



March 2013

Hello SCANers,

Since I have been a member of SCAN there has never been a bad SCAN outing, even in the rain. We all have excellent raingear and like to test it. I put on my rain pants before leaving home so that I wouldn't have to do so when I arrived. Everything worked well for me. In the winter we don't saturate our clothes with sweat. In the south we are really more comfortable in the winter rain than in the summer (unless your hands get wet and the wind is blowing). In the summer we are at the mercy of the humidity and we can end up just as wet in a rainstorm with or without rain gear. It rained all day long and was really fun. At this outing we were able to put our gear to the test and nobody complained. I even put my camera to the test and got some good photos.

Attending were Marguerite Frongillo, Phil Hartpootian, Virginia Winn, Jan Ceigler, Caroline Eastman, Jeff Kline, Tom Jones, Mary Douglas, Kate Hartley, Gordon Murphy, Jim Boylston, Pat and Jerry Bright.

The South Bluff Heritage Preserve was a beautiful location. Wayne Grooms, Kathy Boyle and Linda Lee scouted the location in February. They were in search of the *Forestiera godfreyi* (Godfrey's Forestiera) and found it. Kathy dutifully took a photo of the rarity on the scouting trip with her iPhone. The iPhone and other mobile smart phones geotag photos with location information. The *Forestiera godfreyi* was relocated using Kathy's iPhone photo data and Tom and Mary's researched identification information. Kathy determined the distance and direction of the interesting flora and it was located within moments. Wayne, a self-proclaimed, luddite, wished me to share this.

Foam on many of the pine trees. It was seen at various heights. No damage or bug could be determined so the source of the foam remains unknown. Perhaps one of our readers can offer a clue.

The preserve was small and we finished early and visited the Port Royal pier and tower. I did not know this even existed. It is a wonderful place and a prime birding location. Caroline scattered some of her late husband's ashes into the waters in memory of Robin. It was a touching moment for those of us who knew and loved Robin Carter.

We finished our day at Bricks restaurant. They were expecting us. Good food and service were had by all.

Be sure to read the outings opportunities for 2013 at the end of this newsletter. We are having a few joint outings with other midlands clubs with kindred spirits.



South Bluff Heritage Preserve



*Foam on pine*

Jeff Kline, a relatively new SCAN member suggested that we post our newsletter on our Facebook page and our Yahoo Groups in case the directions are forgotten. One can then find the newsletter with a smart phone while in route. This is a great idea and I intend to do so. Thanks Jeff.

Don't miss our next outing as SCAN finally reaches a long sought after historic goal. --- Jerry Bright



Buckeye in bloom



*Jeff Kline*



Port Royal Observation Tower

**River Place** - Saluda County - March 23, 2013 - 10:30 A.M.

We will visit **our very first Saluda County site ever** this month. Saluda County has very little public land except for a few boat landings. So we are visiting private land managed for forestry and hunting. Bring the usual stuff. Some of the walking can be a bit rough, especially if you wander off the roads. And, of course, you will.

A scouting party consisting of Jan Ciegler, Caroline Eastman, Marguerite Frongillo, and Virginia Winn visited the property on Wednesday, May 6. We were met by Lizanne and John Melton; Lizanne's father, Ben Herlong, owns the specific tract we will visit. He received the South Carolina Tree Farmer of the Year award in 2007 for his management of this property. We walked along the river to a deck and then back along the road. The land has some modest bluffs and flood plain along the Saluda River. There are some game openings, hardwoods mostly near the river, and lots of pines. There is enough land that we won't be able to cover all of it. Some not-very-early spring wildflowers were starting to emerge, including a few *Claytonia virginica*.

Plan 1: We will meet at Horne's Store at the intersection of South Carolina 34 and 39 near the Saluda River. If you are coming to Saluda County from the east, west, or south, drive into Saluda on either US 378 or US 178. In Saluda, take SC 39 [Chappells Highway] north to the Saluda River. After you cross over the river, look for the store on the left at the intersection with SC 34. If you are coming from the north, you'll want to head for SC 39 and drive south. Look for the store at the intersection. Park in the area adjacent to the picnic table and dumpster. We have permission to leave cars there for the day. The entrance road to the land can be a bit challenging for low clearance vehicles, so you might want to ride in with someone else if, like me, you have a wimpy car.

As usual, we will start at 10:30 am. The store has a small grill and restrooms. If you want to take advantage of these, plan to arrive early. After introductions and a brief orientation, we'll cross back over the river and drive into the area.

Plan 2: You are late, and the group has already left the store. If you are at the store, cross back over the river and take the **FIRST** dirt road to the left [0.6 miles]. If you are not at the store, go to the store and buy something. They are being very hospitable. Then cross over the river and take the **FIRST** dirt road to the left. When you come to a fork in the road, stay right; do not head towards the bridge. Drive until you see a group of cars parked by a large oak tree. Then park and explore. If you don't think your car can manage the dirt road, call Jerry Bright or Caroline Eastman. We'll try to send someone after you.

Plan 9: You are not only late but lost; you are in outer space. Enjoy your visit and bring back pictures.

We will have dinner at Mig's Pizza Castle in Saluda. Not only does this restaurant have a varied menu and good service, they are actually open Saturday afternoon. To reach the restaurant, turn left on the highway after leaving the area and drive 12.4 miles to Saluda. Turn right on Wise Rd [aka 41-61] immediately after the Welcome to Saluda sign Drive 0.4 miles to the restaurant. Look for a building with striped awnings; the sign is not visible when approaching from this direction.

Useful information:

Jerry Bright's cell phone: 803-445-9882

Caroline Eastman's cell phone: 803-466-2840

Horne's  
377 SC 39  
Chappells, SC 29037  
864-995-3650

Mig's Pizza Castle  
216 Greenwood Highway  
Saluda, SC 29138  
864-445-9990

**South Bluff HP  
(Coosaw Shell Ring)  
Beaufort Co., SC  
February 23, 2013**

This list was produced by SCAN from sightings produced by SCAN members and is subject to revision as needed. An asterisk (\*) indicates a new sighting for SCAN. Send any changes or corrections to Jan Ciegler at [jciegler@sc.rr.com](mailto:jciegler@sc.rr.com). Please indicate exactly to which flora/fauna list you are referring. Thank you.

**FLORA**

**Resurrection Fern**  
*Pleopeltis polypodioides*  
*michauxiana*

**Loblolly Pine**  
*Pinus taeda*

**Cabbage Palmetto**  
*Sabal palmetto*

**Saw Palmetto**  
*Serenoa repens*

**Tall Nutrush**  
*Scleria triglomerata*

**Longleaf Spikegrass**  
*Chasmanthium sessiliflorum*

**Saltmarsh Cordgrass**  
*Spartina alterniflora*

**Spanish-moss**  
*Tillandsia usneoides*

**Southern Hackberry**  
*Celtis laevigata*

**Sand Laurel Oak**  
*Quercus hemisphaerica*

**Live Oak**  
*Quercus virginiana*

**Tough Buckthorn**  
*Sideroxylon tenax*

**Eastern Redbud**  
*Cercis canadensis canadensis*

**Eastern Roughleaf Dogwood**  
*Cornus asperifolia*

**Yaupon**  
*Ilex vomitoria*

**Carolina Buckthorn**  
*Frangula caroliniana*

**Red Buckeye**  
*Aesculus pavia pavia*

**Godfrey's Forestiera**  
*Forestiera godfreyi*

**White Ash**  
*Fraxinus americana*

**FAUNA**

**Click Beetle**  
*Orthostethus infuscatus*

**Brown Pelican**  
*Pelecanus occidentalis*

**Double-crested Cormorant**  
*Phalacrocorax auritus*

**Snowy Egret**  
*Egretta thula*

**Great Egret**  
*Casmerodius albus*

**Laughing Gull**  
*Larus atricilla*

**Turkey Vulture**  
*Cathartes aura*

**Black Vulture**  
*Coragyps atratus*

**Rock Dove**  
*Columba livia*

**Mourning Dove**  
*Zenaida macroura*

**Blue Jay**  
*Cyanocitta cristata*

**American Crow**  
*Corvus brachyrhynchos*

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**  
*Dendroica coronata*

**Northern Cardinal**  
*Cardinalis cardinalis*

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**  
*Melanerpes carolinus*

**Eastern Mole**  
*Scalopus aquaticus*

**Port Royal Boardwalk  
Park  
Beaufort Co., SC  
February 23, 2013**

**FAUNA**

**Pied-billed Grebe**  
*Podilymbus podiceps*

**Brown Pelican**  
*Pelecanus occidentalis*

**Double-crested Cormorant**  
*Phalacrocorax auritus*

**Red-breasted Merganser**  
*Mergus serrator*

**American Oystercatcher**  
*Haematopus palliatus*

**Ring-billed Gull**  
*Larus delawarensis*

**Red-winged Blackbird**  
*Agelaius phoeniceus*

**Common Grackle**  
*Quiscalus quiscul*

**Common Loon**  
*Gavia immer*

## **Outings Calendar for SCAN, CBC, Pee Dee LT, Midlands CBS, Midlands SCNPS and others**

February 23 – South Bluff HP – SCAN

March 23 – Melton Place – SCAN

March 27 (Wednesday)– Ditch Pond scouting trip - SCNPS

March 30 – Peachtree Rock – CBS, SCNPS

April 4 (Wednesday) – Stevens Creek – SCNPS

April 5 – 7 – Georgia Botanical Society Spring Pilgrimage – Augusta, GA - [www.gabotsoc.org/?page\\_id=23](http://www.gabotsoc.org/?page_id=23)

April 13 – Sumter National Forest, Enoree District – CBS

April 20 – CNP botany hike – Friends of Congaree

April 20 – Sandhills NWR - Spring Natural History Excursion (Austin Jenkins) – Pee Dee LT

April 26 – 28 – Santee Birding and Nature Fest

April 27 – Mistletoe State Park - SCAN

May 3 – 4 Carolina Bird Club Spring meeting in Asheville

May 5 – Robin Carter dawn chorus walk – Friends of Congaree

May 10 – Blocker Tracts near Gallivants Ferry (Richard Porcher to lead) – Pee Dee LT

May 11 – McAlhany bioblitz – SCAN, SCNPS, CBS Audubon

May 11 – CNP – NAMC count

May 25 – McBee WMA – SCAN, CBS

June 2 – Pee Dee Land Trust annual gathering

June 8 – Butterfly Identification Training Congaree National Park

June 15 – CNP NABA count

June 22 – Longleaf Pine HP – SCAN, CBS

July 13 – Columbia Canal Park – CBS

July 27 – Watson Cooper HP – SCAN

August 24 – Flat Laurel Creek Loop - SCAN

August 25 – Carolina Sandhills NWR – CBS

September 7 – Butterfly Identification Training Congaree National Park

September 7 – Albemarle & The Oaks – CBS

September 14 – CNP NABA count

September 21 – Blackjack HP – CBS

September 21 - CNP – NAMC count

September 28 – Long Branch Bay HP - SCAN

October 4 - Caw-Caw Charleston County Park - CBS

October 5 – CBS Symposium

October 6 - Francis Marion Forest – CBS

October 12 – Wenee Woods - CBS

October 26 – Sandy Island – SCAN

November – 8 & 9 – Beaufort area– SCNPS Symposium

November 16 – Cuddo Unit Santee NWR – SCAN

December 14 – Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin Grove Plantation - SCAN



## 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 11 – McAlhany bioblitz – Directors Special – Caroline Eastman**

#### **This will be a joint trip with CBS, SCNPS, SCAN and Charleston Audubon**

Paul Nolan, President of the Charleston Natural History Society, has requested assistance with surveying the McAlhany Nature Reserve.

The purpose of the BioBlitz is to document as much of that natural diversity of the Reserve as possible. Paul Nolan is a respected birder and will head up efforts in that arena. Brian Reid, the on-site herpetologist, will lead the charge to find as many reptiles and amphibians as possible. They have specifically asked for assistance documenting insects and plants.

The BioBlitz will start at 9am on May 11th. Please try to arrive on location by 8:30 to ensure a prompt start. If camping is your scene, you are more than welcome to stay on the property Saturday night.

For a little bit of background information and driving directions, visit this website:

<http://www.charlestonaudubon.org/mcalhany.html>

### **May 25 – McBee WMA – Chesterfield County - Caroline Eastman**

#### **This will be a joint trip with the Carolina Butterfly Society**

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 - Gordon Murphy**

#### **This will be a joint trip with the Carolina Butterfly Society**

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 Bioserve Office.

**Carolina Butterfly Society  
Midlands Chapter Schedule 2013**

**March 30 10:00 Peachtree Rock and Shealy's Pond (if time) - Wayne Grooms**

**April 13 10:00 Sumter National Forest Enoree District - Dennis Forsythe**

We will look for the Cobweb Skipper and others in Laurens, Newberry and Union Counties.

**May 11 McAlhany Preserve – Caroline Eastman**

This is near St. George in Dorchester County. We hope to be part of the Bioblitz being conducted.

**May 25 McBee Wildlife Management Area - Caroline Eastman**

This is a joint trip with SCAN.

**June 15 9:00 Congaree NABA Count**

Contact Terri Hogan at [terri\\_hogan@nps.gov](mailto:terri_hogan@nps.gov) if you can help count. We really need more folks for this count so please try to attend.

**June 22 Longleaf Pine Heritage Preserve - Gordon Murphy (SCAN)**

This is in Lee County and is a joint trip with SCAN.

**July 13 Canal Park, Caycee, SC - Caroline Eastman**

This would be a good walk if you only want to stay out for part of the day or you are new to butterflying. We will be participating with some other groups for this walk.

**August 25 10:00 Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge - Dennis Forsythe**

Please note that this is on Sunday and will be a full CBS trip. We will drive various parts of the refuge getting out of our air conditioned cars as we see butterflies to investigate. The Dotted Skipper is the targeted species.

**September 7 9:30 Albemarle and The Methodist Oaks - Diane Curlee**

We will begin at Albemarle and stay until 12:00. We will then go to The Methodist Oaks to have lunch in their dining room at 12:30 and will walk The Oaks trails at 1:30. There is a cost for the lunch. Arthur Sweatman will accompany us at Albemarle.

**September 14 9:00 Congaree NABA Count**

Contact Terri Hogan at [terri\\_hogan@nps.gov](mailto:terri_hogan@nps.gov) if you can help count.

**September 21 Blackjack Heritage Preserve - Jerry Bright**

This is near Rock Hill.

**October 4 2:00 Caw-Caw Charleston County Park - Mark Rose**

**October 5 Carolina Butterfly Society Symposium- Charles Towne Landing, Charleston**

**October 6 Francis Marion Forest - Dennis Forsythe**

**October 12 10:00 Weene Woods - Evelyn Dabbs**

This property of Evelyn Dabbs is in Maysville, SC. She always has a beautiful garden and allows us to explore other areas of the property.

**Other Opportunities:**

**April 27 and 28 Santee Birding and Nature Festival- Dave and Marty Kastner**

Dave and I will lead butterfly walks for the festival on Saturday and Sunday. For details, please go to [www.santeebirdingfestival.com](http://www.santeebirdingfestival.com).

**June 8 9:00-11:30 - Butterfly Identification Training – Congaree National Park**

**September 7 9:00-11:30 - Butterfly Identification Training – Congaree National Park**



## **SCNPS (Outings planned so far. Stay tuned.)**

### **March 27 (Wednesday) – Ditch Pond HP**

Ditch Pond Heritage Preserve - Near Williston, S.C. (*partly in Aiken County*) - 296 acres.

A Carolina bay pond and its surrounding woods is the main feature of the Preserve. Has intact 25-acre Carolina bay. Has rare blue maidencane, Robbin's spikerush, creeping St. John's wort, piedmont water milfoil, awned meadow beauty, slender arrowhead, Florida bladderwort & piedmont bladderwort. Several trails exist. Has a parking area. No restrooms. Managed by the SC DNR.

### **March 30 – Peachtree Rock HP – Joint with CBS**

Peachtree Rock Heritage Preserve - Near Edmund, S.C. - 305 acres.

The Preserve has a great variety of habitats in a relatively small area. A waterfall forms a bowl-shaped area below the Rock. The namesake rock is sandstone, and a curiosity in itself. Other outcrops abound (including LaBorde Rock named for Oscar LaBorde, longtime SCAN member). Fossilized marine shells can be found here as well. The federally endangered Rayner's blueberry grows on the seepage slope within the longleaf pine forest. SCAN saw it and the state rare Alabama black cherry (*Prunus alabamensis*) & the beautiful sandhill-cress (*Warea*) here. Many other interesting plants are here: woody goldenrod, rosemary, sand-myrtle, blazing-star, spikemoss, jointweed, puccoon & Georgia savory of the longleaf pine woods, and mountain-laurel, maple-leaf viburnum, galax & Indian pipe of the montane woods. There are several trails down to the waterfall, the Rock & to other outcrops. Only two are marked: the Red Trail is a half-mile loop & the Blue Trail is a 1.5 mile loop. The trails are generally easy, but some are quite steep. Has some parking within. No restrooms. Managed by the SC DNR & the S.C. Nature Conservancy. Controlled burns have reintroduced interesting flora. Can be combined with trip to Shealy's Pond HP nearby.

### **April 4 (Thursday) – Stevens Creek HP**

Stevens Creek Heritage Preserve - Near Clarks Hill, S.C. (*partly in Edgefield County*) - 434 acres.

The north-facing slope along the namesake creek, along with a mature hardwood canopy more typical of the Appalachians, and an abundance of woodland wildflowers combine to give this preserve its montane feel. The creek & several tributaries add to the scenery & biodiversity. The plant community probably dates to the Pleistocene Era as a glacial relict. The soils are unusual: they are basic, but the parent material is acidic. The result is many disjunct species of both northern & southern distributions. The bluffs have 15 rare plant species. The rarest is *Ribes echinellum*, Florida gooseberry, which grows here and in one place in Florida--and nowhere else. The federally-endangered Webster's salamander is found here as well. The loop trail takes just about all day for SCAN. The terrain changes elevation & can be moderately strenuous. Limited parking area, some roadside parking necessary. No restrooms. Managed by the SC DNR & the S.C. Nature Conservancy. Be advised that hunting is allowed. March or April are ideal for flowering plants. Within Sumter NF

### **May 11 – McAlhany bioblitz – Joint with everyone**

Paul Nolan, President of the Charleston Natural History Society, has requested assistance with surveying the McAlhany Nature Reserve.

The purpose of the BioBlitz is to document as much of that natural diversity of the Reserve as possible. Paul Nolan is a respected birder and will head up efforts in that arena. Brian Reid, the on-site herpetologist, will lead the charge to find as many reptiles and amphibians as possible. They have specifically asked for assistance documenting insects and plants.

The BioBlitz will start at 9am on May 11th. Please try to arrive on location by 8:30 to ensure a prompt start. If camping is your scene, you are more than welcome to stay on the property Saturday night.

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## **To be determined**

Congaree NP new property - John Grego

Forty Acre Rock new tract – Kathy Boyle