

SCAN 2013 Outings

February 23 – South Bluff HP – Beaufort County

Kathy Boyle & Wayne Grooms

Contains a well-developed maritime forest. Dominant species include live oak, cabbage palmetto, loblolly pine, wax myrtle, yaupon & cane. The shell ring should have unusual plants. Provides habitat for migratory birds, game & non-game mammals & reptiles & amphibians. The South Bluff Shell Rings are the most recently discovered shell ring sites in South Carolina. No parking area, must park along roadside. No restrooms. Managed by the SC DNR. One of the most well preserved shell ring complexes in the state & only one that can be reached by land. 24 acres. SCAN has not visited this.

March 23 – Melton Place – Saluda County

Caroline Eastman

This is a private hunting preserve and tree farm along the Saluda River in Saluda County. The owner, Ben Herlong, received the South Carolina Tree Farmer of the Year Award in 2006 from the South Carolina Tree Farm Committee. Lizanne and John Melton, his daughter and her husband, own adjacent property under a conservation easement. The property includes a variety of habitats, including flood plain forest. This will be SCAN's first visit to Saluda County.

April 27 – Mistletoe State Park – Columbia County, GA

Bob & Marsha Hamlin

Mistletoe State Park is in Columbia County Georgia. Columbia County is the first Georgia county west of McCormick County South Carolina. The park is nestled on the shores of 72,000 acre Clarks Hill Lake, known as Strom Thurmond Lake in South Carolina.

While best known for its bass fishing, Mistletoe State Park offers miles of forested hiking trails. The hiking trail SCAN will be using is in the lesser-used section of the park. SCAN will be hiking a portion of the Cliatt Creek Nature Trail Loop. As the trail meanders through forested areas it sometimes winds very near to picturesque Cliatt Creek as it flows toward the lake. This will be SCAN's first outing to Mistletoe State Park.

May 25 – McBee WMA – Chesterfield County

This will be a joint trip with the Carolina Butterfly Society

Caroline Eastman

Interesting sandhills areas & good early-successional habitats can be found here. No restrooms. Managed by the SC DNR. 786 acres.

June 22 – Longleaf Pine HP – Lee County

This will be a joint trip with the Carolina Butterfly Society

Gordon Murphy

Longleaf Pine Heritage Preserve (also a WMA) - Near Lynchburg, S.C. - 843 acres.

This preserve protects a seasonally-wet longleaf pine *Pinus palustris* savanna, several pond cypress *Taxodium ascendens* depressions, and the rare species associated with these ecological communities. The main elements of concern on the preserve are two federally-endangered species, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker *Picoides borealis* and a rare wetland plant, Canby's dropwort *Oxypolis canbyi*. SCAN last visited the area on November 28, 2000.

July 27 – Watson Cooper HP – Greenville County

Phil Harpootlian

In July we'll drive into Watson Cooper HP [changed from Bald Rock HP] from the north, and look around that part of Matthews creek. The southern half looks interesting as well, and is best accessed via a ~5 mile, moderate/easy walk (using car shuttles) along the foothills trail as it follows Julian creek. With a little planning we can turn what is usually an extended trek into a nice day hike. I'm thinking this would be a good one for early April. Anyone interested? We'll need firm numbers and hopefully a couple of larger capacity vehicles to shuttle. I'm estimating it's a 10-15 mile drive [one way] from Raven cliff falls parking to Watson Cooper shuttle parking area by road. If we get enough people, they may want to park at Caesars head headquarters parking lot and shuttle to Ravens cliffs falls parking lot which is quite small and often full. 10AM would be a good start time. Shuttle drivers should meet an hour earlier.

August 24 – Flat Laurel Creek Loop - NC

Phil Harpootlian

The trail is a 2.5 miles loop. One can spend the day just a few yards into the fields enjoying the diversity without ever having to walk more than a few yards. Expect to see goldenrod, rattlesnake root, filmy angelica, bush honeysuckle, heal-all, stiff gentian, bottle gentian, Micheux's saxifrage, dodder, St. John's wort, American mountain-ash, eastern longleaf bluet, thyme-leaved bluet, boneset, buttercup, field thistle etc. This is a prime location for butterflies. There is a restroom that was poorly maintained the last time I checked. - Jerry Bright
SCAN has not visited this.

September 28 – Long Branch Bay HP – Barnwell County

Bob and Marsha Hamlin

Contains one of the most significant Carolina bay depression meadows (40 acres) in the state. Long Branch Bay is clay-based, but has a depression meadow ecotype, rather than a typical cypress/gum ecotype. Rare plants include awned meadow beauty, Tracy's beakrush, slender arrow-head & perennial goobergrass. No parking area, must park along roadside. No restrooms. Managed by the SC DNR. SCAN has not visited this

October 26 – Sandy Island – Georgetown County

Kim McManus & Paul Kalbach

Located between the Waccamaw & Great Pee Dee Rivers in the Waccamaw Neck, this 7-mile long river island has much to offer. There are 1,100 acres of wetlands (tidal marsh, swamp, pocosin), 3,000 acres of bottomland hardwoods, and the rest (about half the island) upland communities (longleaf pine-turkey oak). There are 3 marked nature trails on the north end of the island totaling 12.5 miles. Little Bull Creek Trail is 1.5 miles long & runs south. The open terrain of the sandy ridge makes it easy to navigate. There are no public restrooms once on Sandy Island. Managed by The Nature Conservancy.

November 16 – Cuddo Unit Santee NWR – Clarendon County

Kim McManus & Paul Kalbach

Some interesting information from the "Friends of Santee NWR" can be found at:

<http://web.ftc-i.net/~gcsommers/friendsrefuge.html>

SCAN has visited the wildlife refuge several times over the years; the last visit was February 22, 2003. Unfortunately some records do not clearly specify which unit[s] were visited. We will visit Cuddo East; Cuddo West is closed to visitation November through March each year. A driving

tour road provides easy access with little walking required, and there are additional hiking trails in the woods and along the lake. Turkeys are common in the unit and often seen. A field near the entrance often hosts a variety of wintering sparrows.

This is a great place to bike, hike, canoe or walk. There is a canoe trail through the unit and a landing that will allow access to Lake Marion. Pat and I enjoyed a paddle in late April into the lake and saw many flocks of waterfowl. This is a favorite place for us. – Jerry Bright

December 14 – Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin Grove Plantation – Charleston County

Kathy Boyle and Wayne Grooms

This site is a former rice plantation, and more recently a cattle ranch, on the Edisto River. Freshwater marsh, pond, old field/pasture & forest are plentiful here. SCAN saw the state rare little blue heron here. The old pastures are full of insect life, with the possibility of seeing unusual coastal butterfly species. The water level in the small pond is being manipulated to trap small feeder fish, attracting a diverse assemblage of wading & shorebirds such as wood stork, stilt, glossy ibis, least bittern, and several heron & egret species. Also a good site for migratory songbirds: the old pastures are home to nesting populations of painted and indigo buntings, and blue grosbeaks. There are many dirt roads to use as trails. Ample parking within. Restrooms only available if offices open. Part of ACE Basin NWR. On the National Register of Historical Places. The house, built in 1828 and an excellent example of Lowcountry architecture, is office for the US Fish & Wildlife Service's ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge headquarters, as well as The Nature Conservancy's ACE Basin Bioreserve Office.