

# April 2009 Events at Sewee Center

## **Apr. 4 Explorer Series, *Bird Houses from Gourds***

**Sat. 2 PM** The class starts with an education segment in the lab and then by using each person's artistic talent and permanent markers, turn an ordinary gourd into an individual, "work of art" bird house! The class is limited to 15 but will need a minimum of 10 participants. Wear "paint" clothes! This workshop has no age limits, however children must be accompanied by an adult. **Register by Thurs., 4/2; call 928-3368. \$3. ea.**

## **Apr. 11 Earth Day Recycling Adventure, *Crinkle Can Fish***

**Sat. 2 PM** Want to learn of ways to save the planet for Earth Day? Learn about the 3 R's- Reduce-Reuse-Recycle! Make fish crafts out of soda cans and more! The class is limited to 15 but will need a minimum of 10 participants. Call Sewee Visitor Center for more information and to register. **Registration required by Thurs., 4/9; call 928-3368. Free**

## **Apr. 18 Invasive Plant Species, *Aliens in the Forest!***

**Sat. 2 PM** Robin Mackie, Botanist, Francis Marion/Sumter National Forests, will discuss non-native invasive plant species of greatest threat to our natural resources. Find out about steps being taken by the National Forest to prevent the introduction and spread of non-native invasive plant species into our National Forests, and how you can help with this effort. **Free Program**

## **Apr. 24, 25, 26 Santee Birding and Nature Festival, *Santee National Wildlife Refuge***

**Fri., Sat., Sun.** Field trips featuring noted birding expert Pete Dunne, wildlife photography workshops with photography expert Len Rue, fossils field trip with Rudy Mancke, canoe and kayak trips, boat tours of Lake Marion and Moultrie, butterfly walks, conservation exhibits and more! Banquet dinner keynote speaker, Pete Dunne, Friday, Apr. 24. Event held at Santee Cultural Arts Center, Santee, S.C. For registration and information, please visit [www.fws.gov/santee/Santee-birding-festival-2009.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/santee/Santee-birding-festival-2009.pdf). Or write: Santee Birding and Nature Festival, Santee National Wildlife Refuge, 2125 Fort Watson Road, Summerton, S. C. 29148 Phone: 803-478-2217

## **Apr. 25 Earth Day Celebration Nature Tour!**

**Sat. 10 AM** Meet at Sewee Visitor Center and celebrate the Earth with us in honor of Earth Day as visit unique habitats right here in the *Francis Marion National Forest*. Our Master Naturalist will "**shuttle you in our nature bus**" to unique places and cultural treasures hidden in the forest! We'll visit a Carolina Bay Pocosin, A Long-leaf Pine Savannah Forest, Indian Ruins, Swamps and other habitats along the way. We'll see endangered, medicinal and edible plants and animals that thrive in these forest ecosystems! Includes cultural and Native American artifacts found there. Return to Sewee Center at 1:30 PM. Bring lunch, cameras, binoculars, water, sunscreen, hats, sunglasses and old shoes! Space limited, so sign up early! Nature Adventures Outfitters, Inc. "**Providing Nature Tours for the Preservation of the Environment**". **Only \$15 each!** (10% benefits an environmental cause) **Reservations required, call: 843-928-3316 or 800-673-0679. Visit on line at: [www.NatureAdventuresOutfitters.com](http://www.NatureAdventuresOutfitters.com)**

## **Apr. 25 Naturalist Guided Walking Tour on Bull Island, *Coastal Expeditions***

**Sat. 12:30** Board the 43-passenger ferry for the half-hour ride to the marsh-side dock at Bull Island. As we travel through the estuary our naturalist will point out dolphin, shore, wading and migratory birds. We will examine live marine specimens for hands-on fun. Once on the island, we will enjoy learning about this magnificent undeveloped barrier island with a naturalist who makes learning fun! From the dock, we will explore the interior maritime forest. Along the island's trails we will pass shell mounds left by Native Americans as we make our way to the freshwater pond, home to alligators, otters, turtles and a vast variety of birds. We will also examine insects and animal tracks that we find along the way. Our naturalist will explain the historical and ecological importance of the maritime forest and the necessity of a freshwater pond as an oasis for migratory waterfowl. We will then make our way through the maritime forest to the "boneyard" beach. On the beach, activities include for near-shore creatures and identifying shells, living and vacated, through a variety of interesting exercises. Geological beach dynamics, tidal cycles and botanical specimens indigenous to the dunes will also be covered in this program. This comprehensive program encompasses highlights of both the Beach and Maritime Forest/Freshwater Pond Explorations. The Barrier Island Adventure option offers a complete, well-rounded study of barrier island ecology and is a great opportunity for your students to gain hands on experience. **Registration required; call Coastal Expeditions at 843-884-7684, to find out the cost and more information. Visit Coastal at [www.coastalexpeditions.com](http://www.coastalexpeditions.com).**

**Sewee Visitor & Environmental Education Center, 5821 Hwy. 17 N,  
Awendaw, SC Tuesday thru Saturday, 9 to 5 – (843) 928-3368**

**Web site: [seweecenter.fws.gov](http://seweecenter.fws.gov)**