

Hampton Plantation State Historic Site

Friends of Hampton Plantation

Spring 2023

*Deep, deep is the refuge, the refuge,
The peace, the repose;
There blows the sweet winds of the twilight,
There the tired eyes close.
But the region,--O where shall one find it?
Is it after the wild journey's end?
It is found with its beautiful solace
In the heart of a friend.*

-Archibald Rutledge, "The Heart of a Friend"



In memory of Roy Williams III

An original Friend of Hampton

Mr. Roy was a founding member of the Friends of Hampton and served as the group's President for over twenty years. He volunteered as a docent at the park and was a font of friendliness and knowledge to both visitors and park staff. His time, expertise, and care have helped make Hampton what it is today.

From the Manager's Desk

Greetings from Hampton Plantation,

As the summer approaches we are looking back at the accomplishments and changes at the park over the last few months. Within the Friends of Hampton, the loss of long-time President Roy Williams has been keenly felt. His impact on the park can't be overstated and we remember his legacy by continuing to make Hampton the best it can be. This summer we hope to have a small number of his excellent book on the St. James Santee Parish reprinted—check in with the park later for updates or to reserve a copy.

There's always work to do on the park, and this summer we are being assisted by new intern Cody, a local student from Horry Georgetown Tech, with projects like monitoring the endangered bat species in the kitchen and clearing out invasive plants. If you see him around the park, please say hello! Also out on the grounds, visitors may see evidence of fire. Earlier in the year we had a prescribed burn on the park, which will keep fuel loads low in case of a wildfire and clear out debris to leave room for the native longleaf pine to grow instead.

Preservation on the mansion house is also ongoing. At the end of 2020 work was completed on the slate roof to prevent water damage, and the roof hasn't looked this good in a hundred years! A big thank you to Alex Brevik and Durable Slate. Check out some pictures of the roof below. Two sets of shutters on the house were also replaced by Huss Preservation and with funding from the Friends of Hampton—thank you.

We've enjoyed meeting with visitors for several events the past few months, including our Halloween and Christmas tours. This month we celebrated our annual living history day, Step Back in Time, with demonstrations of crafts done by women artisans on the plantation. These included indigo dyeing, soap making, and spinning thread! We also hosted a tea with a reenactor portraying Eliza Lucas Pinckney. Inside the visitor center, a new exhibit is on display showcasing the bell pull system that was used inside the mansion. Our park interpreter Hannah can also be found in the visitor center when not giving tours—if you see her you can congratulate her achievement on winning the Interpreter of the Year award in the South Carolina State Park Service!

Our last event for the spring will be a sweetgrass basket making class with local artist Barbara McCormick on May 13th. If interested in joining in, please call the park to RSVP. We hope to see you out at the park soon, and as always a huge thank you to the Friends for their continued support.

-Jayson Sellers, park manager

Friends Updates

- Thank you to Ms Harriott Pinckney for her dedicated service as the Treasurer for the Friends of Hampton! Mr. Horry Parker is now taking over responsibilities for the role.
- The next Friends of Hampton meeting will take place on May 13th at 3pm in the visitor center at Hampton Plantation.
- A big welcome to new board members Macon Rutledge and John Parker!

Park Pictures



Who Answered the Bell?

When you tour the mansion, you'll see remnants of an 18th century mechanical bell call system. For more than 100 years, many enslaved women and men worked in the mansion and had to respond to ringing bells similar to this replica.

Working in the mansion was always demanding and had unique difficulties. For the enslaved, members of the white family constantly scrutinized them; they were far more likely to be punished by the plantation owner or mistress; and a ring of the bell could summon them at a moment's notice any time of the day or night. The bell system at Hampton stands as a reminder of their labor and the harshness of slavery.



Around the park: Tea with Eliza Lucas Pinckney program, new wayside inside visitor center, indigo dyeing demonstration, repairs to roof on dormer window, prescribed burn, before and after roof repairs, Interpreter of the Year Hannah Marley with Director Paul McCormack!



Hampton Plantation State Historic Site

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Who are "The Friends of Hampton Plantation"?

Our Friends group is a non-profit organization that is committed to supporting the Hampton Plantation State Historic Site. The members strive to fund new projects that preserve the park structures and keep the plantation as an active historic site for visitors.

Friends' funds also allow us to construct new interpretive displays, provide educational tools for school groups, and create and provide educational demonstrations and programs. Your donations do all this!

We also have Friends that volunteer to assist the very small staff at Hampton in helping to keep the plantation up and running. Ask a Ranger about the projects coming soon.

Please complete this form and return it with your check made payable to Friends of Hampton Plantation.

Friends of Hampton Plantation 1950 Rutledge Road, McClellanville, SC 29458

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

___ Level I: \$15.00- includes annual newsletter

___ Level II: \$99.00- includes annual newsletter & Statewide Park Pass

___ Level IIS: \$49.00- includes annual newsletter & SC Senior (over 65) Statewide Park Pass

___ Add-On: \$20.00 Friends of Hampton Plantation members-only Tee Shirt Size: _____