

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

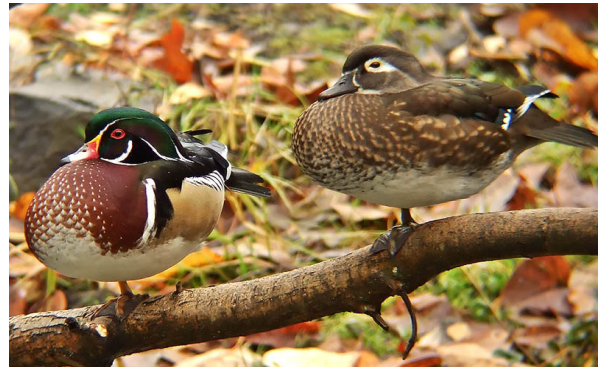
BIRDS OF DIXIE PLANTATION

Galliformes

Wild Turkey

Anseriformes

Hooded Merganser
Blue-winged Teals
Wood Duck
Canada Goose



Podicipediformes

Pied-billed Grebe

Ciconiiformes

Wood Stork

Pelecaniformes

Double-crested Cormorant
Anhinga
Great Blue Heron
Tri-colored Heron
Little Blue Heron
Snowy Egret
Great Egret
Black-Crowned Night-Heron
Green Heron
Least Bittern



Accipitriformes

- Turkey Vulture
- Black Vulture
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Northern Harrier
- Bald Eagle
- Cooper's Hawk
- Osprey



Strigiformes

- Great Horned Owl
- Screech Owl
- Barred Owl

Gruiformes

- King or Clapper Rails

Coraciiformes

- Belted Kingfisher

Piciformes

- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker



Passeriformes (suboscines)

- Eastern Phoebe
- Eastern Wood-pewee
- Great-crested Flycatcher
- Eastern Kingbird



Passeriformes (oscines)

- Vireonidae
 - White-eyed Vireo
 - Red-eyed Vireo
- Corvidae
 - Fish Crow
 - American Crow
- Blue Jay
- Paridae
 - Carolina Chickadee
 - Tufted Titmouse
- Hirundinidae
 - Tree Swallow
- Turdidae
 - Eastern Bluebird
 - American Robin
 - Hermit Thrush
- Regulidae
 - Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Mimidae
 - Northern Mockingbird
 - Gray Catbird
 - Brown Thrasher
- Sittidae
 - White-breasted Nuthatch
- Brown Creeper



Sylviidae
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Troglodytidae
Carolina Wren
Parulidae
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Northern Parula
Common Yellowthroat
Yellow-Throated Warbler
Icteridae
Boat-tailed Grackles
Red-winged Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
Emberizidae
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Eastern Towhee
Cardinalidae
Northern Cardinal
Fringillidae
American Goldfinch

The news organization of the College of Charleston.

[Academics](#)

[Alumni](#)

[Athletics](#)

[Campus Life](#)

[CofC Magazine](#)

[Faculty & Staff News](#)

[News Briefs](#)



[Academic Director Shines Light on Stono](#)

Preserve

By [Amanda Kerr](#) | November 14th, 2019 | [Academics](#), [waterfall](#), [z CofC Homepage](#) | [Comments Off](#)



On a recent afternoon, [biology](#) professor **Matt Rutter** watched as huge flock of roseate spoonbills and wood storks swirled in the sky above the [College of Charleston at Stono Preserve](#).

“It is truly just a beautiful place,” says Rutter of the property located along the Stono River about 20 miles south of the College’s main campus in downtown Charleston. “I am still exploring it. It’s a wonderful place to be.”

With a rich history and a variety of ecosystems – including longleaf pine forests, wetlands, savannas, tidal marshes as well as brackish, saltwater and freshwater ponds – the 881 acres of Stono Preserve offer no shortage of learning opportunities for students and faculty.



Students look out on marshlands at Stono Preserve. (Photo by Mike Ledford)

That’s why, with the support of Interim Provost **Frances C. Welch** and **Sebastian van Delden**, interim dean of the **School of Sciences and Mathematics**, Rutter has been appointed as the College’s first academic director of Stono Preserve.

“We are delighted to have a world-class scholar like Matt Rutter as our first-ever academic director for Stono Preserve,” says van Delden. “The School of Sciences and

Mathematics strives toward excellence in experiential learning, and I’m excited to see what all new opportunities for our students will be developed under Dr. Rutter’s leadership.”

Welch agrees, noting that she is confident in Rutter’s ability to grow the academic programming at Stono Preserve.

“He is an excellent leader who has assembled an impressive steering committee, and I look forward to all that will be accomplished under Dr. Rutter’s leadership,” she says.

Rutter, who officially took on the role in the summer of 2019, says the goal is to increase awareness of the property among faculty and to help them find creative ways of engaging students through projects, labs and field trips there.

RELATED: Read about the Hidden Hands garden at Stono Preserve.

“It’s a spectacular place. It’s got nature. It’s got history. The story of artist John Henry Dick [who bequeathed the property to the College] is very interesting,” says Rutter. “There are so many

things that come together at that location, and I'm just going to be encouraging people at the College to come get acquainted with Stono Preserve."

Biology professor **Melissa Hughes** has been among a small group of faculty who have already been taking advantage of Stono's unique learning environment. For the past few years, Hughes has taught an ornithology class, both the lecture and lab, at Stono. With a rich array of birds regularly nesting and feeding on the property, the location offers students plenty of up-close experiences with species of all shapes and sizes – and the two field stations on the property make it easy to conduct experiments or hold class discussions, as well.

"Teaching ornithology at Stono provides the class with a full immersion in ornithology," says Hughes. "Stono isn't a place we visit, as we visit other places on field trips, for example. Stono is our classroom. The students observe how the bird community changes with the seasons and how bird behavior changes with the seasons, because we're there, watching them, every time the class meets. When we talk about the physics of flight, we can just look up and observe the differences in the soaring behaviors and wing shapes of black vultures and turkey vultures. They learn the habits of the resident birds: where the American kestrel likes to sit, where the red-headed woodpecker nests."



Biology professor Melissa Hughes with students in her ornithology class at Stono Preserve. (Photo by Heather Moran)

Hughes adds, "When the semester is over, students sometimes linger after the final exam, reluctant to leave for the last time. How many other classrooms or labs foster that kind of connection?"

In addition to Hughes and her ornithology classes, geology, studio art and education professors among others have already held labs, classes and field trips at Stono Preserve. And the **Student Garden** at Stono Preserve offers hands-on experience with a variety of modern and historic gardening techniques.

A newly formed academic advisory committee for Stono Preserve comprised of faculty from

different schools aims to evaluate the activities already happening on the property, to solve problems that might inhibit professors from holding classes and labs there and to begin creating a long-term vision for the types of academic activities that Stono could host.

“I want to expand the participation out at Stono to as many of the different schools, departments and programs as possible,” says Rutter. “I would love to see artistic performances out there. I would love to see something from the perspective of the business school, like what could we learn about the economy of the farm that was on the property. There’s still a ton of room to explore.”

Featured image: Matt Rutter at Stono Preserve. (Photo by Heather Moran)

Share This Story, Choose Your Platform!



About the Author: **Amanda Kerr**



Related Posts



College of Charleston

Office of Communications

66 George Street

Charleston, SC 29424 USA

843.805.5507 news@cofc.edu

If there's news at the College of Charleston, you'll find it here. We strive to bring you faculty, staff and student profiles, research updates and the latest happenings on campus.

Our website uses cookies and third-party services to improve your experience. If you're OK with this, select "OK".

OK

Apiary has Student Garden Buzzing with Excitement

By [Tom Cunneff](#) | March 28th, 2019 | [Campus Life](#), [waterfall](#), [z CofC Homepage](#) | [Comments Off](#)



The
College**TODAY**

The news organization of the College of Charleston.

[Academics](#)

[Alumni](#)

[Athletics](#)

[Campus Life](#)

[CofC Magazine](#)

[Faculty & Staff News](#)

[News Briefs](#)



Symbiosis can be a beautiful thing in nature. It can also be a beautiful thing in humans.

Early last year, the Charleston Area Bee Keepers Association (CABA) was searching for a location

for its educational apiary when the former program coordinator of the College's graduate program in environmental and sustainability studies contacted CABA about providing honeybees for the Student Garden at the College of Charleston at Stono Preserve, located 17 miles south of the College's main campus.



Rebecca Fanning works with a Charleston Area Bee Keepers Association member to inspect a hive at the student garden. (Photos by Mike Ledford)

CABA set up five hives on the 953-acre property about a half-mile from the garden, which was funded with seed money – both literally and figuratively – given to the CofC Foundation from the Golden Pearl Foundation, a North Carolina charity that provides grants to support the arts, youth and environment. It all dovetails perfectly with the College's sustainability literacy initiative.

“The magnificent beauty of the Stono River property, coupled with the unbounded possibilities to provide opportunities for the College and the community at large, were a perfect fit for the Golden Pearl Foundation,” says Heidi Hall-Jones, Golden Pearl's president of the board. “It has been incredibly meaningful to watch the progress unfold on the property and meet many extraordinary students and staff. We believe the Stono River property will play an important role in the Charleston community and beyond, and we are honored to be able to support such a remarkable place.”

So is CABA.

“It has been received very well by the members, and we look forward to a long-term relationship with CofC,” says Larry Haigh, a past president of CABA who is managing the apiaries and overseeing the apprentice program. “The bees are active all over the property, including the gardens and the woodlands. The location is a stunning jewel of beauty and natural diversity.”

RELATED: Read about how the student garden donates lettuce to sea turtles at the South Carolina Aquarium.

The three-year agreement between CABA and CofC includes training two apprentice beekeepers

and holding educational events. “The clear intent of John Henry Dick in leaving the Stono River property to the Foundation was two-fold: to manage, preserve and protect it as a wildlife sanctuary, and to use the site as an educational platform,” says **Barney Holt '74**, director of property management for institutional advancement at the College. “The Student Garden is a perfect example of these charges, and the bee colonization program is a natural extension of their work.”

Rebecca Fanning, who is pursuing a double **master's in environmental studies** and **public administration**, was the first apprentice and has helped identify curriculum objectives – like how to pick a bee off your beekeeping suit by its wings – that could strengthen the program.

“The learning curve is pretty steep for beekeeping,” says Fanning, who earned her undergraduate degree in Russian studies at Bard College in New York’s Hudson Valley. “When you make mistakes, it doesn’t feel too good because you have several thousand really upset bees to account for. It takes a lot of confidence. If you don’t know what you’re doing, the bees pick up on it. It’s just really nice to have that mentor with you to bring the stress level down.”



Students work on the Student Garden at Stono River Preserve.

The two-acre garden is a little less stressful, although growing 20 or so different varieties of vegetables does have its challenges.

“We’re an organic garden, and we’re an organic garden in South Carolina, so bugs are our No. 1 concern,” says Fanning, who also manages the garden. “But it’s pretty impressive to see the plants fending for themselves. Somehow the plants thrive despite it all.”

The bees have bolstered Fanning’s conviction for the importance of using organic farming practices. For example, the farm turned down free zucchini plants from Clemson Cooperative Extension this summer because the seeds had been coated with fungicides – compounds that can be dangerous to bees that have also been exposed to other chemicals, like pesticides to

control mosquito populations.

Notes Fanning: “We wouldn’t have been sensitive to that issue if we hadn’t been researching honeybee population declines in order to keep our bees safe.”

Native pollinators like bumblebees and butterflies also play a role, so Fanning is in the process of installing a three-acre pollinator meadow for them. And there will soon be a deer fence, which the Golden Pearl Foundation is also funding, around all five acres so students can put more time into what goes into the ground and less time into what crosses the fence.

The College donates most of the vegetables to people in need of fresh produce through charities like Fields to Families. In the fall of 2018, the vegetables ended up in soups cooked by the Stone Soup Collective, a nonprofit student group that’s part of the College’s new food insecurity initiative.

After all, symbiosis is most beautiful when it’s between nature and people.

Share This Story, Choose Your Platform!



About the Author: **Tom Cunneff**



Related Posts



If there's news at the College of Charleston, you'll find it here. We strive to bring you faculty, staff and student profiles, research updates and the latest happenings on campus.

College of Charleston

Office of Communications

66 George Street
Charleston, SC 29424 USA
843.805.5507 news@cofc.edu

Student Garden Donates Harvest to Homeless Shelter

By [Amanda Kerr](#) | November 22nd, 2019 | [All News](#), [Campus Life](#), [News Briefs](#) | [Comments Off](#)



For privacy reasons YouTube needs your permission to be loaded.

I ACCEPT

The College of Charleston's **Student Garden at Stono Preserve** recently donated its fall harvest to local homeless shelter One80 Place.

Students gathered at the College's student garden located on the 881-acre Stono Preserve in Meggett, South Carolina, on Sunday, Nov. 17, to collect the garden's produce, including peppers, Sea Island red peas, tomatoes, eggplants, okra, radishes, herbs and greens. The student garden is managed and operated by the **Graduate Program in Environmental and Sustainability Studies' Sustainable Agriculture Program**.

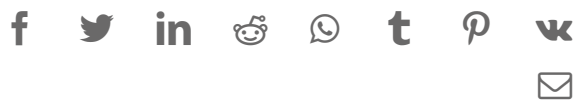
Representatives from the agricultural groups Fresh Future Farms and The Green Heart Project joined students and staff for the harvest to further the student garden's community partnerships and spoke on their efforts to end homelessness and food insecurity while harnessing education, engagement and empowerment within the community.

The
College**TODAY**

The news organization of the College of Charleston.



Share This Story, Choose Your Platform!



About the Author: **Amanda Kerr**





College of Charleston

Office of Communications

66 George Street

Charleston, SC 29424 USA

843.805.5507 news@cofc.edu

If there's news at the College of Charleston, you'll find it here. We strive to bring you faculty, staff and student profiles, research updates and the latest happenings on campus.

