



August 2008

Hello Everyone,

I trust you've all found entertaining ways to stay cool this summer. We had a wonderful trip to Francis Marion National Forest last month. Johnny Hardaway led us on an excursion into Florida Bay and Red Bluff Bay as well as some interesting lime sinks, followed by a brief visit to a seepage area at the head of Wambaw Swamp. These bays, like most bays, are interesting wetland systems, one of which supports a combination of habitats including wet meadow and pond cypress savanna (Florida Bay), and the other supports a wet meadow community (Red Bluff Bay). As is typical with these wetland systems, they are enhanced by an interesting variety of upland and transitional plant species in the longleaf pine forests that border them. These depression wetlands provide a water source for the many terrestrial and semi-aquatic animal species that inhabit the area.

While exploring a small lime sink, Chris Manuse and I found what appeared to be tracks in the mud from a medium sized black bear that apparently stopped by for a drink of water. Of course it could have had something else on its mind based on the presence of deer tracks and rabbit feces in the area! The wetland and upland communities of Francis Marion National Forest harbor many rare plant and animal species and it is a real treasure for the naturalists and sportsmen of South Carolina.

Those of us who carpooled with the Brights stopped along Halfway Creek Road to take a look at a colony of federally endangered pondberry, located adjacent to a pond cypress-gum swamp that also has an impressive colony of pondspice. Later in the day at Red Bluff Bay, a group of four red-cockaded woodpeckers, also endangered, was observed foraging in the adjacent pine forest. Although none have been documented to occur at the sites we visited, bays and lime sinks situated within upland pine forests can provide habitat essential for the survival of the endangered flatwoods salamander.

Thank you Johnny for leading us on such an enjoyable trip and the recommendation to eat at the SeeWee Restaurant was an excellent choice.

Due to a lack of water at Ditch Pond Heritage Preserve, our October 25 fieldtrip has been switched to Botany Bay Island. See below for more information.

Additionally, our Annual Planning Committee Meeting will be held at the Ark Lodge on Saturday, November 8, 2008. More information will be forthcoming in a future newsletter.

I hope to see you later this month at Ramsey Creek Memorial Ecosystem.

Gordon / SCAN President

Ramsey Creek Memorial Ecosystem
Oconee County, SC
August 23, 2008 –10:30 AM
(Lynn Smith & Claudia Houck)

Our August field trip will take us to southern Oconee County on the outskirts of Westminster to a new site for SCAN, Ramsey Creek Preserve. The background of this preserve is unique. It is owned and operated by Memorial Ecosystems, Inc. as a 'green cemetery.' This means it is kept as natural as possible for low environmental impact and persons laid to rest there are not embalmed and are in biodegradable caskets to allow for Mother Nature to recycle everything but the memories of the folks so interred. To casually look at the site you would think it a nature park. There is a nice system of trails covering a variety of habitats. The site has a detailed conservation easement with Upstate Forever, meaning it will be disturbed as little as possible. In addition this protection has been expanded to additional adjacent property. At this time, most of the site is completely undeveloped. If you want to see photos of many of the wildflowers there, visit their website:

<http://www.memorialecosystems.com/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>.

There is also a trail map, plus L.L. Gaddy's comprehensive list of the flora there. The habitat is "Upper Piedmont," mostly forested, showing the differences between that and the higher elevation of Stumphouse Tunnel where we visited this spring. There will be open higher areas proceeding all the way down to Ramsey Creek in an area where it goes over rocky shoals.

Our thanks go to Memorial Ecosystems and Dr. Billy & Kimberly Campbell for hosting us for this visit.

Directions and other Info: The directions are also on the Memorial Ecosystems website. From the Greenville area take I-85 south to the Townville-Westminster exit to SC 24 (Exit 11). Follow SC 24 all the way into Westminster. At the intersection with US 123/76 at the first traffic light, turn left. Stay on this through town making a left fork at the Rite-Aid. Stay on US 76 toward Clayton, GA which turns right at the second traffic light. Go approximately 2.6 miles, passing Chau-Ram County Park on your left, At 2.6 miles turn right onto Cobb Bridge Road in front of the Calvary Church of God. Go 0.8 of a mile. The entrance will be on your right, with a gravel driveway and a wooden fence, information booth, and standing stones with the name of the preserve.

Park in the gravel parking lot.

Considerations: Bring your lunch, lots of liquids, repellent, sunscreen...you know the routine for a hot day. Maybe we will be lucky and even have rain.

OCTOBER FIELDTRIP HAS BEEN CHANGED, Gordon Murphy & Jan Ciegler

Due to a lack of water at Ditch Pond Heritage Preserve, our October 25 fieldtrip has been switched to Botany Bay Island. This site has just become available to the public. Botany Bay Island is just north of Edisto Beach on the coast. The island has a 2-mile long beach with lots of shells (no collecting except by kids), requires a 0.5-mile walk via a causeway, a 3-mile driving tour to historic ruins, and lots of other sand roads. The best time to go is when the mosquitoes are not too thick.

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); Lynn Smith & Claudia Houck (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)

Johnny Hardaway leads SCAN members on an excursion into Florida & Red Bluff Bays.



Florida & Red Bluff Bays Fieldtrip, July 26, 2008.

Left to right: Johnny Hardaway, Mary Garland Douglass, and Tom Jones. Photo by Gordon Murphy.

The 6th Eastern Native Grass Symposium, Gordon Murphy

This symposium is coming up October 7 - 10 in Columbia, SC. For more complete details on the Symposium location, dates, program, etc., go to http://clemson.edu/~bstrngr/E_Native_Grass.

Registration for the Symposium is now available on-line, at <http://www.Regonline.com/ENG2008>.

Carabid Beetle Named for Jan Ciegler, Jim Cornell

I noted that a new species of blind, eyeless, carabid beetle found in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was named in honor of Jan Ciegler for her contributions to the study of the park's biodiversity. It is *Anillinus cieglerti* Carlton and Sokolov. Described in online journal Zootaxa.

Hazing to Protect Birds Along Mississippi, Tom R. MacKenzie (info, Gordon Murphy)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Southeast Regional Spill Response Strike Team and Delta National Wildlife Refuge are continuing to respond to the New Orleans DM 932 oil spill. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is directing the installation of 100 propane cannons designed to scare birds away from contaminated marshes and swamps along the Mississippi River. Propane cannons are machines that ignite propane gas to produce loud explosions at timed or random intervals. They will be located in areas of high use by water birds like egrets, herons and ducks, and moved around every few days.

"The noise is extremely loud," said Buddy Goatcher, Contaminants Specialist with the FWS. "We are placing the cannons mostly in the battures, the swamps inside the levees, to keep feeding birds from oiled areas. While these cannons are useful tools to frighten birds, they could pose a threat to anyone getting within 500 feet of one. To insure your safety, please stay away from them."

The noise-making operation is expected to continue until the swamp areas are cleaned.

Tom R. MacKenzie, Chief, Media Relations, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Southeast Region, 1875 Century Blvd Ste 410, Atlanta, GA 30345-3319, 404-679-7291 Fax:404-679-7286 Cell: 678-296-6400, <http://www.fws.gov/southeast>, tom_mackenzie@fws.gov

Gordon noted, relative to his work, "Interesting technique for protecting birds along the Mississippi River. We use this technique at airports where bird/aircraft strikes are a problem."

Aiken, SC Seeks Assistance with Open Space Plan for 77-sq. miles, Sandra Korbelyk

The City of Aiken has begun work on an open space element and is seeking individuals and groups who are knowledgeable in the areas of open space, natural resources, habitat, hydrology and historic/cultural resources to meet and interview. [Seeks people who] are familiar with our planning area? Our planning area covers about 77 square miles in and around the City extending as far north at I-20 and south to Anderson Pond Road. Thanks very much, Sandra Korbelyk, AICP, Senior Planner City of Aiken, 803 642 7605, SKorbelyk@CityofAikenSC.gov

Norfolk Southern Makes Largest Conservation Gift in South Carolina History, Brian Hedden, Lowcountry Open Land Trust, Press Release, August 5, 2008, Charleston, SC

Some of the most ecologically significant land in the U.S. will be protected permanently from development through a conservation easement donated by Norfolk Southern to the Lowcountry Open Land Trust. The easement is thought to be one of the largest in the Southeast and the largest ever by a corporation in South Carolina.

Norfolk Southern, through two subsidiaries, has granted an easement on 12,488 acres of its Brosnan Forest timber and wildlife preserve near Dorchester, S.C., 35 miles northwest of Charleston. The property is near the 15,000-acre Francis Beidler Forest, which is owned and operated by the National Audubon Society. Beidler Forest and the surrounding rural lands make up a 450,000-acre watershed for Four Holes Swamp within the larger Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto (ACE) Basin, one of the largest intact coastal ecosystems on the East Coast.

<http://www.lolt.org/newspublications/0808pressrelease>

The Very Handy Manual: How to Catch and Identify Bees and Manage a Collection, A Collective and Ongoing Effort by Those Who Love to Study Bees in North America, (info, Ben Gregory)

This is truly an excellent manual. To get to the website below, place the address in the open area at the top of your internet server. This is the same place where you would place an http address in order to go directly to that site. Please do not Google (etc.) for this website, as doing so will not work.

<ftp://ftpext.usgs.gov/pub/er/md/laurel/Droege/Standard%20Files/Handy%20Bee%20Manual.pdf>

Florida & Red Bluff Bays Fieldtrip, July 26, 2008.



Left to right: Tom Jones, Pat Bright, Mary Garland Douglass, and Quentin Webber.
Photo by Gordon Murphy.

ADDENDA

This list was produced by SCAN from sightings 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

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

=====

Addendum (continued)

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

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*

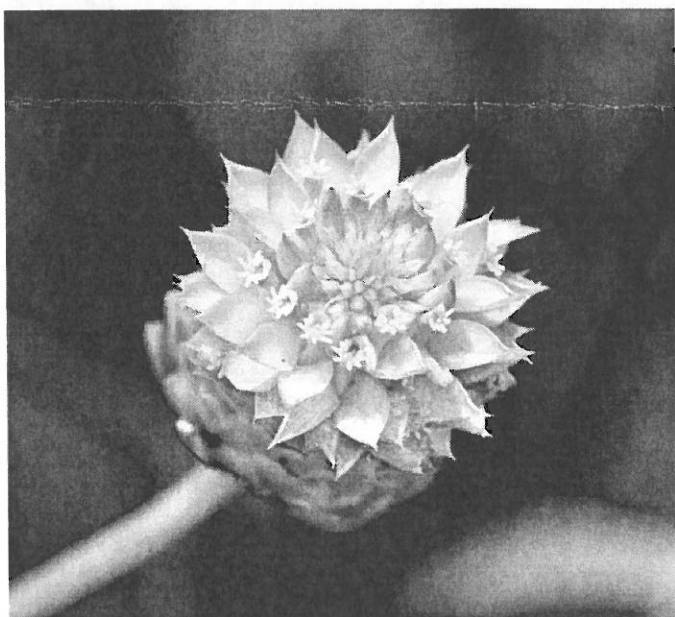
=====

Addendum

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

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

=====



Pat Bright took this stunning photograph at Green Swamp, NC during SCAN's fieldtrip on June 28 & 29, 2008.