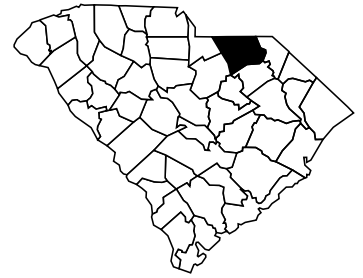


Chesterfield County:

Poor agricultural practices in the early 20th century led to government purchase of large amounts of land in classic sandhills habitat. It is now yielding some recovering sandhills ecosystems that have some unique plants and animals.



Site Visited:

Sandhills State Forest & Sugarloaf Mountain

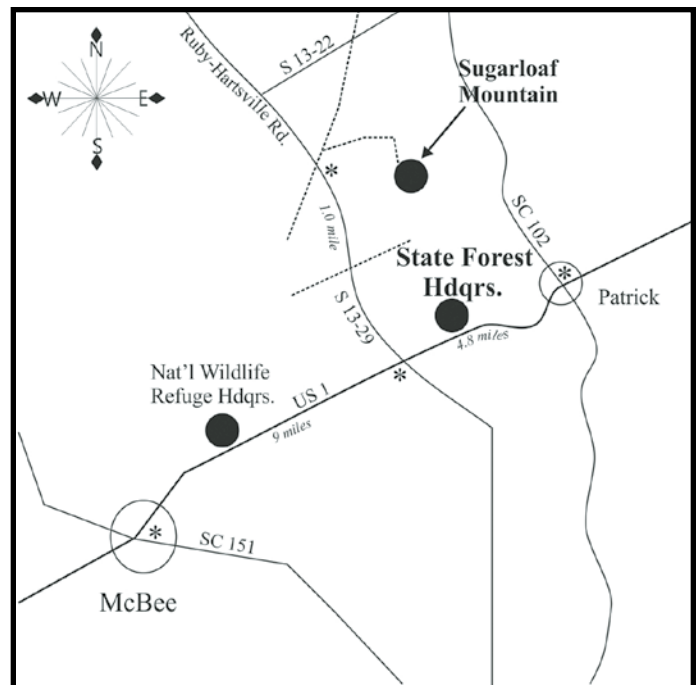
11/18/2000 & 03/23/2002

Sandhills State Forest & Sugarloaf Mountain

11/18/2000, 03/23/2002

The human history of the Chesterfield County portion of the sandhills region of South Carolina has had a major effect on its current natural history. It was predominantly a Longleaf Pine forest when the first Europeans arrived. First it was timbered by clear-cutting, then extensively farmed for cotton. No conservation practices were used and the result was that by the early 1930's the area was eroding badly, with so little nutrition left in the sandy soil it was almost useless to support humans or even the native flora and fauna. As one of the projects to help recovery from the Great Depression, a large area was purchased and then divided between the US government (now Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge) and Sandhills State Forest. Many small lakes were impounded to enhance winter waterfowl populations and reestablishment of Longleaf Pine woodlands was encouraged. Sugarloaf Mountain is a small monadnock topped by some sandstone that has resisted erosion better than the surrounding soils. It has created some unique habitats for acid-loving plants. There is also a lower monadnock called Horseshoe Mountain with similar habitats. Creeping Blueberry and a small creeping plant called Sandhills Pxyie-moss are the special highlights. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker, an endangered species, is found here. Both the refuge and the state forest have active management programs for this species. There are also special seepage areas with very unique plants, most noticeable of which are often the carnivorous species.

Directions: The access to the headquarters of both the refuge and the state forest are on US 1, between McBee and Patrick. The refuge headquarters is about 4 miles north of McBee, while the headquarters for the Sandhills State Forest is another 7 miles north or about 2 miles north of the intersection of US 1 and SR 13-29, Ruby-Hartsville Road. Sugarloaf Mountain is northwest off US 1, accessed from the Ruby-Hartsville Road. Go 1 mile north of US 1 and watch for an unpaved road to the right at 45 degree angle instead of the usual 90 degrees.



Take that road to the first right, which will lead you to Sugarloaf Mountain and its parking area. There are signs at each of these intersections to help identify the correct turns. When you get to the Sugarloaf recreation area there are short trails to the top of the two monadnocks.

**Sugarloaf Mountain and
Sandhills St. Forest
Chesterfield County, SC
November 18, 2000 & March
23, 2002**

LICHENS

Bacidia schweinitzii
Cladonia subtenuis
Cladonia caroliniana
Cladonia sobolescens
Cladonia leporina
Cladonia polycarpoides
Pertusaria texana
Lecanora hybocarpa
Lecanora caesiorubella subsp.

prolifera
Canoparmelia caroliniana
Rimelia reticulata
Buellia caloosensis
Ochrolechia africana
Arthonia sp.
Lepraria lobificans
Chrysothrix candelaris

FLORA

Peat Moss
Sphagnum sp.
Foxtail Clubmoss
Lycopodiella alopecuroides
Cinnamon Fern
Osmunda cinnamomea

Bracken
Pteridium aquilinum

Ebony Spleenwort
Asplenium platyneuron

Resurrection Fern
Pleopeltis polypodioides michauxiana

Sand Pine
Pinus clausa

Shortleaf Pine
Pinus echinata

Slash Pine
Pinus elliotii elliotii

Longleaf Pine
Pinus palustris

Pond Pine
Pinus serotina

Loblolly Pine
Pinus taeda

Virginia Pine
Pinus virginiana

Atlantic White-cedar
Chamaecyparis thyoides

Golden Club
Orontium aquaticum

Yellow-eyed Grass
Xyris sp.

Bogmoss
Mayaca fluviatilis

Common Ten-angled Pipewort
Eriocaulon decangulare decangulare

Common Rush
Juncus effusus solutus

Horsetail Spikerush
Eleocharis equisetoides

Broomsedge
Andropogon virginicus

Woollysheath Three-awn
Aristida lanosa

Carolina Wiregrass
Aristida stricta

Giant Cane
Arundinaria gigantea

Slender Spikegrass
Chasmanthium laxum

Toothache Grass
Ctenium aromaticum

Pineland Beard Grass
Gymnopogon brevifolius

Giant Plume Grass
Saccharum giganteum

Common Little Bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium scoparium

Crow-poison
Stenanthium densum

Curlyleaf Yucca
Yucca filamentosa

Whiteleaf Greenbrier
Smilax glauca

Bambo-vine
Smilax laurifolia

Sweetbay
Magnolia virginiana

Red Bay
Persea borbonia

Sassafras
Sassafras albidum

White Water-lily
Nymphaea odorata odorata

Water-shield
Brasenia schreberi

Sweet Gum
Liquidambar styraciflua

Mockernut Hickory
Carya alba

Pocosin Bayberry
Morella carolinensis

Common Wax-myrtle
Morella cerifera

Sawtooth Oak
Quercus acutissima

Southern Red Oak
Quercus falcata

Bluejack Oak
Quercus incana

Turkey Oak
Quercus laevis

Blackjack Oak
Quercus marilandica marilandica

Post Oak
Quercus stellata

Black Oak
Quercus velutina

Tag Alder
Alnus serrulata

Prickly-pear
Opuntia humifusa

Carolina Sandwort
Minuartia caroliniana

St. Andrew's Cross
Hypericum hypericoides

Lloyd's St.-John's-wort
Hypericum lloydii

Sandhill St.-John's-wort
Hypericum tenuifolium

Marsh St.-John's-wort
Triadenum virginicum

Yellow Pitcherplant
Sarracenia flava

S. Purple Pitcherplant
Sarracenia purpurea venosa

Sweet Pitcherplant
Sarracenia rubra rubra

Pink Sundew
Drosera capillaris

Bird's-foot Violet
Viola pedata

Ti-ti
Cyrtilla racemiflora

Coastal Sweet Pepperbush
Clethra alnifolia

Trailing Arbutus
Epigaea repens

Coastal Fetterbush
Eubotrys racemosa

Dwarf Huckleberry
Gaylussacia dumosa

Mountain Laurel
Kalmia latifolia

Shining Fetterbush
Lyonia lucida

Staggerbush
Lyonia mariana

Sparkleberry
Vaccinium arboreum

Creeping Blueberry
Vaccinium crassifolium

Common Pyxie-moss
Pyxidantha barbata

Sandhills Pyxie-moss
Pyxidantha brevifolia

American Persimmon
Diospyros virginiana

Red Chokeberry
Aronia arbutifolia

Wild Crab Apple
Malus angustifolia

Five-fingers
Potentilla canadensis

Chickasaw Plum
Prunus angustifolia angustifolia

Black Cherry
Prunus serotina serotina

Carolina Wild Indigo
Baptisia cinerea

Showy Rattlebox
Crotalaria spectabilis

Blue Sandhill Lupine
Lupinus diffusus

Water-milfoil
Myriophyllum sp.

Wingstem Water-primrose
Ludwigia decurrens

Meadow-beauty
Rhexia sp.

Flowering Dogwood
Cornus florida

Blackgum
Nyssa sylvatica

American Mistletoe
Phoradendron serotinum serotinum

Strawberry-bush
Euonymus sp.

Big Gallberry
Ilex coriacea

Little Gallberry
Ilex glabra

American Holly
Ilex opaca opaca

Carolina Ipecac
Euphorbia ipecacuanhae

Red Maple
Acer rubrum

Winged Sumac
Rhus copallinum

Eastern Poison Ivy
Toxicodendron radicans radicans

Southern Carolina Crane's-bill
Geranium carolinianum carolinianum

Water-pennywort
Hydrocotyle sp.

Carolina Jessamine
Gelsemium sempervirens

Pinebarren Gentian
Gentiana autumnalis

Senna Seymeria
Seymeria cassioides

Southern Wild Raisin
Viburnum nudum

Silverling
Baccharis halimifolia

Sandhill Chaffhead
Carphephorus bellidifolius

Maryland Golden-aster
Chrysopsis mariana

Leafy Elephant's-foot
Elephantopus carolinianus

Hawkweed
Hieracium sp.

Grass-leaved Golden-aster
Pityopsis aspera adenolepis

Rough-leaved Goldenrod
Solidago rugosa

New York Aster
Symphotrichum novi-belgii elodes

FAUNA

Red Beard Sponge
Microciona prolifera

Basilica Spider
Mecynogea lemniscata

Wolf Spider
Lycosa sp.

Forest Wolf Spider
Gladiosa gulosa

Sulfur-winged Grasshopper
Arphia sulphurea

Cattail Toothpick Grasshopper
Leptysma marginicollis

Spur-throated Grasshopper
Melanoplus sp.

Broadtip Conehead Katydid
Neoconocephalus triops

Antlion; Doodlebug
Myrmeleon sp.

Florida Harvester Ant
Pogonomyrmex badius

Red Imported Fire Ant
Solenopsis invicta

Paper Wasp (nest)
Polistes sp.

Common Whitetail
Plathemis lydia

Carrion Beetle
Necrodes surinamensis

Obscure Rove Beetle
Aleochara lata

June Beetle
Phyllophaga luctuosa

Green June Beetle
Cotinus nitida

Hickory Girdler Beetle
Oncideres cingulata

Flea Beetle
Altica marevagans

Spicebush Swallowtail
Papilio troilus

Orange Sulphur
Colias eurytheme

Brown Elfin
Callophrys augustinus

Mourning Cloak
Nymphalis antiopa

Common Buckeye
Junonia coenia

Juvenal's Duskywing
Erynnis juvenalis

Southern Cricket Frog
Acris gryllus

Cricket Frog
Acris sp.

Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura

Northern Bobwhite
Colinus virginianus

Wild Turkey
Meleagris gallopavo

Red-headed Woodpecker
Melanerpes erythrocephalus
Downy Woodpecker
Picoides pubescens
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Sphyrapicus varius
Eastern Phoebe
Sayornis phoebe
American Crow
Corvus brachyrhynchos

Fish Crow
Corvus ossifragus
Tufted Titmouse
Parus bicolor
Carolina Chickadee
Parus carolinensis
White-breasted Nuthatch
Sitta carolinensis
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Sitta pusilla

Carolina Wren
Thryothorus ludovicianus
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Regulus satrapa
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Regulus calendula
Hermit Thrush
Catharus guttatus
American Robin
Turdus migratorius
Northern Mockingbird
Mimus polyglottos

Brown Thrasher
Toxostoma rufum
Pine Warbler
Dendroica pinus
Field Sparrow
Spizella pusilla
Raccoon (tracks)
Procyon lotor
White-tailed Deer (remains)
Odocoileus virginianus



Yellow Pitcherplant, *Sarracenia flava*, by Kim McManus.



Bird's-foot Violet, *Viola pedata*, by Mary Garland Douglass.



Spicebush Swallowtail, *Papilio troilus*, by Kim McManus.