



SCAN *South Carolina Association of Naturalists*
Post Office Box 5651, Columbia, South Carolina 29250-5651

May 2022

Hello SCAN members!

Our April trip was scheduled for us to head over to Spring Island along the coast, but we could just not pull it off. So...Jerry Bright and Jeff Kline got us lined up to go over to Botany Bay Plantation WMA on Edisto Island instead. Boy...What a place! I believe that was a better area to go anyways! There is so much to see over that way and you just cannot take it in all at once. It's good to be with friends to help show you along, too.

We did not have a large crowd this time around and I don't know why...but some of the hard-core folks made it. Jerry and Jeff managed to get Bill Johnston, a retired DNR guy and now a volunteer out there to tell us about what we would be seeing. The plantation in its day mainly grew cotton. This cotton was Long Staple Sea Island Cotton known for its long fiber and strength. It was valued above all the other varieties of cotton produced and a real money maker. After the talk and looking at the maps, we all headed different ways. The tide was out and many of us headed to the Boneyard Beach to see the remains of the maritime forest slowly washing away. In all it was a wonderful day with lots to see and do.



Botany Bay attendees, (left to right):

Bill Johnston (for the introduction), Dave Schuetrum, Alison Smith, Cynthia Giles, Jerry Bright, Hal Giles, Scott Wietecha, Jeff Kline, Paul Deaton, Paul Kalbach, and Kim McManus.

From Kim McManus:

The birds seemed to steal the day on this trip! Painted Buntings made several flashy appearances. Shore birds meandered through the marshes and danced in the surf. A few of us were even lucky enough to spot a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on a nest!



L to R: Green Heron, Painted Bunting, Willet

One of the success stories at Botany Bay is the reintroduction of Fox Squirrels. SC DNR and the Edisto Island Preservation Alliance released squirrels in the WMA in 2015. Now there are fox squirrels across the property. They can often be seen cavorting on the entrance road.



L to R: Southern Toad, Boneyard Beach, Fox Squirrel

Our May outing is our annual excursion to Hell Hole Swamp in the Francis Marion National Forest. The diehard campers will kick off the weekend Thursday the 26th and stay through Monday morning the 30th. The official trip is our usual Saturday 10:30am to 4:30pm, with a BYO-dinner afterwards at the campground. There are hotels available nearby for those who wish to make a weekend of it without the hassle of camping out.

Dave Schuetrum

Francis Marion National Forest / Hell Hole Swamp
Berkeley County, SC
May 26 - 30, 2022

Thursday - Monday

For the 10th year, SCAN will join the naturalist group Under a Low Country Moon (ULCM) for their annual interpretive weekend. ULCM has been gathering over Memorial Day weekend since 2001. The group focuses on snake, frog and turtle spotting throughout the Francis Marion National Forest. Teams and individuals slowly travel the dirt roads in vehicles and on bicycles, watching for snakes and other critters. Stops are made at pitcher plant bogs, ponds, pine forests and cypress swamps for on-foot exploration. The fun doesn't stop when the sun goes down! Evening road cruises are often the highlight of the weekend. Back at camp, folks gather around the fire to tell tall tales and roast a few marshmallows.

For the folks who wish to camp, we'll be setting up in the grassy field that serves as home base just off Hwy 41 on Hell Hole Road. This is primitive camping, so plan to "pack it in, pack it out." The first campers typically set up Thursday evening and the last tents are struck around midmorning on Monday. For those who prefer hot showers on occasion, there are several hotels in about 30 – 45 minutes away in Moncks Corner or Mount Pleasant.

Restrooms are available at the Circle K / BP in Jamestown, approximately 15 minutes away from camp.

Notes:

- Hell Hole Road has several large, mostly impassible mud bog areas. Plan on more on-foot exploration this year. Bicycles have been recommended by several folks who travel the area regularly.
- The area around the campground has been burned recently. The field is unaffected and there's still some cover, but plan on getting sooty if you wander away from the main areas.
- The mosquitoes are out in full force. Stock up on TheraCell, bug spray and long-sleeved shirts.
- The Subway located inside the Circle K has not been open consistently. Have a plan B in mind if you usually get sandwiches from this shop.

Saturday: 10:30 am start

SCAN's official outing day is Saturday. This year, we'll be exploring the Awendaw Passage of the Palmetto Trail. The coastal terminus of the Palmetto Trail, the passage starts at Buck Hall and follows Awendaw Creek for a few miles before turning inland and connecting with the Swamp Fox Passage. The route provides beautiful views of salt marsh and is an easy walk through maritime forest.

To avoid the weekend crowd at the Buck Hall Boat Landing, we'll meet a little further down the trail at the Awendaw Creek canoe launch at the end of Rosa Green Road. Bring lots of sunscreen, water and bug spray!

For more information and to download an Avenza map, visit <https://palmettoconservation.org/passage/awendaw-passage/>

Sunday: 8:30 am start

In conjunction with the SCAN activities, the Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy has invited SCAN, South Carolina Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy (SC PARC) and other interested individuals to the inaugural Rothstein Bioblitz. This event will be held in conjunction with Under a Low Country Moon on Sunday, May 29. Preliminary focal areas include Eddie White's Swamp House lands in the Echaw Creek floodplain and nearby FMNF sandhills overlooking the Santee River. The flora and fauna in these areas are breathtaking. There's even a commemorative sticker in the works! We'll meet at the Honey Hill Recreation Area and caravan to the site.

If you have questions about the weekend, please contact Kim McManus at scnaturalists76@gmail.com

**Botany Bay
Charleston Co., SC
April 23, 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

Blue-eyed-grass
Sisyrinchium fuscatum
Johnson Grass
Sorghum halepense
White Prickly-poppy
Argemone albiflora albiflora
Coral Bean
Erythrina herbacea
Tamarisk
Tamarix sp.
Florida Betony
Stachys floridana
Venus's Looking-glass
Triodanis perfoliata
Silver Seaside Oxeye
Borrichia frutescens
Texas Toadflax
Nutallanthus texanus *

FAUNA

Square-back Marsh Crab
Sesarma cinereum
Ghost Crab
Ocyropsis quadrata
Atlantic Stingray
Hypanus sabinus *
Tuft-legged Orbweaver
Mangora placida
Florida Carpenter Ant
Camponotus abdominalis
Flower Scarab Beetle
Euphoria sepulchralis
Jewel Beetle
Acmaeodera tubulus
Blind Elater
Alaus myops
Flower Longhorn Beetle
Typocerus zebra
Palamedes Swallowtail
Pterourus palamedes
Cloudless Sulphur
Phoebis sennae

Sleepy Orange
Abaeis nicippe
Phaon Crescent
Phyciodes phaon
Angewing Butterfly
Polytonia sp.
American Lady
Vanessa virginiensis
Common Buckeye
Junonia coenia
Red-spotted Purple
Limenitis arthemis astyanax
Gemmed Satyr
Cyllopsis gemma
Carolina Satyr
Hermeuptychia sosybius
Little Wood-satyr
Megisto cymela
Monarch
Danaus plexippus
Zabulon Skipper
Lon zabulon
Southern Toad
Anaxyrus terrestris
American Alligator
Alligator mississippiensis
Yellow-bellied Slider
Trachemys scripta
Brown Pelican
Pelecanus occidentalis
Double-crested Cormorant
Phalacrocorax auritus
Green Heron
Butorides virescens
Snowy Egret
Egretta thula
Great Blue Heron
Ardea herodias
Great Egret
Ardea alba
Wood Stork
Mycteria americana
American Oystercatcher
Haematopus palliatus
Wilson's Plover
Charadrius wilsonia
Semipalmated Plover
Charadrius semipalmatus
Whimbrel
Numenius phaeopus
Willet
Tringa semipalmata
Spotted Sandpiper
Actitis macularius
Laughing Gull
Leucophaeus atricilla

Forster's Tern
Sterna forsteri
Caspian Tern
Hydroprogne caspia
Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura
Bald Eagle
Haliaeetus leucocephalus
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Archilochus colubris
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus
Red-headed Woodpecker
Melanerpes erythrocephalus
Downy Woodpecker
Dryobates pubescens
Pileated Woodpecker
Dryocopus pileatus
Eastern Kingbird
Tyrannus tyrannus
Great Crested Flycatcher
Myiarchus crinitus
Eastern Wood-pewee
Contopus virens
Tree Swallow
Tachycineta bicolor
American Crow
Corvus brachyrhynchos
Fish Crow
Corvus ossifragus
Tufted Titmouse
Baeolophus bicolor
Carolina Chickadee
Poecile carolinensis
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Sitta pusilla
Carolina Wren
Thryothorus ludovicianus
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Poliottila caerulea
Eastern Bluebird
Sialia sialis
Gray Catbird
Dumetella carolinensis
White-eyed Vireo
Vireo griseus
Yellow-throated Vireo
Vireo flavifrons
Northern Parula
Setophaga americana
Yellow-throated Warbler
Setophaga dominica
Pine Warbler
Setophaga pinus
Northern Cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis

Awendaw Passage of the Palmetto Trail

