



SCAN *South Carolina Association of Naturalists*

Post Office Box 5651, Columbia, South Carolina 29250-5651

February 2015

Greetings SCAN Members,

The Annual Meeting was held in the Lake House at the Clemson Sandhills facilities again this year. Thanks to those who brought cookies, brownies, cake, and other goodies for the pre-meeting socializing. A special thank you goes to John Cely for making arrangements for the meeting venue and for getting there early to make coffee! Our treasurer, Greg Mancini, reports that we had 52 in attendance this year.



Our speakers this year were Bob Perry, Will Doar, and Ron Lance. Bob Perry provided us with insights into SCDNR's efforts in landscape scale habitat conservation. The concept of landscape scale habitat conservation involves preserving large tracts of land that contain multiple habitat types as well as important cultural resources. This can be accomplished by fee simple purchase or donation of sensitive lands that are incorporated into the Heritage Preserve program, or through the implementation of conservation easements on private properties as



has been done in the ACE Basin and COWASEE Basin. Will Doar is a geologist with the South Carolina Geological Survey, which is now part of SCDNR. Will is very knowledgeable on the geology of South Carolina and gave us a great presentation that focused primarily on the coastal plain. Ron Lance brought along twigs from various trees and passed them out for us to look at as he pointed out the various



characteristics on winter twigs that provide clues to their identification. Following his presentation, we all reconvened outside for a short walk where we looked at several tree species and Ron pointed out the distinguishing twig characteristics of each. Thank you all for taking time on a Saturday to share your work and interests with SCAN.



The business meeting was held immediately following the presentations. Topics of discussion included the 2014 treasurer's report by Greg Mancini, 2015 officers, and an update on efforts to modernize the SCAN website. Nominations and election of 2015 officers were as follows; Gordon Murphy, President and Historian; Greg Ross, Vice-president; Mary Douglass, Secretary; Greg Mancini, Treasurer; Jan Ciegler, Database Manager; Rita Zollinger, Northern Regional Director; Kathy Boyle and Wayne Grooms, Western Regional Director; Caroline Eastman, Central Regional Director; Kim McManus and Paul Kalbach, Southern Regional Director, and Kathy Boyle, Eastern Regional Director.

I am happy to share the good news that the new SCAN website is now up and running! Be sure to visit the site at <http://www.scnaturalists.org>.

Following the business meeting, we adjourned and a potluck dinner with more socializing at the Lake House.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Pine Island Unit of Santee National Wildlife Refuge next weekend!

- Gordon

2015 SCAN FIELDTRIPS

February 28th – Santee NWR Pine Island Unit – Central Region

March 14th – Regional Director's Special – Devils Fork State Park – Northern Region

March 28th – Ark Lodge/Woodbury Tract (over-nighter) – Eastern Region

April 25th – Poinsett State Park (over-nighter) – Central Region

May 23rd – Francis Marion Forrest/Hellhole (over-nighter) – Southern Region

June 27th – Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve – Eastern Region

July 25th – Eastatoe Creek Heritage Preserve – Western Region

August 22nd – Brasstown Creek Heritage Preserve – Western Region

September 12th – President's Special - TBD

September 26th – Roxbury Park/Botany Bay (over-nighter) – Southern Region

October 10th – Planning Meeting

October 24th – Blue Wall Passage of the Palmetto Trail – Northern Region

November 14th – Porcher Property – Central Region (Hitchcock Woods, alternate site)

December 12th – Huntingon Beach State Park – Eastern Region

January 23, 2016 - Annual Meeting



SCAN New Membership & Renewal Form

(Members must be age 15 or older)

Today's Date: _____

Dues: \$12.00 per calendar year due by the January annual meeting

\$5.00 per calendar year for each additional member at the same address

Note: Persons joining in July or later pay 1/2 price. Make checks payable to SCAN.

Name(s): 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Mailing Address: **Please notify SCAN of home and email address changes.**

Street/PO Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Newsletters will be sent through e-mail. Please **print clearly** the preferred address or addresses.

E-mail: 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Phone(s): (_____) _____ (Home)

(_____) _____ (Work)

(_____) _____ (Cell)

Mail form and check to:

SCAN

PO Box 5651

Columbia, SC 29250-5651

Santee National Wildlife Refuge – Pine Island Unit
February 28, 2015, 10:30

Last year SCAN visited the Cuddo Unit of Santee National Wildlife Refuge. This year we will visit another unit – the Pine Island Unit. This is another large unit containing a somewhat different mix of habitats than the Cuddo Unit. A Carolina bay comparable in size to Dingle Pond has recently been added to the unit.

Santee NWR, established in 1941, is located in Clarendon County, South Carolina. Of the total 13,000 acres that make up the refuge, only 4,400 acres are owned with the remaining acreage being managed under a lease agreement with the South Carolina Public Service Authority (aka Santee-Cooper). The refuge also manages 10 conservation easements on private lands, totaling 458 acres in Bamberg, Barnwell, Clarendon and Orangeburg counties. Public use opportunities at the refuge include a visitor's center with educational exhibits, walking trails, an auto tour route, wildlife observation and photography, hunting, and fishing.

The refuge is located on the north shore of Lake Marion, the largest lake in South Carolina. It is a major wintering area for ducks and geese, as well as a nesting and stopover area for neo-tropical migratory birds, raptors, shore birds, and wading birds. Endangered/ threatened species on the refuge include the American alligator and the wood stork. Numerous other species of wildlife are indigenous to this area. The migration ends here, Santee NWR is the southernmost migration point for naturally migrating Canada Geese.

Our facilitator for the trip is Paul Thomas. He is working on the refuge and conducting a herp survey of the refuge units under the supervision of Dr. Eran Kilpatrick at USC Salkehatchie.

We will meet at the visitor's center at 10:30 and carpool/drive the short distance to the Pine Island Unit. Paul plans to have the center, including its bathrooms and exhibits, open by 10. If you get there early, check out the exhibits or short trail. We'll start by exploring the trails in the main section of the unit. There is a boat ramp, so you may want to bring a canoe or kayak. Parts of the unit are closed until March, but there is more than enough territory to for SCAN to explore. People who wish to explore the Carolina bay, which is adjacent to the entrance road, can do so in the afternoon before departing for supper. Since there is limited parking, we won't try to get the whole group there at once. There are no trails, and the bay has a fair amount of water in it. So at least boots and possibly waders would be appropriate. If you want to explore a bay with less bushwhacking, you can stop at the Dingle Pond unit, which is on the road out, and walk the trail and boardwalk there. The parking at this unit is limited, so it is unlikely that SCAN will have a trip specifically to Dingle Pond in the future. We will have dinner at the Lone Star BBQ in Santee. The address is 2212 State Park Road, Santee SC 29142.

Websites:

These websites have additional information, including nice maps. The Santee NWR site has lists for birds, mammals, and herps.

Santee National Wildlife Refuge: <http://www.fws.gov/santee/>

Lone Star Barbeque: <http://www.lonestarbbq.net/>

Directions to Santee NWR:

These directions are from the refuge website. Note that after you get off the I-95 at exit 102, you turn right on 15/301. [If you turn left, you end up in the lake.] The visitor's center will then be a turn to the left. The visitor's center address is 2125 Fort Watson Road, Summerton, SC 29148.

From I-95 (North or South):
Take Hwy. 15/301 exit on North side of Lake Marion (exit 102).

From I-26 East (Charleston): approximately 1 hour: Take I-26 to I-95. Take I-95 North until you reach exit 102 (Hwy 15/301).

From I-26 West (Columbia): approximately 1 hour: Take I-26 to 301 East (towards Santee). Go approximately 16 miles to Santee, where 301 will turn onto I-95 North. Take I-95 North for approximately 4 miles to exit 102.

From Hwy. 15/301:
Follow signs to visitor Center.

