



# SCAN

The South Carolina Association of Naturalists

Post Office Box 5651, Columbia, South Carolina 29250-5651

March 3, 2001

Dear SCAN Members,

We had a somewhat chilly but satisfying day for our February trip to Huntington Beach State Park. We explored several different trails and made use of our spotting scopes at some of the observation platforms. The crowd was somewhat small, but over the course of the day we ran into several fellow SCAN members who had come out to participate in the park's birding festival.

For the most part the shorebirds seemed to be in hiding, but we did get wonderful views of some ducks; Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, and Widgeon. A few hardy lizards were observed, and alligators were sunning themselves in spite of the cool temperatures. Some of us were amused to observe a small flock of peeps and Yellowlegs probing the mud all around a large gator, even appearing at one point to stand on its back! Apparently they are aware that the alligators won't begin feeding until the weather warms up a little more.

Some of us spent the whole weekend in the area, and we wished we could count all the birds we saw on Friday and Sunday on our SCAN list! Some of the birds NOT seen by SCAN included Bald Eagles, Piping Plovers, Great Cormorants, and Red-throated Loons. This park is truly the premier site for winter bird-watching in South Carolina, and it also offers a rare opportunity to observe intact sea dune vegetation as well as other maritime plant communities.

## PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL: APRIL 7 40-ACRE ROCK, FLAT CREEK HERITAGE PRESERVE, LANCASTER COUNTY

I am pleased to reinstate the SCAN tradition of the President's Special, and what better way to use it than a visit to one of our favorite haunts just at the peak of the spring flowering season? On this trip, we will start at the top of the Rock, checking out the vernal pools with their unique plant communities. If you have time to stay and make a day of it, plan to explore some of the other parts of the Heritage Preserve, including the beaver pond, waterfall, Piedmont creek floodplain, and wild-flower covered slopes.

### Directions to 40 Acre Rock (Flat Creek Heritage Preserve)

From Camden, take US 601 north through Kershaw (nearest Hardee's). Watch for SC 903 joining on the left (601 has the yield sign). From there it is approximately 1.5 miles to SR 29-27 just after you cross Flat Creek. Turn left and go approximately 2 miles to Conservancy Road, on your left. Follow the road until it is gated, and park on the left side perpendicular to the road. We will walk about 1/4 mile down the gated road to the head of the rock. This is not the same parking area SCAN used to go to the beaver pond.

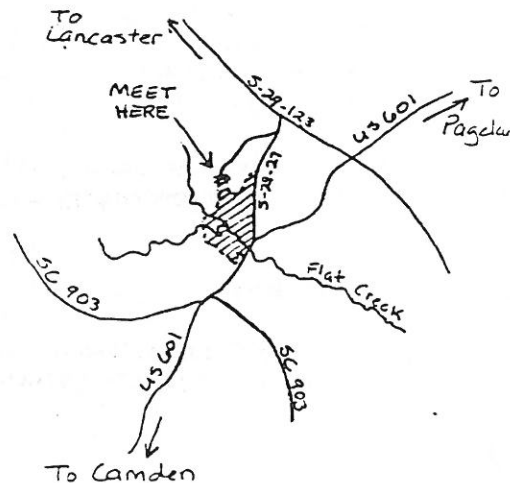
From Columbia, take I-20 to Exit 92 for Camden/Lugoff and follow US 601 across the Wateree River then turn left onto the 601 truck route north.

There are no restrooms (It's a heritage preserve). We can either carry lunch or do the top of the rock and then lunch at cars and go down to the lower parking lot for afternoon.

The dark rocks that are exposed by the road cut on 601 as you descend toward Flat Creek are part of the largest diabase dike in eastern United States. This is known as the Flat Creek Dike or the Great Dike and continues on into North Carolina. In places it is 1000 feet across.

Your President,

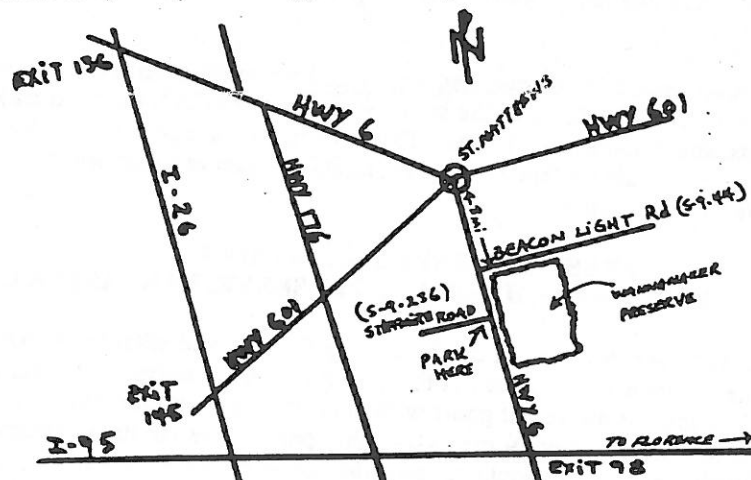
Mary G. Douglass



Our March trip will be the first to Wannamaker Nature Preserve, which is owned by the Charleston County History Society, a chapter of the Audubon Society. The 400+ acres are composed of old fields, upland forests, steep ravines, streams and their floodplains. There is a north facing bluff on which we expect to find spring wildflowers and mountain laurel. The bold Lyons Creek crosses the tract and seepage areas should house insects, salamanders and frogs.

**Details:** There is no direct vehicle access to Wannamaker and we will need to park across from the preserve on Stiffmire Road at the intersection with Old Highway Six (SC #6). Wear comfortable walking/hiking shoes or boots if you plan to walk in the wet areas. There are no developed trails in the preserve but there are overgrown logging roads. The closest toilet facilities are at Hardees in St Matthews four miles away. Bring water, lunch and snacks.

**Directions:** From Columbia: East on I-26, take the 136 exit (SC Hwy #6) to St Matthews. After crossing US Hwy #601 continue on Hwy #6 for three miles; reserve begins at county road S-9-44 (Beacon Light Road) on left, continue one mile to next paved road on right, Stiffmire Road, for parking.  
From Charleston: West on I-26, take the 145 exit (Hwy 601) to St Matthews and turn right on Hwy #6.  
From I-95: At Exit 98, take Hwy #6 North for appx. 16 miles, look for historical marker on left, Stiffmire is the next road.



### *Additional News...*

#### South Carolina Native Plant Society

The South Carolina Native Plant Society will be holding their annual symposium April 6 - April 8 in Columbia, S.C. The keynote speaker for the event is noted author Wilma Dykeman. Ms. Dykeman's address is entitled "A Sense of Place" and will be held at Lumpkin Auditorium on the USC campus on April 6.

A series of lectures and workshops will be offered on April 7 at Riverbanks Zoo. Topics include carnivorous plants, bog gardens, native ferns, xeriscaping, medicinal plants and native orchids. A presentation by Native American storyteller Freeman Owle entitled "Learning to be Quiet" will provide a unique perspective on native plants. Authors Dr. Richard Porcher and Dr. Doug Rayner will also be available to discuss their upcoming book "Wildflowers in South Carolina".

A plant sale "Selections from Rekha's Garden" will be held during the symposium. Noted gardening author Rekha Morris will be available to discuss ideas for using many of her favorite plants that she has included in her own garden.

More information can be found at the website  
<http://www.meerkat-computing.com/scnpssymposium.html> or by contacting Kathy Kegley at [kat@meerkat-computing.com](mailto:kat@meerkat-computing.com)

#### Plant Presses - Alex Ciegler

Alex has four plant presses to give away. Recipients may have from one to four of these units. Included are the absorbent pads that go with them. Contact Alex via phone or e-mail or see him on a SCAN trip!

Huntington Beach State Park  
Horry County, SC  
February 24, 2001

Flora

Dead Man's Fingers Seaweed  
Codium sp.  
Ebony Spleenwort  
Asplenium platyneuron  
Slash Pine  
Pinus ellioti  
Southern Red-cedar  
Juniperus silicicola  
Common Cat-tail  
Typha latifolia  
Sea Oats  
Uniola paniculata  
Cord Grass  
Spartina patens  
Smooth Cord Grass  
Spartina alterniflora  
Sandbur, Sandspurs  
Cenchrus sp.  
Broomsedge  
Andropogon virginicus  
Cabbage Palmetto  
Sabal palmetto  
Spanish-moss  
Tillandsia usneoides  
Soft Rush  
Juncus effusus  
Black Needle Rush  
Juncus roemerianus  
Fringed Greenbrier  
Smilax bona-nox  
Bamboo Smilax  
Smilax laurifolia  
Sweet-scented Smilax  
Smilax smallii  
Spanish-bayonet  
Yucca aloifolia  
Mound-lily Yucca  
Yucca gloriosa  
Willow  
Salix sp.

Wax-myrtle; Southern Bayberry  
Myrica cerifera  
Live Oak  
Quercus virginiana  
American Elm  
Ulmus americana  
Hackberry  
Celtis occidentalis  
Redbay  
Persea borbonia  
American Sycamore  
Platanus occidentalis  
Carolina Cherrylaurel  
Prunus caroliniana  
Black Medic  
Medicago lupulina  
Cranesbill  
Geranium carolinianum  
Hercules'-club  
Zanthoxylum clava-herculis  
Silverleaf Croton  
Croton punctatus  
Poison-ivy  
Rhus radicans  
American Holly  
Ilex opaca  
Yaupon  
Ilex vomitoria  
Possumhaw Holly  
Ilex decidua  
St.-Andrew's-cross  
Hypericum hypericoides  
Devil-joint  
Opuntia drummondii  
Dune Pennywort  
Hydrocotyle bonariensis  
Chinese Privet  
Ligustrum sinense  
Beautyberry  
Callicarpa americana  
Woolly Mullein  
Verbascum thapsus  
Trumpet Vine  
Campsis radicans  
Bedstraw  
Galium sp.

Japanese Honeysuckle  
Lonicera japonica  
Common Dandelion  
Taraxacum officinale  
Sea-myrtle; Groundsel-tree  
Baccharis halimifolia  
Sea Ox-eye  
Borrichia frutescens

Fauna

Sea-whip  
Leptogorgia virgulata  
Marsh Periwinkle; Mud Snail  
Littorina irrorata  
Common Slipper (snail)  
Crepidula fornicata  
Eastern Mud Snail  
Ilyanassa obsoleta  
Knobbed Whelk  
Busycon carica  
Eastern Oyster  
Crassostrea virginica  
Giant Atlantic Cockle  
Dinocardium robustum  
Channeled Duck Clam  
Raeta plicatella  
Atlantic Razor Clam  
Ensis directus  
Florida Coquina  
Donax variabilis  
Red Imported Fire Ant  
Solenopsis invicta  
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle  
Coccinella septempunctata  
Southern Flannel Moth (cocoon)  
Megalopyge opercularis  
Polyphemus Moth  
Antheraea polyphemus  
American Alligator  
Alligator mississippiensis  
Carolina Anole  
Anolis carolinensis  
Ground Skink  
Scincella lateralis

Pied-billed Grebe  
Podilymbus podiceps  
Brown Pelican  
Pelecanus occidentalis  
Double-crested Cormora  
Phalacrocorax auritus  
Tricolored Heron  
Egretta tricolor  
Snowy Egret  
Egretta thula  
Great Egret  
Casmerodius albus  
Great Blue Heron  
Ardea herodias  
White Ibis  
Eudocimus albus  
Gadwall  
Anas strepera  
Green-winged Teal  
Anas crecca  
American Wigeon  
Anas americana  
American Coot  
Fulica americana  
Black-bellied Plover  
Pluvialis squatarola  
Short-billed Dowitcher  
Limnodromus griseus  
Sanderling  
Calidris alba  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Larus philadelphia  
Ring-billed Gull  
Larus delawarensis  
Herring Gull  
Larus argentatus  
Turkey Vulture  
Cathartes aura  
Northern Harrier  
Circus cyaneus  
Belted Kingfisher  
Ceryle alcyon  
Carolina Chickadee  
Parus carolinensis  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Regulus calendula

Gray Catbird  
Dumetella carolinensis  
Northern Mockingbird  
Mimus polyglottos  
Cedar Waxwing  
Bombycilla cedrorum  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Dendroica coronata  
Northern Cardinal  
Cardinalis cardinalis  
Boat-tailed Grackle  
Quiscalus major  
Raccoon (tracks)  
Procyon lotor  
White-tailed Deer (tracks)  
Odocoileus virginianus  
Ark  
Anadara sp.  
Quahog Clam  
Mercenaria sp.