



# The Lunz e-Letter



Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton & Dorchester  
Counties - South Carolina



<http://www.sierraclub.org/south-carolina/robert-lunz>

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## February 2016

Dear Lunz Group Members,

I spent several years in Ithaca, New York. The region around Ithaca held several designated State Forest properties. Many of the areas had been cleared of forest in an attempt to create farm acreages. The farms mostly failed and the land became useless. No trees to cut and soils so atrocious that crops could not be produced. This land was acquired and allowed to go through succession back to the stable forest land to which it was most suited.

I grew up in western Oklahoma, in a town by a small river. The river was in a shallow valley and my parents' home was above the valley at the edge of tilled wheat pasture. At this edge was "the canyon" where my friends and I played. There were squirrels, rabbits, and a few skunks but the main creatures were the cattle. The cows denuded the vegetation all the way to a small stock pond in the lowest point of this canyon. Eventually the cattle were moved and the vegetation of the canyon grew back.

Well, these are object lessons in how we collectively treat our lands.

My family also regularly drove 25 miles or so to a National Wildlife Refuge. It was the only place I knew of where we could count on seeing wild turkeys and deer. Those animals thrived in a refuge and of course that was the point. The refuge was a stopover point for migratory ducks, geese, and even occasional whooping cranes, making it a magical place for me. Ranching and farming are at the core of our American agrarian ideals but, from the colonial period on, not every farm was well managed and quite a lot of western range land was overgrazed. In vast regions of the western United States, there was too little moisture for sustainable farming and settlement. Many of those lands are now national grasslands. These are managed to restore native grasses adapted to the weather patterns.

Theodore Roosevelt established the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Oregon in the early twentieth century. Malheur allows ranchers to transit cattle to and from adjacent Bureau of Land Management (BLM) properties across the refuge. There is even provision for some haying operations on the refuge. Honestly, I had never heard of Malheur prior to the recent occupation by armed militants but it has caught my imagination.

Recently the *Post & Courier* published an op-ed offering a sympathetic view of ranchers near the refuge who had been jailed for setting a fire on their own property to control cheat grass. They crossed into the refuge and were fined. You may recall former 1st Congressional District Congressman Henry Brown had a similar run-in with the U.S. Forest Service. Former Congressman Brown's reaction was to threaten to block Forest Service funding. Neighbors of Malheur threatened bodily harm to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel. Brown was shortsighted, but threats of violence are criminal and some of the Malheur neighbors were jailed because of that. The point is that the refuges and BLM properties belong to "we the people" and not some foreign federal entity. These lands are managed for the benefit of us all and should not be given over to local ownership at least in part because private owners have a dismal record when it comes to sustainability. We do have a right and an obligation to visit and to understand our public lands. When proposals are made for management of our Francis Marion Forest we need to take heed, become informed, and make our views known.

We have public lands because visionaries such as John Muir and Teddy Roosevelt championed the preservation and protection of areas to prevent and restore a natural order in place of human exploitation. The tragedy of the Malheur Refuge Standoff and resulting deaths are reminders that the stakes in discussions about how to be stewards of the land are painfully high. It's worth remembering that federal officials and ranchers are all still Americans and both sides might take a breath and review how the Paiute Indians and other First Nation peoples feel about what was once their land. Indigenous peoples held their land in reverence because it literally fed and sustained them. Aldo Leopold showed us a way to see land as part of our ethical space. So cherish the Francis Marion Forest and Malheur Wildlife refuge alike and do your best to understand both.

Join us on February 4th to hear about the efforts of the Friends of Coastal South Carolina (formerly SEWEE Association), on the 6th for a trail cleanup in the Francis Marion Forest, on the 13th to hike and bird the Santee Coastal Reserve, and of course on the 28th for our annual Oyster Roast and Fundraiser at Bowen's Island Restaurant on James Island.

Starr Hazard

Quick Calendar

Membership Meetings

First Thursday  
of the Month (public  
welcome)

Baruch Auditorium  
284 Calhoun Street  
MUSC Campus  
Charleston

Sierra Club calendars  
are available for sale.  
Wall calendars are \$5  
and engagement  
calendars are \$6. See  
Pat Luck at the  
membership meeting.

Thurs., Feb 4, 7 pm

Grace Gasper/Emily  
Scott

Friends of Coastal  
South Carolina  
284 Calhoun St

Sat., Feb. 6, 8:30am

Annual Francis Marion  
clean up

Contact Marcus  
Sizemore at 803-367-  
6222 for details.

Sat., Feb, 13

Hike/Bird at Santee  
Coastal Reserve  
Contact Starr Hazard at  
[hazardes@bellsouth.net](mailto:hazardes@bellsouth.net)  
for details

Sun., Feb. 28

Annual Lunz Group  
Oyster Roast  
Bowen's Island  
Restaurant  
James Island

Thurs., March 3

284 Calhoun Street  
Marine Plastic Debris  
Talk by John Weinstein  
Biology Professor at the  
Citadel

Sun., March 20



**Grace Gasper and Emily Scott**  
**Friends of Coastal South Carolina**

**Thurs., February 4, 2016, 7 pm**

**Baruch Auditorium**  
**284 Calhoun Street**

Grace Gasper, Executive Director, and Emily Scott, Environmental Education Programs Coordinator, of Friends of Coastal South Carolina work to instill a conservation ethic in students and encourage the next generation of scientists. Using public lands as classrooms, their programs stimulate students' interest in science and provide opportunities to participate in environmental stewardship projects. In addition, they promote citizen stewardship through volunteer opportunities and advocacy. Friends of Coastal South Carolina was formally known as the SEWEE Association. The new name reflects the growing geographic reach of the organization, which now serves 100 miles of the South Carolina coast.

From the Friends of Coastal South Carolina website:

When the SEWEE Association was formed in 1996 as a small group of supporters serving the Francis Marion National Forest and Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge at the newly opened Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center, we had no idea what possibilities the future held. Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge was yet to be established and E.F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge was only 6 years old. Today we are proud to serve Cape Romain, Waccamaw, and E.F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuges and the Francis Marion National Forest. Although environmental education continues to be our primary program area, we have grown to support many other projects, such as loggerhead sea turtle and shorebird conservation



Hike Laurel Hill County  
Park  
Call Marcus Sizemore  
at 803-367-6222 for  
details.

**Sat., April 16**  
Oyster Restoration  
Part II  
Contact Jennifer Wilder  
wilderjenn@gmail.com

Here's a link to all our  
outings  
[FUN](#)

**Thanks to our  
Wonderful 2015 Oyster  
Roast Donors!**

Angela Jones

[Audubon Center at  
Francis Beidler Forest](#)

[Ben & Jerry's](#)

[Charleston Coffee  
Roasters](#)

[Charleston County PRC](#)

[Charleston Natural  
History  
Society/Audubon](#)

[Coastal Expeditions](#)

[College of Charleston  
Sailing](#)

[Curlew Charters](#)

[DwellSmart](#)

[East Bay True Value  
Hardware](#)

[Elephant Insight](#)

[Fast & French](#)

[Half Moon Outfitters](#)

Jeff Kopish

Julia Hall

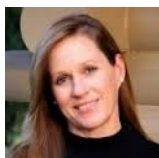
Kady McMurray

Laura Moses

[Mary Edna Fraser](#)

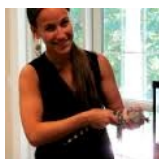
efforts.

## Grace Gasper, Executive Director



Grace Gasper brings 14 years of experience in conservation and the nonprofit sector to Friends of Coastal South Carolina. Through her years of experience she has gained a thorough understanding of the challenges of nonprofit management and development. Grace served as director of the medical clinic for The Avian Conservation Center for 11 years, has worked as a biologist on a variety of avian research projects across the country, and has been involved in swallow-tailed kite research in South Carolina for over a decade, including conducting kite research on Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge and the Francis Marion National Forest. Her efforts on behalf of conservation in South Carolina have been recognized by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Grace enjoys living in Awendaw, SC, adjacent to Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge.

## Emily Scott, Environmental Education Programs Coordinator



Emily joined Friends of Coastal South Carolina as environmental education programs coordinator in August 2014 and brings a wealth of experience to the program. Emily holds a Bachelor's degree in marine biology from Roger Williams University and a Master's degree in marine affairs from the University of Rhode Island. Emily's graduate work focused on coastal conservation and management. In addition, she has experience in environmental and science education in settings including national parks, a hands-on marine science center, public schools and college classrooms. Although a self-described "true New Englander," Emily has had close ties to the Lowcountry for a number of years and has chosen to make coastal South Carolina her home. In her spare time, Emily loves to kayak, paddleboard, garden, and learn how to cook new and exciting foods.

Free and open to the public.



- [Money with a Mission](#)
- [Nature Adventures Outfitters](#)
- [Pamela Corwin](#)
- [Pat Luck](#)
- [Saluda Forge & Ironworking](#)
- [SC Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Tourism](#)
- [SRO -- Mary Ohl](#)
- [Sue Walters](#)
- [Therapeutic Massage](#)
- [Tideline Tours](#)
- [Saltmarsh Adventures](#)
- [Time Out Sports](#)
- [Wendy Hermance](#)



**February 28, 2016**  
**Annual Lunz Oyster Roast/ Silent Auction**  
**Bowen's Island Restaurant**  
**James Island**

Please join us for our annual Sierra Club Oyster Roast and Auction! \$25 for adults, \$15 for student with ID, \$5 for children (6-12), free for children under 6.

Ticket price includes oysters, veggie and meat chili, hot and veggie dogs, and Ben & Jerry's ice cream. Draft beer available with donation. Music by Lime and the Coconuts! Open to the public. Purchase tickets at the gate.

Bid on great auction items! Bring cash, check, or credit card.

Auction items include: Restaurant gift certificates, sailing classes, kayak tours, gift baskets, books, theater tickets, hot-stone massage and more!

**To volunteer or bring chili**, please contact Angela Jones at [aktjones@gmail.com](mailto:aktjones@gmail.com) or 843-834-0005. To donate auction items, please contact Laura Moses at [lauramoses@yahoo.com](mailto:lauramoses@yahoo.com) or 843-364-1976.

Eco tip: Bring your own reusable cup, plate and eating utensils if you'd like. (Do not bring disposable plastic or Styrofoam!)



**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**  
**Francis Marion Cleanup**  
**Saturday, February 6**  
**8:30 am**



**330 VOLUNTEERS**  
**32 TONS OF GARBAGE!**





It's time for our annual Francis Marion National Forest (FMNP) cleanup in Charleston and Berkeley Counties! Please meet us at Francis Marion National Forest Headquarters located at 2967 Steed Creek Rd., Huger, SC 29450.

Sierra Club Lunz Group members will meet at 8:30am. Please wear long pants and bring your own lunch. Carpooling is encouraged. From the headquarters, a designated cleanup area around the forest will be provided.



at 8AM (Look for the banner). A designated cleanup area around the forest will be provided.

Join us afterwards for hamburgers and hotdogs provided by Pammette Priddy! Contact the organizer Marcus Sizemore 803-367-6222 with any questions.

**Candidates Forum**  
**September Membership Meeting**  
**Call for Volunteers**

This election year the Lunz group will host a Candidates Forum at our September membership meeting. Environmental issues, such as solar power and off-shore drilling, are seldom the focus of campaign advertisements or news, but the decisions of our local elected representatives have an enormous impact on the environment. The purpose of the forum, then, is to give a platform to candidates to address these issues. We need people to help arrange the event: contact candidates; coordinate with other conservation organizations; write news releases; research candidates; compile and evaluate the results. If you would be interested in working as a volunteer, please contact the secretary [Julia-Hall@att.net](mailto:Julia-Hall@att.net).

**Save  
the  
Date**



**2016 Sierra Club South Carolina Lobby Day**  
**April 26, 9am-3pm**  
**Columbia**

Please join the SC Sierra Club for our annual Lobby Day at the SC State House. Let our representatives

know where we stand on issues!

Details to follow.

## Outings

**\*\*Watch the events page on the Lunz facebook page and the Lunz meetup site for more trips currently in planning.**



Murphy Island at Santee Coastal Reserve. Courtesy of Pluff Mud Perspectives

**Saturday, February 13**

**Hike/Bird the Santee Wildlife Refuge**

Santee Coastal Reserve is a "Significant Bird Area", a wildlife management area and an all around fabulous place to visit. Our hike will approach 10 miles at a leisurely pace but you do need to be prepared to walk that far carrying water, lunch, binoculars, sunscreen and insect repellent. We can expect to see lots of ducks, eagles, wild hogs, alligators and inspiring beauty. There is some chance the plan will expand somewhat but be aware



that if we stay until just after sunset we can improve our chances of seeing red cockaded woodpeckers. Contact Starr Hazard [hazardes@bellsouth.net](mailto:hazardes@bellsouth.net) for complete outing details.

## **Sunday, March 20**

### **Hike Laurel Hill County Park**

Hidden among suburban Mount Pleasant, this 745 acre county park was recently opened to the public in 2015. Come join us as we explore Laurel Hill County Park on a leisurely hike through pine forests, maritime forests, and the ruins of this plantation that was founded around 1694. (according to historic documents) Species we may see include Osprey, egrets, herons, alligators, white-tailed deer, waterfowl and alligators.

We'll find a great place to picnic so please bring your lunch or a snack. There are no facilities at this park. Recent rains may make the trails muddy so waterproof boots/shoes are recommended. Dogs are allowed provided they are kept on a leash.

Recommended items to bring: camera, binoculars, waterproof shoes or boots, bug spray, packable lunch, snacks, water, jacket

Entrance Fee is \$1 per person. Cash only (exact change required)

We will meet near the trail head behind the baseball fields (back corner). Contact the organizer Marcus Sizemore 803-367-6222 with any questions.

## **Oyster Restoration Project with the DNR, Part II**

### **Saturday, April 16**

We are partnering up with the DNR's South Carolina Oyster Restoration and Enhancement (SCORE) Program again. SCORE is a community-based habitat restoration and monitoring program that works to help restore oyster populations.

For Part I, we helped to bag oyster shells. This time we'll be using the bagged shells to build reefs for recruitment of oyster larvae. Once in place, the reefs will recruit new oysters and attract other critters of the estuary. They are also being used as living classrooms and research platforms.

For this event, be sure to wear closed toed shoes and clothes that can get dirty. We'll meet at the DNR Campus on James Island. The address is 217 Fort Johnson Road, 29412. Once you come through the front gates, follow the road until you see a boat yard on the right side. Volunteers can park anywhere in that general area. We will meet in the field near the boats. The DNR will provide water, gloves, sunscreen and bug spray. They will have cups for water but encourage volunteers to bring eco-friendly, refillable bottles.

Contact Jennifer Wilder at [wilderjenn@gmail.com](mailto:wilderjenn@gmail.com) for more details.

# **URBAN OUTINGS**

## Contra dancing every first and third Friday nights

Dance to live bands and with wonderful people. Admission \$8 for all dancers. Fees go to Charleston Folk to pay the bands and rent the hall. For all of you new to Contra Dancing, please see our website for information about Contra Dancing and a bit about its history:

<http://charlestonfolk.weebly.com/>

### Contacts

Robert Lunz Group  
P.O Box 31502  
Charleston, SC 29417

### MISSION OF THE SIERRA CLUB:

To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the Earth.

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