



July 2008

Hello Everyone,

Our fieldtrip in June took us across the border into eastern North Carolina where we visited Green Swamp Nature Preserve in Brunswick County. The weather was clear and it was hot that day. In the open canopy of pine forests there wasn't much relief from the sun in the sparse shade. This Preserve contains great examples of well maintained longleaf pine savanna, longleaf pine flatwoods, pond cypress savannahs, pocosins, and pine-wiregrass uplands. These are typically fire-dependent ecosystems and some of the preserve had been recently undergone a controlled burn. We saw lots of carnivorous plants including pitcher plants, sundews, and Venus flytraps. Because of the hot dry weather, areas of flytraps that Chris and Jules had seen only a month earlier on their scouting trip were gone. Since nesting season is over for the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW), which is the best time to see the parents coming and going from their nests as they feed their young, we didn't see any RCWs but did see nest cavities. Despite the heat it was a fun trip and we ended the day at Love's Barbeque for a delicious meal. Some of our members camped in the primitive camping area at Lake Waccamaw State Park both Friday and Saturday nights.

I would like to thank Chris Manuse for scouting and hosting the Green Swamp trip and Jules Fraytet for assisting in the scouting of the site. Also, I'd like to thank John Cely for preparing the wonderful write-up detailing our SCAN trip to Trinidad and Tobago last month. Please remember to sign-up for our SCAN Yahoo Groups site so you can enjoy the photos and other interesting information our members are posting there. If you did not get an email from me concerning the site, it means that the email address that I have is incorrect. Please email me at agmurphyjr@gmail.com so that I can get an invitation to you.

See you later this month at Florida and Red Bluff Bays in southern Berkley County.

Gordon



Venus Flytrap, *Dionaea muscipula*
Green Swamp Nature Preserve, June 28, 2008
Photo by George Xenakis

FLORIDA & RED BLUFF BAYS
BERKELEY COUNTY, SC
JULY 26, 2008 – 10:30 AM
(Johnny Hardaway & Wayne Grooms)

On a previous trip to Florida Bay I heard Patrick McMillan call Florida Bay the best Carolina Bay anywhere. Enough said. It is a shallow bay with a clay based lens underneath and is surrounded by xeric woods sloping down to the bay. There is no ground water charge. Typically it contains twelve to eighteen inches of water. Unfortunately because of the drought it is now dry. Wayne and I scouted it twice this year and both times were able to walk in it without getting our feet wet. When wet it is surrounded by various rings of vegetation including different *Sarracenia*, *Hypericum fasciculatum*, *Pagonia* and *Cleistos* orchids, various *Rhynchospra* species, and *Eriocaulon compressum* among others. The interior of the bay has pond cypress, *Ilex myrtifolia*, *Ilex cassina* and other typical bay plants. Close by are several sinkholes several of which still have water despite the drought.

Red Bluff Bay unfortunately was also dry when we scouted it. It is a beautiful example of a bay, when dry appearing like a prairie transported to the coastal plain. It typically has many of the same plants mentioned above.

The Francis Marion National Forest is always a great place to visit. Despite the drought there will always be a lot of interesting natural history for us to see. For dinner I suggest we eat at the Seewee Restaurant in Awendaw. It's a down-home seafood restaurant.

CONSIDERATIONS: Pack a lunch and bring plenty of water. Insect repellents are likely to be a good precaution; always be ready for rain; bring a hat; pencil & paper for identifications, etc.

DIRECTIONS TO FLORIDA BAY: Take I-26 towards Charleston. Before Charleston take exit 212C for I-526 toward Mr. Pleasant. Stay on I-526 until exit 29 (to Isle of Palms and Georgetown). Exit at exit 29. Turn left on 17 North toward Georgetown. Go approximately four miles on 17 North. Turn left on Highway 41 (Seels Marine is at the intersection of 17 North and Highway 41). Go approximately six miles (you will cross a steel bridge over the Wando River). Turn right at Halfway Creek Road (State Highway S-8-100). Go 11.5 miles and you come to the intersection of Halfway Creek Road and Steed Creek Road. Go straight through the intersection. After approximately 8 miles, at the second power line crossing over the road, turn right into the road that runs under the power line. Park approximately fifty yards down the road. Florida Bay is to the left down a slope. Be careful not to park blocking the Wambaw cycle trail which runs by the bay.

UTM coordinates for Florida Bay are 17 S 629557 E 3669397 N

DIRECTIONS TO RED BLUFF BAY: Red Bluff Bay is rather difficult to find so it would be best to caravan there from Florida Bay. The directions from Florida Bay are as follows: Turn right out of Florida Bay go east on Halfway Creek Road. After approximately 3.3 miles you will come to a stop sign. Go Straight on Chicken Creek Road for approximately 1 mile. Turn right on Forest Road 204 (a dirt road). Stay on 204 – there is a curve off to the left – do not take this curve. After approximately 8.5 miles turn right on Forest Road 5032 (there is a sign but it is hard to see). After taking Forest Road 5032 do not take the first left hand turn – stay straight. After .9 miles on 5032 turn left on Forest Road 5032 A. Go approximately .3 miles and stop. Red Bluff Bay is to your left.

DIRECTIONS TO THE SEEWEE RESTAURANT: From Red Bluff Bay go back to the intersection of Halfway Creek Road and Steed Creek Road. Turn left on Steed Creek Road (going south) until you come to Highway 17. Turn right on Highway 17 and go 9.63 miles. The Seewee Restaurant will be on your right on Highway 17 at the intersection of Highway 17 and Fifteen Mile Road.

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)

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SCAN Goes Wild in Trinidad & Tobago, June 6-15th, 2008, John Cely

“Thirteen SCAN members and friends spent a wonderful week scanning the natural beauties of Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies. We arrived at the famous Asa Wright Lodge and Center (AWC), Trinidad, late Friday evening, June 6th. It turns out that Jan Ciegler’s father, Professor Joseph Copeland, was instrumental in getting the Center established as one of tropical America’s first eco-lodges back in the late 1960s and early 70s. Jan had also visited the Center once before, in 1973. It was hard to sleep Friday night in our comfortable lodge rooms, knowing of the wonderful birds and other sights we were to see from the large veranda early the next morning. We were not disappointed. Three species of honeycreepers put on a show at the feeders. We also saw several species of hummingbirds, my favorite being the white-necked jacobin. Some other species included palm, silver-beaked, blue-gray and white-lined tanagers, bare-eyed thrush, cocoa thrush, *Violaceous Euphonia* (a finch), barred antshrike (the “jailbird”), and one crested *oropendola*. A real treat was seeing the channel-billed toucan through a spotting scope set up by the Lodge, and watching the orange-winged parrots flying by, giving their raucous calls. The highlight of the day was a morning walk through the forest and observing a white-bearded manakin lek in action, with the little fluff-ball males seemingly oblivious to our presence, and shortly afterwards seeing and hearing bearded bellbirds with their unbelievably loud calls.

Late in the afternoon our very excellent guides drove us to a beach on the Atlantic side of Trinidad where we waited for several hours in the darkness and were finally rewarded with an up close and personal look at a leatherback turtle laying her clutch of eggs in a deep cavity excavated by her rear flipper.

We toured Trinidad for the next four days, building up our flora and fauna list, all with the help of our capable guides. I got to see the two bird species I most wanted to see, the oilbird, residing in a small cave on the grounds of AWC, and the scarlet ibis on a boat trip through the Caroni Swamp. Words and pictures fail to describe the neon-red of the ibis, which against a backdrop of green mangrove foliage, offers a stunning visual display.

The flora was as impressive as the wildlife. We saw many exotic and beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers, including the national tree, the chaconia, aka the wild poinsettia tree, the royal poinciana, the pride of India, balsa, the sandbox tree, wild gingers and heliconias, and such wonderful edibles as mangoes and papayas.

On Thursday morning we made a short flight to tiny Tobago, 26 miles to the northeast of Trinidad. Tobago is much smaller and drier than Trinidad but makes up for its small size with dramatic vistas and a scenic coastline. We stayed at the modern Cuffie River Lodge, and like at AWC, enjoyed excellent island cuisine. The weird and loud calls of the rufous-vented chachalaca greeted us each morning as did orange-winged parrots, blue-crowned motmots, and others of unknown origin. Some of us went snorkeling Friday afternoon. On Saturday, our last full day we took a glass-bottomed boat to Little Tobago Island where a spectacular overlook offered exciting views of various seabirds like red-billed tropicbird, brown booby, red-footed booby, frigate bird, and noddy, bridled & sooty terns. On the way back to the Lodge we enjoyed a guided hike through a rain forest preserve on the north end of Tobago and got excellent looks at two of the Island’s most famous endemics, blue-backed manakin and white-tailed sabrewing (hummingbird).

Our bird trip list was nearly 200 species and we saw other interesting fauna such as a large golden tagu (a lizard), tarantulas, bats, one fer-de-lance, and a very large cockroach. Thanks to Jan Ciegler for putting the trip together and Caligo Ventures, Inc. for a great trip that went off without a hitch.”

[Attendees included Gordon Murphy, John Cely, Peggy O’Neal, Nancy Odom, Tom Jones, Mary Garland Douglass, Tamara Sawyer, Jan Ciegler, Jerry Bright, Pat Bright, and Farren “Red” Smith.]

Cyanobacteria & a Bit of SCAN History, Loree Gandy, written June 2, 2008

Loree wrote her letter to me (BG), but her letter needs to be shared with all SCAN members, and she gave me permission to do so.

“Although I am a longtime (age 88!) member of SCAN, I haven’t been very active lately and we don’t know each other. Dee Hope was once the newsletter editor and the program director for Kalmia Gardens, here in Hartsville [SC]. During that time I attended his planned educational walks through the gardens, and we worked together on others. He has surely been missed! He was there for a visit last Friday and invited me to come too, which I did.

I was telling him and two other naturalists about a phenomenon my daughter and I saw on SCAN’s last trip to the Pee Dee Heritage Preserve in February of last year. I don’t think that other members of SCAN could have missed it! – but no report was ever made so I presumed that it was such common knowledge for everyone else that it was not worthy of a newsletter report. (I did send a letter to one of our officers but never had a response.)

When I was in Kalmia Gardens on Friday with Dee and the garden’s director and assistant director, I was surprised that neither of them had ever seen or hear about what Gail and I had seen! Long before, I had seen the same thing when I used to hunt and fish with my father in Black River and its swamp, bordering our home property. I had even, since then, done a large watercolor painting of it long before the Pee Dee trip, but I couldn’t explain it at the time.

Before Dee left he told me that I should get in contact with you. (I’m sorry but I have no computer and can’t email, and I don’t know your home address.) Dee felt that you would be interested in what we saw since now I have learned that it [cyanobacteria] is a display put on by the oldest known fossils on earth! – Now for my report --

My daughter Gail and I were walking the long trek from the parking area to the Pee Dee River. On almost every flood-plain black water pool by the side of that road there was a lovely sheen of soft rainbow-colors on the surface of the water under those tall cypress trees.

I had read an account in “The State” newspaper just a bit earlier by Fran Rametta of Congaree National Park telling how fascinated children there were at seeing “rainbows on the water.” He stated that the cyanobacteria on the water reflect sunlight and produce that beautiful effect.

Gail and I wanted to know more about cyanobacteria so she got on the internet and received some amazing information! They are not only ancient but are “one of the largest and most important groups of bacteria on earth ... The oxygen atmosphere that we depend on was generated by them ... The chloroplast by which plants make their food is actually a cyanobacterium within the plant cells.” – And there is much more fascinating (to me!) info!

You may receive the same from this source: <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/bacteria/cyanointro.html>.

Don’t you find these minute things interesting? Hope I haven’t bored you!

Best Wishes, Loree Gandy”

[No Loree, you haven’t bored me – not in the least. I found your letter full of interesting information, most of which I was unaware. Thanks so much for taking the time to write your letter and for allowing me to publish it for all SCAN members. Sincerely, Ben Gregory]

Hippo’s Honk, Grunt and Snort Kept Zookeepers Chuckling, Joey Holleman, The State, 9B, 7-17-08

Montgomery, or Monty, a 4,200 pd hippopotamus was euthanized on Tuesday, July 15, 2008. He was born September 17, 1972 at the Memphis Zoo and moved to Riverbanks Zoo as a youngster. Almost daily since Riverbanks opened in 1974, keepers entering the hippo barn were treated by Monty’s happy hello – an earsplitting honk, followed by a grunt, and capped by a snort. “We consider all of the animals our favorites,” John Davis said, curator of mammals at the zoo, “But without a doubt, Montgomery was the most favorite for a lot of keepers. He was just an easy-going guy. He’d open that huge gaping mouth, ready to accept whatever produce you threw in there.” Monty was never aggressive toward his zookeepers.

Green Swamp Preserve, Brunswick Co., NC – June 28, 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

Foxtail Clubmoss
Lycopodiella alopecuroides

Cinnamon Fern
Osmunda cinnamomea

Bracken
Pteridium aquilinum

Virginia Chain Fern
Woodwardia virginica

Longleaf Pine
Pinus palustris

Pond Pine
Pinus serotina

Loblolly Pine
Pinus taeda

Atlantic White-cedar
Chamaecyparis thyoides

Pond-cypress
Taxodium ascendens

Pipewort
Eriocaulon compressum

Common Bogbutton
Lachnocaulon anceps

Giant Cane
Arundinaria gigantea

Switch Cane
Arundinaria tecta

Toothache Grass
Ctenium aromaticum

Redroot
Lachnanthes caroliniana

Northern White Colic-root
Aletris farinosa

Coastal Plain Bog

Asphodel
Triantha racemosa

Bamboo-vine
Smilax laurifolia

Little Ladies'-tresses
Spiranthes tuberosa

Sweetbay
Magnolia virginiana

Swamp Bay
Persea palustris

Sassafras
Sassafras albidum

Sweet Gum
Liquidambar styraciflua

Pocosin Bayberry
Morella caroliniensis

Dwarf Wax-myrtle
Morella pumila

Water Oak
Quercus nigra

Loblolly Bay
Gordonia lasianthus

St. John's-wort
* *Hypericum brachyphyllum*

St. Andrew's Cross
Hypericum crux-andraeae

Yellow Pitcherplant; Trumpets
Sarracenia flava

S. Purple Pitcherplant
Sarracenia purpurea venosa

Sweet Pitcherplant
Sarracenia rubra rubra

Venus Flytrap
Dionaea muscipula

Dwarf Sundew
Drosera brevifolia

Pink Sundew
Drosera capillaris

Water Sundew
Drosera intermedia

Ti-ti
Cyrilla racemiflora

Coastal Sweet Pepperbush
Clethra alnifolia

Dwarf Huckleberry
Gaylussacia dumosa

Dangleberry
Gaylussacia frondosa

Shining Fetterbush
Lyonia lucida

Staggerbush
Lyonia mariana

Creeping Blueberry
Vaccinium crassifolium

Southern Highbush Blueberry
Vaccinium formosum

Southern Blueberry
Vaccinium tenellum

Common Pyxie-moss
Pyxidantha barbulate

American Persimmon
Diospyros virginiana

Horsesugar; Sweetleaf
Symplocos tinctoria

Virginia-willow
Itea virginica

Savanna Parnassia
* *Parnassia caroliniana*

Red Chokeberry
Aronia arbutifolia

Black Cherry
Prunus serotina serotina

Dwarf Indigo-bush
Amorpha herbacea herbacea

Honesty-weed; Rattleweed
Baptisia tinctoria

Goat's-rue
Tephrosia hispida

Savanna Seedbox
Ludwigia virgata

Smooth Meadow-beauty
Rhexia alifanus

Yellow Meadow-beauty
Rhexia lutea

Swamp Tupelo
Nyssa biflora

Big Gallberry
Ilex coriacea

Little Gallberry; Inkberry
Ilex glabra

Myrtle Holly
Ilex myrtifolia

Tread-softly; Spurge-nettle
Cnidocolus stimulosus

White Sandhills Spurge
Euphorbia curtisii

Carolina Ipecac
Euphorbia ipecacuanhae

Drumheads
Polygala cruciata

Orange Milkwort
Polygala lutea

Short Pinebarren Milkwort
Polygala ramosa

Red Maple
Acer rubrum

Carolina Jessamine
Gelsemium sempervirens

Sabatia
Sabatia difformis

Savanna Milkweed
* *Asclepias pedicellata*

Wild Sweet Potato; Manroot
Ipomoea pandurata

Dawnflower
Stylisma patens

Lobelia
Lobelia nuttallii

Buttonweed
Diodia virginiana

Partridge-berry
Mitchella repens

Savanna Honeycomb-head
Balduina uniflora

Sandhill Thistle
Cirsium repandum

Pool Coreopsis
* *Coreopsis falcata*

Whitetop Fleabane
Erigeron vernus

Savanna Eupatorium
Eupatorium leucolepis

Common Roundleaf Eupatorium
Eupatorium rotundifolium

Stiff-leaved Aster
Ionactis linariifolia

Blazing-star
Liatris graminifolia

Grass-leaved Golden-aster
Pityopsis aspera denolepis

Blackroot
Pterocaulon pycnostachyum

Wand Goldenrod
Solidago stricta

American Aster
Symphotrichum walteri

Green Swamp Preserve, Brunswick Co., NC — June 28, 2008

FAUNA

Deer Tick;
Blacklegged Tick
** Ixodes scapularis*
Large Carpenter Bee
Xylocopa virginica
virginica
Bumblebee
Bombus impatiens
Comet Darner
Anax longipes
Golden-winged Skimmer
Libellula auripennis
Violet-masked Glider
Tamea carolina
Citrine Forktail (damselfly)
Ischnura hastate

Black-hearted Milkweed Beetle
** Tetraopes melanurus*
Pipevine Swallowtail
Battus philenor
Palamedes Swallowtail
Papilio palamedes
Pearl Crescent (butterfly)
Phyciodes tharos
Common Buckeye
Junonia coenia
Common Wood-nymph
Cercyonis pegala pegala

Southern Cricket Frog
Acris gryllus
Pine Woods Treefrog
Hyla femoralis
Six-lined Racerunner
Aspidoscelis sexlineata
Northern Bobwhite
Colinus virginianus
Mourning Dove
Zenaida macroura
Red-headed Woodpecker
Melanerpes erythrocephalus
Eastern Kingbird
Tyrannus tyrannus

Great Crested Flycatcher
Myiarchus crinitus
Common Yellowthroat
Geothlypis trichas
Yellow-breasted Chat
Icteria virens
Bachman's Sparrow
Aimophila aestivalis
Chipping Sparrow
Spizella passerina
Red-winged Blackbird
Agelaius phoeniceus
Marsh Rabbit
Sylvilagus palustris

Addenda

Addendum Stumphouse Tunnel Oconee Co., SC April 26, 2008

Minute Ground Beetle
Polyderis laevis
Tumblebug; Dung Beetle
Glaphyrocathon viridis
False Ant-like Flower Beetle
Pedilus sp.

Addendum Savannah River Site Barnwell Co., SC May 09, 2008

FLORA
Pitcher Plant
Sarracenia sp.
Eastern Sensitive-briar
Mimosa microphylla
Meadow-beauty
Rhexia sp.
Southern Beardtongue
Penstemon australis

FAUNA
Calico Pennant (dragonfly)
Celithemis elisa
Violet-masked Glider
Tamea carolina
Variable Dancer (damselfly)
Argia fumipennis
Minute Ground Beetle
Polyderis laevis
Perigonid Ground Beetle
** Perigona pallipennis*
Long-toed Water Beetle
Helichus fastigiatus

Addendum Ark Lodge Marion Co., SC May 24, 2008

Dung Beetle
** Bradycinetulus ferrugineus*

Addendum Woodbury Tract Marion Co., SC May 25, 2008

Antlike Weevil
** Myrmex myrmex*
Flower Weevil
** Odontocorynus umbellae*



Pitcher Plants, Green Swamp NP
 June 28, 2008
 Photo by George Xenakis