



The Backyard Tourist Takes a Photo Safari of Ted Turner's Former SC Retreat

Story and Photos by Mark Shaffer

(Editor's Note: Read part one of Mark Shaffer's conversation with Park Superintendent J.W. Weatherford about the challenges of overseeing both Hunting Island and St. Phillips [here](#).)

“Welcome, to Jurassic Park.”

That's the line that comes to mind each time JW Weatherford sets foot on St. Phillips Island, South Carolina's unique new addition to the state park system. It's easy to see why. The island is isolated and accessible only by boat. With the exception of a caretaker's residence, it is virtually uninhabited by man. The island's only road snakes through four miles of dense h

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is a sign of a good catch, and the day is over. The island is a beautiful place, and the people who live there are very friendly.

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Loading in at the dock



Looking down the St. Phillips river, out to the wetlands



The beach meets the wetlands

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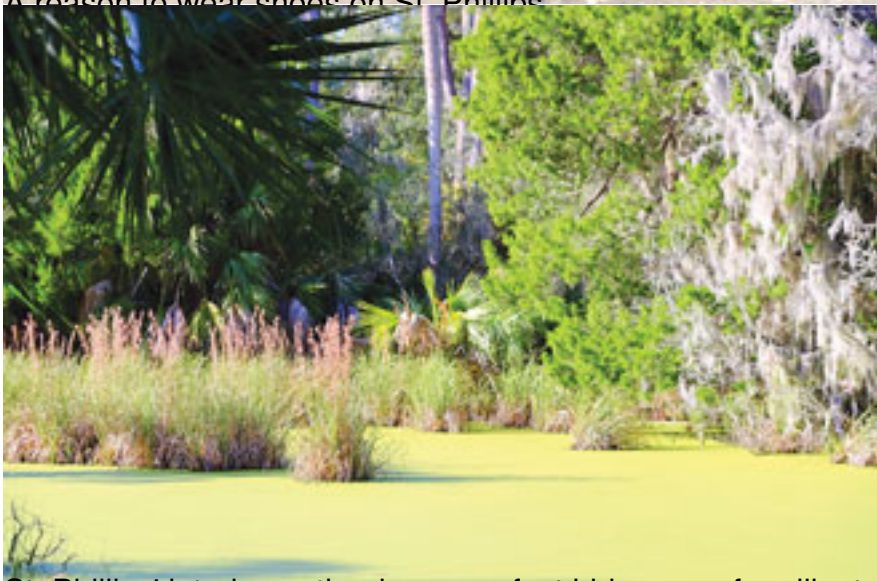
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A glimpse of Ted Turner's house on St. Phillips



A reason to wear shoes on St. Phillips



St. Phillips' interior wetlands are perfect hideaways for alligators.

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Phillips Region interpreter Terry Conway explains Native American artifacts found on St.



Oyster hummocks mark ancient forest by Native Americans on St. Phillips.



The abundant food supply makes St. Phillips a birder's paradise.

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Public Access to Phillip Island will resume in Spring 2019. See <https://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/news-and-events/15544/public-access-to-philip-island-will-resume-in-spring-2019>