



**Charleston Natural History Society
Records, 1913-2002
SCHS 290.00**

Description: 2 linear ft.

Creator: Charleston Natural History Society.

Biographical/Historical Note:

The Charleston Natural History Society was organized in April 1905 under the auspices of the Charleston Museum in Charleston, S.C. An early constitution of the Society states that its purpose was “the study of natural history and the development of the Charleston Museum.” After about 1924 the organization was relatively inactive for a number of years, but it was reorganized around 1946 independent of the Charleston Museum. By this time the aims and purposes of the Society had expanded to include the cause of conservation. In the early 1970s the Charleston Natural History Society became a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Scope and Content:

Records include proposals and other papers (1977-1980) pertaining to the E. Burnham Chamberlain Research Grant; notes for and drafts of a history of the Charleston Natural History Society (ca. 1977) by Elizabeth D. Simons; miscellaneous items, including constitutions and bylaws, and documents (1979) relating to a lawsuit over a proposed port terminal on the Wando River (which resulted in a settlement providing for an environmental buffer zone to protect nearby wetlands); minutes of meetings (1913-2002, with gaps); newsletters (1954-2002, with gaps) of the Society, “The Lesser Squawk,” which features articles on bird watching, astronomical observations, and other topics relating to natural history; reports (1975-1978) concerning an endangered species of bird known as Bachman's warbler; and the papers of Morgan A. McClure, president of the Society from 1985-1988, which include documents pertaining to the Edisto Island Sea Turtle Project, various other national and local environmental issues and campaigns, and correspondence, primarily with U.S. Senators Strom Thurmond and Ernest F. Hollings and U.S. Representatives Arthur Ravenel, Jr. and Thomas F. Hartnett.

Preferred Citation: Charleston Natural History Society. Charleston Natural History Society records, 1913-2002. (290.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Detailed Collection Inventory:

Collection Overview

290.01	Charleston Natural History Society Records
290.01 (C)	Correspondence
290.01 (G)	EBC Research Grant Records
290.01 (H)	History of CNHS
290.01 (M) 01	Minutes

- 290.01 (M) 02 Miscellaneous Materials
- 290.01 (N) 01 Newsletter: "The Lesser Squawk"
- 290.01 (N) 02 Newsletter Articles, "The Sky-Watchers' Guide"
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- 290.02 Papers of Morgan A. McClure, CNHS President 1985-1988
 - 290.02 (C) Executive Correspondence
 - 290.02 (E) Edisto Island Sea Turtle Project
 - 290.02 (M) Miscellaneous Materials
 - 290.02 (N) 01 National Audubon Society
 - 290.02 (N) 02 Newsletter Articles

Series Outline with Container Lists

290.01 Charleston Natural History Society Records

Box 1

290.01 (C).....Correspondence

- 290.01 (C) 01 Correspondence

290.01 (G).....EBC Research Grant Records, 1977-1980

- 290.01 (G) 01-01 EBC Research Grant Records, 1977
- 290.01 (G) 01-02 EBC Research Grant Records, 1979
- 290.01 (G) 01-03 EBC Research Grant Records, 1979
- 290.01 (G) 01-04 EBC Research Grant Records, 1980

290.01 (H).....History of CNHS, 1905-1976

- 290.01 (H) 01-01 History of CNHS Notes, 1905-1964
- 290.01 (H) 01-02 History of CNHS Notes, 1905-1966
- 290.01 (H) 01-03 History of CNHS Notes, 1964-1976
- 290.01 (H) 01-04 History of CNHS Notes
- 290.01 (H) 01-05 History of CNHS – Typescript, 1905-1924
- 290.01 (H) 01-06 History of CNHS – Typescript, 1946-1968
- 290.01 (H) 01-07 History of CNHS – Typescript, 1969-1976

290.01 (M) 01.....Minutes, 1913-2002 (with gaps)

- 290.01 (M) 01 (1913-1924) Minute Book, 1913-1924
- 290.01 (M) 01 (1957-1960) Minutes, 1957-1960
- 290.01 (M) 01 (1961-1964) Minutes, 1961-1964
- 290.01 (M) 01 (1965-1968) Minutes, 1965-1968
- 290.01 (M) 01 (1975-1977) Minutes, 1975-1977
- 290.01 (M) 01 (1986-1987) Minutes, 1986-1987

Box 2

290.01 (M) 01.....Minutes (Continued)

- 290.01 (M) 01 (1988-1992) Minutes, 1988-1992
- 290.01 (M) 01 (2000-2002) Minutes, 2000-2002

290.01 (M) 02....Miscellaneous Materials

- 290.01 (M) 02-01 Miscellaneous: Constitutions and Bylaws
- 290.01 (M) 02-02 Miscellaneous: Wando Suit Records, 1979
- 290.01 (M) 02-03 Miscellaneous Items

290.01 (N) 01.....Newsletter: "The Lesser Squawk," 1954-2002 (with gaps)

290.01 (N) 01 (1954)	Newsletter, 1954
290.01 (N) 01 (1955)	Newsletter, 1955
290.01 (N) 01 (1956)	Newsletter, 1956
290.01 (N) 01 (1957)	Newsletter, 1957
290.01 (N) 01 (1958)	Newsletter, 1958
290.01 (N) 01 (1959)	Newsletter, 1959
290.01 (N) 01 (1960)	Newsletter, 1960
290.01 (N) 01 (1961)	Newsletter, 1961
290.01 (N) 01 (1962)	Newsletter, 1962
290.01 (N) 01 (1963)	Newsletter, 1963
290.01 (N) 01 (1964)	Newsletter, 1964
290.01 (N) 01 (1965)	Newsletter, 1965
290.01 (N) 01 (1966)	Newsletter, 1966
290.01 (N) 01 (1967)	Newsletter, 1967
290.01 (N) 01 (1968)	Newsletter, 1968
290.01 (N) 01 (1969)	Newsletter, 1969
290.01 (N) 01 (1970)	Newsletter, 1970
290.01 (N) 01 (1971)	Newsletter, 1971

Box 3

290.01 (N).....Newsletter (Continued)

290.01 (N) 01 (1972)	Newsletter, 1972
290.01 (N) 01 (1973)	Newsletter, 1973
290.01 (N) 01 (1974)	Newsletter, 1974
290.01 (N) 01 (1975)	Newsletter, 1975
290.01 (N) 01 (1976)	Newsletter, 1976
290.01 (N) 01 (1977)	Newsletter, 1977
290.01 (N) 01 (1978)	Newsletter, 1978
290.01 (N) 01 (1979)	Newsletter, 1979
290.01 (N) 01 (1980)	Newsletter, 1980
290.01 (N) 01 (1987)	Newsletter, 1987
290.01 (N) 01 (2000)	Newsletter, 2000
290.01 (N) 01 (2001)	Newsletter, 2001
290.01 (N) 01 (2002)	Newsletter, 2002

290.01 (N) 02.....Newsletter Articles, "The Sky-Watchers' Guide"

290.01 (N) 02-01	Newsletter Articles, 1974-1976
290.01 (N) 02-02	Newsletter Articles, 1977-1979

290.01 (R).....Reports

290.01 (R) 01-01	Reports: Officers and Certifications
290.01 (R) 01-02	Reports: re Bachman's Warbler
290.01 (R) 01-03	Reports: re Bachman's Warbler

290.02 Papers of Morgan A. McClure, CNHS President 1985-1988

Box 4

290.02 (C) 01.....Executive Correspondence; Incoming, 1985-1990

290.02 (C) 01-01 Executive Correspondence; Incoming, 1985-1987

290.02 (C) 01-02 Executive Correspondence; Incoming, 1988-1990

290.02 (C) 02.....Executive Correspondence; Outgoing, 1985-1989

290.02 (C) 02-01 Executive Correspondence; Outgoing, 1985-1987

290.02 (C) 02-02 Executive Correspondence; Outgoing, 1988-1989

290.02 (E).....Edisto Island Sea Turtle Project

290.02 (E) 01-01 Edisto Island Sea Turtle Project – General

290.02 (E) 01-02 Edisto Island Sea Turtle Project

– Advocacy and Fundraising

290.02 (E) 01-03 Edisto Island Sea Turtle Project – Correspondence

290.02 (E) 01-04 Edisto Island Sea Turtle Project – Educational Materials

290.02 (E) 01-05 Edisto Island Sea Turtle Project – Personnel

290.02 (M).....Miscellaneous Materials

290.02 (M) 01-01 Miscellaneous: CNHS Birdathon

290.02 (M) 01-02 Miscellaneous: Richard B. Russell Dam
and Lake Project

290.02 (M) 01-03 Miscellaneous: Sumter National Forest

290.02 (M) 01-04 Miscellaneous Items, 1986-1987

290.02 (M) 01-05 Miscellaneous Items, January-March 1988

290.02 (M) 01-06 Miscellaneous Items, April 1988-1989

290.02 (M) 01-07 Miscellaneous Items, n.d.

290.02 (N) 01.....National Audubon Society

290.02 (N) 01-01 National Audubon Society

290.02 (N) 01-02 National Audubon Society – Printed Materials

290.02 (N) 02.....Newsletter Articles

290.01 (N) 02 Newsletter Articles, 1982-1988 (with gaps)

Detailed Container Descriptions

290.01 Charleston Natural History Society Records

Box 1

290.01 (C) Correspondence

Approx. 6 items. Letters from CNHS to Col. William W. Brown of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers re spoil disposal on Drum Island; to Audubon members re the Wando suit and a corresponding request for donations to the CNHS Legal Fund; to Arthur Wilcox of the Charleston Museum re naming new museum facilities after CNHS member Elizabeth D. Simons; and to CNHS members requesting input on Charleston's environmentally significant areas (and one incoming letter in response from Elizabeth D. Simons). Arranged chronologically.

290.01 (G) EBC Research Grant Records

Approx. 14 items. Applications for the E. Burnham Chamberlain Research Grant, including proposals and committee voting results. Winning project topics include studies of the Least Tern (1977), the Blacktip shark (1979), and ferns of coastal South Carolina (1980). Results of the winning 1979 project also included. Arranged chronologically.

290.01 (H) History of CNHS

Handwritten notes for a history of CNHS by Elizabeth D. Simons and corresponding typescript. Notes are in narrative form on approximately 135 pieces of loose-leaf notebook paper. Typescript on carbons, approximately 125 pages.

290.01 (M) 01 Minutes, 1913-2002 (with gaps)

Approx. 241 items; 1 minute book. Minute book (1913-1924) chronicles monthly CNHS meetings open to all members. Minutes from 1957-2002 cover meetings of the general membership, Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, and Conservation Committee; beginning in 1986 no general meetings are documented. 1988 minutes are Morgan McClure's personal copies and contain his notes. Meeting topics include upcoming field trips, speakers, budget and finance, lecture summaries, McAlhany Nature Preserve development and maintenance, conservation efforts, Edisto Beach Turtle Project, and other various Society campaigns and activities. 28 items are found in box 2, representing years 1998-2002. Arranged chronologically.

Box 2

290.01 (M) 01 Minutes (Continued)

290.01 (M) 02 Miscellaneous Materials

Approx. 26 items. Documents relating to the founding of the Society, Wando River lawsuit records, and various miscellaneous items. Foundational documents include an early CNHS constitution (n.d.; original and copy); revised constitutions from 1971, 1974, and 2002; a 1969 model constitution for NAS chapters; a handwritten draft of the CNHS Declaration and Petition for Incorporation and the resulting Certificate of Incorporation by the South Carolina Secretary of State (1971; original and photocopy); a NAS Chapter Charter (granted in 1973); and a 1978 memo from W. Carlyle Blakeney, Jr. of NAS reviewing a CNHS draft constitution and suggesting extensive revision. Documents relating to the Wando River lawsuit include a 1979 memo regarding the settlement agreement of National Wildlife Federation, et al. v. Clifford Alexander, et al.; a letter from Roger H. Trangsrud (NWF legal representation) to Richard Porcher (then President of CNHS) at the conclusion of the case; and multiple copies of the settlement agreement as it moved through stages of revision. Miscellaneous items include copies of CNHS member obituaries (3). Organized by subject, then chronologically.

290.01 (N) Newsletter: "The Lesser Squawk"

Approx. 305 items. Newsletters of CNHS, comprised of brief articles on organization activities (meetings, field trips, talks, film screenings, bird counts, etc.) and on national and local conservation topics (animal sightings, notification of legislation, calls to action, etc.). Recurring columns include the Sky-Watcher's Guide, Backyard Birder, and news from the National Audubon Society. Newsletters from years 1972 to 2002 are located in box 3. Arranged chronologically.

Box 3

290.01 (N) 01 Newsletter (Continued)

290.01 (N) 02 Newsletter Articles, "The Sky-Watchers' Guide"

Approx. 55 items. All are original "The Sky-Watchers' Guide" articles (typed carbons), written by Elizabeth D. Simons for years 1974-1979. Arranged chronologically.

290.01 (R) Reports

Approx. 29 items. Reports on chapter officers and certification and reports on the Bachman's Warbler (an endangered species of bird). Seven Audubon chapter officer report forms (1973-1979) in which the names and addresses of chapter officers, committee chairpersons, and board members are listed; a 1979 letter informing CNHS President Amarintha A. Muckenfuss that the Society's certification as a chapter of NAS had been renewed; five Audubon chapter certification report forms (1974-1978) in which membership numbers are documented and meetings, activities, field trips, and special projects are listed [see also a 1988 annual certification report in 290.02 (N) 01]. Information regarding the Bachman's Warbler includes the original report of the CNHS AD Hoc Committee on Bachman's Warbler, correspondence and documents pertaining to the bird's management as set forth in the Francis Marion National Forest Land Management plan of 1977-78, and Paul B. Hamel's research material and final report about the species (funded by an E.B. Chamberlain Research Grant). Arranged by subject, then chronologically.

290.02 Papers of Morgan A. McClure, CNHS President 1985-1988

Box 4

290.02 (C) 01 Executive Correspondence; Incoming, 1985-1990

Approx. 39 items. Letters to Morgan A. McClure from U.S. Senators Strom Thurmond, Ernest F. Hollings, and John Drummond and U.S. Representatives Arthur Ravenel, Jr. and Thomas F. Harnett regarding the Endangered Species Act (1985); members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health and the Environment (1985); McClure's opinion on the nomination of Robert K. Dawson as Assistant Secretary of the Army; the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; the Tongass Timber Reform Act; the Clean Air Standards Attainment Act; Charleston Harbor's inclusion in the National Estuaries Program; and Turtle Excluder Device regulations. Other letters from HUD Community Planning and Development Division Director Thomas F. O'Brien regarding Center Pointe development in North Charleston; Wakulla Springs Lodge and Conference Center; National Wildlife Federation; Helen E. Jordan, Director of the Edisto Marshland Institute; the Sierra Club's South Carolina Chapter; and public inquiries about CNHS. Arranged chronologically.

290.02 (C) 02 Executive Correspondence; Outgoing, 1985-1989

Approx. 34 items. Letters of Morgan A. McClure to U.S. Senators Strom Thurmond, Ernest F. Hollings, John Drummond, and John Chaffee, and U.S. Representatives Arthur Ravenel, Jr. and Thomas F. Hartnett regarding bills protecting the tropical rainforest and old growth forests; turtle excluder devices; the Clean Water Act; the Endangered Species Act; the Federal Pesticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; tree cutting and red-cockaded woodpeckers at Francis Marion National Forest; Charleston Harbor's inclusion in the National Estuaries Program; acid rain; and McClure's opinion of the nomination of Robert K. Dawns to head the Army Corps of Engineers. Letters re Center Pointe development in North Charleston to Thomas F. O'Brien of the HUD Community Planning and Development Division, Nathalie Goldstein of the National Audubon Society's Audubon Action division, and to the editor of The News and Courier. Various letters to the National Audubon Society's offices, including to president Peter A.A. Berle re a chapter speaking engagement; the Educational Division re a request for information; Southeastern Regional VP Larry Thompson re officers and committee chairs; and the NAS Membership Data Center. Other letters to Chris Dowling of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers re land fill near Wallace Creek; Marion Sadler of the Community Wastewater Section of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control re discharge near Upper Three Runs Creek; and

Charleston City Council Chairman re rezoning near highway 61. Arranged chronologically.

290.02 (E) Edisto Island Sea Turtle Project

Approx. 39 items. Documents include 1986 Edisto Island Sea Turtle Project proposal by Deborah A. Mundell; handwritten financial summary of 1985-1987 seasons; notice of hearing from South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources re sea turtle protection; various letters to supporters requesting funds; printed fact sheets for beach residents and visitors; "lights off" campaign information; "adopt a turtle nest" brochures; flyer for 1988 Project meeting; guidelines for the management of sea turtle nests from the S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Department; a quiz re turtle nesting knowledge; project director and intern applicant files including resumes, correspondence, and a copy of the 1988 project season agreement of director duties and responsibilities; and a 1988 volunteer listing. Correspondence to McClure relating to the Project is also filed here. Letters include criticism of the project from a volunteer and from Sally Murphy of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, opinions from multiple sources regarding Deborah Mundell's fitness as project director, and notes from former project director Cindy McDougal outlining her concerns re the management of the project. Arranged by subject, then chronologically.

290.02 (M) Miscellaneous Materials

Approx. 59 items. Materials from 1987 and 1988 CNHS Birdathons (pledge sheets, field cards); photocopies of letters re the Richard B. Russell Dam and Lake Project; list of 1986-1987 CNHS field trips; various letters regarding environmental advocacy issues on national and local levels; a position statement on hazardous waste; National Audubon Society Washington activists list; newspaper clippings; photocopies of letters from the South Carolina Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation re the Sumter National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, including comments on the draft version and a notice of appeal; membership listing of the McAlhany Lake Fishing Club; letters re Congaree Swamp National Monument; documents pertaining to the Save the Wando Association; minutes of the South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism Commission from March 24, 1988; grant award to CNHS from the South Carolina Agricultural Land Trust; letters concerning a breach of the National Wildlife Federation v. Alexander settlement; materials collected by Robert H. Hortman, manager of Medway Plantation documenting acid rainfall; lists of CNHS committee members; meeting announcements; and other various documents. Arranged by subject, then chronologically.

290.02 (N) 01 National Audubon Society

Approx. 23 items. Materials pertaining to the National Audubon Society and CNHS as a NAS chapter organization. Includes multiple letters from NAS addressed to chapter presidents re elections and general chapter business; national conservation news; lists of national projects and campaigns; 1988 CNHS annual chapter report and charter renewal; Audubon publications including "Audubon Leader", "Everglades Update", and "The Egret Express"; an action alert; a biennial convention brochure from 1989; and materials documenting local, regional, and national Society relations.

290.02 (N) 02 Newsletter Articles

Approx. 21 items. Contributions of Morgan A. McClure to the CNHS newsletter, "The Lesser Squawk." Topics include pesticides, acid rain, NAS national/chapter relations, old growth forests, coastal zone management, and more.