



SCAN *South Carolina Association of Naturalists*

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

February 2020

Hello Fellow SCAN Members!

Our annual meeting was a rousing success! We had more than 50 attendees, filling the auditorium at the Saluda Shoals Park Environmental Center. We started off the agenda with quick introductions and an acknowledgement of new members. We are 112 members strong, including 14 new members in 2019. Next, we took a few minutes to recognize the many contributions Jan Ciegler has made to SCAN over the years. After joining in 1985, Jan has served as president, regional director, secretary, and database manager. Most importantly, she custom-built a SQL database we still use to record our monthly species observations. Mary Garland Douglass gave a moving account of how Jan inspired her to step out of her comfort zone and travel the world. Jan is relocating to Minnesota to be closer to her family. Her unflagging presence on our outings will be missed. Talks have already begun about planning an out-of-state field trip so she can show us around a different part of the country!



Our first speaker of the day was Dan Meyer, an Outdoor Recreation Specialist for the Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Department. Dan shared an overview of his research on the Queen Snake (*Regina septemvittata*). Conducted in streams around West Liberty University, the study was designed to analyze prey preferences of the docile snake. Dan determined that the Queen Snake feeds exclusively on two specific species of crayfish and only when they have recently molted. During his time in the streams, Dan had several entertaining encounters with local residents. He used these opportunities to educate the residents on the Queen Snake.



After our first speaker, we had nice long break for lunch. Many attendees took advantage of the sunny skies and brisk weather to eat out on the deck at the Environmental Center and walk a few trails.

Once we reconvened, we kicked off the afternoon with a talk by Dr. Jay Pinckney, Director of the Belle W. Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences. As many of us were unfamiliar with the Institute, Jay began his presentation with a quick overview. There are facilities on the University of South Carolina's main campus in Columbia and a field laboratory located on the 16,000-acre Hobcaw Barony near Georgetown, SC. Jay went on to briefly describe three different studies being conducted through the Institute. One study is analyzing the impacts of antimicrobial agents on phytoplankton. Another study is looking at the phenomenon of bioluminescent lagoons. The third study is documenting phytoplankton communities in the North Inlet Estuary. Jay encouraged us to visit Hobcaw Barony and we will definitely look into it for a future outing!



The third speaker of the day was Jennifer McCarthy Tyrrell, president of Charleston Audubon. Her lively, interactive presentation was entitled "Vultures, Revered and Reviled, So Misunderstood." Jen covered everything from the convergent evolution of Old World Vultures versus New World Vultures to cultural perceptions to physiological differences between the species. We learned the main reason for the vulture crisis in India is a result of the use of a common veterinary anti-inflammatory for cows, a group of vultures feeding is called a wake, and baby vultures are supposed to be on the ground, not in trees.



Our final speaker of the day was Jenks Farmer, renaissance plantsman and eighth generation South Carolinian. His visual presentation of the many projects he has worked on in the state helped illustrate his goal of making naturalistic gardens inspired by ecosystems in SC. Jenks described how these gardens are often harder to maintain than traditional gardens and require a good deal of forethought to ensure they are beautiful year-round. A big challenge is public perception of

these landscapes. Educating the local population on the purpose of the plants chosen is key to them being fully appreciated.



The day concluded with a brief business meeting. Treasurer Kate Hartley gave an overview of revenues and expenses. The good news is that we had more of the former than of the latter and finished 2019 a little bit ahead. Vice President Dave Schuetrum presented the 2020 slate of officers. With a from-the-floor nomination of Angela Valvasori for treasurer, the slate was filled and unanimously approved.

- President – Kim McManus
- Vice President – Dave Schuetrum
- Secretary – Mary Douglass
- Treasurer – Angela Valvasori
- 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

For old business, Jan Ciegler reminded us that we are overdue to compile the next book, covering 2006 – 2015. Lee Morris volunteered to head up a committee. Tom Austin, Ben Gregory, and Phillip Harpootlian stepped up to assist the effort.

The new business segment consisted of the “big reveal” of the 2020 field trips. These are tentative locations, so please be sure to check the monthly newsletter before heading out on a trip.

- February 22: Tyger River, Northern
- March 28: Heggie’s Rock, Western
- April 25: Beidler Forest, Southern
- May 22 - 24: Hell Hole Swamp, Southern
- June 27: Wannamaker Nature Preserve, Central
- July 25: Chandler / Ashmore HP, Western
- August 22: Moonshine Falls, Northern
- September 26: Dickey Property, Western
- October 24: Cheraw State Park, Eastern
- November 21: Lee State Park, Central
- December 12: Gunter’s Island, Eastern
- Jan 23, ‘21: Annual Meeting

At the conclusion of the official meeting, we retired to Jan Ciegler's house for a lovely potluck supper. Attendees enjoyed spending a bit of time together, discussing everything from recipes to wildlife apps to camera gear.

I look forward to another year of wombling, soodling, exploring, and generally sharing the wonders of nature with this group!

Kim McManus

**Saluda Shoals Park
Lexington Co., SC
January 25, 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.

Eastern Towhee
Pipilo erythrophthalmus
Song Sparrow
Melospiza melodia
White-throated Sparrow
Zonotrichia albicollis
Swamp Sparrow
Melospiza georgiana

FAUNA

Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura
Black Vulture
Coragyps atratus
Red-tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis
Mourning Dove
Zenaida macroura
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus
Downy Woodpecker
Picoides pubescens
Hairy Woodpecker
Picoides villosus
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Sphyrapicus varius
Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata
American Crow
Corvus brachyrhynchos
Carolina Chickadee
Parus carolinensis
Tufted Titmouse
Baeolophus bicolor
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Sitta pusilla
Carolina Wren
Thryothorus ludovicianus
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Regulus satrapa
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Regulus calendula
American Robin
Turdus migratorius
Northern Mockingbird
Mimus polyglottos
Cedar Waxwing
Bombycilla cedrorum
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Dendroica coronata
Pine Warbler
Dendroica pinus
Northern Cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis