



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

December 2019

Hello Fellow SCAN Members!

The November outing to Little Pee Dee State Park was delayed by one day to avoid the nasty cold, wet weather on Saturday. I was unable to attend, so Dave Schuetrum provided an illustrated summary of the trip for us.

Band of gritty, determined Naturalists:

Ron Ahle

Angela Valvasori

Jim Boylston

Jan Ceigler

Kathy Boyle

Jerry Bright

Dave Schuetrum

From Dave:

November's SCAN trip was to Little Pee Dee River State Park over in Dillon County. Saturday was a rain washout day for our normal monthly SCAN, (South Carolina Association of Naturalists), ramble. After a bit of emailing back and forth we decided to make a go of it on Sunday since no rain was forecast. It is unheard of to delay a trip...normally it is go, rain or shine...not counting hurricanes. And it turned out well for our band of gritty determined Naturalists. It was a bit blustery, but the sun came out later in the day.

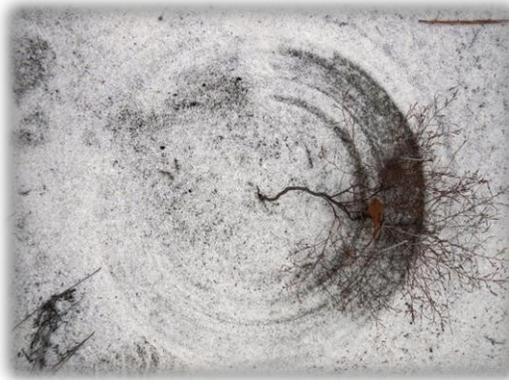
Since the park is a bit off the beaten trail, it looks to get less use by the public and that makes it a better place to visit in my opinion. It has a good bit of variety and is along the Little Pee Dee River swamp. At the end of the road into the Park, (and where there is the camping and Visitor Center), is Lake Norton. We saw a number of Canada Geese hunkered down on the far side along with the remains of their old nests. It was quite windy and air-ish out in the open along the lake. The water level was pretty low from the summer's drought.



The plan was to ramble the Beaver Pond Trail. The trail took us through some interesting woods with a lot of variety. Some places had areas of Longleaf Pine. There was Loblolly and mixed woods as well.



Jan had remembered from years past, (from beetle collecting), of an interesting old roadbed in the nearby adjoining Heritage Preserve. This white sand ridge is along the outside edge of a Carolina Bay and was wind deposited thousands of years ago. We saw many things like this pattern in the sand.



Some of us headed down into the Bay itself. It got pretty thick in there. Then we followed the old roadbed down to the Little Pee Dee River.



We ate dinner at a really good BBQ place in Florence. Jerry found it on that Smart Phone thing. The original place we would have eaten at was closed on a Sunday. We ate at Roger's BBQ House. And they had ice cream!



Tom Jones has compiled our observations and entered them into the SCAN database. See the last pages of the newsletter for the summary. If you observed any species that is not listed, please submit them. [_____](#)

Thanks to Dave for the great summary and to all the naturalists who braved the weather to scout the location.

Our December outing will be on Saturday, December 14th. Kathy Boyle will lead the group on an exploration of Audubon's Silver Bluff Center and Sanctuary in Aiken, SC. As one might expect from an Audubon property, there are a variety of habitats with excellent birding potential along the 6+ miles of trails.

We hope you'll join us for the last outing of 2019!

Kim McManus

SCAN trip to Audubon's Silver Bluff Center and Sanctuary, Aiken County, December 14, 2019

On Saturday December 14 we'll meet at 10:30 AM at Silver Bluff, an Audubon property in western Aiken County. The preserve encompasses 3,400 acres of ponds, grassy fields, pine woodlands, and forested bottomlands, under the stewardship of Audubon to provide habitat for a diversity of native birds. We'll have about six miles total of loop trails, plus service roads, to explore on foot. Bicycles are allowed too.

The Audubon trail map shows the ¾-mile Nuthatch Trail and the 2-mile Tanager Trail, which features a short boardwalk into a forested wetland. Newly added and not yet on the map is the 3-mile Quail Trail, starting behind the Education Center and reaching the Savannah River before looping back.



Silver Bluff Sanctuary trail map (incomplete).

The Quail Trail is a pleasant and easy walk -- dry, level, and well-marked, with two or three benches along the way. And yes, I flushed a covey of Bobwhite Quail from a trailside thicket.

Not many plants are in flower at this point in the year, but the grasses (especially Splitbeard, *Andropogon ternarius*) are in their late-season tufted glory. A number of small birds (species unknown) were darting about in this tall grass, presumably foraging.



Grassy field along the Quail Trail

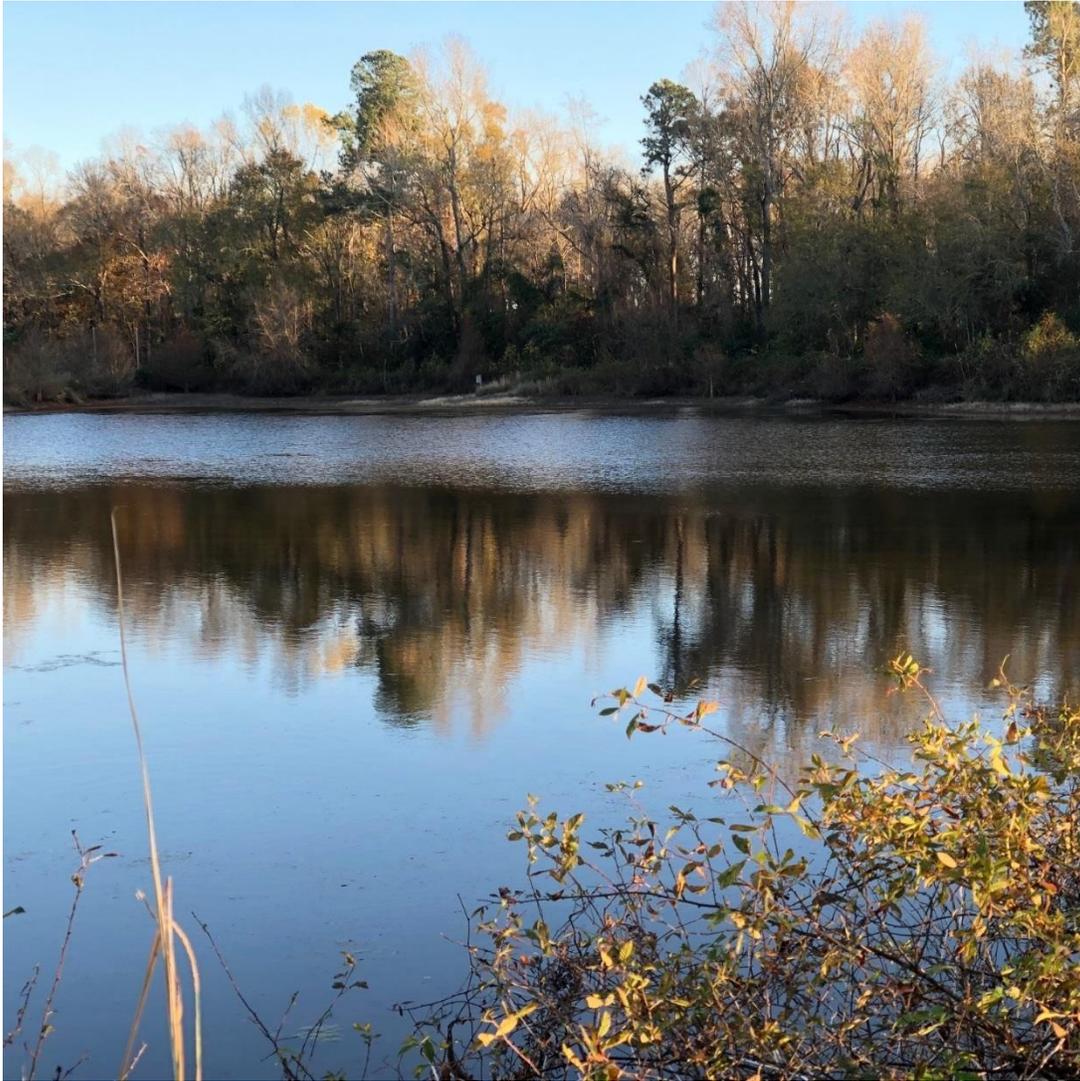
The Quail Trail emerges from the woods and fields to meet the Savannah River at Silver Bluff, where river-dwelling birds such as the Kingfisher are sometimes seen flying along the water's edge looking for fish. The bluff was named for the shiny minerals that can be seen sparkling in the afternoon sun in the exposed soil of the riverbank. While we're not likely to find any precious metals here, who knows what artifacts, from this historically significant site, might be eroding out of the bluff?



View of Savannah River from Silver Bluff

Another birding spot we'll want to visit is the Wood Stork Pond. This involves a short drive back up Silver Bluff Road, to where the sand surface changes back to pavement (lat/long: 33.33751, -81.84292). Pull off to the right to park.

The [Wood Stork](#), a species federally listed as threatened, and other pond-foraging birds are often seen at this impoundment. [Bald Eagles](#), which are no longer threatened or endangered but always good to see, are believed to have an active nest near here.



Wood Stork Pond

Directions to preserve:

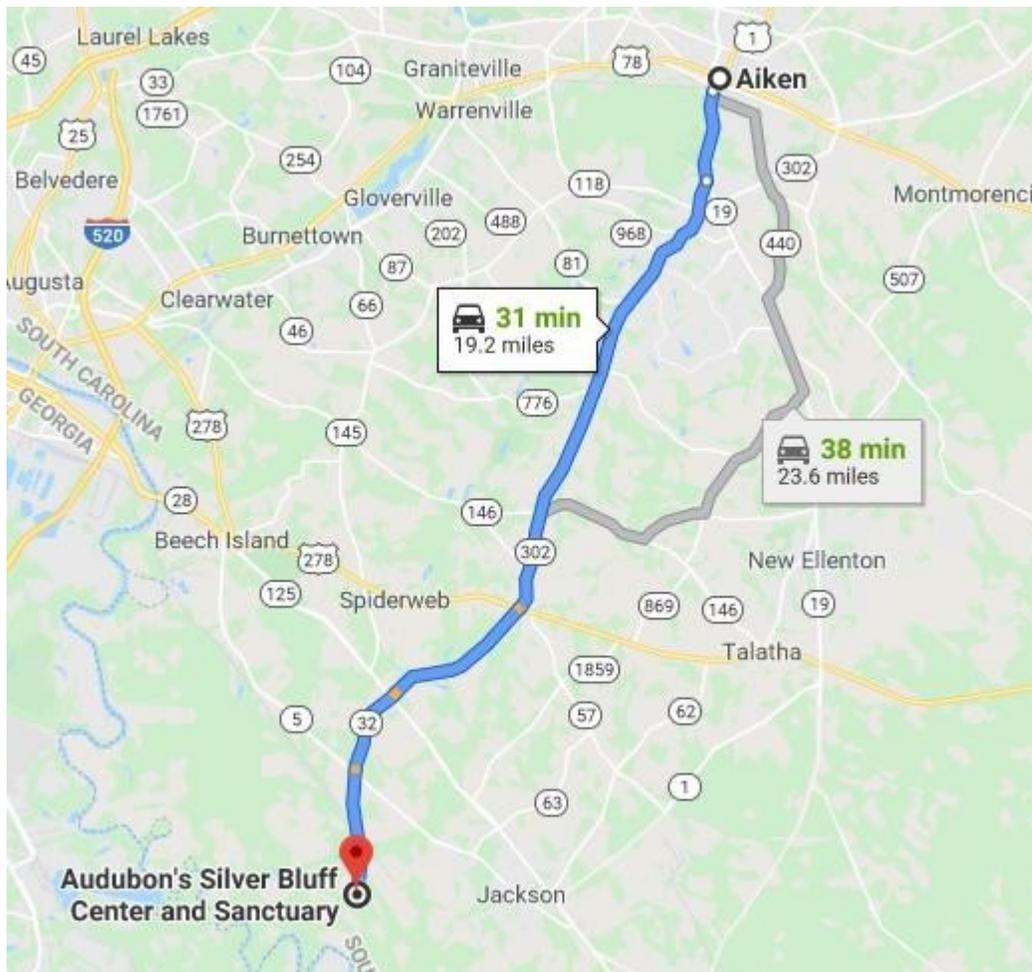
From the city of Aiken (junction of US-78 and SC-19):

Head south on Chesterfield St S toward Park Ave SE
(0.3 mi)

Continue onto Whiskey Rd
(1.8 mi)

Turn right after AAMCO Transmissions & Total Car Care (on the right)
(17.1 mi)

Arrive at Audubon's Silver Bluff Center and Sanctuary, 4542 Silver Bluff Rd, Jackson, SC 29831
(lat/long: 33.32427, -81.84644)



Amenities: The Visitors Center should be open for our visit, so water and restrooms will be available. Two sheltered picnic areas are nearby.

Dinner:

BBQ Barn

10298 Atomic Rd
North Augusta, SC 29841
Phone: (803) 278-7202

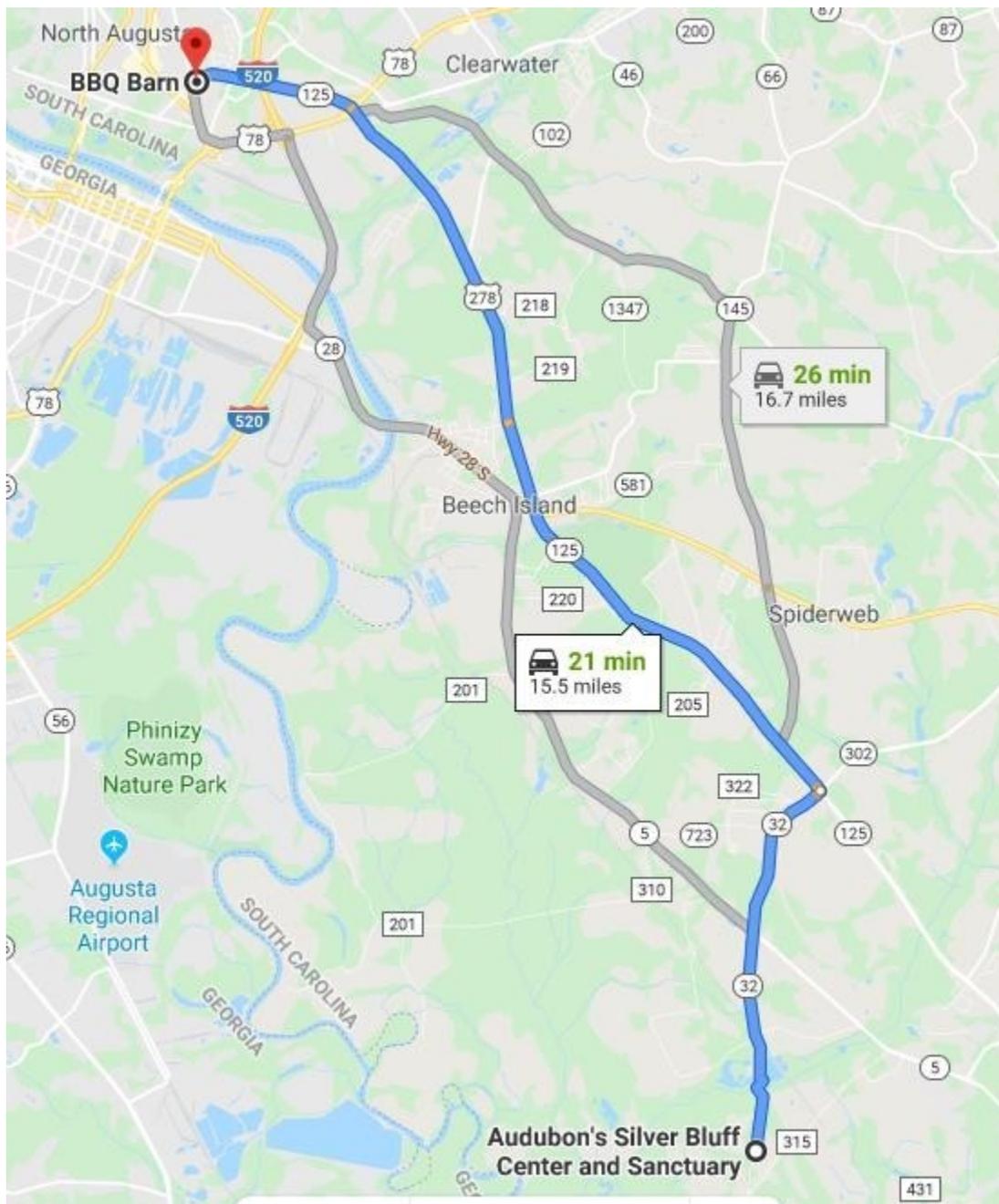
<http://www.bbqbarnna.com/index.php>

Directions to restaurant:

Head north on Silver Bluff Rd toward State Hwy 32
(4.3 mi)

Turn left onto SC-125 N/Atomic Rd
(11.2 mi)

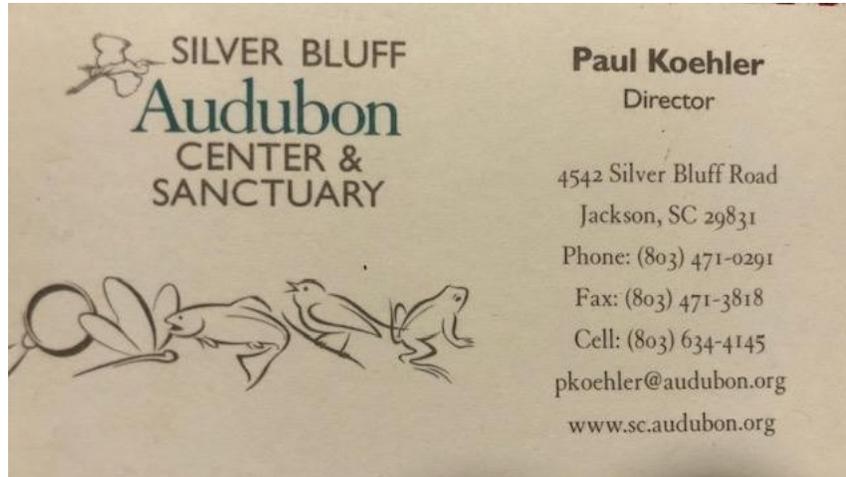
Arrive at 10298 Atomic Rd, North Augusta, SC 29841, on the left



Hope to see everyone on the 14th!

-- Kathy Boyle, trip leader

For more information about the preserve, contact –



**Little Pee Dee State Park
Dillon Co., SC
November 17, 2019**

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 Tom Jones. _____

Please indicate exactly to which flora/fauna list you are referring. Thank you.

FLORA

Cinnamon Fern

Osmunda cinnamomea

Chain Fern

Woodwardia sp.

Resurrection Fern

Pleopeltis polypodioides
michauxiana

Longleaf Pine

Pinus palustris

Loblolly Pine

Pinus taeda

Eastern Red Cedar

Juniperus virginiana virginiana

Giant Cane

Arundinaria gigantea

Giant Plume Grass

Saccharum giganteum

Spanish-moss

Tillandsia usneoides

Curlyleaf Yucca

Yucca filamentosa

Greenbrier

Smilax sp.

Swamp Bay

Persea palustris

Sassafras

Sassafras albidum

Little Brown Jug

Hexastylis arifolia

Sweet Gum

Liquidambar styraciflua

Common Wax-myrtle

Morella cerifera

Southern Red Oak

Quercus falcata

Bluejack Oak

Quercus incana

Turkey Oak

Quercus laevis

Water Oak

Quercus nigra

Prickly-pear

Opuntia mesacantha mesacantha

Ti-ti

Cyrilla racemiflora

Spotted Wintergreen

Chimaphila maculata

Coastal Doghobble

Leucothoe axillaris

Shining Fetterbush

Lyonia lucida

Staggerbush

Lyonia mariana

Sparkleberry

Vaccinium arboreum

Deerberry

Vaccinium stamineum

Horsesugar

Symplocos tinctoria

Hawthorn

Crataegus sp.

Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida

Blackgum

Nyssa sylvatica

American Holly

Ilex opaca opaca

Muscadine

Vitis rotundifolia rotundifolia

Eastern Red Maple

Acer rubrum rubrum

Winged Sumac

Rhus copallinum

Eastern Poison Ivy

Toxicodendron radicans radicans

Carolina Jessamine

Gelsemium sempervirens

Beautyberry

Callicarpa americana

Cross-vine

Bignonia capreolata

Common Dog-fennel

Eupatorium capillifolium

Grass-leaved Golden-aster

Pityopsis sp.

Ironweed

Vernonia sp.

FAUNA

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

American Robin

Turdus migratorius