



February 2021

Hello All!

We had a double-decker January with our virtual version of an annual meeting on the 21st and an outing to Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve on the 23rd.

2021 Annual Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the officers agreed that an indoor meeting was not feasible this year. We opted to hold a quick Zoom meeting to discuss the usual business topics. Many thanks to those who took the time to join us online.



Treasurer Angela Valvasari provided the treasurer's report. Our expenditures don't exceed our revenue, so we're in good shape!

Vice President Dave Schuetrum presented the slate of officers. By unanimous agreement, the slate was accepted. The 2021 officers and regional directors are:

- **President** – Kim McManus
- **Vice President** – Dave Schuetrum
- **Secretary** – Mary Garland Douglass
- **Treasurer** – Angela Valvasari
- **Historian** – Gordon Murphy
- **Database Manager** – Tom Jones
- **Northern Regional Director** – Rita Zollinger
- **Western Regional Director** – Lee Morris
- **Central Regional Directors** – Dave and Marty Kastner
- **Eastern Regional Directors** – Jeff Kline and Jerry Bright
- **Southern Regional Director** – Marcus Sizemore

Old and new business items were discussed.

- Lee Morris reported that the book project has been slightly delayed, but the committee is making progress. With our 50th anniversary coming up in 2026, we should start considering how we want to celebrate and whether a special publication should be created to mark the occasion.
- Database Manager Tom Jones is in the process of updating our flora fauna database to align with changes in species names.
- A nametag committee was formed to discuss replacing our traditional button nametags with a different style of identification. Dave Schuetrum will lead the effort with Ron Ahle and Paul Kalbach providing support. They will come up with a few ideas and report back to the officers.

- By informal agreement, it was decided that our May outing would be held on the 5th Saturday of the month this year to align with Memorial Day Weekend and the Under a Lowcountry Moon camping trip.
- Paul Kalbach, Angela Valvasari and I worked on implementing an online payment option for member dues. It is live on the scnaturalists.org website under Membership. Be sure to pay your 2021 dues via check or the new online option if you haven't done so already!
- Members are reminded that the mission of SCAN is to gather and share natural history information. The way we do that is through our species lists. After each outing, be sure to submit your species list to Tom Jones in a written format so they can be added to our database. If you have photos of specimens that need identification, please utilize our Facebook page, iNaturalist or other online identification group, then share the results with Tom.

Our final bit of business was to unveil the 2021 Field Trip Agenda. We have some great trips planned! Be sure to keep an eye on the website, Facebook page or monthly newsletters for details or last-minute changes.

- January 23: **Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve**, Central
- February 27: **Grove Plantation**, Southern
- March 27: **Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve and WMA**, Western
- April 24: **Woods Ferry Recreational Area**, Northern
- May 28 – 31: **Hell Hole Swamp and Washo Preserve**, Southern
- June 26: **Ninety Six National Historic Site**, Western
- July 24: **Nine Times Preserve**, Western
- August 28: **Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve and 12,000 Year History Park**, Central
- September 25: **Caesar's Head State Park/ Hawk Watch**, Northern
- October 23: **Santee State Park**, Central
- November 13: **Belle Baruch**, Eastern
- December 11: **Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve**, Eastern
- Jan 22, '22: **Annual Meeting**

After the business portion of the meeting concluded, we stayed online a bit longer, reminiscing about highlights from our 2020 trips. We met some interesting characters, learned new stream-crossing skills, found cool new species, navigated muddy roads and forged new friendships. I look forward to more of the same in 2021!



January Outing

Thanks to some quick thinking and planning by Jerry Bright and Dave Schuetrum, we were able to organize a fantastic trip to Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve to kick off our 2021 adventures. The day was bright and crisp, with temperatures starting around 50°F and climbing to almost 60°F in the afternoon. The turnout was terrific, with many new faces joining the group.



Attendees included:

Alison Smith	Daniel Henley	Jerry Bright	Marcie Wedding
Amy Allen	Dave Schuetrum	Jim Boylston	Paul Kalbach
Bill Wedding	Dick Watkins	Joe Long	Phillip Harpootlian
Bob Askins	Dwight Moffitt	Johannes Stratman	Ron Ahle
Bob Radcliff	Greg Ross	Kate Hartley	Scott Wietecha
LaBruce Alexander	Hal Giles	Kelsey Havird	Sharleen Johnson
Carol Jaworski	Helen Meacham	Kevin Curtis	Sharon Farris Yomtob
Caroline Eastman	Hunter Young	Kim McManus	Stuart Greeter
Charles Horn	James Wilson	Lee Morris	Todd Beasley
Claudia Stratman	Jean Prothro	Lynda Curtis	Todd Johnston
Cynthia Giles	Jeff Kline	Mandy Johnson	Tom Austin

During our kickoff meeting, Hunter Young, a Region 3 Heritage Preserve Biologist with the SC Department of Natural Resources, provided an overview of the Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve and a general description of the available, accessible trails. Dick Watkins added a bit of history about the Bluffs property, then went on to describe the nearby Arant Tract. We were encouraged to explore both properties.

Typical of SCAN, folks scattered in every available direction. My group explored the trail along the Congaree River first. The trail reasonably easy to navigate, to a point. High waters had washed part of the trail away. The more cautious among us turned back rather than try to scramble up the steep slope to the road. A few brave adventurers went cross-country and made it up the hill.



L to R: Congaree River, field by Education Center, ravine area

As we came back up off the trail, our group splintered even more. Some folks went back to the education center to eat lunch and meet up with other participants. I went with the group that headed off into the pine forest. We quickly discovered the Carroll Cemetery and spent a few minutes respectfully reading the tombstones. We rambled on and found ourselves in ravine with several nice wooden bridges allowing easy crossing of the small creek that flowed through the area.



L to R: White-throated Sparrow, Dumortier's Liverwort, Longleaf Pine

A large group headed directly to the Arant Tract. Dr. Charles Horn, a professor of biology at Newberry College, was in the group and did a marvelous job of pointing out interesting species like the Chinquapin Chestnut Tree and the rare May White Azaleas. Dave Schuetrum was with the group and provided a few photos.



L to R: Chinquapin nut pods, exploring the bluff, Shortleaf Pine dot the landscape
Photo Credit: Dave Schuetrum

Dick Watkins was kind enough to provide a description of the property, a few examples of the interesting species that have been discovered there, and some great news about future studies.

While visiting Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve, we were invited to visit the Arant tract – 400 acres east of the Heritage Preserve. Three generations of the Arant family have owned this tract since 1949. Current owners – Sam Arant and Kam Arant – are working to protect their tract with a conservation easement.

Steep, high, north-facing bluffs, near the Congaree riverfront, are the Arant tract's most spectacular feature. Arant bluff elevation is approximately 220 feet MSL, compared to floodplain elevation lower than 90 feet MSL. Atop the bluffs, spectacular views look upriver, downriver, and northward over Congaree National Park. An old road descends the bluff via switchbacks to an old landing at the river. A former river meander is now a backwater cove.

Charles Horn (Newberry College) has found May-White, a rare native azalea, at the Arant tract. Bert Pittman (formerly SCDNR) has found Silverleaf Hydrangea, associated with the Southern Appalachians. Tim Evans, with Audubon South Carolina, is impressed by mature Shortleaf Pines. Also, large American Beeches attract attention.

Unknown to us at the time of our Jan. 23 field trip, a *Castanea* journal article had been published in 1977, titled "The Vascular Flora of Two North-facing Bluffs in Calhoun County, South Carolina." <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4032873> . The Arant tract was one of the study sites in 1975. (Dr. James W. Fitzpatrick, one of the researchers/authors, became a new SCAN member in February 2021.)

SCAN's Jan. 23 field trip has been followed by many emails in February, advocating that new, in-depth botanical studies of Congaree River Bluffs should be conducted. Planning is underway, initiated by Charles Horn.

We look forward to learning more about the property as the studies progress!

Our next outing will be on February 27. We're headed to Grove Plantation, which is part of the Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge in Charleston County. The basin is named for the three major rivers flowing through it: the Ashepoo, Combahee and South Edisto. One of the largest undeveloped wetland ecosystems on the Atlantic Coast, this intricate network of marshes, tidal creeks uplands and wetlands provides diverse habitat for a stunning array of flora and fauna. Some species of interest include the Bald Eagle, Wood Stork, Black Rail, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Shortnose Sturgeon and American Alligator.

Marcus Sizemore will be leading our on-foot excursion. For those who would like a driving alternative for exploring the ACE Basin area, please see page 2 of the accompanying SC Department of Natural Resources brochure. Disclaimer – I have not driven the route, so I cannot speak to road conditions or accessibility at this time!

Please remember that as of January 14, 2021, the CDC guidelines for outdoor activities are to stay at least 6 feet apart from people who don't live with you. If that is not feasible, wear your mask.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

See you soon!

Kim McManus

Grove Plantation – Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin NWR

8675 Willtown Road, Hollywood, SC 29449

Charleston County

Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM

This month, we'll be visiting Grove Plantation, situated within the Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The NWR is just under 12,000 acres while the ACE Basin overall encompasses more than 350,000 acres. Grove Plantation is open to the public with limited parking near the gate. We'll be meeting at the gate because on the weekends it is closed (likely to deter vandals and other miscreants). From the gate, it's a fairly easy, approximately 1/2-mile walk to the Grove Plantation house. Built originally in 1828, the house itself has changed ownership several times and was occupied by Confederate troops during the Civil War. Grove is one of the few antebellum mansions in the ACE Basin area to have survived the Civil War. It was finally purchased along with the surrounding properties by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 1992.

Behind the house is where the fun begins. You'll want to bring your binoculars as we'll walk down an assortment of dikes that hold varying amounts of water throughout the year to attract waterfowl and other wading birds. This area is open to hunting on Fridays during duck season so while we won't see any hunters, the ducks may be a little spooked from the day before. Leaving the dikes, there are some freshwater and brackish wetlands (old rice fields) along some of the perimeter roads. Further inland and back towards the entrance are a variety of bottomland hardwood swamps waiting to be explored. This area has seen a lot of rain recently and may be muddy in places. Most of the roads are hard packed but a few of the dikes and lower roads may be a little tough for some folks.

Lastly, there are bathrooms found on-site (yay!) located near the Grove Plantation House (now the USFWS headquarters). You can thank the USFWS for some lovely directions and more information on its history.

Directions:

From Hwy. 17, take SC 174 (Signs will read "Edisto Beach" and "Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge").

Stay on SC 174 through Adams Run (174 will make a right turn in Adams Run).

At the intersection with the flashing light, turn right on to Willtown Road.

Go approximately 2 miles, entrance road will be on the left.

Office is located in the Plantation House approximately 2 miles down gravel road.

Marcus Sizemore
Southern Regional Director

Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve
Calhoun Co., SC
January 23, 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.

LICHENS

Cladonia sp.

FLORA

Dumortier's Liverwort

* *Dumortiera hirsuta*

Fern Moss

Thuidium delicatulum

Grape Fern

Sceptridium sp.

Northern Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum pedatum

Bracken

Pteridium aquilinum

Ebony Spleenwort

Asplenium platyneuron

Christmas Fern

Polystichum acrostichoides

Resurrection Fern

Pleopeltis michauxiana

Shortleaf Pine

Pinus echinata

Slash Pine

Pinus elliottii elliotii

Longleaf Pine

Pinus palustris

Loblolly Pine

Pinus taeda

Wild Ginger

Asarum sp.

Little Brown Jug

Hexastylis arifolia

Tulip-tree

Liriodendron tulipifera

Common Pawpaw

Asimina triloba

Catbrier

Smilax bona-nox bona-nox

Common Greenbrier

Smilax rotundifolia

Jackson-brier

Smilax smallii

Cranefly Orchid

Tipularia discolor

Liriope

Liriope muscari

Spiderwort

Tradescantia sp.

Spanish-moss

Tillandsia usneoides

Common Rush

Juncus effusus solutus

Wood-rush

Luzula sp.

Thicket Sedge

* *Carex abscondita*

Sedge

Carex sp.

Splitbeard Bluestem

Andropogon ternarius

Old-field Broomstraw

Andropogon virginicus

Switch Cane

Arundinaria tecta

River Oats

Chasmanthium latifolium

Slender Spikegrass

Chasmanthium laxum

Longleaf Spikegrass

Chasmanthium sessiliflorum

Poverty Oat-grass

Danthonia spicata

Witchgrass

Dichanthelium dichotomum

Witchgrass

Dichanthelium sp.

Common Eastern Wild-rye

Elymus virginicus

Short-spurred Corydalis

Corydalis flavula

Bloodroot

Sanguinaria canadensis

Sweet Autumn Clematis

Clematis terniflora

Hooked Buttercup

Ranunculus recurvatus recurvatus

Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis

Sweet Gum

Liquidambar styraciflua

Witch-hazel

Hamamelis virginiana

American Alumroot

Heuchera americana

Muscadine

Muscadinia rotundifolia rotundifolia

Grape

Vitis sp.

White Clover

Trifolium repens

White Avens

Geum canadense

Mock Strawberry

Potentilla indica

Carolina Laurel Cherry

Prunus caroliniana

Sand Blackberry

Rubus cuneifolius

Pennsylvania Blackberry

Rubus pensilvanicus

Southern Dewberry

Rubus trivialis

Winged Elm

Ulmus alata

American Elm

Ulmus americana

Hackberry

Celtis sp.

Dwarf Stinging Nettle

Urtica chamaedryoides

Common Chinquapin

Castanea pumila

American Beech

Fagus grandifolia

White Oak

Quercus alba

Southern Red Oak

Quercus falcata

Swamp Chestnut Oak

Quercus michauxii

Water Oak

Quercus nigra

Black Oak

Quercus velutina

Common Wax-myrtle

Morella cerifera

Water Hickory

Carya aquatica

Mockernut Hickory

Carya tomentosa

American Hornbeam

Carpinus caroliniana

American Hop-hornbeam

Ostrya virginiana

Hearts-a-burstin'-with-love

Euonymus americanus

St. Andrew's Cross

Hypericum hypericoides

Eastern Poison Ivy

Toxicodendron radicans radicans

Eastern Box Elder

Acer negundo negundo

Eastern Red Maple

Acer rubrum rubrum

Red Buckeye

Aesculus pavia pavia

Bittercress
Cardamine sp.
Common Chickweed
Stellaria media
Prickly-pear
Opuntia mesacantha mesacantha
Blackgum
Nyssa sylvatica
Flowering Dogwood
Benthamidia florida
American Persimmon
Diospyros virginiana
Sweetleaf
Symplocos tinctoria
Pipsissewa
Chimaphila maculata
Trailing Arbutus
Epigaea repens
Mountain Laurel
Kalmia latifolia
Sourwood
Oxydendrum arboreum
Piedmont Azalea
Rhododendron canescens
May White Azalea
Rhododendron eastmanii
Sparkleberry
Vaccinium arboreum
Cleavers
Galium aparine
Bedstraw
Galium sp.
Partridge-berry
Mitchella repens
Carolina Jessamine
Gelsemium sempervirens
Eastern Baby-Blue-eyes
Nemophila aphylla
Ash
Fraxinus sp.
Glossy Privet
Ligustrum lucidum
Chinese Privet
Ligustrum sinense
Woolly Mullein
Verbascum thapsus thapsus
American Mistletoe
Phoradendron leucarpum
leucarpum
Cross-vine
Bignonia capreolata
Beautyberry
Callicarpa americana
Perilla
Perilla frutescens
Common Blue Curls
Trichostema dichotomum
American Holly
Ilex opaca
Elephant's-foot
Elephantopus sp.

Common Dog-fennel
Eupatorium capillifolium
Butterweed
Packera glabella
Grass-leaved Golden-aster
Pityopsis graminifolia
Grass-leaved Golden-aster
Pityopsis sp.
Axillary Goldenrod
Solidago caesia caesia
Goldenrod
Solidago sp.
Wingstem
Verbesina sp.
Japanese Honeysuckle
Lonicera japonica
Sanicle
Sanicula canadensis
Bearded Tooth
Hericium erinaceus
Crowded Parchment
Stereum complicatum
Red Russula
Russula sp.

FAUNA

Greenhouse Millipede
Oxidus gracilis
Wolf Spider
Varacosa avara
Oak Girdler Beetle
Oncideres quercus
Cloudless Sulphur
Phoebis sennae
Long-tailed Skipper
Urbanus proteus
Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura
Black Vulture
Coragyps atratus
Bald Eagle
Haliaeetus leucocephalus
Red-tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis
American Kestrel
Falco sparverius
Mourning Dove
Zenaida macroura
Barred Owl
Strix varia
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus
Northern Flicker
Colaptes auratus
Downy Woodpecker
Dryobates pubescens
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Sphyrapicus varius
Pileated Woodpecker
Dryocopus pileatus

Eastern Phoebe
Sayornis phoebe
Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata
American Crow
Corvus brachyrhynchos
Tufted Titmouse
Baeolophus bicolor
Carolina Chickadee
Poecile carolinensis
White-breasted Nuthatch
Sitta carolinensis
House Wren
Troglodytes aedon
Winter Wren
Troglodytes hiemalis
Carolina Wren
Thryothorus ludovicianus
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Regulus satrapa
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Regulus calendula
Eastern Bluebird
Sialia sialis
American Robin
Turdus migratorius
Gray Catbird
Dumetella carolinensis
Brown Thrasher
Toxostoma rufum
White-eyed Vireo
Vireo griseus
Blue-headed Vireo
Vireo solitarius
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Setophaga coronata
Pine Warbler
Setophaga pinus
Northern Cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis
Eastern Towhee
Pipilo erythrophthalmus
Savannah Sparrow
Passerculus sandwichensis
Song Sparrow
Melospiza melodia
Chipping Sparrow
Spizella passerina
Dark-eyed Junco
Junco hyemalis
White-throated Sparrow
Zonotrichia albicollis
Red-winged Blackbird
Agelaius phoeniceus
American Goldfinch
Spinus tristis
Nine-banded Armadillo
Dasyurus novemcinctus
Eastern Gray Squirrel
Sciurus carolinensis
Hispid Cotton Rat
Sigmodon hispidus

American Raccoon

Procyon lotor

Feral Pig

Sus scrofa

White-tailed Deer

Odocoileus virginianus