Hi everyone,

October was another busy month for SCAN. We started the month with a President’s Special to Bulls Island at the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. It was a little warmer than I had hoped for and the mosquitoes were out in force, but it was a fun trip none the less. The boat ride out to the island was pleasant and we saw lots of wildlife along the way. Wading birds and terns were abundant at the boat ramp and were fortunate to see bottlenosed dolphins and many other birds during the boat ride. On the way, the Captain of the ferry filled us in on the highlights of the island. He informed us that roseate spoonbills, peregrine falcons, and bald eagles had been spotted at the north end of the island the day before. It didn’t take long for us to plan our route for the day and we promptly headed for Boneyard Beach, stopping at Alligator Alley long enough to see some fair sized gators before heading for the north end of the island in search of spoonbills. The tide was high and Boneyard Beach wasn’t totally visible so after a short lunch we headed for the birds. There wasn’t any shade on the hike along the old rice dikes but at least there was a pleasant breeze, and no mosquitoes! We were finally rewarded for all the blood loss when we found several roseate spoonbills foraging in the shallows of what once were rice fields. Off in the distance we saw two bald eagles perched on a dead snag and as we headed back toward the boat dock, back through mosquito territory, we saw two peregrine falcons flying overhead. It was a fun day and we may have broken a SCAN record for distance hiked. By the time we got back to the dock, we had traveled 9.5 miles, on foot! Some may have walked farther as they took a different route to the beach.

Our regularly scheduled fieldtrip took us to upper Florence County, close to the Great Pee Dee River. We visited the property of Dr. Dewey Ervin and his wife Donna. They have a beautiful tract of land that is managed for wildlife with lots of nature trails cut through it and were very gracious to share it with us. Our day started with a short walk from the house down to a forested wetland, Back Swamp, complete with a boardwalk that led out to the edge of an enormous beaver pond. Along the way we saw a banded water snake and were greeted at the end of the boardwalk by a cottonmouth. The cottonmouth didn’t seem bothered by our presence, or the camera flashes going off in his face, as he remained in the same spot beside the boardwalk as we all paraded by to get a good look. There is an elevated viewing platform at the end of the boardwalk that provided a great view of the wetland. Linda Lee wasn’t satisfied with viewing the vegetation from the safety of the boardwalk and on a couple of occasions jumped into the wetland for a closer view of the plants. After breaking for lunch at our vehicles we walked along a trail on a north-facing bluff above a swamp below. The high bluff provided quite a contrast in the vegetation community compared to our earlier wetland walk. Later we strolled along the edge of an area of planted pines on our way to the house where we were treated to some really good ice tea and socializing while a brief rain shower passed over. Thanks go to Peggy O’Neal for scouting and leading the trip for us!

Please note that we switched the October and November trips and will be going to the Wateree Passage of the Palmetto Trail on November 14th. Also, the planning meeting will be held at Jan Ciegler’s house on November 7th starting at 10:30. If you cannot attend but have ideas for next year’s trips please provide me or one of the Regional Coordinators with the pertinent information.

I hope to see you all at the Wateree Passage of the Palmetto Trail!

Gordon
Wateree Passage of the Palmetto Trail
(Central Region)
10:30, 14 November 2009
(John Cely)

Note: This trip will be the second Saturday of November.
There are many beautiful and interesting sections of the Palmetto Trail but none more so, in my humble opinion, than the Wateree Passage nestled in the “High Hills of the Santee” in western Sumter County. This trail, located within Manchester State Forest, starts on the edge of the Wateree Swamp floodplain near the Forest headquarters. For the first mile or so the trail is actually a dirt road located within the transition zone of the floodplain on the west and the bluff on the east. It really starts to get interesting when the road ends and the trail begins in earnest as it ascends to the steep bluffs bordering the floodplain. Here begins a beautiful mature mixed pine-hardwood forest more reminiscent of the foothills and mountains than the coastal plain. The vegetation thinks it is in the mountains too and consists of beech, white oak, sourwood, short-leaf pine, mountain laurel and other hardwoods. In places the bluff, or the High Hills as they have been known for 300 years, is more than 100 feet above the adjoining floodplain. On a clear day the westward views extend for more than 20 miles into Richland and even Calhoun County. And at this time of year, the fall foliage should be at peak.

This is historic country. The great explorer and naturalist John Lawson came through here in January, 1701, and marveled at the “alps” as he described the High Hills. If we had been here in the spring of 1540, we may have seen the dust kicked up by an army of 600 Spanish conquistadors and their horses and swine as they were led along the west bank of the Wateree River by Hernando De Soto searching for the legendary Indian town of Cofetachequi located a little south of Camden.

After about a mile atop the bluff, the trail descends into the Wateree Swamp where it then runs for nearly four miles across the floodplain atop an old abandoned railroad causeway. This is a unique way to experience “swamping” at its easiest for we will be high and dry 25 feet above the floodplain floor. This is not a loop trail but is a little more than seven miles one way all the way to the Wateree River (according to my math, a total length of 14 miles). While you are welcome to go the distance, I suspect the majority will want to turn back before then, but it will require about a six to seven mile total hike to see the three major sections of the trail. You will need to pack your lunch for this one, as well as a beverage and other such necessities.

Directions: We will meet at the Manchester State Forest Headquarters at 10:30. From Columbia to the west and Sumter to the east, take State Highway 261 south from its intersection with US 378; at Wedgefield (consisting of a few stores and a RR track), set your odometer for five miles and continue on 261. After five miles, look for the sign and a dirt drive on the right indicating Manchester State Forest Headquarters; if you see a paved road on the right indicating Poinsett State Park, you’ve gone a mile too far south.

For those coming from the south, probably the easiest way is to come up I-26, get on I-95 east, and take exit 108 at Summerville; then take county road 26 to Rimini; from Rimini go north to State Highway 261, continue north, look for the entrance to Poinsett State Park on your left and the entrance to Manchester will be a mile north on the left. Contact John Cely at jecely@sc.rr.com if there are any questions.

___________________________________________________________________________________________
The southern Appalachian Botanical Society named its 2009 award recipients at their meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. Of special note to SCAN is that our member Charlie Williams (aka Andre Michaux) was awarded the Elizabeth Ann Bartholomew Award. "The Award is presented to individuals for distinguished professional and public service that advances our knowledge and appreciation of the world of plants and their scientific, cultural and aesthetic values and/or exceptional service to the Society."

Congratulations to our member Charlie for all the work he did (and fun he has had) making folks aware of the contributions of Andre Michaux!
RIDGEHOPE
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**FLORA**

**Duck-Potato**
Sagittaria latifolia *Sagittaria latifolia*

**Marsh Dewflower**
Murdannia keisak

**Common Rush**
Juncus effusus solutus

**Umbrella Sedge**
*Cyperus odoratus*

**Spikerush**
Eleocharis obtusa

**Yellowflag Iris**
Iris pseudacorus

**Catchfly Cutgrass**
Leersia hexandra

**Water Oak**
Quercus nigra

**Cherrybark Oak**
Quercus pagoda

**Shagbark Oak**
Quercus shumardii

**River Birch**
Betula nigra

**Common Wheelweed**
Phytolacca americana

**White Oak**
Quercus alba

**Common Pawpaw**
Asimina triloba

**Cherrybark Oak**
Quercus pagoda

**Shagbark Oak**
Quercus shumardii

**Eastern Rose-mallow**
Hibiscus moscheutos

**Water Sunflower**
Juncus effusus

**White Water-lily**
Nymphaea odorata

**Common Elderberry**
Sambucus canadensis

**Arrowwood**
Viburnum dentatum

**White Snakeroot**
Ageratina altissima

**Ragweed**
Ambrosia trifida

**Mugwort; Felsen Herb**
Artemisia vulgaris

**Spanish Needles**
Bidens bipinnata

**Mistleflower**
Pericallis chamaeleon

**Fireweed**
Erechtites hieracifolium

**Boneset**
Eupatorium perfoliatum

**Jerusalem Artichoke**
Helianthus tuberosus

**Common Camphorweed**
Heterotheca latifolia

**Camphorweed**
Pluchea camphorata

**Bogbean**
Eupatorium cannabinum

**Yellow Lady’s-tresses**
Ampelodesmos orientalis

**Honeycomb Plantain**
Platanthera parasitica

**Southern Red Oak**
Quercus falcata

**Water Oak**
Quercus nigra

**Yellow-eyed Vireo**
Vireo flaviviridis

**Brown Thrasher**
Toxostoma rufum

**Carolina Wren**
Thryothorus ludovicianus

**Eastern Phoebe**
Sayornis phoebe

**Bald Eagle (juvenile)**
Haliaeetus leucocephalus

**Sycamore Tussock Moth**
Ancyloxypha numitor

**Virginian Tiger Moth (larva)**
Laparus virginiensis

**Sycamore Tussock Moth” (larva)**
*Hyalasialata harrisii*

**Yellow-eyed Tussock Moth (larva)**
*Pseudognaphalium officinale*

**Sleepy Orange (butterfly)**
Eurema nicippe

**Red-banded Hairstreak**
Satyrium eximium

**Sally Skipper**
*Neoscona domiciliorum*

**Orange Sulphur (butterfly)**
*Eurema hesperis*

**Bumblebee**
Bombus impatiens

**Eastern Pondhawk**
*Euph Dunews

**Waterpepper**
Cunalia eurytheme

**Goldenrod**
Solidago altissima

**Virginian Tiger Moth (larva)**
*Hyalasialata harrisii*

**Yellow-eyed Tussock Moth (larva)**
*Pseudognaphalium officinale*

**Sleepy Orange (butterfly)**
*Eurema nicippe*

**Red-banded Hairstreak**
*Satyrium eximium*

**Sally Skipper**
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*Eurema nicippe*

**Red-banded Hairstreak**
*Satyrium eximium*

**Sally Skipper**
*Neoscona domiciliorum*

**Orange Sulphur (butterfly)**
*Eurema hesperis*
Black Highbush Blueberry  
*Vaccinium corymbosum*

Southern Blueberry  
*Vaccinium virgatum*

American Persimmon  
*Diospyros virginiana*

Horse Sugar  
*Symphoricarpos dulcis*

Red Chokeberry  
*Aronia arbutifolia*

Black Cherry  
*Prunus serotina*

Water-willow  
*Decodon verticillatus*

Hairy Sexbee  
*Ludwigia pilosa*

Flowering Dogwood  
*Cornus florida*

Swamp Tupelo  
*Nyssa biflora*

Big Gallberry  
*ilex opaca opaca*

American Holly  
*ilex glabra*

Muscadine  
*Vitis rotundifolia*

Red Maple  
*Acer rubrum*

Carolina Jessamine  
*Gelsemium sempervirens*

Beauty Berry  
*Callicarpa americana*

Loblolly  
*LBelia elongata*

Poorjoe  
*Diodia teres*

Flat-topped Goldenrod  
*Solidago rotundata*

Rough-stemmed Goldenrod  
*Solidago rugosa*

**FLORA**

**Bull Island,**  
*Cape Romain NWR Charleston Co., SC*  
*October 10, 2009*

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**FAUNA**

**Pink Beds Loop,**  
*Pisgah National Forest Transylvania Co., NC*  
*July 25, 2009*

**Cheestnut Ridge**  
*Heritage Preserve Greeneville Col, SC*  
*August 22, 2009*

**Black-breasted Nuthatch**  
*Sitta pusilla*

**Brown-headed Nuthatch**  
*Sitta carolinensis*

**Belted Kingfisher**  
*Ceryle alcyon*

**Carolina Locust**  
*Climbing Milkweed*

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**  
*Sitta carolinensis*

**Pink Beds Loop,**  
*Pisgah National Forest Transylvania Co., NC*  
*July 25, 2009*

**Addition:**  
*Common Sawfly; Chelone Caterpillar*  
*Tenbroeck grandis*

**Cheestnut Ridge**  
*Heritage Preserve Greeneville Col, SC*  
*August 22, 2009*

**Addition:**  
*Carolina Spinypod; Climbing Milkweed*

**Deletion:**  
*Climbing Hemphillweed Mikania scandens*