



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

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March 2012

Hello Everyone,

Our visit to Tillman Sand Ridge Heritage Preserve had a great turnout as the first outing of the year with 22 attendees. Tom and Mary brought a guest, John Weaver, an entomologist.

Charlie and Lydia Williams spent several days in the area researching the explorers who passed through the area studying the aspects of this "new world".

We saw many Gopher Tortoise holes. According to Jim Knight, even though they looked deserted they were probably in hibernation deep underground and were unaware of the warm climate. Even so there was a finding of tortoise scat. Jim plans to revisit the area in a few weeks and will let us know of his intent. I will forward his plans to the members if this occurs and we can join in on the fun.

We also saw numerous signs of armadillo leading into the tortoise holes. Gordon Murphy explained the claw and tail dragging marks were telltale signs of their presence.

We saw many Star Puff Mushrooms. They were dried up and well beyond the puff stage but were still a delight. The crabapple trees were in bloom.

I went to the Cogongrass workshop given by the SC-EPPC (Exotic Pest Plant Council) and Clemson University. As a group of environmentalists we need to be aware of invasive threats to our environment. When we are out visiting places that few people ever see, I feel it is our responsibility to report these invasive plants if we find them. Clemson site has a great id web site at [www.clemson.edu/for/cogongrass](http://www.clemson.edu/for/cogongrass)

Our next outing is the hotspot of spring beauty, Stevens Creek. You don't want to miss this one. Our new members, Bob and Marsha Hamlin have taken the role of directors for the western SCAN section. They are retired folks who moved to the south to enjoy the southern world we all know and love. I am pleased they have taken a leadership role. For those of you with a long drive consider spending the night in Augusta. They have a nice river walk area and an outing to the Phinizy Swamp is well worth the trip. Phinizy has a beautiful visitors center and several miles of walking trails. See more at <http://naturalsciencesacademy.org/PhinizySwamp.htm>

This outing will be a joint outing with the Carolina Butterfly Society. Welcome the folks as we share a common love of nature. Butterflies have host plants that both groups can share information. This should be fun. Marty Kastner is the current president of the Carolina Butterfly Society. Marty and Dave Kastners joined SCAN at the annual meeting.

On March 4 the SCNPS visited Stevens Creek and observed the following:

### **In Bloom**

*Ribes echinellum* (Miccosukee Gooseberry)  
*Isopyrum biternatum* (False Rue-anemone)  
*Anemone lancifolia* (Lanceleaf Anemone)  
*Cardamine angustata* (Eastern Slender Toothwort)  
*Hepatica americana* (Round-Lobed Liverleaf)  
*Hexastylis arifolia* (Heartleaf)  
*Gelsemium sempervirens* (Yellow Jessamine)  
*Claytonia virginica* (Virginia Spring Beauty)  
*Saxifraga virginiana* (Virginia saxifrage)  
*Corydalis flavula* (Yellow Fumewort)  
*Erythronium americanum* (Trout lily) (a few left)  
*Stellaria media* (Common chickweed)

### **Not yet in bloom**

*Heuchera americana* (Alumroot)  
*Geranium maculatum* (Wild Geranium)  
*Sanguinaria canadensis* (Bloodroot)  
*Halesia tetraptera* (Carolina Silverbell)  
*Tradescantia virginiana* (Virginia Spiderwort)  
*Senecio obovatus* (Roundleaf Ragwort)  
*Lithospermum tuberosum* (Southern Stoneseed)  
*Dicentra cucullaria* (Dutchmans Breeches)  
*Osmorhiza longistylis* (Longstyle sweetroot)  
*Urtica chamaedryoides* (Stinging nettle)  
*Dodecatheon meadia* (Shooting star)  
Trilliums were up but not in flower so it was difficult to guess species except for the obvious like *T. lancifolium*  
Buckeyes were leafing out but not in bloom

A single visit to Stevens Creek in the spring does not do it justice. Each week there is a new explosion of spring ephemerals. SCAN will enjoy a stage in this glory. We are likely to see the following:



*Ribes echinellum* (Miccosukee gooseberry)



*Dodecatheon meadia* (Shooting star)

## March 24, 2012 Stevens Creek Heritage Preserve in McCormick County



Meet at 10:30 at the kiosk near the small (maybe 6 cars) Heritage Preserve parking lot; additional cars may be parked alongside Garrett Road where conditions permit.



Stevens Creek Heritage Preserve, a unique, exciting and outstanding natural area, is located so close to the state line that South Carolina shares with Georgia that Marsha and Bob Hamlin (Western Regional Directors) are working on a plan to nudge it over into Georgia where they live.

The 1.3 mile loop trail features rock outcroppings lushly coated with mosses and lichens. Steep north-facing forested slopes offer abundant wildflowers and make Stevens Creek one of the most significant botanical communities in the Southeast.

One of the oddest and rarest plants found here is the Miccosukee gooseberry (*Ribes echinellum*). Odd because its leaves emerge in autumn, and drop in the summer! Rare because this federally threatened shrub, while abundant in the preserve, can only be found in one other location in the world: Lake Miccosukee in north Florida.

South Carolina has a variety of habitats suitable for many different species of wildlife, but if you want to find a Webster's salamander, *Plethodon websteri*, you have to go to McCormick County, and that's where this preserve is located. This salamander, found on steep north-facing forested slopes with rock outcroppings, is endangered in South Carolina. Does this habitat description sound familiar? The best time to find a Webster's salamander is in cold weather during fall, winter, and early spring. Join us in early spring, March 24<sup>th</sup>, and enjoy Stevens Creek Heritage Preserve before we move it to Georgia.

### **What to wear. What to bring**

Long pants, sturdy shoes, camera, binoculars, notepad, insect repellent (maybe needed), trail lunch/snacks and water

### **Other considerations**

Limited parking, no restrooms (last restroom is at Sportsman's corner. See directions below), no picnic areas, no trash receptacles

## Directions to Stevens Creek Heritage Preserve

### To help you find this location:

The address of the house across the street from the parking lot is 1355 Garrett Road Clarks Hill SC 29821. For those with a GPS, the parking coordinates are N33 41.135, W82 09.761

### From Exit 1 (SC 230) on I-20:

Drive north on S.C. 230.

At 5.7 mi Sportsman's Corner convenience store is on the left. **This is the last stop for refreshments and restrooms. Notice Sportsman's BBQ at this intersection.**

After another 3.6 miles turn left onto secondary road 143 (Garrett Road) and proceed 7.9 miles to the bridge over Stevens Creek, and into, McCormick County. The parking area is on the right, 0.8 miles from the bridge.

After the hike, it's time for BBQ. We're going to Sportsman's Bar-B-Q.

If you came to Stevens Creek using the directions above you know where it is. If not, follow the caravan.

See you at the preserve and later, someplace on Martintown Road. Call if you think someone from Georgia can help you if you're lost in South Carolina. Our cell number is (706) 836-1296. Marsha and Bob Hamlin (Western Regional Directors)

## SCAN To Visit Panama In 2012

We are getting closer to having the final details of the 2012 SCAN trip to Panama worked out. The dates have been set, July 6<sup>th</sup> through July 15<sup>th</sup>. This will give us eight days in-country for exploration. The details of exactly what we will be doing are still being worked out, but I expect we will spend most of our time exploring El Cope National Park where there will be lots of opportunity for birding, botanizing, looking for snakes, and photography. We will also be taking night walks in the jungle where we'll see snakes, sleeping birds, and nocturnal animals. We will probably visit an archaeological site as well as make a day trip to the coast for some shore-bird birding and a swim. Currently the round-trip Delta airfare is \$735.00, including taxes and fees. The in-country cost estimate is being pulled together and will be dependent on the number of folks we have on the trip.

**If you are interested in joining us and have not contacted me yet, please do so as soon as possible.** Once we get the itinerary finalized and remaining costs established, I will send this information to those who have shown an interest in making the trip.

Gordon

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agmurphy@hughes.net

**Tillman Sand Ridge Heritage Preserve  
Jasper Co., SC  
February 25, 2012**

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 florafauna list you are referring. Thank you.

**FLORA**

**Bracken**

*Pteridium aquilinum*

**Resurrection Fern**

*Pleopeltis polypodioides*  
*michauxiana*

**Spruce Pine**

*Pinus glabra*

**Longleaf Pine**

*Pinus palustris*

**Loblolly Pine**

*Pinus taeda*

**Eastern Red Cedar**

*Juniperus virginiana*  
*virginiana*

**Bald-cypress**

*Taxodium distichum*

**Dwarf Palmetto**

*Sabal minor*

**Saw Palmetto**

*Serenoa repens*

**Southern Wiregrass**

*Aristida beyrichiana*

**Seabeach**

**Needlegrass**

*Aristida tuberculosa*

**Giant Cane**

*Arundinaria gigantea*

**Spanish-moss**

*Tillandsia usneoides*

**Catbrier**

*Smilax bona-nox*

**Bamboo-vine**

*Smilax laurifolia*

**Sarsaparilla-vine**

*Smilax pumila*

**Green-fly Orchid**

*Epidendrum magnoliae*

**Common Pawpaw**

*Asimina triloba*

**Witch-hazel**

*Hamamelis virginiana*

**Sweet Gum**

*Liquidambar styraciflua*

**Mockernut Hickory**

*Carya tomentosa*

**Common Wax-myrtle**

*Morella cerifera*

**Sand Laurel Oak**

*Quercus hemisphaerica*

**Turkey Oak**

*Quercus laevis*

**Laurel Oak**

*Quercus laurifolia*

**Sand Post Oak**

*Quercus margaretta*

**Water Oak**

*Quercus nigra*

**Post Oak**

*Quercus stellata*

**Live Oak**

*Quercus virginiana*

**Prickly-pear**

*Opuntia humifusa*

**St. Andrew's Cross**

*Hypericum hypericoides*

**Violet**

*Viola septemloba*

**Coastal Fetterbush**

*Eubotrys racemosa*

**Staggerbush**

*Lyonia mariana*

**Sparkleberry**

*Vaccinium arboreum*

**Elliott's Blueberry**

*Vaccinium elliotii*

**Southern Evergreen**

**Blueberry**

*Vaccinium myrsinites*

**Deerberry**

*Vaccinium stamineum*

**Southern Blueberry**

*Vaccinium tenellum*

**American Persimmon**

*Diospyros virginiana*

**Horsesugar**

*Symplocos tinctoria*

**Downy Serviceberry**

*Amelanchier arborea*

**Chickasaw Plum**

*Prunus angustifolia*  
*angustifolia*

**Water Tupelo**

*Nyssa aquatica*

**Little Gallberry**

*Ilex glabra*

**Myrtle Holly**

*Ilex myrtifolia*

**Sebastian-bush**

*Ditrysinia fruticosa*

**Muscadine**

*Vitis rotundifolia*  
*rotundifolia*

**Red Maple**

*Acer rubrum*

**Carolina Jessamine**

*Gelsemium sempervirens*

**Climbing Dogbane**

*Trachelospermum*  
*difforme*

**Beautyberry**

*Callicarpa americana*

**Georgia Calamint**

*Clinopodium*

*georgianum*

**Cross-vine**

*Bignonia capreolata*

**Barometer Earthstar**

*Astraeus hygrometricus*

**FAUNA**

**Leaf-footed Bug**

\* *Acanthocephala*

*declivis*

**Oak Stem Gall**

**(wasp)**

*Disholcaspis spongiosa*

**Florida Harvester**

**Ant**

*Pogonomyrmex badius*

**Patent-leather Beetle**

*Odontotaenius disjunctus*

**Red-horned Grain**

**Beetle**

*Platyedema ruficorne*

**Darkling Beetle**

\* *Alobates morio*

**Palm Leaf**

**Skeletonizer**

\* *Homaledra sabalella*

**Pricklypear Borer**

\* *Melitara prodenialis*

**Gopher Tortoise**

**(nest)(scat)**

*Gopherus polyphemus*

**Eastern Fence Lizard**

*Sceloporus undulatus*

**Turkey Vulture**

*Cathartes aura*

**Black Vulture**

*Coragyps atratus*

**Wild Turkey (scat)**

*Meleagris gallopavo*

**Northern Flicker**

*Colaptes auratus*

**Eastern Phoebe**

*Sayornis phoebe*

**American Crow**

*Corvus brachyrhynchos*

**Carolina Chickadee**

*Parus carolinensis*

**Tufted Titmouse**

*Baeolophus bicolor*

**White-breasted**

**Nuthatch**

*Sitta carolinensis*

**Brown-headed**

**Nuthatch**

*Sitta pusilla*

**Eastern Bluebird**

*Sialia sialis*

**Pine Warbler**

*Dendroica pinus*

**Palm Warbler**

*Dendroica palmarum*

**Eastern Towhee**

*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

**Dark-eyed Junco**

*Junco hyemalis*

**Nine-banded**

**Armadillo**

**(tracks)**

*Dasyurus novemcinctus*

**Coyote (scat)**

*Canis latrans*

**White-tailed Deer**

**(tracks)**

*Odocoileus virginianus*