



SCAN *South Carolina Association of Naturalists*

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

December 2020

Hello All!

In November, we gathered at Lee State Park in Lee County, SC. The weather was coolish to start off the day but warmed up to the low 70ies with mostly sunny skies by early afternoon. Attendees:

Alison Smith	Dave Schuetrum	Joe Long	Phillip Harpootlian
Angela Valvasari	Dwight Moffitt	Kim McManus	Ron Ahle
Carol Gist	Jeff Kline	Lee Morris	Scott Wietecha
Caroline Eastman	Jerry Bright	Marty Kastner	Sharon Yomtob
Dave Kastner	Jim Boylston	Paul Kalbach	Tom Austin



Dave Kastner kicked off the morning gathering with a bit of detail about the park, then introduced Park Interpreter Laura Kirk. We learned that the park was established in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). It was one of 16 state parks built in that era and is one of the few with original structures still standing. The CCC drilled seven artesian wells on the property; five are still flowing. After providing a bit of history and a trails overview, Kirk handed out maps and an introductory brochure for iNaturalist. The South Carolina park system is very interested in utilizing the app for documenting species within each park's boundaries. Dave wrapped up the meeting with some good advice on trail accessibility due to water on roads and we headed out to explore the ~2800 acres of bottomland hardwood forest with a sprinkling of mixed pine forest and sandhills environments.

Several folks started the day by exploring the wetland boardwalk near the park office. Others took their cars over to the equestrian trail trailheads to do a bit of exploring in areas not usually open to foot traffic. My group explored around the park office, finding 2 artesian wells near the fishing ponds. Then we drove the Loop Road until we reached the "no

vehicular traffic beyond this point” sign and parked. This area is known as Mulberry Island but is only a true island when the area floods. We explored the artesian well in the parking area, then started walking the Loop Road.



L to R: Wetland boardwalk, an artesian well, a touch of autumn color

The Loop Road paralleled the Lynches River for a good ways, providing beautiful views of the State Scenic River. The road was covered in water in several places and was boggy for most of the stretch along the river. Investigating downed trees turned up several Marbled Salamanders, a DeKay’s Brownsnake, millipedes and a variety of other slugs and beetles. As the road turned away from the river and increased in elevation, the terrain dried out a bit. We passed the primitive youth group campground and another artesian well before leaving the Loop Road for the Floodplain Trail.



L to R: Paul Kalbach waited for the rest of the group to traverse the large puddle in the Loop Road. Coarse-backed Red Paper Wasp. Stand of bottomland hardwood. Asters bloomed along the edge of the road.

The Floodplain Trail wound along the edge of a Cypress Swamp and was slightly more challenging of a walk. The trail was well-marked with blazes. We discovered an entire collection of wooden “fairy houses” on the trees in one section, reportedly built by a ranger’s family and installed over the summer. The trail crossed the Loop Road and we were able to make our way back to the car in the fading light of sunset.



L to R: Marbled Salamander, Rice Bug, American Cancer-Root

Due to the lack of viable restaurant options in the vicinity, the group did not convene for dinner.

Our original December destination of Gunter Island and the backup location of Marsh Wildlife Management Area are both currently inaccessible due to water on the roads. Instead, we're going to explore the newly opened Grassland-Woodland Trails at Beidler Forest in Dorchester County, SC.

Our January gathering is typically an indoor affair with lectures and a business meeting. Due to ongoing concerns surrounding COVID-19, we're going with a different plan next month. We'll hold our annual business meeting via Zoom on a weeknight, then go on an outing on January 23rd. More details will be forthcoming in the January newsletter.

We hope you'll be able to join us for the last outing of 2020!

Kim McManus

Grassland-Woodland Trails at Beidler Forest

336 Sanctuary Road #3324, Harleyville, SC 29448

Dorchester County

Saturday, December 12, 2020, 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Located in the old-growth portion of Four Holes Swamp near Harleyville, SC, the Beidler Forest Audubon Center and Sanctuary was purchased by the Audubon Society in 1969 and opened to the public in 1977. At almost 18,000 acres, it is the second-largest wildlife sanctuary operated by Audubon. Nearly 1,700 acres is old-growth cypress and tupelo forest, with many trees being over 1,000 years old. It is the largest remaining virgin stand in the world.

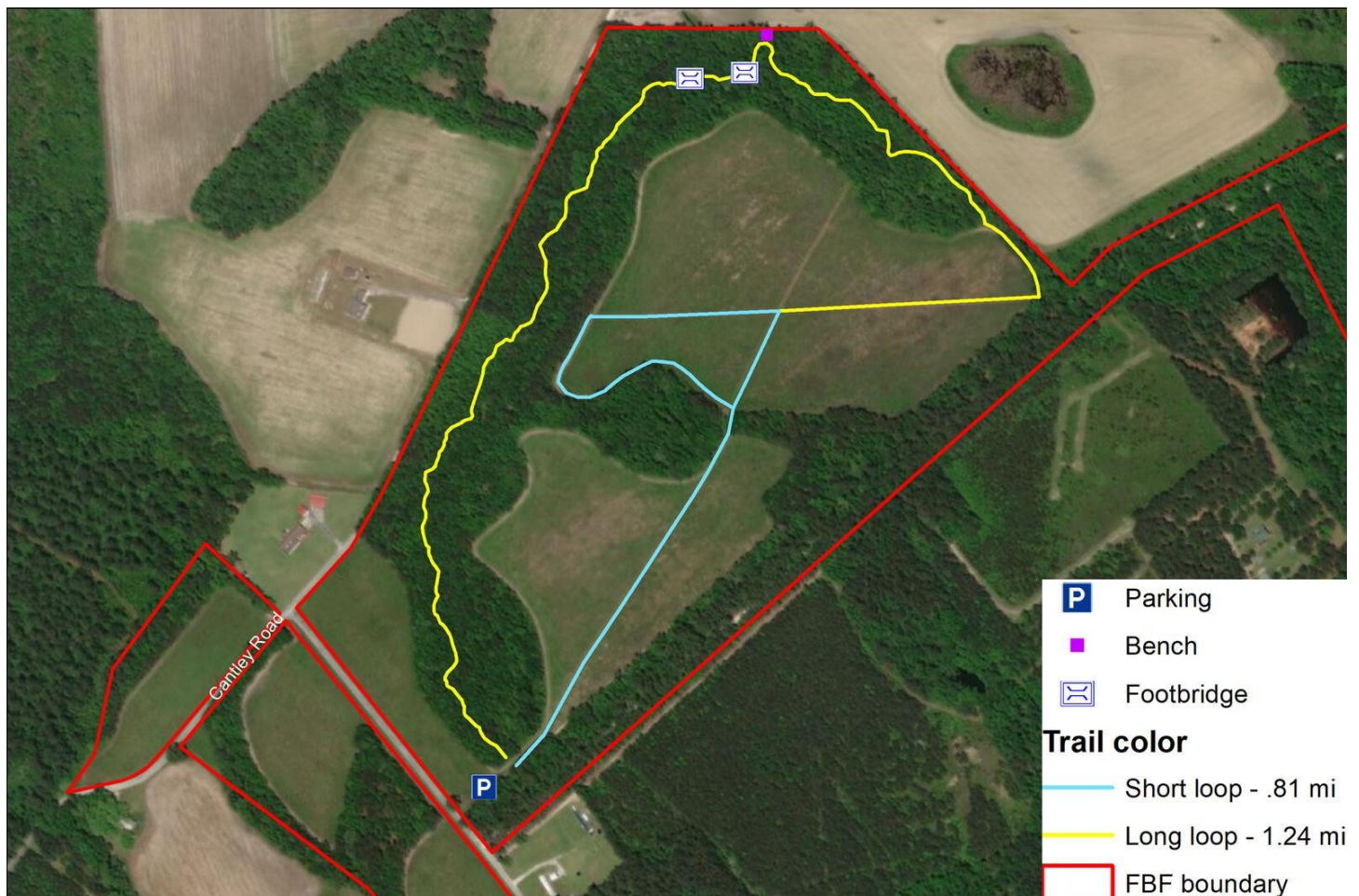
The 1.75-mile boardwalk through the swamp has been open for several years. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, access to the boardwalk is limited to those with reservations. Instead, we'll be exploring the brand-new Grassland-Woodland Trails.

Opened in September 2020, the new addition boasts just over 2 miles of trails that meander through Longleaf Pine, grassland and woodland habitats. The grassland trail has recently been burned, but Jenny McCarthy Tyrrell with SC Audubon assures me there's still lots to see.

For a visual overview, check out this lovely video on the SC Audubon site:

<https://sc.audubon.org/beidler-forest/new-grassland-woodland-trails-beidler-forest>

Trail map:



Directions:

From Charleston or Points East

- Take I-26 **WEST** to Exit **187**.
- Turn left onto Highway 27 (south) to Highway 78.
- Turn right onto Highway 78 (west).
- At the fork, veer right onto Highway 178.
- Turn right onto Francis Beidler Forest Road (first paved right).
- After four miles, the road will make a 90-degree turn to the left.
- Instead of following that turn, veer right onto Mims Road.
- The Center is one mile ahead on the right.

From I-95, Columbia, or Points West

- Take I-26 **EAST** to Exit **177**.
- Make a right turn onto Highway 453 (South) to Highway 178.
- Make a left turn onto Highway 178 (East).
- Go through the town of Harleyville.
- Six miles later, turn left onto Francis Beidler Forest Road.
- After four miles, the road will make a 90-degree turn to the left.
- Instead of following that turn, veer right onto Mims Road.
- The Center is one mile ahead on the right.

Important Note From Beidler Forest:

Remember, your GPS just might take you on a different route than our signs. Either way will get you here. Your GPS might also tell you that you've arrived when you're only halfway down our forested road. Just keep going!

Dinner:

Duke's BBQ
118 N Railroad Ave
Ridgeville, SC 29472
(843) 871-6507

From Beidler Forest:

- Turn Left on Mims Road. Go 1.2 miles
- Turn Left onto Beidler Forest Road / County Road S-18-28. Go 4.1 miles.
- Turn Left onto US-178 E. Go 0.6 miles
- Turn Right onto SC 27 S. Go 1.6 miles
- Turn Right onto N Railroad Ave
- Restaurant is on the right.

Trip Leader:

Kim McManus

Lee State Park
Lee Co., SC
November 21, 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.

LICHENS

Cladonia sp.

FLORA

Meadow Spikemoss
Selaginella apoda
Sand Spikemoss
Selaginella arenicola
Ebony Spleenwort
Asplenium platyneuron
Netted Chain Fern
Woodwardia areolata
Shortleaf Pine
Pinus echinata
Slash Pine
Pinus elliottii elliottii
Longleaf Pine
Pinus palustris
Loblolly Pine
Pinus taeda
Eastern Red Cedar
Juniperus virginiana virginiana
Water-shield
Brasenia schreberi
Little Brown Jug
Hexastylis arifolia
Whiteleaf Greenbrier
Smilax glauca
Common Greenbrier
Smilax rotundifolia
Jackson-brier
Smilax smallii
Red-berried Greenbrier
Smilax walteri
Water-spider Orchid
Habenaria repens
Crane-fly Orchid
Tipularia discolor
Giant Cane
Arundinaria gigantea
River Oats
Chasmanthium latifolium
Plume Grass
Saccharum sp.

Sweet Gum
Liquidambar styraciflua
Virginia-willow
Itea virginica
Pennsylvania Blackberry
Rubus pensilvanicus
White Oak
Quercus alba
Southern Red Oak
Quercus falcata
Overcup Oak
Quercus lyrata
Swamp Chestnut Oak
Quercus michauxii
Water Oak
Quercus nigra
Willow Oak
Quercus phellos
Post Oak
Quercus stellata
Live Oak
Quercus virginiana
Tag Alder
Alnus serrulata
River Birch
Betula nigra
American Hop-hornbeam
Ostrya virginiana
Swamp Cottonwood
Populus heterophylla
Blackgum
Nyssa sylvatica
Spotted Wintergreen
Chimaphila maculata
Coastal Doghobble
Leucothoe axillaris
Shining Fetterbush
Lyonia lucida
Elliott's Blueberry
Vaccinium elliottii
American Mistletoe
Phoradendron leucarpum
leucarpum
Cross-vine
Bignonia capreolata
Trumpet-creeper
Campsis radicans
Bearcorn
Conopholis americana
American Holly
Ilex opaca opaca
Aster
Symphyotrichum sp.

FAUNA

Spiny-backed Spider
Micrathena gracilis
Tuft-legged Orbweaver
* *Mangora placida*
Mabel Orchard Orbweaver
* *Leucauge argyroabpta*
White-banded Fishing Spider
Dolomedes albineus
Burrowing Wolf Spider
Geolycosa sp.
Rabid Wolf Spider
Rabidosia rabida
Bronze Jumping Spider
* *Eris militaris*
American Bird Grasshopper
Schistocerca americana
Plant-feeding Stink Bug
Euschistus servus servus
Pale Green Stink Bug
Banasa calva
Leaf-footed Bug
Acanthocephala declivis
Rice Bug
* *Stenocoris sp.*
Yellowjacket
Vespula sp.
Patent-leather Beetle
Odontotaenius disjunctus
Earth-boring Dung Beetle
* *Geotrupes sp.*
Clouded Sulphur
Colias philodice
Cloudless Sulphur
Phoebis sennae eubule
Little Yellow (butterfly)
Eurema lisa
Sleepy Orange
Abaeis nicippe
Gulf Fritillary
Agraulis vanillae
Pearl Crescent (butterfly)
Phyciodes tharos
Question Mark (butterfly)
Polygonia interrogationis
Red Admiral
Vanessa atalanta
Common Buckeye (butterfly)
Junonia coenia
Southern Pearly-eye(butterfly)
Enodia portlandia
White Checkered Skipper
Pyrgus albescens
Clouded Skipper
Lerema accius

Eastern Mosquitofish
Gambusia holbrooki

Marbled Salamander
Ambystoma opacum

Southern Toad
Anaxyrus terrestris

Green Treefrog
Hyla cinerea

River Cooter
Pseudemys concinna

Yellow-bellied Slider
Trachemys scripta scripta

Green Anole
Anolis carolinensis

Ground Skink
Scincella lateralis

Anhinga; Snakebird
Anhinga anhinga

Wood Duck
Aix sponsa

Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura

Cooper's Hawk
Accipiter cooperii

Red-shouldered Hawk
Buteo lineatus

Red-tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis

Rock Dove
Columba livia

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus

Red-headed Woodpecker
Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Northern Flicker
Colaptes auratus

Downy Woodpecker
Picoides pubescens

Hairy Woodpecker
Picoides villosus

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

White-breasted Nuthatch
Sitta carolinensis

Red-breasted Nuthatch
Sitta canadensis

Winter Wren
Troglodytes troglodytes

Carolina Wren
Thryothorus ludovicianus

Golden-crowned Kinglet
Regulus satrapa

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Regulus calendula

Hermit Thrush
Catharus guttatus

American Robin
Turdus migratorius

Cedar Waxwing
Bombycilla cedrorum

European Starling
Sturnus vulgaris

Blue-headed Vireo
Vireo solitarius

Black-and-white Warbler
Mniotilta varia

Yellow-rumped Warbler
Dendroica coronata

Northern Cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis

White-throated Sparrow
Zonotrichia albicollis

White-crowned Sparrow
Zonotrichia leucophrys

Red-winged Blackbird
Agelaius phoeniceus

Brown-headed Cowbird
Molothrus ater

Common Grackle
Quiscalus quiscula

American Goldfinch
Carduelis tristis

House Finch
Cardodacus mexicanus

Gray Squirrel
Sciurus carolinensis

Raccoon
Procyon lotor

River Otter
Lutra canadensis

White-tailed Deer
Odocoileus virginianus