



SCAN *South Carolina Association of Naturalists*

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

August 2013

Hello SCANers,

What looked like a weather disaster for our monthly SCAN outing turned out to be one of the best days ever for a mid-summer outing. The stormy weather blew through on Friday night downing trees and closing roads. The morning of the outing it looked like our leader, Phil Harpootlian, would not be able to join us due to road blockage. Upstate road crews cleared the road in 10 minutes after arriving leaving Phil impressed with our resilience to clear obstacles affecting our ability to drive everywhere.



Pat examines the rare Swamp pink

All of the elements came together to grant us a beautiful day with low temperatures and few bugs for a perfect outing. It was perfect because we had perfect weather, we all got our feet wet by wandering around in streams and bogs, we found the rare Swamp Pink as described in Chick Gaddy's book "A Naturalist's Guide to the Southern Blue Ridge Front" and we had several expert botanists on our outing. In addition, Mother Nature provided us with an abundance of huckleberries to eat along the trails. Wayne even had a taste of the Golden chanterelle mushroom describing its taste as peppery.

Attending were - Charlie Williams, Reid and Cathy Dusenberry, Wayne Grooms, Kathy Boyle, Phil Harpootlian, Linda Lee, Sam and Eva Pratt, Tom Jones and Mary Douglas, Keith Bradley, Lauren Sera, Jan Ciegler, John Cely, Jim Boylston, Pat and Jerry Bright.

This is an area that needs a return visit in May when the *Helonias bullata* are in bloom. I was impressed by how easy it is to see them in this special area of South Carolina. There is so much here that I recommend that SCAN skip the rule of "No more than one outing to a site within 5 years". This is a heaven for naturalists.



Wayne samples a chanterelle



Mimulus ringens



Platanthera clavellata



Lauren enjoys dining on huckleberries

Directors Special - August 10 - Longleaf Pine HP

Enthusiastic for a return visit, Wayne Grooms led us back into the Longleaf Pine Heritage Preserve. Attending were Wayne Grooms, Kathy Boyle, Jan Ciegler, Bill Hamel, Gordon Murphy, Pat and Jerry Bright. The Canby's Dropwort (*Oxypolis canbyi*) was the highlight of the day. Knee deep water required a cool wade to get close for a photo. Kathy explained that there were more in the past and a study was underway to discover if they were being eaten by rabbits. A small fence had been placed around a study group. Pat saw a black swallowtail caterpillar on one. Could this be the culprit? There is a great photo on Flickr of the caterpillar feeding on our endangered friend.

See - http://www.flickr.com/photos/alan_cressler/7721452442/

Meeting at 9:00 was an excellent idea since the temperature went from 85° to 95° with an average humidity of 79%. (These figures were from the nearby town of Sumter) Wayne was feeling the effects of the conditions. Kathy saved the day by providing Wayne with a quart of Gatorade. She just happened to be carrying 2 quarts of the elixir instead of her usual Pepsi supplement. Wayne had never tried Gatorade before became a believer as it transformed him into his old cantankerous self. You should soon see Wayne on billboards throughout the southeast as their new poster boy promoting Gatorade.



Oxypolis canbyi



Snapping Turtle



Mantis Egg Case



Black Widow

Sandy Island update

Kim has received reservations from 12 people so far. We need at least 20 to charter the boat and our maximum is 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

Upcoming

As naturalists we are interested in everything that nature provides so I am sure you will want to attend the **Carolina Butterfly Society Symposium** Saturday October 5 at Charles Towne Landing. I have included a flyer with this newsletter giving the details. Mark it on your calendars.

Phil Harpootlian will lead our next outing into one of my favorite places in the Pisgahs, **Flat Laurel Creek**. I learned of the place through Kevin Adams excellent book which Phil has used as his write-up. I hope to see you there. Jerry

Flat Laurel Creek Loop

Blue Ridge Parkway, Mile 420.2, NC August 24, 2013

Meet at trailhead parking lot, 10:30

The following is largely ripped off from North Carolina's Best Wildflower Hikes: The Mountains by Kevin Adams [http://www.namethatplant.net/where_flatlaurelcreek.shtml] – nothing I can really add to this! Go to the website for a map and interactive plant listings. The trail is a moderate, 2.5 miles round-trip loop featuring extensive high-elevation meadow carpeted in wildflowers. What's not to like?

While this is such an exceptional part of our mountains, it is ironic that its uniqueness is largely the result of human activity. In the early part of the 1900s, loggers removed nearly all of the red spruce and Fraser fir that blanketed these mountains. In 1925, a train locomotive sparked a severe wildfire that burned thousands of acres and sterilized the soil. Another major fire occurred in 1942, and the soil erosion that resulted from both wildfires contributed to the unique, open character of the land.

Several trails lead off from the parking area. The one you want, Flat Laurel Creek Trail, heads south from the left side of the far end of the parking area. The trail follows an old logging grade, wide and gradually descending. In open areas at this elevation, the September vegetation growth is as profuse as you can imagine. Right from the start you see several species of aster and goldenrod, rattlesnake root, filmy angelica (mostly gone to seed by mid-September), and bush honeysuckle (with tight clusters of seedpods in September). You'll see all these species growing prolifically along most of the hike, but the bluish purple asters and yellow goldenrods steal the show. There's no point in telling you about the occurrences of these two species since they literally stay with you for the entire hike. The goldenrods alone make this hike one of the finest in the mountains.

A few feet from the start, look for a view through the vegetation to the right. This is what you came here for: an open meadow carpeted with thousands of goldenrods. Our hike encircles this meadow, providing many more views. Wildflowers to look out for as you continue along the trail include heal-all, stiff gentian, and a white-flowered species of goldenrod called silverrod. It's easy to distinguish stiff gentian from other gentians by its smaller flowers that grow in numerous thick clusters. A few American mountain-ash trees are scattered about, showing off bright red berries in September.

At 0.1 mile you pass through a wet area (a common occurrence on this hike), with a nice patch of bottle gentian on the left side of the trail. Now you start to see Michaux's saxifrage in the rocky areas, and dodder grows frequently among the thick trailside vegetation. Come to the headwaters of Flat Laurel Creek in a little over 0.6 mile from the start. The scenic creek is easy to rock hop at this point, and, once across, the trail swings around to the right and heads west. Sam Knob, the imposing peak you've been seeing off to the right, now lies directly in front of you, and soon you get a good view to the right of Black Balsam Knob.

The trail continues to be wet and rocky, and now it descends moderately. St. John's wort grows in dense patches along this stretch, but you have to hike in early August to see it in flower. A patch of bottle gentian is on the left, and on the right is eastern longleaf bluet, mostly finished flowering by mid-September. Another bluet species, thyme-leaved bluet, has been abundant since the start, but in September you probably won't see any flowers. Boneset is another species you might see now for the first time. Both boneset and eastern longleaf bluet become common sights for the next little while.

The trail enters an open forest featuring rattlesnake root, heal-all, aster, goldenrod, and abundant white snakeroot and reaches a trail junction at 1.1 miles. Little Sam Trail forks to the left, while our hike continues to the right and descends through the forest. At 1.25 miles you pass by a scenic grove of yellow birch, with a ground cover of ferns, white snakeroot, goldenrod, and aster. About 100 yards farther is a dense patch of coneflower on the right. It's mostly gone by mid-September, but a few flowers might still be hanging on. Beyond the coneflower patch you get an open view straight ahead of Little Sam Knob, and soon you come to a tributary of Flat Laurel Creek. Like the previous stream crossing, this one is scenic and easy to negotiate. After a little over 100 yards from the crossing, you come to the confluence of the two streams at a campsite. A few hundred feet farther, just before the woods open up, you have to turn right on Sam

Knob Trail and cross the creek. A red spruce tree standing beside the creek has a blue blaze designating the route, but it's easy to miss the junction. If you enter the open area, you've gone too far.

Flat Laurel Creek is very scenic at the crossing, as it is for most of its run to West Fork Pigeon River. Normally this crossing is easy, but after a heavy rain it could be a little tricky. Beyond the creek, the trail opens into the meadow with views of both Sam Knob and Little Sam Knob. After passing by a campsite you need to stay to the left (look for blue blazes), and shortly you cross a small branch. The trail becomes muddy, steep, and more closed in. It continues that way for nearly 0.3 mile.

At 1.9 miles from the trailhead, the trail once again opens up. Here the Forest Service maintains the meadow as a wildlife field, evidenced by the wide, mown swaths running all through it. Stay to the left as you continue ascending, and shortly you reach a trail junction. Sam Knob Summit Trail continues straight from the junction to climb Sam Knob, while Sam Knob trail, our route, runs to the right and passes easily through the field along a mown path. You might spot a few new wildflowers as you pass through the field, including buttercup, bull thistle, Queen Anne's lace, and yarrow. Just before you leave the field, a nice patch of blazing star grows on the left in a section thankfully left unmown.

The ascent picks back up once you leave the field and begin the final segment of the loop. Field thistle grows abundantly along the trail, as does rattlesnake root and, of course, goldenrod. At 2.25 miles, the trail tops out among profuse filmy angelica, goldenrod, and field thistle. The remaining 0.3 mile is on a level course, with the red berries (turning to black) of hobblebush adding vivid color to the thick trailside growth.

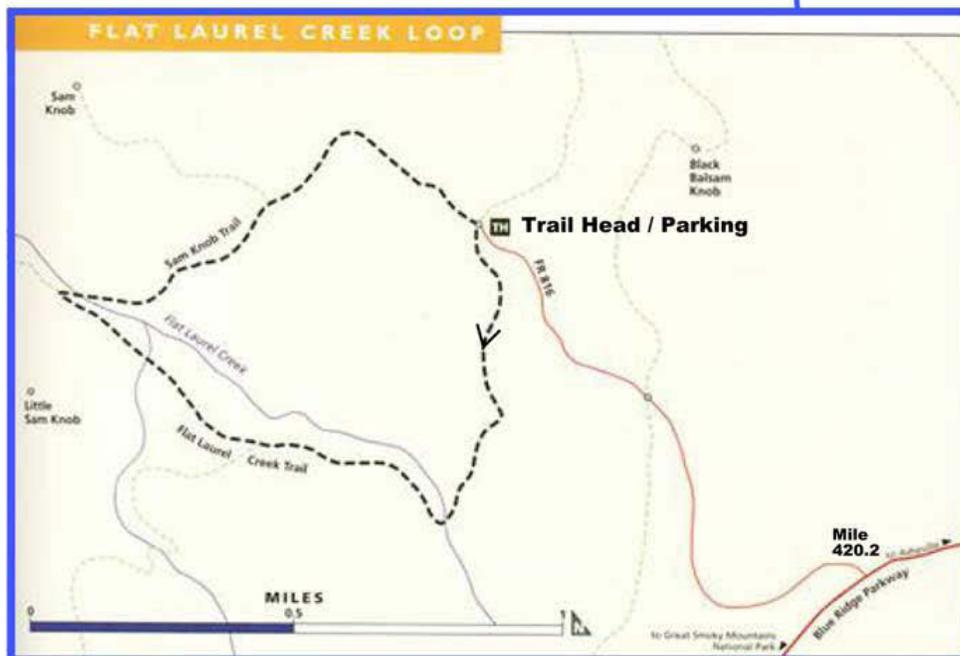
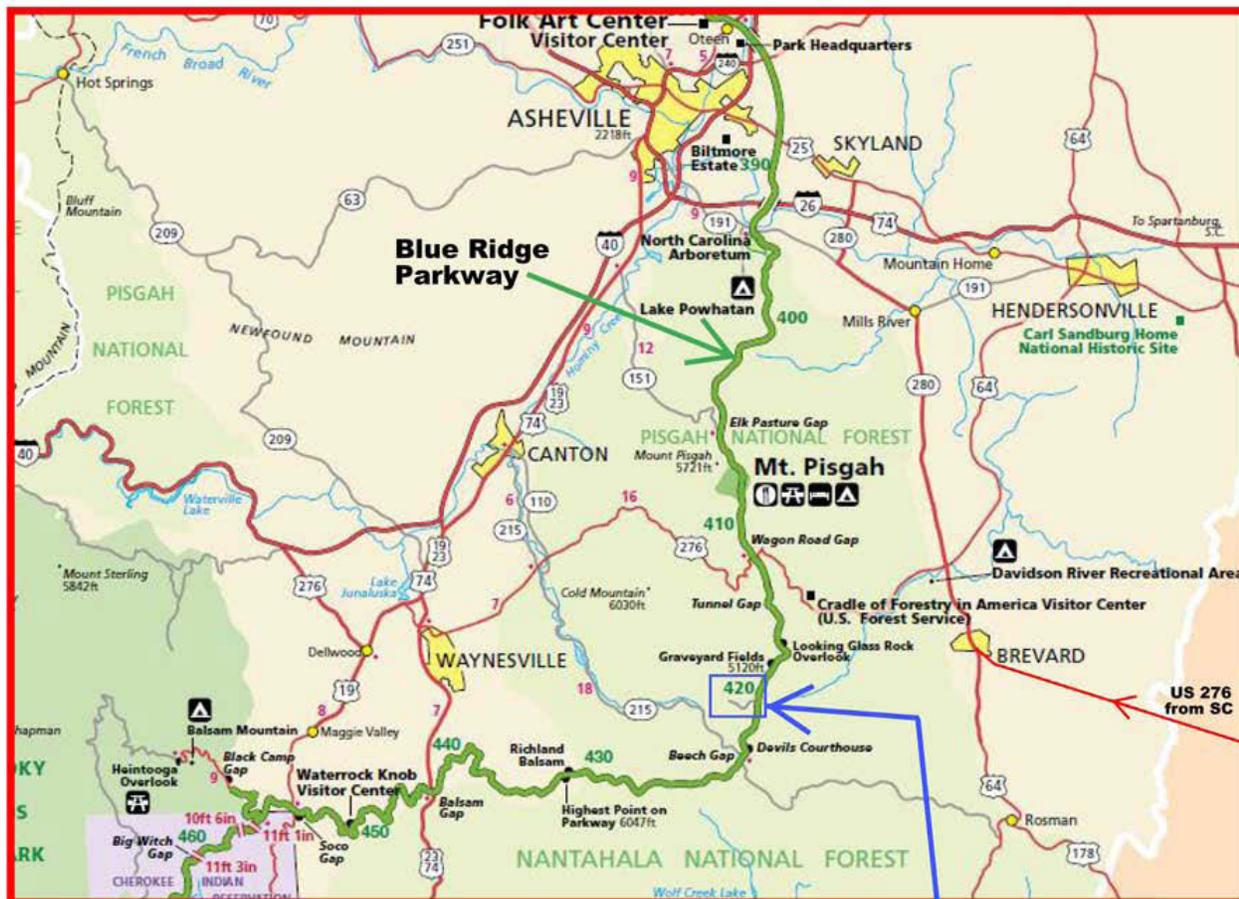
Directions: From mile 420.2 of the Blue Ridge Parkway, turn onto FR 816 (unsigned) and proceed 1.2 miles to where the road ends at a parking area. Mile 420.2 of the parkway is located 8.3 miles south of US 276 at Wagon Road Gap and 3.0 miles north of US 215 at Beech Gap. For many, it is probably easiest to take I-26 to the parkway, then south. (see map).

Afterwards we can eat at Pisgah, someplace in Brevard, or – any suggestions?

Flat Laurel Creek DIRECTIONS



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Watson-Cooper Heritage Preserve
Greenville Co., SC
July 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

Peat Moss

Sphagnum sp.

Common Ground-pine

Dendrolycopodium obscurum

Common Running-cedar

Diphasiastrum digitatum

Shining Clubmoss

Huperzia lucidula

Running Clubmoss

Lycopodium clavatum

Rattlesnake Fern

Botrypus virginianus

Cinnamon Fern

Osmunda cinnamomea

Hay-scented Fern

Dennstaedtia punctilobula

Bracken

Pteridium aquilinum

New York Fern

Thelypteris noveboracensis

Netted Chain Fern

Woodwardia areolata

Mountain Spleenwort

Asplenium montanum

Ebony Spleenwort

Asplenium platyneuron

Northern Lady Fern

Athyrium angustum

Southern Lady Fern

Athyrium asplenoides

Common Rockcap Fern

Polypodium virginianum

Pitch Pine

Pinus rigida

Eastern White Pine

Pinus strobus

Eastern Hemlock

Tsuga canadensis

Common Dayflower

Commelina communis communis

Northern Long Sedge

* *Carex folliculata*

Woolgrass Bulrush

Scirpus cyperinus

Indian Cucumber-root

Medeola virginiana

Bellwort

Uvularia puberula

Swamp Pink

Helonias bullata

False Solomon's-seal

Maianthemum racemosum racemosum

Solomon's-seal

Polygonatum biflorum

Trillium

Trillium sp.

Dwarf Iris

Iris verna

Biltmore Carrionflower

Smilax biltmoreana

Whiteleaf Greenbrier

Smilax glauca

Bamboo-vine

Smilax laurifolia

Common Greenbrier

Smilax rotundifolia

Common Wild Yam

Dioscorea villosa

Pink Lady's-slipper

Cypripedium acaule

Downy Rattlesnake-orchid

Goodyera pubescens

Yellow Fringed Orchid

Platanthera ciliaris

Small Green Wood Orchid

Platanthera clavellata

Tulip-tree

Liriodendron tulipifera

Fraser Magnolia

Magnolia fraseri

Sweet-shrub

Calycanthus floridus

Sassafras

Sassafras albidum

Heartleaf

Hexastylis sp.

Yellowroot

Xanthorrhiza simplicissima

Witch-hazel

Hamamelis virginiana

Sweet Gum

Liquidambar styraciflua

Pignut Hickory

Carya glabra

Sand Hickory

Carya pallida

Mockernut Hickory

Carya tomentosa

American Chestnut

Castanea dentata

Common Chinquapin

Castanea pumila

White Oak

Quercus alba

Scarlet Oak

Quercus coccinea

Rock Chestnut Oak

Quercus montana

Red Oak

Quercus rubra

Tag Alder

Alnus serrulata

Sweet Birch

Betula lenta lenta

Knotweed

Polygonum sp.

St. Andrew's Cross

Hypericum crux-andreae

Violet

Viola sp.

Upland Willow

Salix humilis

Black Willow

Salix nigra

Mountain Sweet Pepperbush

Clethra acuminata

Spotted Wintergreen

Chimaphila maculata

Trailing Arbutus

Epigaea repens

Wintergreen

Gaultheria procumbens

Bear Huckleberry

Gaylussacia ursina

Pinesap

Hypopitys monotropa

Mountain Laurel

Kalmia latifolia

Mountain Doghobble

Leucothoe fontanesiana

Maleberry
Lyonia ligustrina

Fetterbush
Lyonia spp.

Indian Pipes
Monotropa uniflora

Sourwood
Oxydendrum arboreum

White Rosebay
Rhododendron maximum

Azalea
Rhododendron sp.

Galax
Galax urceolata

Horsesugar
Symplocos tinctoria

Whorled Loosestrife
Lysimachia quadrifolia

Downy Serviceberry
Amelanchier arborea

Mountain Indian-physic
Gillenia trifoliata

Cinquefoil
Potentilla sp.

Honesty-weed
Baptisia tinctoria

Common Sensitive-plant
Chamaecrista nictitans nictitans

Black Locust
Robinia pseudoacacia

Blackgum
Nyssa sylvatica

American Holly
Ilex opaca opaca

Virginia-creeper
Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Summer Grape
Vitis aestivalis aestivalis

Fox Grape
Vitis labrusca

Appalachian Milkwort
Polygala curtissii

Red Maple
Acer rubrum

Spotted Touch-me-not
Impatiens capensis

American Lovage
Ligusticum canadense

White Milkweed
Asclepias variegata

Smooth Phlox
Phlox glaberrima

Allegheny Monkey-flower
Mimulus ringens ringens

Fringe-tree
Chionanthus virginicus

Cow-wheat
Melampyrum lineare

Indian-tobacco
Lobelia inflata

Lobelia
Lobelia nuttallii

Summer Bluet
Houstonia purpurea

Partridge-berry
Mitchella repens

Arrow-wood
Viburnum dentatum

Black Haw
Viburnum prunifolium

Yarrow
Achillea millefolium

Plantain Pussytoes
Antennaria plantaginifolia

Coreopsis
Coreopsis major

Rattlesnake-root
Prenanthes sp.

Earth-tongue
** Trichoglossum farlowii*

Green-headed Jelly-club
Leotia viscosa

Ochre Jelly Club
** Leotia lubrica*

Goldenthead Cordyceps
** Cordyceps ophioglossoides*

Yellow Tuning-fork
Calocera viscosa

Golden Chanterelle
Cantharellus cibarius

Cinnabar-red Chanterelle
Cantharellus cinnabarinus

Spindle-shaped Yellow Coral
Clavulinopsis fusiformis

Crown-tipped Coral
Clavicornia pyxidata

Coral (mushroom)
Ramaria sp.

Viscid Violet Cort
Cortinarius iodes

Red Russula
Russula sp.

Stalked Puffball-in-aspic
Calostoma cinnabarina

FAUNA

Leech
Macrobdella sp.

Grape Apple Gall Midge
** Schixomyia vitispomum*

Gray Petaltail (dragonfly)
Tachopteryx thoreyi

E. Pinebarrens Tiger Beetle
Cicindela abdominalis

Six-spotted Tiger Beetle
Cicindela sexguttata

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Papilio glaucus

American Woodcock
Scolopax minor

Mourning Dove
Zenaida macroura

Northern Flicker
Colaptes auratus

White-tailed Deer
Odocoileus virginianus



Carolina Butterfly Society 2013 Symposium Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site 1500 Old Town Road, Charleston, SC 29047

Saturday, October 5 – 9:00AM-4:00PM

Featured Presentations

Keynote Address: Brian Scholtens Ph.D. – Professor, Biology Department, College of Charleston - Butterflies and Moths in South Carolina: Explorations, Possibilities and the Future

Jeff Kline - Charles Towne Landing Overview

Mark Rose – President of the Native Orchid Conference, Inc. and Chairman of the North Carolina Plant Conservation Board - BUTTERFLIES and Their Nectar Choices

Dwight Williams – Director of Cypress Gardens – Butterfly Houses: Tools for Education

Brian Scholtens - Butterfly and Skipper ID collaboration and workshop (2 sessions). Please bring a field guide.

Walk Charles Towne Landing to find and identify butterflies

Area Lodging - This is a football weekend so please book your lodging early.

Econo Lodge - 2237 Savannah Hwy, Charleston 29414 843-571-1880

Town and Country Inn - 2008 Savannah Hwy, Charleston 29407 843-571-1000

Creekside Lands Inn - 2545 Savannah Hwy, Charleston 29414 843-763-8885 (Recommended by Jeff Kline)

Register before September 25

\$20

Register at the door

\$ 25

Lunch will be buffet style and is included in your registration cost.

Please make checks payable to: Carolina Butterfly Society and send them to:

Marty Kastner

Carolina Butterfly Society

5 Holly Forest Court

Blythewood, SC 29016

Registration Form - Please detach and return with your payment.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____ Phone # _____

Please check if you are planning to attend these additional walks:

_____ Friday, October 4 1:45-5:00 Caw Caw Nature & History Interpretive Center, 5200 Savannah Highway (Highway 17 South), Ravenel, SC 29470 . Meet at the Interpretive Center at 1:45-2:00. The entrance fee is \$1 per person. Our leader will be Mark Rose.

_____ Sunday, October 6 9:30-2:00 Folly Beach and Sol Legare Island. Meet in the Piggly Wiggly parking lot at 1985 Folly Road, Charleston, SC 29412. We will look for coastal species and migrants: Gulf Fritillary, Long-tailed Skipper, Salt Marsh Skipper, Eastern Pygmy-Blue, etc. Dennis Forsythe will be our leader.

Questions? Call Marty Kastner 803-754-1841 or Jeff Kline 843-442-5000.