



SCAN *South Carolina Association of Naturalists*
Post Office Box 5651, Columbia, South Carolina 29250-5651

February 2014

Greetings everyone,

First off I would like to thank Jerry Bright for serving as President for the past two years. He has done an outstanding job of leading us and arranging to have wonderful speakers for our Annual Meetings. I would also like to thank all of the officers who worked so hard last year to maintain SCAN as the great organization that it is.

As you know, the Annual Meeting this year was held in the Lake House at the Clemson Sandhills Extension facilities. The reason for a change in venue was economic in nature. Quite simply, the State Museum could no longer offer SCAN a reduced rate for use of our normal meeting space, therefore the decision was made to find a more economical alternative. Other advantages to meeting at the Lake House is that those of us that brought our lunches had the opportunity to take a hike around the grounds, get some fresh air, do a little birding, and socialize with friends rather than heading out in search of a restaurant.

Donuts and coffee were provided by members Virginia Winn, Wayne Grooms, and John Cely for our pre-meeting socializing and other members brought delicious cookies, brownies, and cake. Jan Ciegler handed out copies of the new book, *From Marsh to Mountain*, which chronicles the "adventures" of SCAN from January 1996 to December 2005. For those that were not able to attend the Annual Meeting, Jan has mailed a copy of the book to you. To all who worked so hard to make the book a reality, thank you for your efforts!

As usual, Jerry arranged three excellent speakers that both entertained and enlightened us at the Annual Meeting this year. Billy Moore gave an informative presentation on subterranean estuaries where processes occur in the water table similar to those that occur in marshes. Billy's presentation sparked a lot of discussion and follow up questions. Jim Welch entertained us with behind the scene stories of the filming of Nature Scene. Jim's excitement and pride at being associated with the Nature Scene program could be felt by all as he shared tidbits of information about adventures and observations made by him and Rudy during down-time in filming the show. Dixie Dramel informed and entertained us with stories of her adventures collecting plants in Great Britain for the Clemson Herbarium. Thank you all for taking time on a Saturday to share your work and interests with SCAN. The business meeting was held immediately following the presentations. Topics of discussion included the 2013 treasurer's report by Greg Mancini, 2014 officers, SCAN's tax status (Section 501-3c), and recent efforts to modernize the SCAN website. Nominations and election of 2014 officers were as follows; Gordon Murphy, President and Historian; Greg Ross, Vice-president; Mary Douglass, Secretary; Greg Mancini, Treasurer; Jan Ciegler, Database Manager; Phil Harpootlian, Northern Regional Director; Marsha and Bob Hamlin, Western Regional Director; Caroline Eastman, Central Regional Director; Kathy Boyle and Wayne Grooms, Southern Regional Director, and Kim McManus and Paul Kalbach, Eastern Regional Director.

Recently there have been some discussions about updating the SCAN website. The current format of the site served us well, but it's time to modernize the website. Paul Kalbach has been working on an

alternative layout for the website and set up a proto-type for our review. The results can be seen at <http://scnaturalists.wordpress.com>. Paul has coordinated with Sandy Smith concerning the change. Sandy (Lynn and Red's son) has graciously hosted/managed the site for many years. The new website is still in the development stage and members were asked at the Annual Meeting to make suggestions as to what content they would like to see. If you have suggestions, please share them with me, Paul, or Greg Ross.

Following the business meeting, we adjourned and many of us went to Jan's house for a potluck dinner and more socializing. Thank you Jan for hosting us!

On another note, I mentioned to a few of you at the Annual Meeting about my recent observations at the bird feeding stations I have set up in my yard. I maintain two feeding stations and try to provide a variety of healthy foods for the birds, including freeze-dried mealworms. Typically I see brown-headed nuthatches and Carolina wrens feeding on the mealworms, but was pleasantly surprised to see that an eastern phoebe has discovered the mealworms, and routinely visits the feeding stations. We see quite a few phoebes around house, and have a couple of pairs nesting on out-buildings, but I must say it is a pleasure to watch this particular bird at the feeder. During the recent snow event I even saw the phoebe eating from a new suet block that I am now offering! At the Annual Meeting, John Cely shared a recipe for suet and Lori and I made a batch to give it a try. John said the recipe is "100 percent guaranteed" and I have to say that the birds are now totally ignoring the store-bought suet, and the phoebe loves the homemade suet too! I am sure that John will not mind that I am going to share the recipe with you here in the newsletter.

Ingredients:

- One pound of crunchy peanut butter
- One pound of lard
- Two cups of plain flour
- Four cups of corn meal
- Four cups of quick oatmeal

Melt the peanut butter and lard on low heat. Add the dry ingredients one cup at a time and mix well. Put the mix in a 9x12 cooking pan that is lined with aluminum foil. Cool in the refrigerator and cut into blocks.

I had several empty plastic containers from store-bought suet in the recycle bin and found that this recipe will fill six standard size containers perfectly. Lori and I made another batch today and this time we added mealworms to the mixture. I'll keep you posted as to how well the birds like it with the mealworms.

Marsha and Bob will be leading our first fieldtrip of 2014 to Phinizy Swamp, near Augusta, Georgia, on February 22nd. SCAN visited Phinizy Swamp several years ago and it really is a great place to visit, so I hope to see you all there!

Gordon

February 22, 2014

Phinizy Swamp Nature Park

1858 Lock and Dam Rd Augusta, GA 30906

GPS Coordinates: N 33.38497 W 081.96721
(parking area)



Directions to Phinizy Swamp Nature Park



From South Carolina

from I-20 take exit 6 (Interstate 520 W/
Palmetto Parkway) toward Augusta

.9 mi

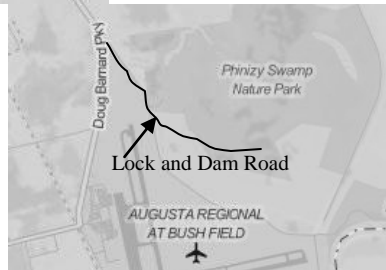
Merge onto I-520 W crossing into Georgia

12.5 mi

Take exit 10 (GA-56 Spur/Doug
Barnard Pkwy) toward Bush Field **0.4 mi**

Turn right onto Doug Barnard
Pkwy (signs for GA-56 Spur S) **1.4 mi**

Turn left onto Lock and Dam Rd.
Destination will be on the left **0.7 mi**



Considerations

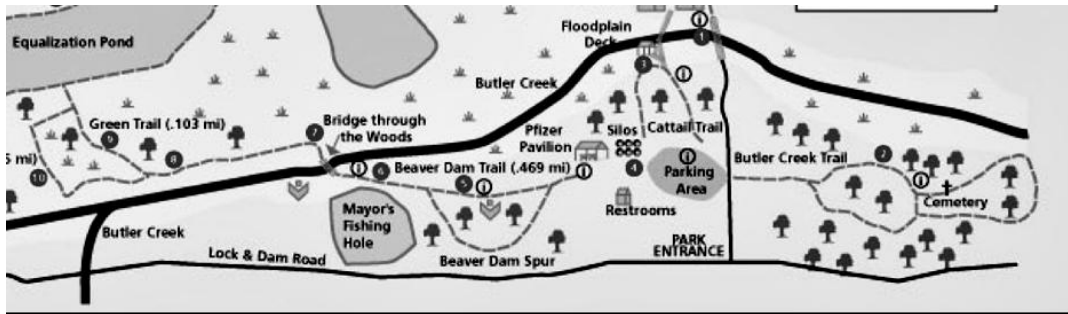
Restrooms and picnic tables
near parking area.

What to wear. What to Bring

Trail lunch/snacks, water, no heavy
duty or waterproof footwear required

Meet at 10:30

at the parking area
near the silos



Where we'll eat afterwards

ROADRUNNER CAFE

2508 Peach Orchard Road

Augusta, GA 30906

(706) 790-8177

GPS Coordinates: N 33.25449

W 082.00561

Directions to ROADRUNNER CAFÉ from Phinizy

Return to Lock and Dam Road, turn right

Drive .6 mi., turn right on Doug Barnard Pkwy.

Drive 1.9 mi., turn left on Lumpkin Road

Drive 1.8 mi., Turn right on Peach Orchard Road

Drive .8 mi., to ROADRUNNER CAFÉ on right

2508 Peach Orchard Road

Because this SCAN trip may be quite some distance for some SCAN members to drive to by 10:30 in the morning, we welcome you to spend Friday night at our home which is 40 miles and about a one hour drive away from Phinizy. Make sure you have eaten before getting to our house on Friday evening as there are no nearby restaurants or grocery stores.

In the morning we can provide a basic type breakfast (cereal, milk, toast, fruit, instant coffee). If you want to stay overnight, bring a sleeping bag, pillow and any other needed overnight items. We have some beds, but may not have enough for everyone, so camping and floor sleeping are other options. If there is something you absolutely must have, it is best to bring it with you. For our address, directions or other information we can be reached at **(706) 836-1296** or Naturewise@AOL.com **Bob & Marsha Hamlin**

Phinizy Swamp Nature Park *Natural Beauty in an urban setting*

The truth about Phinizy Swamp. (In order not to overemphasize what may be considered negative aspects of the Phinizy environment, we have decided to convey the information in a small size font.) Because we think SCAN members read small print, this is the way we are informing you of some of the less than appealing things about Phinizy Swamp's past and present. Until the late 1960's, just prior to the passage of the Clean Water Act, Phinizy Swamp was where Augusta disposed of its raw sewage. The results on the ecosystem were devastating. Since then, Augusta has designed an award-winning wastewater treatment system using constructed wetlands in the swamp for tertiary water cleaning. Phinizy Swamp has rebounded, and is now a place of beauty, a wildlife oasis, with none of the unpleasant aspects associated with wastewater. Now, look at the road maps on the first page. Do you see a picture of an airplane on the maps? Yes, Phinizy Swamp is near an airport. So, it is not always a quiet place; you can hear airplanes. These are the facts.
None of these facts can take away the incredible beauty of Phinizy Swamp as it is today.

Phinizy Swamp Nature Park takes up 1,100 acres of the close to 7,000 acres that make up the Phinizy Swamp ecosystem. In 2001, the entire ecosystem was designated a Georgia IBA (Important Bird Area). The IBA designation is recognized internationally as identifying the very top sites, in all 50 states and around the world, that are essential for bird populations. This important bird habitat also hosts a wide variety of plant life, and an incredible diversity of vertebrate and invertebrate life.

Since before recorded history, human life too has been a part of the area; visitors still find arrowheads in parts of the park, attesting to Native American presence. There is also evidence of several old homesteads, and a family cemetery can be found along one of the trails in the park. During the middle of the last century, a dairy farm, with associated fields of crops was located in the area. The dairy barn was located where the parking lot is now. The six silos that remain standing have provided habitat over the years for owls and other wildlife.

On this trip to Phinizy Swamp Nature Park, SCAN will walk the Butler Creek Trail. The level, easy-to-walk trail, follows a high ridge as it meanders through a beautiful stand of mature hardwood forest. In the winter, a high bluff provides outstanding views of the Butler Creek floodplain swamp. Further along the trail is a hauntingly captivating, centuries old family cemetery. Nine members of one family rest in the cemetery. There are 3 adults and 6 children several of whom died of malaria known then as "swamp fever". There is a kiosk at the cemetery that gives more information about the family.

Don't miss this trip to Phinizy. It's a beautiful, interesting and some say mysterious place.