



SCAN *South Carolina Association of Naturalists*

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

December 2021

Hello SCAN members!

In November, we had the good fortune to be granted access to Belle Baruch Research Institute at Hobcaw Barony. I was unable to attend, so Eastern Regional Director Jerry Bright and Vice President Dave Schuetrum provided their observations of the day.

From Jerry:

Our group met at the Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center for an overview and obligatory group photo. Attendees list from PayPal and received checks were Alison Smith, David Schuetrum, Ann Holstein, Johannes and Claudia Stratmann, Carol Gist, John Galbary, Lee Morris, Barbara Foster, Sharleen Johnson, Angela Valvasori, Ron Ahle, Ben Gregory, Jeff Kline, Greg Ross, Hal Giles, Cynthia Giles, Kathy Boyle, Caroline Eastman, Jerry Bright, Glenn and Donna Quattlebaum and Chris Ferguson.



The Baruch Center at Hobcaw Barony is used as a research and education center for colleges and schools. Bernard Baruch purchased the property as a retreat to enjoy with his friends and associates. His daughter purchased the property and preserved it as the research center we see today. Guests are welcome to visit their visitors center, but a tour of the grounds requires Baruch Institute staff. Bruce Pfirrmann and Jen Plunket were our leaders. See embedded photo.

After our orientation talk, we caravanned to the research lab where we enjoyed visiting a salt marsh at low tide. Our leaders kept our feet dry by placing planks in key wet spots. Indian shell rings were a highlight.

Lunch on the large porch in the research center was followed by a visit to Clambank Landing where our original plan was to depart to North Island. With our size group it was not feasible to take multiple 10-mile round trips to ferry us out and back. This was originally planned as a SCAN weekend outing but the hazards of Covid prevented that.



We got a good taste of the beauty and diversity on a perfect day and we need to return when we can safely do so. There are several cultural tours available and are described on the Hobcaw Barony website <https://hobcawbarony.org/visit/>. Meanwhile for those interested, there are tour boats in Georgetown that take folks out the North Island and return a few hours later. For a day trip SCAN could charter a boat just for us. Planning time is here for our 2022 outings...

From Dave:



We met at the Discovery Center and were given a briefing on where we would go and what to see by Bruce Pfirrmann and Beth Thomas.



Some of the gang getting ready to go. It was a pretty large group... I did not expect so many SCANNers to attend this trip.



Inside the Educational Center...the aquarium really caught my attention above the other things.



Different things to look at in the Center. Even a gift shop.



We soon headed out to a nearby trail into the marsh edge. We could not really have the run of the place and Bruce (with the Center), had to escort us along. As a general rule SCANNers like to wander at will.



The marsh is dotted with peninsulas and islands.



We followed a trail that was connected by open salt pans. Jen Plunket (with the Center), also helped answer questions as to what we were seeing. She also teaches with the Master Naturalist program. That's Benjamin Gregory with his critter net.



It was low tide that morning and that allowed us to get more out in the marsh.



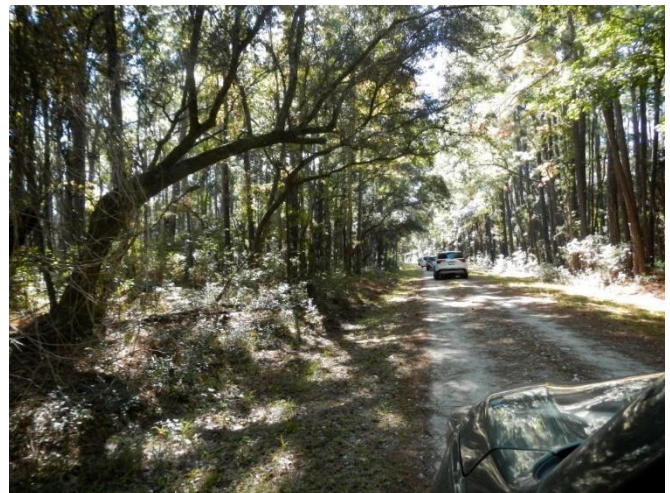
Poking along, we saw a Bald Eagle or two, fiddlers, Monarchs migrating, Flint Heads and host of other sights. It is a wild and scenic place.



Lunch on the porch.



We soon loaded up again for a trip further out into the marsh. We carpoled.



We headed to a place called Clambank Landing. Good Eastern Diamondback territory.



Heading way on out.



Over there is the end of the line. Clambank Landing where there is a boat ramp used by the researchers. See the canal?



Canals cut across the marsh. In its day, this place was a working rice plantation. Slave cabins and other structures are still evident and preserved. Shell middens from Native Americans are in the marsh too.



Bending down, Dick Watkins discovered a USGS marker that we need to look up.



Watching the tide come in and birding over at the research center. Jeff Kline gave me the stink eye for observing that the pigeons on the boardwalk had really long legs...



All in all, it was one of those nice days to be with friends at a place not many get to see.

Our December outing once again takes us near the coast. Jerry Bright and Jeff Kline have researched and scouted Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve. Jerry has even arranged for an SCDNR guide!

Please note that hunting is allowed on the property, so we are required to wear orange as a safety measure.

We're still taking suggestions for future SCAN destinations. Please let any of the officers or regional directors know if you have a recommendation. The more details, the better! You can also submit suggestions via the featured poll on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/116388725055968/permalink/4876083905753069/>

Our 2022 officer and regional director slate has some openings. Please reach out to Vice President Dave Schuetrum if you're interested in becoming the Secretary or serving as the Southern Regional Director:

See you soon!

Kim McManus

Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve

33.805770, -78.890813, Conway, SC 29526

Horry County

Saturday, December 11, 2021, 10:30 AM to ~4:00 PM

Lewis Ocean Bay is a South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Heritage Preserve and Wildlife Management Area located between Conway and North Myrtle Beach. The 10,427-acre preserve has 23 undisturbed Carolina Bays in its boundary.

The highest population of black bears in South Carolina are found here although we may only see signs of their activity. Expect to also see Red-cockaded Woodpeckers.

The star of the show is the flora including large populations of pitcher plants, Venus flytraps, orchids and other flora that grow in this unique landscape. Visit the SCDNR Managed Lands website for a more complete description.

<https://www2.dnr.sc.gov/ManagedLands/ManagedLand/ManagedLand/104>

SCDNR Botanist Keith Bradley will be our guide. Below is the DNR map modified to correspond with Keith's notes. Keith also provided an extensive vascular plant list. To view, download or print the list, visit this page:

<http://www.scnaturalists.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/LOB-Plant-List.pdf>

Directions:

From Conway, drive south on US 501 Business route for 1.7 miles.

Turn left on SC 90 to the east.

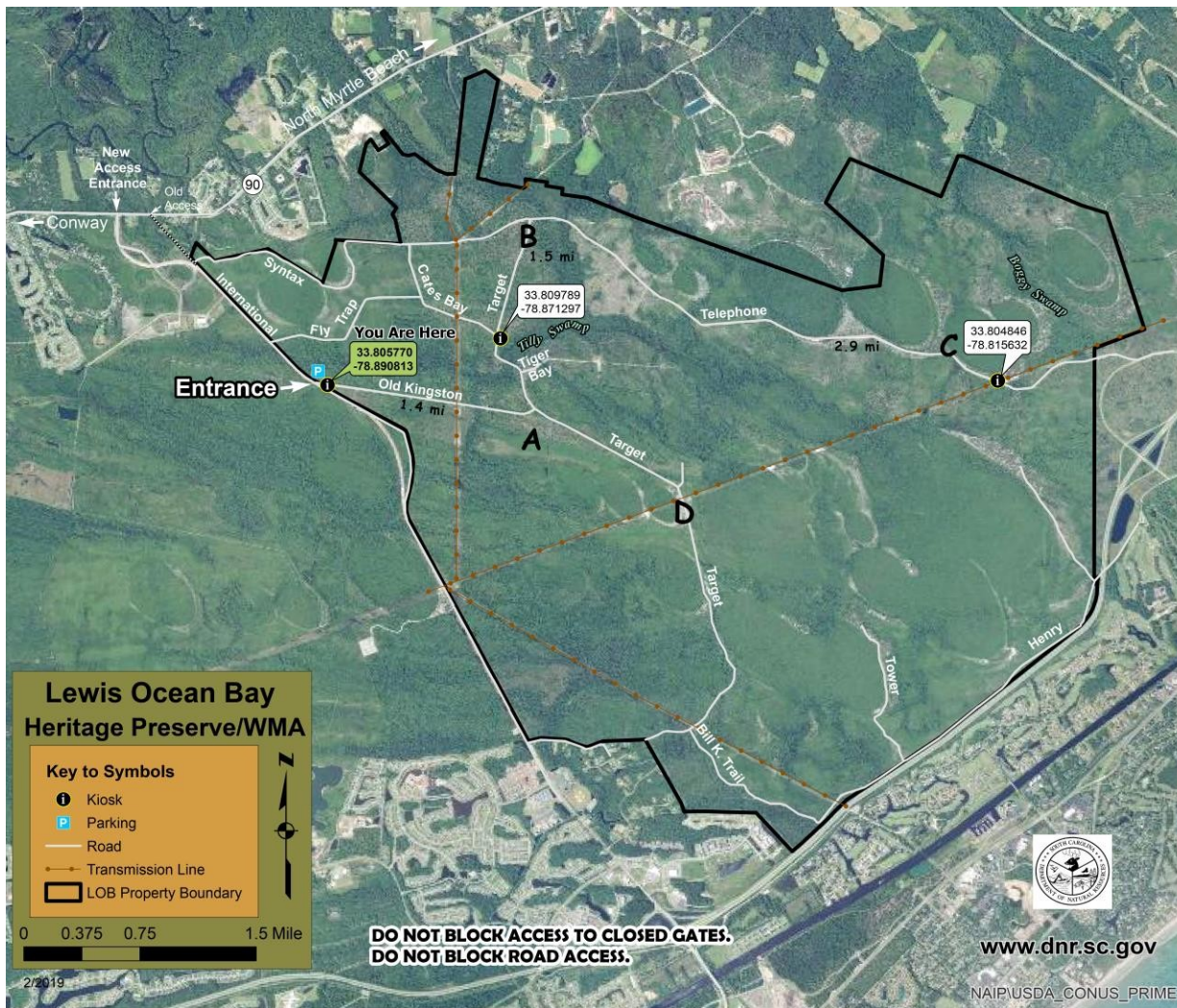
Drive 6.5 miles to International Dr, a 4-lane road that bisects Lewis Ocean Bay.

There is a light at the intersection (33.822075, -78.914291).

Go 1.5 miles on International Dr to the parking area (33.805770, -78.890813).

Note: Hunting is allowed on this property and orange is required to be worn.

There are no plans for dining after the outing but there are plenty of opportunities in Conway.



The NW and NE corners of the intersection of Old Kingston Road and Target Road are really nice and were prescribed burned early this year. You may see some *Gentiana autumnalis*. It's a diverse pine savannah with mesic to wet areas, and if you go north or west you get to blackwater creek floodplains. e.g. **33.803278, -78.868515**.

If you go north on Target Rd. you'll also get to more pine savanna, some more xeric, for example at the intersection of Target and Telephone Rd. **33.819345, -78.868828**.

I really like some of the Carolina Bay rims, representing a sharp transition from xeric sandhill to dense bay pocosin vegetation. The sandy roads around their perimeters can be very diverse. e.g. **33.809359, -78.822272**.

You could also go south on Target Rd. and see some nice xeric bay rims, e.g. **33.793890, -78.851396**.

**Hobcaw Barony
Georgetown Co., SC
November 13, 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 tomjones@scan.org
Please indicate exactly to which flora/fauna list you are referring. Thank you.

FLORA

Southern Red Cedar
Juniperus silicicola
Eastern Red Cedar
Juniperus virginiana
Mound-lily Yucca
Yucca gloriosa
Black Needle Rush
Juncus roemerianus
Common Bushy Bluestem
Andropogon glomeratus
Bitter Seabeach Grass
Panicum amarum
Sweet Gum
Liquidambar styraciflua
Live Oak
Quercus virginiana
Popcorn Tree
Triadica sebifera
Hercules'-club
Zanthoxylum clava-herculis
Carolina Sea-lavender
Limonium carolinianum
Salt-marsh Water-hemp
Amaranthus cannabinus
Woody Glasswort
Salicornia ambigua
Samphire
Salicornia virginica
Yaupon
Ilex vomitoria
Silverling
Baccharis halimifolia
Silver Seaside Oxeye
Borrchia frutescens
Perennial Salt-marsh Aster
Symphotrichum tenuifolium

FAUNA

Marsh Periwinkle
Littorina irrorata
Eastern Mudsnail
Ilyanassa obsoleta

Eastern Oyster
Crassostrea virginica
Atlantic Sand Fiddler Crab
Uca pugilator
Field Cricket
Gryllus sp.
Southern Green Stink Bug
Nezara viridula
Common Green Stink Bug
Chinavia hilaris
Leaf-footed Bug
Leptoglossus phyllopus
Red Imported Fire Ant
Solenopsis invicta
Margined Calligrapher
Toxomerus marginatus
Northern Plushback
* *Palpada vinetorum*
Cloudless Sulphur
Phoebis sennae
Little Yellow
Pyrisitia lisa
Gulf Fritillary
Dione vanillae
Common Buckeye
Junonia coenia
Monarch
Danaus plexippus
Long-tailed Skipper
Urbanus proteus
Great Blue Heron
Ardea herodias
Wood Stork
Mycteria americana
Black Vulture
Coragyps atratus
Bald Eagle
Haliaeetus leucocephalus
Belted Kingfisher
Megaceryle alcyon
Song Sparrow
Melospiza melodia
Saltmarsh Sparrow
Ammodramus caudacuta
Virginia Opossum (tracks)
Didelphis virginiana
American Raccoon (tracks)
Procyon lotor
White-tailed Deer (tracks)
Odocoileus virginianus