



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

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February 2010

Hello Everyone,

We had an entertaining and informative group of speakers at the annual meeting last month. I would like to thank them again for taking time out of their busy schedules to spend a Saturday with us. There are always folks that attend the annual meeting that do not get out on field trips very often and it is always good to see them and chat for awhile. This year we had a few new faces in the crowd and a former member (Betty Jo Segal), who now lives in Illinois, stopped in for a visit. For those of you that couldn't join us this year, we hope you can make it in January 2011.

Most of our officer positions this year are being filled by last year's volunteers, with the exception of one. Jan Ciegler will return as the western regional coordinator along with Phil Harpootlian in the northern region, Peggy O'Neal in the eastern region, Wayne Grooms in the southern region, and John Cely in the central region. Greg Mancini has agreed to serve as treasurer. Pat Bright will return as vice president and Kay Hollis will continue as secretary. Claudia Raines will relieve Dee Hope of the historian position. Mary Garland Douglas and Tom Jones will maintain the flora and fauna lists. No one volunteered to take my spot so it looks like you will have listen to me for another year.

In the January newsletter, I neglected to thank Tom and Mary for their hard work in maintaining our flora/fauna data base. I would like to take this opportunity to say a special THANK YOU for your hard work and dedication.

We have a great list of fieldtrips scheduled for 2010. With all of the rain that we have had this winter the wildflowers and wetland areas should be spectacular this year. This year we will be visiting a couple of private properties as well as a couple of new public destinations for SCAN. The 2010 schedule is attached to this newsletter and I would encourage you all to mark your calendars now to avoid future conflicts.

If you have not done so already, please take the time to renew your membership. When filling out the membership form, please indicate whether you are willing to receive the newsletter via email. This has been a real cost saving change for SCAN in the past year.

Our first trip this year will be to Wateree Floodlands Memorial Forest (formerly referred to as English Swamp). This is one of the private properties that we will be visiting this year so you don't want to miss out on the opportunity to visit a place that is not open to the public.

I hope to see you on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Gordon

**English Swamp**  
**(Wateree Floodlands Memorial Forest)**  
**Kershaw County, SC**  
**February 27, 2010, 10:30AM**  
(Phil Harpootlian)

English Swamp, now officially known as the Wateree Floodlands Memorial Forest, is a 1,500 acre tract of bottomland forest and cypress/tupelo sloughs recently enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program. Much of the tract is old growth, with a great diversity of native wetland forest plants. A new trillium species discovered and named *Trillium ostingii* (Wateree Trillium) by Chick Gaddy exists here. The land is bounded on the west by Spears Creek and to the east by the Wateree River.

With all of the recent rain the site may still be very wet, so plan on bringing appropriate footwear. Plan on packing a lunch and water for the trail.

**DIRECTIONS** - The entrance road is called Old English Road, off of U.S. Hwy. 601. **From Columbia** take I-20 towards Florence. Get off at Exit 82 (Spears Creek Church Road) and go right on Spears Creek Church Road to the intersection with Percival Road. Go left on Percival Road and take your first right onto Screaming Eagle Road. Follow Screaming Eagle Road to the intersection with U.S. Hwy. 601, take a left. Old English Road is approximately 2.7 miles on your right. **From the east**, take Exit 92 (U.S. Hwy. 601) off I-20 and go south approximately 6.3 miles. Old English Road will be on your left. **From U.S. Route 378**, go approximately 11.3 miles north on U.S. Hwy. 601 to Old English Road, on your right. **LOOK FOR THE SCAN SIGN.**

Take Old English Road (dirt) until it bears to the left- look ahead for a cabled road, go straight. Someone will be at the cable. Everyone will need to drive in here and go through three more gates until we cross Spears Creek and park in the Cabin area. We can walk around from here, or if the roads are passable, we can take a truck or two further into the property.

If you have not already paid your membership dues for 2010, please consider renewing at this time. You may mail a check to the address on the attached form, Thank you so very much.

## SCAN Fieldtrip Schedule - 2010

### **February 27 – English Swamp – Kershaw County (Northern Region)**

This site consists of old-growth floodplain forest, including virgin cypress, along the Wateree River and Spears Creek. Chick Gaddy recently named a new plant species, the Wateree trillium, here. This is a privately-owned site.

### **March 27 – The Oaks – Orangeburg County (Central Region), 3 miles south of Orangeburg on Hwy. 21**

This 700-acre retirement community, which employs its own land manager and forester, has built a mile-long nature trail next to the north fork of the Edisto River. It also has a forty-foot bluff with rock outcrops at the trail's end. Prothonotary warblers and other songbirds, wild turkeys, and canebrake rattlesnake inhabit the floodplain and pine forests here. Plants to look for include pinxterbloom azalea, bloodroot, and black walnut.

### **April 24 – Ocoee Springs (Gene Ott's Place) – Laurens County (Western Region), approximately 11 miles southwest of Laurens**

This site is approximately 250 acres with convenient access to ridgeline forests, river floodplain and seasonal wetland, alluvial plains along streams, sloping hillsides, and pasture habitats. Woodland flowers will be in bloom, including atamasco lily, pink azalea, jack-in-the-pulpit, trillium, mayapple, cross vine, and many more. A half-dozen or more frog species will be breeding. A number of salamander, turtle, lizard, and snake species should be sighted. Many mammal species live on the site, including deer, carnivores, and rodents (such as the cute Golden Mouse and Meadow Jumping Mouse). Many resident and migrating bird species may be seen, including three nesting bluebird species: eastern bluebird, indigo bunting, and blue grosbeak. In April 2009, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher visited. Numerous insects, arachnids, crustaceans, and mollusks may be found.

### **May 8 (President's Special) – Marsh Furniture Heritage Preserve and Wildlife Management Area - Marion County (Eastern Region), near Kingsburg, S.C. - 8, 560 acres.**

A variety of habitats awaits here, including 8.5 miles of river frontage and bottomland hardwood forest on the Great Pee Dee River, cypress swamp, and longleaf pine sand ridge/sandhills. The Marsh tract provides valuable habitat for threatened and endangered species such as wood storks and short-nosed sturgeon, as well as turkey, ducks, quail, and even black bear.

### **May 22 – Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve – Horry County (Eastern Region), near Conway - 9,393 acres**

Wildfires recently burned the Preserve, and we should see the difference in a renewed and very interesting flora. This preserve protects 20+ Carolina Bays, with the namesake Lewis Ocean Bay the largest, covering approximately 800 acres. Extensive savanna & pond pine pocosin habitat can be seen. 20 undisturbed Carolina bays make up the Preserve. The federally-endangered red-cockaded woodpecker & the largest S.C. population of Venus-flytrap are found here. Also, state rare bearded grass-pink, savanna milkweed, roughleaf thoroughwort, pinebarren gentian & Bachman's sparrow. Other carnivorous plants include all four pitcher plants, sundews & others. Orchids, toothache grass, fly-poison & other savanna plants abound. Also: Fothergilla, colicroot, blackroot, milkworts. The only place left on the S.C. coast where black bear continues to live. Birds such as indigo bunting, Acadian flycatcher & prairie warbler inhabit the area. Numerous butterflies, dragonflies & spiders also.

### **June 26 – Oaklyn Plantation – Darlington County (Eastern Region), near Darlington – 2,000 acres.**

This is a working farm that has been in the Williamson family for more than 200 years. Owner Ben Williamson has been managing this property on a sustainable basis for many years. It is a highly diverse mix of farm and forestland and includes more than three miles of frontage along scenic Black Creek. Also included are mature stands of longleaf pine, which are burned on a regular basis.

### **July 24 – Brasstown Falls – Oconee County (Western Region), near Mountain Rest**

Ideal spot to see "spray" habitat from a waterfall. Although technically still Piedmont, the flora is montane. These four falls of Brasstown Creek range from 20 feet to 40 feet in height. The extremely rare dwarf filmy fern grows around the waterfall. Also, the only natural population of oakleaf hydrangea in S.C. is here. SCAN saw the state rare hollow-stem Joe-pye-weed here. Look for marginal shield fern, wapato, Catesby's trillium, Solomon's-seal, devil's-bit, starry campion, meadow-rue, Appalachian phacelia, hornleaf riverweed, sensitive brier, spikenard, water hemlock, bitter-bloom, man-root & bee-balm here. Also, axilflower (*Mecardonia*), 4 lobelias, ironweed, Joe-pye-weed, coneflower, coreopsis, eastern hemlock, black walnut, buffalo-nut, Fraser's magnolia & alternate-leaved dogwood. Lots of beetles & butterflies were seen on past trips as well. There is an easy one-quarter mile trail to the bottom of the lower falls. It is made up of 4 sections: the lower falls has 3 sections & the one to the upper falls is just a short distance above. The falls are at the bottom of the trail. The walk in from the access road travels an old logging road which goes alongside a small tributary.

### **August 28 – Landsford Canal State Park – Chester County (Northern Region)**

This 448-acre site features bottomland forest & bluffs typical of a large Piedmont river, as well as several tributaries. Has one of the largest known stands of rocky shoals spider lilies, and bald eagles have been regularly nesting at the park for years. Also look for slippery elm, silverbell, silky dogwood, American hazelnut, spicebush, mountain holly, Shumard oak, columbine, black cohosh, angelica, fire-pink, woodland stonecrop & scouring-rush. Birding is good here, and herps will be seen. Butterflies & dragon/damselflies abound. The Catawba River and its shoals necessitated the building of the canal in the early 19th-century to allow commercial navigation. The culverts, bridges & locks of the canal, built in the 1820s, have been restored. There is also a lock keeper's house that now has interpretive exhibits. Two developed trails form a loop between picnic area & stone bridge over lower locks: the Canal Trail follows the canal & the Nature Trail follows the Catawba River, and has an overlook.

**September 25 – Lisa Matthews Memorial Bay – Bamberg County (Southern Region)**

Also called Canby's Dropwort Preserve, this 52-acre site has a Carolina bay/depression that is often flooded to waist-height, which is what the federally-listed Canby's dropwort needs. The area with dropwort is dominated by southern cutgrass (*Leersia hexandra*), an uncommon grass, and maidencane. Other wetland plants such as blue flag, purple bladderwort & pool coreopsis are there as well. Beyond that, there is a large area of swamp with pond-cypress, swamp gum, myrtle-leaved holly, etc. and some upland oak-hickory forest. The property has a good bit of pine plantation that will soon undergo active restoration to the native longleaf pine/wiregrass community by thinning, planting with the appropriate species, and then burning regularly. This preserve was recently a gift from the Nature Conservancy to the S.C. Native Plant Society (SCNPS). SCNPS will manage and restore it—their first such endeavor.

**October 9 (President's Special) – Site TBA**

**October 23 –Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve – Aiken County (Central Region), between Windsor & Springfield**  
Has longleaf pine/wiregrass with a small swampy area adjacent to a small stream are the dominant habitats. There are three rare plant communities in the 859-acre preserve. Created to protect the northernmost population in the U.S. of the gopher tortoise, the state's most endangered reptile. A favorite food of the tortoise, the state rare gopher-apple, is also here. Look for the state rare Georgia beargrass (*Nolina*) here, as well as dog-tongue, jointweed, sandwort, wild indigo, summer-farewell, goat's-rue, blazing-star (*Liatris tenuifolia*), ironweed & more. There are numerous trails on the Preserve. Managed by the SC DNR with periodic burns and longleaf pine/wiregrass restoration..

**November 20 – Lake Conestee Nature Park – Greenville County (Western Region), 6 miles south of Greenville**

This 400-acre park has Piedmont hardwood and pine forest, extensive wetlands (a large beaver pond, marshes & lake shore), and 1.5 miles of the Reedy River. Rated by the Carolina Bird Club and Greenville County Bird Club as one of the best birding sites in the Upstate, it is featured as a birding hot-spot on e-bird with over 150 bird species reported. Current facilities include three trailheads with public parking, 2.1 miles of natural surface trail, a 2/3 mile long paved trail, 650 linear feet of boardwalks in the wetlands, and a large wetlands observation deck. Good trail map of park at: <http://www.conesteePark.com/park/aboutpark.html>. The director is eager to get a species inventory from us.

**December 11 – Great Swamp Sanctuary– Colleton County (Southern Region), in Walterboro**

Ireland Creek, its swamp & adjacent undeveloped lands are the highlight of this newly created 843-acre sanctuary. It is the headwaters of the Ashepoo River (the A in the ACE Basin). Wood storks nest here. Over 80 species of birds have been observed. Wildlife is abundant with native populations of wild turkey, deer, raccoons, beaver, otter, mink, opossum, coyote, squirrels, fox & wildcats. The area serves as a stopover for migrating birds. Miles of overland trails & boardwalks provide an opportunity to explore. Crisscrossing a system of braided streams, the boardwalks traverse a historic Charleston to Savannah wagon road and tie the highland trails together. Managed by the City of Walterboro, who is eager to have us visit. Formerly called Ireland Creek City Park and also called Great Swamp Nature Preserve.

**January 22, 2011 – Annual Meeting**