The Trash Bag

Volume XIII, Issue 1, January/February 2010

Cumberland Island Adventure

By Charlotte Dixon

We set off this November for our 5th Cumberland Island getaway. The leader was chewing her fingernails up to the elbows since the weather report looked horrendous all week. However, we had the usual CC weather on our side. Twelve of us went over on Friday, and the other 6 arrived Saturday. We were lucky to be handed the keys to the van and I had great fun being taxi driver getting our people here and there on the island. Friday afternoon we did not have a beach worthy vehicle, so we walked from the campground to the beach and up as far as Sea Camp. The major find this year was annoying amounts of small bottle caps and other tiny debris that was a nuisance to pick up, but would have been more than a nuisance to the critters in the ocean, so we were happy to be able to dispose of it.

Photo: Ruins of Dungeness Mansion. The Clean Coast crew stayed in the servants quarters which are still standing. Credit: Melissa Freeman.

It started getting dark early so we headed back to the dorms where Phil was preparing our wonderful dinner. We had of necessity to use the large commercial kitchen since our regular dorm was undergoing much needed renovations. Much to our delight, the cooks found it much easier to work in, and we enjoyed eating dinner outside on picnic tables facing the woods. So we decided that we would continue to use the big kitchen on subsequent trips. After dinner, Chris Freeman made one of his famous campfires and we toasted marshmallows and ate s'mores. After that we made our way to our beds.

Saturday was the big clean up day. Everybody got an early start to the beach, and in the morning we had the help of 1 volunteer with a truck. After lunch we were pleased to have 2 more vehicles to help us. I continued to be van driver and went and collected the people who came over on the Saturday morning ferry. In the afternoon we continued on up the beach as far as we could get. I think we covered about 14-15 miles of beach. We couldn't get to the far north end due to early sunset and high tides, but we hope to accomplish that end in the March Cleanup. We accomplished a record breaking number of trash bags amounting to about 2300 pounds of trash.

Sunday was a free day. In the morning we cleaned up the dorms and wandered around the south end of the island. After lunch we got on the ferry to ride to Plum Orchard, which was all decorated up for Christmas and just beautiful! Then we returned to Sea Camp Dock for the trip home.

No matter how hard we work on these clean-ups I think all of us come away with a sense that we are fortunate to see parts of Cumberland Island that are not accessible to most people. This year the wildlife was exceptionally beautiful, and many of us saw the resident white deer. Apparently they are a breeding family, and not a genetic quirk! Needless to say this is a rare sight, as the white deer are more reclusive than their brown brothers! The horses were more plentiful than I can remember seeing in the past years as well.

Thanks to all of you who helped make this trip memorable and easy. Phil and I laughed as we both agreed that this was the best trip ever(we have said this every time we have gone to Cumberland).

Santa Monica Couple to Study Effects of Plastic in the Sargasso Sea

Los Angeles Times (blog)
January 4, 2010 | 5:48 pm

By Louis Sahagun

On Thursday, Santa Monica researchers Marcus Eriksen and Anna Cummins plan to set sail in the 72-foot sloop Sea Dragon on a voyage across the Sargasso Sea region of the North Atlantic to investigate the prevalence of micro-plastic marine debris.

The couple, who were married in June, will collect samples of the ocean's surface, seafloor sediment and the contents of fish stomachs to better understand the effects of one of the fastest growing segments of civilization's toxic waste stream.

"Plastic debris -- fishing tackle, nets, plastic bags and bottles -- are broken down at sea by ultraviolet light and wave action into tiny fragments we call plastic soup," Eriksen said.

"There are many unanswered questions about the fate of these tiny plastic fragments," he said. "Are they being absorbed into the tissues of fish, and then making their way into the food chain? If so, how much of it is winding up on our dinner plates?"

Their journey will involve several voyages. The first will launch from St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and take them across the Sargasso Sea -- an elongated region in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean roughly 700 miles by 2,000 miles -- to the Azores.

The final expedition in August will cross a similar gyre between Rio de Janeiro and Cape Town, South Africa.

The effort is a collaboration of three nonprofit environmental organizations led by Long Beach-based Algalita Marine Research Foundation.

Eriksen, 42, and Cummins, 36, celebrated their marriage with a 2,000-mile bike ride to raise awareness of plastic marine pollution.

Next year, they are planning a public awareness campaign that will begin with a 2,000-mile East Coast cycling-lecture tour and conclude with construction in Paris of a boat from 250,000 plastic straws. In that vessel, the TLS, the couple will sail the Seine River, then cross the English Channel.

Photo: Researchers Marcus Eriksen, left, Anna Cummins and associate Joel Pascal in 2008 aboard a raft built out of 15,000 plastic water bottles. Credit: Peter Bennett.

Find out more online at the project website http://www.5gyres.org.

"Plastic pollution is a global issue. We've seen the so-called garbage patch of plastic accumulating in the North Pacific Gyre, but there are four other gyres worldwide, each with its own patch and we don't know yet what we will find in them."

-Captain Charles Moore, Algalita Marine Research Foundation Founder

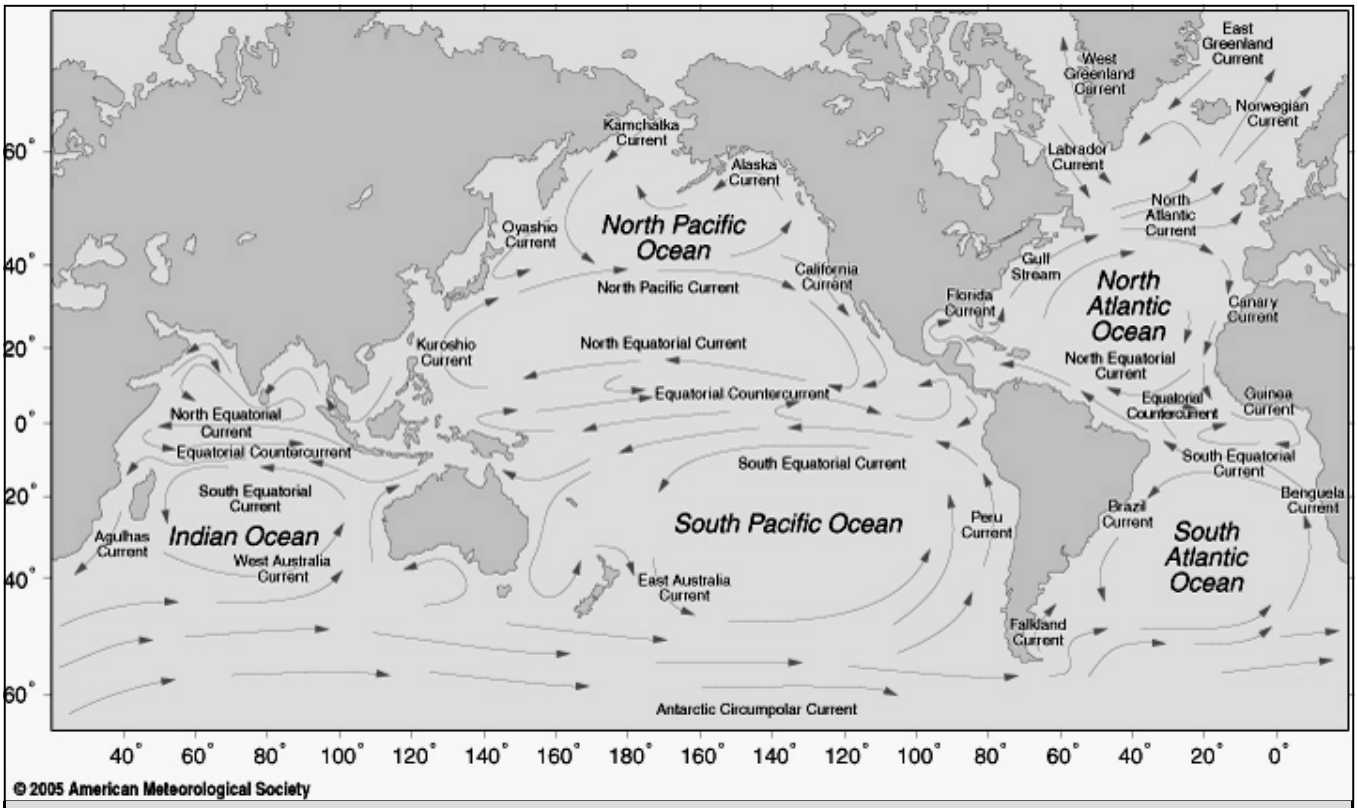

Diagram above shows the five major oceanic gyres.
Credit: American Meteorological Society

What is an Ocean Gyre?

From NOAA Marine Debris Website (Http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/)

A gyre is a large-scale circular feature made up of ocean currents that spiral around a central point, clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and counterclockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

Worldwide, there are five major subtropical oceanic gyres: the North and South Pacific Subtropical Gyres, the North and South Atlantic Subtropical Gyres, and the Indian Ocean Subtropical Gyre.

The North Pacific Subtropical Gyre is the one most notable because of its tendency to collect debris. It is made up of four large, clockwise-rotating currents – North Pacific, California, North Equatorial, and Kuroshio. It is very difficult to measure the exact size of a gyre because it is a fluid system, but the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre is roughly estimated to be approximately 7 to 9 million square miles—not a small area! This, of course, is a ballpark estimate. This is equivalent to approximately three times the area of the continental United States (3 million square miles).

Much like in the Pacific, there is a North Atlantic Subtropical Gyre made up of four major currents – North Equatorial, Gulf Stream, North Atlantic, and Canary Current. There is also a North Atlantic Subtropical Convergence Zone (STCZ); however, while it has been predicted to concentrate debris, we currently know of no research on debris concentration within this STCZ or of the existence of a notable "garbage patch".

LITTLE TYBEE CLEANUP

By Philip Grainey

Our 'Polar Bear Club' met at Lazaretto Creek ramp early one morning last December after a breezy boat-ride in bright but distinctly chilly weather. Although temperatures never got above the mid-forties , we enjoyed clear skies and sunshine – a big improvement on our first trip to the area last year when fog enveloped us all day.

Chris Freeman again led the way through the myriad twists and turns of Mosquito Ditch and Little Tybee Creek to the southern-most tip of this enchanting, remote group of islands and hammocks next to the Ocean.

On this trip, we were also lucky to have Tybee skipper and professional eco-tour guide Renee Heidt, who shared her intimate knowledge of the area.

Our anchorage looked a bit like a Carolina Skiff reunion with the Clean Coast boat lined up next to Chris's and Renee's. Ron Lynch's deck boat provided a bit of variety.

Once ashore, we had plenty to do – trash everywhere – our thirty volunteers set to work and had 600lbs of debris bagged before our tide-deadline at noon.

The homeward trip took us across New Wash, where the ocean broke through the sand barrier a few years back, and out through serpentine Jack Cut to the Back River. Chris made a quick run over the inlet and came back with a steaming crock of Melissa's chili for lunch – boy, it hit the spot!

Our haul was carried over the inlet to Alley Three, where Chris had arranged to have it trucked to Tybee's sanitation station.

Thanks to Chris for again organizing this interesting trip, to our skippers Chris, Renee and Ron, and to our volunteers old and new. We were glad to welcome new-comers Jim Sickle, Marilyn Tarver, and Zion Shepherd and to welcome home Eva St. Onge after a couple of years of globe-trotting!

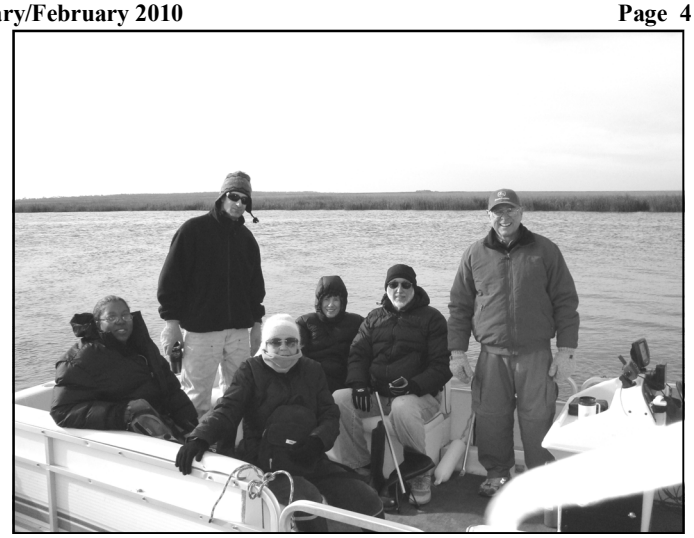

Photo: The Polar Bear Club bundled up against the cold.

Photo: The flotilla exploring the southern tip of Little Tybee Island.

Photo: Making landfall before the cleanup begins. Credit: Julie McLean

Visit our website www.cleancoast.org to see color photos of recent cleanups!

Unusual Beach Find

By Farris Cadle

During the Little Tybee cleanup, Dakota Burns stumbled on to this Official GEO Cache by dead reckoning and without the use of GPS. Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, and then share the experiences online. Geocaching is enjoyed by people from all age groups, with a strong sense of community and support for the environment. We've found messages in bottles before but I did not know this existed. Read about this on its official web site at http://www.geocaching.com/ There were entries in the log for this GEO Cache going back to October 2008.

Clean Coast can earn a donation every time you search the Internet and shop online!!!

GoodSearch & GoodShop

Search the web with Yahoo-powered GoodSearch.com and they'll donate about a penny to your cause each time you search!

Save the Date ! Annual Oyster Roast on January 31

It's once a gain time for the annual oyster roast. Come prepared to renew your membership and enjoy delicious local oysters harvested from Oyster Creek by hardworking Clean Coast volunteers. The event is free for new and renewing members and $10 for non-members. Members who joined after July 1st do not need to renew as those memberships won't expire until December 31, 2010.

When: Sunday, January 31, 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Clete and Deannie Bergen's home on the Forest River in Coffee Bluff (140 Schley Avenue)

Directions: Travel south on White Bluff Road. It will become Coffee Bluff Road. Turn left on to Rose Dhu Rd. and then right on to Schley Avenue.

Bring: Your favorite covered dish or dessert to add variety to our repast, folding chairs, and that all important membership check. BYOB!

Welcome New Members

Amy Capello
Tancy Moore
Kathleen Schaefer
Zion Sheperd

Special thanks to Janet Godfrey for contributing $100 in honor of Hank Barrett

And to Linda Fisk & Wilson Morris for contributing at the $250 level

And to the Courtney Knight Gaines Foundation forcontributing $2500.

Little Known Facts About Oysters

From Http://globalgourmet.com

by Ilene Polansky

How Oysters Breathe.

Oysters breathe much like fish, using both gills and mantle. The mantle is lined with many small, thin-walled blood vessels which extract oxygen from the water and expel carbon dioxide. A small, three-chambered heart, lying under the abductor muscle, pumps colorless blood, with its supply of oxygen, to all parts of the body. At the same time a pair of kidneys located on the underside of the muscle purify the blood of any waste products it has collected.

Oysters Male or Female.

There is no way of telling male oysters from females by examining their shells. While oysters have separate sexes, they may change sex one or more times during their life span. The gonads, organs responsible for producing both eggs and sperm, surround the digestive organs and are made up of sex cells, branching tubules and connective tissue.

What is that tiny crab we see in an oyster?

It is a species of crab (Pinnotheres ostreum) that has evolved to live harmoniously inside an oyster's shell. These dime-sized crabs, much sought after by gourmands, are not abundant.

How do pearls end up inside of oysters?

An oyster produces a pearl when foreign material becomes trapped inside the shell. The oyster responds to the irritation by producing nacre, a combination of calcium and protein. The nacre coats the foreign material and over time produces a pearl.

The "R" Myth.

Folklore says that oysters should be eaten only in months with "r's" in them—September, October, etc. Maestro S.V.P. educates people that oysters can be eaten 12 months a year. The notion that oysters should not be eaten in "r"-less months—that is, months that occur during warm weather—may have started in the days when oysters where shipped without adequate refrigeration and could spoil. But today all that has changed and we can enjoy oysters twelve months a year.

Oysters and Their Nutritional Value.

Oysters are not only delicious, but they're also one of the most nutritionally well balanced of foods, containing protein, carbohydrates and lipids. The National Heart and Lung Institute suggest oysters as an ideal food for inclusion in low-cholesterol diets. Oysters are an excellent source of vitamins A, B1(thiamin), B2 (riboflavin), B3 (niacin), C (ascorbic acid) and D (calciferol). Four or five medium size oysters supply the recommended daily allowance of iron, copper, iodine, magnesium, calcium, zinc, manganese and phosphorus.

Health Tip

Because raw foods including oysters may carry bacteria, persons with chronic liver disease, impaired immune systems or cancer should avoid eating raw oysters.

The species of oyster found in Georgia's estuarine waters is the eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica).* This species is found from Prince Edward island on the east coast of Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. Its shape varies depending on where it grows as does its flavor. Many types are named after where they are from, for example, the Chincoteague, from Chincoteague Bay between Virginia and Maryland; the Apalachicola, from Apalachicola Bay in Florida; the Malpeque, from Prince Edward Island in Canada; and the Wellfleet, from Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Do our delicious Georgia oysters have a special name?

CALENDAR

- January 31, **Annual Oyster Roast,** 2-7 p.m.
- February 1, Business Meeting, 7 p.m. at JEA
- February 20, **Wassaw Island Cleanup** (south end)
- March 1, **Annual General Meeting**, 7 p.m. at Sticky Fingers (look for details in next edition of TBag)
- March 19-21, **Cumberland Island Cleanup**
- April 10, **Coastal Issues Seminar** (look for details in next edition of TBag)
- April 12, Business Meeting, 7 p.m. at JEA
- May 3, Business Meeting, 7 p.m. at JEA
- May 22, **Ossabaw Island Cleanup** (north end)

To enroll for a trip call the Clean Coast answering service at (912) 239-9663 and leave your name, phone number, and number in your party. Registration closes the Wednesday before the trip. Directions will be on the recording. There is no need to sign-up for the monthly business meetings which are held at 7 p.m. on the first Monday (unless otherwise indicated) at the Jewish Educational Alliance (JEA), 5111 Abercorn St.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Use this form to become a member or to renew your membership.

Student or Senior Citizen ($15)_____ Individual ($25)_____ Family($35)_____

Sustaining ($100)_____ Patron ($500)_____ Life ($1000)_____

NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____ CITY:_____STATE_____ ZIP:_____

TELEPHONE

Home:_____ Work:_____ Cell:_____

Email:_____

BEST TIME TO CONTACT:_____a.m._____p.m.

DO YOU OWN A BOAT SUITABLE FOR OUR TRIPS?_____

IF YES, HOW MANY CAN IT CARRY?_____

HOW MANY LIFEJACKETS ARE ABOARD?_____

Dues and contributions to Clean Coast are tax-deductible (IRS No. 58-1984908). Make checks payable to Clean Coast, Inc. and mail to Membership Chairman , 216 E 58th St., Savannah Ga 31405-3436.

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