



SCAN *South Carolina Association of Naturalists*

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

May 2013

Greetings fellow **SCANers**,

Western Regional Directors Marsha and Bob Hamlin did a wonderful job selecting and planning our April Fieldtrip. After visiting Mistletree State Park it was easy to see why it is so near (literally, like 2.5 miles from their house) and dear to them! This was our first organized SCAN trip to explore this beautiful State Park and it certainly did not disappoint.

Saturday morning greeted us with comfortable temperatures and a few scattered showers. In attendance were Bob Hamlin, Marsha Hamlin, Jim Boylston, Kate Hartley, Kim McManus, Paul Kalbach, Rita Zollinger, Mary G. Douglas, Tom Jones, Jan Ciegler, Greg Mancini, Leland Robbins Murphy, Gordon Murphy and Greg Ross. Although many of us donned precautionary rain gear as we gathered at the Visitor Center, we quickly transitioned out of it after our hike began. The sky remained overcast, but we were no longer experiencing any precipitation.

As we meandered along the Cliatt Creek Trail we crisscrossed through a predominantly second-growth pine and oak forest. Previously home to rotation crops such as corn, cotton and tobacco, thankfully the area has largely recovered from such agricultural cultivation. As we paused in small groups somewhat near the intersection of Cliatt Creek Nature Trail and Rock Dam Hiking Trail, Kim and Rita keyed in on a low thrumming noise. They described the intriguing sound as somewhat rhythmic and thus began to survey the land closely; thinking perhaps a hollow log filled with bees might be the culprit. Unable to get a bead on the source, they asked Gordon if he too would help in their endeavor. Gordon paused, smiled broadly and pointed just above their heads to a Hummingbird circling low. Darting into and out of a nest conspicuously in plain sight, we all delighted in her presence for several minutes before moving onward!

Another highlight along the trail occurred when we chanced upon a very intriguing gall attached to a blackjack oak. In fact, this particular gall resulted in a full on quest for its identification. In the end, Marsha Hamlin's detective work scored the answer to the "**Gall that tripped us all.**" Here's a quick rundown of her sleuthing:

First she began with two local contacts; these directed her to Professor of Biology Emeritus,

Warren (abe) Abrahamson, Ph.D. of Bucknell University.

Dr. Abrahamson said that the gall appeared to be one caused by a cynipid wasp (family Cynipidae) and perhaps of the genus *Amphibolips*. However, he then suggested that Marsha consult the authority on cynipid wasp taxonomy, Dr. George Melika, Head of the Central Plant Pest Diagnostic Laboratory in Budapest, Hungary as they have collaborated on several studies of cynipid wasps and oaks in Florida and Pennsylvania.

With victory in sight, Marsha fired off an email off to Dr. Melika and he responded:

Dear Marsha,

To be honest, very often, based on the gall only, it is not easy to tell whether it is a cynipid wasp induced gall or a gall induced by a dipteran cecidomyiid gallmidge or whatever other gallinducer. However, the cynipid galls are usually much more complex entities, and also years of work help to say that. Particularly the gall on the pics is known for me. I collected this gall many times along the Eastern Coast of USA, from Florida, Georgia up to Virginia and even Washington DC. It is present in PA also. It is *Amphibolips acuminata*. Trophically associates with red oaks only, particularly the species you mentioned.

Best regards,

George

So, thanks to Marsha, there it is for our species list. *Amphibolips acuminata*, revealed by the gall she left behind. The wasp itself is quite unspectacular at only a few mm in length, and would not be noticed by most people. Then again, SCAN members are not "Most people."

As our day on the trail ended we made our way over the Hamlin's home to view life "Off-the-Grid" in their dream house before heading to dinner. It would be the utmost understatement to say that we were all very impressed. I for one was beyond awestruck at the commitment they had made to live in harmony with our planet. Every detail had a purpose and was streamlined for efficiency and green living. Our fine Western Directors do not merely talk the talk, but indeed walk the walk! Let it be known that they essentially butted heads with multiple entities every step of the way to see their dream become a reality. This was mainly because a well thought out, energy efficient solar home

was simply not the norm for the area. The builders were basically clueless much of the time; but the Hamlins persevered! Their efforts will make it just a little bit easier for the next eco-friendly home to go up in the area. Kudos Bob & Marsha!

For dinner, we caravanned over to Angie's Steak & Seafood at Pollard's Corner. The small town atmosphere was friendly and casual with plenty of local color! We actually saw a young man wearing a tuxedo with cowboy boots dining at one of the tables! Before you laugh, let it be known that he had TWO ladies decked out in prom dresses accompanying him; perhaps he's on to something!

After dinner many of us returned to the Hamlin's home for the night. We enjoyed socializing into the evening, and finally turned in; at a reasonable hour. The next morning guests were treated to Chef Bob's pancakes and fresh fruit, DELICIOUS!

Following breakfast we made our way down to the creek which runs through the Hamlin property. Stumbling upon a recently deceased deer in the stream, Bob decided to document it's decomposition in pictures over the next week. A fitting end to a wonderful SCAN outing!

In closing allow me to remind you to please check out or presence on Facebook. Hopefully many pictures and comments from this fieldtrip will continue to trickle in for your enjoyment! We have many fine photographers amongst us and I urge you to visit often! – Greg Ross

McBee WMA, Chesterfield County May 25, 2013, 10:30

Our May trip will be to a new area –McBee Wildlife Management Area (WMA), located in Chesterfield County east of the Lynches River. McBee WMA is a compilation of property acquisitions that began in 1993. To date McBee WMA consists of 5 contiguous tracts totaling 1270 acres, of which 787 were donated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Farmers Home Administration (FHA). The remaining 434 acres was purchased from Floyd Farms in 2006 made possible by funding from the South Carolina Conservation Bank, Pittman-Robertson funds, and the SCDNR Deer Project.

The tract is composed of uneven-aged pine/hardwood, uneven-aged longleaf pine, and planted loblolly and longleaf pine. There are over 300 acres of abandoned farm fields present with portions planted in wildlife food plants and the remaining acreage is mowed, disked, and burned to maintain early successional habitat. McBee WMA is managed to provide quality natural resources dependent recreational opportunities. Hunting, birding, and wildlife viewing are among the more popular activities enjoyed by visitors.

The road to McBee WMA is off US Highway 1 between Bethune and McBee. If you are coming from McBee, turn left on Old Creek Road [SC 13-296]. If you go over the Lynches River into Kershaw County, you have gone too far and missed Old Creek Road. If you are coming from Bethune, turn right on Old Creek Road shortly after crossing the river. Drive south on Old Creek Road. Shortly after you pass McDonald Chapel Road, you will arrive at McBee WMA. The parking area and informational kiosk are on the left approximately 2 miles after turning on Old Creek Road. If you cruise by a fenced area with a trailer, you have just passed the entrance.

The parking area and the kiosk are the ONLY facilities, so be prepared. You might want to consider bringing lawn chairs. Also bring the usual food, water, bug repellent and sunscreen.

Dinner will be at M & J Restaurant at 201 North Main Street in Bethune. Their phone number is 843-334-6464. They have a reasonable short order menu, as well as enough room for us. And they are OPEN Saturday afternoon.

Useful information:

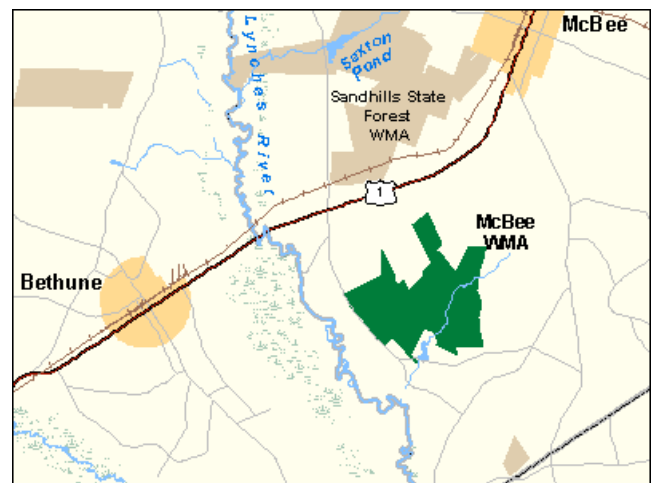
McBee WMA web site:

https://www.dnr.sc.gov/lands/managedland?p_id=24

Latitude: 34.407 **Longitude:** -80.292

Caroline Eastman's cell phone: 803-466-2840

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



**Mistletoe State Park
Columbia Co., GA
April 27, 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

Rattlesnake Fern

Botrypus virginianus

Southern Grapefern

Sceptridium bitermatum

Netted Chain Fern

Woodwardia areolata

Ebony Spleenwort

Asplenium platyneuron

Southern Lady Fern

Athyrium asplenoides

Sensitive Fern

Onoclea sensibilis
sensibilis

Christmas Fern

Polystichum acrostichoides

Resurrection Fern

Pleopeltis polypodioides
michauxiana

Loblolly Pine

Pinus taeda

Eastern Red Cedar

Juniperus virginiana
virginiana

Jack-in-the-pulpit

Arisaema triphyllum

Giant Cane

Arundinaria gigantea

River Oats

Chasmanthium latifolium

Longleaf Spikegrass

Chasmanthium
sessiliflorum

Two-flower Melic

Melica mutica

Dimpled Trout Lily

Erythronium umbilicatum
umbilicatum

False Garlic

Nothoscordum bivalve

Common Stargrass

Hypoxis hirsuta

Solomon's-seal

Polygonatum biflorum

Catesby's Trillium

Trillium catesbaei

Blue-eyed-grass

Sisyrinchium sp.

Curlyleaf Yucca

Yucca filamentosa

Catbrier

Smilax bona-nox

Whiteleaf Greenbrier

Smilax glauca

Common Greenbrier

Smilax rotundifolia

Common Wild Yam

Dioscorea villosa

Cranefly Orchid

Tipularia discolor

Tulip-tree

Liriodendron tulipifera

Common Pawpaw

Asimina triloba

Sweet-shrub

Calycanthus floridus

Sassafras

Sassafras albidum

Virginia Snakeroot

Endodeca serpentaria

Little Brown Jug

Hexastylis arifolia

Clematis

Clematis sp.

Hispid Buttercup

Ranunculus hispidus

Hooked Buttercup

Ranunculus recurvatus
recurvatus

Yellowroot

Xanthorhiza simplicissima

Bloodroot

Sanguinaria canadensis

Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis
occidentalis

Witch-hazel

Hamamelis virginiana

Sweet Gum

Liquidambar styraciflua

Winged Elm

Ulmus alata

Red Mulberry

Morus rubra

Pignut Hickory

Carya glabra

Common Wax-myrtle

Morella cerifera

American Beech

Fagus grandifolia

White Oak

Quercus alba

Southern Red Oak

Quercus falcata

Laurel Oak

Quercus laurifolia

Blackjack Oak

Quercus marilandica
marilandica

Water Oak

Quercus nigra

Post Oak

Quercus stellata

Black Oak

Quercus velutina

River Birch

Betula nigra

American Hornbeam

Carpinus caroliniana

American Hop-hornbeam

Ostrya virginiana

Common Pokeweed

Phytolacca americana

Silky Camellia

Stewartia malacodendron

St. Andrew's Cross

Hypericum hypericoides

Yellow Passionflower

Passiflora lutea lutea

Spotted Wintergreen

Chimaphila maculata

Sourwood

Oxydendrum arboreum

Piedmont Azalea

Rhododendron canescens

Sparkleberry

Vaccinium arboreum

Elliott's Blueberry

Vaccinium elliotii

Deerberry

Vaccinium stamineum

American Persimmon

Diospyros virginiana

Silverbell

Halesia tetraptera

Climbing Hydrangea

Decumaria barbara

Virginia-willow

Itea virginica

American Alumroot

Heuchera americana

Downy Serviceberry

Amelanchier arborea

Oneflower Hawthorn

Crataegus uniflora

Hawthorn

Crataegus sp.

Five-fingers

Potentilla canadensis

Black Cherry

Prunus serotina serotina

Carolina Rose

Rosa carolina

Mimosa

Albizia julibrissin

Eastern Redbud

Cercis canadensis
canadensis

Naked Tick-trefoil

Desmodium nudiflorum

Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida

Hearts-a-burstin'-with-love

Euonymus americanus

Possum-haw

Ilex decidua decidua

American Holly

Ilex opaca opaca

Eastern Flowering Spurge

Euphorbia corollata

Supplejack

Berchemia scandens

Virginia-creeper

Parthenocissus
quinquefolia

Muscadine

Vitis rotundifolia
rotundifolia

Red Maple

Acer rubrum

Winged Sumac

Rhus copallinum

Eastern Poison Ivy

Toxicodendron radicans
radicans

Trifoliate Orange

Citrus trifoliata

Violet Wood-sorrel

Oxalis violacea

Devil's-walking-stick

Aralia spinosa

Sanicle

Sanicula canadensis

Carolina Jessamine

Gelsemium sempervirens

White Milkweed*Asclepias variegata***Spiny pod***Matelea* sp.**Climbing Dogbane***Trachelospermum difforme***Beautyberry***Callicarpa americana***Lyre-leaf Sage***Salvia lyrata***Fringe-tree***Chionanthus virginicus***White Ash***Fraxinus americana***Downy Oak-leach***Aureolaria virginica***Trumpet-creeper***Campsis radicans***Partridge-berry***Mitchella repens***Japanese Honeysuckle***Lonicera japonica***Coral Honeysuckle***Lonicera sempervirens***Southern Black Haw***Viburnum rufidulum***Silverling***Baccharis halimifolia***Green-and-gold***Chrysogonum virginianum***Elephant's-foot***Elephantopus tomentosus***Spoonleaf Purple****Everlasting***Gamochaeta purpurea***Veiny Hawkweed***Hieracium venosum***Climbing Hempweed***Mikania scandens***Rattlesnake-root***Prenanthes* sp.**Devil's-urn***Urula craterium***FAUNA****Orchard Spider***Leucauge venusta***Carolina Scorpion***Vaejovis carolinianus***Witch Hazel Cone Gall**

(aphid)

*Hormaphis hamamelidis***Fusiform Oak Apple**

(wasp)

** Amphibolips acuminata***Scorpionfly (dead)***Panorpa* sp.**Maple Leaf Spot Gall**

(midge)

*Cecidomyia ocellaris***Blue Dasher***Pachydiplax longipennis***Six-spotted Tiger Beetle***Cicindela sexguttata***Click Beetle**** Ampedus collairs***Click Beetle***Limonium basillaris***Soldier Beetle**** Rhagonycha lineola***Darkling Beetle***Uloma mentalis***Lagriine Darkling Beetle**** Statira basalis***Flea Beetle***Capraita circumdata***Eastern Tiger Swallowtail***Papilio glaucus***Linden Looper Moth**

(larva)

** Erannis tiliaria***Witch Hazel Leaf-roller**

(moth)

*Cacoecia rosaceana***Fowler's Toad (juvenile)***Anaxyrus fowleri***Northern Cricket Frog***Acris crepitans***Red-bellied Water Snake***Nerodia erythrogaster***Red-bellied Snake***Storeria occipitomaculata***Ruby-throated****Hummingbird***Archilochus colubris***Belted Kingfisher***Ceryle alcyon***Red-bellied Woodpecker***Melanerpes carolinus***Northern Flicker***Colaptes auratus***Pileated Woodpecker***Dryocopus pileatus***Great Crested Flycatcher***Myiarchus crinitus***Acadian Flycatcher***Empidonax virescens***Blue Jay***Cyanocitta cristata***American Crow***Corvus brachyrhynchos***Carolina Chickadee***Parus carolinensis***Tufted Titmouse***Baeolophus bicolor***Brown-headed Nuthatch***Sitta pusilla***Carolina Wren***Thryothorus ludovicianus***Ruby-crowned Kinglet***Regulus calendula***Eastern Bluebird***Sialia sialis***Gray Catbird***Dumetella carolinensis***Northern Mockingbird***Mimus polyglottos***Blue-headed Vireo***Vireo solitarius***Red-Eyed Vireo***Vireo olivaceus***Northern Parula***Parula americana***Black-and-white Warbler***Mniotilta varia***Black-throated Blue****Warbler***Dendroica caerulescens***Pine Warbler***Dendroica pinus***Louisiana Waterthrush***Seiurus motacilla***Northern Cardinal***Cardinalis cardinalis***Summer Tanager***Piranga rubra***Gray Squirrel***Sciurus carolinensis*



Mistletoe State Park Visitors Center



Blue Dasher (*Pachydiplax longipennis*)



Northern Cricket Frog (*Acris crepitans*)



Orchard Spider (*Leucange venusta*)



Devil Scorpion (*Vaejovis carolinianus*)



Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Amphibolips acuminata



Blue Dasher (*Pachydiplax longipennis*)