



February 2023

Hello fellow SCAN members!

We did not have a monthly soodle in January. That's because we had our first annual meeting in about three years. Just like old times.

2023 Annual Meeting

We had our annual meeting with SCAN (South Carolina Association of Naturalists), at Saluda Shoals Park in Irmo/Columbia. We have not had a formal get-together like this in about 3 years because of COVID. We have been having our monthly soodles to neat places around the state, though. The meeting allowed members to meet in an indoor facility and renew friendships with far-off friends. In the business meeting we confirmed officers and got the new ramble schedule posted.



Here's a few pictures of our meeting.



A few of the members jabbering before the meeting. See anyone you know?



There's Charlie Williams, Dave Eslinger, and Kim Frampton McManus.



Tim Evans talking to Glenn Quattlebaum.



A few getting settled in for the "show to begin."



We all pretty much know each other from over the years rambling the woods.



Our first presenter was Charlie Williams dressed in the period clothing of the time as the early botanist...Andre Michaux.



Our next presenter was Tim Evans. Tim talked about The Zen of Bottomland Hardwood Forestry.



Our last presenter was Dr. Charles Horn. Charles current research is on Rhododendrons of the southern Appalachians and the flora of South Carolina, especially of rare plants.

Our speakers were gracious enough to allow us to post recordings of their presentations online for the folks who were unable to join us for the meeting.

Tim Evans – the Zen of Bottomland Hardwood Forestry
<https://youtu.be/eDoDLBE2rjo>

Dr. Charles Horn – Rhododendrons of the Southern Appalachians
https://youtu.be/xFqSoLKzA_Q

After lunch and presentations, we had our SCAN business meeting.

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 2023 officers and regional directors are:

President: Dave Schuetrum
Vice President: Gordon Murphy
Secretary: (help!)
Treasurer: Angela Valvasori (**outgoing and pending**)
Historian: Gordon Murphy
Database Manager: Kim McManus

Regional Directors:
Northern: Rita Zollinger
Western: Lee Morris
Central: Dave and Marty Kastner
Southern: Tom Austin
Eastern: Todd Johnston

Old and new business items were discussed.

- Angela Valvasori would like to step down from the Treasurer position and we need someone to step up to fill her position.
- We need someone to help with the Secretary position. We have no one to help right now.

Our final bit of business was to unveil the 2023 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 28 (Central): Saluda Shoals Park – Annual Meeting
- February 25 (Southern): Pickney Island
- March 25 (Central): Peachtree Rock
- April 22 (Southern): Spring Island
- May 27 (Southern): Francis Marion NF / Old Santee Canal Park
- June 24 (Eastern): Tom Yawkey (alt. Black River Cypress Preserve)
- July 22 (Northern): Tall Pines
- August 26 (Western): Lower Whitewater Falls
- September 23 (Northern): Pacolet River HP
- October 28 (Central): Wateree Passage of Palmetto Trail
- November 18 (Western): Phinizy Swamp
- December 9 (Eastern): Kalmia Gardens/Segars McKinnon HP

Also...Tom Austin has secured landowner permission for SCAN to access to Jehossee Farm on Edisto Island on Saturday, April 15 . This property is across the South Edisto River from Bear Island and the ACE Basin NWR and it has a lot of bird life, diamondback rattlesnakes, scarce butterflies, and historical significance to boot. It's a novel mitigation bank project EIOLT is partnered with that will hopefully begin groundwork in 2023. Tom wants to use this outing as a trial run/case study so we can produce a biodiversity dataset of the property that he can then present to the SC Land Trust Network, which will hopefully show them the resources that groups like SCAN can offer them...and also open some more doors for SCAN and other naturalist groups in the state to access ecologically significant private lands. Access to this property is still pending.

Thanks to everyone who sent in photos for the Year in Review photo slideshow!

<https://youtu.be/goKioQLFTK8>

Photos from the annual meeting:

<https://mcframpus.smugmug.com/Other/SCAN/2023-SCAN-annual-meeting/n-cmhNVx/>

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Our next outing will be February 25th to Pinckney Island.

Dave Schuetrum
President

PINCKNEY ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Beaufort County

February 25, 2023

Southern Regional Director: Tom Austin

Meet at: 32.2339, -80.7785

Pinckney Island NWR was donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1975 to be managed exclusively as a national wildlife refuge and as a nature and forest preserve for aesthetic and conservation purposes.

As detailed on the NWR's webpage:

Pinckney Island NWR, established December 4, 1975, was once included in the plantation of Major General Charles Cotesworth Pinckney. Pinckney was a Revolutionary War veteran, delegate to the Constitutional Convention and two-time presidential candidate in the early 1800s. Few traces of the island's plantation exist today. From 1937 to 1975, when it was donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pinckney Island was privately owned and managed as a game preserve.

The 4,053-acre refuge includes Pinckney Island, Corn Island, Big and Little Harry Islands, Buzzard Island and numerous small hammocks. Pinckney is the largest of the islands and the only one open to the public. Two-thirds of the refuge consists of salt marsh and tidal creeks. A wide variety of land types are found on Pinckney Island alone: salt marsh, forestland, brushland, fallow fields, and freshwater ponds. These habitats support a diversity of bird and plant life. Wildlife commonly observed on Pinckney Island includes waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, neo-tropical migrants, white-tailed deer and American alligators. There are large concentrations of white ibis, herons, and egrets.

So far USFWS lists 721 documented species on the property. eBird shows the hotspot as having 258 bird species and iNaturalist reports 429 species. There are numerous impoundments and ponds, a beach overlooking Port Royal Sound, and extensive maritime and bottomland forest communities.

More information can be found about the NWR here:

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/pinckney-island/about-us>

The USFWS has a pretty good PDF trail map available here and screenshotted below:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Trail-Map-Pinckney-Island-NWR.pdf>

There are no restrooms on the NWR. There is a single, roughly 3.8 mile, paved/gravel road running along principally the western edge of the NWR. There are extensive walking trails running through the rest of the NWR. Vehicles are not allowed on the paved/gravel road.

We'll meet at 10:30am at the Pinckney Island NWR parking area (32.2339, -80.7785). Turn north off of Hwy-278 to enter the NWR and the parking area will be on the other side of the first causeway on the right after about a half-mile.

Tom Austin

From Jerry Bright: "Pinckney Island NWR maintains over 14 miles of gravel road and grass trails that provide visitors access to all parts of the refuge and are perfect for bicycling. In fact, due to the linear nature of Pinckney's main road, bicycling is a very efficient way to get the most out of your visit."

Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge Trail Guide



Legend

- High Ground
- Salt Marsh
- Closed Areas
- Gravel Roads
- Grass Trails
- Refuge Boundary
- Haig Boat Landing
- P Visitor Parking
- Maintenance Facility
- Closed to public
- Distance Given Between Dots