Gillespie Creek Journal

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Looking to the arrival of 2024, a lot of advice is out there.

Shel Silverstein recommends :

Put Something In

Draw a crazy picture,
Write a nutty poem,
Sing a mumble-humble song,
Whistle through your comb,
Do a loony-goony dance
'Cross the kitchen floor,
Put something silly in the world
That ain't been there before

Stunning Full Moon
12/27/23 7:35 AM
Clear sky, frost on the fairways

Harris's Hawk
"Charles Barkley"
South Golf Course
Putting Green
12/26/23

Harris's Hawk Family
Quail Run Golf Course
12/18/23

An article in this morning's *New York Times* seems to me to be the best recommendation for mankind's New Year's Resolution:

Become a fountain, not a drain!

Happy New Year Friends,
many thanks for following me on this precarious journey.

As I write today our planet Earth is boldly displaying the pains of Climate Change. On my daily walk as well as on the Sun City golf courses we are watching and listening to Great-tailed Grackles, Starlings and numerous families of nesting and feeding Harris's Hawks. As you see in the views below many of these raptors are being rehabilitated in South Carolina, far from their native territory. They actually are quite beautiful, cleaver as well.

"Charles Barkley"as photographer David, who graciously has shared the amazing photo at the left with me, named the Harris's Hawk after his all time favorite Phoenix Sun basketball player.   Charles's territory, in the highest branches of the tallest tree was threatened by golfers below. Each of us were reminded by his signature "Hisssss" call of warning last Tuesday morning that we'd best not challenge him.

Only the fittest survive as resources become more and more scarce and crowded. Some must move on to more accommodating ecosystems.

Harris's Hawk
Photos by JA

Harris's Hawk 12/15/22
Center for Birds of Prey
Awendaw, S.C.