
NEMOURS GAZETTE

A publication of the Nemours Wildlife Foundation

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THIS SPECIAL PLACE WHERE WE LIVE

In early December we hosted the 5th and 6th grade classes from Beaufort Academy for a 2 day and 1 night educational experience as part of their interim semester activities. When young students visit Nemours, I always like to inform them about the place they are about to explore including giving them a sense of where they are geographically. I often start with a map of the ACE Basin. When explaining about the ACE Basin, I take great pride in mentioning that this place has been designated one of the last great places on Earth, and I repeat *Last Great Places on Earth* several times hoping it connects with the kids. Too often we think the really interesting places exist somewhere far off, but in reality one of the Earth's special places is just outside our back door and is called the ACE Basin.

Dr. Patrick McMillan whom many know through his SCETV program titled *Expeditions with Patrick McMillan* was recently at Nemours as our keynote speaker for the Friends of Nemours Wildlife Foundation recognition event. Dr. McMillan is a world-class botanist and is the newly appointed Director of the SC Botanical Gardens in Clemson, SC. He mentioned he was about to lead a group from SC on a trip to Chile, and in preparation studied a plant taxonomy book for Chile. He half-joked this wasn't a tremendous task because there were only about 550 plant species in the entire country. He contrasted this by saying there were some 1,200 different plant species in Beaufort County alone, so which place might really be the more interesting to explore?



In his presentation to the Friends group, Patrick brought up the topic of legacies and wondered aloud what the legacy might be for each person in the audience. He stated that intentionally or not we will all leave some type of legacy and used as an example the shell circles or shell middens left behind by early Native Americans. There is great speculation about the how and why behind these shell middens with many theories being proposed, but Dr. McMillan reminded us these could be nothing more than early American garbage dump sites.

In his closing remarks, Dr. McMillan eloquently demonstrated why our conservation efforts here are so important and why where we live is a very special place. During a visit to the Lowcountry coast in the fall of 2009, Dr. McMillan spotted a Red Knot feeding in a wetland. He noticed the bird had a band on one leg and with his binocu-

lars he was able to read the band number. Later that winter, he traveled to Chile and on the coast there noticed Red Knots feeding in the marsh. Upon closer inspection he saw one was banded and, yes unbelievably, the number on the band was the same as the one he saw previously in SC. The Red Knot was now enjoying the warmth of Chile's summer, having traveled from somewhere near the Arctic Circle where it nested during our summer season, and now was 12,000 miles south enjoying summer in South America. Along the way it made a much needed stop to refuel in the clean, rich marshes of the ACE Basin. The fact that we have

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abundant, clean, diverse wetlands makes this a very special place for Red Knots and hundreds of other species which depend upon our wetlands for life. Included in this list is, of course, Homo sapiens and that is why it is important for our youth to know that this place where they live is special, and is one legacy they should want to see endure.

Eugene and Laura duPont left a wonderful legacy when they created the Nemours Wildlife Foundation and forever protected 10,000 acres known as the Nemours Plantation. I like to think that you, through your support, and the Nemours staff are adding to that legacy with every group we host like the Beaufort Academy students, every workshop we deliver, and every new discovery made through our research program. Each of these actions helps us understand and appreciate just what an extraordinary, special place this is and how important it is for us to conserve it. I'm sure our society will leave behind some unintended legacies as societies have before, but we will also be judged by the purposeful legacies we leave. I believe what we are doing here with your help is a legacy that will endure and be admired for its long-term dividends in conservation.

- submitted by E. Wiggers

MEMORIALS AND HONORS

A gift to Nemours Wildlife Foundation provides a lasting tribute to honor the memory of a loved one or friend. We encourage you to consider a tax deductible donation which we will acknowledge to you and the person of your choosing.

In addition, please consider a donation in honor of any occasion – a birthday or anniversary, for example – which merits special attention. We will happily acknowledge your thoughtful gift to your honoree(s).

We are honored to acknowledge these recent memorials:

**In memory of
Suzanne Echols DeLapp Hudson
Sheila C. McKinney
Ben and Dorothy Miller**

**In memory of
Pat Phillips
William C. Phillips**

Once again we offer thanks to the dedicated group of donors known as Friends of Nemours Wildlife Foundation. Each of these donors makes an annual contribution which is essential to our ability to continue to fulfill our mission of being good stewards of wildlife and habitat found in the nearly 10,000 acres of Nemours Plantation in South Carolina's ACE Basin. Please contact us at 843-846-2539 if you would like to join our effort by becoming a Friend of Nemours Wildlife Foundation.

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Local school children get a bird's eye view of eagle fledglings in their nest. Nemours Wildlife Foundation hosts numerous school groups in spring and fall, educating the children on their role in the protection of the ACE Basin's natural resources.



No visit to Nemours Plantation is complete without a lesson on rice trunks, their past and present use, and the impact of rice culture on the South Carolina Lowcountry.



Stewardship of Nemours Plantation's 10,000 acres includes year-round attention to the dikes which are essential to maintaining wetlands and impoundments for use by waterfowl.



Dr. Jayme Waldron brought along a friend to the annual Friends of Nemours Wildlife Foundation event in the fall.



College of William & Mary students spent a day at Nieuport taking measured drawings of the remains of nineteenth century slave quarters. Their findings, along with other research, will hopefully lead to inclusion of these and other Nemours Plantation structures on the National Register of Historic Places.



Nemours Plantation becomes a classroom for students from the Academy for Career Excellence to hone their outdoor skills; in this case, conducting a tree survey.

NEMOURS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

161 Nemours Plantation Road, Yemassee, SC 29945

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WHAT'S AHEAD FOR NEMOURS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION IN THE NEW YEAR....

- In the early part of 2011, we will produce our first annual report celebrating fifteen years of stewardship to the dream of Eugene duPont III through his creation of Nemours Wildlife Foundation. As we embark on our next fifteen years, we salute those people who have shared our vision and supported our work so enthusiastically and generously.
- In January we will welcome back Clay Shipes who spent time here as an intern but will return as a graduate student in the wildlife program at Mississippi State University. Clay's graduate work is part of a larger study being conducted by our senior biologist Eddie Mills and other partners on the mottled duck in the ACE Basin.
- With the help of volunteer researchers, we hope to uncover information about several of the historically significant structures on Nemours Plantation, including remains of slave houses, cemeteries and the Harriet Tubman fort, with the ultimate goal of gaining placement on the National Register of Historic Places.
- We expect to soon begin a two-year pine savanna restoration project on 785 acres. The goal of the project is to create a landscape which resembles the structure and composition of historical pine savannas. In addition, the resulting forest structure will meet the habitat requirements set in the recovery plan for the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.
- We look forward to continuing to host small groups of school children in an effort to inspire, excite and motivate our youth to appreciate how important our wildlife and other natural resources are to our quality of life and to emphasize their role in protecting and sustaining these important resources.

