



March 2008

Hello Everyone,

We started the year out right with a wonderful day at Huntington Beach State Park in February. Early weather forecasts hinted at rain, however, in typical fashion, SCAN's luck prevailed and we enjoyed partly cloudy skies with some gusting winds and mild temperatures. Lynn Smith found a copy of a poem written by SCAN member Margaret Weeks in 1982 and read it to us before we began exploring. The poem is titled "A SCAN-ty Education". It is really very clever the way Margaret used lines such as, "*Hives people have are not like those of bees – Bald cypresses don't have arthritic knees*" and "*Fossilize can't see – Pawpaws aren't feet – There's a flower called foam – a moss named peat –...*" If you are interested in reading the entire poem, let me or Lynn know and we'll see about getting a copy to you.

As you might expect, there were not too many plants blooming at Huntington, but there were plenty of marsh, maritime forest, and dune flora to see. Checking-out the bird life (plus alligator and fish activity) from the boardwalks in the freshwater lagoon and salt marsh kept us busy for most of the day. We ended our time at Huntington with a stroll on the beach checking-out the various shells and other goodies that had washed up, and watching horned grebes and a common loon foraging in the surf. Starfish, sand dollars, sea urchins, horseshoe crabs, and various forms of sea weed were among the treasures we found on the beach. Please join me in extending our gratitude to Chris Manuse for leading the trip and finding a great place for dinner that included a barbeque and fresh seafood buffet.

See you next time at the Blackstock Battlefield Passage of the Palmetto Trail.

Gordon Murphy, SCAN President

Blackstock Battlefield Passage of the Palmetto Trail

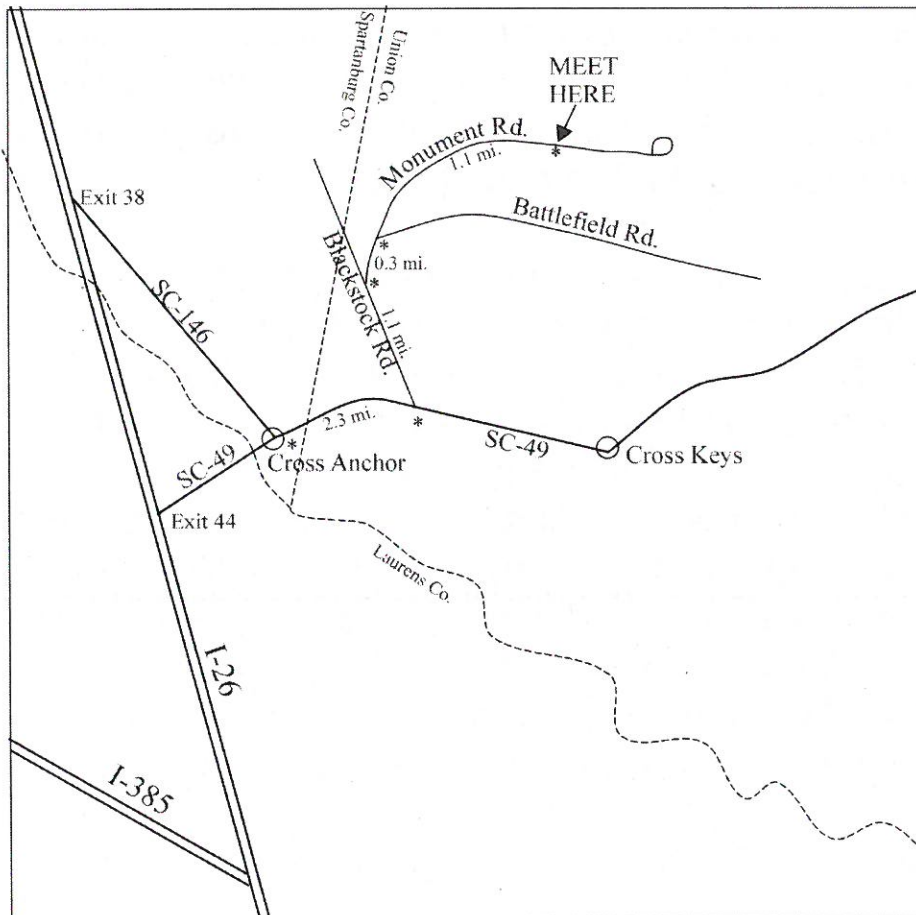
Union County, South Carolina
Saturday, March 22, 2008 – 10:30 A.M.
(Jan Ciegler)

Piedmont in the Spring! This month we'll try another area new to SCAN. Our trail passes a short way through a pine-sweetgum-cedar-hickory woods, then down a steep, wooded hill with switchbacks to the flood plain of the Tyger River. The north-facing slope should have spring flowers blooming and be full of birds in the tulip poplars and river birch. The trail forks: the left fork leads to a camping spot and Hackers Creek, a tributary of the Tyger; the right fork follows along a bluff with fine views of the river. There are good places to get down to the river to check for aquatic inhabitants. When the trail leaves the Tyger, it crosses the Blackstock Battlefield of the Revolutionary War, then passes the monument to Thomas Sumter, and finally loops back to the parking lot.

If time and energy permit, we could spend part of the afternoon on the nature trail at Rose Hill State Park about eight miles away, another spot that we have not visited.

Directions: The battlefield is east of I-26 between Clinton and Spartanburg. If coming from the south on I-26, take Exit 44 and follow SC-49 east to Cross Anchor. From the north, take Exit 38 and follow SC-146 south to Cross Anchor. From there go east on SC-49 for 2.3 miles, then turn left onto Blackstock Road. Travel only 1.1 miles, then fork right onto Monument Road. This road forks in 0.3 miles; take the left fork, continuing on Monument Road to the parking lot on the left side of the road.

Considerations: Bring the usual lunch, water, bug repellent, sunscreen – you know the drill. Plan to carry lunch. There are no restroom facilities at Blackstock Battlefield.



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 are open to visitors; children must be over age 15. SCAN is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) in the state of South Carolina. (www.scnaturalists.org)

Dolin's Hill -- Perhaps the Highest of all the Congaree River Bluffs

Calhoun County, SC

April 5, 2008; 10:00 AM

Dolan Hill belongs to SCAN member Richard Watkins
Regional Director's Special Fieldtrip
(JOHN CELY)

We have an opportunity to see an extremely unique piece of property, more than 300 acres, located within the inner coastal plain of South Carolina on the south side of the Congaree River. One of the most prominent features of the Inner Coastal Plain of South Carolina is the high hills and bluffs that border the large "red" rivers and floodplains. The most well known of these high bluffs is the "High Hills of the Santee" in Sumter County on the east side of the Wateree River. Westward from Sumter County stretches the Richland County plateau, drained on the west by the Congaree River, which is then bordered on its south side by another series of "high hills" in Calhoun County. One of the highest, if not the highest of all the Congaree River bluffs, at 324 feet above sea level, is "Dolin's Hill," owned by SCAN member Richard Watkins. Spectacular views of the Congaree National Park, 200 feet lower in elevation, can be had at the top of this hardwood bluff, which features various hickories, white oak, white ash, hop hornbeam, and other hardwood species. The northern and western portion of this bluff are covered with mountain laurel, although it will not be in bloom in early April.

On the west side of the property are steeply mixed pine-hardwood slopes falling-off into beech ravine forests, reminiscent of the Upper Piedmont or Mountains with clear, cool seepage springs at the bottom. Included with the seepage springs is the remains of an old liquor-still, which helped "fuel" a major cottage industry in the not too distant Carolinian past, and explains why the best NASCAR drivers come from the South.

These western slopes grade into a mature bottomland hardwood forest along the south side of the Congaree River. Typical bottomland species such as overcup oak, water hickory, sycamore, red maple, sugarberry, water tupelo, and others occur here. Surprisingly, Richard knows of only one bald cypress tree within the 150 acre floodplain parcel and has offered to buy lunch to anyone that can find a second.

This is a very diverse property with perhaps a rarity or two popping up, and one of the most beautiful we'll see this year, and the species list should be long. I suspect it will take a good bit of the day to enjoy this tract and we could think about a late lunch or early supper in St. Matthews after 4:00 PM.

Considerations: Bring the usual lunch or snacks, water, bug repellent, sunscreen – you know the drill. There are no restroom facilities. Eateries: We have the same choices as our Wannamaker Preserve trip from last year: the pizza place or traditional southern fare at the Town and Country in St. Matthews; and of course Hardees; I could get a sense of which people prefer later.

Directions: We'll meet at 10:00 AM at the Hardees in downtown St. Matthews (at the junction of Hwy 6 and 601).

From the north, take I-26, heading south from Columbia; about 20 minutes past Columbia, take exit 136 which will take you onto SC 6 directly to St. Matthews and the Hardees, about 10 miles away.

1. Coming from the south, take exit 145, at the junction of US 601 and I-26, and head north on 601, which will take you directly to St. Matthews and the Hardees about 8 miles away.
2. From the east (I-95), I would take exit 98 at Santee, and head north on SC 6, which takes you to St. Matthews about 20 miles away.
3. From the west, there is not a good way to get there unless one likes driving the scenic byways of SC; you've got a choice of using I-20 and making the big dog-leg south on I-26 in Columbia, or you can make your way to Orangeburg on various roads, then head north on US 601 to St. Matthews.

Huntington Beach State Park – Georgetown Co., SC – February 23, 2008

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. Please indicate exactly to which flora/fauna list you are referring. Thank you.

FLORA

Ebony Spleenwort
Asplenium platyneuron

Sensitive Fern
Onoclea sensibilis
sensibilis

Loblolly Pine
Pinus taeda

Southern Red Cedar
Juniperus virginiana
silicicola

Eastern Red Cedar
Juniperus virginiana
virginiana

Dwarf Palmetto
Sabal minor

Cabbage Palmetto
Sabal palmetto

Saw Palmetto
Serenoa repens

Broomsedge
Andropogon glomeratus

Saltmarsh Foxtail-grass
Setaria magna

Saltmarsh Cordgrass
Spartina alterniflora

Saltmeadow Cordgrass
Spartina patens

Sea Oats
Uniola paniculata

Common Cattail
Typha latifolia

Spanish-moss
Tillandsia usneoides

Spanish Dagger
Yucca aloifolia

Curlyleaf Yucca
Yucca filamentosa

Mound-lily Yucca
Yucca gloriosa

Dune Greenbrier
Smilax auriculata

Catbrier
Smilax bona-no

Bamboo-vine
Smilax laurifolia

Common Greenbrier
Smilax rotundifolia

Jackson-brier
Smilax smallii

Southern Magnolia
Magnolia grandiflora

Red Bay
Persea borbonia

Marsh Clematis
Clematis crispa

Sycamore
Platanus occidentalis
occidentalis

Sweet Gum
Liquidambar styraciflua

Southern Hackberry
Celtis laevigata

False-nettle
Boehmeria cylindrica

Common Wax-myrtle
Morella cerifera

Live Oak
Quercus virginiana

Dune Prickly-pear
Opuntia pusilla

St. Andrew's Cross
Hypericum hypericoides

Southern Seashore-mallow
Kosteletzkya virginica
virginica

Carolina Willow
Salix caroliniana

Hairy Bittercress
Cardamine hirsuta

Carolina Laurel Cherry
Prunus caroliniana

Black Cherry
Prunus serotina serotina

Low Hop Clover
Trifolium dubium

Dahoon
Ilex cassine cassine

American Holly
Ilex opaca opaca

Yaupon
Ilex vomitoria

Silverleaf Croton;
Beach-tea
Croton punctatus

Popcorn Tree
Triadica sebifera

Supplejack;
American Rattan
Berchemia scandens

Red Maple
Acer rubrum

Winged Sumac
Rhus copallinum

Eastern Poison Ivy
Toxicodendron radicans
radicans

Hercules'-club
Zanthoxylum clava-
herculis

Devil's-walking-stick
Aralia spinosa

Dune Water-pennywort
Hydrocotyle bonariensis

Carolina Jessamine
Gelsemium sempervirens

Carolina Ponyfoot
Dichondra carolinensis

Beautyberry;
French-mulberry
Callicarpa americana

Chinese Privet
Ligustrum sinense

Wild Olive; Devilwood
Osmanthus americanus

Cross-vine
Bignonia capreolata

Trumpet-creeper
Campsis radicans

Partridge-berry
Mitchella repens

Japanese Honeysuckle
Lonicera japonica

Coral Honeysuckle
Lonicera sempervirens

Silverling;
Groundsel Tree
Baccharis halimifolia

Seaside Oxeye
Borrchia frutescens

Climbing Hempweed
Mikania scandens

Common Dandelion
Taraxacum officinale

Tree-ear
Auricularia auricula

Red Russula
Russula sp.

FAUNA

Brown Rock Urchin
Arbacia punctulata

Short-spined Sea Urchin
* *Lytechinus variegatus*

Eastern Beaded Chiton
(shell)
Chaetopleura apiculata

Common Slipper (snail)
Crepidula fornicata

Flat Slipper
(snail) (shell)
Crepidula plana

Baby's-ear (shell)
Sinum perspectivum

Eastern Mud Snail
(shell)
Ilyanassa obsoleta

Channeled Whelk
(shell)
Busycon canaliculatum

Banded Tulip
(snail) (shell)
Fasciolaria hunteria

Atlantic Augur (shell)
* *Terebra dislocata*

Southern Flatcoil
(snail) (shell)
* *Polygyra cereolus*

Disk Cannibal Snail (shell)
Haplotrema concavum

Zonite (snail) (shell)
Mesomphix sp.

Ribbed Mussel (shell)
Geukensia demissa

Ponderous Ark (shell)
Noetia ponderosa

Stiff Pen (shell)
Atrina rigida

Saw-toothed Pen (shell)
Atrina serrata

Pen (shell)
Atrina sp.

Eastern Oyster
Crassostrea virginica

Jingle Shell (shell)
Anomia simplex

Channeled Duck Clam
(shell)
Raeta plicatella

Atlantic Razor Clam (shell)
Ensis directus

Coquina (shell)
Donax sp.

Cross-barred Venus (shell)
Chione cancellata

Atlantic Horseshoe Crab
(shell)
Limulus polyphemus

Speckled Crab
Arenaeus cribrarius

Common Blue Crab
Callinectes sapidus

Blue Crab (shell)
Callinectes similis

Lady Crab (shell)
Ovalipes ocellatus

Lady Crab (shell)
* *Ovalipes stephensoni*

Red-legged Earwig
* *Euborrelia annulipes*

Flat Bug
Aradus sp.

Red Imported Fire Ant
Solenopsis invicta

Huntington Beach State Park – Georgetown Co., SC – February 23, 2008

Minute Ground Beetle <i>Paratachys albipes</i>	Carolina Anole; Green Anole <i>Anolis carolinensis</i>	Bufflehead <i>Bucephala albeola</i>	Northern Flicker <i>Colaptes auratus</i>
Minute Ground Beetle <i>Polyderis laevis</i>	Common Loon <i>Gavia immer</i>	Killdeer <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Downy Woodpecker <i>Picoides pubescens</i>
Feather-winged Beetle <i>Family Ptiliidae, Species of</i>	Horned Grebe <i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker <i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>
Ant-like Stone Beetle <i>Euconnus sp.</i>	Pied-billed Grebe <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Bonaparte's Gull <i>Larus philadelphia</i>	Carolina Wren <i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>
Crab-like Rove Beetle <i>Ischnosoma lecontei</i>	Brown Pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Ring-billed Gull <i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Ruby-crowned Kinglet <i>Regulus calendula</i>
Shining Fungus Beetle <i>Baeocera sp.</i>	Northern Gannet <i>Morus bassarus</i>	Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	American Robin <i>Turdus migratorius</i>
Short-winged Mold Beetle <i>Dalmosella sp.</i>	Double-crested Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Forster's Tern <i>Sterna forsteri</i>	Northern Mockingbird <i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
Click Beetle <i>* Melanotus morosus</i>	Snowy Egret <i>Egretta thula</i>	Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Cedar Waxwing <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
Silvanid Flat Bark Beetle <i>* Ahasverus rectus</i>	Great Egret; Common Egret <i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Northern Harrier; Marsh Hawk <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Yellow-rumped Warbler <i>Dendroica coronata</i>
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle <i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	Great Blue Heron <i>Ardea herodias</i>	Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Northern Cardinal <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>
Hidden Snout Weevils <i>* Conotrachelus naso</i> <i>* Acalles clavatus</i>	White Ibis (juvenile) <i>Eudocimus albus</i>	Yellow-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Red-winged Blackbird <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
Cloudless Sulphur <i>Phoebis sennae eubule</i>	Mute Swan <i>* Cygnus olor</i>	Belted Kingfisher <i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	Boat-tailed Grackle <i>Quiscalus major</i>
American Alligator <i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	American Wigeon <i>Anas americana</i>	Red-bellied Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Raccoon <i>Procyon lotor</i>