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Across the Way...

Life on Dewees Island, South Carolina

November 2002
Volume 1 - Number 2



The Island's Greatest Resource

While it has become very trendy for community and resort developers to claim a "commitment" to environmental preservation, the entire Dewees community takes pride in the fact that our stance on protecting and enhancing the environment is "the real deal." In fact, we hired an environmental programs coordinator as one of our first employees! Since then, we've developed *dozens* of environmental programs...programs involving not just our property owners, but thousands of area schoolchildren, college students, and professionals coming to learn about life "across the way."

The "secret behind the success" of our programs is the fact that the sort of people who buy on Dewees are committed to lifelong learning. These are folks that don't understand why someone would sit and watch the Discovery Channel if there's an opportunity for personal discovery! As a result, our eclectic mix of owner programs is often filled...programs like Marsh Walks, Beach Walks, Dewees After Dark, Aboriginal Building, Spring/Fall Bird Counts, Sweetgrass Basket Making, Container Gardening, Star Studies, Wildlife and Nature Photography...even a program where owners forage the Island for edible goodies - from clams to flounder to juniper berries - which are then prepared as a formal meal!

Now, with all due respect, we ask: Where else would you find this sort of commitment to the environment? To family-oriented activity and fun? To lifelong learning?

Only across the way, we believe.



Happy Thanksgiving!

If you've never experienced "life across the way," give us a call. Once you've been here, you'll never want to leave.
www.deweesisland.com

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ACROSS THE WAY
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A Whale of a Story

Once again, our Dewees Island family has successfully crafted a positive learning tool out of an unfortunate situation. As many of you may know, Dewees was saddened to find a nine-foot pigmy sperm whale stranded on the south end of her beach in the summer of 2001. As was the case with Buck the alligator, Kendrick Mayes, the artist in residence at Airy Hall Plantation, volunteered to step in and salvage a truly lamentable situation. Kendrick, who did the same with Buck, has meticulously cleaned and arranged the skeleton for educational display in the Nature Center.

The Dewees whale skeleton is currently awaiting the arrival of its skull and left flipper, which were sent to the



Buck, our beloved alligator!

marine science lab at Woods Hole, MA for testing. Once the skeleton is reunited with its missing features, it will be brought to Dewees for permanent display. Be on the lookout for notification of its arrival. No name for our pygmy friend has been decided upon yet, but we feel certain that our Dewees community can come up with a good one.

Turtle Update

We are happy to report that our four little celebrity turtles are flourishing at the South Carolina Aquarium. They have doubled in size, and they dine heartily on gourmet blender-ground squid, fish, carrots, broccoli, and vitamins in Knox gelatin. (We may be able to order some for your holiday parties.) Arla reports that their favorite television show is *The Jeff Corwin Show on Animal Planet*, and their hobbies include swimming, long baths, and water ballet.



Dewees Island Collects: Favorite Christmas Memories

The Dewees Island Arts Council is sponsoring a trip back in time this holiday season! From December 6 to January 6, each owner is encouraged to bring in a favorite toy from his or her childhood to decorate The Huyler House and revive some old memories. So, bring out the toys that make you feel like a child again, and help us create our very own toyland!

One Job...Three Legacies

During the past decade, Dewees has been fortunate to have as the "staff environmentalist" three very unique, energetic, and fun professionals: Burney Fair, Mark Madden, and Arla Jessen. Each has left an indelible mark on the Island, and on the families who own property here. Their commitment to "making it fun to learn about nature" is one of the



reasons life across the way is such a rewarding experience!

Burney started Dewees Island's environmental programs from scratch, and began the Island's field trip program for area schools, the bird documentation program, and the sweetgrass harvest and basket making program.

Following Burney was Mark Madden, who built on her work in dozens of ways. Among the additions Mark developed were the Summer Stewardship Educational programs, an educational column in the *Dewees*



Chronicles and the book *Discovering Dewees*, a fun and fascinating look at the flora and fauna of the Island. In addition, Mark developed the BioDiversity Brochure and Swap Shop program, which encourages the Island's youngsters to research and write mini-brochures about Dewees plants and animals; each brochure is rewarded with Bio-Bucks, which can be used in the Swap Shop for a range of environmentally focused toys, books, and gadgets!

The current environmental programs director is Arla Jessen, who has carried the overall program to



new heights. In addition to refining and expanding the existing programs, Arla developed the Dewees Island Turtle Patrol Program, and enabled Dewees to qualify as an official Turtle Island!

If you're a property owner and want additional information on upcoming programs, just give Arla a call...like Burney and Mark before her, Arla is here to inspire lifelong learning.