



SCAN *South Carolina Association of Naturalists*

Post Office Box 5651, Columbia, South Carolina 29250-5651

June 2019

Hello Fellow SCAN Members!

Our May excursion to the Francis Marion National Forest was a joint venture with the Under a Lowcountry Moon crew.

Jerry Bright	Ron Ahle	Tess Moody	Marty Kastner	Paul Kalbach
Pat Bright	Angela Valvasori	Jackie Burns	Jessica Hinson	Mandy Johnson
Tom Jones	Jennifer Fill	Tom Austin	Alison Smith	Sharon Yomtob
Mary G Douglass	Jan Ciegler	Jeff Holmes	Marcus Sizemore	Patrick Hade
Scott Wietecha	Greg Ross	Ab Abercrombie	Ted Pappas	Ty Hade
Benjamin Gregory	Chris Manuse	Chrissy Hope	Eddie Hade	Stephen Crotts
Dave Schuetrum	Lee Morris	Dave Kastner	Kim McManus	



The weekend adventure began on Thursday when a few folks set up camp in a field on Hell Hole Road, just off Highway 41 in Berkeley County. Three days of road cruising ensued. Participants headed out singly or in groups to cruise the forest roads, looking for snakes, lizards, salamanders, turtles or any other fauna crossing their path. Stops were made when the environment looked particularly inviting. These short walks to investigate the surroundings were done in the mornings and late afternoons to avoid the oppressive heat of the day. In addition to the road cruising, groups explored various sections of the forest on foot, risking chigger and tick infestation as well as prescribed burn “warpaint” in the form of black lines of soot marring one from head to toe.

On Friday, I tagged along with Jeff Holmes, Ab Abercrombie, Chrissy Hope, and Jessica Hinson of the Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy (ARC) as they geo-tracked 3 Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes. The project is part of a rare and endangered species study they are performing for the USDA Forest Service. We located the 3 study subjects we were seeking, documenting their exact location and body temperature using the signals on the GPS tracker. Each one was tucked away in a hole or niche and had no interest in exposing themselves to us.



Jessica Hinson uses a GPS tracking device to locate Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes that have been previously tagged with either internal or external sensors.

Saturday was well-attended with day-trippers joining the campers for a full day of exploration. One group went out with ARC to geotrack more Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes. The snakes were more visible this day and the group was able to photograph them sunning. A stop to view the endangered spotted turtle was unsuccessful as it had gone to ground in an attempt to survive the ongoing drought in the area. Another group headed to Florida Bay to explore the large population of pitcher plants that dominate the landscape there. Despite the drought, the plants are doing well. An expedition was mounted to find and explore Guilliard Lake, a 10-acre oxbow lake just off the Santee River. The trails were mostly paths worn down by local fisherfolk accessing the lake.



Three-Lined Salamander near Guilliard Lake (L). Pearl Crescent Butterflies in the Wambaw Swamp Wilderness (R).

The fun continued into Saturday evening. Dinner was a festive potluck at the campsite, with lots of delicious dishes and treats. We relaxed and compared observations about the day. Once everyone had eaten a few bites too much, many of us headed back out for an evening road cruise. One car of cruisers was lucky enough to see two Chuck-will's-widows sitting in the road. Most of the groups witnessed the plethora of Water Moccasins crossing the road or lying in wait along the ditch banks. One stretch of road yielded 13 specimens!



Jerry Bright captured the festive atmosphere with his drone (L). A Water Moccasin coiled up on a ditch bank (R).

On Sunday, most folks packed up and headed home. A few people stayed for one more day of enjoying the forest. A group joined Jeff Holmes of ARC to visit an area of the forest where the sand ridge runs over limestone. The topography is pockmarked with limestone sinks. In one area, we observed 30-year-old pine trees that had been planted immediately after Hurricane Hugo as a reforestation effort. The trees were extremely small and spindly, indicating the soil in that area is not conducive to pine growth. From Jeff, we learned about several techniques used to document endangered species in the area, including utilizing pieces of wood and tin laid out as coverboards, setting up drift fences with "critter cams" in buckets at the end of the fence, and performing environmental DNA testing of pond water to look for the presence of specific frog species. Our morning foray resulted in two black racers, a skink, and some roaches. Better luck next time!



Jeff Holmes explains how the drift fence funnels fauna through the bucket containing a camera (L). Pines showing evidence of a controlled burn through the area (M). 30-year-old pine trees struggling to survive in less-than-ideal soil conditions (R).

Overall, it was a fantastic trip. The weather stayed hot and dry, with heat indices over 100 during the day. The evening temperatures fell to the low 70ies. Everyone was careful to stay hydrated and know their limits, so we had no heat-related incidents.

As part of the agreement with the Forest Service to allow us to temporarily collect herpetofauna, we send them our species list and any photos we deem appropriate. If you have photos to contribute, please upload them to this site by June 23rd:

For our June outing, we will travel out of state to hopefully cooler climes. We'll be hiking to Rattlesnake Lodge on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Buncombe County, NC. Rita Zollinger, Mary G. Douglass, and Tom Jones worked together to scout the area and plan the logistics. Plan to arrive at The Folk Art Center in Asheville before 10:15am so we can coordinate carpooling and leave for the trailheads by 10:30am.

We look forward to seeing you!

Kim McManus

Rattlesnake Lodge
Blue Ridge Parkway, Buncombe County, NC
Saturday, June 22, 2019 10:15am

For this walk, we will be using part of the Mountains to the Sea Trail, which closely follows the Blue Ridge Parkway. Our destination is the site of the early 20th century private lodge of Asheville physician Dr. Chase Ambler. The house burned down in 1926, but stone foundations remain from the lodge itself and many of its outbuildings. The lodge was situated in a beautiful little cove, now filled with second-growth forest and a great diversity of wildflowers.

Dr. Ambler was an ardent conservationist who played a key role in the movement that led to the creation of Pisgah National Forest and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The 6100' Mt. Ambler near Newfound Gap is named in his honor. He was also the founder of the Appalachian Mountain Club, forerunner of today's Carolina Mountain Club. This organization maintains 142 miles of the Mountains to the Sea Trail including the section that passes through the site of Dr. Ambler's Lodge.

The lodge was completed in 1904 as a summer retreat for Dr. Ambler's family. Visitors parked their carriages at Bull Gap and then walked, rode horses, or took a specially-built narrow-axle carriage up the 1.4 mile path to Rattlesnake Lodge. The lodge seems to have been an interesting mixture of the primitive and the luxurious. Electricity was provided by a water-powered generator, and amenities included a rock-walled swimming pool and tennis courts as well as gardens, a reservoir and spring house, barns for livestock, and various other outbuildings. Ruins of many of these can still be seen.

As you can guess from the name, Rattlesnake Lodge was famous for having an abundance of timber rattlers. Family members recall that 41 rattlers were killed on the property during its first three years, and the snake skins were used to paper the living room ceiling. I can't make promises as to rattlers on Saturday, but the first time Tom and I walked to the lodge, we had to navigate around a large timber rattler sunning itself on a rock beside the trail!

Meeting Place: The Folk Art Center, 382 Blue Ridge Parkway, Asheville, NC. Go past the trailer parking area on the left, and park in the lower parking lot. The Folk Art Center opens at 9:00 and is well worth a visit.

Time: Please try to arrive by 10:15. We'll have a short introduction, and then plan to leave the parking lot at **10:30**. **Carpooling is mandatory due to the limited number of parking spaces at the trailheads.** When we gather at the Folk Art Center we will hand out maps showing the location of the trailheads.

Logistics: There are three options to reach Rattlesnake Lodge, and we expect to use all three.

Option 1: Tanbark Tunnel, 1.0 mile roundtrip. This is the shortest route, a steep half-mile climb from the entrance to the Tanbark Tunnel on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The hike up is strenuous, but when you reach the lodge you can explore at your leisure. This trail is marked by blue blazes. There should be several parking places available along the parkway.

Option 2: Bull Gap Trailhead, 2.8 miles roundtrip. The most scenic approach to the lodge is by way of the old wagon road (now part of the Mountains to the Sea trail) at Bull Gap on Ox Creek Road. This trail climbs to the lodge site by gentle switchbacks at a gradual grade and reaches the lodge site after 1.4 miles. Unfortunately, parking is extremely limited, and we can reasonably expect no parking spaces to be available on a nice summer Saturday morning. Some of us will drop folks off at this trailhead for those who wish to take this route. Drivers who drop folks off can then use Option 1 or Option 3 to reach the lodge.

Option 3: MTS Trailhead on Ox Creek Road, 4.4 miles roundtrip. For stronger hikers, an excellent option is to extend the hike by parking where the Mountains to the Sea trail crosses Ox Creek Road, near its intersection with the Blue Ridge Parkway. This option takes you through a wild-flower rich 0.7 mile section of the MTS trail before reaching Bull Gap, the Option 2 trailhead. There should be a limited number of parking spaces near the starting point.

Restaurant: Pomodoro's Greek and Italian Café, 1070 Tunnel Road, Asheville, NC 28805

Hell Hole, Francis Marion Nat. Forest
Berkeley Co., SC
May 25, 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 tomjones@scan.org
Please indicate exactly to which flora/fauna list you are referring. Thank you.

FLORA

Peat Moss

Sphagnum sp.

Foxtail Clubmoss

Lycopodiella alopecuroides

Cinnamon Fern

Osmunda cinnamomea

Royal Fern

Osmunda regalis spectabilis

Japanese Climbing Fern

Lygodium japonicum

Bracken

Pteridium aquilinum

Virginia Chain Fern

Woodwardia virginica

Resurrection Fern

Pleopeltis polypodioides
michauxiana

Longleaf Pine

Pinus palustris

Pond Pine

Pinus serotina

Loblolly Pine

Pinus taeda

Pond-cypress

Taxodium ascendens

Bald-cypress

Taxodium distichum

Arrowhead

Sagittaria graminea

Pipewort

Eriocaulon compressum

Common Bogbutton

Lachnocaulon anceps

Broadleaf Whitetop Sedge

Rhynchospora latifolia

Chalky Bluestem

* *Andropogon glaucopsis*

Giant Cane

Arundinaria gigantea

Toothache Grass

Ctenium aromaticum

Witch Grass

Dichanthelium sp.

Dune Finger-grass

Eustachys petraea

Tall Fescue

Festuca arundinacea

Pickerelweed

Pontederia cordata

Redroot

Lachnanthes caroliniana

Northern White Colic-root

Aletris farinosa

Flag

Iris tridentata

Southern Blue Flag

Iris virginica

Catbrier

Smilax bona-nox

Bamboo-vine

Smilax laurifolia

Jackson-brier

Smilax smallii

Common Grass-pink

Calopogon tuberosus tuberosus

Sweetbay

Magnolia virginiana

Swamp Bay

Persea palustris

Sassafras

Sassafras albidum

Lizard's-tail

Saururus cernuus

White Water-lily

Nymphaea odorata odorata

Coralbeads

Cocculus carolinus

Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis occidentalis

Sweet Gum

Liquidambar styraciflua

American Elm

Ulmus americana

Southern Hackberry

Celtis laevigata

Red Mulberry

Morus rubra

Smallspike False-nettle

Boehmeria cylindrica

Water Hickory

Carya aquatica

Sand Hickory

Carya pallida

Common Wax-myrtle

Morella cerifera

Dwarf Wax-myrtle

Morella pumila

Common Chinquapin

Castanea pumila

Running Oak

Quercus elliotii

Southern Red Oak

Quercus falcata

Bluejack Oak

Quercus incana

Turkey Oak

Quercus laevis

Laurel Oak

Quercus laurifolia

Overcup Oak

Quercus lyrata

Sand Post Oak

Quercus margaretta

Dwarf Live Oak

Quercus minima

Water Oak

Quercus nigra

Willow Oak

Quercus phellos

Live Oak

Quercus virginiana

American Hornbeam

Carpinus caroliniana

Peelbark St.-John's-wort

Hypericum fasciculatum

St. Andrew's Cross

Hypericum hypericoides

Yellow Pitcherplant

Sarracenia flava

Hooded Pitcherplant

Sarracenia minor minor

Pink Sundew

Drosera capillaris

Water Sundew

Drosera intermedia

Carolina Sunrose

Crocantemum carolinianum

Yellow Passionflower

Passiflora lutea lutea

Shining Fetterbush

Lyonia lucida

Staggerbush

Lyonia mariana

Sparkleberry

Vaccinium arboreum

Elliott's Blueberry

Vaccinium elliotii

Southern Blueberry

Vaccinium tenellum

American Persimmon

Diospyros virginiana

Horsesugar

Symplocos tinctoria

Parsley Hawthorn

Crataegus marshallii

Southern Blackberry

Rubus argutus

Sand Blackberry
* *Rubus cuneifolius*

Honesty-weed
Baptisia tinctoria

Eastern Redbud
Cercis canadensis canadensis

Coastal Plain Rattlebox
Crotalaria purshii

Coral Bean
Erythrina herbacea

Erect Milkpea
* *Galactia erecta*

Lespedeza
Lespedeza hirta

Bladderpod
Sesbania vesicaria

Goat's-rue
Tephrosia hispida

Virginia Goat's-rue
Tephrosia virginiana

White Clover
Trifolium repens

Mermaid-weed
Proserpinaca palustris

Smooth Meadow-beauty
Rhexia alifanus

Flowering Dogwood
Cornus florida

Blackgum
Nyssa sylvatica

Big Gallberry
Ilex coriacea

Possum-haw
Ilex decidua decidua

Little Gallberry
Ilex glabra

American Holly
Ilex opaca opaca

Tread-softly
Cnidioscolus stimulosus

Eastern Flowering Spurge
Euphorbia corollata

Queen's-delight
Stillingia sylvatica sylvatica

Peppervine
Ampelopsis arborea

Virginia-creeper
Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Muscadine
Vitis rotundifolia rotundifolia

Texas Yellow Flax
* *Linum medium texanum*

Tall Pinebarren Milkwort
Polygala cymosa

Showy Milkwort
Polygala grandiflora grandiflora

Orange Milkwort
Polygala lutea

Maryland Milkwort
Polygala mariana

Eastern Red Maple
Acer rubrum rubrum

Red Buckeye
Aesculus pavia pavia

Winged Sumac
Rhus copallinum

Poison Oak
Toxicodendron pubescens

Eastern Poison Ivy
Toxicodendron radicans radicans

Centella
Centella erecta

Rattlesnake-master
Eryngium yuccifolium

Clasping Milkweed
Asclepias amplexicaulis

Few-flower Milkweed
Asclepias lanceolata

Butterfly-weed
Asclepias tuberosa

Climbing Dogbane
Trachelospermum difforme

Carolina Ponyfoot
Dichondra carolinensis

Dawnflower
Stylisma patens

Smooth Phlox
Phlox glaberrima

Creeping Frogfruit
Phyla nodiflora

Carolina-vervain
Stylodon carneus

Verbena; Vervain
Verbena rigida

Verbena
* *Verbena incompta*

Beautyberry
Callicarpa americana

Self-heal
Prunella vulgaris

Common Skullcap
Scutellaria integrifolia

Savanna Bluehearts
Buchnera floridana

Cross-vine
Bignonia capreolata

Trumpet-creeper
Campsis radicans

Lobelia
Lobelia boykinii

Lobelia
Lobelia nuttallii

Partridge-berry
Mitchella repens

Common Yellow Thistle
Cirsium horridulum horridulum

Coastal Tall Thistle
Cirsium nuttallii

Sandhill Thistle
Cirsium repandum

Pool Coreopsis
Coreopsis falcata

Coreopsis
Coreopsis major

Elephant's-foot
Elephantopus sp.

Oak-leaved Fleabane
Erigeron quercifolius

Whitetop Fleabane
Erigeron vernus

Cudweed
Gamochaeta sp.

Bitterweed
Helenium amarum amarum

Beaked Hawkweed
Hieracium gronovii

Butterweed
Packera glabella

Grass-leaved Golden-aster
Pityopsis graminifolia graminifolia

Marsh Fleabane
Pluchea baccharis

Blackroot
Pterocaulon pycnostachyum

Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta

Bearsfoot
Smallanthus uvedalius

American Aster
Symphotrichum walteri

FAUNA

Florida Ivory Millipede
* *Chicobolus spinigerus*

Black Widow
Latrodectus mactans

Writing Spider
Argiope aurantia

American Bird Grasshopper
Schistocerca americana

Scoliid Wasp
Campsomeris plumipes

Red Imported Fire Ant
Solenopsis invicta

Paper Wasp
Polistes sp.

Halloween Pennant (dragonfly)
Celithemis eponina

Golden-winged Skimmer
Libellula auripennis

Painted Skimmer
Libellula semifasciata

Blue Dasher
Pachydiplax longipennis

Ebony Jewelwing
Calopteryx maculata

Fragile Forktail (damselfly)
Ischnura posita

E. Red-bellied Tiger Beetle
Cicindela rufiventris rufiventris

Searcher; Ground Beetle
Carabus vinctus

Pedunculate Ground Beetle
Scarites quadriceps

Shining Leaf Chafer
* *Anomala* sp.

Flower Scarab Beetle
Euphoria sepulchralis

Flower Scarab Beetle
* *Trichiotinus* sp.

Predatory Firefly
* *Photuris versicolor complex*

Darkling Beetle
Strongylium tenuicolle

Bark Weevil
* *Cossonus corticola*

Pipevine Swallowtail
Battus philenor

Black Swallowtail
Papilio polyxenes

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Papilio glaucus

Spicebush Swallowtail
Papilio troilus

Palamedes Swallowtail
Papilio palamedes

Cabbage White (butterfly)
Pieris rapae

Cloudless Sulphur
Phoebis sennae eubule

Sleepy Orange
Abaeis nicippe

King's Hairstreak
* *Satyrium kingi*

Summer Azure
Celastrina neglecta

Variiegated Fritillary
Euptoieta claudia

Pearl Crescent (butterfly)
Phyciodes tharos

American Lady (butterfly)
Vanessa virginiensis

Red Admiral
Vanessa atalanta

Common Buckeye (butterfly)
Junonia coenia

Red-spotted Purple (butterfly)
Limenitis arthemis astyanax

Georgia Satyr (butterfly)
Neonympha areolata

Monarch (butterfly)
Danaus plexippus

Silver-spotted Skipper
Epargyreus clarus

Southern Cloudywing
Thorybes bathyllus

Horace's Duskywing
Erynnis horatius

Swarthy Skipper
Nastra lherminier

Clouded Skipper
Lerema accius

Fiery Skipper
Hylephila phyleus

Tawny-edged Skipper
Polites themistocles

Whirlabout (skipper butterfly)
Polites vibex

Northern Broken-Dash
* *Wallengrenia egeremet*

Delaware Skipper
Anatrytone logan

Byssus Skipper
Problemata byssus

Yehl Skipper
* *Poanes yehl*

Dion Skipper
Euphyes dion

Dun Skipper
Euphys vestris

Reversed Roadside Skipper
* *Amblyscirtes reversa*

Twin-spot Skipper
Oligoria maculata

Ocola Skipper (butterfly)
Panoquina ocola

Lace-winged Roadside Skipper
Amblyscirtes aesculapius

Herpetogramma Moth
* *Herpetogramma* sp.

White-marked Tussock Moth
Orgyia leucostigma

Southern Toad
Anaxyrus terrestris

Southern Cricket Frog
Acris gryllus

Cope's Gray Treefrog
Hyla chrysoscelis

Pine Woods Treefrog
Hyla femoralis

Little Grass Frog
Pseudacris ocularis

Bullfrog
Lithobates catesbiana

Bronze Frog
Lithobates clamitans clamitans

American Alligator
Alligator mississippiensis

Box Turtle
Terrapene carolina

Yellow-bellied Slider
Trachemys scripta scripta

Eastern Mud Turtle
Kinosternon subrubrum

Green Anole
Anolis carolinensis

Skink
Eumeces sp.

Ground Skink
Scincella lateralis

Eastern Glass Lizard
Ophisaurus ventralis

Eastern Worm Snake
Carphophis amoenus

Black Racer
Coluber constrictor

Ringneck Snake
Diadophis punctatus

Eastern Ratsnake
Pantherophis alleghaniensis

Mud Snake
Farancia abacura

Corn Snake
Pantherophis guttata

Eastern Kingsnake
Lampropeltis getula

Red-bellied Water Snake
Nerodia erythrogaster erythrogaster

Banded Water Snake
Nerodia fasciata

Brown Water Snake
Nerodia taxispilota

Red-bellied Snake
Storeria occipitomaculata

Eastern Ribbon Snake
Thamnophis sauritus

Eastern Garter Snake
Thamnophis sirtalis

Copperhead
Agkistrodon contortrix

Cottonmouth; Water Moccasin
Agkistrodon piscivorus

Timber Rattlesnake
Crotalus horridus

Little Blue Heron
Egretta caerulea

Great Blue Heron
Ardea herodias

Wood Stork
Mycteria americana

Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura

Red-shouldered Hawk
Buteo lineatus

Northern Bobwhite
Colinus virginianus

Wild Turkey
Meleagris gallopavo

Mourning Dove
Zenaidura macroura

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Coccyzus americanus

Barred Owl
Strix varia

Chuck-will's-widow
Caprimulgus carolinensis

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Archilochus colubris

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus

Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Picoides borealis

Pileated Woodpecker
Dryocopus pileatus

Great Crested Flycatcher
Myiarchus crinitus

Eastern Wood-pewee
Contopus virens

Tufted Titmouse

Baeolophus bicolor

Brown-headed Nuthatch

Sitta pusilla

Carolina Wren

Thryothorus ludovicianus

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Polioptila caerulea

Eastern Bluebird

Sialia sialis

White-eyed Vireo

Vireo griseus

Red-Eyed Vireo

Vireo olivaceus

Prothonotary Warbler

Protonotaria citrea

Yellow-throated Warbler

Dendroica dominica

Prairie Warbler

Dendroica discolor

Pine Warbler

Dendroica pinus

Hooded Warbler

Wilsonia citrina

Common Yellowthroat

Geothlypis trichas

Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis

Indigo Bunting

Passerina cyanea

Eastern Towhee

Pipilo erythrophthalmus

Song Sparrow

Melospiza melodia

Brown-headed Cowbird

Molothrus ater

Orchard Oriole

Icterus spurius

Summer Tanager

Piranga rubra

Gray Squirrel

Sciurus carolinensis

Black Bear

Ursus americanus

Raccoon

Procyon lotor

Wild Pig

Sus scrofa

White-tailed Deer

Odocoileus virginianus