put on at The Eagle's Nest last spring. We all learned about the very important issue of our ground water on Daufuskie at a presentation by **Paul Vogel**. We are currently working on a schedule of educational events for 2017. **Carol Humphreys** has joined our board and is spearheading this job. If anyone has an idea for an educational event, please let her know.

We had semi-annual "beach sweeps" where many of us hit the beach with grabbers and gators and literally picked up and properly disposed of tons of debris. We supplied coffee

and snacks, and everyone who participated left tired and feeling great about keeping our beautiful beaches clean. **Nancy Hunter** agreed to head our "Adopt a Road" program and we had a nice evening cookout where Adopt a Road volunteers signed up for new roads (and beaches) and confirmed existing routes. We believe that we have the whole island covered but are always looking for help so if you want to get involved, please contact Nancy and she will put you straight to work!

We helped fund the glass crusher that **Tony and Kristi Chase** installed at The Rum Company. They are using crushed glass to backfill trenches and stabilize roadways. This is a great way to quickly use recycled glass right here on our island without spending much energy for transportation.

2016 marked the last year that we were fortunate to have **Laura Winholt** on our board. Laura served The Conservancy for many, many years where she did an outstanding job. I took over as president for her last year and was able to get a "behind the scenes" look at the incredible amount of work she did during her presidency. Her passion and personal standards are highly admirable. We have assured Laura that we will continue to hold true to our mission statement and not drop the ball on some of her pet (no pun intended) projects.

I can't let this update go by without mentioning **Eileen Pojednic**. Simply, she is

the glue that holds this group together; she is "our favorite person."

As we look forward to 2017, we are excited about the events we are planning. We hope to keep working with The Daufuskie Island Council about someday having a garbage and recycling center on this island. Our dump is a mess and we are terrible at recycling. The recycling effort at Haig Point is admirable but only deals with a very small portion of our island's waste.

Hurricane Matthew presented challenges for us all. We are thinking of ways to reuse the many trees that are down. We are also looking into how all of this new sunlight will affect our wooded lands and fields. We are keeping an eye on our beaches and how our flattened dunes will affect future erosion and sand accrual.

An important part of being a Conservancy member is how we "conserve" in our daily lives. One of our goals for 2017 is to encourage members to do a better job at conserving water and cutting down on our daily use of plastic.

Please get involved in our events for 2017. You won't regret it!

Thanks,

Mike Loftus

DAUFUSKIE
ISLAND
CONSERVANCY



LOVE IT
SAVE IT
SHARE IT

501(c)(3)
Nonprofit
Organization

For More Information
www.daufuskieislandconservancy.org

Founded
2005



2016 Educational Programs

Field Trip to Nemours Wildlife
Plantation, Yemassee, SC



Beach Tagging Horseshoe Crabs
with Nicholas Wallover at Bloody
Point Eagle's Nest and Beach



Ground Water with Bruce Campbell
(USCG) at Melrose Island House



South Carolina Deep Water
Artificial Reef System with David
Harter, Hilton Head Reef
Foundation at
Melrose Island House



Cultivating a Carolina Yard" with
Dr. Amy Scaroni, Clemson
Extension Program for Carolina
Clear – postponed until 2017

Celebrating Earth Day 2016 with Spring Beach and River Marsh Sweep



Volunteers scoured more than ten miles of beach and river marsh and collected 44 bags of debris plus construction material, fencing, and more

Earth Day Beach/River Sweep

The Daufuskie Island Conservancy and the Haig Point Environmental Committee celebrated Earth Day this year on Saturday, April 23, 2016 by organizing a Spring Beach/River Marsh Sweep on Daufuskie. Fifty-three volunteers formed two teams which rallied at the Haig Point Beach Club and the Beach Road Gazebo at Bloody Point. The two teams scoured more than 10 miles of beach and river marsh. The Haig Point volunteers collected twenty-seven trash bags of small debris, mostly from the river marsh, as well as twenty-eight pieces of larger construction material, plastic fencing, tires, part

of a floating dock and more than fifty pieces of fishing gear.

The Beach Road Gazebo volunteers collected 17 plastic bags of smaller items and more than 250 pieces of large construction material, wood fencing, large foam pieces and sand bags. We are grateful to all of our volunteers, including our haulers, who in Gators and vehicles with trailers took all of this debris to the county dump. Thanks to all of the volunteers.



Many thanks to our sponsors – (Haig Point, Melrose on the Beach and Bloody Point) whose chefs provided delicious refreshments for our volunteers. Thanks also to our photographers, Dennis Sutcliffe and Leanne Coulter.

2016 Year of the Oyster on Daufuskie

The Year of the Oyster 2016 began with a kick-off oyster roast at Freeport Marina. Oysters were provided by the May River Oyster Company and roasted to perfection by Freddie Grant. Daufuskie Island Elementary School students' power point presentations about the oyster life cycle were well crafted, well researched and very informative.

Speakers from the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources continued our education about oysters in the environment and Archaeologist Larry Lepionka enlightened us about the use of oyster shells in tabby architecture. Field trips included: Pin Point Heritage Museum in Savannah, Lady's Island Oyster Farm, and the Sea Pines Preserve Shell Ring Dig.

YOTO events rescheduled in 2017 will include: an oyster art show, A South Carolina Nature Conservancy boat trip to Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge and a South Carolina Department of Natural Resources oyster restoration presentation.

SAVE THE DATE: On Wednesday April 26, volunteers are needed for Daufuskie's first oyster reef build. Details are coming soon.

YOTO is supported by the Daufuskie Island Conservancy, the Daufuskie Island Historical Foundation, the Daufuskie Island Elementary School, the Coastal Discovery Museum, the Daufuskie Island Rum Company (oyster shell recycling site) and the organizations that provided programming.

Many thanks to John Hill for designing a wide variety of oyster-honoring YOTO-ware and accessories.

The YOTO Committee: Geoff Brunning, Leanne Coulter, Kym Castillo, Bev Jennings and Jenny Hersch



Thanks to donations and the countless hours of efforts from volunteers, the DI Cat Sanctuary program has been exceptionally successful.

Cat Sanctuary

The Daufuskie Island Cat Sanctuary is organized to serve Daufuskie Island, Beaufort County Animal Services and the Hilton Head Humane Association. The cat sanctuary provides a permanent and safe home for cats that, for whatever reason, are threatened or have been evicted from their outdoor home, and for unwanted or abandoned cats that are not suitable for adoption. We offer spay/ neuter and relocation assistance to homeless cats and cats owned by island residents. We work closely with area veterinarians to ensure the health and wellbeing of our cats. Thanks to generous financial and in-kind donations from cat lovers and veterinarians, along with the countless hours of so many great volunteers, the program has been exceptionally successful. The Daufuskie Island Conservancy sponsored the cat sanctuary from 2012 until August of 2016. The Hilton Head Humane Association (HHHA) approved the Daufuskie Island Cat Sanctuary as one of its programs. HHHA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization funded entirely by private donations, bequests, membership dues and fundraising. No funding is received from any government agency or humane organization. The staunch support of the community makes the success of the Hilton Head Humane Association possible. To schedule a private tour of the Cat Sanctuary please call Laura at (843) 683-32531 or email at db1945@hargray.com. Please like our Facebook page: Daufuskie Island Cat Sanctuary.

Salt Water Intrusion on Daufuskie Island

Salt water intrusion continues to be an area problem and the state continues to support Daufuskie in the monitoring of the water supply. The island has three test wells, one on the northern end, one in Bloody Point, and in 2016 a third test well was installed on the west side with the contributions from the four communities. Initial tests from that well are good, which hopefully is good news for Daufuskie. In January of 2017, the state geologist sampled all three wells. These samples will be analyzed for salinity. The results will be included in the area study and model, and will be presented by the state geologist in the fall of 2017 in a Conservancy educational program.

Amazon Smile Partnership

The Daufuskie Island Conservancy is registered with Amazon Smile. By signing up on Amazon Smile, .5% of your purchases will be matched by the Amazon Smile Foundation to be contributed to the Daufuskie Island Conservancy. The price of your items will be the same as when you shop on Amazon. To sign up for Amazon Smile, go to www.smile.amazon.com. 

Fall Beach Sweep

The Fall Beach Sweep was held on Saturday, September 17th and the Conservancy and the Haig Point Environmental Committee partnered again this year with the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources on this annual statewide event. Thirty-six volunteers gathered at the Beach Road Gazebo at Bloody Point and the Haig Point Beach Club and scoured the beachfront along the Calibogue Sound and the Atlantic. Laura Winholt, who coordinated the effort from the Gazebo, reported there was less debris than in the Spring. Only nine trash bags of small trash and 317 pounds of large trash (including construction debris) were collected from Melrose to the end of Bloody Point. Thanks to our volunteer haulers who removed all this debris from the beachfront.



Join Us!

The Daufuskie Island Conservancy is a SC nonprofit corporation organized exclusively for education, scientific and charitable purposes related to the study, protection and management of the natural resources of Daufuskie Island and the surrounding ecosystem.

To become a member of the Daufuskie Island Conservancy, or to learn more about our educational programs, services, and volunteer opportunities, visit daufuskieislandconservancy.com



Adopt A Road

The Adopt A Road (AAR) program was created in 2009 to clean up, educate, and raise awareness about the effects of litter on the environment. Our program was modeled after Beaufort County's Adopt A Highway program. Our AAR volunteers have adopted 39 quarter-mile sections of road or beach in the Historic District. They collect trash bimonthly from October to April and monthly from May to September. Grabbers and trash bags provided to volunteers by the Conservancy can be obtained from Nancy Hunter at 954-243-1325 or nancymhunter@aol.com.

In September 2016, the Conservancy hosted an 'Adopt A Road Volunteer Thank You Barbecue' at Daufuskie Wine and Woodwork. The gathering was both tasty and uplifting, as volunteers recommitted to their particular roads, as well as to the goal of keeping Daufuskie Island pristine!

