



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

December 2022

Hello SCAN members!

Our November outing to Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve took place on the first day of duck hunting season! Several of us had nice conversations with the game wardens as we discovered Google took us to a locked gate. We were able to backtrack and find the meeting spot. Eastern Regional Director Todd Johnston gave us an overview of the location and we took off down the road to see what we could find.



*Attendees L to R: Kim McManus, Sharon Watson, Paul Kalbach, Todd Johnston, Edward Ingram.
Photo by Edward Ingram*



L to R: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, sweat bee, Sharon Watson exploring a low-lying area.

The day was beautiful, with clear skies and temperatures reaching 60 degrees. We spotted a few butterflies and spiders along with lots of robins, some cedar waxwings and other birds. Here and there, asters were blooming and the ferns were still green.

Due to the proximity of several groups of hunters, we did not explore as thoroughly as we would have liked and wrapped up the day early. We should definitely return during a different time of year to this large and varied area.

Kim McManus

From Dave Schuetrum your SCAN President:

Hello Fellow Scan Members! We have seen the seasons change and had a number of interesting outings this year. South Carolina is simply Paradise with what we have and can enjoy. And friends make it happen.

We need your advice and input with our yearly Planning Meeting. We will be having an online Zoom meeting to discuss where we will be going next year for our monthly ramble/soodles. This meeting will be Wednesday Dec 7th at 7pm. Our Regional Directors will have a weighted opinion on the selections. If you have a place that you think would be worthy...join us in the meeting. Otherwise we might have to cite you for a "Failure to Appear."

Zoom details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85836778057?pwd=NHhqDUILzVGSjc1MGYyVjZGT0NKdz09>

Topic: 2023 Planning Meeting

Time: Dec 7, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting ID: 858 3677 8057

Passcode: 524366

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,85836778057#,,,,*524366# US (New York)

+13017158592,,85836778057#,,,,*524366# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC))

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85836778057?pwd=NHhqDUILzVGSjc1MGYyVjZGT0NKdz09>

Remember those SCAN Yearly Meetings in late January from years past? All those really neat speakers and a chance to connect with friends without swatting mosquitoes and walking in mud? We have not had a get together like that in over two years because of covid. Well guess what? We will be getting together again with speakers and a chance for us to be in one room jabbering like monkeys once again! It will be a good way for members that cannot ramble like they used to...to be with friends from all over the state once again. Very important.

So stay tuned. It will be Saturday January 28th, at Saluda Shoals Park in Columbia. We have the auditorium reserved and a couple really neat secret speakers already lined up and are working on more. Jerry Bright says not to have too many speakers because we need time to jabber, take breaks and eat lunch. Darn it...I have to agree.

That's all for now.

Dave Schuetrum

And now for our monthly soodle! Todd Johnston is our Regional Director for where we will be going. December 10th Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge!

**Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge
Chesterfield County
December 10, 2022**

The close of the season brings us to our final destination for 2022 as we visit Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge (CSNWR). This is one of my favorite locations but I've never been out in December so it will be interesting to see how things are different. I can see why SCAN has visited at least 5 times that I could find looking through previous newsletters. This time Nancy Jordan a biologist in charge of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker population at CSNWR will be meeting us at **10:00AM** at the visitor center off Highway 1, a little over 3 miles north of the stoplight in McBee, SC.

The Refuge was in very bad shape from poor farming practices and erosion had become a major issue when the land was purchased in 1939 under the Resettlement Act, part of the New Deal. Over the last 80 years many of the habitats and inhabitants have been restored to how it would have been before its degradation. Though historical species like bison, panther, wolves and bears have not made their way back to the refuge, mammals such as deer, turkey and beavers were successfully reintroduced.



Since the land was set aside initially for birds one of the first things they established were some manmade ponds that now total 30. There are a variety of habitats found within the property. The one that gets the most attention is the longleaf pine forest. Due both to the effort that is required because of routine prescribed burns and due to the endangered residents, the red cockaded woodpeckers (RCW). The burns minimize understory competition, the old tree population provide habitat, and artificial nesting cavities have helped the refuge population of RCW to grow to well over 100 family groups.



Other interesting finds at the refuge include: Pine Barrens treefrog, white wickey, Well's pixie moss, sweet pitcher plant (one of 6 carnivorous species), Swainson's warbler, Atlantic white cedar, Pine Barren Gentian, Bachman's Sparrow (breeding population), and a dense nightjar breeding population. We could also start to see the return of some waterfowl on the ponds or quail in the less dense vegetation.

Besides the numerous dirt forest roads and wildlife drive that we may be able to see wildlife from, there are numerous trails ranging from 0.1 miles (Martin's Lake Overlook) to roughly 4 miles (Tates Trail one way). The link to the interactive maps can be found here:

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/carolina-sandhills/visit-us/trails>

There should be pamphlets and visual aids at the kiosk at the visitor center and there is good signage at the trails also. Typically the visitor center is closed on Saturday and not sure if that will still be the case with Nancy Jordan meeting us. However restrooms can still be found at the Lake Bee recreation area on the NE side of the property. Other areas of interest are Pond A, Martin's Lake, and the Oxpen recreation area.

Bring a lunch, water, binoculars and prepare for the variable weather expected for Saturday. We are meeting at 10am at the visitor center. Google Maps lists the coordinates as:

34.50410449522909, -80.22510546392525

Todd Johnston
Eastern Regional Director

Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve
Horry Co., SC
November 19, 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

American Royal Fern

Osmunda spectabilis

Bracken

Pteridium aquilinum

Sensitive Fern

Onoclea sensibilis

Virginia Chain Fern

Anchistea virginica

Netted Chain Fern

Lorinseria areolata

Loblolly Pine

Pinus taeda

Bald-cypress

Taxodium distichum

Lizard's-tail

Saururus cernuus

Sweetbay

Magnolia virginiana

Whiteleaf Greenbrier

Smilax glauca

Common Greenbrier

Smilax rotundifolia

Spanish-moss

Tillandsia usneoides

Woolly Bulrush

Scirpus cyperinus

Sweet Gum

Liquidambar styraciflua

Common Mermaid-weed

Proserpinaca palustris

Muscadine

Muscadinia rotundifolia
rotundifolia

Swamp Rose

Rosa palustris

Water Oak

Quercus nigra

Willow Oak

Quercus phellos

Common Wax-myrtle

Morella cerifera

Primrose-leaf Violet

Viola primulifolia

Swamp Cottonwood

Populus heterophylla

Narrowleaf Seedbox

Ludwigia linearis

Eastern Poison Ivy

Toxicodendron radicans radicans

Eastern Red Maple

Acer rubrum rubrum

Eastern Rose-mallow

Hibiscus moscheutos

Common Pokeweed

Phytolacca americana

Sweetleaf

Symplocos tinctoria

Ti-ti

Cyrilla racemiflora

Carolina Jessamine

Gelsemium sempervirens

Indian-hemp

Apocynum cannabinum

Carolina Horse-nettle

Solanum carolinense carolinense

Trumpet-creeper

Campsis radicans

American Holly

Ilex opaca

Silverling

Baccharis halimifolia

Common Dog-fennel

Eupatorium capillifolium

Bitterweed

Helenium amarum amarum

Camphorweed

Pluchea camphorata

Centella

Centella erecta

Chicken of the Woods

Laetiporus sulphureus

False Turkey-tail

Stereum ostrea

FAUNA

Yellow Garden Spider

Argiope aurantia

Golden Silk Orbweaver

Trichonephila clavipes

Rabid Wolf Spider

Rabidosa rabida

American Bird Grasshopper

Schistocerca americana

Mischievous Bird Grasshopper

Schistocerca damnifica

Milkweed Assassin Bug

Zelus longipes

Woolly Oak Gall (wasp)

Andricus pattoni

Red Imported Fire Ant

Solenopsis invicta

Fraternat Potter Wasp

Eumenes fraternus

Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle

Harmonia axyridis

Pearl Crescent

Phyciodes tharos

Lunate Zale Moth

Zale lunata

Turkey Vulture

Cathartes aura

Black Vulture

Coragyps atratus

Northern Harrier

Circus hudsonius

Mourning Dove

Zenaida macroura

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Melanerpes carolinus

Northern Flicker

Colaptes auratus

Pileated Woodpecker

Dryocopus pileatus

Eastern Phoebe

Sayornis phoebe

American Crow

Corvus brachyrhynchos

Carolina Wren

Thryothorus ludovicianus

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Regulus calendula

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Poliophtila caerulea

American Robin

Turdus migratorius

Cedar Waxwing

Bombycilla cedrorum

Blue-headed Vireo

Vireo solitarius

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Setophaga coronata

Red-winged Blackbird

Agelaius phoeniceus

Common Grackle

Quiscalus quiscula