



February 2022

Hey there you guys!

January held a bit of an odd month as far as SCAN goes. We had a snowstorm that coincided with our first outing to the Wateree Passage of the Palmetto Trail that made the trip optional on the 22nd, and we held a virtual version of our annual meeting on the 27th.

2022 Annual Meeting

Again this year...Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the officers agreed that an indoor meeting was not feasible. We opted to hold a Zoom meeting to discuss the usual business topics and reminisce on the past year. Many thanks to those who took the time to join us online. We had a pretty good crowd and larger than I would have expected. A lot of familiar faces!



Treasurer Angela Valvasori provided the treasurer's report. Our expenditures don't exceed our revenue, so we are again in good shape!

This is our slate of officers. By unanimous agreement, the slate was accepted. The 2022 officers and regional directors are:

President: Dave Schuetrum
Vice President: Gordon Murphy
Secretary:
Treasurer: Angela Valvasori
Historian: Gordon Murphy
Database Manager: Kim McManus

Regional Directors:
Northern: Rita Zollinger
Western: Lee Morris
Central: Dave and Marty Kastner
Southern: Jerry Bright and Jeff Kline
Eastern: Todd Johnston

Old and new business items were discussed.

- Lee Morris reported that the book project has been a bit delayed, but the committee is still making progress on it. With our 50th anniversary coming up in 2026, we should start considering how we want to celebrate and whether a special publication should be created to mark the occasion.
- The officer positions have changed greatly from what was originally written in the bylaws. This is partly because of the changing tech environment we're in, and also from "position creep." We are overdue for a reset. The board is working on defining and redistributing the duties in a more equitable way that will help the association move forward. Some new positions will be Membership Officer and an IT-type position.
- Many thanks to Mary Garland Douglass and Tom Jones for their years of work and service in the positions they held. Mary was the Secretary and Tom was the species cataloger (Database Manager) for SCAN.
- The bylaws will be worked on this year and have some changes that need to be voted on for acceptance in the future.
- Many of the internal data resources we have will be migrated to the "cloud" with better access for the appropriate people to share and update. Hopefully no more sending files back and forth and all data in one place to be accessed.
- We discussed nametags...and Paul Kalbach has an idea of a good, (and cheap), waterproof design for our members.
- The PayPal payment method on the scnaturalists.org website works great! That should reduce Angela Valvasori's workload and bring us more up to date with the times. Be sure to pay your 2022 dues via check or preferably the new online option...if you haven't done so already!
- Members are reminded that the mission of SCAN is to gather and share natural history information. The way we do that is through our species lists. For now...After each outing, be sure to submit your species list to Kim McManus in a written format so they can be added to our database. Email your list to scnaturalists76@gmail.com with "species list for [name of outing] in the subject line. If you have photos of specimens that need identification, please utilize our Facebook page, iNaturalist or other online identification group, then share the results with Kim. We will be streamlining this a bit in the future as well.

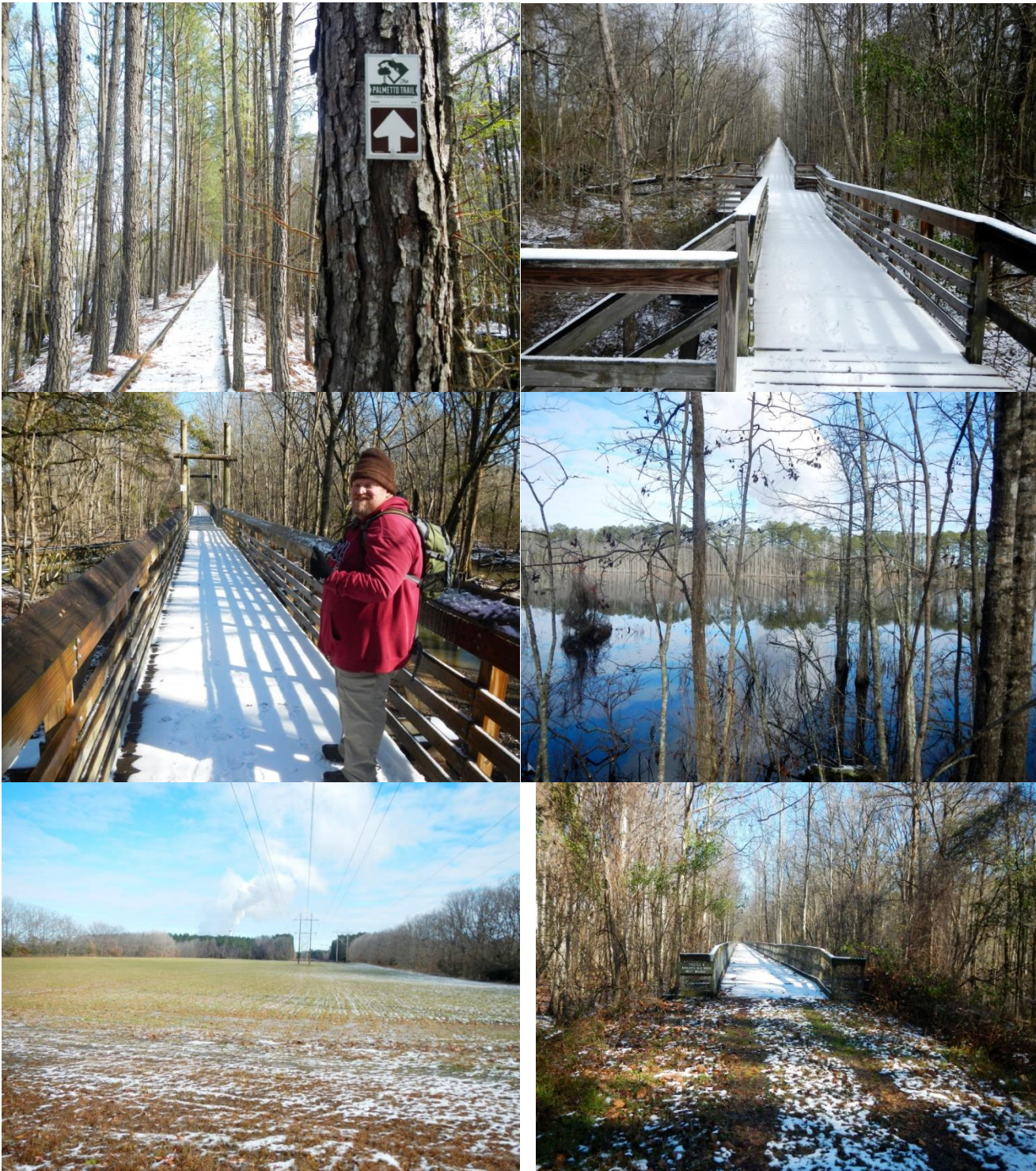
Our final bit of business was to unveil the 2022 Field Trip Agenda. We have some great trips planned! Be sure to keep an eye on the website, Facebook page or monthly newsletters for details or last-minute changes.

- **► January 22 (Central): Wateree Passage**
- **► January 27 (Zoom): Annual Meeting**
- **► February 26 (Southern): Bear Island WMA**
- **► March 26 (Eastern): Lynches River County Park**
- **► April 23 (Southern): Spring Island**
- **► May 28 - 31 (Southern): Francis Marion NF / Hell Hole Swamp**
- **► June 25 (Northern): Paris Mountain – Sulphur Springs Trail**
- **► July 23 (Western): Stumphouse Trail**
- **► August 27 (Northern): Mount Pisgah**
- **► September 24 (Western): Bear Branch Heritage Preserve**
- **► October 22 (Central): Congaree National Park – Sampson Island**
- **► November 19 (Eastern): Sandhills NWR**
- **► December 10 (Eastern): Waccamaw Heritage Preserve**
- **► January 28, 2023: Annual Meeting**

January Outing on the 22nd...

Because of the snowfall...there was limited attendance to the Wateree Passage of the Palmetto Trail. We had two hearty attendees, though! Todd Johnston and Dave Schuetrum.





Highlights of the Wateree Passage. This is one of the neatest trails in the Midlands. This particular trail runs in basically a straight line through many different habitats...most of it was part of an old railroad line. This old line runs across the Wateree Swamp and River to the High Hills of the Santee on the other side of the swamp near Poinsett State Park.

That's all for now in the newsletter.
Dave Schuetrum

Our next outing will be February 26 to Bear Island WMA.

Bear Island Wildlife Management Area is a state-owned property located in eastern Colleton County near Green Pond, SC. Dedicated primarily to waterfowl hunting, it contains 5,385 acres of managed impoundments at 27 sites. There is also 5,005 acres of tidal marsh and 404 acres of cultivated land growing food plots. There are 1,227 acres of mixed forest. Bear Island is managed to provide quality waterfowl habitat and to protect local endangered and migratory non-game species. Jerry Bright and Jeff Kline will be our guides. This is one of the best places to go for birding in the state.

BEAR ISLAND SCAN TRIP

Jeff Kline and Jerry Bright

Sat February 26th 2022

The ACE Basin is a wonderful place - amazing amount of wildlife! The waters in that area, especially St. Helena Sound (need a boat) are also amazing. It is a very BIG special place! I find the history of the area just as amazing. Your trip took you past plantation sites that had hundreds of folks, civil war sites, a river that would have had dozens of ocean going lumber schooners, a railRoad, etc., etc. There would have been steamboats going up that river - 10 per day on a regular schedule, etc., etc. At one Point, vegetables going to all parts of the nation, daffodil bulbs going to Kress stores all over the nation, white asparagus going to New York City, potash going all over the world, etc., etc. Rich northern folks with well-known friends just everywhere. Sea Island cotton and rice made the Charleston area the richest in the nation, and the ACE Basin is thick with that history!! The ACE basin has just recently become a wild place-. David Youngblood-Birder

Bear Island WMA opened up to the public Feb 9th to a crowd of happy birders from around the state. Jerry Bright and I surveyed its roads and were quite happy at the diversity of birds there. The spoonbills were a hit as they always are, as well as 4 avocets, lots of eagles, hawks and shorebirds. There were 45 birds seen in a shortened trip, many more can be expected. The roads were clear and there are plenty of side roads to explore. It's a great place for nature walks or to ride ones bike. There's 12,000 acres, an explorer's delight. It nestles up to the South Edisto River and has lots of history. It is four miles from Bennetts Point, founded in 1694, which has a great seafood store if it's open that day.



There are all sorts of Roads and railroad structures from the old days, remnants of the days as the Cabbage capitol of the country.

Directions

from the junction of Hwy 17 and Bennetts Point Road (32.73748, -80.57467) go 12.8 miles to Bear Island entrance and Ti Ti Road.

On the way it is 4.3 miles from HWY 17 to Blocker Run Road. (32.6828, -80.54862), which is the side entrance to Donnelley Preserve, a great backup or addition to Bear from the above Point

½ mile before getting to the Ti Ti Road entrance, there is a side road and parking area (32.59309 -80.47281) for a 3-6 mile walking route at Nancy Hill, but not open to vehicles.

Suggested birding routes are the following:

The entrance to Bear Island (32.59231 -80.46378) is on Ti Ti Road, to the left side of Bennetts Point Road.

Upon entering Ti Ti Road, you immediately see Mary's Pond on the right, where I saw 96 Tundra Swans, and is always full of birds, shorebird and otherwise. I would suggest an early morning survey before our meetup at 10:30.

We will have our meet-up at 10:30 at the other side of Mary's Pond at the Ranger station on Ti Ti Road. After the usual salutations we branch off to wherever one's nose leads.

There is a TOUR road just past the ranger area to the right giving great views of Mary's Pond. Further on the tour road is woodlands with various habitat, owl boxes and a bit down the road to the right is a creek where we saw the spoonies. As per the map, even further down the Road there is a right turn, off the tour road with two special spots. As you go down that road there is a line of trees to the left with a road leading to a creek. Lots of ducks there. Back to the line of trees go to the left and the road goes to the pecan trees as marked on the map. The river is beyond. Eagles are usually hanging around the tree line.

Turn around and return to the tour road and it returns to Ti Ti Road. You can go either direction but left is back towards the ranger station. There are several owl boxes along that Road as well as lots of side roads.

If so inclined, one can go back to Bennetts Point Road and go to the right ½ mile to Nancy Hall Road along the large duck pond. One needs to park there and there is a 3 to 6-mile hike in several directions.

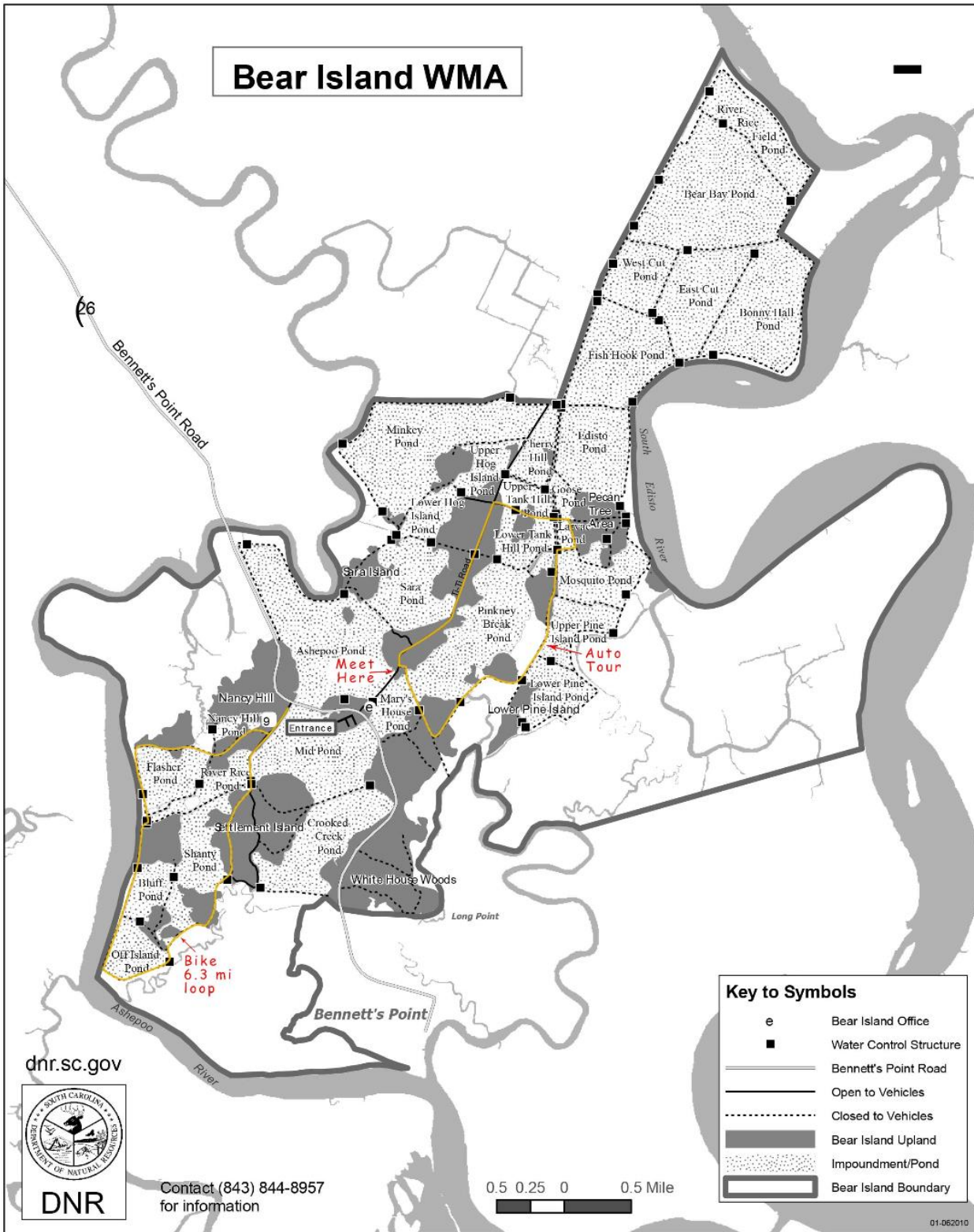
Donnelley WMA is also 8 miles back towards Hwy 17 and has great birding.

Bennetts Point community is several miles to the left of the Bear Island entrance on Bennetts Point Road.

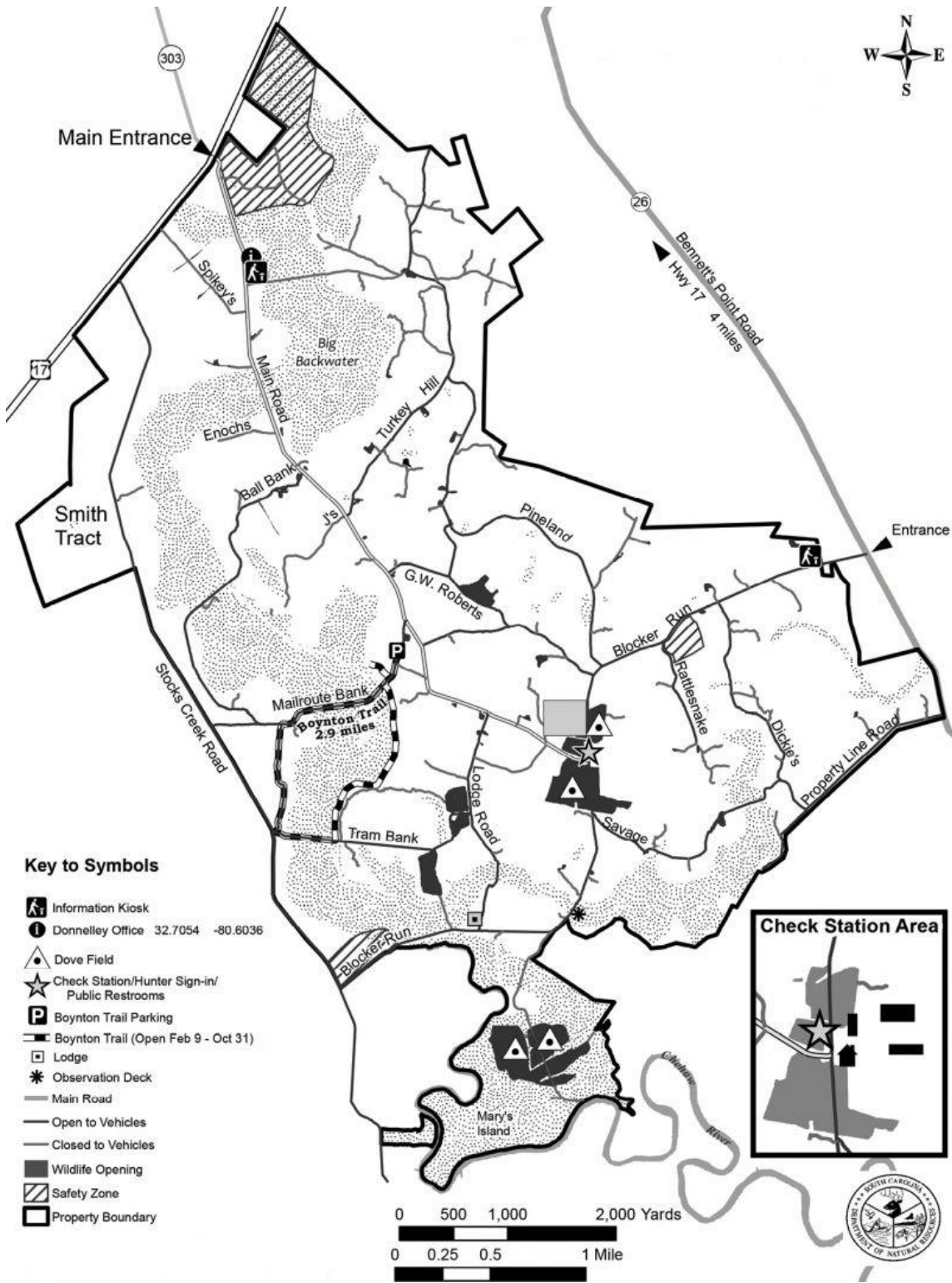
Two you tubes from David Youngblood- one on the birds and one on the railroads:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8ve-j-AgfQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-HK-s1nQbo>



https://dc.statelibrary.sc.gov/bitstream/handle/10827/21988/DNR_Bear_Island_WMA_Map_2007.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=yhttps://dc.statelibrary.sc.gov/bitstream/handle/10827/21988/DNR_Bear_Island_WMA_Map_2007.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y



Donnelley Map

https://dc.statelibrary.sc.gov/bitstream/handle/10827/21990/DNR_Donnelly_WMA_Map_2009.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Wateree Passage of the Palmetto Trail
Richland Co., SC
January 22, 2022

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 Kim McManus at scnaturalists76@gmail.com. Please indicate exactly to which flora/fauna list you are referring in the subject line of your message. Thank you.

FLORA

Loblolly Pine

Pinus taeda

Dwarf Palmetto

Sabal minor

Sweet Gum

Liquidambar styraciflua

Sawtooth Oak

Quercus acutissima

Laurel Oak

Quercus laurifolia

FAUNA

Southern Leopard Frog

Lithobates sphenoccephala

Great Blue Heron

Ardea herodias

Great Egret

Ardea alba

Wood Duck

Aix sponsa

Black Vulture

Coragyps atratus

Wild Turkey

Meleagris gallopavo

Blue Jay

Cyanocitta cristata

Carolina Chickadee

Poecile carolinensis

Carolina Wren

Thryothorus ludovicianus

American Robin

Turdus migratorius

Pine Warbler

Setophaga pinus

Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis

Eastern Towhee

Pipilo erythrophthalmus

Red-winged Blackbird

Agelaius phoeniceus

North American River Otter (tracks)

Lontra canadensis

Feral Pig (tracks)

Sus scrofa

White-tailed Deer (tracks)

Odocoileus virginianus