



SCAN *South Carolina Association of Naturalists*

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

July 2013

Hello Fellow SCANers,

Summer heat has been tough at some of our favorite places. This time the a partly cloudy sky with light breezes made for a pleasant outing in the Longleaf Pine HP. That is to say, it was pleasant if you used liberal quantities of insect repellent. The mosquitoes were large and plentiful but I had no bites. A great time was had by all.

Our leader, Gordon Murphy loves this place so much he jumped at the chance to lead the outing when Caroline indicated she might be away. However, Gordon is not the only one smitten by this place. Wayne Grooms is planning a return outing on August 10 to see the area in all of its summer glory. He plans to meet at 9:00 and finish before the heat becomes oppressive. This will be a joint outing with the SC Native Plant Society. I can imagine the Carolina Butterfly Society may also be interested in a return trip. A couple of thoughts from Wayne:

- contact a string of folks who have expressed an interest in seeing some of the really cool midsummer species of plants that should be in bloom
- have some new members blown away by such a spectacular field trip

Longleaf Pine HP was another joint outing with the Carolina Butterfly Society. Present were Caroline Eastman, Marty & Dave Kastner, Jim Boylston, Marsha & Bob Hamlim, Wayne Grooms, Bill Hamel, Matt Quattlebaum, Gordon Murphy, Kate Hartley, Kathy Boyle, Paul Kalbach, Kim McManus, Tom Jones, Jen Fill, Mary Douglas, Dennis Forsyth, Pat & Jerry Bright.

Many came along with their snake sticks hoping to find the Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*). However, Gordon wore his snake boots and fearing these excellent boots the snakes went into hiding. I am not sure this was all bad since Whit Gibbons (UGA) wrote that it is the most dangerous snake in the US. While no snakes were found it was a great day for toads.

Wildflowers were abundant and we were serenaded by a chorus of quail. All of the woodpeckers were there as you can see by the FF list, Paul Kalbach saw and heard the Red-cockaded Woodpecker *Picoides borealis*. The forest had many marked RCW trees.



American Lady - Paul Kalbach



Rattlesnake master

My favorite plant of the day was the Rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) formerly a common plant of the tall grass prairie. Native Americans used its root as an antidote for rattlesnake venom. The scientific name was given because its leaves resemble those of yuccas. Fibers of Rattlesnake Master also been found as one of the primary materials used in the ancient shoe construction of Midwestern Native Americans.

Eryngium yuccifolium is in the carrot family (*Apiaceae*) and reproduces only by seed.

Phil Harpootlian has a great trip to Watson-Cooper HP. See you there.

Jerry Bright

Sandy Island Update

Kim McManus and Paul Kalbach are planning an exciting outing to **Sandy Island** for our October outing. Kim recently had the opportunity to scout the trip. There is a trip limit so be sure and get your name in early. Contact Kim at mcframpus@gmail.com

Kim's scouting report excerpt

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

We are pencilled in on Coastal Expeditions' schedule for October 26. They 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 35 (I think...).

Watson-Cooper Heritage preserve

Greenville Co, July 27, 2013

Meet at Caesars Head SP headquarters parking lot at 10:00

Bald Rock HP, originally scheduled for this month, can be viewed on the way up or back if you wish, primarily a tourist overlook, nice views, but that's about it.

The 1707.6-acre Watson-Cooper Heritage preserve is part of the Mountain Bridge Wilderness and Recreation Area (MBWRA), intended to link the watersheds of Table Rock and Poinsett Reservoirs with an unbroken chain of undeveloped land. The Foothills trails crosses in the south, while road access is from the north. There are also several unmarked trails and abandoned logging roads providing access to other parts of the preserve (I have no info on these). In other words – hikes will be there and back affairs. I've found very little in the way of detailed info on this preserve, so bring it, if you got it.

This preserve has the only montane bog habitat in South Carolina and the only SC population of the federally threatened swamp pink (*Helonias bullata*). Montane bogs, sometimes called sphagnum bogs, upland bogs, or Southern Appalachian bogs, are distinguished from other wetland or bottomland forests in the mountains by the presence of sphagnum-dominated openings. These open areas are depressions or seepage channels in streamside flats. In addition to being dominated by a variety of species of sphagnum mosses, they have poor drainage, acidic pH, and many grasses, sedges, ferns, and broadleaf herbs. The best examples of this community have boggy openings of more than one acre, but the only good example in South Carolina has long linear openings along seepage channels. The canopy of the forested portions of this community may be sparse or heavy, and the shrub layer, as the term “forested thicket” suggests, is dense and difficult to traverse; Bamboo-vine (*Smilax laurifolia*) is often abundant at the margins of the openings and in the adjacent shrub thickets, making movement difficult anywhere but in the openings.

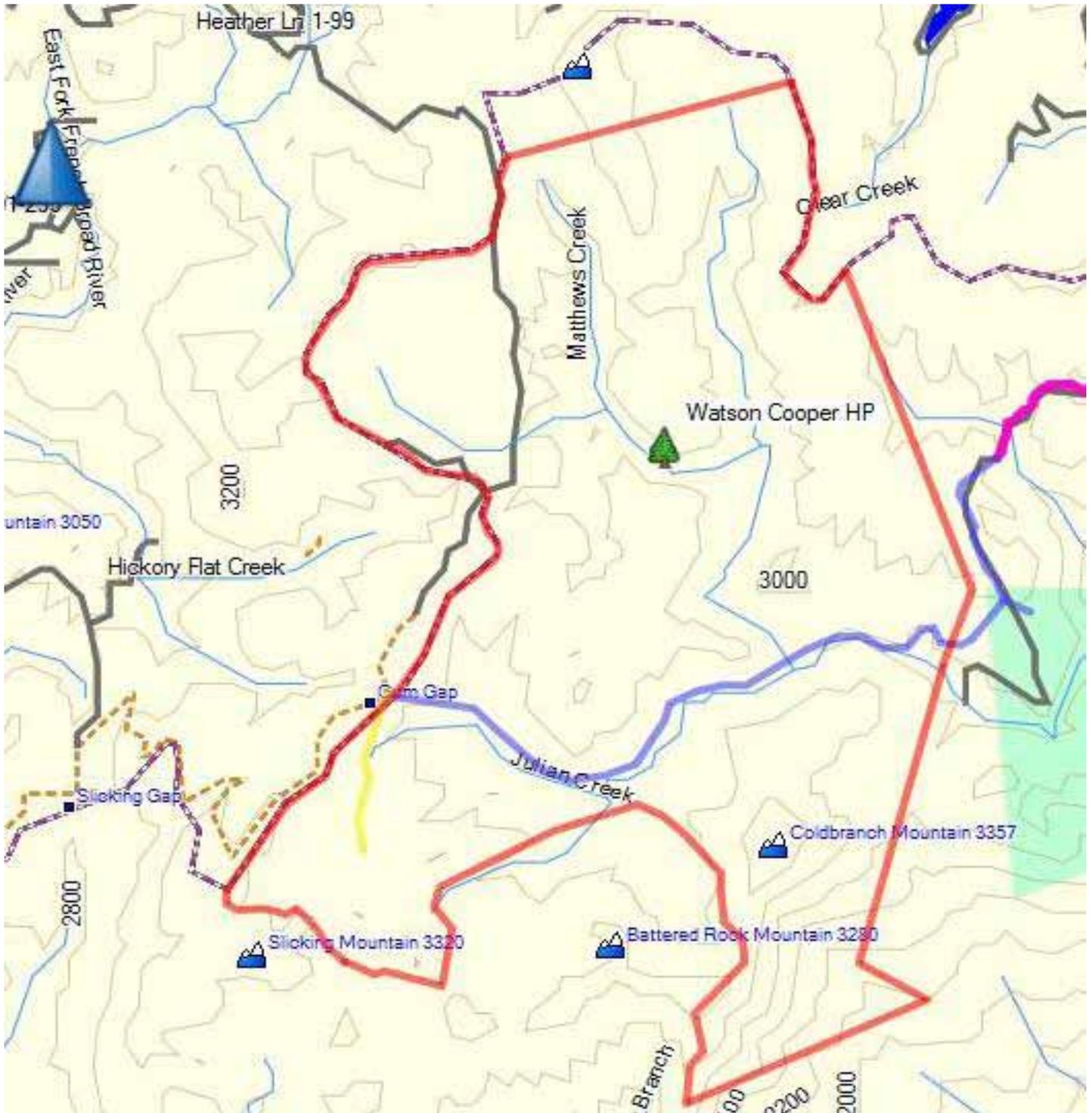
Mathews Creek Bog, is the bog described in A Guide to the Wildflowers of South Carolina and includes the rare swamp pink (*Helonias bullata*) and bog rose orchid (*Arethusa bulbosa*). Bogs are rare in the mountains because of the scarcity of flat, wet sites and because they are successional plant communities that require some sort of disturbance to maintain the early successional status of the boggy openings. In the absence of disturbance, such as periodic fire, the boggy openings become filled in by shrubs and trees, and bog plants disappear. Mathews Creek Bog was once a good example of a montane bog, but natural succession has degraded the site since 1979. The invasion of shrubs, mostly great laurel (*Rhododendron maximum*), has reduced the sphagnum-dominated areas by more than one-half. The population of swamp pink has declined and two rare orchids, Appalachian twayblade (*Listera smallii*) and bog rose orchid, have disappeared. Shrub diversity also appears to have declined, while species such as male-berry (*Lyonia ligustrina*) and clammy azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*) seem to have increased. The herb layer also has decreased in diversity, while American climbing fern (*Lygodium palmatum*), northern long sedge (*Carex folliculata*), and galax (*Galax urceolata*) appear to have increased. Although the absence of fire is the likely culprit, the exact cause of this rapid natural succession is unknown. If appropriate active management is not initiated soon, this site may not be recoverable. Now's the time to see it!

In addition to the interesting flora, the preserve is also home to uncommon fauna including the Appalachian cottontail, eastern woodrats, star-nosed moles, and black-nosed dace. Julian and Mathews Creek are two of the few mountain streams in South Carolina that have a population of brook trout, the state's only native trout species. Bottom line, there is plenty to see and discover – not to be missed! I even saw a small bear up a tree during my scouting trip.

Bring appropriate footwear if you want to go bogging. This has been a very wet year, so don't forget the bug spray.

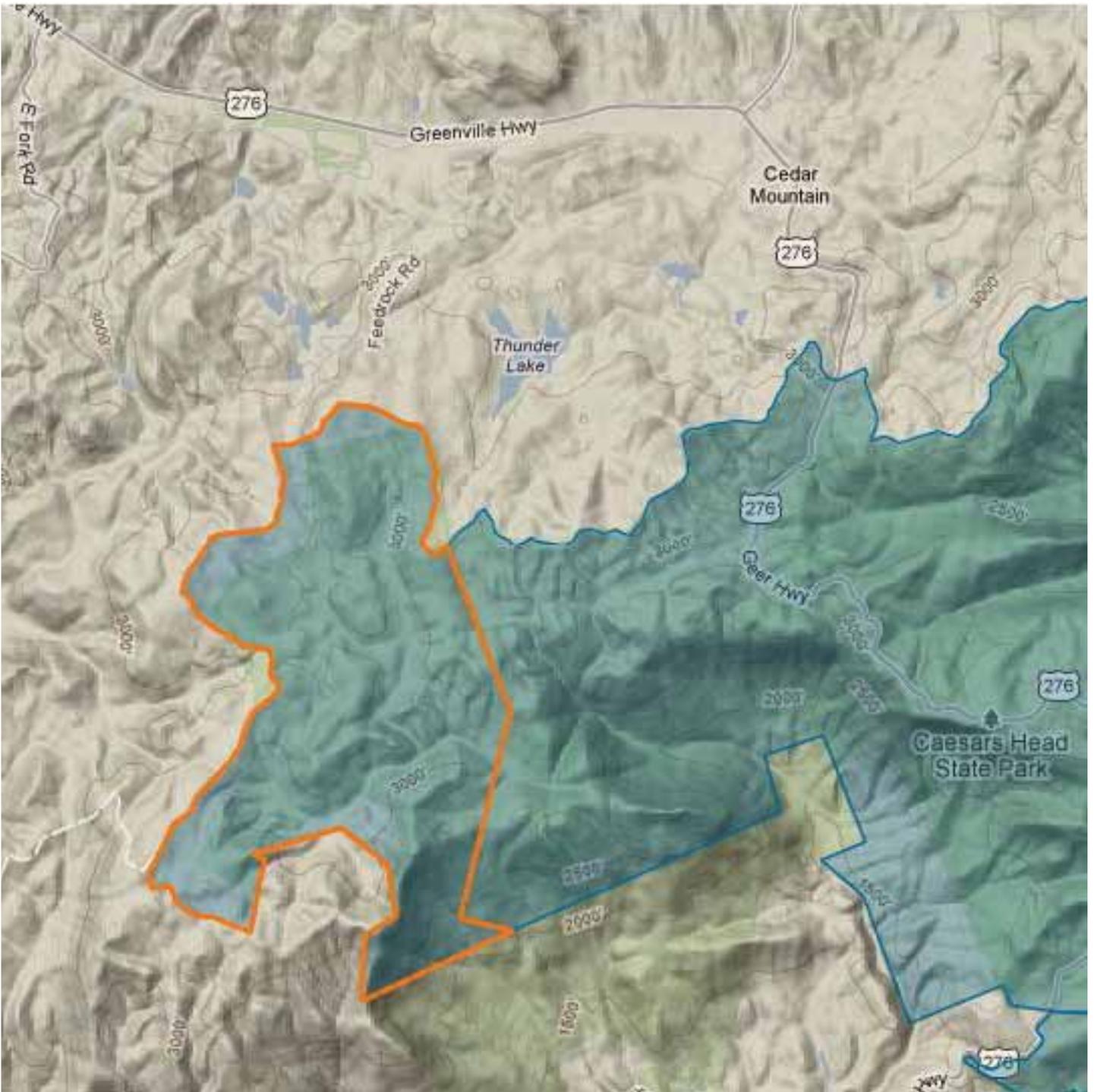
Directions: see map. It makes sense to car pool to limit the number of vehicles, especially on the last mile or so of road, and parking at Gum Gap is somewhat limited. We'll meet in the parking lot of Caesars Head SP and consolidate vehicles as required. If possible, it wouldn't hurt to car pool to the state park as well. The road in the preserve is quite good, but narrows to one lane, getting a bit rocky towards the very end. Trucks, vans and Subarus are best, but any vehicle with a reasonable clearance (no Prius's) should be fine if you go slow in spots. There is one interesting area soon after entering the preserve (Mathews Creek Bog area?), after that we'll race down to Gum Gap and go out from there – three gated trail heads, as well as the road we came in on are available for hiking. I've walked them all for a short distance - easy going.

Afterwards, we'll eat at Grammys in Cedar Mountain.



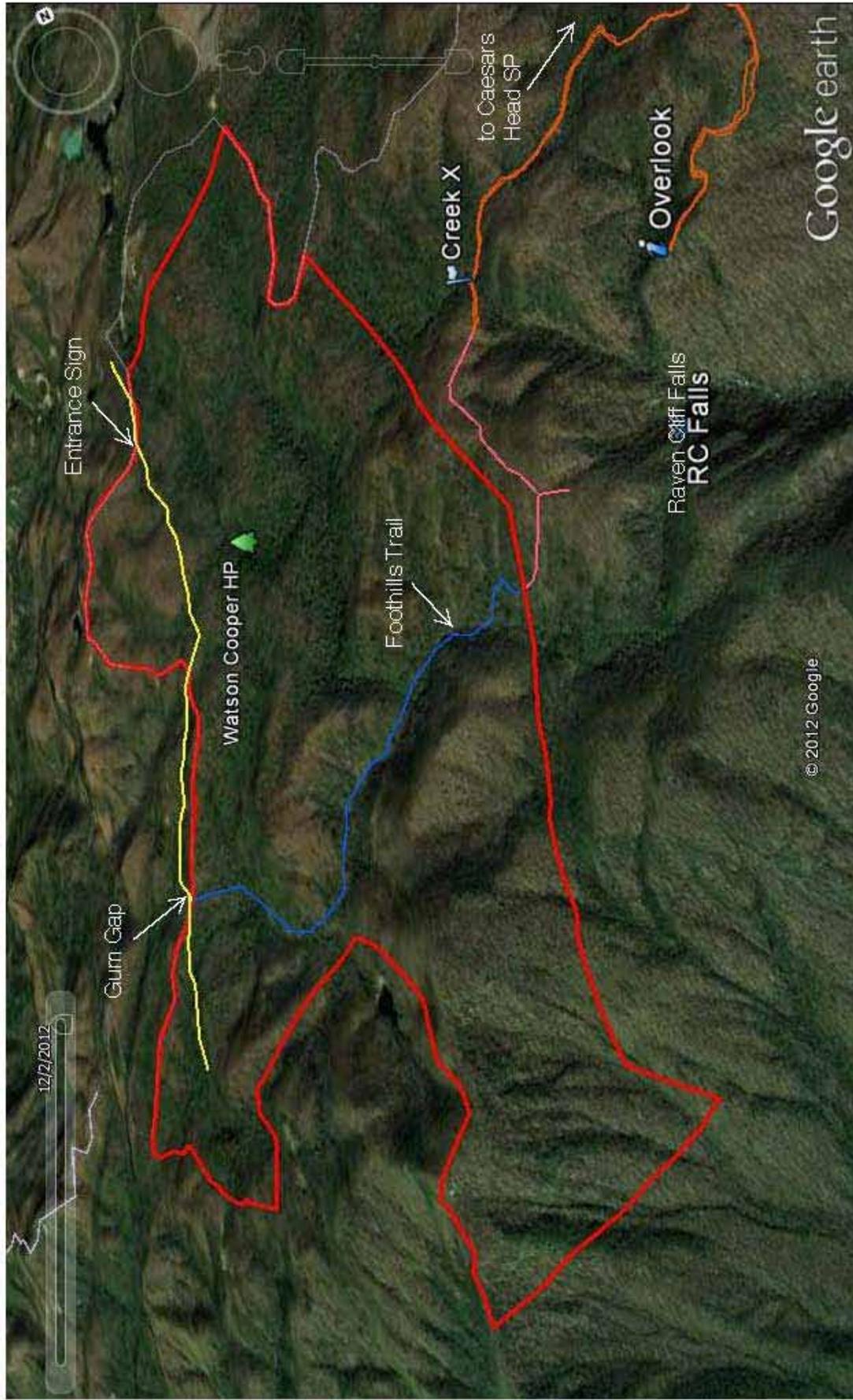
Directions to Property

Visitors can access the Watson-Cooper Heritage Preserve by taking U.S. 276 north 5 miles from the South Carolina/North Carolina state line to East Fork Road. Turn left on East Fork Road and go 1.4 miles to Happy Acres (a dirt and gravel road on the left). Turn left and follow the dirt and gravel road 1.7 miles. The road will fork with a private drive on the left and the road to the preserve on the right. The road to the right reaches the preserve boundary in 0.2 miles. This road goes along the boundary and then enters the property at a sign that says "Watson-Cooper Heritage Preserve."



Watson Cooper HP

Watson Cooper HP (from the southeast)



Longleaf Pine Heritage Preserve
Lee Co., SC
June 22, 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

Bracken

Pteridium aquilinum

Netted Chain Fern

Woodwardia areolata

Longleaf Pine

Pinus palustris

Pond Pine

Pinus serotina

Loblolly Pine

Pinus taeda

Pond-cypress

Taxodium ascendens

Common Bogbutton

Lachnocaulon anceps

Tall Nutrush

Scleria triglomerata

Gamma Grass

Tripsacum dactyloides dactyloides

Glossy-seed Stargrass

Hypoxis sessilis

Golden Colic-root

Aletris aurea

Northern White Colic-root

Aletris farinosa

Ladies'-tresses

Spiranthes sp.

Lizard's-tail

Saururus cernuus

Marsh Clematis

Clematis crispa

Sweet Gum

Liquidambar styraciflua

Common Wax-myrtle

Morella cerifera

Water Oak

Quercus nigra

Willow Oak

Quercus phellos

St.-John's-wort

Hypericum cistifolium

Arrowleaf Sida

Sida rhombifolia rhombifolia

Hooded Pitcherplant

Sarracenia minor minor

Pink Sundew

Drosera capillaris

Dwarf Upland Willow

Salix occidentalis

Ti-ti

Cyrilla racemiflora

Coastal Sweet Pepperbush

Clethra alnifolia

Maleberry

Lyonia ligustrina

Honey-cups

Zenobia pulverulenta

American Persimmon

Diospyros virginiana

Spurred Butterfly Pea

Centrosema virginianum

Butterfly Pea

Clitoria mariana mariana

Coastal Plain Rattlebox

Crotalaria purshii

Eastern Sensitive-briar

Mimosa microphylla

Sampson's-snakeroot

Orbexilum pedunculatum

Pencil-flower

Stylosanthes biflora

Goat's-rue

Tephrosia spicata

Virginia Goat's-rue

Tephrosia virginiana

American Wisteria

Wisteria frutescens

Waxweed

Cuphea carthagenensis

Savanna Seedbox

Ludwigia virgata

Smooth Meadow-beauty

Rhexia alifanus

Meadow-beauty

Rhexia mariana

Virginia-creeper

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Muscadine

Vitis rotundifolia rotundifolia

Orange Milkwort

Polygala lutea

Maryland Milkwort

Polygala mariana

Short Pinebarren Milkwort

Polygala ramosa

Red Maple

Acer rubrum

Winged Sumac

Rhus copallinum

Poison Oak

Toxicodendron pubescens

Eastern Poison Ivy

Toxicodendron radicans radicans

Rattlesnake-master

Eryngium yuccifolium

Southern Spermolepis

Spermolepis divaricata

Slender Marsh-pink

Sabatia campanulata

Four-angle Sabatia

Sabatia quadrangula

Horse-nettle

Solanum carolinense carolinense

South American Vervain

Verbena bonariensis

Savanna Mountain-mint

Pycnanthemum flexuosum

Common Skullicap

Scutellaria integrifolia

Polypremum

Polypremum procumbens

Chaffseed

Schwalbea americana

Trumpet-creeper

Campsis radicans

Inflated Bladderwort

Utricularia inflata

Lobelia

Lobelia nuttallii

Wahlenbergia

Wahlenbergia marginata

Buttonbush

Cephalanthus occidentalis

Poorjoe

Diodia teres

Buttonweed

Diodia virginiana

Silverling

Baccharis halimifolia

Savanna Coreopsis

Coreopsis linifolia

Coreopsis

Coreopsis major

Common Rough Fleabane
Erigeron strigosus strigosus

Ragged Eupatorium
Eupatorium pilosum

Common Roundleaf Eupatorium
Eupatorium rotundifolium

Bitterweed
Helenium amarum amarum

Virginia Dwarf-dandelion
Krigia virginica

Marsh Fleabane
Pluchea baccharis

White-topped Aster
Sericocarpus linifolius

Licorice Goldenrod
Solidago odora odora

American Aster
Symphyotrichum walteri

Ironweed
Vernonia acaulis

FAUNA

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Papilio glaucus

Palamedes Swallowtail
Papilio palamedes

Cloudless Sulphur
Phoebis sennae eubule

Sleepy Orange
Abaeis nicippe

Red-banded Hairstreak
Calycopis cecrops

Gray Hairstreak
Strymon melinus

Eastern Tailed-blue
Cupito comyntas

Variegated Fritillary
Euptoieta claudia

Pearl Crescent (butterfly)
Phyciodes tharos

Mourning Cloak
Nymphalis antiopa

American Lady (butterfly)
Vanessa virginiensis

Common Buckeye
Junonia coenia

Fiery Skipper
Hylephila phyleus

Southern Toad
Anaxyrus terrestris

Fowler's Toad
Anaxyrus fowleri

Squirrel Treefrog
Hyla squirella

Green Anole
Anolis carolinensis

Five-lined Skink
Plestiodon fasciatus

Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura

Black Vulture
Coragyps atratus

Mississippi Kite
Ictinia mississippiensis

Red-tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis

Northern Bobwhite
Colinus virginianus

Mourning Dove
Zenaida macroura

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Coccyzus americanus

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus

Red-headed Woodpecker
Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Northern Flicker
Colaptes auratus

Downy Woodpecker
Picoides pubescens

Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Picoides borealis

Pileated Woodpecker
Dryocopus pileatus

Eastern Kingbird
Tyrannus tyrannus

Great Crested Flycatcher
Myiarchus crinitus

Eastern Wood-pewee
Contopus virens

Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata

American Crow
Corvus brachyrhynchos

Fish Crow
Corvus ossifragus

Carolina Chickadee
Parus carolinensis

Tufted Titmouse
Baeolophus bicolor

Brown-headed Nuthatch
Sitta pusilla

Carolina Wren
Thryothorus ludovicianus

Eastern Bluebird
Sialia sialis

American Robin
Turdus migratorius

Northern Mockingbird
Mimus polyglottos

White-eyed Vireo
Vireo griseus

Red-Eyed Vireo
Vireo olivaceus

Northern Parula
Parula americana

Pine Warbler
Dendroica pinus

Common Yellowthroat
Geothlypis trichas

Yellow-breasted Chat
Icteria virens

Northern Cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis

Blue Grosbeak
Guiraca caerulea

Indigo Bunting
Passerina cyanea

Eastern Towhee
Pipilo erythrophthalmus

Bachman's Sparrow (juvenile)
Aimophila aestivalis

Field Sparrow
Spizella pusilla

Chipping Sparrow
Spizella passerina

House Finch
Cardodacus mexicanus

Eastern Cottontail
Sylvilagus floridanus