



April 2009

Hello everyone,

Once again dedicated SCAN members turned out for a hike in the rain. Although it was a little damp, we had a great trip to the Rocky Creek Tract in Chester County. Rocky Creek is a perennial tributary to the Catawba River/Cedar Creek Reservoir. Most of us explored the south side of the Creek led by Austin Jenkins, Executive Director of the Katawba Valley Land Trust, who owns the tract. The portion of the tract that we explored is a north-facing slope where we saw lots of emerging wildflowers not yet in bloom including Soloman's seal, trillium, and iris. Wildflowers in bloom included spring beauty, rue anemone, wood anemone, violets and trailing arbutus and we were a little late for the bloodroot which had already bloomed. I was impressed at how few invasive species were there considering how close to Great Falls the site is located.

Jules did some research on the geology of the area. He reports that the large granite outcrop we walked up, above the creek, may be Great Falls Metagranite, which is a low grade metamorphic volcanic rock that is prominent in that part of Chester County. Great Falls Metagranite was formed during the Cambrian or Neoproterozoic age. The metagranite is part of a discordant intrusion (estimated age 540 million years, Cambrian period) into a Precambrian gneiss complex that covers about 100km²; off centered around Great Falls and outcrops best along the Catawba and its tributaries like Rock Creek. The metamorphism into the present greenschist rock likely took place during what is called the Taconic orogeny, which took place 460 million years ago. This was one of four ancient mountain building episodes on the east coast of what was to become North America, as the result of a continental plate/volcanic arc terrane collision. [Sources: Timeline of Geologic Events of the Carolinas (G. Schissler) and SC Geology Vol. 28 No. 2, (D. Privett 1985)] For more information, Jules provided the following link: <http://tin.er.usgs.gov/geology/state/sgmc-unit.php?unit=SCCAZggf%3B4>. Thanks for the insight on the geology of Rocky Creek Jules!

Thanks also go to Phil Harpootlian for hosting the trip and special thanks goes to Austin for leading us on the hike.

Last month we tried something a little different with the newsletter. The email version contained color photographs from our trip to LaFarge quarry in February. Including photographs in the paper copy of the newsletter is cost prohibitive at this time, but since there are no printing costs associated with the email version, we thought this would be a good way to share the trip experience with those who couldn't attend. As always, your feedback for improvements to the newsletter is greatly appreciated.

Remember to mark May 9th on your calendars as we have a President's Special to Crackerneck WMA. This month we will be traveling to Pickens County to visit Nine Times Preserve.

Hope to see you there!

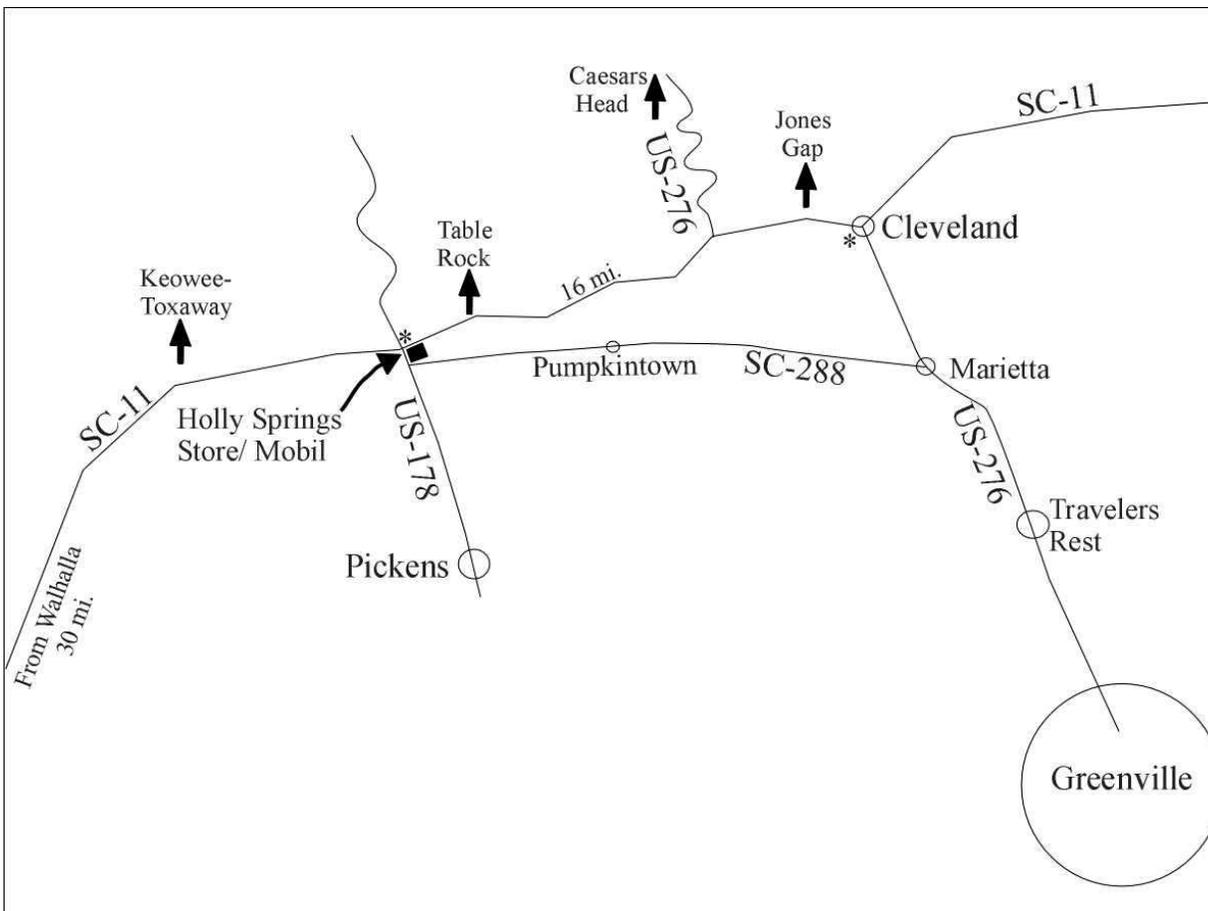
Gordon

Nine Times Preserve – Pickens County
Meet at 10:30 a.m. April 25, 2009

On Saturday, April 25, we'll explore another site new to SCAN, the Nine Times Preserve, in lovely Pickens County in the spring. This site is notable for a basic cove forest (similar to Wadakoe Mountain), a riverine floodplain, and a granitic dome. There are two species of *Hepatica* for the botanists, West Virginia Whites for the lepidopterists, and many spring flowers for those just looking. The first section we'll visit has a level trail for easy walking. In the afternoon we'll drive a short distance to where we can climb the 500-foot dome on a well-graded trail. Recently acquired by The Nature Conservancy, the preserve has 560 acres.

From Greenville, travel north on US-276 to Cleveland where SC-11 comes in. Curve left, then follow SC-11 west past the turnoff to Caesar's Head and 4 miles past the west gate of Table Rock to the junction with US-178 (16 miles) at the STOP sign. Or take the shortcut from Marietta on SC-288 through Pumpkintown; turn right (north) on US-178. Meet at the Mobil Gas/Holly Springs Store at the intersection of SC-11 and US-178 at 10:30.

The Holly Springs Store has sandwiches, snacks, restrooms, and parking space. There we'll leave some cars and caravan about 4-5 miles to the Preserve. Bring lunch, water, bug repellent, and sunscreen.

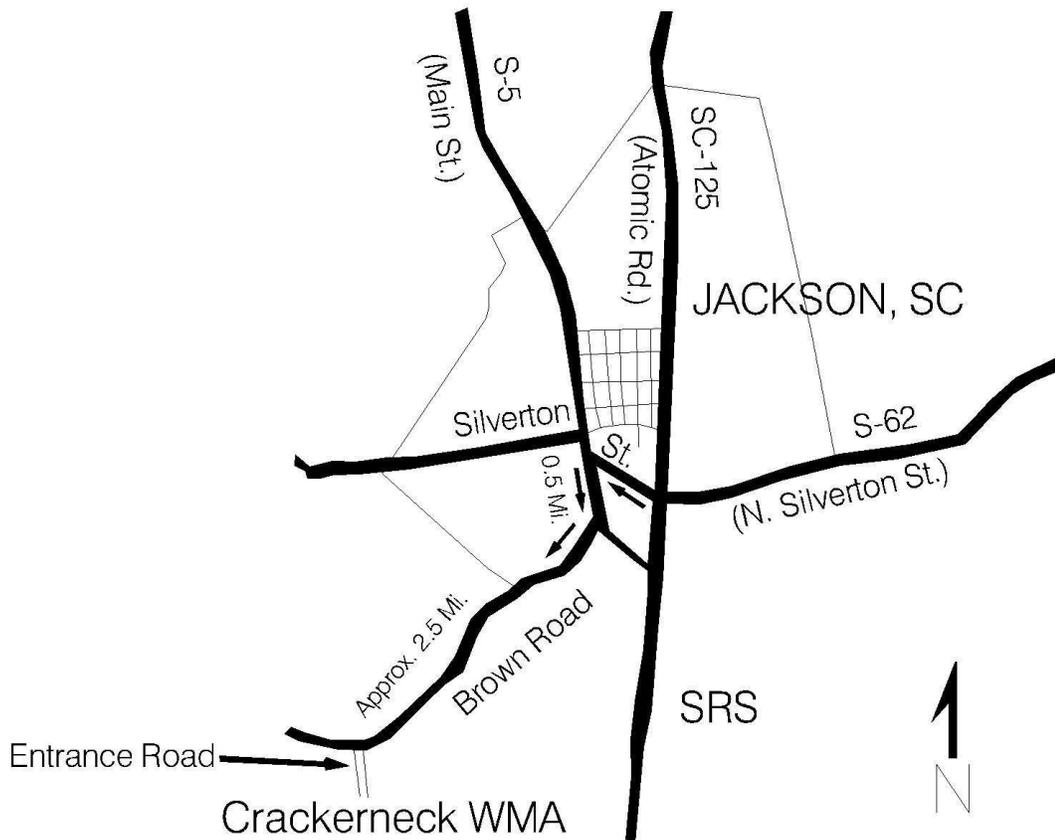


President's Special - Crackerneck WMA and Ecological Reserve
May 9, 2009 – 10:30 AM

Please join us on May 9th as we explore interesting habitats at Crackerneck WMA and Ecological Reserve. Crackerneck is actually part of the Savannah River Site that is open to the public on a limited basis. There are days set aside during the year for hunting, fishing, and passive use of the site. We will start out by exploring an isolated depression wetland and the upland pine forest adjacent to it. When I scouted the area in March, the wetland was inundated so we may have the opportunity to wade a little to fully appreciate the flora and fauna located there. From there we'll have lunch next to Skifface Pond, which is a 14-acre cypress lined impoundment. After lunch we will travel to the high terrace above Island Creek swamp, a tributary to Upper Three Runs Creek. Here we will explore the relatively undisturbed plant communities on the slope down to the swamp. There are the remnants of an old logging tram road that extends out into the swamp at this location. For those that would like to see a "cross section" of the swamp community the old road provides a good opportunity for that. Some wading may be required depending on water levels at the time of our visit. On the way back to the check station we can drive by the upper end of Skifface Pond to view native azaleas that should be in bloom.

We should meet at the WMA check station on the entrance road at 10:30AM where everyone will need to sign in. From there we can caravan to the various stops. The roads are well maintained so there shouldn't be any access issues for small cars. If memory serves, there is a port-a-potty at the check station. Bring food, water and bug spray as I am sure the mosquitoes will be out in force.

Directions – From SC 125 (Atomic Road) in Jackson, turn west onto Silverton Road and go approximately 0.25-mile to the stop sign. Turn left onto S-5 (Main Street) and travel approximately 0.5-mile then turn right onto Brown Road. Follow Brown Road for approximately 2.5 miles until the pavement ends. At that point take a left onto the entrance road and travel approximately 0.25-mile to the check station. There will be a Crackerneck sign on the right at the entrance road. For those that like to navigate via GPS, the coordinates for the entrance road are 33° 17.406'N, 81° 47.079'W.



Quick note from Lynn Smith:

I just received notice of a birding and nature festival at Santee NWR the same weekend as SCAN's April field trip to Nine Times. If you can't make it to the upstate, you might check out their program, which is three days of April 24, 25, and 26... Pete Dunne is the keynote speaker at a banquet Friday night and will lead a walk Saturday. There are lots of other good trips. Check out the website:

<http://www.fws.gov/santee/Santee-birding-festival-2009.pdf>

Correction to March Newsletter:

Western Regional Director, Jan Ciegler and Northern Regional Director, Phil Harpootlian were reversed

Rocky Creek, Katawba
Valley Land Trust
Chester Co., SC
March 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

Rattlesnake Fern
Botrypus virginianus
Southern Adder's-tongue
Ophioglossum
pycnostichum
Southern Grapefern
Sceptridium biternatum
Ebony Spleenwort
Asplenium platyneuron
Christmas Fern
Polystichum acrostichoides
Resurrection Fern
Pleopeltis polypodioides
michauxiana
Shortleaf Pine
Pinus echinata
Loblolly Pine
Pinus taeda
Eastern Red Cedar
Juniperus virginiana
virginiana
Wood-rush
Luzula sp.
Giant Cane
Arundinaria gigantea
Field Garlic
Allium vineale
Perfoliate Bellwort
Uvularia perfoliata
Straw-lily
Uvularia sessilifolia
Devil's-bit
Chamaelirium luteum
False Solomon's-seal
Maianthemum racemosum
racemosum
Catesby's Trillium
Trillium catesbaei
Dwarf Crested Iris
Iris cristata

Whiteleaf Greenbrier
Smilax glauca
Crane-fly Orchid
Tipularia discolor
Tulip-tree
Liriodendron tulipifera
Sassafras
Sassafras albidum
Little Brown Jug
Hexastylis arifolia
Little Heartleaf
Hexastylis minor
Common Black-cohosh
Actaea racemosa
Round-lobed Hepatica
Anemone americana
Lanceleaf Anemone
Anemone lancifolia
Windflower
Anemonella thalictroides
Hispid Buttercup
Ranunculus hispidus
Bloodroot
Sanguinaria canadensis
Sycamore
Platanus occidentalis
occidentalis
Sweet Gum
Liquidambar styraciflua
Winged Elm
Ulmus alata
Mockernut Hickory
Carya alba
Pignut Hickory
Carya glabra
American Beech
Fagus grandifolia
White Oak
Quercus alba
Scarlet Oak
Quercus coccinea
Water Oak
Quercus nigra
Willow Oak
Quercus phellos
Red Oak
Quercus rubra
Post Oak
Quercus stellata
River Birch
Betula nigra
American Hornbeam
Carpinus caroliniana
American Hop-hornbeam
Ostrya virginiana
Spring-beauty
Claytonia virginica
Sticky Mouse-ear
Cerastium glomeratum
Common Chickweed
Stellaria media

Jumpseed
Persicaria virginiana
Thinleaf Violet
Viola affinis
Halberd-leaf Violet
Viola hastata
Eastern Cottonwood
Populus deltoides deltoides
Spotted Wintergreen
Chimaphila maculata
Mountain Laurel
Kalmia latifolia
Sourwood
Oxydendrum arboreum
Sparkleberry
Vaccinium arboreum
Elliott's Blueberry
Vaccinium elliotii
Silverbell
Halesia tetraptera
Appalachian Mock-orange
Philadelphus inodorus
Early Saxifrage
Saxifraga virginiana
Foamflower
Tiarella wherryi
Eastern Redbud
Cercis canadensis
canadensis
Kudzu
Pueraria montana lobata
Autumn Silverberry
Elaeagnus pungens
Spring Silverberry
Elaeagnus umbellata
parvifolia
Flowering Dogwood
Cornus florida
Hearts-a-burstin'-with-love
Euonymus americanus
Possum-haw
Ilex decidua decidua
American Holly
Ilex opaca opaca
Chalk Maple
Acer leucoderme
Red Maple
Acer rubrum
Eastern Poison Ivy
Toxicodendron radicans
radicans
Violet Wood-sorrel
Oxalis violacea
Wild Geranium
Geranium maculatum
Southern Chervil
Chaerophyllum tainturieri
Carolina Jessamine
Gelsemium sempervirens
Corn-gromwell
* *Buglossoides arvensis*
arvensis

Henbit
Lamium amplexicaule
amplexicaule
Ivyleaf Speedwell
Veronica hederifolia
Chinese Privet
Ligustrum sinense
Beechdrops
Epifagus virginiana
Cross-vine
Bignonia capreolata
Trumpet-creeper
Campsis radicans
Cleavers
Galium aparine
Tiny Bluet
Houstonia pusilla
Partridge-berry
Mitchella repens
Sweet-breath-of-spring
Lonicera fragrantissima
Japanese Honeysuckle
Lonicera japonica
Coral Honeysuckle
Lonicera sempervirens
Common Elderberry
Sambucus canadensis
Carolina Green-and-gold
Chrysogonum virginianum
brevistolon
Robin's-plantain
Erigeron pulchellus
pulchellus
Veiny Hawkweed
Hieracium venosum

FAUNA

Almond Millipede
Sigmoria aberrans
Wolf Spider
* *Araneidae* family
Wolf Spider
Lycosidae family
Southern Toad
Anaxyrus terrestris
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus
Eastern Phoebe
Sayornis phoebe
Tufted Titmouse
Parus bicolor
Northern Parula
Parula americana
Pine Warbler
Dendroica pinus
Louisiana Waterthrush
Seiurus motacilla
Beaver (gnaw mark)
Castor canadensis



Rocky Creek, west of the Highway 21 bridge.



Discussing the fungus found on American beech trees.



John Cely lends a hand to Jerry Bright as he photographs wildflowers.



Bloodroot.

