



October 2018

Hello SCANNers.

For our September outing, we visited Childsbury Towne Heritage Preserve (HP) and Bonneau Ferry Wildlife Management Area (WMA), in Berkeley County. We had a smaller than normal group this time that included Mary Douglass, Tom Jones, Jan Ciegler, Paul Whiteman, Marty and Dave Kastner, Kim McManus, Paul Kalbach, Kathy Boyle, Bert Pitman, and Gordon Murphy. SCAN has visited Bonneau Ferry WMA in the past, but this was our first trip to Childsbury Towne HP.



Childsbury Towne HP was preserved as an important cultural site as it was first settled in 1707 on the banks of the Cooper River. The town was built next to a river ferry called Strawberry Landing. The only structure left standing in the town is Strawberry Chapel, which is not a part of the HP. Judging from the condition of the exterior, the chapel appears to be in remarkable shape considering its age. The official trail at Childsbury Towne HP is only 0.1-mile long and leads to a dock on the Cooper River. The dock provides a great vantage point for observing birds. A large portion of the HP is an open field. The field hadn't been mowed recently and the head-high grasses prevented us from entering it, but while walking a portion of the edges, many butterflies were seen. Marty and I caught glimpses of



zebra longwing butterflies, one of my favorites, and Dave's favorite too, according to Marty. Several of us explored the wooded bank between the edge of the field and the river. The vegetation was thick in places but well worth the effort as there were interesting seeps and a small stream in this area.

After a quick lunch in the parking lot, we caravanned to Bonneau Ferry WMA. We drove in to a large impoundment, labeled Upper Reserve on maps, that we visited on previous trips, and explored the edge for a short time. There is another area downstream of the impoundment labeled as Lower Reserve, which makes me think these were used to store fresh water for use in the rice fields along the Cooper River.

From here we drove a short distance to a live oak lined road that once lead to a plantation house. The oak trees are enormous! The road led to the foundation of what appeared to be the house and an old timber frame barn. I am always amazed when I think about the labor that went into constructing mortise and tenon structures such as this. In addition to observing flora and fauna on this stroll, we were also on the lookout for the haunted oak tree that is purportedly at Bonneau Ferry. We didn't find the tree, but the flora and fauna did not let us down.



It was a fun day and we had the opportunity to make observations in upland as well as wetland habitats. We finished our day socializing over dinner at El Maguey Mexican restaurant. A big thanks go to Paul Kalbach for scouting and leading the trip for us.

We received a bit of sad news a couple of weeks ago. Long-time SCAN member Evelyn Dabbs passed away this month. I never had the pleasure of meeting Evelyn or visiting her family property that she and her husband Tommy called Wenee Woods. Everyone that I have ever talked to that knew her had nothing but praise for her and the work she did banding birds. Attached to this newsletter is a copy of a newspaper article about Evelyn entitled "What Makes a Legend?" that was published in the Sumter Item.

Due to the impending arrival of hurricane Michael to South Carolina, I made the decision to postpone the planning meeting that was scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup>. This means that you still have time to share your thoughts on where you might want the group to visit next year. We have received some suggestions via email and on Facebook so please feel free to provide your thoughts.

**Contact Information:**

- North - Rita Zollinger ([zollingerr2014@gmail.com](mailto:zollingerr2014@gmail.com))
- West – Kathy Boyle ([Katherine.Boyle@ymail.com](mailto:Katherine.Boyle@ymail.com))
- South – Paul Kalbach ([pkalbach@gmail.com](mailto:pkalbach@gmail.com))
- East – Alison Smith ([sweetgrassess@gmail.com](mailto:sweetgrassess@gmail.com))
- Central – Caroline Eastman ([ceastman@sc.rr.com](mailto:ceastman@sc.rr.com))
- Vice President – Kim McManus ([mcfampus@gmail.com](mailto:mcfampus@gmail.com))
- President – Gordon Murphy ([agmurphy@hughes.net](mailto:agmurphy@hughes.net))
- Secretary – Mary Douglass ([scansec56@gmail.com](mailto:scansec56@gmail.com))


Please note that change in the trip location this month. Because of rain that fell and flooding that occurred, courtesy of hurricanes Florence and Michael, I think that the roads at Woodbury will not be in good shape for our visit. Therefore, we will visit Cartwheel Bay HP instead. It is in Horry County not too far south of the Little Pee Dee River. It has been a few years since we last visited Cartwheel Bay HP and it is always a fun place to explore and with a little luck, we just may see some Venus flytrap. I hope you all can join us!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon Murphy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page.

***Group photo courtesy of Kim McManus.***

(/subscribe/)

 (HTTP://EEPURL.COM/C82WLR)  
 (HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THEITEM)  
 (HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/THEITEM)  
 (HTTPS://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/SUMTERITEM)  
 (HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/STUDIOSUMTER)

 FAIR, 81° (/WEATHER/)

## SUI




### Choose The Bank That Works Hard For You

It's a world of difference when you bank with someone who lives and works in your community. When you need a car loan, checking account, credit card, or home mortgage, we speak your language. And we make decisions locally, not in a board room hundreds of miles away. We're all the bank you'll ever need. As the bank's president, I make sure of that every day.

**Bank of Clarendon** Sumter: 803.469.0156 Manning: 803.433.4451 [bankofclarendon.com](http://bankofclarendon.com)

(<http://sumter.ads2.creativecirclemedia.com/www/delivery/ck.php>)

opaparams=2\_\_bannerid=5172\_\_zoneid=140\_\_source=thesumteritem\_\_cb=c0b02c25cb\_\_oadest=http%5A%2F%2Fwww.ban

 You have 4 free items remaining before a subscription is required. Subscribe now! (/subscribe/?town\_id=1)

## What makes a legend?



(/uploads/original/1404955181\_24f6.jpg)

Posted Sunday, June 12, 2011 2:00 am

By IVY MOORE

BY IVY MOORE

[ivym@theitem.com](mailto:ivym@theitem.com)

Take a turn into Black River Swamp and begin the lengthy drive to Wenee Woods, home of Sumter's only Legend of Conservation. Keep your windows open, and you'll hear the song of many different birds you might not see. But you can bet Evelyn Dabbs will recognize every one of the calls. She's the area's "bird lady" and "butterfly lady," so called by the thousands of schoolchildren who have benefited from field trips to the home she shares with husband Tommy Dabbs.

When you reach the Dabbses' house on the bluff, named for the Wenee Indians who once lived there, hummingbirds swoop and buzz about the many feeders on the porch, summer tanagers - red as cardinals! - American goldfinches, prothonotary warblers, chickadees, tufted titmice and many other species of birds flit in and out of the trees surrounding the house. And it's at least 10 degrees cooler than in town - with not a mosquito in sight.

It's been 40 years since Evelyn Waggett Dabbs, now 84, obtained her federal permit to band migratory songbirds. This, of course, post dated by several years her interest in nature, which she said started in St. Charles where her brother John introduced her to the local flora and fauna on long walks in the countryside.



The Sun  
f Fol

For more thar  
country's best  
training and...



LATEST NEWS





"I wasn't particularly interested in birds, but I was always an outside girl," Dabbs said. "John and I were forever combing ditch banks for crawfish. We didn't kill them, we just looked to find them and just took walks in the woods. He taught me to hold snakes when I was about 7 years old. He did a good job."

Indeed, he must have, as in May Dabbs became one of only 16 South Carolinians named a Legend of Conservation by the S.C. Wildlife Federation. Over the past 40 years, she's studied and banded thousands of birds, cataloguing volumes of information about migration habits and population, and in recent years she's been concentrating on the insect order lepidoptera, which includes butterflies and moths. Dabbs maintains a large butterfly garden near the house. Arranged primarily by color, it's filled with plants that provide food for both larvae and adult butterflies, many of which were moving from blossom to blossom early Wednesday morning.

As she walked from area to area, Dabbs identified the colorful insects by name and provided information about their habits.

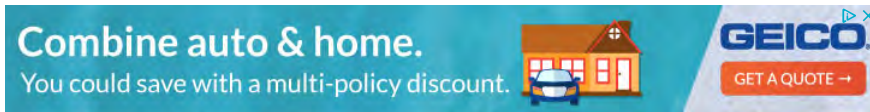
Back inside in the living room filled with reference books, binoculars by her chair, Dabbs talked about her many years of nature study, the conversation punctuated by flashes of color as a variety of birds swoop to her many feeders and a burbling fountain that serves as a birdbath.

She and Tommy reared their family in Sumter, on Dabbs Street, moving to the country 33 years ago. She did some bird banding in town, but no demonstrations.

"When I got out here, school groups and others immediately started coming," she said, "and I gave hands-on bird banding demonstrations three or four times a week through the school year. Audubon Societies and some college students, one group from Converse, came." A rough estimate is that more than 5,000 students have visited Wenee Woods to benefit from Dabbs' knowledge.

Reflecting on all the birds she's studied, Dabbs was still able to name a favorite.

"I guess the woodpecker is my favorite bird," she said. "They were completely wiped out here after Hurricane Hugo (in 1989)."



Dabbs used to bake cornbread especially for the woodpeckers, who would come onto the deck to eat it.

"The red-bellied and the downy woodpeckers - oh, they loved it!," she said.

"Hugo took the trees down, and of course woodpeckers sleep in holes in trees at night. We did not see a woodpecker here for at least six months after that. I had cornbread out, and a woodpecker that came had no idea what it was about."

Expressing dismay about the tree cutting and trimming in Sumter's historic district, Dabbs said she worries about the birds, now nesting, that will be displaced if the trees are cut.

"They did that years ago," she recalled. "There were oak trees lining Calhoun Street, and the red-headed woodpeckers were nesting in them, and they cut them down. They don't care. It is so sad."

While the number of birds around the house at Wenee Woods seemed large to a city dweller, Dabbs said it's the winter that brings "hordes of birds," and she takes delight in the arrival of birds not often seen in the area.

"Last winter we had purple finches, which is unusual," she said.

One bird she misses is the rufous-sided towhee, which she said, "We don't get in the swamp. We get white-breasted nuthatches and Carolina wrens, and protonotary warblers come to the hummingbird feeders; the male is a beautiful, total yellow."

Summer tanagers come for the peanuts."

A few minutes later a totally red male tanager flew to a feeder at the window to enjoy some peanuts.

Dabbs said she got her banding license through her study of Baltimore orioles in town.

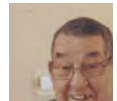
"I banded 240 orioles before we moved out here," she said. "I have a friend who lived two blocks away that also fed them, so they all go to her every winter now. They are so beautiful."

Besides birds and butterflies, Dabbs has "deer, a few rabbits, raccoons, squirrels and possums, and we can hear coyotes at night," she said. "I have seen three cougars in 33 years. The last one was about four years ago. He came across in front of my car, and I watched him go across the field. It seemed he got across the field in four leaps."

She has also been involved in saving seabirds covered in petroleum oil.



(http://st  
/ck.php?  
OBITUARIE  
interier  
w.santee



died on Sunda  
in Sumter. Bo  
son of the late  
...



Caro Brunson  
Funeral servic  
Thursday at H  
Church ...



Carver James  
Missionary Be  
Marion H. Ne

"Someone brought me an oiled cedar waxwing one time," Dabbs recalled. "I couldn't even tell what kind of bird it was. I worked with it a while. We worked with oiled pelicans and other seabirds on the beach once, and we learned that Dawn dishwashing soap is the only shampoo that would cut the grease."

When birds are banded, naturalists are able to trace their migratory patterns. Often they come back to Dabbs' nets.

"I banded a woodthrush late one afternoon and released him; the next year at the same time that bird was right back. A white-throated sparrow, I had the same one to return from Canada four years in a row," she said.

"I had reports of birds I'd banded as far north as Nova Scotia and as far south as Panama - and all in between."

The birds Dabbs banded - around 14,000 over the years, with the help of volunteers Lynn Watson and Cathy Brown - are mostly songbirds, hawks and owls, "everything except endangered birds. I did a lot of herons and egrets."

She also got permission to band the endangered Kirtland's warbler.

"I was hearing it here, but I hadn't seen it," she said. "Early in the mornings, I'd hear it, and I'd spring out of bed, run outside in my gown with my binoculars and try to find it. I knew it was there. I wrote the lab and asked permission to band it, but I never saw one."

Dabbs said she is "so disappointed" she doesn't get many snakes these days.

"We used to see them, at least one most every day, usually rat snakes. We had a lot of copperhead moccasins," she said.

As she talked, Dabbs' excitement became more and more evident.

"When the students came out, I'd always try to let each one hold a bird and even band it," she said, "and in those days, we'd always come upon a snake, and I'd pick one up and let the children touch it."

Over the years, she only got bitten once, Dabbs said, laughing at the memory.

"I'd picked up a red-bellied snake and all the students had touched it, and I had set it back down on the ground," she said. "Then the teacher (who'd been afraid to touch it) asked me to pick it up again. Well, the snake had had about enough, and it bit me on the finger. Not a good thing to teach children not to be afraid of snakes!"

She also taught the children about spiders and other insects, emphasizing that knowledge is important to keep them from killing animals and destroying their habitats.

"You know how some people will see a spider and immediately step on it, or pick up a hoe to kill a harmless snake," she said. "I hope those field trips saved a few insect lives."

Never a hunter or trapper herself, Dabbs said, "I didn't believe in killing anything."

While she's not a vegetarian, she said, "I don't care about eating meat. If it's put before me, I will eat it, but I'd really prefer not to."

A teacher once told Dabbs she'd done a survey on children who had been on one of Dabbs' field trips a few years previous to the survey, asking them which of their field trips they'd liked most and learned the most from.

"She said, without exception, they all said 'the bird lady's house,'" Dabbs said.

"I think if everyone could hold a bird in their hands and then let it go, it would really make a difference in their lives and make them want to know more about nature."

So, what makes a legend?

In Dabbs' case, it's curiosity.

"'Curious' is the word I'd choose to describe myself," she said. "I want to know everything there is to know, especially about nature."

Her house a mini-museum of fossils and specimens and a library of books on every conceivable plant and animal, Dabbs appears to be well on the way.

Her daily agenda during the recent drought includes visiting her sister at a local assisted living center and, she said, to "water, water, water. I never stop moving."

**Get the best of The Sumter Item in your inbox. Sign up for our free daily newsletter.**

SUBSCRIBE



Print

Tweet



Share 24



Share

## MORE ARTICLES TO READ



**Cartwheel Bay Heritage Preserve  
Horry County, SC  
October 27, 2018, 10:30 AM**

SCAN has visited Cartwheel Bay HP in the past, and we have always seen lots of interesting flora and fauna there. The HP is in Horry County, south of the Little Pee Dee River. It is 568 acres in size and contains a variety of habitats including an intact Carolina Bay (Mossy Bay) wetland and the xeric sand rim, bay forest, longleaf pine savanna, pine flatwoods, and a stream named Cartwheel Branch.

The vegetation in Mossy Bay is very dense and almost impenetrable, but we can walk along the edge and get a good view of the plant community. The sand rim associated with Mossy Bay is not very prominent and is predominantly on private land, but we have walked a portion of the trail without incident. Based on a review of the topographic map, a channel exits Mossy Bay on its northern edge and flows into Poplar Branch. There are no trails in the HP so we will stroll along the dirt roads to reach the different areas.

Key species that we should keep our eyes open for are Wells' pixie moss (*Pyxidantha brevifolia*) on the sand rim of the bay, and pitcher plants (*Sarracenia* spp.) and Venus flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*) in the longleaf savanna. Two other interesting orchid that occur in the longleaf savanna are the white fringed orchid (*Habenaria blephariglottis*) and rosebud orchid (*Cleistes divaricata*), however their bloom period generally ends in late September.

There are no restroom facilities at Cartwheel Bay HP so you may want to stop on your way in. With all the rain associated with hurricanes Florence and Michael, I expect the mosquitoes will be out in force. I don't think we'll be getting into any standing water, but I plan to have my rubber boots in the car just in case. As always, bring plenty to drink and a lunch.

I have not selected a location for dinner but there are some good selections in Mullins.

## **DIRECTIONS:**

The access road into Cartwheel Bay crosses private property and the only sign is a small one, so it's very easy to miss. At the bottom of the page there are two views of what you are looking for. The first photo is taken just south as you approach the road and the second is the view from the end on the access road looking roughly west into the preserve.

### ***From I-95:***

- Get off I-95 at Exit 181A onto SC-38,
- Take SC-38 toward Marion, drive 7.3 miles and take US 501 east,
- Go 9.8 miles on US 501 then turn left onto Bluff Road (S-34-19),
- Drive 6.2 miles on Bluff Road and turn left onto SC 41,
- Go 177 feet on SC 41 and turn right onto Old Stage Road (S-34-31),
- At the intersection with SC 917, turn right,
- Take SC 917 for 11.2 miles the turn left onto S-34-19,
- Go 4.2 miles and look for the access road on the left.

### ***From the intersection of US 501 and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Conway:***

- Go northeast on 16<sup>th</sup> Ave for 0.5 miles then turn left onto US 701,
- Take US 701 9 miles then turn left onto SC-410,
- Go 3.9 miles and turn left onto Mt Olive Road,
- Drive 2.8 miles and take a slight left onto S-34-19,
- Travel 7 miles on S-34-19 to the access road on the left.



Facing north, road is on the left just after the barn.



Facing into the access road.

**Coordinates:** 34° 8.957'N  
79° 3.833'W