SCAN South Carolina Association of Naturalists
Post Office Box 5651, Columbia, South Carolina 29250-5651

March 2009

Hello Everyone,

On a windy, rainy, cool 59°f Saturday, most people would prefer to be parked in front of the television set munching on nachos or taking in a movie and popcorn at the local theater. Most folks would not willingly venture out for an extended period in these less than appealing weather conditions. But, when it comes to a SCAN fieldtrip, it seems as though nothing keeps the hard-core naturalist indoors. Our February fossil dig trip to the LaFarge quarry in Dorchester County is the perfect example of the fortitude of SCAN members. We had 24 members and three guests show up for a muddy trip into the quarry!

Among the treasures hauled from the quarry by our group were bone fragments, shark teeth, casts of brachiopods, casts of worm tubes, sting ray spines, and fossilized sand dollars. Some of the best finds of the day included very nice whale rib-bone pieces found by Pat Bright and a respectable shark tooth found by Gabe Wilkening, son of Wayne Wilkening, the quarry employee that was our escort for the day. Despite the weather, we had a good day in the quarry and a fine barbeque dinner amongst friends afterwards. Thanks to Wayne Grooms and Jim Knight for hosting the trip and making the arrangements with LaFarge.

I would like to thank all of you that have responded to our request for volunteers to receive the newsletter via email. As of a couple of weeks ago, about half of our renewing members signed up for the email newsletter. Remember, if you are interested in the email newsletter, please let me know and I'll see that you are put on the mailing list (agmurphy@gmail.com).

On January 17, 2009, the South Carolina Wildlife Federation (SCWF) held their 44th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet. SCAN's own Dick Watkins received a National Conservation Achievement Award from the National Wildlife Federation for his volunteer work, since 1973, associated with the protection and promotion of what is now Congaree National Park. According to SCWF's March issue of *Out Of Doors*, the award "was established to honor individuals and organizations whose achievements in wildlife and natural resource conservation deserve national recognition." Join me in congratulating Dick for receiving the national recognition and thanking him for his hard work.

Please be aware that if you haven't renewed your membership for 2009, this will be the last newsletter that you will receive. If you haven't done so already, take a few minutes to fill out the membership renewal form and make plans to join us on some of the exciting trips we have planned for this year.

See you in a couple of weeks at the Rocky Creek Tract fieldtrip!

Gordon

2009 SCAN Officers
President – Gordon Murphy
Vice President – Pat Bright
Treasurer - Greg Mancini
Secretary – Kay Hollis

Regional Directors
Western Region – Phil Harpootlian
Eastern Region – Peggy O'Neal
Northern Region – Jan Ciegler
Central Region – John Cely
Southern Region – Wayne Grooms

In the quarry.

Nancy bags a treasure.

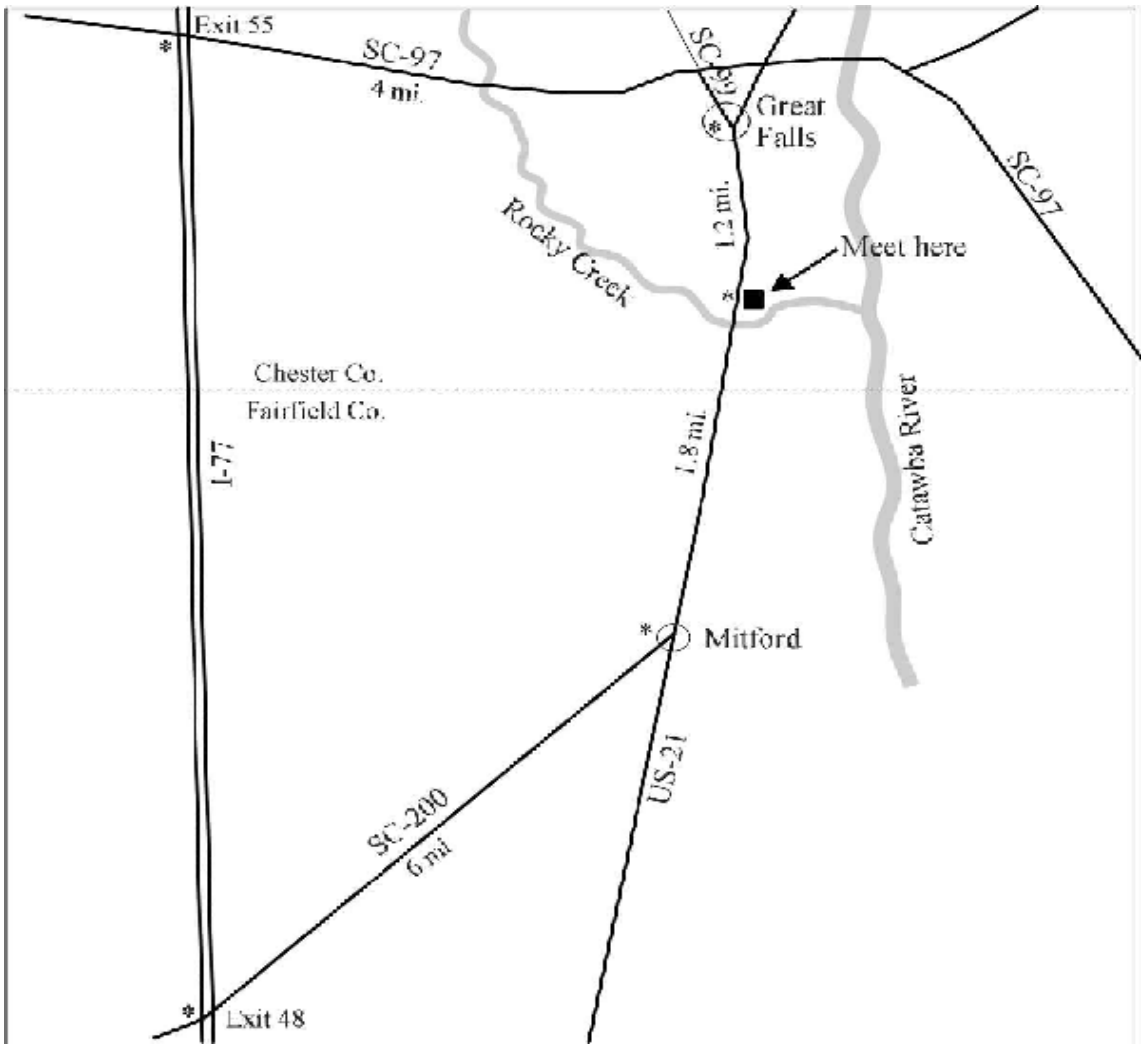
Jim excavates a piece of bone from limestone.

Jim identifies specimens at the end of the day.

Rocky Creek Tract
Chester County, 3/28/09, 10:30 AM

March's Fieldtrip will be to Katawba Valley Land Trust Rocky Creek Tract. Executive director, Austin Jenkins will be available to guide walks and point out some of the more interesting plants. Noteworthy plant communities include Rocky shoals, Granite outcrop woodland, Streamside seepage and right of way Grassland/thicket. There are almost 2.5 miles (roundtrip) of wide gravel road trails along the north side of the creek. The southeast quadrant of the property has no formal trails, but has a reasonably open understory and is quite easy going following along game trails and old road grades. The southwest quadrant is reached from another parking area with wide trails (made by four wheelers) that ends at small rapids and an old mill site. Bring lunch, water and insect repellent. No restrooms are available.

We will gather at the parking lot south of Great Falls on US Highway 21, just north of Rocky Creek. It is probably best to carpool for those interested in viewing the rapids. We will probably eat supper at the Hilltop Cafe just south of Rocky Creek on US Highway 21.



Directions: From I-77 coming north, take Exit 48. Go northeast on SC 200 for 6 miles to the intersection with US 21. It is then 1.8 miles to Rocky Creek. Park in the lot just north of the creek. Coming south on I-77 Take Exit 55, then east on SC 97 for about 5.5 miles, then right (south) on SC 99 to its junction with US 21. Turn right (south) onto 21 about 1.2 miles to the parking area on the left. If coming west on 97, turn south on US 21 just after crossing the Catawba River. In about 0.8 mile SC 99 will join on the right. Continue 1.2 miles to the parking area on the left.

The Chimney Swifts are Coming!

The first Chimney Swifts of the season have been sighted on the Gulf Coast retuning from their wintering grounds in South America. As in past years we will be plotting the swifts' movements northward over the next few months. Please let us know when you see the first ones in your area. This year's results will be posted on our web site at: WWW.CHIMNEYSWIFTS.ORG along with past years' efforts.

You can help us get the word our by passing this message along to any groups or organizations who might want to contribute.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Paul and Georgean Kyle

Project Directors
Driftwood Wildlife Association
www.ChimneySwifts.org

This year's
"A Swift Night Out"
dates will be
August 7, 8, 9
and
September 11, 12, 13

LaFarge Cement Quarry
Dorchester Co., SC
February 28, 2009

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 Rush
Juncus effusus solutus
Woolgrass Bulrush
Scirpus cyperinus
Narrowleaf Cattail
Typha angustifolia
Common Cattail
Typha latifolia
Pecan
Carya illinoinensis
Carolina Willow
Salix caroliniana
White Sweetclover
Melilotus albus
Silverling
Baccharis halimifolia

FAUNA

Spring Peeper
Pseudacris crucifer
Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura
Eastern Towhee
Pipilo erythrophthalmus
White-tailed Deer
Odocoileus virginianus