



July 2015

Hello everyone.

We had an interesting trip on June 27th to Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve, a South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) property just west of Myrtle Beach. SCAN members who participated included Kathy Boyle, Jerry Bright, Pat Bright, Jan Ciegler, Jules Fraytet, Ann Jenkins, Paul Kalbach, Jeff Kline, Kim McManus, and Dave Schuetrum. Lewis Ocean Bay is one of the few places in the state that supports native populations of Venus flytrap, and everyone was eager to see this intriguing plant. As we headed into a dense thicket of evergreen vegetation I made the suggestion to “look for clusters of small, white, five-petalled flowers – they stand out nicely against these dark evergreens.” Twenty minutes later, we were still looking ... turns out the blooms I’d seen in abundance just two weeks earlier were now past. Fortunately the dark-brown-to-black flower remnants were still standing and before long we were learning to spot them. The Venus flytrap ‘trap’ leaves, still green and functional, were in rosettes at the base of each flower stalk.

By late morning a thunderstorm was closing in, so for a few minutes we all took shelter in our cars. When the rain stopped we set out to explore a broad wiregrass-dominated plain with a thin canopy of young longleaf and pond pine. Mesic sandy soil plus abundant sunlight has promoted development of a rich herbaceous layer on this site. We saw pitcherplants, meadowbeauty, rosepink, and milkwort, as well as some of the largest and most colorful Venus flytraps on the preserve. Looking up at the canopy though, people were puzzled that the needles on the pines were only about six inches in length – was this not longleaf pine? According to SCDNR manager Kayla Brantley, a prescribed burn back in March became somewhat hotter than expected, scorching much of the canopy; the short needles are a recovery in progress.



Figure 1. Exploring a wiregrass-dominated plain with a rich herbaceous layer. Photo by Dave Schuetrum.

Continuing eastward through the preserve, we entered the higher and drier terrain characteristic of Carolina bay sand rims. We stopped to visit a red-cockaded woodpecker site, and Pat Bright and I went for a stroll in shrubby woodland made up almost entirely of a single species, sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*). We hadn't gone very far when we heard a sudden rustling in the dead leaves on the ground a few meters away. It was a nightjar, flopping about as though badly injured. Presumably this was a 'distraction display' and Pat and I had been taken for nest predators!

At our next site we saw an impressive population of Venus flytrap, with over a thousand plants, but in habitat that hasn't been burned in years and is now dense with woody competition. Because Lewis Ocean Bay is in an urban/suburban area, SCDNR can burn only when weather conditions are ideal; as a result SCDNR's burning program tends to stay behind schedule.

Our final stop of the day on the preserve was a shallow pool of water in the powerline right-of-way. Floating on the surface of the water was a small bladderwort. In mucky soil at water's edge was a distinctive species of Iris, appearing to have only three petals (sepals, actually), aptly named *Iris tridentata*. Also in the muck was something we'd been looking for all day – the paw print of a black bear! Meanwhile on a nearby roadside Jan Ciegler found an unusual beetle, *Nemognatha piezata*, on a tall thistle which I later identified as *Cirsium nuttallii*.

We gathered for dinner at Big D's in Conway.

Thanks to everyone for helping me collect flytrap data, and special thanks to Jerry Bright for leading our caravan around the preserve. Hoping to see everyone on July 25th at Eastatoe Creek!

- Kathy Boyle

Thank you Kathy for scouting and leading the trip to Lewis Ocean Bay last month. And thanks for the trip summary. I sure wish that I could have been there!

This month we will be heading to Eastatoe Creek Heritage Preserve in Pickens County. I hope to see you all there!

- Gordon

Eastatoe Creek Heritage Preserve
Saturday, July 25, 2015
10:30AM

On July 27 we will meet at 10:30 AM at the Eastatoe Gorge Spur parking area to visit Eastatoe Creek Heritage Preserve in Pickens County. Covering 374 acres, this preserve features Eastatoe Creek and its three tributaries, along with a diversity of plant species including old growth hemlock (now under attack by the wooly adelgid), and dramatic rock formations.

The Eastatoe drops 600 feet in elevation, tumbling across large rocks and boulders before roaring through a series of narrow channels aptly called "The Narrows." Here the turbulent water generates a continuous fine spray, maintaining high humidity and promoting the growth of mosses, liverworts, and ferns, including a very rare 'filmy fern.' We'll be viewing this area from a distance, however, because the approach is too dangerous and the habitat too sensitive for hands-on exploration. A level spot a short distance upstream (the old campsite) provides access to the creek.

We will follow a well-marked 1.7-mile path, relatively easy for most of the way but dropping precipitously down into the gorge for the last 0.5 mile. Large hardwood trees line the trail, and some of the woody species will be unfamiliar to residents of non-mountain regions of the state. Can anyone name the shrub pictured below?



Most of the woodland on the preserve is a mixture of hardwoods, primarily oaks. In coves where soil and moisture conditions are more favorable, common trees are tulip poplar, basswood, sweet birch, hemlock, white pine, red maple, beech, ash, sweet gum, magnolia, buckeye, American holly, witch-hazel, alder, dogwood, and ironwood. This community is sometimes nearly impenetrable with a thick undergrowth of mountain laurel, rhododendron, dog hobble, and grapes. Throughout the preserve poison ivy is very common, and so are copperheads, so please be careful where you place hands and feet!

Directions to Eastatoe Creek Heritage Preserve:

From the town of Pickens (junction of US-178 and SC-183), go 16.8 miles north on US-178. Immediately after crossing Eastatoe Creek, turn left (southwest) onto Laurel Valley Road and go 0.05 mile to fork in road. Bear right to take Horsepasture Road and go 0.35 mile to the Eastatoe Gorge Spur parking area (this is a small parking area a short distance beyond the Foothills Trail parking lot).

The last mile or so of the trip is shown below in red. Parking lot coordinates are – 35.04908, 82.81628 (WGS84) **Kathy’s cell Number: (803) 603-6466**



Let’s eat at the Fiesta Mexican Grill in Pickens.

Address: 712 West Main Street, Pickens, SC 29671

Phone: 864-878-8255

Directions: From the junction of US-178 and SC-183 in Pickens, go five blocks west.





**Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve
Horry Co., SC
June 27, 2015**

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

Foxtail Clubmoss
Lycopodiella alopecuroides

Cinnamon Fern
Osmunda cinnamomea

Bracken
Pteridium aquilinum

Marsh Fern
Thelypteris palustris pubescens

Netted Chain Fern
Woodwardia areolata

Longleaf Pine
Pinus palustris

Pond Pine
Pinus serotina

Loblolly Pine
Pinus taeda

Yellow-eyed Grass
Xyris spp.

Pipewort
Eriocaulon sp.

Common Bogbutton
Lachnocaulon anceps

Rush
Juncus spp.

Threeway Sedge
Dulichium arundinaceum arundinaceum

Wright's Beaksedge
Rhynchospora wrightiana

Carolina Wiregrass
Aristida stricta

Switch Cane
Arundinaria tecta

Toothache Grass
Ctenium aromaticum

Redroot
Lachnanthes caroliniana

Fly-poison
Amianthium muscitoxicum

Flag
Iris tridentata

Sweetbay
Magnolia virginiana

Red Bay
Persea borbonia

Sweet Gum
Liquidambar styraciflua

Common Wax-myrtle
Morella cerifera

Sand Live Oak
Quercus geminata

Turkey Oak
Quercus laevis

Yellow Pitcherplant
Sarracenia flava

S. Purple Pitcherplant
Sarracenia purpurea venosa

Venus Flytrap
Dionaea muscipula

Water Sundew
Drosera intermedia

Ti-ti
Cyrilla racemiflora

Coastal Sweet Pepperbush
Clethra alnifolia

Dwarf Huckleberry
Gaylussacia dumosa

Dangleberry
Gaylussacia frondosa

Creeping Blueberry
Vaccinium crassifolium

Southern Evergreen Blueberry
Vaccinium myrsinites

Southern Blueberry
Vaccinium tenellum

White Sweetclover
Melilotus albus

Red Clover
Trifolium pratense

Smooth Meadow-beauty
Rhexia alifanus

Meadow-beauty
Rhexia mariana

Big Gallberry
Ilex coriacea

Little Gallberry
Ilex glabra

Tread-softly
Cnidioscolus stimulosus

Drumheads
Polygala cruciata

Orange Milkwort
Polygala lutea

Red Maple
Acer rubrum

Eastern Poison Ivy
Toxicodendron radicans radicans

Eastern Bishopweed
Ptilimnium capillaceum

Sabatia
Sabatia difformis

Four-angle Sabatia
Sabatia quadrangula

Bladderwort
Utricularia sp.

Lobelia
Lobelia nuttallii

Silverling
Baccharis halimifolia

Coastal Tall Thistle
Cirsium nuttallii

Common Dog-fennel
Eupatorium capillifolium

Bitterweed
Helenium amarum amarum

Grass-leaved Golden-aster
Pityopsis sp.

Blackroot

FAUNA

Fishing Spider
Dolomedes sp.

Half-winged Conehead Katydid
Belocephalus sp.

Velvet-ant
Dasymutilla sp.

Paper Wasp
Polistes sp.

Banded Pennant (dragonfly)
Celithemis fasciata

Eastern Pondhawk
Erythemis simplicicollis

Little Blue Dragonlet
Erythrodiplex minuscula

Golden-winged Skimmer
Libellula auripennis

Blue Dasher
Pachydiplax longipennis

Common Whitetail
Plathemis lydia

Violet-masked Glider
Tramea carolina

Punctured Tiger Beetle
Cicindela punctulata

Blister Beetle
Nemognatha piazzata

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Papilio glaucus

Palamedes Swallowtail
Papilio palamedes

Pearl Crescent (butterfly)
Phyciodes tharos

Common Buckeye
Junonia coenia

Cricket Frog (call)
Acris sp.

Green Treefrog (call)
Hyla cinerea

Pine Woods Treefrog (call)
Hyla femoralis

Six-lined Racerunner
Aspidoscelis sexlineata

Black Racer
Coluber constrictor

Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura

Black Vulture
Coragyps atratus

Northern Bobwhite (call)
Colinus virginianus

Mourning Dove
Zenaida macroura

Common Nighthawk
Chordeiles minor

Chimney Swift
Chaetura pelagica

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus

Red-headed Woodpecker
Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Picoides borealis

Purple Martin
Progne subis

Carolina Chickadee
Parus carolinensis

American Robin
Turdus migratorius

Red-Eyed Vireo
Vireo olivaceus

Northern Parula
Parula americana

Pine Warbler
Dendroica pinus

Hooded Warbler
Wilsonia citrina

Common Yellowthroat
Geothlypis trichas

American Redstart
Setophaga ruticilla

Northern Cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis

Eastern Towhee
Pipilo erythrophthalmus

Common Grackle
Quiscalus quiscula

Black Bear (tracks)
Ursus americanus

White-tailed Deer
Odocoileus virginianus

HELP WANTED

SCAN needs help in making our badges for new members. Jan Ciegler has been making the pictures and names (the artwork) and sending those as jpgs, and she will continue doing this. But someone else needs to print the artwork on a color printer, cut them out, and use a press to seal the artwork into the badge, which takes a stronger arm than Jan's. We already have Badge-a-Minit supplies. So if you are willing, please notify Jan (796-2862, jciegler@sc.rr.com) or Jerry (782-2289, jerrybright@gmail.com). Requirements:

Color printer

Pair of scissors

Strong arm

Frequent attendance at fieldtrips (to distribute badges)
