



**SIERRA  
CLUB**



Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton & Dorchester Counties

# Lunz Letter

October 2020

## November [Online](#) Program

### *"Raptors of South Carolina"*

**Jen McCarthy Tyrrell**

Thursday, November 5

7:00 to 8:30 pm

[Click For Advance Registration](#)  
(Required)

Raptors are a misunderstood group of birds. During this talk you'll learn about the different raptor species that call South Carolina home: how to identify them, their basic ecology, and conservation concerns statewide. Find out why you should not throw a banana peel or apple core out of your car window!



Jen McCarthy Tyrrell is the Bird-Friendly Communities coordinator and Master Bird Bander for Audubon South Carolina, as well as the Charleston Audubon and Natural History Society chapter president. She has worked in avian conservation in the Charleston area since 2007 when she started her graduate work in Environmental Studies at the College of Charleston.

[Learn More](#)



## Save the Date - Member's Slide Show

### Show Your Trip Slides!

Thursday, January 7  
Online - Zoom presentations

Do you have photos from a nature outing or trip? Consider sharing them on our January meeting (it doesn't have to be a recent trip).

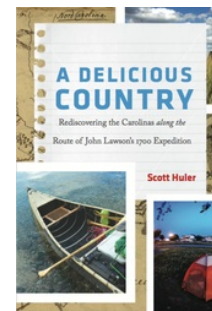
Email Christine Von Kolnitz ([vonkolnc1@gmail.com](mailto:vonkolnc1@gmail.com)) to submit your topic.



## View Recording - October 1 Program

**Author Scott Huler** gave a humorous and entertaining talk about his book, "*A Delicious Country: Rediscovering the Carolinas Along the Route of John Lawson's 1700 Expedition*" at our October 1 meeting. The talk included an introduction to the explorer and naturalist John Lawson, as well as personal anecdotes from Huler's own travels retracing Lawson's route.

[Click to view recording](#)



The Sierra Club has officially endorsed the following candidates:

- **Joe Biden** for President
- **Kamala Harris** for Vice-President
- **Jaime Harrison** for US Senate.
- **Joe Cunningham** for US Congress, First District
- **James Clyburn** for US Congress, Sixth District
- **Debbie Bryant** for SC Senate District 44
- **Spencer Wetmore** for SC House District 115
- **Ed Sutton** for SC House District 114
- **Daniel Brownstein** for SC House District 112
- **Robert Wehrman** for Charleston County Council, District 3

Each of these individuals will work to protect our natural resources and public lands.

Congratulations to **Spencer Wetmore**, newly elected in a special election to fill S. C. House Seat 115, which represents James Island, Folly Beach, and parts of Kiawah and Seabrook. Impressed with her accomplishments as city administrator of Folly Beach and her deep understanding of the environmental challenges facing our coastal counties, the Sierra Club endorsed her candidacy. We support her in the November election for the full term.

As a registered nurse and educator **Debbie Bryant** (Senate 44) respects the science behind climate change and is particularly concerned with the health effects of pollution. She supports legislation that will decrease South Carolina's dependency on fossil fuels, promotes renewable energy, and focuses on smart growth.

**Ed Sutton** (District 114) has been in the forefront of the fight against the spill of plastic pellets (nurdles) into Charleston harbor with SC Environmental Law Project. He has made protection of the coast from offshore oil drillings, flooding, and development of low-lying areas the centerpiece of his campaign. Ed Sutton's positions align with the Sierra Club and he has the experience to back it up.

**Daniel Brownstein** (District 112) advocates for a regional approach to our coastal flooding and sea level rise issues, rather than a piecemeal approach by each municipality. He is particularly concerned with water quality issues, from plastic pollution to uncontrolled runoff. He opposes off shore oil exploration and on-shore infrastructure for the oil industry.

As a public defender, **Robert Wehrman** is particularly concerned with the negative environmental impacts of development, whether that be in the form of industrial zoning, a lack of high-quality storm water infrastructure, or exposure to pollution on low-income and minority communities.

The Sierra Club has a process to consider candidates for endorsement. First, for local candidates, the Lunz group will

recommend individuals or races to the state political committee. The political committee then sends a detailed questionnaire to all candidates in the race, except incumbents, who are running on their records. The committee then will review the questionnaires, records, and other information and make a recommendation to the state chapter executive committee who will vote to endorse the candidate.

The process is a little different for candidates running for Congress, with the national Sierra Club as well as the state chapter reviewing the records of incumbents and the national-focused questionnaires of challengers.

## Vote and Volunteer!

The upcoming presidential will have a big impact on the direction of the country, including environmental policy in the coming years. Make sure you're prepared to vote in person on November 3 or by absentee ballot.



### Request an Absentee Ballot

[Click here to download application](#)

*\*\*Application request must be received by October 24*

For additional Charleston County voting information, including early voting sites, [click here](#).

### Volunteer to Help Get Out the Vote

The national office of the Sierra Club has organized a convenient system that allows you to make phone calls or send letters to prospective voters in critical swing states. They will give you a brief training and script to work from. You can schedule to spend as much time as you choose volunteering, all from the comfort of your own home.

[Learn More About Volunteering](#)

## Outings Remain Suspended

All outings remain suspended for the foreseeable future.

## DIY Solo Outings

Thank you to our "star" outings leader Starr Hazard for assembling a fresh list of outings ideas folks can do on their own until we're able to gather again for official trips.

### 1) [Sewee Shell Mound Interpretive Trail](#)

This is a shortish hike suitable for cooler days. Be prepared for mosquitoes.

Directions: From Charleston, take US Highway 17 north to Doar Road North (SC Route 432-S). Turn right and go 2.5 miles to Salt Pond Road. Turn right on FS Road 243 and go ½ mile to trailhead.

### 2) [Gadsenville Public Boat Landing](#)

Great place to view stars on clear nights! Paddling in and out requires knowledge of tides so do not go unprepared.

Location: [902 State Rd S-10-1075](#), Awendaw, SC 29429

*These next two are nice bike/hike trails easily accessible in Mount Pleasant. Birding can be excellent in Spring and Fall*

### 3) **Patriots Point Nature Trail**

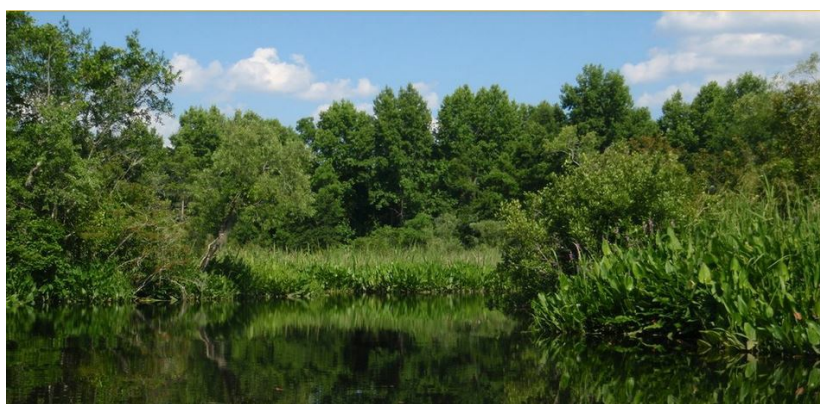
Location: 40 Patriots Point Rd, Mt Pleasant, SC 29464

### 4) **Hog Island Trail And Observation Deck**

Location: 1 Patriots Point Rd, Mt Pleasant, SC 29464

### Previous Solo Outing Ideas

- [Penny Creek Paddle](#) (lower Edisto River)
- **Edisto Nature Trail** - [National Recreation Trail](#)
- [Paddle the Edisto River at Willtown Bluff](#)
- [Loop Paddle on Wambaw Creek](#)
- [Biking & Paddling in Mt Pleasant](#)



## Connect w/ CHS Moves 2020

Thursday, November 12  
6:00 pm



This free livestream event will be an engaging look at this Charleston Moves exciting multi-modal accomplishments for the past year, as well as their current and upcoming priorities and specific ways you can take action to support their movement.

[Learn More and Register](#)

(Required)

## Get Involved!

### Volunteer With The Robert Lunz Group

#### Group needs Conservation & Political chairs

Do you want to make an impact? Consider becoming either the local group's political chair or conservation chair.

**The Political chair** works with the group's executive committee and other members to raise awareness of environmental issues and work to elect pro-environmental candidates. Duties include serving on the state chapter political committee, which is responsible for evaluating political issues, recommending priorities and reviewing and approving endorsements for state offices. The Sierra Club is non-partisan and seeks to engage with all political parties to advance environmental protection.

**The Conservation chair** works to monitor and advise the executive committee and engage members about local conservation issues.

If either role interests you, please get in touch with Christine von Kolnitz at [vonkolnc1@gmail.com](mailto:vonkolnc1@gmail.com).

## Thanks to our 2020 Oyster Roast Donors!

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## MISSION OF THE SIERRA CLUB:

To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the Earth.

Visit us at: <https://sierraclub.org/south-carolina/robert-lunz>

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