



# SCAN *South Carolina Association of Naturalists*

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

May 2021

Hello SCAN members!

Our April outing to Woods Ferry Recreation Area in Carlisle, SC was quite the soaking soodle! Eight hardy explorers braved temperatures in the low 50ies and light to steady rain to document the beauty of this multi-use property.



Attendees included:

David Schuetrum  
Hugh Martin

Joe Long  
Kim McManus

Lee Morris  
Paul Kalbach

Rita Zollinger  
Terri Martin

After our initial orientation gathering under the kiosk shelter, the group headed to a small creek that runs into Clark's Creek and eventually the Broad River. We spent the morning walking along the creek, crossing back and forth whenever shallow sections allowed for safe transit. Wide expanses of mayapple covered the area, along with flowering buckeyes. Grasses and sedges added to the lush green carpet of plants.



*L to R: mayapple, Hugh and Lee modeling the latest in foul weather gear, a clump of sedge*

Eventually, we found an area that wasn't too steep, and we scrambled our way up a small slope to the camping area. Woods Ferry has extensive equestrian trails, and each campsite has its own small paddock for horses. We followed the road around this area and made our way back to the picnic shelter for lunch. Posted at the entrance to the shelter was a sign showing the highest-known floodwater mark for the area.



*L to R: View of the creekside slope, Paul showing the floodwater depth, wild comfrey*

After a rejuvenating lunch and a few wardrobe adjustments to try and alleviate a tiny bit of the cold and wet, we walked along the banks of the Broad River. The Forest Service is still working to remove the sand and silt that flooding pushed up over the fishing platforms, sidewalks and boat ramp. Past the boat ramp, we explored a tiny segment of the interlacing trails that weave through the wooded floodplain, upland pine woods and hardwood forests.



*L to R: Broad River, flowering Dogwood, forest trail*

We reconvened in the parking lot, made sure we accounted for all participants, then split up again. The group that explored the Neal Shoals Dam area earlier in the morning headed home while the rest of us drove a few miles down the road to check it out. The rain finally stopped, and we were able to walk around without the constant pattering on our heads!

It quickly became apparent that the area was a good fishing spot and there were short trails to the water in several spots. We were able to access views from above and below the dam. The highlight was Paul finding an Eastern Worm Snake.



*L to R: Neal Shoals Dam, Eastern Worm Snake, Broad River below the dam*

Thanks to Rita for scouting the area and ensuring we would be able to access the location after the floods. A great big high-five to all the folks who persisted despite the soggy weather and helped us document the species of this interesting Recreation Area.

Our May adventure has two components: a day trip to Washo Reserve and a camping weekend in the Francis Marion National Forest.

On Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, we'll explore Washo Reserve in Charleston County, a 1,040-acre natural area owned by The Nature Conservancy and co-managed with the SC Department of Natural Resources.

From Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> through Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, we'll participate in the annual 'Under a Low Country Moon' interpretive weekend. This is a loosely organized gathering where everyone is encouraged to come out and enjoy some relaxed primitive camping and road cruising for snakes, turtles and anything else that catches our eye.

Whether or you are day-tripping or weekend camping, we hope you'll join us at 10:30 am Saturday at Washo Reserve for our organizational gathering and exploration of the area. NOTE: we'll meet at Washo Reserve, not the Hell Hole Campground! This will allow us to spend more time as a group at Washo Reserve.

We hope you'll join us!

*Kim McManus*

**Washo Reserve**  
**Charleston County, SC**  
**May 29, 2021 10:30 am**

Regional Director: Marcus Sizemore

In conjunction with the annual Hell Hole trip in Francis Marion National Forest, we'll be visiting Washo Reserve on Saturday, May 29th. The Washo Reserve is approximately 1,040 acres and owned by the Nature Conservancy and co-managed with the SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). Washo is surrounded by the 24,000-acre Santee Coastal Reserve, last visited by SCAN in February 2019. The Washo Reserve includes a 200-year-old freshwater cypress lake and a cypress-gum swamp. This area contains one of the oldest known wading bird rookeries in continuous use in North America. Egrets and wood storks nest there in large numbers.

The property was once part of a network of plantations managed for rice fields. The Civil War and an 1898 hurricane brought an end to that era. The Santee Gun Club was founded the same year. Eventually, the Club expanded its Charleston County land holdings. Included in the thousands of acres was Washo Reserve. In 1974, the Club donated over 24,000 acres to The Nature Conservancy. The Conservancy in turn deeded most of the land to SCDNR but retained the most ecologically sensitive area. The deeded land became Santee Coastal Reserve and the retained area Washo Reserve.

In 2013, the Nature Conservancy, SCDNR, and volunteers installed a new water control structure to designed to manipulate water levels and manage new cypress growth. New cypress trees were planted, many within dead cypress stumps. An aquatic-approved herbicide was applied to the aquatic weeds to increase the amount of open water around the wood stork nests.

Wood storks typically nest from March until September so we should be able to see a few wood storks out there if they're cooperative amongst other wading birds. Bring your zoom lenses or binoculars and lots of bug spray! Just like Hell Hole, long pants and long sleeves are strongly recommended this time of year. There is an approximately 2-mile loop trail that includes an 800-foot boardwalk. The path is relatively easy but the boardwalk does have a few boards that appear to be a little "soft" so watch your footing if you venture out on it.

Following the visit to Washo Reserve, some may prefer to venture out into the 24,000-acre Santee Coastal Reserve while others may prefer to explore our favorite portions of the Francis Marion National Forest that we have not seen in a year (or two).

There will be no organized dinner, but participants are encouraged to bring their own food to the Hell Hole Campground and enjoy a relaxed evening around the campfire.

**Directions:**

Washo Reserve

Lat: 33.153815

Long: -79.366758

**From Mount Pleasant**, take US17N towards McClellanville for approximately 32 miles  
Take a slight Right onto S Santee Rd, travel for approximately 2.8 miles  
Turn Right onto Santee Gun Club Road (mostly dirt)  
Once on Santee Gun Club Road, travel for approximately 2.5 miles.

**From Georgetown**, take US17S for approximately 16.5 miles.  
Turn left onto S. Santee Rd, continue down S Santee Rd for approximately 1.5 mile.  
Turn left onto Santee Gun Club Rd and travel for approximately 2.5 miles.

Parking is available to the left just past the Santee Coastal Campground by the open fields.

**Francis Marion National Forest / Hell Hole Swamp**  
**Berkeley County, SC**  
**May 27 - 31, 2021**

Trip coordinator: Kim McManus

This will be SCAN's ninth year taking part in the annual 'Under a Low Country Moon' interpretive weekend. Under a Low Country Moon (ULCM) is comprised of a group of naturalists who have met on Memorial Day weekend annually since 2001. The main activity is road cruising for snakes, with stops for on-foot exploration of pitcher plant bogs, cypress swamps and pine forests. There are a few ponds and creeks that can be traversed in a kayak or canoe. Evening activities include road cruising for frogs, star gazing, and marshmallow roasting.

ULCM members will start setting up camp on Thursday and the last folks don't leave until Monday. The campground is simply a field so plan to pack in and pack out everything you need. The closest hotels are approximately 30 minutes away in Moncks Corner. Feel free to join in the fun for as long as you like!

There will be no communal food or supplies this year, so please plan accordingly. Bring lots of water! It's going to be hot.

Restroom facilities are ~15 minutes away in Jamestown at the gas station (BP/Kangaroo).

**Directions:**

Forest Road 158 / Hell Hole Road

33°10'41.7"N 79°45'59.4"W

33.178249, -79.766493

From the Interstate:

1. From 1-26E, take exit 194 towards Road 16 / Jedburg / Pinopolis
2. Turn LEFT on Jedburg Rd and go 5.1 miles.
3. Turn RIGHT on US-176E and go 0.4 miles.
4. Turn LEFT on Black Tom Road / State Road S-8-467 and go 5.7 miles.
5. Keep RIGHT to continue on State Road S-8-413 and go 0.2 miles.
6. Turn LEFT at the 2nd cross street onto US-17 Alt N / South Live Oak Drive and go 5.5 miles.
7. Use the left 2 lanes to turn slightly LEFT onto US-17 Alt N / US-52 W / N US Hwy 52 and go 1.9 miles.
8. Take a slight RIGHT onto US-17 Alt N and go 5.6 miles.
9. Turn RIGHT onto Bethera Road / State Road S-8-48.
10. After 0.2 miles, continue on Bethera Road and go 5.4 miles.
11. Turn RIGHT onto SC-41 S and go 2.5 miles.
12. Turn LEFT onto Hell Hole Road / Forest Road 158.
13. Take the first RIGHT into the campground.

From Charleston, SC to Hell Hole Road, Huger, SC 29450

1. Merge onto US-17 N / Arthur Ravenel Jr Bridge / Septima Clark Pkwy via the ramp to Mt Pleasant
2. At the end of the bridge, stay LEFT to continue on US-17 N / N Hwy 17 and go 7.7 miles.
3. Use the left 2 lanes to turn LEFT onto SC-41 N and go 23.2 miles.
4. Turn RIGHT onto Hell Hole Road / Forest Road 158.
5. Take the first RIGHT into the campground.

**Woods Ferry Recreation Area  
Chester Co., SC  
April 24, 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**

**Broom Moss**

*Dicranum* sp.

**Tree-skirt Moss**

*Pseudanomodon attenuatus*

**Rattlesnake Fern**

*Botrypus virginianus*

**Northern Maidenhair Fern**

*Adiantum pedatum*

**Ebony Spleenwort**

*Asplenium platyneuron*

**Christmas Fern**

*Polystichum acrostichoides*

**Shortleaf Pine**

*Pinus echinata*

**Eastern Red Cedar**

*Juniperus virginiana*

**Bald-cypress**

*Taxodium distichum*

**Little Brown Jug**

*Hexastylis arifolia*

**Tulip-tree**

*Liriodendron tulipifera*

**Sassafras**

*Sassafras albidum*

**Perfoliate Bellwort**

*Uvularia perfoliata*

**Onion**

*Allium* sp.

**Common Atamasco-lily**

*Zephyranthes atamasco*

**May-apple**

*Podophyllum peltatum*

**Tall Buttercup**

\* *Ranunculus acris*

**Rue-anemone**

*Thalictrum thalictroides*

**Sycamore**

*Platanus occidentalis*

**Sweet Gum**

*Liquidambar styraciflua*

**Muscadine**

*Muscadinia rotundifolia*  
*rotundifolia*

**Grape**

*Vitis* sp.

**Virginia-creeper**

*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

**Mimosa**

*Albizia julibrissin*

**Eastern Redbud**

*Cercis canadensis*

**Oriental Silverleaf**

*Elaeagnus umbellata*

**American Beech**

*Fagus grandifolia*

**Water Oak**

*Quercus nigra*

**Tag Alder**

*Alnus serrulata*

**Violet Wood-sorrel**

*Oxalis violacea*

**Winged Sumac**

*Rhus copallinum*

**Eastern Poison Ivy**

*Toxicodendron radicans radicans*

**Eastern Red Maple**

*Acer rubrum rubrum*

**Painted Buckeye**

*Aesculus sylvatica*

**South Carolina Wild-pink**

*Silene caroliniana caroliniana*

**Prickly-pear**

*Opuntia mesacantha mesacantha*

**Flowering Dogwood**

*Benthamidia florida*

**American Persimmon**

*Diospyros virginiana*

**Pipsissewa**

*Chimaphila maculata*

**Southern Hound's-tongue**

*Andersonglossum virginianum*

**Common Toadflax**

*Linaria canadensis*

**English Plantain**

*Plantago lanceolata*

**Cross-vine**

*Bignonia capreolata*

**Lyreleaf Sage**

*Salvia lyrata*

**American Holly**

*Ilex opaca*

**Green-and-gold**

*Chrysogonum virginianum*

**Common Yellow Thistle**

*Cirsium horridulum horridulum*

**Lobed Coreopsis**

*Coreopsis auriculata*

**Common Dog-fennel**

*Eupatorium capillifolium*

**Veiny Hawkweed**

*Hieracium venosum*

**Common Dandelion**

*Taraxacum officinale*

**Common Elderberry**

*Sambucus canadensis*

**Japanese Honeysuckle**

*Lonicera japonica*

**Coral Honeysuckle**

*Lonicera sempervirens*

**Snakeroot**

*Sanicula* sp.

**Turkey-tail**

*Trametes versicolor*

**FAUNA**

**Changeable Mantleslug**

*Megapallifera mutabilis*

**Carolina Mantleslug**

*Philomycus carolinianus*

**White-lip Globe**

*Mesodon thyroidus*

**Flat-backed Millipede**

*Apheloria* sp.

**Spirobolid Millipede**

*Narceus americanus*

**Bowl-and-doily Spider**

*Frontinella pyramitela*

**Orchard Orbweaver**

*Leucauge venusta*

**Orange Jumper**

*Paraphidippus aurantius*

**Wool-sower Gall (wasp)**

*Callirhytis seminator*

**Oak Stag Beetle**

*Platycerus quercus*

**Patent-leather Beetle**

*Odontotaenius disjunctus*

**Blind Elater**

*Alaus myops*

**Eastern Eyed Elater**

*Alaus oculatus*

**Forest Tent Caterpillar**

*Malacosoma disstria*

**Luna Moth**

*Actias luna*

**Southern Tussock Moth**

\* *Dasychira meridionalis*

**Marbled Salamander**

*Ambystoma opacum*

**Green Anole**

*Anolis carolinensis*

**Common Five-lined Skink**

*Plestiodon fasciatus*

**Ground Skink**

*Scincella lateralis*

**Eastern Worm Snake**

*Carphophis amoenus*

**Great Blue Heron**

*Ardea herodias*

**Spotted Sandpiper**

*Actitis macularius*

**Black Vulture**

*Coragyps atratus*

**Wild Turkey**

*Meleagris gallopavo*

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**

*Melanerpes carolinus*

**Pileated Woodpecker**

*Dryocopus pileatus*

**American Crow**

*Corvus brachyrhynchos*

**Summer Tanager**

*Piranga rubra*