



January 2016

Happy New Year Everyone!

We had an unseasonably warm and leisurely day of beachcombing and bird watching on December 12<sup>th</sup> at Huntington Beach State Park. SCAN members who participated were Kathy Boyle, Jan Ciegler, Ben Gregory, Paul Kalbach, and Greg Mancini.

Our first stop was the park Nature Center, where we viewed natural history exhibits and live animals, including a young box turtle and a young alligator. We were especially intrigued by a stingray, body smoothly undulating, swimming continuous circles in the open saltwater tank.

Leaving the Nature Center, we walked the adjacent boardwalk into a saltwater marsh. Here we saw ducks and egrets, as well as osprey and wood storks.

Back on solid ground we started to follow the “Sandpiper Pond Trail” into the maritime forest, but hello mosquitoes! The beach seemed like a better idea, so we drove the remaining mile or two to the parking area and headed down the boardwalk toward the sea. Pausing occasionally to look out over the dunes – with binoculars handy since no foot traffic is allowed in this sensitive environment – a couple of tree species were immediately recognizable: our state tree, the palmetto palm, and the familiar red cedar. Not quite the familiar cedar though, this variety was *Juniperus virginiana* var. *silicicola*, with an irregular form and a greater tolerance for salt, high pH, and other harsh maritime conditions.



As we reached the sea, hands were dipped in the water. “Not that cold,” we said, and in fact near-shore water temperatures were in the low 60’s. Yet only the juveniles of *Homo sapiens* seemed inclined to actually immerse themselves in the water.

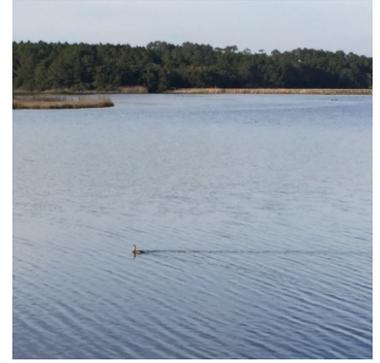
At this point we split into two groups, with Jan, Paul, and Greg walking the full length of the beach to the jetty, while Kathy and Ben kept a slower pace. Kathy hunted for seabeach amaranth along the front dunes but alas, none were found. Ben looked everywhere for invertebrates, and he came across an intact lettered olive shell, a live starfish, a walking-stick mantis, and more.



Meanwhile on the jetty our birders were watching common loons, horned grebes, and black scoters, when suddenly a loggerhead sea turtle popped up in the water in front of them. As some SCAN members know from experience, the loggerhead population in South Carolina seems to have stabilized over the last twenty or thirty years, thanks in part to the efforts of dedicated volunteers – see <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/seaturtle/nest.htm>.



Eventually all us got back together at the park's Ranger Station / Gift Shop, and from there we took the short "Kerrigan Nature Trail" to an observation deck above a freshwater lagoon. We sat quietly for some time and watched the water, as did an adult male bald eagle on the opposite shore.



We ended the day at Hog Heaven in Pawleys Island, a no-frills barbeque and seafood restaurant with excellent food. Heading home, traffic on US-17 was in a snarl as a result of Christmas events at Brookgreen Garden; this is something we'll try to avoid in the future!

Special appreciation for the success of this trip goes to Virginia Winn and Lynn Smith, whose seashell reference collection has helped Ben complete his species lists, and also to S.C. State Parks for maintaining this beautiful natural area in the midst so much coastal development.

- **Kathy Boyle**

Thank you Kathy for leading the December trip and providing a trip summary for us.

This year our annual meeting will again be held at Clemson Sandhills facility, in the Lake House on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Coffee will be provided but if you would like to bring donuts, cake, or cookies to share, it would be greatly appreciated. There will be tables available if you would like to bring a display or other items that might be of interest to the group. I strongly urge you to bring a bag lunch so that you will have the opportunity to explore the many trails rather than heading out for lunch.

We are going to have our usual potluck dinner at the Lake House as well. Hopefully this will give the folks that travel from out of town, and normally do not the opportunity to participate, to do so. A refrigerator is available for food storage and a microwave oven will be provided for those that need to warm food.

Our three speakers for the day include Rudy Mancke, Ken Carman, and Dr. Richard Darden. For additional information on Ken's talk, you can go to [www.L3PO.org](http://www.L3PO.org).

If you have not submitted your membership renewal yet, please do so prior to the annual meeting. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting!

*Gordon Murphy*

## Annual Meeting Agenda

**9:30 - 10:30:** Socializing and refreshments (coffee and donuts).

**10:30 - 11:00:** Welcome and Introductions

**11:00 - 11:50:** **Rudy Mancke** – Rudy will talk about the history of SCAN and how it became the organization that is today.

**12:00 - 1:30:** Lunch

**1:30 - 2:20:** **Dr. Richard Darden** – Richard will discuss the functions and values of wetlands, and will share some information concerning the regulations that protect these sensitive ecosystems.

**2:30 - 4:20:** **Ken Carman** – Today Ken will tell us about a new project he is working on called the Lowcountry Pollinator Park, Planetarium, and Observatory . . . or L3PO for short.

**4:20 - 4:50:** Business Meeting

- Treasurer's Report
- SCAN Book 3, *From Marsh to Mountain*, update by Jan Ciegler.
- Election of Officers – Nominations for officers can be made from the floor provided the nominee has agreed prior to the nomination. The current nominations are:
  - President – Gordon Murphy
  - Vice President – Kim McManus
  - Secretary – Mary Douglass
  - Treasurer – Greg Mancini
  - Historian – Gordon Murphy
  - Database Manager – Jan Ciegler
  - Northern Regional Director – Rita Zollinger
  - Western Regional Director – Kathy Boyle & Wayne Grooms
  - Central Regional Director – Caroline Eastman
  - Southern Regional Director – Paul Kalbach
  - Eastern Regional Director – Jeff Kline
- Old Business
  - Digital SCAN newsletters
- New Business
  - Membership drive/review of SCAN minimum age requirements

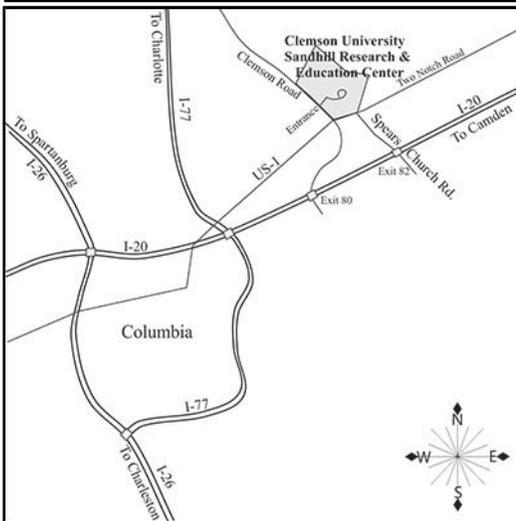
**4:50:** Adjourn

**5:30-??:** Potluck supper – Everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish, or if you prefer, there are grocery stores and restaurants in close proximity to the Lake House where you can grab some food after the business meeting.

## Directions to Clemson Lake House

There are many ways to get there. Use the maps below to guide you.

For those of you with a GPS navigation system, the turn into the Clemson Sandhills Experimental Station is at (34° 07' 55", -80° 52' 33"). Follow the dirt road to the Lake House at (34° 08' 07", -80° 52' 15").





**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

# Huntington Beach State Park

## Horry Co., SC

### December 12, 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](mailto:jciegler@sc.rr.com). Please indicate exactly to which flora/fauna list you are referring. Thank you.

#### ALGAE

##### Sponge Seaweed

- \* *Codium fragile tomentosoides*

#### FLORA

##### Ebony Spleenwort

*Asplenium platyneuron*

##### Loblolly Pine

*Pinus taeda*

##### Southern Red Cedar

*Juniperus virginiana silicicola*

##### Dwarf Palmetto

*Sabal minor*

##### Cabbage Palmetto

*Sabal palmetto*

##### Saltmarsh Cordgrass

*Spartina alterniflora*

##### Sea Oats

*Uniola paniculata*

##### Spanish-moss

*Tillandsia usneoides*

##### Mound-lily Yucca

*Yucca gloriosa*

##### Catbrier

*Smilax bona-nox*

##### Common Wax-myrtle

*Morella cerifera*

##### Live Oak

*Quercus virginiana*

##### Large Sea-purslane

*Sesuvium portulacastrum*

##### Dune Prickly-pear

*Opuntia pusilla*

##### Blueberry

*Vaccinium sp.*

##### Annual Sand Bean

*Strophostyles helvola*

##### Yaupon

*Ilex vomitoria*

##### Silverleaf Croton

*Croton punctatus*

##### Peppervine

*Ampelopsis arborea*

##### Virginia-creeper

*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

##### Muscadine

*Vitis rotundifolia rotundifolia*

##### Water-pennywort

*Hydrocotyle sp.*

##### Beautyberry

*Callicarpa americana*

##### Silverling

*Baccharis halimifolia*

#### FAUNA

##### Sea-whip

*Leptogorgia virgulata*

##### Common Sea-star

*Asterias forbesii*

##### Brown Rock Urchin

*Arbacia punctulata*

##### Five-holed Keyhole Urchin

*Mellita quinquesperforata*

##### Common Slipper (snail)

*Crepidula fornicata*

##### Southern Moon

**Snail; Shark-eye**  
*Polinices duplicatus*

##### Baby's-ear (shell)

*Sinum perspectivum*

##### Common Fig Shell

*Ficus ficus*

##### Channeled Whelk

\* *Busycotypus canaliculatus*

##### Lightning Whelk

\* *Sinistrofulgur perversum*

##### Florida Horse Conch

*Pleuroploca gigantea*

##### Lettered Olive (snail)

*Oliva sayana*

##### Augur Snail

*Terebra sp.*

##### Atlantic Augur

*Terebra dislocata*

##### Transverse Ark

*Anadara transversa*

##### Turkey-wing (shell)

*Arca zebra*

##### Ponderous Ark

*Noetia ponderosa*

##### Stiff Pen (shell)

*Atrina rigida*

##### Saw-toothed Pen (shell)

*Atrina serrata*

##### Pen (shell)

*Atrina sp.*

##### Eastern Oyster

*Crassostrea virginica*

##### Cat's-paw; Kitten's-paw

*Plicatula gibbosa*

##### Jingle Shell

*Anomia simplex*

##### Giant Atlantic Cockle

*Dinocardium robustum*

##### Atlantic Strawberry Cockle

\* *Americardia media*

##### Atlantic Surf Clam

*Spisula solidissima*

##### Atlantic Razor Clam

*Ensis directus*

##### Minor Jackknife Clam

\* *Ensis minor*

##### Jackknife Clam

*Tagelus plebeius*

##### Florida Coquina

*Donax variabilis*

##### Fossor Coquina

\* *Donax fossor*

##### Cross-barred Venus

\* *Chione elevata*

##### Angel-wing (shell)

*Cyrtopleura costata*

##### Parchment Worm

*Chaetopterus variopedatus*

##### Atlantic Horseshoe Crab

*Limulus polyphemus*

##### Decorator Crab

*Libinia emarginata*

##### Common Blue Crab

*Callinectes sapidus*

##### Lady Crab

*Ovalipes ocellatus*

##### Ghost Crab

*Ocypode quadrata*

##### Walking-stick Mantis

*Brunneria borealis*

##### Cloudless Sulphur

*Phoebis sennae eubule*

##### Gulf Fritillary

*Agraulis vanillae*

##### Monarch (butterfly)

*Danaus plexippus*

##### Mullet

*Mugil sp.*

##### Loggerhead Sea Turtle

*Caretta caretta*

##### Common Loon

*Gavia immer*

##### Horned Grebe

*Podiceps auritus*

##### Pied-billed Grebe

*Podilymbus podiceps*

##### Brown Pelican

*Pelecanus occidentalis*

##### Northern Gannet

*Morus bassarus*

##### Tricolored Heron

*Egretta tricolor*

##### Snowy Egret

*Egretta thula*

##### Great Blue Heron

*Ardea herodias*

##### Wood Stork

*Mycteria americana*

##### Gadwall

*Anas strepera*

##### Ruddy Duck

*Oxyura jamaicensis*

##### Ring-necked Duck

*Aythya collaris*

##### Black Scoter

*Melanitta nigra*

##### Bufflehead

*Bucephala albeola*

##### Clapper Rail (call)

*Rallus longirostris*

##### Common Moorhen

*Gallinula chloropus*

##### Wilson's Plover

*Charadrius wilsonia*

##### Willet

*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*

##### Bald Eagle (nest)

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

##### Osprey

*Pandion haliaetus*

##### Belted Kingfisher

*Ceryle alcyon*

##### Northern Flicker

*Colaptes auratus*

##### Boat-tailed Grackle

*Quiscalus major*