



June 2012

Hi fellow SCANers,

Kathy Boyle and Wayne Grooms did it again with perfect weather, a great place and few mosquitoes. The Audubon property at Mallard Lake on Four Holes Swamp had it all including a Swamp Dogwood in bloom for us to park beneath. Tom Jones showed me how to tell the difference between Swamp Dogwood (*Cornus stricta*) and Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*). Cut into the pith. The pith of *stricta* is white while the *amomum* is brown. Ah the joys of being on a SCAN outing.

Attending were Jan Ciegler, Steve Katzberg, Phillip Harpootlian, Mary Douglass, Tom Jones, Gordon Murphy, Greg Mancini, Jim and Karin Knight, Marguerite Frongillo, Katherine Boyle, Virginia Winn, Glenn Landau, Jim Boylston, Pat and Jerry Bright, Jeff Kline, Caroline Eastman and Wayne Grooms.

The facility included a fleet of canoes and kayaks to paddle Four Holes Swamp. A boathouse provided paddles and life vests. I only wish I had spent more time on the water. Steve Katzberg heroically rescued Green-fly Orchids (*Epidendrum magnoliae*) found floating on a broken branch in the river.

Beetles were the stars of the day. Jan Ciegler writes:

These quarter-inch darkling beetles, *Diaperis maculata*, were found in a rotting fungus at Mallard's Lake where they undoubtedly were feeding and possibly laying eggs. The beetle on the right is interesting because it shows its second pair of wings, used for flight and generally tucked away out of sight when not in use. The red color on the elytra is a structural color composed of many thin layers of chitin that refract the light, and thus will never fade. The crosswise segments of the antennae are characteristic of many darkling beetles in the family Tenebrionidae. These small beetles are neither helpful nor harmful to humans; they just go about their lives munching on rotting fungi.



Darkling beetles (*Diaperis maculata*)

It was interesting to see *Labidomera clivicollis*, the swamp milkweed beetle, found just a few feet from a swamp forest milkweed, *Asclepias perennis*. In life this is one of our showier beetles (see photo). However when the beetle is pinned and stored, the red color, an organic pigment, is oxidized to a dull brown, just as occurs with red lady beetles. It has been found that when milkweed beetles eat milkweed leaves, which are toxic to many creatures, that the toxic compounds are retained in the beetle's body, thus rendering the beetle also toxic or distasteful. The red color then serves as a warning to avoid eating it.



Nipper Creek

The SC Native Plant Society is going to Nipper Creek this Saturday. SCAN member Kathy Boyle is leading the outing. Join us.

June 16: Nipper Creek Cultural site- Montgomery (And maybe a dip in the river afterward so bring your suit!)

Contact is: Kathy Boyle: boylek@dnr.sc.gov, Cell phone: 803-603-6466
https://www.dnr.sc.gov/mlands/managedland?p_id=37

We will meet at 10 AM at the BiLo on North Main. Directions: From the SC Statehouse, go 2.6 miles north on Main Street and turn right into the BiLo parking lot. The preserve is small so we probably won't spend more than 2-3 hours.

Located in Richland County on the Broad River several miles north of Columbia, this 90-acre archaeological preserve was occupied most heavily during the Archaic period, 8,000 B.C. to 2,000 B.C. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The site's value lies in the stratified "layer cake" deposits, which produce information on past human lifestyles such as diet, technology, mobility and social organization. The site is interpreted by archaeologists as an "aggregation site," where mobile hunter/gatherer groups met on a yearly basis to find mates and share information about mobility and hunting strategies. These aggregations were normally conducted in winter when plant and animal resources were low.

www.nationalregister.sc.gov/richland/S10817740094/index.htm

www.nationalregister.sc.gov/richland/S10817740094/S10817740094.pdf

Our next SCAN outing has our leader, Phil Harpootlian, very excited. See his description below and look for other attachments as he has a lot to say.

Phil also wants us to be on the lookout for the devastating Emerald Ash Borer (*Cerceris fumipennis*). Read [guidebook_biosurveillance_cerceris.pdf](#) for more information.

Additional attachments:

- Ashmore_Chandler HP Flora_Fauna_s.pdf
- Ashmore_Chandler HP trails map_s.pdf
- FF120526.pdf
- [guidebook_biosurveillance_cerceris.pdf](#) - I need to find as many of these colonies as possible. If you see any, let me know.

Jerry Bright

Ashmore & Eva Russel Chandler Heritage Preserves

Greenville County, June 23, 2012

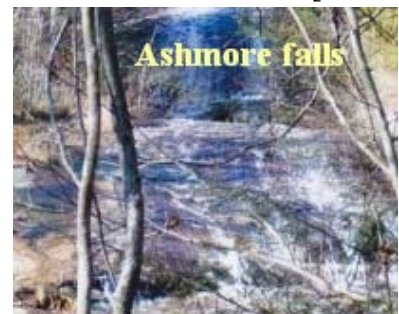
Meet at 10:30 AM

Even for those on the mend, don't worry, there are trails for all levels of fitness.

Ashmore H.P.

This 1125.5 acre preserve features a natural bog (on the north side of lake Wattacoo) with several rare plants species, including orchids, the endangered mountain sweet pitcher plant (*Sarracenia rubra jonesii*), sundew (*Drosera* sp.), and various ferns. Additionally, the rare piedmont ragwort (*Packera millefolium*) grows on a granite outcrop (see comments below) and the fire-dependent eastern turkeybeard (*Xerophyllum asphodeloides*) (on the special concern list) grows on two of the pine-dominated ridges. Besides the flora, three animals on the state's list of special concern live there: the green salamander (*Aneides aeneus*), Rafinesque's big-eared bat (*Plecotus rafinesquii*) [large concrete bat roost on site], and the eastern woodrat (*Neotoma floridana*). White tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), squirrels, ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), black racers (*Coluber constrictor*), and all kinds of birds, including wood ducks, blue-headed vireos and ovenbirds make this area home. On my list of normal concern, ticks and mosquitoes can also be found here.

Everyone will want to hike at least part of the easy pink-purple blazed trail to/around lake Wattacoo [see map]. The trail winds over top an earthen dam and offers splendid views of the lake and granite outcrops to the north – very popular vantage point with photographers! There are several additional trails to consider as well. I recommend the moderate yellow-orange blazed Mountain Bridge Passage Trail #23 towards what I'm calling west Ashmore falls. Besides the typical mountain forest habitat, there is a granite outcrop on the way, accessed via a short side trail, just past a wooden bridge that is especially nice for its view and plants. You make this a loop by continuing down the trail and exiting back onto Persimmon ridge road at parking area 2 via a short spur, and then back to parking area 1 (about a 3 mile loop). I saw many flowers and the uncommon Diana butterfly along that section of road. Another route to consider is the trail that heads up towards green mountain. This trail [not a loop] isn't blazed, appears to be traveled infrequently and is *quite* steep initially, but features some very different plants [e.g., I think I saw turkeybeard], especially on the high, fairly level ridge, so this might be of interest for some. Another possibility is a hike to the base of Ashmore falls (a name sometimes mistakenly applied to what I've labeled west Ashmore falls on my map). The 150 ft horsetail fall [defined as descending water that maintains some contact with bedrock] is located towards the eastern edge of the 300 ft granite cliffs north of lake Wattacoo. There isn't a trail, but information from the web suggests it's a fairly steep, approx. 200 yard scramble along the right side of Wattacoo creek, up from where it empties into lake Wattacoo and would be about a 1 mile round trip. This is also in the vicinity of where you can supposedly find a population of the rare piedmont ragwort (*Packera millefolium*) [GPS 35.0888, -82.57912] - I can't verify either bit of this information. Lastly, you can head to Chandler HP and its easy loop trail - see description below.



On a totally unrelated note – the portion of Mountain Bridge Passage Trail #23 from parking area 2 to Oil Camp Creek is wonderful. If you're ever in the area again, I'd highly recommend it.

Eva Russel Chandler H.P.

This 253-acre preserve protects several rare plant species, including grass-of-parnassus (*Parnassia* spp.) [bloom in late fall], scarlet Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*), and the piedmont ragwort [=divided-leaf groundsel, and thousand-leaf groundsel on a couple of websites] (*Packera millefolium*). Walk behind the gate and follow the trail as it turns left off the old roadbed. The very easy half-mile trail forms a loop, passing through a Virginia pine-hardwood community into a hardwood site and past a large granite outcrop [portion with water flowing over it is evidently called Slickum falls] which features a nice view. The trail follows the creek up the floodplain where asplenium ladyfern [=southern lady] (*Athyrium filix-femina* ssp. *asplenioides*), New York (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*), and Christmas (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) ferns form dense patches. Many spring wildflowers including longspur [=long-spurred] violets (*Viola rostrata*) can be seen.

Notes

A few photos I took during my scouting trips are posted here:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/116024889313380133744/AshmoreChandler?authkey=Gv1sRgCJDvipyqqLztEA#> If you want a copy of the trail map, especially in color, please print from the attached file, I'll only have a couple B&W copies to hand out. The flora/fauna field guide is just something I put together for my own use, print yourself a copy if you find it useful, I won't have any to hand out. As usual, bring lunch, water, and bug repellent.

Directions

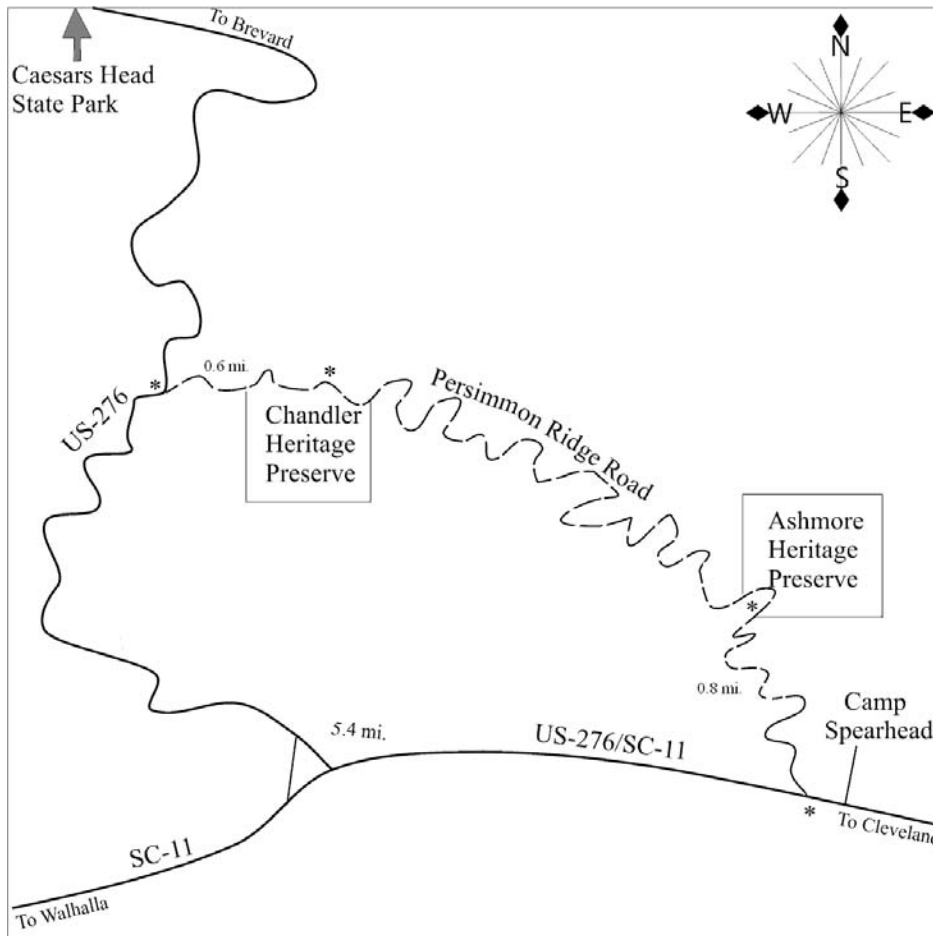
From where SC 11 joins US 276 (near Cleveland), go west 3.9 miles on SC 11/US 276 to Persimmon Ridge Road. Turn right, go about 0.8 mile (paved, then dirt) to the parking area on the right with the small parking sign (no H.P. sign). There are two trailheads, one is back down Persimmon ridge road a short way, is well marked and is the most direct route to lake Wattaco. The other is further up the road, past the green Ashmore H.P. sign and is the shortest route for getting to either the mountain bridge passage or green mountain trails. To reach the Chandler heritage preserve, you can continue down Persimmon ridge road (an OK dirt road), parking will be on the left, next to a prominent H.P. sign. Alternately, you can go back to US 276, turn right towards Caesars head SP. The other end of Persimmon ridge road is not marked and is easy to miss. It's about 5.4 miles from the southern Persimmon ridge road / US 276 intersection, it's the first dirt road past the brown "**Caesars Head Visitors Center 4 Miles**" sign, just before the guard rail. The preserve is 0.6 miles, on the right.

Bring

Bring the usual food, water, sunscreen and insect repellent.

Afterwards

We'll meet at Huntin' Camp BBQ and Grill - 2221 N Hwy 25, Travelers Rest, SC [29690](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2221+N+Hwy+25,+Travelers+Rest,+SC+29690). Head east on Hwy 11, then south towards Greenville on Hwy 25, about 7.5 miles from Cleveland.



August Trip Update

Have I got a deal for you! The August trip planned for Jones Gap SP is going to be very special. We've been invited to visit the White tract, a recently acquired 900 acre addition to Jones Gap State Park and Mountain Bridge Wilderness area. This will be a great opportunity for SCAN to explore an entirely new area, as well as provide the park with valuable information regarding flora and fauna of the new property. The area isn't open to the public yet and there are no marked trails, but we can use a good road all the way to the 'top'. Timothy Lee of the SCDNR will join us and provide introductory comments. Put this on your calendar - you'll not want to miss it. Details to follow.