



Snowy Egret



Woodstorks & Spoonbills



Blue Heron



Fripp Island

NATURE TRAIL

ROOKERY

1

At any given time, Fripp Island has 15-20 roosting and/or nesting rookeries. Many are on the golf course, so access is limited. Rookeries are communal breeding sites where colonies of wading birds build nests, lay their eggs and care for their young until they can fly. The birds return to rookeries for protection at night and during storms. Rookeries also provide foraging habitat and limited access by predators. Fripp Island rookeries are either freshwater or brackish ponds surrounded by trees, shrubs, and tall grasses. Our most common rookery birds are egrets, spoonbills, wood storks, and herons. February through June is the best viewing time.



NATURE TRAIL MAP

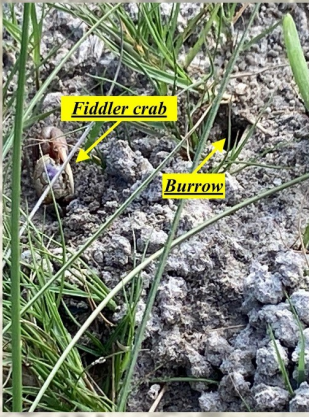


FRIPP ISLAND POA



ROOKERY

Photo Credit: Snowy Egret & Blue Heron courtesy of Kelly Taylor



Fiddler Crab & Burrow



Male Fiddler Crab Claw



Fiddler Crab Plethora

Fripp Island

NATURE TRAIL

FIDDLER CRABS

at Wardles Pier

2

Fiddler crabs are intertidal animals that live in mangrove forests, tidal creeks, sandbars, mudflats or, occasionally, stone or boulder beaches. They can occur in huge numbers, with thousands of individuals living in small, adjacent territories. Males and females live intermixed, and each individual crab has its own burrow and a small area of surface sediment around it. The burrow is a refuge during high tide, an escape from predators and the site of mating and incubation. The space around the burrow is used for feeding and courting. Males have a single enlarged claw, while females have two small feeding claws. Fiddlers feed by scraping the surface sediment up in their small claws.



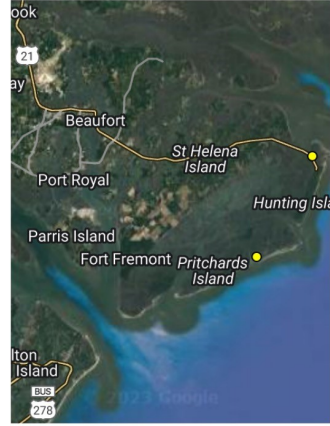
NATURE TRAIL MAP



FRIPP ISLAND POA



FIDDLER CRABS



Location of Motus Station

Fripp Island

NATURE TRAIL

MOTUS

Migration Stations

3

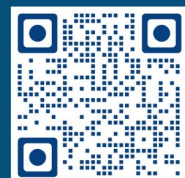
The Fripp Island Audubon Club and Fripp Island Resort have commissioned a Motus Wildlife tracking system as a part of SC Audubon's Motus network. Birds Canada coordinates the towers to track the movements of animals that have been tagged with transmitters. These species include songbirds, raptors, seabirds, bats, monarch butterflies, and migratory dragonflies. Fripp Island is a part of over 1650 receiver stations throughout the world. A link to Fripp Motus detections can be accessed by the QR code link.



NATURE TRAIL MAP



FRIPP ISLAND POA



MOTUS



Fripp Sunset



**Actual Sunset:
Two Minutes Before The Sun Disappears
Below The Horizon.**



Dolphin

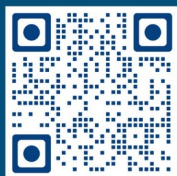
Fripp Island

NATURE TRAIL

SUNSET

4

Sunset, also known as sundown, is the daily disappearance of the sun below the horizon due to the Earth's rotation. The time of sunset is defined in astronomy as the moment when the upper limb of the sun disappears below the horizon. The time of sunset varies throughout the year, and is determined by the viewer's position on Earth, specified by latitude and longitude, altitude, and time zone. In the Northern Hemisphere, the latest sunset occurs late in June or in early July.



NATURE
TRAIL MAP



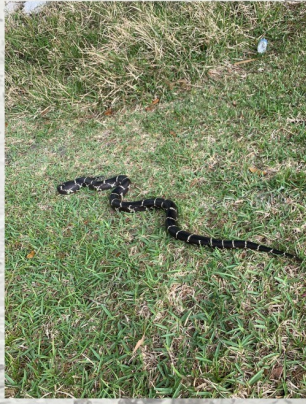
FRIPP ISLAND POA



SUNSET



Oyster Bed



**Diamondback
Rattlesnake**



**Blue Heron on Saw
Grass Bridge**

Fripp Island

NATURE TRAIL

MARSH CRITTERS

at Sawgrass Bridge

5

Sawgrass Bridge features many critters of the marsh. Highlights include multiple bird species, such as egrets, blue herons, green herons, marsh wrens, and clapper rails foraging and perching on the spartina grass. There is also an abundance of mussels, oysters, blue crabs, fiddler crabs, and mummichogs (the little minnow-like fish) swimming in the water, as well as redfish, speckled trout, and drum. A raccoon may be hunting for food, or snakes may be seeking refuge among the spartina. Always keep a distance from our rattlesnakes as they are best enjoyed from afar.



NATURE
TRAIL MAP



FRIPP ISLAND POA



MARSH
CRITTERS



Spartina & Oxeye Summer



Crabbing



**Spartina Winter
Wrack**

Fripp Island

NATURE TRAIL

FLORA

at Sawgrass Bridge

6

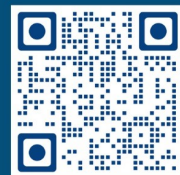
The tidal salt marsh is one of the most biologically productive ecosystems. It protects Fripp Island from storms and flooding, removes pollutants from run-off, and provides recreational activities such as crabbing, shrimping, fishing, etc. The dominant vegetation is Spartina which protects animals, birds, and young fish. Seasons on Fripp are defined by the color of the Spartina. Many plankton species and invertebrates that mature in the mud, grasses, and streams of the marsh are the foundation of the marine food chain.



NATURE
TRAIL MAP



FRIPP ISLAND POA



FLORA



Slash Pine



Saw Palmetto



Spanish Moss

Fripp Island

NATURE TRAIL

AUDUBON TRAIL

7

The Audubon Trail is a glimpse into nature on Fripp Island in just a short informative walk. As you traverse the trail, learn about the flora--saw palmetto, the shrub palm of the southern barrier islands; the slash pine tree, one of the most common Oceanside timbers; and spartina grass which adapts to the harsh marshland conditions. Learn about how the tides effect the salt marsh, a maritime forest, and life on a barrier island. The masked bandit of the animal kingdom—the raccoon is highlighted as well as Old Man’s Beard or Spanish moss.



NATURE TRAIL MAP



FRIPP ISLAND POA



AUDUBON TRAIL



Coastal Sea Oats



Sea Turtle



Coastal Thicket

Fripp Island

NATURE TRAIL

COASTAL

8

The shoreline of Fripp Island is 3-1/2 miles long. The sand dunes along the coast are vital in protecting against erosion from major storms as well as providing habitat for migrating birds, nesting turtles, and other wildlife. The flora on the dunes is one of the key factors in maintaining and stabilizing the dunes. Luckily, Fripp is also one of the few accreting beaches on the east coast. With the accreting beach came an expanding maritime thicket, where many of Fripp's wildlife nest. Migratory and local birds depend on the seeds and berries produced by the trees and vegetation that stretch between the houses and shoreline.



NATURE
TRAIL MAP



FRIPP ISLAND POA



COASTAL



Peican & Sea Gull



Sea Gull



Marbled Godwit Whimbrel American Oystercatcher Willet Greater Yellowlegs Black-necked Stilt Black-bellied Plover Short-billed Dowitcher Ruddy Turnstone Red Knot Wilson's Plover Sanderling Dunlin Spotted Sandpiper Semipalmated Plover Piping Plover Western Sandpiper Semipalmated Sandpiper Least Sandpiper

Fripp Island

NATURE TRAIL

SEABIRDS & Shorebirds

9

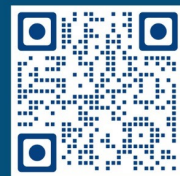
South Carolina is home to many coastal bird species, including seabirds and shorebirds. Seabirds nest together in large groups on coastal islands and barrier beaches and feed on schooling fish. Shorebirds appear in many sizes and shapes with bills and legs that vary in length depending on how the shorebird feeds. They prefer to inhabit mudflats or inter-tidal areas and feed on invertebrates found in the soil. Most shorebirds are migratory, traveling long distances from their breeding grounds to their wintering areas. They are solitary nesters and have camouflaged eggs to protect their nests.



NATURE TRAIL MAP



FRIPP ISLAND POA



SEABIRDS & SHOREBIRDS

Photo Credit: Pelican & Sea Gull courtesy of Kelly Taylor