

## HISTORIC SITE TOURS

There is no access to Redcliffe's grounds outside of tours. Tours are by appointment only. Please visit our website by [CLICKING HERE](#) to reserve a tour time.

More information in the main article about current park operations.

### PARK STAFF

**PARK MANAGER**  
Ashley Rust

**PARK INTERPRETER**  
Vacant

**CURATOR**  
Jordan Stenger

**MAINTENANCE RANGER**  
Craig Norris

**ASSISTANT PARK RANGERS**  
Palmer McCay  
Sarah Neill  
Nate Wilkie  
Courtney Wilson

### PARK UPDATE

Currently our park grounds are closed. We are open for tours only, so please book a tour time if you would like to come out!

**REDCLIFFE PLANTATION**  
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# REDCLIFFE

## SOUTHERN TIMES

## THE AFTERMATH OF HELENE

It goes without saying that Helene did more damage to the CSRA than any of us were prepared for. Redcliffe unfortunately suffered the loss of more than 65 trees and a historic building that was once a home built by and for enslaved people.

We would like to share some photos with you of the damage caused by Helene. We are truly devastated by the change in landscape and the loss of a very significant historic building. Our path forward will be one step at a time as we create plans for tree removal, archaeology, and recovery. All of us here are working hard to clean up and return Redcliffe to its normal operating hours and programs, we appreciate everyone's support and patience as we navigate a very different landscape at Redcliffe. Please find more information below on park operations.



This building was one of our oldest at Redcliffe, built around 1857 by enslaved people. It was a home for enslaved women Sally and Louisa Johnson and their children. In the 1900s, it was converted into a garage by Redcliffe's last owner. We are working to identify elements of this building that may be able to be salvaged for the future. Though we won't know for sure until we are able to fully remove the tree and roof off of it, we are looking at possibilities of materials to be used for site interpretation. Our next newsletter will feature a more complete history of this building and those who lived in it.



Many of our most iconic and historic trees were uprooted. This includes the Cherrybark Oak that earlier this year received a champion designation from Clemson. The oak was over 200 years old, and bore witness to Redcliffe's storied past. The root ball in this picture is over 15 foot tall.



One of the most notable differences to our landscape is the loss of the row of deodar cedars along the fence that lines Redcliffe Road. This photo was taken by neighbors and friends of Redcliffe who worked tirelessly the day after the hurricane to clear Redcliffe Road. This row of trees was planted in 1941 by John Shaw Billings III.



The deodars when they were first planted in 1941 on the left. On the right, this photo shows their growth by 1943. Images from the John Shaw Billings Online Photograph Album Collection. Courtesy of South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.

As we move forward with cleanup and recovery, we will share more updates on our park hours and operations. The best place for up-to-date information is our website.

## Book a Site Tour Here!

- **Booking:** Redcliffe is currently open for site tours by appointment only. Tour times are offered Thursday – Monday at 11am, 1pm, or 3pm. Please reserve your spot online at least two hours in advance of the tour time. We cannot guarantee space on a tour without a reservation. Tours take about one hour. \$10/adults, \$6/SC resident seniors 65+, \$5/kids ages 6-16, kids under 5 are free.
- **Arrival:** A ranger will meet you at the gate 10 minutes before the designated tour time. Please wait in your vehicle and give the ranger the name on your reservation.
- **Visitor Center:** Our Visitor Center will be open after tour for guests to purchase items or collect their Ultimate Outsider Stamp. Restrooms remain open at all times on the side of the Visitor Center.
- **Accessibility:** There are stairs to all of the structures, walking on uneven ground, and no climate control.
- **Grounds Access:** At this time, we will not allow unaccompanied access to Redcliffe's grounds. Visitors must have a reservation and stay with a ranger guide during their visit.
- **Field Trips:** At this time, we are unable to host field trips. Please reach out in the spring!
- **Ultimate Outsider Stamp:** For visitors not looking to tour, we will place a stamp at Redcliffe's entrance by the big brown park sign.

## ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

Monday - Sept 19 -  
Dear Frederica & John -  
So good to hear your voices on the  
telephone - You sound wonderful Frederica,  
and it is hard to believe you are still  
under nurses care - Hope this new  
medicine you mentioned is going to be  
helpful -  
I hope as if we may be due for a taste  
of another hurricane, (Florence), first cousin  
to Donna -  
It just happened that I was in New Orleans  
with Tennessee, when Donna lashed part  
Miami - George was frightened to death as it  
was his first experience - Mother has seen  
three, and I was in the "eye" of the 1950 one -  
Damage to the house was slight, but it  
raised havoc with the trees and shrubby  
stuff - I have not finished cleaning up debris -  
Mother holds up remarkably well - although  
she is quite tired and nervous from the  
constant tension - I wanted to come home  
to be with them - but no planes out New York  
and the telephone here was out of order - so  
I had no means of communication -  
I had to write again to Frederica - and give  
in news of you and John, and Redcliffe -  
With love from us all,  
affectionately, Marion

A letter about Hurricane Donna dated September 19, 1960 from Redcliffe's Collection.

This letter to John Shaw and Frederica Billings from Marion Vaccaro in 1960, recalls Hurricane Donna's damage to her home in Miami, Florida. Hurricane Donna was the strongest storm of the 1960 hurricane season. While she describes how they sustained minor damage to the house, she does mention preparing for another hurricane projected to follow Donna, Hurricane Florence. Marion follows up in another letter to the Billings after Hurricane Florence, and noted that their home flooded and they were without electricity, phone lines, and blocked in their driveway for several days.

# Join Barnwell State Park for their Halloween Fun Day Event on November 2, 2024!

## HALLOWEEN FUN DAY AT BARNWELL STATE PARK

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2024

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

1pm-3pm: Pumpkin Carving Contest  
3:30pm: Judging for the Pumpkin Carving  
4pm-5pm: Halloween Crafting Hour  
7pm-9pm: Hay Ride

\*Anyone who comes to any event dressed in a costume can get a treat bag!

\*Guess the number of candy corn in Ranger Ashley's jar and win a prize!

### **EVENT DETAILS:**

Pumpkin Carving Contest: \$5 per pumpkin.

-Show off your skills in our Pumpkin Carving Contest.

-Prizes for first place of each category!

-Meet at Shelter 4 by the park office.

Halloween Crafting Hour: \$3 per person, kids 5 and under free!

-Come do some kid-friendly crafts with Ranger Ashley.

-Dress in crafting appropriate clothes! Glue will be involved.

-Meet at Shelter 4 by the park office

Hay Ride: Free to ride! Concessions available for purchase.

-Sit back and enjoy the ride with our Hay Ride through the campground to check out some kid-friendly decorations.

-Meet at the park office.

-The ride can get a little bumpy, so be prepared!

**Click here to visit their website  
for more information!**