November 2020

To my fellow SCAN members:

With a heavy heart, I must begin this month's newsletter with sad news about one of our members. Our dear friend Pat Bright passed away on Friday, November 6th. A member since 2003, Pat served as Vice President from 2008-2010. Along with her husband Jerry, she served as the Central Regional Co-Director in 2006, 2007 and 2011. She was a regular at the annual planning meetings and played an active role in keeping SCAN moving forward. One year, she coordinated a great trip to a hunt club her son was managing. Our outings were made more entertaining by her sly sense of humor and dry wit. She will be missed. Pat's funeral service will be a small, private family affair. SCAN extends our condolences to Jerry and the rest of Pat's family during this sad time.







In October, a great group made their way to Cheraw State Park in Chesterfield County, SC. According to Vice President Dave Schuetrum, the weather was "simply delightful." Attendees:

Bill Wedding Carol Gist Claudia Stratmann Dave Schuetrum Gordon Murphy Jean Prothro Jim Boylston Joe Long

Johannes Stratmann Kate Hartley Kevin Curtis Lynda Curtis

Marcie Wedding Phillip Harpootlian Scott Wietecha



Group photo courtesy of Gordon Murphy.

As I was unable to attend, Dave provided the description of the outing and a few photos. Read on for an illustrated summary of the trip.

Saturday, October 24th, SCAN visited Cheraw State Park in Chesterfield County. The weather was simply delightful. The park has three trails which include the Cheraw Nature Trail (2-mile loop), Turkey Oak Trail (4.5-mile loop), and Boardwalk Trail (0.5-mile). Cheraw Nature Trail is basically the inner loop of Turkey Oak Trail. Scan met at the Cheraw Nature Trail and spread out from there. All of the trails pass through longleaf pine forest with blackjack oaks, turkey oaks, and hickories. There is a short side trail that leads to red-cockaded woodpecker nest cavities. This longleaf forest is one of the best examples in the state. Some of us took the entire 4.5-mile trail loop which gave a view of the upper end of Juniper Lake which had a good bit of Pond Cypress scattered about.



Away we go! The group soon spread out and headed onto different trail sections since there were intersections to select. Phillip Harpootlian, (in the middle), is good at entering his finds into iNaturalist with pictures and identifications.





L: A Spicebush Swallowtail caterpillar. See the fake protective eye spots?
R: Some of the open places had Dog Fennel and native grasses.





L: This type of forest is quite open with long vistas. Something I am not used to. There are colonies of the Endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers nesting in some of the Longleaf Pines. This forest needs and thrives with periodic fire. Wiregrass is abundant, too. Another fire dependent species. This is a pretty complex climax forest ecosystem. It's hard to imagine that the Longleaf forest stretched from Texas to Virginia and encompassed more than 140,000 square miles or about 90 million acres. Today only about 3 percent of that ecosystem is left and about 8,856 acres of old growth Longleaf pine stands exist.

R: Small Longleaf Pine in the grass stage just getting started.



We worked our way from the Longleaf Pine Forest down into a natural lake that had a good bit of Pond Cypress.

Thanks, Dave for that great summary!

Our November outing will be to Lee State Park on Saturday, November 21st. Central Regional Director Dave Kastner has scouted our destination several times and has provided a comprehensive overview of what to expect.

See you soon!

Kim McManus

PS – We are looking for folks who are willing to step forward to fill officer and regional director positions. It is not a huge time commitment and a great excuse to do even more of what you love – explore the outdoors! Please reach out to Vice President Dave Schuetrum if you are interested

Lee State Park

487 Loop Road, Bishopville, Lee County, SC Saturday, November 21, 2020, 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM

One of the 16 CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) parks in the state, Lee State Park was built in 1935 by the CCC in order to provide riverside recreational opportunities for the residents of Lee County, South Carolina. Admission is free (but donations are accepted) and the day use area, trails and Loop Road are open daily from 9:00 AM to sunset. <u>Due to Covid-19</u>, <u>masks must be worn inside all buildings and restrooms</u>.

Along the Lynches River (which runs through Lee County, South Carolina and is partially protected from development by the state of South Carolina), kayaking and canoeing trips can be taken through the park's hardwood forest floodplain. Fishing may also be enjoyed from along the banks of the river and children can fish for catfish in the park's artesian pond.

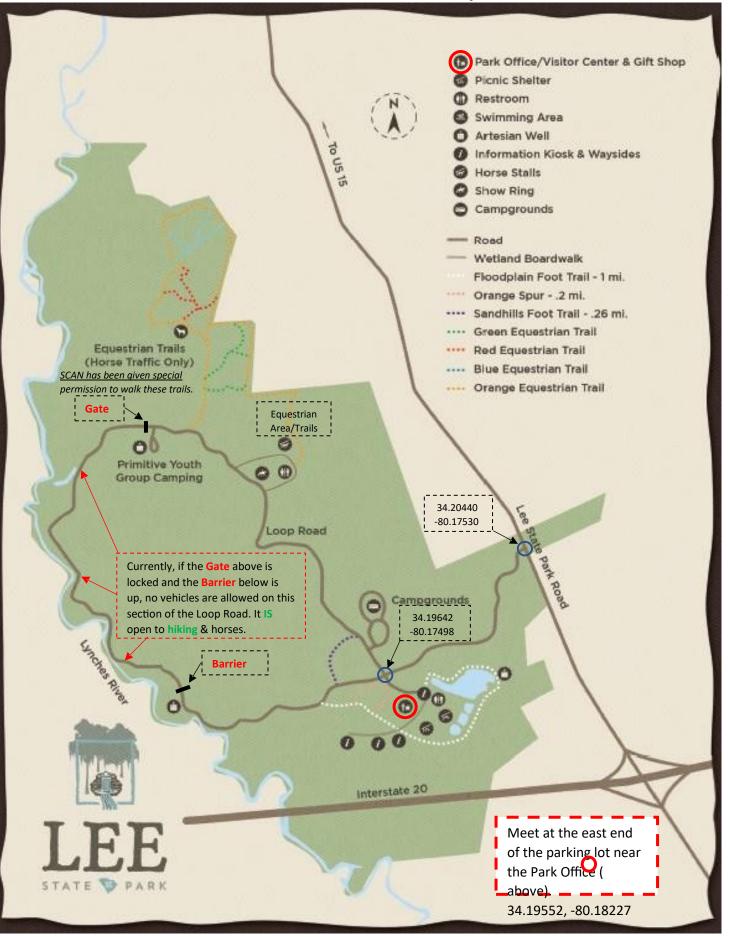
The park's rich diversity of natural habitats and wildlife make it an ideal setting for nature walks and the interpretive, educational programs hosted on site. Equestrian facilities are also available. Lee State Park is one of the shrinking number of CCC parks with surviving structures that display the classic Conservation Corps architecture.

Lee State Park is bottomland hardwood forest wetlands that make up the majority of Lee's 2,839 acres. Over 700 acres are enrolled in the USDA NRCS's Wetland Reserve Program. This is an agreement with the Federal Government that these wetlands will remain wetlands for perpetuity. Lee State Park includes:

- Park Office and Education Center (near our meeting location) that contains an exhibit hall and wet lab (open from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM during our visit). Several hiking trails and ponds are easily accessible in the area.
- 4 artesian wells that are a combination of man-made and natural features. The CCC drilled down
 into confined aquifers throughout the park. The water is under pressure in these confined aquifers.
 The pressure pushes the water to the earth's surface to create artesian wells that flow 24 hours a
 day, seven days a week.
- 48 campsites; 25 "standard" and 23 for "equestrian camping".
- The Lynches River that has been a state-designated State Scenic River since 1994. As long as
 the Loop Road is passable and fully open for vehicle traffic, visitors can drive down to the banks of
 the Lynches River to fish, birdwatch, or just sit back and enjoy the river flowing by. The Loop Road
 is currently partially open for vehicle traffic but is FULLY OPEN FOR HIKING)
- An equestrian area with 7 miles of equestrian trails that are considered to be of moderate difficulty. Horses are also allowed on the Loop Road along the Lynches River. <u>Hiking is not normally allowed on the equestrian trails for the general public, but SCAN has been granted an exemption by the park manager.</u> These trails could be an adventure for anyone who wants a potential challenge. Horse etiquette must be observed. Any updated information and/or instructions will be provided on the day of the outing.
- <u>Floodplain Trail</u>, 1.0 mile, easy (near our meeting location) From the parking area at the Park Office, walk toward the pond and picnic tables until you reach the trail kiosk. Follow this easy-walking path across a footbridge and over two artesian springs that feed the pond. As you follow the loop through the wooded area and taller grass, watch for turtles, snakes, and other wildlife.
- Wetland Boardwalk, short, easy (near our meeting location) Located at the end of the walkway
 on the southeast side of the Park Office.

- Sandhills Foot Trail, 0.26 mile, easy At the crossroads stop sign (34.19642, -80.18578), take the North-northwest road (which is a right turn from the entrance road or straight ahead from the office road) and park at the first campground. Walk back to the dirt road; the trailhead is on the left, approximately 700 feet past the camping area. You will follow a footpath through an oak and pine wooded sandhill habitat. At the end of the trail you will come to the park road. You can return the way you came or return on the park roads.
- <u>Loop Road</u>, 5.25 miles, easy All 5.25 miles of the road are open to hiking and horses with approximately only 3.25 miles of the road open to vehicle traffic. The other 2 miles are predominantly on the west leg of the loop (as shown on the map) and are only open for hiking or horse riding. This "hiking only" section runs near the Lynches River for a little more than half of the 2 miles.
- Loop Road (cont'd)
 - Southern Leg From the crossroads, choose the West-southwest road (which is a left turn from the office road or straight ahead from the entrance road) that will take you to the Wetlands Reserve Program area (34.19406, -80.19472). Traveling farther along, you will come to a "parking area" that has an artesian well and short distance access to the Lynches River. There is a barrier in the road just beyond the artesian well and vehicle traffic beyond this point is currently prohibited. Walking or hiking beyond the barrier is allowed and there are several places to view and access the Lynches River along the road for about 1.25 miles beyond the barrier. Walking the full 2 miles will get you to a gate across the road near the Primitive Youth Camping area discussed below. NOTE: There are some water-filled holes on this leg and one area where water is flowing across the road; higher ground clearance vehicles are recommended; our Subaru made the "crossing" just fine.
 - <u>Eastern Leg</u> From the crossroads, choose the North-northwest road (which is straight ahead from the office road or a right turn from the entrance road) that will take you to the <u>Campgrounds</u>, the <u>equestrian area</u> (which has a short spur loop road) and the <u>Primitive Youth Group Camping area</u>. There is a gate across the road just beyond the Primitive Youth Group Camping area entrance and vehicles cannot proceed farther. Walking or hiking beyond the gate is allowed and after about 0.75 mile, you will get to the Lynches River access areas discussed above, only from the other direction.
 - <u>Campgrounds Area</u> (entrance at 34.19775, -80.18680) Parking for access to the Sandhills Foot Trail (information presented above).
 - Equestrian Area (entrance at 34.20822, -80.19518) Parking for access to the equestrian trails discussed above (7 miles total on 4 trails) and a primitive restroom. SCAN has been granted walking access to these normally horse-traffic only trails that are in a slightly more rugged area of the park. Trail difficulty is considered moderate. Horse etiquette must be observed: This includes 1) Announce yourself when you see horses, 2) Follow the riders instructions (some horses do not like to greet people who are on foot, etc.) and 3) Give the horses a wide berth.
 - <u>Primitive Youth Group Camping Area</u> (entrance at 34.21225, -80.20301) Attractions include a CCC cabin, an artesian well, a short boardwalk to a lowlands area and a primitive restroom. There are also some short trails or open areas adjacent to the camping area.

Lee State Park Map



Directions to: Lee State Park, 487 Loop Road, Bishopville, SC

Park Entrance	Latitude 34.20454, Longitude -80.17498
Loop Road Crossroads	Latitude 34.19642, Longitude -80.18578
Park Office Parking Lot	Latitude 34.19552, Longitude -80.18227

From I-20, use exit 123 (Lee State Park Road, SC 22): Turn North onto Lee State Park Road. After 1 mile, turn left into the park entrance and onto Loop Road. Follow Loop Road for 0.9 mile to the crossroads intersection stop sign. Turn left, South-southeast, and follow the road for about 0.1 mile.

Our meeting location will be on the far (east) side of the parking oval toward the ponds.

Dinner:

During our search, it was discovered that there is a lack of restaurants in the area that would be open on Saturday. We looked for restaurants in "close by" Bishopville but were not able to find any that would be open on the weekend for "dining in"; if they were open at all, they were "take-out only". We also investigated further and did find some places that sounded interesting in Sumter but they would be 35 to 40 driving minutes away from Lee State Park and farther "off-the-path" south from I-20.

Due to COVID-19 and for the above reasons, it has been decided to **NOT** meet for an after-outing meal. Sorry - Maybe things will be better next year.

Contact:

Dave Kastner

Cheraw State Park Chesterfield Co., SC October 24, 2020

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

Bracken

Pteridium aquilinum

Longleaf Pine

Pinus palustris

Pond-cypress

Taxodium ascendens

Broomsedge

Andropogon sp.

Blue-eyed-grass

Sisyrinchium sp.

Catbrier

Smilax bona-nox

Common Greenbrier

Smilax rotundifolia

Nodding Ladies'-tresses

Spiranthes cernua

Sweetbay

Magnolia virginiana

Sassafras

Sassafras albidum

Mockernut Hickory

Carya tomentosa

American Beech

Fagus grandifolia

Bluejack Oak

Quercus incana

Blackjack Oak

Quercus marilandica marilandica

Prickly-pear

Opuntia mesacantha mesacantha

Yellow Pitcherplant

Sarracenia flava

Dwarf Huckleberry

Gaylussacia dumosa

Staggerbush

Lyonia mariana

Sparkleberry

Vaccinium arboreum

Horsesugar

Symplocos tinctoria

Common Sensitive-plant

Chamaecrista nictitans nictitans

Lespedeza

Lespedeza hirta

Blue Sandhill Lupine

Lupinus diffusus

Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida

American Holly

Ilex opaca opaca

Tread-softly
Cnidoscolus stimulosus

Muscadine

Vitis rotundifolia rotundifolia

Eastern Red Maple

Acer rubrum rubrum

Winged Sumac

Rhus copallinum

Carolina Jessamine

Gelsemium sempervirens

Pinebarren Gentian

Gentiana autumnalis

Beautyberry

Callicarpa americana

Narrowleaf Blue Curls

Trichostema setaceum

Lobelia

Lobelia puberula

Wahlenbergia

Wahlenbergia marginata

Sandhill Chaffhead

Carphephorus bellidifolius

Sandhill Thistle

Cirsium repandum

Scratch-daisy

Croptilon divaricatum

Fireweed

Erechtites hieraciifolius

Common Dog-fennel

Eupatorium capillifolium

Camphorweed

Pluchea camphorata

Aster

Symphyotrichum sp.

FAUNA

Crab-shaped Spiny-back

Gasteracantha cancriformis

Trashline Orbweaver

* Cyclosa turbinata

Bold Jumper

Phidippus audax

Field Cricket

Gryllus pennsylvanicus

Leaf-footed Bug

Leptoglossus phyllopus

Dung Beetle

Phanaeus igneus

Spicebush Swallowtail

Papilio troilus

Cloudless Sulphur

Phoebis sennae eubule

Sleepy Orange

Abaeis nicippe

Variegated Fritillary

Euptoieta claudia

Long-tailed Skipper

Urbanus proteus

Clouded Skipper

Lerema accius

Fiery Skipper

Hylephila phyleus

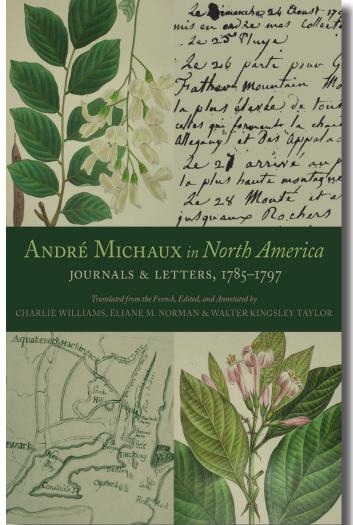
Southern Toad *Anaxyrus terrestris*

Eastern Fence Lizard

Sceloporus undulatus

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Charlie Williams, Eliane M. Norman and Walter Kingsley Taylor

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autho

Charlie Williams is retired librarian at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library in North Carolina. He is chairman of the André Michaux International Society (AMIS).

Eliane M. Norman is professor emerita of biology at Stetson University. She is André Michaux in Florida: An Eighteenth Century Botanical Journey.

Walter Kingsley Taylor is professor emeritus of biology at the University of Central Florida. He is coauthor of André Michaux in Florida: An Eighteenth Century Botanical Journey and author of several fi eld guides to Florida biota, including Florida Wildfl owers in Their Natural Communities, A Guide to Florida Grasses, and Florida Wildfl owers: A Comprehensive Guide.



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