



March 2022

Hello SCAN members! Dave Schuetrum here!

I am slowly learning to work with Word to make newsletters. It is a learning process for this old dog. Luckily Kim McManus, Gordon Murphy, and Jerry Bright are around to help and give pointers.

In February, we had a heck of a good time and saw a ton of stuff at Bear Island WMA located in eastern Colleton County near Green Pond, SC. I think we had one of the largest Murmurations of Naturalists I think I have seen on a SCAN ramble. Jeff Kline and Jerry Bright showed us a place that was simply incredible with the bird life, marsh and coastal maritime forest.

Kim McManus took our group picture, (below). I think these group pictures are important for the record...especially in later years to review and see the folks that have been involved with SCAN. Here's who made it to Wolf Island WMA, (in no particular order, about 36 attendees)...

Kim McManus, Michael Crawford, Paul Kalbach, Angela Valvasori, Ron Ahle, Joe Long, Claudia Stratmann, Johannes Stratmann, Dave Schuetrum, Dave Kastner, Marty Kastner, Tom Austin, Scott Wietcha, Lee Morris, Greg Ross, Alison Smith, Mandy Johnson, Sharon Ferris Yomtob, John Hensel, Jerry Bright, Todd Johnston, Caroline Eastman, Sharleen Johnson, Jeff Kline, Jim Boylston, Kate Hartley, Tom Jones, Mary Garland Douglass, Paul Laurant, Amanda Laurant, Morgan McClure, Phil Harpootlian, Catherine Douglass, Johnny Douglass, Eva Pratt, Sam Pratt.



A bit of Dave's picture story:



With SCAN, people can basically do as they wish and not go along with the rest of the crowd. I chose to go on the driving tour...lead by Jeffrey J Kline, (there to the right). We all followed each other down the roads looking and stopping along the way. There was a lot to see. Other folks rambled and went other ways and hopefully we will see their pictures on the SCAN Group Facebook Page.



Someone always spots something and there is a mad rush to see what was found. In this case it was a Yellow-Bellied Slider hatchling.



Along the way we passed several trunks, (water impoundment devices), for controlling the water levels in the old fields. It's low tide.



We were looking at the numerous species of bird life. I am not a bird expert and a species list will be compiled. Some of what I saw were Spoonbills, Bald Eagles, White Pelicans, Tundra Swans, Coots, Grebes, a couple species of Terns, various Gulls, Yellowlegs (I think), several types of Rails and associated looking birds like Red Knots, Red Wing Blackbirds...my amateurish list could go on. For me it is refreshing to see that much bird life and have the experts tell me more about what I was seeing.



I heard a "Whoop!!", and trotted with the group to see what it was about. What could it be?



It was a baby Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake! What a find! That guy was a young one and looked to be born last year. In my mind that was the Find of the Day.



Since it was born in the area, I hoped to find a litter mate someplace around. The snakes disburse after birth but some could still be nearby. Mom, too. No such luck. They are somewhere, though.



The wanderings of an Alligator. In the canals and ponds you can see them floating around.



Most of the Spoonbills were out there. They are expanding their range, possibly because of habitat loss and a warmer climate.



Later in the day a small crew of us rambled another area looking for a lost Trillium. We never found the Trillium but found some other neat plants instead.

Our 2022 officer and regional director slate has an opening. Please reach out to President Dave Schuetrum or Vice President Gordon Murphy if you're interested in helping us with the Secretary position.

Below are the March instructions to our next ramble. Todd Johnston has set us up with this trip.

Lynches River County Park

Saturday March 26th 2022

From the Lynches River Park website: Located in Lynches River in the Pee Dee region, this 676-acre park features a river swamp with towering cypress trees, as well as sand hills, offering a wide variety of vegetation.

Popular activities at the park include canoeing, camping (they also have 2 cabins available for rent), nature trails, Splash Pad, picnicking, geocaching, and a visit to the Environmental Discovery Center, (and they have a community center for groups to rent as well).

Due to the availability of restrooms and a playground area as well as the discovery stations, children with an interest in nature are welcome but should not be a distraction to the other members of the group.

History

Lynches River was named for Thomas Lynch Jr, one of four delegates from South Carolina to sign the Declaration of Independence, and is approximately 140 miles long flowing from Waxhaw, NC to Johnsonville, SC where it drains into the Great Pee Dee River.

The park itself came about through talks between Florence County council and the Parks Recreation and Tourism department with the council agreeing to commit the necessary funding to run the park. Officially the property was deeded to Florence County in 2003.

EDC

There is an Environmental Discovery Center (EDC) on the property that provides visitors with several opportunities for learning about the park and the environment. They are open 9-5 Tuesday-Saturday and Sunday 1-5pm but are closed Mondays. The staff also offers multiple programs for education and outreach including animal encounters on Saturdays at 11:30am and 3:00pm. There is also a short canopy walk located right outside the back of the EDC that has several suspension bridges connecting three platforms in and around the trees that can provide an interesting prospective of the environment.

Restrooms

There are restrooms located just to the right of the entry inside the EDC. A second set of restrooms with running water are located to the left of the center near the longleaf pine garden.

Hiking Trails

The trails listed are from the park, followed by the combination of trails I followed when exploring the park. I spoke with one of the environmental staff and they said it would be fine to turn search for species off trail as long as we were respectful including being able to overturn rocks/logs as long as we replaced them when our search concluded.

Riverwalk Boardwalk Trail Distance .23 Miles

This handicap-accessible river walk runs through the river floodplain. Surrounded by towering cypress trees, you'll hear the soothing sound of the flowing river, birds chirping, and squirrels frolicking. It is the ideal opportunity to be surrounded by nature and still keep your feet dry!

Interpretive Trail Distance .6 Miles

Stop by five outdoor education stations which provide information about soil, forestry, air, wildlife, and water.

Stagecoach Trail Distance .38 Miles

During the 1700s and 1800s, Stagecoach Road ran from Winston Salem, North Carolina through Cheraw, Darlington, Florence and Kingstree to Charleston, South Carolina and was the most significant route of travel for the area. A section of the road still exists within the park.

Splash Pad connector Trail Distance 2.3 Miles

This trail winds through forest dominated by pines and oaks and even passes a "source tree". Look for the V-shaped notches that were cut into the side of the tree to collect sap, which was distilled to make turpentine.

Combined Loop Trail Distance 3.7 Miles

I combined several of the trails into a loop when scouting the park here is my map with some pictures. It was a cold day. Temperatures reaching just into the 40's so there were only a few hardy birds and even fewer people out and about during my visit in February.



DIRECTIONS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We will be meeting in the parking lot near the EDC and community building @ 10:30 AM.

Located near Florence, SC close to Hwy 52 south of Effingham is Lynch River County Park. Since it is a county park there are signs for it on the roads traveling into the area. The junction to enter into the park is at **34.033158, -79.787719** where Ben Gause Road and State Park Road intersect near the ball field. The entrance for the parking will be the next left as you pass the large circular community building also on the left.

Lynches River County Park

Florence County, SC



2011 Florence County GIS (JM) - Map intended for informational purposes only

Congratulations! If you have made it this far in the newsletter you are getting the most important information for this trip. Mosquitos and other biting insects may be present, please prepare accordingly so you can have a great outing with SCAN. My trip was so cold there was nothing flying around but there was standing water, the warming weather will increase our chances of encounters.

Todd Johnston

**Bear Island WMA
Colleton Co., SC
February 26, 2022**

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Please indicate exactly to which flora/fauna list you are referring in the subject line of your message. Thank you.

FLORA

Sea Lettuce

Ulva sp.

Floating Liverwort

Riccia sp

Eastern Bracken

Pteridium latiusculum

Sensitive Fern

Onoclea sensibilis

Kunth's Maiden Fern

Pelazoneuron kunthii

Resurrection Fern

Pleopeltis michauxiana

Shortleaf Pine

Pinus echinata

Loblolly Pine

Pinus taeda

Southern Red Cedar

Juniperus silicicola

Eastern Red Cedar

Juniperus virginiana

Little Brown Jug

Hexastylis arifolia

Heartleaf

Hexastylis sp.

Duckweed

Lemna sp.

Mud-midgets

Wolffiella gladiata

American Frog's-bit

Limnobium spongia

Wigeon-grass

Ruppia maritima

Catbrier

Smilax bona-nox bona-nox

Whiteleaf Greenbrier

Smilax glauca

Sarsaparilla-vine

Smilax pumila

Southern Blue Flag

Iris virginica

False Garlic

Nothoscordum bivalve

Dwarf Palmetto

Sabal minor

Cabbage Palmetto

Sabal palmetto

Pickerelweed

Pontederia cordata

Common Cattail

Typha latifolia

Spanish-moss

Tillandsia usneoides

Black Needle Rush

Juncus roemerianus

Common Bushy Bluestem

Andropogon glomeratus

Old-field Broomstraw

Andropogon virginicus

Switch Cane

Arundinaria tecta

Switchgrass

Panicum virgatum

Saltmarsh Cordgrass

Spartina alterniflora

Sand Cordgrass

Spartina bakeri

Giant Cordgrass

Spartina cynosuroides

Small Saltmeadow Cordgrass

Spartina patens

Sweet Gum

Liquidambar styraciflua

Coral Bean

Erythrina herbacea

Sesban

Sesbania herbacea

Eastern Wild Black Cherry

Prunus serotina serotina

Southern Dewberry

Rubus trivialis

White Oak

Quercus alba

Southern Red Oak

Quercus falcata

Sand Live Oak

Quercus geminata

Water Oak

Quercus nigra

Cherrybark Oak

Quercus pagoda

Willow Oak

Quercus phellos

Post Oak

Quercus stellata

Live Oak

Quercus virginiana

Common Wax-myrtle

Morella cerifera

Hickory

Carya sp.

St. Andrew's Cross

Hypericum hypericoides

Common Blue Violet

Viola sororia

Popcorn Tree

Triadica sebifera

Carolina Crane's-bill

Geranium carolinianum

Toothcup

Rotala ramosior

Common Water-purslane

Ludwigia palustris

Seedbox

Ludwigia sp.

Winged Sumac

Rhus copallinum

Eastern Red Maple

Acer rubrum rubrum

Red Buckeye

Aesculus pavia pavia

Eastern Rose-mallow

Hibiscus moscheutos

Sticky Mouse-ear

Cerastium glomeratum

Corn Spurrey

Spergula arvensis

Samphire

Salicornia virginica

Glasswort

Salicornia sp.

Water-pimpernel

Samolus parviflorus

Sweetleaf

Symplocos tinctoria

Sparkleberry

Vaccinium arboreum

Elliott's Blueberry

Vaccinium elliotii

Swamp Blueberry

Vaccinium virgatum

Buttonbush

Cephalanthus occidentalis

Carolina Jessamine

Gelsemium sempervirens

Common Toadflax

Linaria canadensis

American Mistletoe

Phoradendron leucarpum
leucarpum

Skullcap

Scutellaria sp.

American Holly

Ilex opaca

Yaupon
Ilex vomitoria
Leopard's-bane
Arnica acaulis
Groundsel Tree
Baccharis glomeruliflora
Silverling
Baccharis halimifolia
Common Yellow Thistle
Cirsium horridulum horridulum
Trampweed
Facelis retusa

FAUNA

Marsh Periwinkle
Littorina irrorata
Common Blue Crab
Callinectes sapidus
Fiddler Crab
Uca sp.
Mischievous Bird Grasshopper
Schistocerca damnifica
Wood Roach
Parcoblatta sp.
Leaf-footed Bug
Acanthocephala declivis
Southern Carpenter Bee
Xylocopa micans
Peg-legged Compost Fly
Syrirta flaviventris
Oak Shothole Leafminer Fly
Japanagromyza viridula
Common Green Darner
Anax junius
Rambur's Forktail
Ischnura ramburi
Water Scavenger Beetle
Tropisternus collaris
Palmetto Tortoise Beetle
Hemisphaerota cyanea
Tortoise Beetle
Charidotella purpurata
Black Swallowtail
Papilio polyxenes
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Pterourus glaucus
Cloudless Sulphur
Phoebis sennae
Sleepy Orange
Abaeis nicippe
Little Yellow
Pyrisitia lisa
American Lady
Vanessa virginiensis
Common Buckeye
Junonia coenia
Carolina Satyr
Hermeuptychia sosybius
Monarch
Danaus plexippus

Duskywing Skipper
Erynnis sp.
Mullet
Mugil sp.
Southern Cricket Frog
Acris gryllus
Green Treefrog
Hyla cinerea
American Alligator
Alligator mississippiensis
Yellow-bellied Slider
Trachemys scripta
Yellow-bellied Slider
Trachemys scripta scripta
Banded Water Snake
Nerodia fasciata
Timber Rattlesnake
Crotalus horridus
East. Diamondback Rattlesnake
Crotalus adamanteus
Pied-billed Grebe
Podilymbus podiceps
American White Pelican
Pelecanus erythrorhynchos
Anhinga
Anhinga anhinga
Double-crested Cormorant
Phalacrocorax auritus
Tricolored Heron
Egretta tricolor
Little Blue Heron
Egretta caerulea
Snowy Egret
Egretta thula
Great Blue Heron
Ardea herodias
Great Egret
Ardea alba
Wood Stork
Mycteria americana
Glossy Ibis
Plegadis falcinellus
White Ibis
Eudocimus albus
Roseate Spoonbill
Platalea ajaja
Tundra Swan
Cygnus columbianus
Mottled Duck
Anas fulvigula
Green-winged Teal
Anas crecca
Hooded Merganser
Lophodytes cucullatus
Northern Shoveler
Spatula clypeata
Blue-winged Teal
Spatula discors
Gadwall
Mareca strepera
Clapper Rail
Rallus crepitans

Sora
Porzana carolina
Common Gallinule
Gallinula galeata
American Coot
Fulica americana
American Avocet
Recurvirostra americana
Killdeer
Charadrius vociferus
Greater Yellowlegs
Tringa melanoleuca
Lesser Yellowlegs
Tringa flavipes
Short-billed Dowitcher
Limnodromus griseus
Long-billed Dowitcher
Limnodromus scolopaceus
Bonaparte's Gull
Chroicocephalus philadelphia
Ring-billed Gull
Larus delawarensis
Laughing Gull
Leucophaeus atricilla
Forster's Tern
Sterna forsteri
Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura
Black Vulture
Coragyps atratus
Bald Eagle
Haliaeetus leucocephalus
Northern Harrier
Circus hudsonius
Cooper's Hawk
Accipiter cooperii
Red-tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis
Osprey
Pandion haliaetus
Mourning Dove
Zenaidura macroura
Eurasian Collared Dove
Streptopelia decaocto
Barn Owl
Tyto alba
Eastern Screech-owl
Megascops asio
Belted Kingfisher
Megaceryle alcyon
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus
Downy Woodpecker
Dryobates pubescens
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Sphyrapicus varius
Pileated Woodpecker
Dryocopus pileatus
Eastern Phoebe
Sayornis phoebe
Tree Swallow
Tachycineta bicolor

Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata

American Crow
Corvus brachyrhynchos

Fish Crow
Corvus ossifragus

Tufted Titmouse
Baeolophus bicolor

Carolina Chickadee
Poecile carolinensis

White-breasted Nuthatch
Sitta carolinensis

Brown-headed Nuthatch
Sitta pusilla

House Wren
Troglodytes aedon

Carolina Wren
Thryothorus ludovicianus

Marsh Wren
Cistothorus palustris

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Regulus calendula

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Poliophtila caerulea

Eastern Bluebird
Sialia sialis

Gray Catbird
Dumetella carolinensis

Northern Mockingbird
Mimus polyglottos

Blue-headed Vireo
Vireo solitarius

Yellow-rumped Warbler
Setophaga coronata

Yellow-throated Warbler
Setophaga dominica

Pine Warbler
Setophaga pinus

Palm Warbler
Setophaga palmarum

Northern Cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis

Eastern Towhee
Pipilo erythrophthalmus

Savannah Sparrow
Passerculus sandwichensis

Song Sparrow
Melospiza melodia

Chipping Sparrow
Spizella passerina

White-throated Sparrow
Zonotrichia albicollis

Swamp Sparrow
Melospiza georgiana

Eastern Meadowlark
Sturnella magna

Red-winged Blackbird
Agelaius phoeniceus

Common Grackle
Quiscalus quiscula

Boat-tailed Grackle
Quiscalus major

Seaside Sparrow
Ammospiza maritima

Virginia Opossum
Didelphis virginiana

Nine-banded Armadillo (tracks)
Dasypus novemcinctus

American Raccoon
Procyon lotor

Bobcat
Lynx rufus

White-tailed Deer
Odocoileus virginianus

**Donnelly Wildlife Management Area
Colleton Co., SC
February 26, 2022**

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FAUNA

Mullet

Mugil sp.

American Alligator

Alligator mississippiensis

American White Pelican

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos

Double-crested Cormorant

Phalacrocorax auritus

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

Great Blue Heron

Ardea herodias

Great Egret

Ardea alba

Roseate Spoonbill

Platalea ajaja

Killdeer

Charadrius vociferus

Turkey Vulture

Cathartes aura

Black Vulture

Coragyps atratus

Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Mourning Dove

Zenaida macroura

Red-headed Woodpecker

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Crow

Corvus sp.

Eastern Bluebird

Sialia sialis

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Setophaga coronata

Pine Warbler

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