



SCAN *South Carolina Association of Naturalists*

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

October 2021

Hello SCAN members!

We had a fantastic outing to Caesar's Head last month. The weather started off a bit cool, but quickly warmed up to the mid-70ies. The skies were a bit overcast, then cleared to partly cloudy in the afternoon. The whiter background made hawk spotting easier for some in the crowd. Others, like me, did a lot of asking, "where??" before seeing the soaring Buteos.

By arriving a bit early, most of our group was able to find parking and meet up for the morning's overview of the day's adventure options. Northern Regional Director Rita Zollinger reviewed the trail descriptions. Janie Marlow provided information and a photo guide for *Agalinis decemloba*, a very small plant that had been previously identified on the property, but the location information had been lost. She asked that all trail walkers keep an eye out for it and GPS tag any sightings. Rita then introduced us to Irvin Pitts, a former Park Naturalist and the founder of the volunteer hawk watch.



Attendees included:

Angela Valvasori	Irvin Pitts	Kathy Boyle	Paul Kalbach
Barbara Foster	Janie Marlow	Kim McManus	Rita Zollinger
Ben Gregory	Jeff Kline	Mary Garland Douglass	Robby Bryant
Charlie Williams	Jerry Bright	Michael Crawford	Ron Ahle
Dick Watkins	Jim Boylston	Nazanin Rostamabadi	Steve Marlow
Greg Ross	Kate Hartley	Pat Bryant	Tom Jones

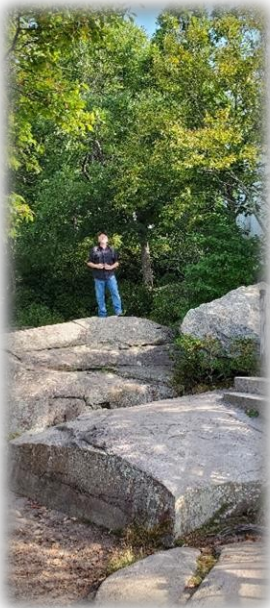
The group immediately split up, with some people heading to the Frank Coggins trail. The rest followed Irvin Pitts to the Caesar's Head Overlook. While standing on the granitic-gneiss outcrop, we quickly spotted several Broad-winged Hawks, a Peregrine Falcon and a Common Raven!



L to R: Broad-winged Hawk, Caesar's Head Overlook, Common Raven

My smaller group spent some time on the Overlook, then took a quick pass through Devil's Kitchen. The narrow passage through the granitic gneiss was formed thousands of years ago, when water on the mountain froze, causing a 90-degree angle crack. The name comes from a Scots-Irish myth that claims the Devil made a particularly hot brew and spilled a drop of it on the rock, causing the crack.

After a fun few minutes photographing bees and spiders on the flowers surrounding the park's gift shop, we finally made it to the Frank Coggins trail. The trail started out reasonably flat and we enjoyed the fall flowers and accompanying bees and wasps. Birds were about and we spotted several warblers and woodpeckers. We passed a group of SCAN folks going the other direction on the loop portion of the trail, so we spent a few minutes sharing our findings before moving on.



L to R: Greg Ross at the Overlook, Lee Morris navigating Devil's Kitchen, pinesap, Black-and-white Warbler

Steve Marlow provided this great photo from his group's lunch stop. He says, "This group started out smaller in number and increased in size by lunchtime. Here they are dining on 'Lunch Log' along the Frank Coggins Loop trail. The lunch spot was actually on the loop portion of the trek and discovered right at 12 noon! (Hey, it's hard to find seating for a group of eight hikers along most trails...:-))"



My group found one of the small waterfalls along the trail and grabbed a quick bite before continuing on through beautiful trees and along small ravines. We made it back to the Overlook and spent more time watching large kettles of hawks in the distance. I learned that the area that can be viewed from the Overlook is called The Dismal. We finally called it a day and headed out just as it started sprinkling.



L to R: green forest, view from behind the waterfall, The Dismal

Our October outing takes us to the Sandhills in Orangeburg County. Dave and Marty Kastner have a great trip lined up for Santee State Park. With a variety of short trails, a longer bike trail and access to Lake Marion, there's a little something for everyone. Please note there is a small usage fee for the park.

Please note that our last two trips of the year are scheduled earlier in the month to avoid holiday weekends: November 13 and December 11.

See you soon!

Kim McManus

Santee State Park

251 State Park Rd, Santee, SC 29142

Saturday, October 23, 2021, 10:30 AM to ~4:00 PM

Cost: Adults - \$3.00
SC Seniors - \$1.50
Children ages 5 to 15 - \$1.00
Children under 5 – Free

Due to Covid-19, masks must be worn inside all buildings and restrooms.

One of the most unique settings for a state park, Santee State Park offers a variety of activities and facilities for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers. The Park is located on State Park Rd off Highway #6W. The scenic road draws you into the 2,500-acre park which opened in 1949.

Santee State Park is situated on the shores of beautiful Lake Marion that has over 110,000 acres of water and has been a favorite spot for anglers from all over the United States and Canada. The catfish are trophy size and the striped bass are favorite catches in the lake. Lake Marion and its sister, Lake Moultrie, are the birthplaces for the striped bass. Other sports enthusiasts enjoy bird watching, swamp explorations, and other boating opportunities.

The Park includes a fishing pier, boat ramps, hiking trails, playgrounds, combination biking and hiking trails, launch ramps, primitive campsites, 10 pier based rental cabins, 20 lakeside cabins (all with electricity and running water), a meeting facility, Wi-Fi lounge, Park store, and shelters / pavilions for picnics and family gatherings. Fisheagle Nature Adventures Boat Tours & Rental offers seasonal tours of cypress swamps with a guide for further explanations of the flora and fauna. Canoes, kayaks, and SUPs (which are, for those of us not involved in the sport, Stand Up Paddleboards) are also available for rent.

Directions to Santee State Park - Mailing Address: 251 State Park Rd, Santee, SC 29142

We will meet at the extreme west end of the park (see the map on the next page).

West Entrance Road (take to meeting location)Latitude 33.5216, Longitude -80.5019
Meeting Location (picnic shelter area parking)Latitude 33.5509, Longitude -80.5010
Park Office (to **pay entry fee** and **get auto tag**)Latitude 33.5521, Longitude -80.5030

From I-95, use exit 98 (Hwy 6 / Old Number Six Hwy): Turn west onto Hwy 6 toward Elloree. After about 1.3 miles, turn right, north, onto State Park Rd (State Rd S-38-105). Continue travel to the meeting location by following the “** On State Park Rd” directions below.

From I-26, use exit 136 (Hwy 6 / Caw Caw Hwy): Turn east onto Hwy 6 toward St Matthews. Follow Hwy 6 through the towns of St Matthews (about 7.4 miles from I-26) and Elloree (about 15.3 miles from St Matthews). After about 26.3 total miles from I-26, turn left, north, onto State Park Rd (State Rd S-38-105). Continue travel to the meeting location by following the “** On State Park Rd” directions below.

**** On State Park Rd:** Note that State Park Rd becomes State Rd S-38-82 after the intersection with Cleveland St (which is at the park entrance). Follow State Park Rd north for a total of about 4.5 miles to the meeting location (picnic shelters on the left) or about 4.7 miles to the park office (on the right) where you can pay your entry fee and obtain your vehicle tag.

Santee State Park Map

Share your photos and experiences on social media using #SCStateParks and #SanteeStatePark



Description of Trails

Yellow Trail – Oak Pinolly Trail - 0.75 miles, rated easy

Description: This is an easy to walk and easy to follow yellow blazed loop trail through a pine forest and into a small cypress wetland. In a nice touch, however, it maintains a remote feel despite crossing directly through the park's most heavily used area. Basically an out-and-back trail, it has a small loop at the far end that's a great area to spot deer and an occasional fox. One point midway through the trail brims with switchcanes, ostrich ferns, and wild azaleas.

Location: On the **west side** of the park behind picnic shelter one (which is very close to our meeting area).

Blue Loop - Bike Trail - 7.3 miles, rated moderate (due to the length)

Description: This broad, mostly level, pine needle covered path passes through a mixed pine and hardwood forest draped with Spanish moss and it also traverses a few upland wetlands. On the northern part of the trail (towards the lake), in several places you will be able to glimpse the lake and its numerous cypress trees. There will be some offshoot paths that go into the woods toward the lake but follow the blue blazes to stay on the main trail. On the southern part of the trail (away from the lake), you will bike/hike over stretches of boardwalk through a thick forest. This entire trail offers a beautiful representation of the park's flora. There are also two "shortcut" trails (the White Trail to the west and Red Trail to the east) described below that make shorter loops instead of following the full Blue Loop / Bike Trail.

Location: Begin this trail at either the west trailhead, located before the entrance to Cypress View campground on the **west side** of Santee State Park (near our meeting area) or at the east trailhead located across from the Limestone Trail on the **east side** of Santee State Park near the old swimming area on Cleveland Street.

White Trail (located inside the Blue Trail loop) - 0.33 miles, rated easy

Description: "Shortcut" when starting at the west trailhead of the Blue Loop / Bike Trail. The habitat will be the same as on the Blue Loop / Bike Trail described above. The total "shorter" loop distance is approximately 3.3 miles. To use the White Trail, from the west trailhead of the Blue Loop / Bike Trail, head eastward on either leg of the western Blue Trail to the markers for the White Trail. Turn onto and follow the White Trail until it tees into the Blue Trail and return to the west trailhead by heading westward on the Blue Trail.

Location: The White Trail is approximately 1.5 miles from the west trailhead of the Blue Loop / Bike Trail on the **west side** of the park. The White Trail creates a "shorter" loop when starting at the west trailhead of the Blue / Bike Trail.

Red Trail (located inside the Blue Trail loop) - 0.19 miles, rated easy

Description: "Shortcut" when starting at the east trailhead of the Blue Loop / Bike Trail. The habitat will be the same as on the Blue Loop / Bike Trail described above. The total "shorter" loop distance is approximately 3.2 miles. To use the Red Trail, from the east trailhead of the Blue Loop / Bike Trail, head westward on either leg of the eastern Blue Trail to the markers for the Red Trail. Turn onto and follow the Red Trail until it tees into the Blue Trail and return to the east trailhead by heading eastward on the Blue Trail.

Location: The Red Trail is approximately 1.5 miles from the east trailhead of the Blue Loop / Bike Trail on the **east side** of the park. The Red Trail creates a "shorter" loop when starting at the east trailhead of the Blue / Bike Trail.

Orange Trail - Sinkhole Pond Nature Trail - 0.75 miles, rated easy

Description: The trail is primarily used for hiking, walking, nature trips, and fishing. The habitat is varied, from a pine forest to a swampy area and then to a near-desert area around the highlight of this trail, a limestone sinkhole pond. The pond may not be visible during dry seasons or can appear as two ponds in wet periods. A sign at the pond explains how sinkholes in the area form. There are deer trails and random footpaths, but it is recommended to stay on the main trail. Also, the elevated road just before the parking area overlooks an open and easily accessible grassy area with a small wetland and stream that empties into a small sinkhole. Many interesting plants are present, both along the road and in the lower area.

Location: On the **east side** of the park. Take Cleveland Street from the park entrance. Where the road splits, take Fox Squirrel Drive (the road to the right) and look for the Sinkhole Pond Nature Trail sign on the right.

Green Trail - Limestone Nature Trail - 0.75 miles, rated easy

Description: This loop trail is a sandy path passing through a mixed pine and hardwood forest that crosses and then runs adjacent to a secluded cove away from the main stem of the lake. The thick forest cover and terrain of this scenic, twisting trail may make you feel like you're in the mountains. Take time to enjoy the wildflowers, buckeye, papaw, and wildlife including deer, rabbits, and snakes. Near the trail along the water, there are many logs and branches, waiting for someone to "roll" them to uncover the critters underneath.

Location: On the **east side** of the park. Take Cleveland Street from the park entrance. Where the road splits, continue on Cleveland Street (the road to the left) and look for the Limestone Nature Trail sign on the right by a picnic shelter.

Short beach on the lake near the east Boat Ramp (at the end of Fox Squirrel Drive)

Description: This short beach on the lake is composed of rocky sand and it leads to a levee that creates a small lake that drains into Lake Marion. Follow a trail across the levee to see a variety of water-side plants and walk to an open area on the opposite side of the small lake. This open area, which has picnic tables and restrooms, can also be reached by driving back to the split at Cleveland Street and taking Cleveland Street to its northern end.

Location: On the **east side** of the park. Take Cleveland Street from the park entrance. Where the road splits, take Fox Squirrel Drive (the road to the right) past the Primitive Camping Area. Where the road splits again, keep to the left until you reach the boat ramp. The short beach is to the west (left side when facing Lake Marion) of the boat ramp.

Dinner Suggestion:

Lone Star BBQ & Mercantile - 2212 State Park Rd, Santee, SC 29142

GPS Location: Latitude 33.4957, Longitude -80.4917

Phone: (803) 854-2000

Lone Star BBQ is a buffet-style all-you-can-eat restaurant with a typical Southern barbeque menu. There is no "formal" seating and patrons just grab a place to sit at any available table.

Please note that **no arrangements have currently been made for a group reservation** but for those wanting to eat after our outing, there should be no problem getting in. Please let me (Dave) know if you want to try to eat there as a group. If members express enough interest, I will call to see whether Lone Star BBQ can accommodate us as a group and whether it's possible to reserve a couple of tables for us.

Directions to Lone Star BBQ & Mercantile

From the intersection of State Park Rd and Cleveland St at the park entrance, head Southeast on State Park Rd (which will be State Rd S-38-105). After about 2.0 miles, Lone Star BBQ & Mercantile will be the group of 4 buildings on the right.

Contacts:

Dave Kastner

Marty Kastner

Caesar's Head State Park
Greenville Co., SC
September 25, 2021

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

Shining Clubmoss
Huperzia lucidula
Rattlesnake Fern
Botrypus virginianus
Southern Grapefern
Sceptridium biternatum
Cinnamon Fern
Osmundastrum cinnamomeum
Southern Lady Fern
Athyrium asplenoides
New York Fern
Parathelypteris noveboracensis
Christmas Fern
Polystichum acrostichoides
Pitch Pine
Pinus rigida
Eastern White Pine
Pinus strobus
Eastern Hemlock
Tsuga canadensis
Carolina Hemlock
Tsuga caroliniana
Tulip-tree
Liriodendron tulipifera
Fraser Magnolia
Magnolia fraseri
Sweet-shrub
Calycanthus floridus
Sassafras
Sassafras albidum
Jack-in-the-pulpit
Arisaema triphyllum
Common Wild Yam
Dioscorea villosa
Carolina Bellwort
Uvularia puberula
Straw-lily
Uvularia sessilifolia
Indian Cucumber-root
Medeola virginiana
Downy Rattlesnake-orchid
Goodyera pubescens
Cranefly Orchid
Tipularia discolor

Dwarf Crested Iris
Iris cristata
Hill Cane
Arundinaria appalachiana
Japanese Stilt-grass
Microstegium vimineum
Muscadine
Muscadinia rotundifolia
rotundifolia
Virginia-creeper
Parthenocissus quinquefolia
American Chestnut
Castanea dentata
White Oak
Quercus alba
Rock Chestnut Oak
Quercus montana
Red Oak
Quercus rubra
Bitternut Hickory
Carya cordiformis
Mockernut Hickory
Carya tomentosa
Sweet Birch
Betula lenta lenta
Primrose-leaf Violet
Viola primulifolia
Striped Maple
Acer pensylvanicum
Eastern Red Maple
Acer rubrum rubrum
Longbristle Smartweed
Persicaria longiseta
Snowy Hydrangea
Hydrangea radiata
Flowering Dogwood
Benthamidia florida
Spotted Touch-me-not
Impatiens capensis
Whorled Loosestrife
Lysimachia quadrifolia
Galax
Galax urceolata
Common Silverbell
Halesia tetraptera
Pipsissewa
Chimaphila maculata
Bear Huckleberry
Gaylussacia ursina
Appalachian Red Pinesap
Hypopitys lanuginosa
Mountain Laurel
Kalmia latifolia
Mountain Doghobble
Leucothoe fontanesiana
Sourwood
Oxydendrum arboreum

White Rosebay
Rhododendron maximum
Gorge Rhododendron
Rhododendron minus
Hillside Blueberry
Vaccinium pallidum
Summer Bluet
Houstonia purpurea
Appalachian Bluet
Houstonia serpyllifolia
Partridge-berry
Mitchella repens
Green Ash
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Northern Horsebalm
Collinsonia canadensis
Basil Bergamot
Monarda clinopodia
Skullcap
Scutellaria elliptica
American Holly
Ilex opaca
Common White Snakeroot
Ageratina altissima
Pale Indian-plantain
Arnoglossum atriplicifolium
Spanish Needles
Bidens bipinnata
Common Heart-leaved Aster
Eurybia divaricata
Curtis's Goldenrod
Solidago curtisii
Rigid Whitetop Aster
Symphotrichum retroflexum
Tall Rattlesnake-root
Nabalus altissimus

FAUNA

Green Stink Bug
Chinavia hilaris
Oak Shothole Leafminer Fly
Japanagromyza viridula
Black Swallowtail
Papilio polyxenes
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Pterourus glaucus
American Lady
Vanessa virginiensis
Monarch
Danaus plexippus
Pale Beauty
* *Campaea perlata*
Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura

Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Accipiter striatus

Cooper's Hawk

Accipiter cooperii

Red-shouldered Hawk

Buteo lineatus

Broad-winged Hawk

Buteo platypterus

Red-tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis

American Kestrel

Falco sparverius

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

Chimney Swift

Chaetura pelagica

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Archilochus colubris

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Melanerpes carolinus

Downy Woodpecker

Dryobates pubescens

Pileated Woodpecker

Dryocopus pileatus

Blue Jay

Cyanocitta cristata

American Crow

Corvus brachyrhynchos

Common Raven

Corvus corax

Carolina Chickadee

Poecile carolinensis

Carolina Wren

Thryothorus ludovicianus

Blue-headed Vireo

Vireo solitarius

Black-and-white Warbler

Mniotilta varia

Bay-breasted Warbler

Setophaga castanea

Tennessee Warbler

Leiothlypis peregrina

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Pheucticus ludovicianus

Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis

Eastern Towhee

Pipilo erythrophthalmus

Dark-eyed Junco

Junco hyemalis

American Goldfinch

Spinus tristis