

REDCLIFFE PLANTATION  
181 REDCLIFFE RD  
BEECH ISLAND, SC 29417  
(803) 827-1473

# 40 Redcliffe Southern Times

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## Things to Do in honor of Redcliffe's 40th Anniversary as a state park

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT REDCLIFFE.

**Hunger Takes No  
Vacation Food Drive  
Thru Nov 30**  
Donate at all 47 SC State Parks

**Christmas in the  
Quarters**  
Saturday, December 19  
2:00 - 4:00  
\$10/Adults, \$7/SC Seniors  
and Kids 6-16

For more information on these  
programs please contact the  
park.

### Park Staff

**Park Manager**  
Joy Raintree

**Park Interpreter**  
Elizabeth Laney

**Park Technician**  
Doug Kratz

**Asst. Park Ranger**  
Theresa Hipps



With John Shaw Billings' death forty years ago on August 25th, 1975, Redcliffe Plantation officially transitioned from a private home to a public park. In honor of Redcliffe's 40th Anniversary as a South Carolina state park our staff have put together a list of **40 THINGS** you can do onsite, at home or while traveling to gain a more unique perspective of the park and its history.

1. Enjoy a book and a rocking chair on the East porch of the mansion.



2. Sit or lay on the floor of the slave quarters and soak in the history.

3. Picnic anywhere EXCEPT the picnic tables.

4. In early September enjoy a scuppernong or Catawba grape straight from the vine at Redcliffe's vineyard exhibit.

5. During our mansion tour ask for an "I spy" sheet and SEE things in a new way.

6. Enjoy Redcliffe's delicious Rosemary Herb cooler at one of our many special events.

7. Explore the digitized scrapbooks of Redcliffe's last owner John Shaw Billings online (see end of article for web address).



8. Find the *thread spool* used for a door knob in the slave quarters.

9. Drive by the old **Big Apple Night Club** building at the corner of Hampton and Park streets in Columbia, SC to see where the dance that almost shook the rafters at Redcliffe in 1938 originated.

10. Climb a tree on Magnolia Lane.

11. Visit **Magnolia Cemetery** in Augusta, GA and see the life-sized statue of Katherine Hammond Gregg McCoy which stands over her grave.



12. Visit **Cedar Grove Cemetery** in Augusta, GA and find the grave of former Redcliffe slave and Augusta businessman Dennis Wigfall along Watkins St.

13. See interpreter Kitty Wilson-Evans perform at **Christmas in the Quarters** (Dec 19).



14. Walk through the front field (watch out for burrs and small cacti) and straight into the woods to explore a different part of Redcliffe.

15. Take a selfie with the plantation buildings in the background.



16. Bring a pair of binoculars and use the park's birding guide (available at the visitor center) to help you locate some of the park's varied bird life.

17. View the park's Chinese Pistache and Cherry Bark Oak in full fall color the second week of November.

18. Dig through the Hammond papers at the **Caroliniana Library** in Columbia, SC.

19. See the signature Dennis Henley signed in cement in 1939 in the Visitor Center.

20. Ask a park ranger to point out their favorite view on the park.

21. Check out the Harry Hammond entry at the **Bad Ass Civil War Beards Tumblr** (see bottom of article for web address).

22. Read "The Hammonds of Redcliffe" by Carol Bleser.

23. Visit the William Rhett home at 54 Hassel St. in Charleston, SC the childhood home of Catherine Fitzsimons Hammond.

24. Take a **Behind the Scenes** tour of Redcliffe to see the attic and basement of the historic mansion.



25. Visit the **Morris Museum of Art** and view the painting "Hoover and the Flood," an original sketch of which is in Redcliffe's collection.

26. Email us at [redcliffe@scprt.com](mailto:redcliffe@scprt.com) with your name, mailing address and a comment about why you love Redcliffe. We'll mail you one of our brand new postcards with a personal message as a thank you.

27. Go foraging at Redcliffe and find dewberries in May, figs in August, grapes in September, Pecans in October and Prickly Pear Cacti fruit in December.

28. Ask a park ranger to point out our lone sycamore tree or the 150 year old Spanish Cork Oak.

29. Pick up a free copy of our brand new informational flyer on James Henry Hammond at the visitor center.

30. Have your family pictures taken at Redcliffe.



31. Find an online copy of "Belle of the Fifties: The Memoirs of Mrs. Clay of Alabama," do a word search for "Redcliffe" and read her romantic descriptions of the plantation (see address at end).

32. Visit the **Columbia Museum of Art** in Columbia, SC to see the portrait of Christopher Fitzsimons, a copy of which hangs in the hall at Redcliffe.

33. Visit the **Vatican Museum** in Vatican City in Italy to see Raphael's "Transfiguration of Christ," a half-sized copy of which hangs in the parlor at Redcliffe.



34. Throughout the winter watch the sun set from the front porch of the mansion between 5 and 5:30.

35. Attend more than one **African-American Experience** program at Redcliffe - each one explores a different aspect of African-American life at Redcliffe.

36. Take a tour of the **United States Capitol Building** and see how many of Redcliffe's Minton

Tile patterns were also used in this iconic US government structure.

37. Visit the **Silver Bluff Audubon Center and Sanctuary** to discover the evolution of the 19th century plantation into the 20th century wildlife refuge.



38. Search for the "Cotton is King" speech online and read James Henry Hammond's eloquent case for why Kansas should enter the union of the US as a state that allowed slavery.

39. Complete your SC State Parks **ULTIMATE OUTSIDER** tour at Redcliffe for a special hand made gift from the park.

40. Make a return trip to Redcliffe. You'll always learn something new whether its your second, third, fifth or tenth time out at the park.

We hope to see you soon!

Find the John Shaw Billings Scrapbooks Online at <http://library.sc.edu/digital/collections/jsb.html>

Find Bad Ass Civil War Beards Tumblr at <http://badasscivil-warbeards.tumblr.com/>

Find "Belle of the Fifties" online at <https://archive.org/details/belleoffiftiesme01clay>