



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

July 2006 Newsletter

Hi all,
First, a special thank you to Harry Shealy for leading us on short notice. Patrick McMillan had professional obligations and was unable to lead our trip this month but Harry Shealy from USC-Aiken graciously substituted in Patrick's absence to give us access to this secured SC Heritage Preserve. Craig Pond is a remnant of a Carolina Bay, surprisingly one of many in the area as shown on a topographical map taken from an aerial photo. The bay, which straddles the Savannah River Site border, is being maintained by controlled fire and selective cutting to keep the interior open as a grass-covered wetland, known as a depression meadow. At 300 acres it is possibly the largest of its kind in the world. Thanks Claudia, Lynn, Eva and Sam for coordinating this trip and Harry for taking over twenty of us into this special place that has been gratefully preserved as Craig's Pond.

It was a beautiful, sultry, cumulus-cloud-filled-sky day in the upper reaches of the SC coastal plain. (The nearby town of Barnwell announces on their entry signs this is the gateway to the Low Country region.) After Harry gave us some history of the site including its name origin from over a century ago, most of us struck out in our usual scattered groups to explore the pocosin habitats and marsh areas that had numerous Wood Duck nests on posts. Under the pines that line the bay there were abundant Red Root plants blooming and attracting many insects. There was an abundance of bird song including Yellow-breasted Chats and Indigo Buntings in spite of the heat of the day. Blueberry bushes were fruiting and provided some natural snacking. Dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies were flying all around.

Because of the sun and heat some of us took refuge in the shade of an Oak tree to have lunch and socialize relatively soon into our excursion. As usual we are a resourceful bunch who always seem to have some humorous animated stories and conversations to occupy us. Another group of more adventurous SCANers walked around the sand rim perimeter to the adjoining Long Bay which is more elliptical than typical bays and discovered many bladderworts. In spite of our on-going drought, the water level in the large bay was still adequate but Harry said he has seen the level above waist height in the past. Late in the afternoon we decided to find a cool interior to congregate and drove back to Barnwell to the "Original" House of Pizza where many of us sampled that main fare.

Our next trip will be a place I have explored a lot in the last ten years, one of my favorite piedmont natural habitats to escape to from busy Charlotte. I hope you will join us in July on what will probably be another sultry hot but enjoyable summer Saturday at the Peedee National Wildlife Refuge, over the state border near Wadesboro in the central region of North Carolina.

Jules Fraytet

Time to Break with Tradition:

It has long been a tradition of SCAN to publish the preceding months flora/fauna list in the upcoming newsletter. That task is often hard to accomplish, especially when you are waiting for members to send you their list and/or a particular site has an extremely long list. The pot can be complicated even farther when there is a lot of new species to look-up, code, and enter. So in order to publish the newsletter in a timely manner, Tom and Mary Jones, our new fflist Database Managers, came up with a brilliant idea – break with tradition. The fflist for Craig's Pond (June trip) will be in the August newsletter. Then the July trip's list will be in September. You get the picture. This is going to reduce the stress on not only the Database Manager's but also the Secretary. Thank you Tom and Mary!!!

New Secretary and Historian:

I would like to thank Ben Gregory for agreeing to take on the position of Secretary. Jules Fraytet, Lynn Smith and I will continue to assist him for the next month or two as he learns what to do and gets his accounts, such as printing, set up. I am sure Ben will do an excellent job for SCAN.

I would also like to thank Dee Hope for taking on the Historian's position. Dee has taken my very cumbersome Word document, that SCAN has been using for years at their site planning meeting, and transformed it into an Access database. This now user friendly program will be a welcomed companion to the programs Jan Ciegler originally developed for SCAN.

Thanks again to both of you,
Virginia Winn, former Secretary/Historian

Jules Fraytet, President writes:

Dee Hope has volunteered to assume the post as SCAN historian. He has been doing a super job of compiling data from our past trips (332 sites and growing) to create a complete history of our outings and as a guide for our executive committee to plan future trips. Thanks very much Dee for taking on this task. He asked me to pass on a request that if any of you have information on new sites we can visit please let us know about them by emailing Dee [digital_sandlapper@yahoo.com] or any of us on the board to possibly include them in our planning this fall.

This information ultimately will be available in the future to all the membership. These are some of the questions and answers that the site database will include: How many times and when has SCAN visited _____ County? When has SCAN visited _____? What are SCAN's "Top 10" most visited (and therefore most interesting) sites? What sites harbor savanna habitats? Does _____ have restrooms? Where have we seen shell middens? Etc.

Also, the database can serve as the source for: Consistent and accurate directions for the newsletter; info for Regional Directors to form into a site description for the Newsletter; scouting trip info for places not yet visited, then a repository for the gleaned info from such scouting; ...the sky's the limit!

PEE DEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Anson County, NORTH CAROLINA
JULY 22, 2006 10:30 A.M.

Pee Dee NWR is part of the Savannah-Santee-Pee Dee rivers ecosystem and comprises approximately 8500 acres in Anson and Richmond County NC. It consists of over 3000 contiguous acres of bottomland hardwood along Brown Creek one of the largest tracts like this left in the Piedmont of NC. There are also 1200 acres of upland pine forest and 4300 acre mosaic of croplands, old fields and mixed pine-hardwood forest intermingled with creeks and ponds. In the 1930's part of this land was once the private refuge of Mr. Lockhart Gaddy, established by him for Canada geese hunting which increased that species presence in the area after a decline. The lands became a federal refuge in the 1960's. In the late 1990's The Friends of the Pee Dee constructed a covered bridge and birdviewing blind on the refuge and named it for Mr. Gaddy.

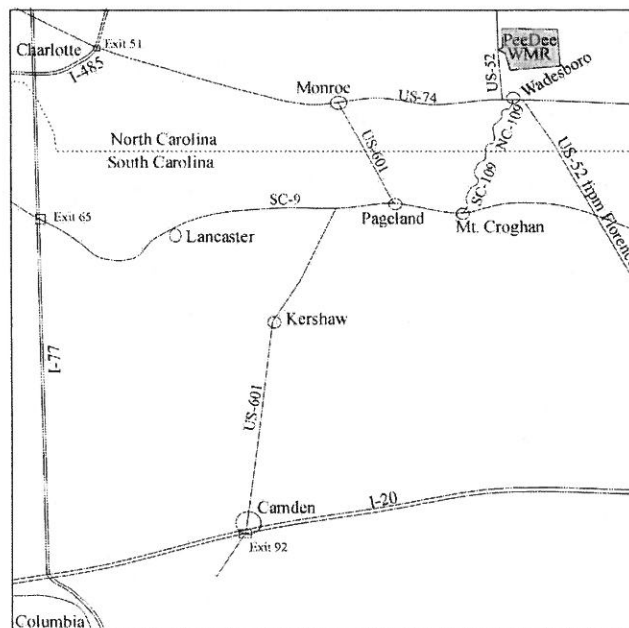
Jules Freydet: I have visited this site many times in the last ten years and is one of my favorite places in the lower NC piedmont and convenient to my home in Charlotte. There is a low ground area near the river where various wildlife groups are working to provide wintering waterfowl habitat and is closed to access at this time. There are some good butterflying areas and many wildflowers along the roads. There are two wildlife drives that I plan to lead us down with stops for walking excursions to pond and creek sites. I also hope we can drive to one area to see the Pee Dee River. I look forward to showing you this great national refuge, a small but vital part of our natural gifts to ourselves as Americans. More information is at <http://www.fws.gov/peedee/> 704-694-4424

Bring your lunch to probably eat by our vehicles and bring plenty of water, bug spray and suntan lotion. There are bathrooms at the headquarters on Hwy 52 and a gas/convenience store in nearby Ansonville, NC. We will likely end up eating supper for those who wish to stay in Wadesboro, NC since most of us will be headed back south.

Directions: From **Columbia** there are various routes to exit from to go east toward the direction of the refuge in North Carolina to avoid traffic in Charlotte. One is to go north on I 77, get off exit 65, Hwy 9 though Lancaster, SC to Pageland, SC and go north using Hwy 601 to Hwy 74 at Monroe, NC and go right (east) on Hwy 74 to Wadesboro, NC. At Wadesboro turn left (north) on Hwy 52 and go approx. 6 miles to where we will meet at the refuge headquarters located on the right side of Hwy 52 (large sign at entrance).

Other routes are Hwy 601 from **Camden to Pageland**, then SC-9 to Mt. Croghan, SC, then up route 109 to Wadesboro, then follow directions above. From **Florence/Darlington**, take Hwy 52 north.

If you are coming from **Greenville or Spartanburg** on I-85 North to Charlotte, NC take I-85 exit 30 right (south and east) around Charlotte on the outer loop I-485 which crosses I-77 and then exit off I-485 at exit 51 which is Hwy 74/Independence Blvd. Go right (east) and proceed to Wadesboro. This will avoid much traffic in town.



SCAN'S CIRCULATING LIBRARY

SCAN has a collection of books (mostly donations from Jules Fraytet) that is available for circulation among the members. All one does is pick a book either in person, if the box is taken on the trip, or by previous arrangement, sign for it in a record book, then sign for your return when that happens. Note, because the box of books is heavy and bulky it is only occasionally brought on a trip. To borrow a book from the list you may send an e-mail request to Lynn Smith, default keeper of the books, at lynnbsmith@mindspring.com, to arrange for it to be brought to a specific field trip.

SCAN Circulating Books

Field Guide to Southern Mushrooms, Nancy Smith Weber & Alex H. Smith

The Boleti of North Carolina, W. C. Coker & Alma Holland Beers

Mushrooms Demystified, David Arora

Mushrooms of North America, Orson J. Miller, Jr.

Familiar Mushrooms, Audubon Pocket Guide, Peter Katsaros

Guide to the Liverworts of North Carolina, Marie L. Hicks (on semi-permanent loan to database manager Mary Douglass)

Weeds, Walter Conrad Muenscher

Insects, Vol. 2 (1899), David Sharp

The Insect Book, Leland O. Howard

The Moth Book, W. J. Holland

Fossils, Simon & Schuster Guide to, Paolo Arduini & Giorgio Teruzzi

Snakes: the Evolution of Mystery in Nature, Harry W. Greene