



December 2008

Fellow Naturalists,

This year's planning meeting was held at Ark Lodge, an in-holding in the Woodbury Tract, located in Marion County. The Woodbury Tract is situated south of U.S. Route 378 between the Pee Dee and Little Pee Dee Rivers. We decided to make this an overnight trip which allowed us to take a couple of hikes around the Ark Lodge property. Pat and Jerry took advantage of the easy access to the Little Pee Dee River and went kayaking both days while the rest of us explored the wooded swamp edge and pine flatwoods around the Lodge. Holding the meeting in a naturalist's paradise was good incentive for us to take care of business quickly and get outdoors. I'd like to thank the officers and board members who developed such a wonderful list of field trips for the 2009 season. Once again I would like to thank Francis Ervin for his generous hospitality and making the Lodge available to SCAN. Ben put together a very nice version of the flora and fauna list that SCAN compiled at the Lodge back in May. This list was printed on heavy paper with SCAN letterhead, and will remain at the Lodge for future guests to peruse.

Our fieldtrip on November 15th was to King's Mountain State Park in upper York County. We took two hikes at different locations in the Park. The first hike consisted of a loop trail that originated at the edge of the campground. The trail took us down a north-facing slope through a predominantly hardwood forest and across an un-named perennial tributary to Lake Crawford. The trail followed the north side of the stream for a way before crossing the stream again and back up the slope to the campground. The stream was lined with evergreen shrubs consisting of mountain laurel, dog hobble, and alder, which created a stark contrast to the leafless deciduous forest that bordered it. One particularly interesting find along the trail was a black substance on the leaves and branches of several beech trees. The beech trees also had wooly aphids on their branches. The black substance had us all stumped at the time, but Pat Bright did some internet searching at home and found that the black stuff is a fungus called *Scorias spongiosa*. Apparently this species of mold is only found on beech trees and it feeds on the excrement produced by the aphids. (To read more about the fungus, go to http://botit.botany.wisc.edu/toms_fungi/Sep2007.html)

The second trail we hiked on originated at the Living History Farm and took us across the top of a ridge on the south side of Lake Crawford. This area consisted predominantly of a pine-hardwood forest. As usual we ended our day at a local barbeque restaurant for some last minute socializing (and good food!) before heading home. Thanks go to Jan Ciegler for scouting and leading the trip for us.

I look forward to seeing you at McAlhany Preserve this month.

Gordon / SCAN President

McALHANY NATURE PRESERVE

DORCHESTER COUNTY, SC

!!! DECEMBER 13, 2008 – 10:30 AM !!!

(Johnny Hardaway & Wayne Grooms)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS FIELDTRIP IS ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 AND NOT THE USUAL FOURTH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH.

The Charleston Natural History Society (Charleston chapter of the Audubon Society) manages the McAlhany Nature Preserve. This beautiful 318-acre property on the Edisto River near St. George, SC was donated to the Charleston Natural History Society (CNHS) in 1986, and it was dedicated as a nature preserve in honor of Marvin McAlhany on January 18, 1987. In order to ensure that McAlhany remains undeveloped, CNHS entered a conservation easement agreement with the Lowcountry Open Land Trust on December 19, 2001. For a relatively small piece of land it includes an incredibly diverse array of habitats, beginning with 1.5 miles of frontage on the Edisto River and a nine-acre oxbow lake. Some other notable features include: a mixed Mesophytic hardwood bluff (great for spring wildflowers); a beech, magnolia and spruce pine hammock – a possibly unique plant association; upland oak-hickory forest; bottomland hardwoods forest (including many acres along Cattle Creek); freshwater marsh; and a low-water limestone outcrop. There is a major long-term longleaf pine and native grass restoration project in progress in an old field area across Wire Road, and members have begun to make improvements to the trail system (and hope to add new trails in the future). (Above information from www.CharlestonAudubon.org) Our planning trip showed McAlhany to be a beautiful property with lots of interesting things to see. The attached map and directions show how to get there. There is a gate with a small sign. Turn into the gate and follow the road down to the cabin and we will meet there at 10:30 a.m. If you have any questions or problems you can call Johnny Hardaway at 803-318-1559 (my cell phone).

DIRECTIONS TO McALHANY NATURE PRESERVE

Dorchester County, South Carolina

N 33° 9' 2.9" W 80° 41' 43.3" WGS 84 (NAD 83)

From Charleston - Hwy 61:

Take SC 61 northwest out of Charleston for approx. 45 miles to Canadys.

Turn right onto US 15 going north for 3.8 miles to Grover.

Turn left onto Wire Road S-18-19 (at Stop N Shop store).

Go 6.6 mi. to small bridge over Cattle Creek.

Small, orange "posted" signs along sides of Wire Road indicate McAlhany Preserve. From Cattle Creek Bridge, entrance drive to lake, river, and cabin area is 0.4 mi. on left, between wooden columns. Set back from the road is large, green sign "McAlhany Sanctuary," near gate.

From Charleston - I-26:

Take I-26 west for approx. 30 mi. to Ridgeville SC Rd 27 at Exit 187.

Turn left onto SC 27.

Go south on SC 27 for 1 mi. to US 78.

Turn right onto US 78, go 17 mi. to St. George.

Turn left onto US 15, go south on US 15 for 10 mi. to Grover.

Turn right onto Wire Road S-18-19 (at Shop N Stop store).

Go 6.6 mi. to small bridge over Cattle Creek.

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Alternate/Direct/Backroads from St. George:

Beginning at center of St. George, SC, intersection of US 78 and US 15.

Go west on US 78 for 0.6 mi. (on right see Radio Shack, on left see red brick wall and cemetery).

Turn left onto Mett St., S-18-26. Go 2.3 mi.

Turn right onto Friendship Rd., S-18-26 and go 0.3 mi. (passing under I-95).

Turn left onto Cowtail Rd., S-18-26. Go 1.0 mi.

Turn right onto Maple Branch Rd., S-18-26. Go 3.9 mi. to "T" at Wire Rd.

Turn right onto Wire Rd., S-18-19. Go 0.4 mi. to small bridge over Cattle Creek.

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From Bamberg:

Take 78 SE to SC Rd. 61.

Continue SE on 61 for approx. 6.5 mi. to Whetstone Crossroads, intersection of 61 and US 21.

Turn left onto US 21 going north, cross Edisto River and go approx. 2 mi.

Turn right onto Wire Rd S-38-204 (becomes S-18-19 in Dorchester Co.) and go 7.1 miles to McAlhany Preserve.

The Preserve is one mile past Beulah Church. The property is on both sides of road. Small, orange "posted" signs are along both sides of the road.

Property is on both sides of road. Orange "posted" signs are along right-of-way.

If you cross the small Cattle Creek Bridge you've exited the property.

Entrance drive to lake, river, and cabin area is on the right between wooden columns. Set back from the road is large, green sign "McAlhany Sanctuary," near gate.

From Orangeburg:

Take US 21 south for approx. 16 mi. to Branchville.

Continue on US 21 past Branchville for 3.3 mi. and turn left onto Wire Road S-38-204. (If you cross the Edisto River you've gone too far.)

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From Walterboro:

Take US 15 north for. 13.8 mi. to Grover.

Turn left onto Wire Road S-18-19 (at Shop N Stop store).

Go 6.6 mi. and cross small bridge over Cattle Creek .

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From Columbia:

Take I-26 east for approx. 35 mi. to US 601, Exit 145.

Take US 601 into Orangeburg (approx. 5 mi.). Note- US 601 joins with US 21.

Go through Orangeburg and continue south on US 21 for approx. 16 mi. to Branchville.

Continue on US 21 past Branchville for 3.3 mi. and turn left onto Wire Road S-38-204. (If you cross the Edisto River you've gone too far.)

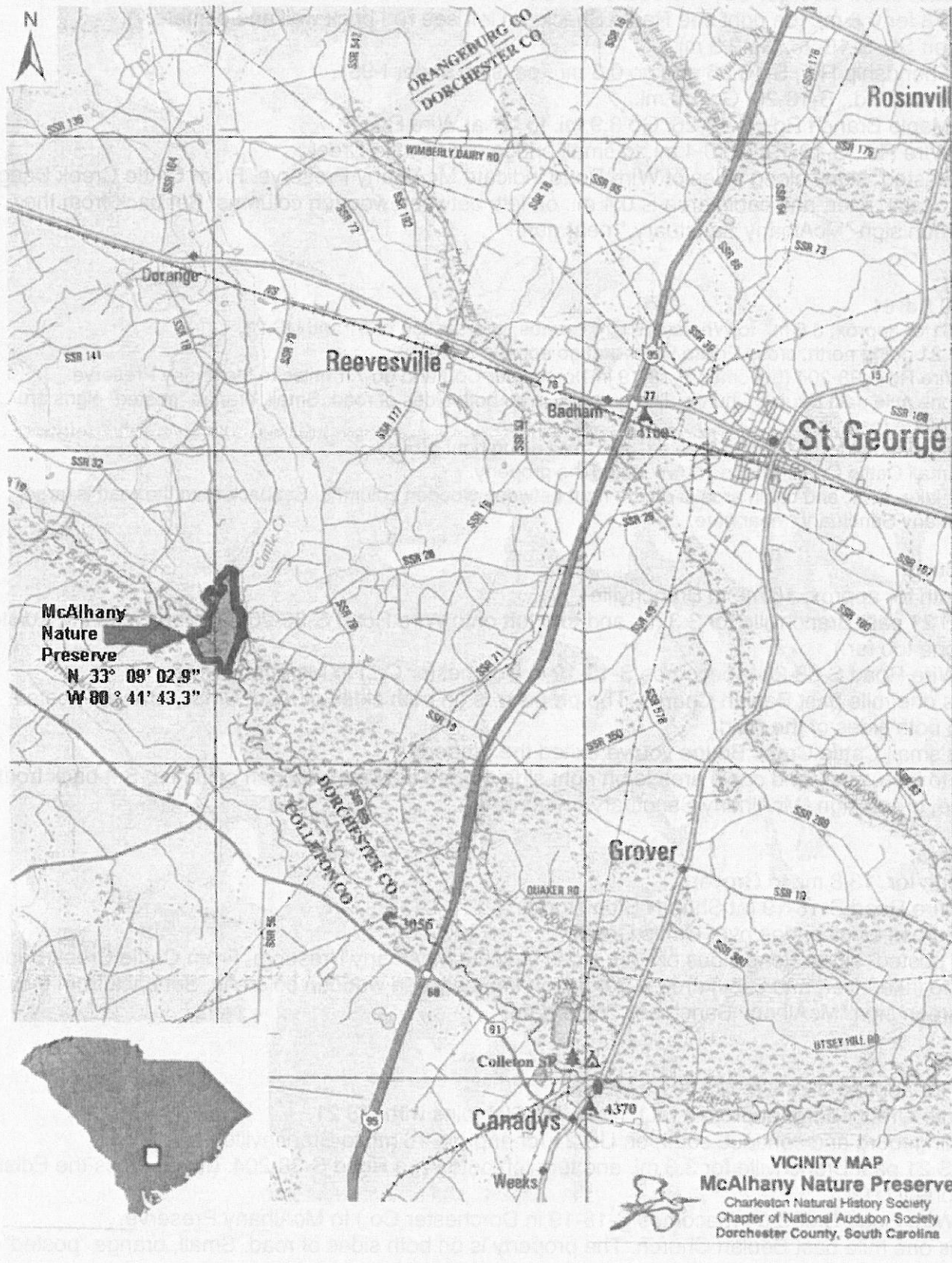
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Vicinity Map of McAlhany Nature Preserve



Google Map of McAlhany Nature Preserve



Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Control Conference / Silent Auction Items, Sudie Daves
Be sure to mark on your calendar the 11th annual Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council conference to be held in Georgetown, SC, **May 13-15 2009**. We are currently accepting abstracts for platform and poster presentations. More details about the conference are posted on the SC-EPPC and SE-EPPC website: <http://www.se-eppc.org/2009/s>

Since everyone is probably a native plant enthusiast and dislikes exotic invasive plants, **I am asking you for assistance in finding Silent Auction items** for the upcoming Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Symposium. We will have a silent auction to raise money in order to help pay for the symposium and to help SC EPPC with our goals of exotic plant education, data collection, and eradication.

Please contact me if you have any items to donate or if you have auction item ideas on which I could pursue. Item ideas include art, books, native plants, garden or plant removal tools, field trips, etc. Thanks so much for any donations or ideas!
sudie.daves@sc.usda.gov, cell 803-664-0806

Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Control Conference – Presentations, Sudie Daves Conference Title: Creating Sustainable Landscapes for the Future

This conference will be held from May 13 – 15, 2009 in Georgetown, SC.

Presentations are being accepted until January 16, 2009. Featured topics include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Current Research in Invasive Plant Control and Restoration,
- (2) Building Communication and Consensus among Key Players,
- (3) Screening Species for use in Biomass Production,
- (4) How to effectively work with retailers and the nursery industry to prevent the sale of invasive species,
- (5) Building Cooperative Weed and Invasive Management Areas,
- (6) Early Detection and Rapid Response Efforts.

Please send an abstract (<1 page) including title, brief description of the talk, and name of presenter via email to mmalone@tnc.org

SCAN Membership Statistics for 2008

We ended the year with 188 paid members!

Jim Cornell, A Bright New Face in SCAN, Ben Gregory

I met Jim in Charlotte about a year and a half ago. I heard he was an entomologist (i.e., coleopterist), so I was intrigued to meet him. Based on his directions, I would see his house when I found a large aircraft rocket in his front yard. Wow, I thought, this is too good to be true – sounds eccentric and interesting! Sure enough, a large aircraft rocket lay in Jim's front yard. When I spied the rocket (actually an aircraft sensor pod), I thought, this guy's going to be really neat and he's bound to have a fabulous collection, or collections. Both of these thoughts soon became realizations. Jim told me that the rocket was a holdover from a time when he sold unique metals.

As I entered his living room I was stunned to see the mounted heads of several of the largest antelopes found in Africa, as well as an enormous Cape Buffalo. Jim had purchased these artifacts at an estate sale. Other collectible artifacts of nature were strewn around his living room in display boxes in a manner akin to a nature museum. I felt like a kid in a candy shop. I already knew I hit pay dirt by finding another naturalist, and I had yet to see his insect collection.

After we talked for awhile, he showed me to his library. The library was one enormous room, probably about 15 ft x 25 ft, with 12ft ceilings. Shelves ran from the floor to the ceiling. I had never seen a larger private library. At this point in my tour I was giddy – sort of like a kid that was almost alone in a candy shop.

Next we walked upstairs and promptly confronted a massive insect collection. Museum quality insect storage-cabinets were against every possible wall and in every cranny – all filled with beetles. Beetles were everywhere, simply everywhere – they were in the cabinets, outside the cabinets in drawers with glass tops, in wooden boxes, in Riker mounts, in jars, in bags, in Berlese funnels – on the floor, against the walls, ceilings – just everywhere! Darwin would have been proud – no ecstatic!

I found a slice of heaven that day. It had been over 15 years since I had spent the day with another PhD entomologist exploring an insect collection. Jim received his PhD from Oregon State University, and is currently retired. His current area of expertise is with the family Staphylindae. He has a few people in South America and Africa that collect beetles for him.

SCAN is fortunate to have three excellent coleopterist in our group: Jan Ciegler, Phil Harpootlian, and Jim Cornell.