



February 2008

Hi SCAN,

We had another informative and fun annual meeting in Columbia this year with three interesting speakers and a colorful slide show courtesy of the creative visual and computer talents of Jerry Bright. Thanks to Jan Ceigler for once again letting us share her home and hospitality for the evening after our meeting sampling the potluck delights provided by the attendees. Johnny Hardaway brought some homemade baklava dessert made with honey from his hive...delicious. Thanks to everybody for the food. Thanks to Gwen Daley, Gordon Murphy and Theresa Thom for their presentations and information they shared with our group.

I have enjoyed and learned a lot from my tenure as President of SCAN and as someone commented at Jan's that SCAN sometimes feels more like family than just a nature group and I agree. That is why many of us continue to look forward to each time we assemble for a new trip each month. Gordon Murphy (thanks Gordon for accepting the nomination) will be taking over the reins President and I hope we will see many of you as we start a new year of exploring the beauty and richness of the Carolina nature.

Jules Fraytet, President 2007

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Greetings All,

I would like to thank you all for your vote of confidence and hope that I can carry on the duties as President as well as my predecessors has. A huge thanks to Jules and Lynn for the fine job they've done the past two years as President and Vice-President, and to the out-going Regional Directors for the great fieldtrips we have enjoyed. I look forward to working with the in-coming Directors this year.

We have an exciting list of fieldtrips scheduled for 2008 with a couple of President Specials and Regional Director Specials in the works. This year we have three trips scheduled that will involve overnight stays. The May overnighter will be at the beautiful Ark Lodge, owned by the Ervin family, located on the Little Pee Dee River. The Ervin's family is a very environmentally aware family and they have expressed a desire for SCAN to develop a flora and fauna list for their property. This is predominantly a camping event; however, there are a limited number of beds available in the Lodge. The other overnighthers include the June fieldtrip to eastern North Carolina where we will visit Green Swamp, and the September trip to Woods Bay. With a little luck, and maybe some begging from the rest of us, maybe we will have the pleasure of enjoying the talents of SCAN's excellent outdoor chefs, Johnny Hardaway, Wayne Grooms, and Jerry Bright. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to sample the great food these guys can produce on an open fire, charcoal grill, and Dutch oven, you need to join us for the overnight trips.

My email address is [agmurphyjr@gmail.com](mailto:agmurphyjr@gmail.com) and I encourage you to contact me, or one of the Regional Directors, if you have ideas for the 2009 fieldtrips. Also, feel free to contact me if there is something else concerning SCAN that you would like to discuss.

Gordon Murphy, President 2008

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**HUNTINGTON BEACH STATE PARK**  
**GEORGETOWN COUNTY, SC**  
**FEBRUARY 23, 2008; 10:30 AM**  
(Chris Manuse)

Come one come all, birders and botanists alike! Join us as SCAN visits one of South Carolina's best birding spots in the state, Huntington Beach State Park. In the 2500 acres of the park are several different plant communities that we will visit. The communities we will experience will be a freshwater lagoon, salt marsh and hiking trail that will take us through a typical South Carolina barrier island. The freshwater lagoon that has formed is a result of a man-made dike system constructed through the salt marsh. There are boardwalks for both the freshwater lagoon and saltmarsh environments.

We will meet at the parking lot across from the Store & Office for Camper Registration, located by turning left, off of Huntington State Park/Theodosia Road (road coming into the park) onto Seashore Drive. Go 0.1 of a mile and a large parking lot will be on your right. We will then walk across the road to a short trail that will take us to the freshwater marsh. Here cattails and other freshwater marsh plants provide a feeding and resting place for wintering waterfowl. Some birds to watch out for here are: teal, coots, pied-billed grebes and tundra swans. Also, bald eagles that nest in the area, may decide to treat us by flying overhead. If it's not too cold also expect to see alligators cruise the waters or bask in the sun nearby.

Next, we can direct our attention just across the dike system and explore a genuinely different environment, a salt marsh. Here we can see that the cattails and other flora give way to *Spartina*, a grass especially adapted to saltmarsh environments. You can look out on what are hundreds of acres of *Spartina* growing northward toward Murrells Inlet. Low tide will be more interesting, revealing a mud flat with invertebrates living therein. Here birders can look for great blue herons, snowy egrets, great egrets and sandpipers (aka peeps).

And last, across the road from the saltmarsh boardwalk you will find a trail head. Here Sandpiper Pond Nature Trail (approx. 1 mile) will give good examples of small live oaks, myrtle bushes, red cedar and the state flower, yellow Jessamine; all are typical flora of a barrier island. You may also notice a tree resembling red cedar, tamarisk. This is an ancient plant introduced by a native from the Mediterranean region, centuries ago. While moving down the trail birders may see yellow-rumped warblers, cedar waxwings and robins fly in disarray through the canopy, while small groups of white-throated and fox sparrows hide in the thick brush down low. Tundra swans may be in the freshwater lagoon that stretches along the trail. If you make it to the end, there will be picnic tables and restrooms. From here you can explore more flora and fauna on one of few uninhabited beaches in the state and if you have a sharp eye, you may find the Federally Threatened seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*) in the sand dunes.

For history buffs, a replica of a Spanish fortress called Atalaya, and built by the Huntington's who owned the property prior to the state's acquisition in 1960, is located just past the Store & Office for Camper Registration, on the left. An impressive home to see!

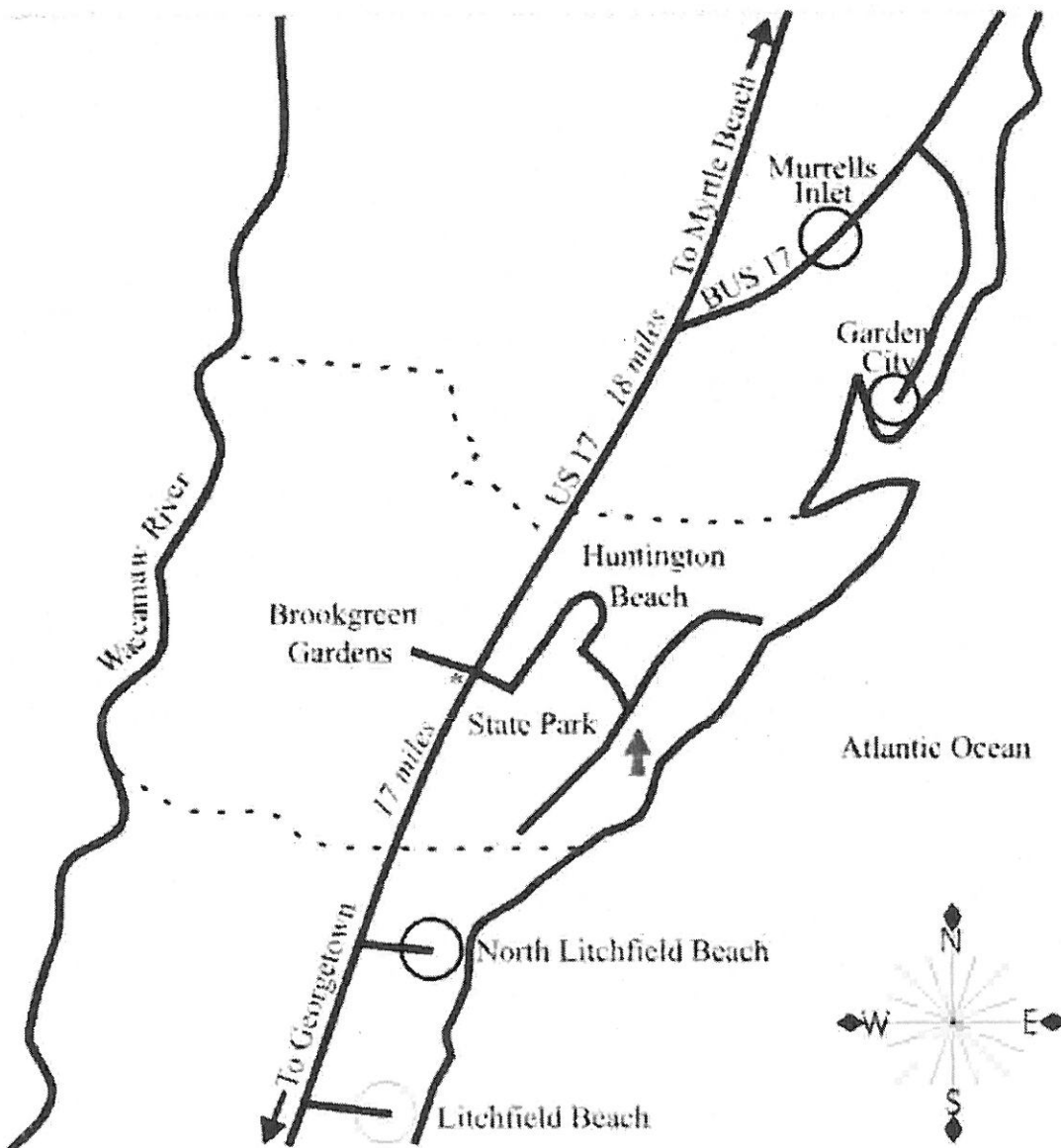
South Carolina Association of Naturalists: Gordon Murphy, President; Pat Bright, Vice-president; Ben Gregory, Secretary; Greg Mancini, Treasurer; Jan Ciegler, Flora/Fauna Database Manager; Dee Hope, Historian, Regional Directors: Jan Ciegler (north), Johnny Hardaway & Wayne Grooms (south), Chris Manuse (east), Claudia Houck & Lynn Smith (west), John Cely (central). Newsletter published monthly; contact Ben Gregory, scan\_editor\_brg@bellsouth.net or 704-372-8532. Yearly membership is \$12. Send check to SCAN, c/o Greg Mancini, P.O. Box 5651, Columbia, SC 29250-5651. Fieldtrips open to visitors, and children must be over age 15. SCAN is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) in the state of South Carolina. (www.scnaturalists.org)

We should be able to eat lunch at the cars after exploring our first stop. Lunch schedule can be adjusted if need be! There are restrooms facilities at the park. Bring warm clothes and your normal hiking footwear. There is a \$5 admission fee at the park entrance. Chelsea Jo's is suggested as a dinner spot and is approx. 5 miles north of the park, toward Murrells Inlet, off Hwy 17. It has a little of everything. Good prices!

**Directions:**

We will start at the parking lot across from the Store & Office for Camper Registration, located by turning left at Huntington State Park/Theodosia Road (road coming into park) onto Seashore Drive. Go 0.1 of a mile and a large parking lot will be on your right. We will then walk across the road to a short trail that will take us to the freshwater marsh.

From Myrtle Beach, travel south on US 17 for approximately 17 miles and the park will be on your left.  
From Georgetown, travel north on US 17 for approximately 19 miles and the park will be on your right.



### **SAVANNAH RIVER SITE (SRS) FIELDTRIP**, Linda Lee, Johnny Hardaway, Wayne Grooms

For those of you who are interested, I've arranged an opportunity for SCAN members and friends to tour some Carolina Bays (and possibly other habitats) on the Savannah River Site on Friday, May 9, 2008. There are some really nice habitats on the SRS that have supported a lot of research, and I thought SCAN members might enjoy seeing them. Even better, I've asked my graduate advisor, Dr. Rebecca Sharitz of SREL, to be our guide. If you're not familiar with her work, Becky has studied Carolina Bays and SE floodplain forests quite extensively, and although she is primarily a wetland ecologist she is also conducting research on sensitive species management in the sandhills. She and a colleague at USDA FS also conducted a restoration project on some drained bays on the SRS; if there is interest we will make sure you get to see at least one of them. (I did some field sampling on this project and I highly recommend it.) We don't have an itinerary yet, but I can guarantee there's plenty of great stuff to see on the SRS. The only catch: due to security regulations, the trip must be scheduled for a weekday, which is why we have it scheduled for Friday, May 9. Those who want to attend will also need to sign-up between now and the end of April, so I can get the paperwork done; however, please sign-up ASAP. I will send an email about this matter towards the end of April. In the meantime if you have any questions or comments please let me know. Linda Lee, caretta3@hotmail.com, or at (803) 791-5238

### **SCAN IS PRODUCING A THIRD BOOK (1996-2005):** (Virginia Winn)

SCAN is in the process of producing a third book about our outings in South Carolina. It will be at least as large, if not larger, than our book 2, "*From Abbeville to Yemassee*."

By the way, if you are a new member who has not received their free copy of book 2 (one per address), we still have a few copies left. Either pick one up on a field trip, or send \$5.00 to SCAN at the address above to cover shipping, and put "for book 2" as the subject. If you have received book 2, but would like additional copies, they are \$15.00 each, plus shipping (total \$20.00) to SCAN members. Non-members pay \$23.95, plus shipping.

A project of this kind takes a long time and a lot of hard work. I would like to thank the volunteers who have agreed to assist. Others that would like to assist are welcome, but please remember this is a long-term commitment. I hope to go to print in mid-to-late 2009.

Our third book is being dedicated in "Memory of Alex Ciegler." He was a long-time member and friend of SCAN and contributed greatly to SCAN's wealth of information. Anyone wishing to make a tax-deductible donation in Alex's name, to be used toward the production of this book, please send a check to SCAN at the address above, and put "Memorial to Alex Ciegler" as the subject. Your cancelled check will be your tax receipt. Proceeds will also help us distribute our new book to places like county libraries and schools across the state. The names of contributors will be acknowledged in the book unless you express differently.

### **OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2008**

President – Gordon Murphy; Vice-President – Pat Bright; Secretary – Ben Gregory; Treasurer – Greg Mancini; Historian – Dee Hope; Regional Directors: North – Jan Ciegler; South – Johnny Hardaway & Wayne Grooms; East – Chris Manuse; West – Claudia Houck & Lynn Smith; Central – John Cely