



January 2020

Happy New Year!

I hope 2020 finds you healthy and happy and ready for another year of learning, exploring, and sharing knowledge of SC's natural history.

I was unable to attend the December outing, so Western Regional Director Kathy Boyle has provided the summary:

Hello everyone.

What a great turnout for our December trip! On the 14th of December at Audubon's Silver Bluff Center and Sanctuary, Tom Austin, Vickie Boyd, Kathy Boyle, Jim Boylston, Jerry Bright, Jan Ciegler, Mary Douglass, Carol Gist, Bob Hamlin, Marsha Hamlin, Kate Hartley, Mandy Johnson, Todd Johnson, Tom Jones, Linda Lee, Lee Morris, Juliana Nyikos, Leila Nyikos, Greg Ross, Dave Schuetrum, Alison Smith, James Wilson, and Sharon Yomtob came out to explore the preserve. The weather was cool and mostly cloudy.



Here we've gathered for a group picture just outside the education center. Notice that Alison and Kate have wisely put on orange jackets. December is deer hunting season and portions of the preserve had been leased to hunters, so Audubon staff encouraged us to be alert and to stay on designated trails. We had three walking trails, Nuthatch Trail, Tanager Trail, and Quail Trail, to choose from, so this was no problem and we promptly headed off in different directions.

The Quail Trail is the longest, at three miles, looping out to the Savannah River and back. Trailside, Audubon's habitat restoration effort can be seen taking shape. Land that had been in row crops in the twentieth century is now either being planted in longleaf pine, *Pinus palustris*, or kept open and allowed to develop a thick cover of native perennial grasses, such as *Andropogon virginicus* and *A. ternarius*. Prescribed fire is a primary tool in the maintenance of both conditions. In the pine woods we stopped to look at places where, judging by the blackened tree trunks, a recent fire had burned hot and caused some mortality (smaller trees especially, having not yet developed a thick

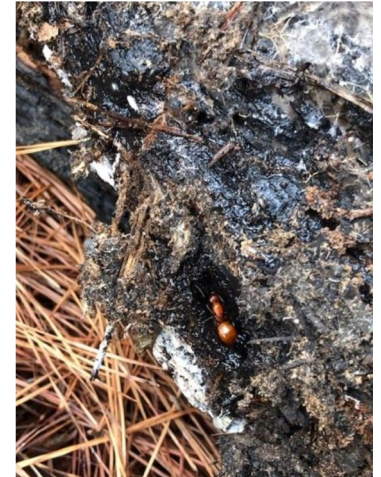


protective bark, sometimes succumb to a fire). Do we consider these events losses or benefits? The resulting patchiness of habitat will be helpful to species like the bobwhite quail, *Colinus virginianus*, that do best in a tight mosaic of different successional stages. We did not come across any quail on this trip, but looking out over one of the larger open areas we were happily surprised to see some wood storks, *Mycteria americana*, a federally threatened species.



Arriving at the Savannah River, we continued to walk north along the top of the bluff. On the ground all around us lay eastern prickly pear cactus, *Opuntia humifusa*, half-buried in the pine straw. Most of the plants held ripe red fruits. A quick google assured us that the fruits – and even the pads – are edible but, having had painful experiences (helpful suggestion: duct tape) in the past with the plant, no one cared to try.

Soon we came across some decaying logs and Dave uncovered a couple of fast-moving centipedes. Another log split open to reveal something widely known though not often seen – a queen ant, surrounded by her workers! We took photos and then carefully folded the log back together.



We then headed down to the edge of the river, which was running high as a result of the four or five inches of rain that had fallen the previous day. Also responding to the wet weather were a number of bright green resurrection ferns, *Pleopeltis polypodioides*, and a beautiful specimen of lions mane, *Hericium* sp. This mushroom is popular with collectors for its unmistakable look (impossible to confuse with anything poisonous), plus good flavor and texture.

Meanwhile in another part of the preserve, Marsha and Bob came across this crumbling and overgrown old tenant home. As we later learned from Audubon director Paul Koehler, this was one of several late-nineteenth/early-twentieth century wood frame houses that were occupied by African-American subsistence farmers. These structures now provide a haven for Rafinesque's big-eared bats, *Corynorhinus rafinesquii*, a state endangered species.



By late afternoon most of us gathered to eat barbeque at BBQ Barn in North Augusta, with a few renegades opting for an Italian restaurant. Many thanks to the Silver Bluff Audubon staff, and especially the volunteers who came out to meet us, for a great day in the field!

--Kathy

2020 Annual Meeting

We're kicking off 2020 with our annual meeting on Saturday, January 25th at 10:15am. Once again, we'll gather at Columbia's Saluda Shoals Park in the Environmental Center. This time we'll be in the classroom to allow for easier networking between speakers. As you enter the park, inform them you are attending the SCAN Annual Meeting and you will be allowed to enter without paying the entrance fee. A map and directions can be found below.

We have four diverse speakers this year. Check out the agenda at the end of the newsletter for summaries of their presentation topics. The doors open at 9:00 and the official program will kick off at 10:15.

Everyone knows that SCAN actually revolves around food! We will provide coffee to start off the meeting. You are encouraged to bring breakfast items, snacks, and munchies to share throughout the day. We encourage you to bring a lunch and spend the 1.5-hour break exploring the trails around the Environmental Center. If you prefer, there are several restaurants along St. Andrews Road.

In addition to all that food, consider bringing a few items for the "swap or sell" table. If you have gear or books that you no longer use, bring them to the meeting and see if someone else would like to give them a home. If you do bring something, please tag it with your name and the price or "free" so everyone knows who to chat with about it!

The meeting will wrap up with a few business items. We'll hear from the treasurer and vote on the 2020 officer slate. The current nominees are:

President – Kim McManus
Vice President – Dave Schuetrum
Secretary – Mary Garland Douglass
Treasurer – open
Historian – Gordon Murphy
Database Manager – Tom Jones
Northern Regional Director – Rita Zollinger
Western Regional Director – Kathy Boyle
Central Regional Director – Dave Kastner
Southern Regional Director – Marcus Sizemore

Nominations will be accepted from the floor, provided the nominee has agreed in advance.

After the meeting concludes at 5pm, everyone is invited to Jan Ciegler's house for a potluck supper and social time. This will be our last opportunity to enjoy Jan's hospitality as she will soon be relocating to Minnesota. Let's make it a rousing good time!

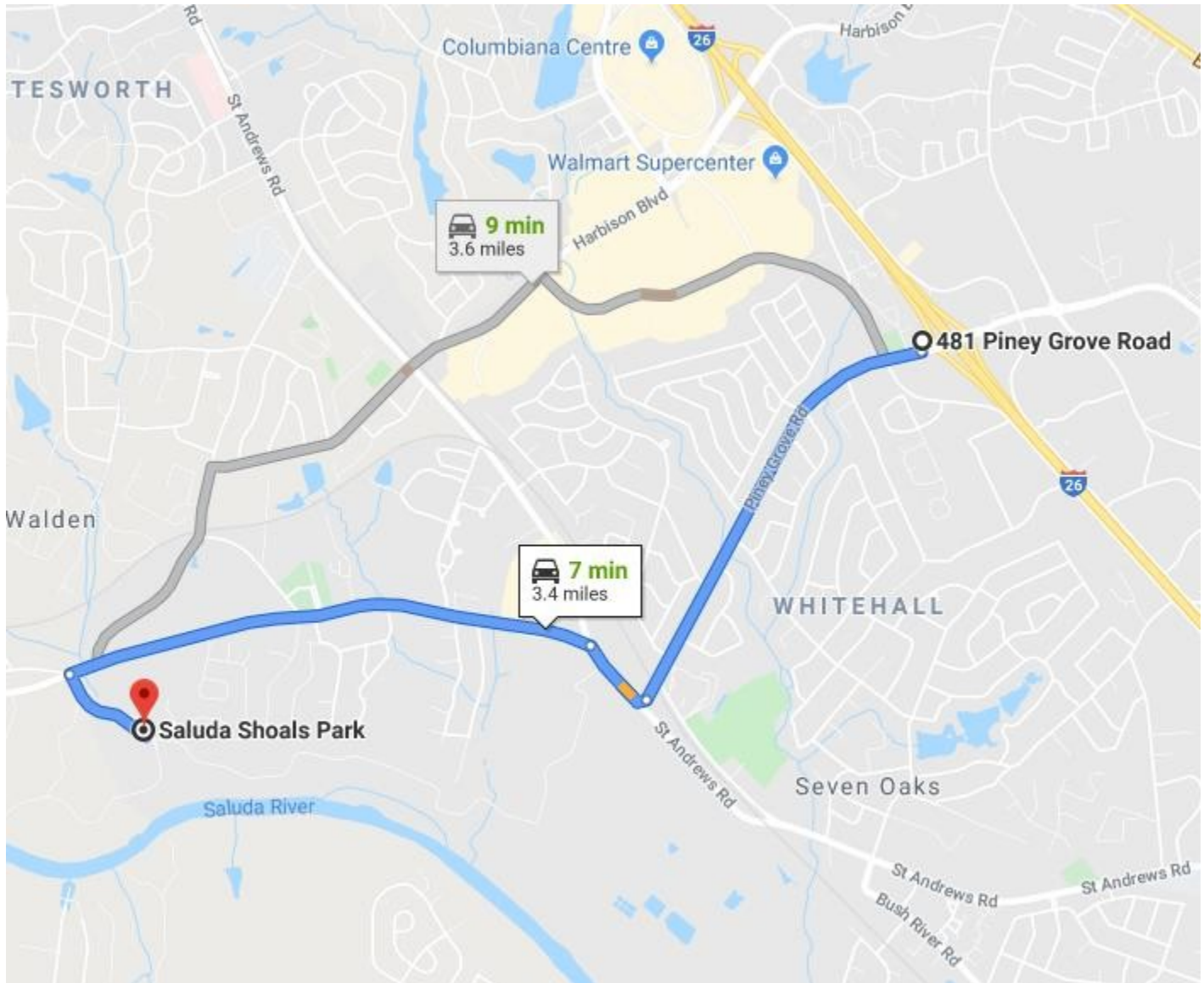
I look forward to seeing everyone in Columbia on the 25th!

Kim McManus

Directions to Saluda Shoals Park

**5605 Bush River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
803-772-1228**

From I-26 East or West, Exit 104:



Directions:

Whether you are coming from the west or east on I-26, Exit 104 is the shortest way to get to the park.

- Travel southwest on Piney Grove Road for approximately 1.2 miles.
- Turn right onto St. Andrews Road and go 0.2 miles.
- At the traffic light turn left onto Bush River Road and travel 1.5 miles.
- The Park will be on your left.

After you enter the Park, continue straight on the entrance road for 0.4 miles and the Environmental Center will be on your right. A map is on the following page.

Map of Saluda Shoals Park

Saluda Shoals Park



2020 Annual Meeting Agenda

Disclaimer – The presentation descriptions were shamelessly stolen from material provided by each of the presenters. Credit goes to each of them for the content.

9:00 – 10:15: Socializing and refreshments (coffee and doughnuts)

10:15 – 11:00: Welcome and introductions

11:00 – 11:50: Dan Meyer - Prey preference analysis of *Regina septemvittata*

Dan is a graduate of West Liberty University in West Virginia with an undergraduate degree in environmental stewardship and education and master's degree in biology, focused in freshwater ecology. His research was conducted through the Loughman Crayfish Conservation Lab, working with the Queen Snake (*Regina septemvittata*). His presentation will cover some highlights from his thesis research, including a look into possible dietary preferences and the view of the species in the public eye.

12:00 – 1:30: Lunch

1:30 – 2:20: Jay Pinckney – Three Short Stories: Bioluminescent Lagoons, Antimicrobials, and North Inlet Estuary

Jay has both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Biology from the College of Charleston as well as a PhD in Biological Sciences from the University of South Carolina. His research interests focus on marine ecology. His presentation will provide an introduction to the Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences followed by brief summaries of 3 different research projects. The central theme of the projects is an examination of how different factors affect the composition of phytoplankton communities in natural systems.

2:30 – 3:20: Jenny McCarthy Tyrrell – Vultures, Revered and Reviled, So Misunderstood

Jenny has undergraduate degrees in Biology and Marine Science and a Master of Environmental Studies from the College of Charleston. Her work with the Avian Conservation Center and with both Charleston Audubon and Audubon South Carolina has given her a solid background in bird studies. She will be discussing the cultural significance of vultures, both past and present, as well as their biology, diversity, and adaptations. She will also touch on conservation issues like the Indian vulture crisis and poaching in Africa.

3:30 – 4:20: Jenks Farmer – Making Naturalistic Gardens Inspired by Ecosystems in SC

With a Master in Public Garden Management from the University of Washington and Horticulture degree from Clemson University, Jenks is a renaissance plantsman recognized across the country for his work as a horticulturist, teacher and designer who brings history, ecology, gardens and architecture together to create modern spaces for people to be a part of the plant world.

Enthusiastically discussed as new, naturalistic landscaping in America has deep roots and a century of history. In today's world, it is touted as eco-friendly and easy care — neither is necessarily true.

Jenks Farmer has been making meadows and natural looking landscapes for decades in South Carolina. He'll discuss the good, the bad and ugly and tell stories of the best and worst of these gardens.

4:30 – 5:00 Business Meeting

- **Treasurer's Report**
- **Election of Officers** – nominations will be accepted from the floor, provided that the nominee has agreed prior to the nomination. The proposed slate is:
 - President – Kim McManus
 - Vice President – Dave Schuetrum
 - Secretary – Mary Garland Douglass
 - Treasurer – open seat
 - Historian – Gordon Murphy
 - Database Manager – Tom Jones
 - Northern Regional Director – Rita Zollinger
 - Western Regional Director – Kathy Boyle
 - Central Regional Director – Dave Kastner
 - Southern Regional Director – Marcus Sizemore
 - Eastern Regional Director – Mandy Johnson
- **Old Business**
- ! **New Business**

5:30 - ?: Potluck Supper at Jan Ciegler's Home

From Jan: Following the annual meeting, everyone is invited to my home for a potluck supper. I will supply drinks (soft drinks, beer, wine, coffee, tea) and utensils. Each person or couple should bring some food to share, moderate in quantity. (I don't want a lot of leftovers! And please don't bring gifts, as I am moving in a week.) On your way to my home, you can pick up something from a grocery store or restaurant; e.g., Food Lion, Nick's Pizza, Denny's, Sausalito, Freddy's (burgers & hot dogs), La Fogata (Mexican), McDonald's, Rush's (hamburgers & chicken), Bojangles, Pizza Hut, East Bay Street Deli, Subway, Lizard's Thicket, and others. If you bring something from home, use a cooler unless the weather is cold enough to leave it in your car, as the museum has no refrigeration facilities. I'll hand out maps to my home at the meeting and, you can stay as long as you wish. Look forward to seeing you (see the attached map and directions).

Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary
Aiken Co., SC
December 14, 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

Cinnamon Fern
Osmunda cinnamomea
Japanese Climbing Fern
Lygodium japonicum
Bracken
Pteridium aquilinum
Ebony Spleenwort
Asplenium platyneuron
Resurrection Fern
Pleopeltis polypodioides
michauxiana
Slash Pine
Pinus elliottii elliottii
Longleaf Pine
Pinus palustris
Loblolly Pine
Pinus taeda
Broomsedge
Andropogon glomeratus
Splitbeard Bluestem
Andropogon ternarius ternarius
Broomsedge
Andropogon virginicus
Three-awn Grass
Aristida sp.
Giant Cane
Arundinaria gigantea
River Oats
Chasmanthium latifolium
Longleaf Spikegrass
Chasmanthium sessiliflorum
Maidencane
Panicum hemitomon
Foxtail Grass
Setaria sp.
Indiangrass
Sorghastrum sp.
Spanish-moss
Tillandsia usneoides
Water Hyacinth
Eichhornia crassipes
Curlyleaf Yucca
Yucca filamentosa
Catbrier
Smilax bona-nox

Whiteleaf Greenbrier
Smilax glauca
Sarsaparilla-vine
Smilax pumila
Common Greenbrier
Smilax rotundifolia
Jackson-brier
Smilax smallii
Southern Magnolia
Magnolia grandiflora
Sweetbay
Magnolia virginiana
Swamp Bay
Persea palustris
Sassafras
Sassafras albidum
Sycamore
Platanus occidentalis occidentalis
Sweet Gum
Liquidambar styraciflua
Winged Elm
Ulmus alata
Mockernut Hickory
Carya tomentosa
Black Walnut
Juglans nigra
Common Wax-myrtle
Morella cerifera
American Beech
Fagus grandifolia
White Oak
Quercus alba
Sand Laurel Oak
Quercus hemisphaerica
Turkey Oak
Quercus laevis
Laurel Oak
Quercus laurifolia
Water Oak
Quercus nigra
Cherrybark Oak
Quercus pagoda
Post Oak
Quercus stellata
Prickly-pear
Opuntia mesacantha mesacantha
Mexican-tea
Dysphania ambrosioides
St. Andrew's Cross
Hypericum hypericoides
Rosemary Sunrose
Crocanthemum rosmarinifolium
Spotted Wintergreen
Chimaphila maculata
Shining Fetterbush
Lyonia lucida

Azalea
Rhododendron sp.
Sparkleberry
Vaccinium arboreum
Elliott's Blueberry
Vaccinium elliottii
Southern Highbush Blueberry
Vaccinium formosum
Florida Deerberry
* *Vaccinium stamineum caesium*
American Persimmon
Diospyros virginiana
Horsesugar
Symplocos tinctoria
Virginia-willow
Itea virginica
Carolina Laurel Cherry
Prunus caroliniana
Black Cherry
Prunus serotina serotina
Eastern Redbud
Cercis canadensis canadensis
Black Locust
Robinia pseudoacacia
Chinese Wisteria
Wisteria sinensis
Flowering Dogwood
Cornus florida
Swamp Tupelo
Nyssa biflora
American Mistletoe
Phoradendron leucarpum
leucarpum
Possum-haw
Ilex decidua decidua
American Holly
Ilex opaca opaca
Peppervine
Ampelopsis arborea
Muscadine
Vitis rotundifolia rotundifolia
Eastern Red Maple
Acer rubrum rubrum
Winged Sumac
Rhus copallinum
Chinaberry
Melia azedarach
Carolina Jessamine
Gelsemium sempervirens
Jacquemontia
Jacquemontia tamnifolia
Common Skullcap
Scutellaria integrifolia
Common Blue Curly
Trichostema dichotomum
Chinese Privet
Ligustrum sinense

Woolly Mullein
Verbascum thapsus

Cross-vine
Bignonia capreolata

Princess Tree
Paulownia tomentosa

Forest Bedstraw
Galium circaezans

Partridge-berry
Mitchella repens

Common Elderberry
Sambucus canadensis

Spanish Needles
Bidens bipinnata

Deer's-tongue
Carphephorus odoratissimus

odoratissimus

Horseweed
Conyza canadensis

Elephant's-foot
Elephantopus tomentosus

Common Dog-fennel
Eupatorium capillifolium

Coastal Dog-fennel
Eupatorium compositifolium

Grass-leaved Golden-aster
Pityopsis graminifolia latifolia

Fragrant Rabbit-tobacco
Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium

Licorice Goldenrod
Solidago odora odora

Southern Crownbeard
Verbesina occidentalis

Black-knot
Apiosporina morbosa

Bearded Tooth
Hericium erinaceus

Emetic Russula (mushroom)
Russula emetic

FAUNA

Harvester Ant
Pogonomyrmex sp.

Red Imported Fire Ant
Solenopsis invicta

Oak Shothole Leafminer Fly
Japanagromyza viridula

Hickory Girdler Beetle
Oncideres cingulata

Polyphemus Moth (cocoon)
Antheraea polyphemus

Double-crested Cormorant
Phalacrocorax auritus

Great Egret
Casmerodius albus

Wood Stork
Mycteria americana

Killdeer
Charadrius vociferus

Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura

Black Vulture
Coragyps atratus

Wild Turkey
Meleagris gallopavo

Belted Kingfisher
Ceryle alcyon

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus

Red-headed Woodpecker
Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Northern Flicker
Colaptes auratus

Downy Woodpecker
Picoides pubescens

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Sphyrapicus varius

Pileated Woodpecker
Dryocopus pileatus

Eastern Phoebe
Sayornis phoebe

Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata

American Crow
Corvus brachyrhynchos

Carolina Chickadee
Parus carolinensis

Tufted Titmouse
Baeolophus bicolor

Brown-headed Nuthatch
Sitta pusilla

House Wren
Troglodytes aedon

Carolina Wren
Thryothorus ludovicianus

Sedge Wren
Cistothorus platensis

Golden-crowned Kinglet
Regulus satrapa

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Regulus calendula

Eastern Bluebird
Sialia sialis

Hermit Thrush
Catharus guttatus

American Robin
Turdus migratorius

Gray Catbird
Dumetella carolinensis

Brown Thrasher
Toxostoma rufum

Yellow-rumped Warbler
Dendroica coronata

Pine Warbler
Dendroica pinus

Northern Cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis

Eastern Towhee
Pipilo erythrophthalmus

Song Sparrow
Melospiza melodia

Field Sparrow
Spizella pusilla

Chipping Sparrow
Spizella passerina

White-throated Sparrow
Zonotrichia albicollis

White-crowned Sparrow
Zonotrichia leucophrys

Swamp Sparrow
Melospiza georgiana

Common Grackle
Quiscalus quiscula

American Goldfinch
Carduelis tristis

White-tailed Deer
Odocoileus virginianus