

The Front Porch
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Conservancy Leads the Way in Island Beautification

Submitted by Maria Martin

From golf carts to topless buses to jacked-up pick up trucks to vintage fire trucks and army ambulances, the number of vehicles on Daufuskie Island has been growing with the island's increasing population. But the island's sand roads and salt air quickly take their toll and render many of these automobiles inoperable and beyond repair. With no salvage yard, vehicles are discarded deep in the woods or become permanent yard fixtures or are simply left wherever they die. The increasing number of junk vehicles has been a problem the community has continuously struggled to resolve. In the early 1990's, the Daufuskie Island Community Improvement Club organized a junk car roundup and removed 483 vehicles from Daufuskie; however, as construction continues and the population grows, more and more vehicles are making Daufuskie their final resting place.

When the Daufuskie Island Conservancy was formed in 2005, Island Beautification was one of its' objectives. As part of this effort, a committee was organized in 2008 with the sole purpose of finding and removing Daufuskie's abandoned and junk vehicles. Conservancy members Julie Mariotte and Maria Martin agreed to take on this seemingly impossible task. After riding around the island and trekking through the woods, they counted over 130 vehicles that had accumulated since the previous roundup. The next step was to come up with a way to remove them. Turned down by salvage companies who said it was not profitable to tie up their heavy equipment on Daufuskie, the ladies did not give up. After a series of phone calls and meetings with Daufuskie Barge Company regarding barging, and with CK Materials regarding use of equipment and labor, they were ready to make a plan and take action.

Four months later, with over 40 tractor trailer loads of crushed vehicles and scrap metals removed from the island, The Daufuskie Island Conservancy wants to acknowledge all the citizens and organizations that played such an important part in this huge island-wide cleanup effort: Clarence Simmons and Leon Spencer are two amazing individuals who labored and sweated to load, remove and haul the vehicles and scrap metal to Savannah Recycling; local businesses that stepped up and took pride in beautifying their community included the Daufuskie Barge Company (owned by Wick Scurry of J&W Corporation) which donated many hours of equipment use and an operator to assist in the crushing, removal and loading of vehicles; and Daufuskie Site Prep (owned by Darren and Terri Painter) which also contributed use of their equipment in this process. Thanks

to all these outstanding citizens who volunteered their time, talents and resources to help reach the goal.

The Daufuskie Island Conservancy's beautification efforts will continue, including keeping the island free of abandoned vehicles. If you know of an abandoned or junk vehicle contact Julie Mariotte or Maria Martin with the details.