



February 2017

Hello SCAN.

I hope everyone enjoyed our speakers at this year's Annual Meeting. We had over 40 people attend, including some new members. Last year's attendance was affected by the snowfall, which was primarily in the upstate. As usual, we started the meeting out with coffee, prepared by John Cely, and goodies brought by members. It is really good to see members that can't join us on our monthly fieldtrips.



Our first speaker of the day was Whit Gibbons. Whit gave an interesting presentation on the importance of getting people, especially young folks, engaged in herpetological conservation. With the help of field assistants, he has involved the public in herpetological inventories at a local park in Aiken. Using various simple collecting techniques, such as coverboards, trashcan traps, litter traps, and incidental observations. More sophisticated techniques include using dipnets,

minnow traps, and drift fences can also be used. Whit's presentation was filled with photographs of kids participating in the inventories and appearing to be having a fun time. The emphasis of the presentation was to get people connected to nature so they can develop an appreciation for herpetological species. For those of you that are interested in purchasing Whit's books, visit <http://whitgibbons.com/books/>.



Our second speaker of the day was Laura Domingo. Laura gave us some insights into the natural history of eastern box turtles. Her love for box turtles was evident from the enthusiasm she showed during her presentation. She discussed their bone structure, how to distinguish males from females, and their activities during each season of the year, including breeding. We also learned of health concerns such as ear and respiratory infections, but the biggest

reason for decline is the loss of habitat. Laura introduced us to the Box Turtle Connection, which is an initiative in North Carolina to collect data and improve public understanding of box turtles. She described the marking techniques of individual turtles using a triangular file

and the data that is collected. We learned that by using electronic tracking devices, relocated box turtles will try to return to their original locations. We also learned that the longest lived box turtle was a marked turtle that lived for 109 years in the wild. If you would like to learn more about the Box Turtle Connection go to <https://theherproject.uncg.edu/research/box-turtle-study/>.



The third speaker of the day was April Punsalan. April worked to get the South Carolina Plant Conservation Alliance (SCPCA) off the ground. As discussed at the meeting, plants do not receive the same level of protection under the Endangered Species Act as animals. In fact, rare, and threatened and endangered plant species are not truly protected on private lands, unless a proposed project on private land involves federal funding or requires a federal

action, such as a permit under the Clean Water Act. For this reason, it was important to do something to prevent the extinction of rare plants in South Carolina, therefore April, a botanist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, took the initiative to get botanists involved with SCPCA. The inaugural meeting of SCPCA was held in January of 2017, where botanists were asked to develop a mission statement; identify 3 to 5 rare species in the coastal plain, midlands, and upstate that would be the focus of conservation efforts; and identify habitats in each region that are important to conserve. "The mission of the South Carolina Plant Conservation Alliance is to coordinate plant conservation activities in the state to ensure no local extinctions." The group will use an ecosystem approach to the conservation of rare plants rather than the individual occurrences that have been identified. The SCPCA is modeled after a similar program in Georgia that has been very successful. April informed us that Patrick McMillan has offered to fund a partime SCPCA coordinator position that will be based at the SC Botanical Garden, located in Clemson. SCAN can be a big help in the effort by looking for and reporting occurrences of rare plants observed on our field trips. If you would like to follow the SCPCA progress, check it out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthCarolinaPlantConservationAlliance/>.

For those that missed the Annual Meeting this year, Kim McManus recorded the days speakers and the videos can be accessed through the SCAN Facebook page or our website.

Prior to beginning the business portion of the Annual Meeting, Kathy Bolye proposed a volunteer opportunity that may be incorporated into a Regional Director's special. It involves cutting of wisteria in areas of Gene and Carolyn Ott's property in Laurens County. Wisteria is threatening native vegetation in areas of the property and needs to be controlled. Also, Mary Crocket asked for volunteers to help her monitor properties protected by the Congaree Land Trust. Mary says that she has 65,000 acres to monitor and she sure could use some help. This is a year-round effort, so if you are interested in getting out for a walk/ride on private properties, contact Mary at (803) 988-0000.

During the business meeting, our Treasurer, Greg Mancini, gave us the treasury report. Our Vice President, Kim McManus, read the list of proposed officers for 2017, which was approved by membership vote. The 2017 officers are:

- President – Gordon Murphy
- Vice President – Kim McManus
- Secretary – Mary Douglass
- Treasurer – Greg Mancini
- Historian – Gordon Murphy
- Database Manager – Tom Jones
- Northern Regional Director – Rita Zollinger
- Western Regional Director – Kathy Boyle
- Central Regional Director – Caroline Eastman
- Southern Regional Director – Paul Kalbach
- Eastern Regional Director – Jeff Kline

Old business discussed involved the digitization of old SCAN newsletters for placement on our website. Years 1979 through 2014 have been converted to pdf files and provided to Paul Kaulbach for uploading to our website.

New business included discussion about how to best use SCAN's surplus funds. One idea is to fund grants for environment related research. Charlie Williams suggested funding botany research at Clemson, since Patrick will be funding the part time SCPCA coordinator. I will be reaching out to SCAN members to form a committee to investigate and make recommendations to the membership.

SCAN board members met last fall to develop a schedule of trip destinations for 2017. The schedule was presented at the end of the business meeting and is attached to the newsletter. There will be changes made to the schedule as we move forward and revised schedules will be included on our Facebook page, on our website, as well as in upcoming newsletters.

Remember to stay in touch with our activities at:

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/116388725055968/>, and
- www.scnaturalists.org

I would like to thank all of the SCAN officers for their hard work in 2016, and I want to issue a special thanks to Jan Ciegler for her years of service as our database manager.

This month we will be returning to Woodbury WMA in Marion County. I had initially planned for this to be an overnight trip, but **it will be a one-day visit this time**. I will coordinate with the Ark Lodge owners to set up an overnight stay at the Lodge later this year.

I am looking forward to seeing you at Woodbury on the 25th!



2017 SCAN Field Trips

Locations subject to change. Check the monthly newsletter, website, or Facebook page for trip details.

February 25th

Ark Lodge / Woodbury WMA – Marion County
Jeff Kline

March 25th

Dick Watkins' Fort Motte Property – Calhoun County
Caroline Eastman

April 22nd

Table Rock State Park – Pickens County
Kathy Boyle

May 27th

Francis Marion National Forest / Hell Hole Swamp – Berkeley County
Paul Kalbach

June 24th

Wateree River Heritage Preserve / WMA – Richland County
Caroline Eastman

July 22nd

Liberty Hill WMA – Kershaw and Lancaster Counties
Rita Zollinger

August 26th

Pinnacle Falls / Jim Welch Property – Henderson County, NC
Rita Zollinger

September 23rd

Lake Jocassee – Oconee and Pickens Counties
Kathy Boyle

October 28th

Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center HP, North Island – Georgetown County
Jeff Kline

November 18th

Caw Caw Interpretive Center – Charleston County
Paul Kalbach

December 16th

Savannah Wildlife Refuge – Jasper County
Paul Kalbach

Woodbury WMA
Marion County, February 25, 2017
(Meet at the Kiosk at 10:30)
Leader: Gordon Murphy

This month we will be exploring habitats at the Woodbury Wildlife Management Area. Woodbury is an over 25,000 acre finger of land bounded by the Great Pee Dee River to the west, the Little Pee Dee River to the east, and US 378 to the north. SCAN has visited here before and as mentioned in the newsletter, **this will not be an overnight trip as originally planned.**

For those who have not been to Woodbury before, there are many habitats present including Carolina bays, wooded swamp, wet pine flatwoods, oxbow lakes, bottomland hardwoods, xeric pine habitat, depression wetlands, and of course, the rivers. Attached is a false-color infrared aerial photograph of Woodbury (courtesy of SCDNR). The dark “signatures” are wetland areas dominated by deciduous vegetation and red signifies evergreen vegetation. With a little practice you can learn to distinguish between upland pine forest and wetland areas dominated by evergreen vegetation such as gallberry, fetterbush, loblolly bay, and pond pine.

Two specific areas that we will be exploring on the 25th are a xeric pine area located on a high ridge near the Great Pee Dee River and a wetland system that is in walking distance. This is subject to change as recent rain may have some roads impassable. I will be confirming access on the 18th and will identify other areas to visit if necessary.

Restroom facilities are not available and you will have to bring drinking water. We will be returning to our vehicles around lunchtime so no need to pack food in to the wetland. SCDNR does a good job of maintaining the roads at Woodbury, however they may be a little rough so I recommend driving vehicles with decent ground clearance. We can leave vehicles at the kiosk and carpool if necessary.

Cell phone coverage is spotty, but if you get lost, give me a call at **803-447-0547**.

I will also scope out a place for dinner when I visit the site on the 18th.

DIRECTIONS TO WOODBURY

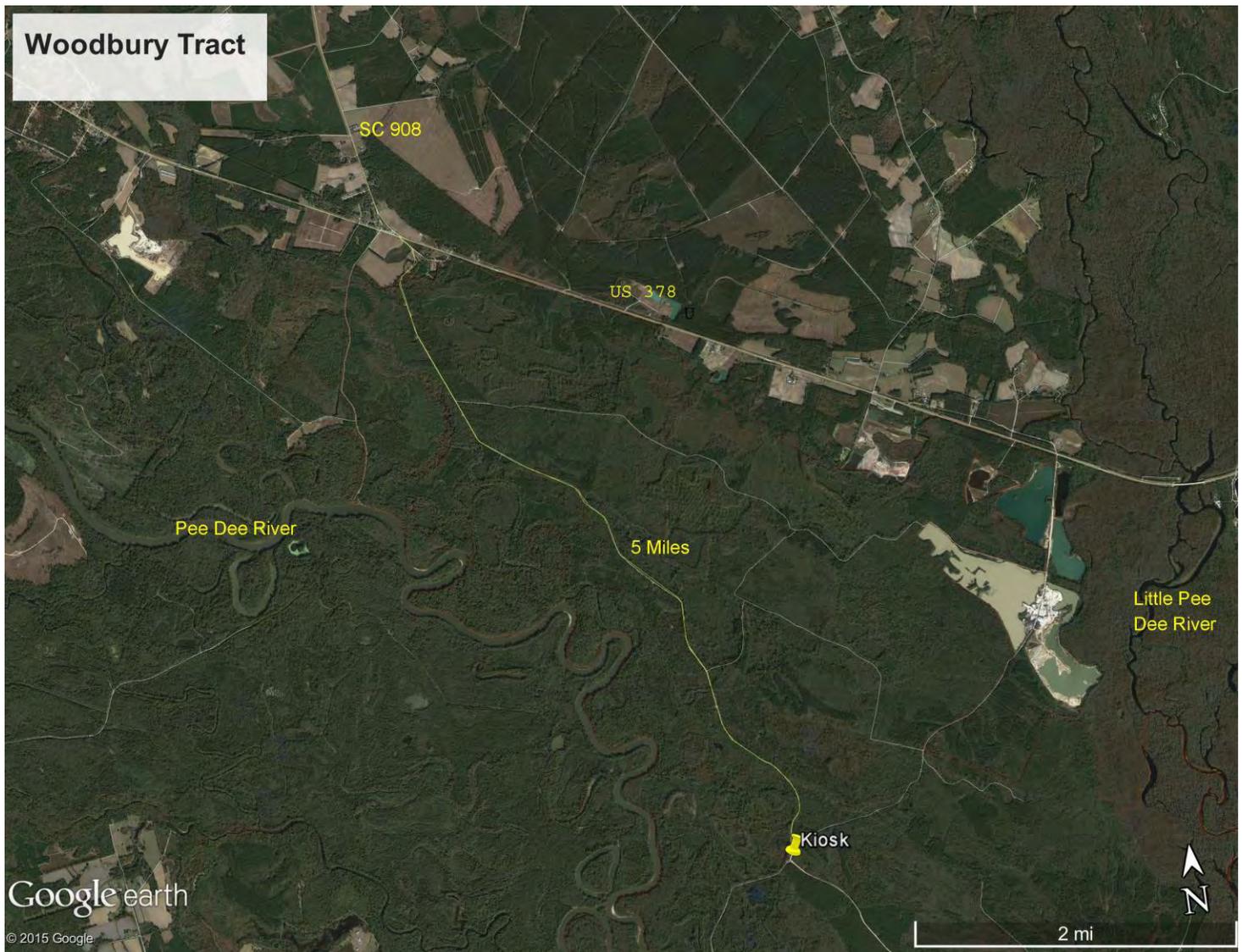
From Marion (US 76/US 501 Business intersection): Take US 501 Business south for approximately 2.4 miles then turn right onto SC 41 ALT. Follow SC 41 ALT approximately 12.5 miles then turn left onto SC 908. Travel approximately 7.5 miles to the intersection of US 378/SC 908 and go straight across US 378 onto Old Neck Cemetery Road/Woodberry Road. Veer right through the cemetery onto Woodberry Road. Follow Woodberry Road approximately 5 miles to the Kiosk.

From Lake City (US 378/US 52 intersection): Take US 378 east for approximately 28.3 miles and turn right onto Old Neck Cemetery Road/Woodberry Road at the US 378/SC 908 intersection. Follow Woodberry Road approximately 5 miles to the Kiosk.

From Conway (US 378/US 501 Intersection): Take US 378 west approximately 16.5 miles and turn left onto Old Neck Cemetery Road/Woodberry Road at the US 378/SC 908 intersection. Follow Woodberry Road approximately 5 miles to the Kiosk.

Woodberry Road/US 378 intersection coordinates are 33.865385, -79.332551

Kiosk coordinates are 33.805725, -79.299822



Woodbury WMA

