



August 2011

Hello Everyone,

Until recently, it has been pretty dry here in northern Richland County. So dry in fact that Big Cedar Creek almost stopped flowing, and water held in the larger pools was almost stagnant. Large amounts of detritus that had accumulated in the pools began decaying and huge bubble of methane would rise to the surface when I waded through the pools. I have only seen the creek completely stop flowing once in the last 40 years and that was during the summer of 2002. But, the last couple of weeks, afternoon storms have returned and the creek is once again flowing, and the toads and tree frogs are happy. We have not seen any more of the large red belly water snakes in Lori's pool, but she fish a small snake skin out of it last week so I guess I need to re-institute my nightly snake patrol. Last month I reported on our on-going bat issues and this month I'm happy to say that the bats have found the new "condominium" that I constructed and seem to be very satisfied with it.

In July SCAN visited Burough Plantation in Sumter County. I am not going to get into the history of the Plantation since Jerry Bright did a wonderful job of the in his trip write up. Walter Anderson, the owner and descendant of the original owners, led us on a tour of the grounds before we ventured off on our own. Walter explained the packed earth construction technique used to construct the house, which started out as a tavern, and how the clay walls were then covered with stucco to keep the water out. He explained that in the 1920s, his grandmother began the re-forestation of the agricultural fields, which are now planted in loblolly pine. One of the real intriguing bits of family history was that his great grandfather was friends with Joel Poinsett. Many plants still growing on the grounds were gifts from Poinsett including a camellia, which according to John Cely was once a state record. The tree is still alive but has suffered damage to the main trunk and is no longer a record tree. One plant that Poinsett gave to the family is housed in the conservatory that Walter's grandmother had constructed. This is a nightblooming cereus that is over 150 years old! Joel Poinsett died in 1851 while visiting the Plantation and is buried in the Church of the Holy Cross, which was established in 1788, and is located across the road from the Plantation. After the tour of the Plantation grounds, we walked through pine/hardwood forest to a pond called Ice Pond, so named because ice was collected from the pond during the winter and used for cold storage of food in a shelter dug into the hill side. It was a pleasant hike and as one might expect a good many no-native escapees were observed along the way. A special thanks go to Walter and Susan for sharing their treasure with us and for the great history lesson. Thanks also to Jerry for leading the trip.

This month we will be visiting Woods Ferry Recreational Area in Chester County. On September 10th we will return to Ark Lodge located at Woodbury Tract WMA in Marion County. This will be an overnight trip and should be lots of fun.

I hope to see you all at Woods Ferry Recreational Area on the 27th!

Gordon

Woods Ferry Sumter National Forest Recreation Area

Chester County, Aug. 27, 2011

Meet in the picnic parking lot at 10:30 AM

Woods Ferry Recreation Area, in western Chester County, lies within a beautiful wooded floodplain surrounded by upland pine woods and maturing hardwood forests. There are approx. 6 miles of hiking/horse trails, and many dirt roads that offer plenty of walking opportunities. The maintained trails can be accessed via an unmarked, but well used trail off the road between the main picnic parking lot and the boat landing. Of the dirt roads, I especially liked Neals Shoal road – the right fork takes you back down to the river at the dam with it's large natural rocky outcrop, while the other goes along a level and pleasant hardwood covered ridge line. After all that, I found enough in the vicinity of the picnic area to keep me busy for a couple of hours.

Directions

From Hwy. 72, between Chester and Whitmire, turn north onto Leeds Rd. (County 12-25) [marked with brown Woods Ferry sign as well as a green Leeds sign], drive 1.8 miles. Keep left at the fork of Leeds Road (County 12-25) and Woods Ferry Road (County 49), this isn't an obvious intersection, so if you miss it, just continue straight ahead to the dead end T [about a block], turn left and then right onto Woods Ferry Road. Go 3.4 miles north to Park Road (County 12-574) [marked with large wooden Forest Service sign]. Turn left and drive 3.6 miles to the end of the paved road to the large Picnic area on the Broad River. Note: Ignore the red 'stop' fee sign at the kiosk – doesn't apply to daytime activity – only campers.

From Hwy. 9, turn south on Woods Ferry Rd (County 49), go 5.6 miles. Turn right at Park Rd. (County 12-574) and drive 3.6 miles to the end of the paved road.

Afterwards

I couldn't find any centrally located restaruants, all those found would take some folks at least 15 miles out of their way. Maybe not a problem. Open to suggestions.



PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL - ARK LODGE/WOODBURY TRACT
MARION COUNTY, SC
September 10 & 11; 10:30AM

We will be exploring the Woodbury Tract and will be staying overnight at the Ark Lodge. The Woodbury Tract is a 25,668-acre WMA owned by the SCDNR that is situated south of U.S. Route 378 and between the Great Pee Dee and Little Pee Dee Rivers. The Ark Lodge is owned by the Ervin family and is located on the Little Pee Dee River.

We will meet at Ark Lodge at 10:30 Saturday morning. Follow the map below and look for the SCAN sign posted on Woodbury Road where you should turn left to reach the Lodge. The road may be rough so drive carefully and please be prompt.

On our last visit in 2008, we explored the grounds of Ark Lodge as well as the sand rim of a Carolina bay and open wetlands under a power line that crosses Woodbury. On this trip we will explore different habitats found at Woodbury including sand dunes and a large depression wetland that harbors one of the largest populations of pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*) found in South Carolina. The water level in the Little Pee Dee River has been low this summer, but I encourage you to bring along your kayak or canoe for some paddling on one of South Carolina's most beautiful rivers. I'll provide an update on the water levels via email, the Yahoo Groups site, and Facebook before the trip

Accommodations: This is intended to be a camping trip; however, a limited number of beds are available in the Lodge and bunkhouse, as well as fold-out sofas and cots in the great-room of the Lodge. There are three bedrooms with two beds in each room; therefore rooms may have to be shared. I would ask that these accommodations be reserved for our "veteran" members and those with medical issues that prevent them from camping. There is a large grassy area in front of the Lodge as well as shady areas to the sides and in the rear that are suitable for pitching tents. For those that would like to participate both days but would rather stay in a hotel, Conway is only 16.5 miles from the Park 'n Blow, however I encourage you to stay with us at the Lodge as we always have fun socializing late into the night.

Food: Saturday night we will **probably** be eating a Low Country Boil prepared for us by Francis Ervin, if he is able to join us for the weekend. I would ask that we each contribute a few dollars to help cover the cost of the meal. **If Francis is not able to join us, I will get in touch with those of you who let me know if you will be joining us for dinner.** You should bring your own lunch and breakfast foods and of course your beverage(s) of choice. You are welcome to use the kitchen to prepare your meals. There is running water and restroom/shower facilities at the Lodge.

In order to see that all who are coming along will have sleeping accommodations and food Saturday night, please email me at agmurphy@hughes.net or call me at 803-530-2395 to let me know if you will be staying overnight and if will need a bed.

See you there!
Gordon

