



SCAN *South Carolina Association of Naturalists*

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

September 2013

Greetings everyone,

Ah it was blueberry season and all who had heard about this year's berry abundance were there with their buckets. As we drove down the forest service road Tom and Mary were coming our way, pulling over and parking. They explained how there was no parking at the meeting location so we parked behind them. Walking to the trailhead we were passed by cars, vans and buses. Most of the crowd was there to pick berries and stayed close to their cars.

Attending were Jan Ciegler, Paul Kalbach, Kim Frampton McManus, Tom Jones, Mary Douglass, Gordon Murphy, Phil Harpootlian, Greg Ross, Jim Boylston, Kate Hartley, Pat and Jerry Bright.

Tom and Mary spent 5 hours on the loop the Thursday before our outing so that they could show us around and not be so busy botanizing. As you may know they recently moved into Asheville to enjoy this wonderful, diverse habitat.

Our route covered about 3 miles through fields, heath thickets, streams and bogs. With elevations between 5400 ft and 5800 ft we were over a mile high with all of the summer benefits of cool weather and no biting bugs.

We dined in a private room at the Pisgah Fish Camp in Pisgah Forest. I must say they have some of the best onion rings I have ever had including the rings we had at Buckshots in McClellanville. We really need to have another SCAN outing in this area.

Over supper Kim asked each person around the table what was the highlight of their day. Below are some of the answers:

- Multitudes of butterflies on thistles.
- Greg remembering his trip to Pisgah with his daughter. He even showed us a photo on his phone.
- "Buff" the topless muscle guy.
- Wild haired, barefoot, stoned guy with shovel used for bathroom needs. (Why can't I get photos of these outdoor icons?)
- Coming out of the woods at the base of Sam Knob and observing the wonderment of a vast field of wildflowers and mountain peaks.
- Liatris in the above mentioned field.
- For me (Jerry) it was the *Angelica triquinata* in bloom with the multitude of pollinators slurping up the intoxicating nectar. Greg Ross, sensing their stupor reached out and stroked one of the intoxicated hornets. According to Weakley's Flora

"The nectar is very attractive, but apparently strongly intoxicating, to yellow jackets and hornets; on the grassy balds of Roan Mountain one can see thousands of umbels of *Angelica* densely coated by lethargic bees." For more information and photos visit the "Name That Plant" site

<http://www.namethatplant.net/plantdetail.shtml?plant=98>





Pat caught this image of the *Hemaris thysbe* (Hummingbird Clearwing Moth) on a *Liatris spicata* (Blazing star). These interesting moths are often mistaken for hummingbirds. According to some Internet sources the 5 gram moth has 2 broods, migrate, have a courtship that involves pheromones, love songs and aerobic flight.

See more great photos from our August outing here:

Kim McManus and Mary Douglas posted some excellent photos at SCAN Facebook page.

For those who don't do Facebook, Kim McManus posted her photos at:

<http://mcfampus.smugmug.com/Birding/Flat-Laurel-Creek-Trail/Flat-Laurel-Creek-Trail-2013/n-p3JmX>

Paul Kalbach posted his photos at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/pkalbach/sets/72157635236628174/>

Sandy Island

Our October trip to Sandy Island needs your response. The cost is \$35 per person. Please send Kim your reservation check ASAP so there can be an accurate head count. The following is a reprint of Kim's report:

I stumbled upon a great opportunity to participate in the inaugural trip of the Island Cat ferry from the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge over to Sandy Island Wildlife Management Area on July 6. This is the proposed trip for our October outing, so I thought I'd better take advantage of it! Unfortunately, it came up so quickly that Paul was unable to rearrange his schedule to go with me.

I was in the midst of communicating with Colette Degarady of the Nature Conservancy and Chris with Coastal Expeditions when I discovered the trip was just around the corner. Chris was kind enough to put me on the waiting list Tuesday for the Saturday sold out trip. He called me on Friday to tell me there was a spot open. I took it!

Coastal Expeditions' Island Cat is a large pontoon boat with 4 rows of bench seating. There are plastic covers that can be lowered over the open windows in case of inclement weather, but in general it's an open air boat with a roof. We chugged our way up the river (can't remember exactly which one!), with the naturalist pointing out assorted wildlife, manmade landmarks, and natural features. It took about 45 minutes to get to the island. Once there, they extended a ramp from the front of the boat to the island and we disembarked.

We landed at the ferry landing in Bull Creek, then took the blue loop trail. It took us a full 2 hours 45 minutes at slightly faster than SCAN pace to cover the 2.5 mile trail. We went through longleaf pine habitat and then down into more deciduous wetlands, with a few tulepos thrown in. At no point did we see sandy beach or marsh. Apparently that's on the other side of the island, away from the Nature Conservancy trails.

We took a different route back to the Waccamaw NWR headquarters and were treated to a fabulous swallow-tail kite show with two kites showing off their acrobatics over the river. Back at the headquarters, I took a few minutes to walk through their small display that talked about the area and the wildlife contained therein.

Two interesting facts about Sandy Island: it's a random sandy island in the middle of swampland and it's the highest point in Georgetown County.

I put the few photos I took in this album:

http://mcframpus.smugmug.com/Birding/Sandy-Island-WMA/Sandy-Island-WMA-July-2013/30459408_CcVt5w

Coastal Expeditions will pick us up at the Waccamaw headquarters at 10:30am. We'll arrive at the island around 11:15. We'll have until 3:45 to explore. They'll get us back to the headquarters building around 4:30. The cost is \$35 per person, with a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 32.

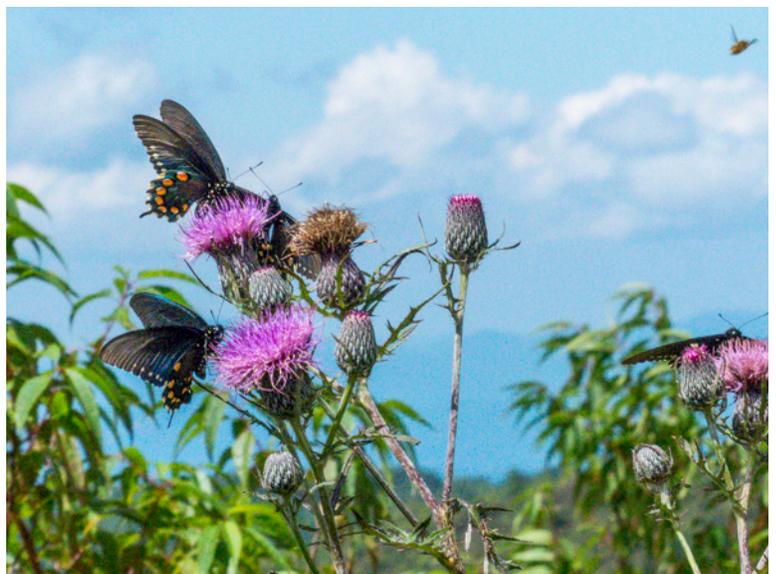
Make your reservation by sending Kim a **check made out to SCAN for \$35**. Mail to:

Kim McManus
1240 Greenfield Place
Hanahan, SC 29410



Kim snaps a photo of the Rusty Tussock Moth. See photo on her web page.

Pat took this photo of the thistle covered with Pipevine Swallowtails. There is still room for the intruder coming in from the upper right.

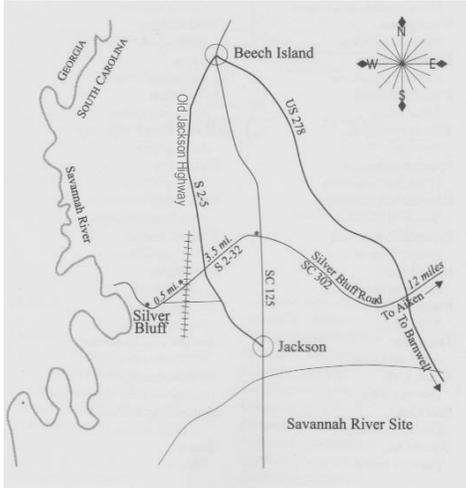


September 28, 2013 Silver Bluff Audubon Center & Sanctuary



Directions to Silver Bluff Audubon Center & Sanctuary

GPS Coordinates: N 33.32471 | W-81.84617



From Aiken: Drive south on Silver Bluff Road (route 302) you will cross Williston Road (route 278) at Petticoat Junction and Atomic Road (route 125). After crossing Atomic Road, continue straight 1.8 miles, to a stop sign. Go straight, crossing over Old Jackson Highway. After 1.1 miles you will cross a set of RR tracks. After crossing railroad tracks continue for 1/2 mile to where Silver Bluff Road turns right. After turning, The Stork Ponds (fenced but not visible from the road) and a red roofed building will be on your left. As you drive past the building, the paved road changes to an unpaved but well-graded sand/clay surface. Continue on the sand/clay road for about 1 mile to the Education Campus parking area.

Meet at 10:30

Meet at the parking area near the Tanager trail and Education Campus.

What to wear. What to Bring.

Insect repellent, trail lunch/snacks, water. If you plan to spend some time at the Stork Ponds and you don't like full sun exposure, bring a wide-brimmed hat, an umbrella for making shade, a long-sleeved lightweight shirt and/or sunscreen.

Other Considerations

The Education Campus has restrooms and picnic tables.

Where we'll eat afterwards

Dukes Bar-B-Que
4248 Whiskey Road
Aiken, SC 29803
(803) 649-PORK (7675)

Directions to Dukes Bar-B-Que

Leave Audubon property and drive north on Silver Bluff Road approx 7.5 miles to Williston Road (route 278). Turn right and drive 6.2 miles to route 19. Turn left and drive 5 miles to Dukes on the right.



Q. It's September, and the SCAN schedule shows that SCAN will be going to the Long Branch Bay Heritage Preserve. So why does this document show SCAN at Silver Bluff Audubon Center & Sanctuary in September?

A. When we looked online for information concerning this Heritage Preserve, a message from the SCDNR read, "This Heritage Preserve is only available for visitation by Guided Tour." There was a contact name and number. So, we called the number and found out that large areas of the Heritage Preserve are being restored, and had recently been clear-cut and treated with herbicides. We were advised that another location would probably be more enjoyable. So we decided on **Silver Bluff Audubon Center & Sanctuary**.

We hope you enjoy it as much as we did.

Marsha & Bob Hamlin
Western Regional Directors

Silver Bluff Audubon Center & Sanctuary

This wildlife sanctuary, situated along 2.4 miles of the Savannah River includes upland pine forest, hardwood bottomlands, fields, lakes and streams in an area that covers more than 3,000 acres. In the 1700s, it was the site of a home, a major trading center, a large plantation and a center for Indian diplomacy. In 1776 William Bartram, often referred to as America's first native-born naturalist, visited the site. Later, during the revolutionary war, it was occupied by the British and referred to as Fort Dreadnought.

After the war, and for most of the twentieth century, the land lay unoccupied and dormant. The wealth of history associated with the area prompted a dig by the Savannah River Archaeology Research Program. In 1975 the land was acquired by Audubon.

If you want to see things with wings, and you live in South Carolina, a center with Audubon in its name would seem to be high on the list of places to go. Of course, there are birds here; the sanctuary is primarily set up for research, and to provide a feeding area for Wood Storks (a federally endangered species) which are present in large numbers in late summer. The wide variety of habitats contained within Silver Bluff offers spectacular wildlife viewing opportunities and the site boasts a checklist with over 200 bird species.

There are dragonflies, damselflies, butterflies and moths. When we were there at the end of June, we saw more than a dozen species of the former two and close to a dozen species of the butterflies and moths.

If you like wings on furry things, you'll like that Silver Bluff is doing its part to boost the numbers of *Corynorhinus rafinesquii* (Big-eared bats), an endangered species in South Carolina. The bats were roosting in several barely standing, wood-frame tenant homes from the share-cropping days. In 2011 Silver Bluff teamed with the SCDNR to construct a "bat tower" to offer permanent housing to the bats. That year, one bat took up residence in the bat tower. By the end of 2012, 42 of the endangered bats were using the tower.

If the botanists in the group are looking for things with wings, Clemson has you covered. In 2011 they completed a multi-year project to collect, identify and document the vascular flora of the Silver Bluff Audubon Center and Sanctuary. They identified over 500 plants. Among them are Winged Elm, Winged Sumac, Hartwing Sorrel, and Atlantic pigeonwings.

Useful Information

Jerry Bright's cell phone: 803-445-9882

Marsha & Bob Hamlin's cell phone 706-836-1296

Silver Bluff Audubon Center & Sanctuary
4542 Silver Bluff Road
Jackson, SC 29831

Flat Laurel Creek Trail, Pisgah National Forest
Transylvania Co., NC
August 24, 2013

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

Common Ground-pine

Dendrolycopodium obscurum

Common Running-cedar

Diphasiastrum digitatum

Foxtail Clubmoss

Lycopodiella alopecuroides

Northern Bog Clubmoss

Lycopodiella inundata

Running Clubmoss

Lycopodium clavatum

Interrupted Fern

Osmunda claytoniana claytoniana

Hay-scented Fern

Dennstaedtia punctilobula

Bracken

Pteridium aquilinum

Fraser Fir

Abies fraseri

Red Spruce

Picea rubens

Velvet Grass

* *Holcus lanatus*

Bluehead-lily

Clintonia borealis

Allegheny Onion

* *Allium allegheniense*

Pink Lady's-slipper

Cypripedium acaule

Appalachian Twayblade

Listera smallii

Green Adder's-mouth

Malaxis unifolia

Small Green Wood Orchid

Platanthera clavellata

Virgin's-bower

Clematis virginiana

Yellow Birch

Betula alleghaniensis

Mountain St.-John's-wort

* *Hypericum graveolens*

Granite Dome St.-John's-wort

Hypericum buckleyi

Dwarf St.-John's-wort

Hypericum mutilum

Roundleaf Sundew

Drosera rotundifolia rotundifolia

Upland Willow

Salix humilis

Silky Willow

Salix sericea

Mountain Sweet Pepperbush

Clethra acuminata

Mountain Laurel

Kalmia latifolia

Maleberry

Lyonia ligustrina

Indian Pipes

Monotropa uniflora

Mountain Andromeda

Pieris floribunda

Carolina Rhododendron

Rhododendron carolinianum

Pink Laurel

Rhododendron catawbiense

Minniebush

* *Rhododendron pilosum*

Bearberry

Vaccinium erythrocarpum

Galax

Galax urceolata

Fringed Loosestrife

* *Lysimachia ciliata*

Smooth Hydrangea

Hydrangea arborescens

Appalachian Gooseberry

* *Ribes rotundifolium*

Cliff Saxifrage

Saxifraga michauxii

Black Chokeberry

Aronia melanocarpa

Wild Strawberry

Fragaria virginiana

Ninebark

Physocarpus opulifolius

Fire Cherry

Prunus pensylvanica

Mountain-ash

Sorbus americana

Black Locust

Robinia pseudoacacia

Aaron's-rod

* *Thermopsis villosa*

Red Clover

Trifolium pratense

Fireweed

* *Chamerion platyphyllum*

Alternate-leaf Dogwood

Cornus alternifolia

Virginia-creeper

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Sugar Maple

Acer saccharum

Mountain Maple

Acer spicatum

Spotted Touch-me-not

Impatiens capensis

Yellow Jewelweed

Impatiens pallida

Mountain Angelica

Angelica triquinata

Queen-Anne's-lace

Daucus carota

Meadow Closed Gentian

* *Gentiana clausa*

Eastern Agueweed

Gentianella quinquefolia quinquefolia

Wild Basil

* *Clinopodium vulgare*

Bergamot

Monarda fistulosa

Self-heal

Prunella vulgaris

Common Blue Curls

Trichostema dichotomum

Appalachian Turtlehead

Chelone lyonii

Indian-tobacco

Lobelia inflata

Granite Dome Bluet

* *Houstonia longifolia glabra*

Appalachian Bluet

Houstonia serpyllifolia

Smooth Bush-honeysuckle

Diervilla sessilifolia

Northern Wild Raisin

Viburnum cassinoides

Hobblebush*Viburnum lantanoides***Yarrow***Achillea millefolium***White Snakeroot***Ageratina altissima***Field Thistle*** *Cirsium discolor***Common Hairy Coreopsis*** *Coreopsis pubescens pubescens***Boneset***Eupatorium perfoliatum***Blue Ridge Heart-leaved Aster***Eurybia chlorolepis***Hollow-stem Joe-pye-weed***Eutrochium fistulosum***Appalachian Sunflower***Helianthus atrorubens***Leafy Hawkweed***Hieracium paniculatum***Mountain Dwarf-dandelion***Krigia montana***Oxeye Daisy***Leucanthemum vulgare***Blazing-star***Liatris spicata spicata***Whorled Aster*** *Oclemena acuminata***Cutleaf Coneflower***Rudbeckia laciniata***Silverrod***Solidago bicolor***Axillary Goldenrod***Solidago caesia caesia***Curtis's Goldenrod***Solidago curtisii***Goldenrod***Solidago erecta***Skunk Goldenrod***Solidago glomerata***Rough-leaved Goldenrod***Solidago rugosa***Zigzag Aster*** *Symphyotrichum prenanthoides***FAUNA****Water-strider***Gerris* sp.**Red-banded Leafhopper*** *Graphocephala coccinea***Bumblebee***Bombus impatiens***Honey Bee***Apis mellifera***Syrphid Fly*** *Spilomyia fusca***Woodland Ground Beetle***Pterostichus stygicus***Winter Dark Firefly***Ellychnia corruga***Wide-necked Longhorn Beetle***Orthosoma brunneum***Pipevine Swallowtail***Battus philenor***Eastern Tiger Swallowtail***Papilio glaucus***Pearl Crescent (butterfly)***Phyciodes tharos***Red-spotted Purple (butterfly)***Limenitis arthemis astyanax***Rusty Tussock Moth*** *Orgyia antiqua***Broad-winged Hawk***Buteo platypterus***American Crow***Corvus brachyrhynchos***Common Raven***Corvus corax***Carolina Chickadee***Parus carolinensis***American Robin***Turdus migratorius***Gray Catbird***Dumetella carolinensis***Cedar Waxwing***Bombycilla cedrorum***Eastern Towhee***Pipilo erythrophthalmus***Dark-eyed Junco***Junco hyemalis***Hummingbird Clearwing Moth***Hemaris thysbe*