



SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS

SCAN

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Columbia, SC 29224
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November 2023

November (so far) has brought us some frost and freezing mornings but also warm sunny days with dry weather that invites us to get out in the woods. We continue to lose around two minutes of sunlight with each day. We now have good star gazing weather.

October's ramble was to the Wateree Passage of the Palmetto Trail in Sumter County. Our Regional Guides were Dave and Marty Kastner. Quite the interesting area! Pictures below.

This month we will be going to Phinizy Swamp in our Western Region and our Regional Guide will be Lee Morris. With Thanksgiving coming up our soodle will be earlier...on November 18th. Details below.

A reminder...We have reserved the Saluda Shoals Auditorium in Columbia for our January Annual Meeting. We have two interesting speakers lined up so far and we need one more. How about a call for speakers? Give us some speaker requests!

We had our on-line meeting on October 26th and have a good idea of where we will be going for next year's outings. Details to follow!

We have lost a mentor and remarkable Naturalist on the 7th of this month, Rudy Mancke. Rudy was the founder of SCAN, which began in 1976. Rudy made regular people aware of our natural world in ways that made them want to know more. Just as in football...he was our quarterback. If you have favorite pictures or stories from trips you have taken with Rudy, please share them with me for inclusion in the December newsletter.

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We need to fill the President, Vice President, and Secretary positions for 2024. Our Regional Directors have all graciously agreed to serve one more year, and we have a Treasurer replacement. As a totally voluntary organization, we rely on members to step up and help keep the group intact, so please, help us through yet another successful year.

None of the positions are terribly demanding, and there are plenty of us who have formerly served that will help with questions or concerns to get you through the learning curve. For more information on the responsibilities of leadership positions, reach out to President Dave Schuetrum or Vice President Gordon Murphy. Just a heads-up, Gordon will be reaching out directly to individual members this month in an effort to fill the vacancies.

That is all...Dave Schuetrum President



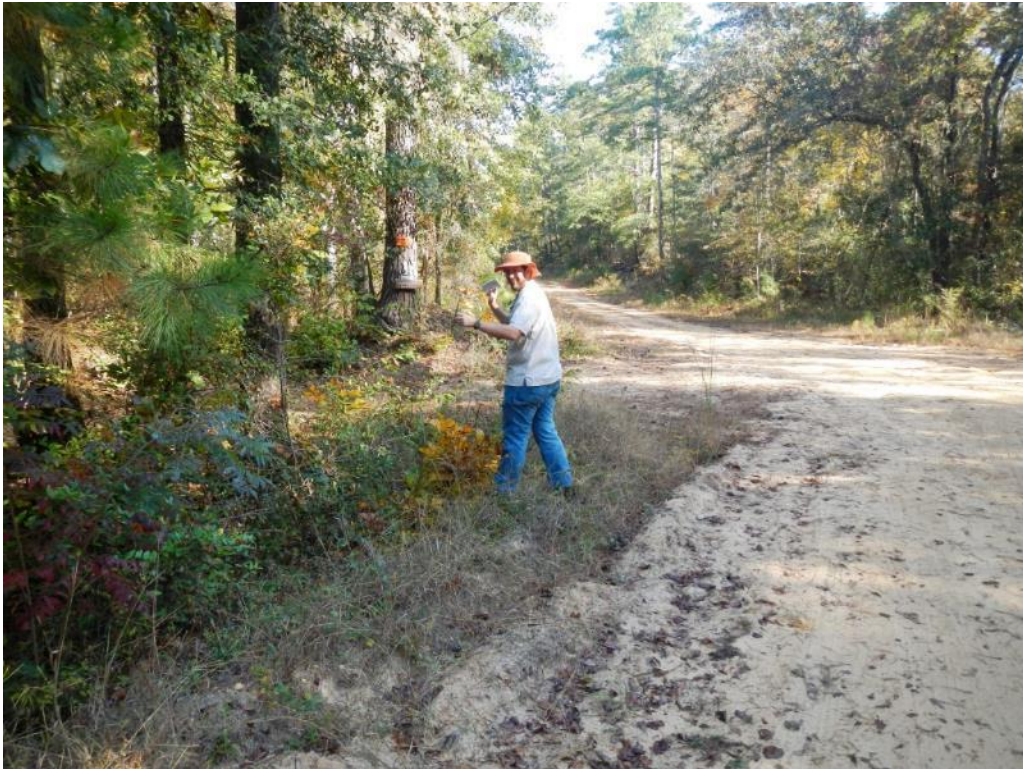
Here's who attended...in no particular order: Dave Schuetrum, Marty & Dave Kastner, Kim McManus, Tom Austin, Johannes & Claudia Stratmann, Scott Wietcha, Caroline Eastman, Jerry Bright, Phil Harpootlian, Kate Hartley, Edward Ingram, Cynthia and Hal Giles, Leslie Coolidge and Jim Boylston.

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From Dave Schuetrum's camera...



We met in the trail parking spot on Campbell Creek Rd. Some of the gang was already there...and I was early! How about that! That's Dave Kastner saying Hello.



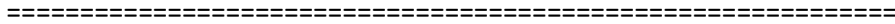
While we were all jabbering...Tom Austin was already logging flora and fauna for the species list. Tom can identify just about anything and many of us pick his brain for identifications.



Kate Hartley trying out the porta-potty.



There's Caroline Eastman showing off her Marbled Orb Weaver Spider pendant.



And here's a few more from Tom Austin's camera:



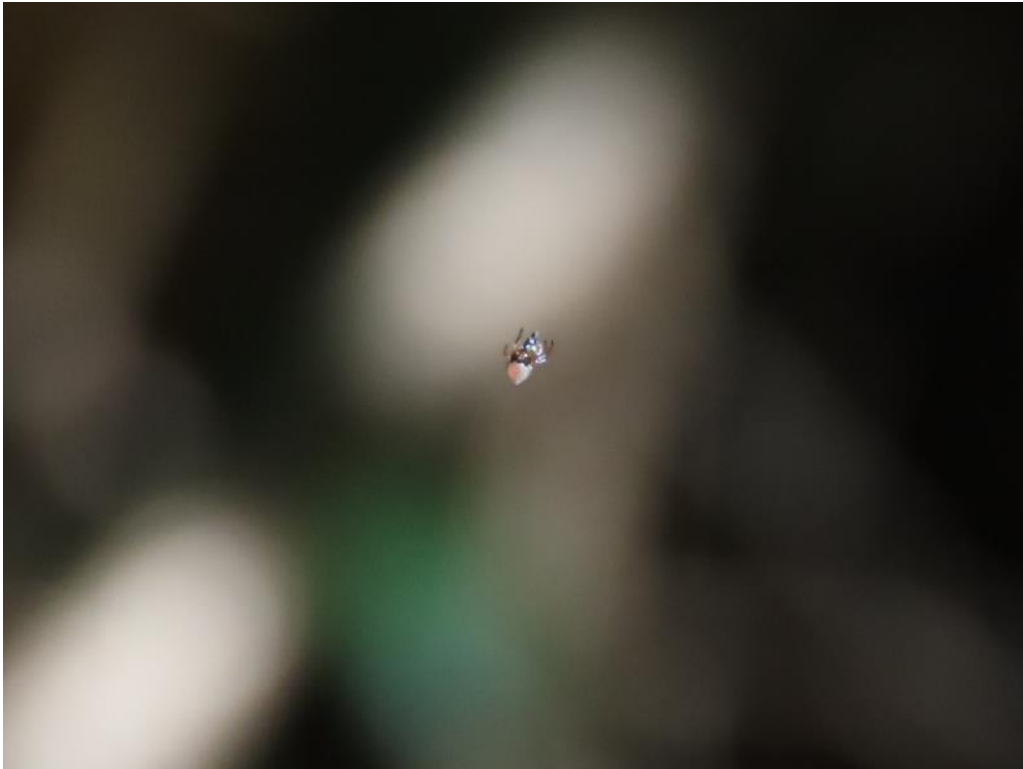
Lion's Mane mushrooms (*Hericium erinaceus*) were starting to fruit all along the trail.



And the Ghost Pipes (*Monotropa uniflora*) were in full bloom all throughout the upland forests!



Many miniscule baby Ground Skinks (*Scincella lateralis*) were scurrying all about the leaves.



Here's a kleptoparasitic Dewdrop Spider (Possibly an *Argyrodes* sp.), who sleeps on the metaphorical couch of an Orbweaver and eats all her leftovers out the fridge. They're the size of a pinhead and annoying to photograph!



A bit of fall foliage leaking through a window on the top of the bluff.



Here was an impressive Bracket Fungi we found (*Trametes aestuli*, probably) that was the size of a dinner plate! This species doesn't have a common name, as far as I can find, so I've taken to calling it the "Great White Bracket."



Here is a weird pit just off the trail that's got Scott and I stumped (pun intended). Someone has been digging out the margins of this uproot. The best we can figure, someone is shovelling out Fuller's Earth, of which this area in and around Manchester State Forest is known for. Also there are random chunks of coal scattered around the area. It's just odd.

Phinizy Swamp Nature Park

1858 Lock and Dam Rd, Augusta, Georgia, 30906

706-828-2109 | www.phinizycenter.org

November 18, 2023 | 10:30am

Phinizy Swamp Nature Park is a 1100-acre floodplain of the Savannah River. The confluence of Butler Creek with the Savannah River creates a wetland which attracts a large number of birds at all times of the year. In typical swamp fashion, it also abounds with bald cypresses, loblollies, and Spanish moss.

The area was first occupied by Native Americans. In 1778, an Italian entrepreneur, Ferdinand Victor Francois Phinizy, settled in the area with his family. Another family named Cason owned land in the area as well (the Cason Family Cemetery is located on Butler Creek Trail). These two families started developing the land. Over the decades, the area was used for farming and cattle pastures. It became part of a beef farm for Gracewood, a state-run mental health institution from the 1950s to 1973. The City of Augusta took over the land in 1973 and was left undeveloped, unfortunately becoming an illegal dumping spot. The City needed to update its wastewater treatment system in accordance with the Federal Clean Water Act, so in 1993, the city restored the site to a wetlands ecosystem. The wetlands is now a tertiary water treatment stage for the water treatment plant. The constructed wetlands is slowly converting into a natural wetlands as the almost-clean wastewater undergoes its final filter. Wildlife is returning to the wetlands, including beavers and otters, and pollution-intolerant aquatic insects such as riffle beetles and mayflies have returned to Butler Creek.

The Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy was established to monitor the new wetlands. The Academy later became the Phinizy Center for Water Sciences. The Center promotes environmental stewardship through research, education, and public outreach. The Center has both paid and volunteer staff members who conduct research studies, provide training for K-12 teachers, educate school groups and lead citizen scientists. Georgia Master Naturalists are trained there. The Center holds numerous nature hikes and other public events.

The Equalization Pond is one of the first water features and sports a number of aquatic plants, turtles, and a number of alligators, a couple who are quite large (the Pond wildlife is contained in a large wooden barrier). This is a great area for wading birds and ducks. Other trails wander along streams or along swampy areas. Phinizy has numerous trails past the Equalization Pond, many wandering between the various other holding ponds. Many birds and some insects are found in these ponds; recommended are binoculars or a good zoom camera may help with identifications in these areas.

Heads up – as a swamp, Phinizy can buzz with activity. There is always a possibility of mosquitoes in more mild weather, and snakes (especially cottonmouths) can be very prevalent at times. Please come prepared with any necessary items.

There are restrooms in the parking lot area. The Visitor Center also has restrooms.

Another area of interest – if you follow Lock and Dam Road past the turn-off to Phinizy (a little over a mile past), the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam Park is a walking park on the Savannah River. The dam and locks were built by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1937 and served commercially; “New Savannah” is a dead town that was first a Chickasaw village in 1740 but became an American tobacco inspection area/town after the Revolutionary War.

Directions:

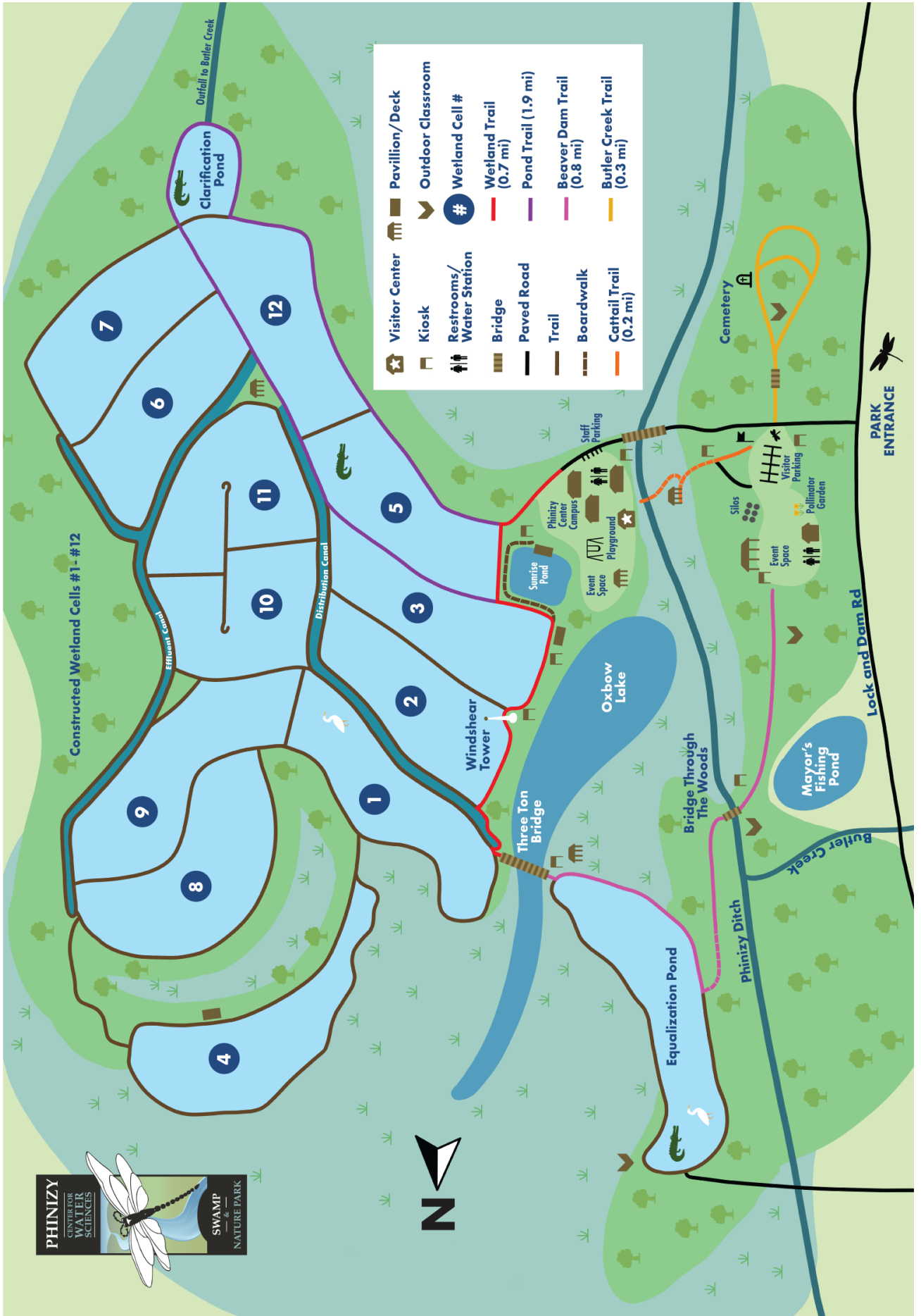
If you are going to Phinizy from South Carolina, unless you are taking a very scenic route, you will be coming into Georgia on I-20 from the east. Take Exit 196A onto I-520/Bobby Jones Expressway. Take Exit 10 (Doug Barnard Parkway/Augusta Regional Airport) and turn RIGHT off the ramp. Travel approximately 1 mile then turn left onto Lock and Dam Rd. Just under ½ mile up the road, turn left at the Phinizy Swamp Nature Park sign. This leads to the general parking area. Do not continue down Lock and Dam Rd – that goes to the Education Center and Visitor Center. **We are meeting in the parking lot, NOT the Centers.** However, if you are interested in visiting the Visitor Center – which has park information, natural history exhibits, and a small shop – it is open Saturday from 9am – 1pm.

Dinner:

For those who enjoy a post-soodle munchies, there are a number of restaurants about 1.5 miles from I-520 on the way back to I-20. These include The Boll Weevil Café (Southern cuisine), Laziza Mediterranean Grill, Whiskey Bar Kitchen (American), Farmhaus Burger, Diablo’s Southwest Grill (Mexican), and TacoCat.

Lee Morris, Western Director

Phinizy Swamp Nature Park Map



**Wateree Passage of the Palmetto Trail
Sumter Co., SC
October 28, 2023**

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 Kim McManus at scnaturalists76@gmail.com. Please indicate exactly to which flora/fauna list you are referring in the subject line of your message. Thank you.

LICHENS

Crustose Lichen

Lecanoromycetes sp.

Cladonia sp.

Usnea strigosa

FLORA

Haircap Moss

Polytrichum sp.

Japanese Climbing Fern

Lygodium japonicum

Bracken

Pteridium aquilinum

Ebony Spleenwort

Asplenium platyneuron

Netted Chain Fern

Lorinseria areolata

Southern Lady Fern

Athyrium asplenoides

Kunth's Maiden Fern

Pelazoneuron kunthii

Christmas Fern

Polystichum acrostichoides

Resurrection Fern

Pleopeltis michauxiana

Shortleaf Pine

Pinus echinata

Loblolly Pine

Pinus taeda

Bald-cypress

Taxodium distichum

Little Brown Jug

Hexastylis arifolia

Sweetbay

Magnolia virginiana

Swamp Bay

Persea palustris

Sassafras

Sassafras albidum

Common Wild Yam

Dioscorea villosa

Catbrier

Smilax bona-nox bona-nox

Whiteleaf Greenbrier

Smilax glauca

Common Greenbrier

Smilax rotundifolia

Jackson-brier

Smilax smallii

Cranefly Orchid

Tipularia discolor

Hurricane Lily

Lycoris radiata radiata

Curlyleaf Yucca

Yucca filamentosa

Smooth Spiderwort

Tradescantia ohimensis

Spanish-moss

Tillandsia usneoides

Rush

Juncus dichotomus

Starburst Flatsedge

Cyperus plukenetii

Umbrella Sedge

Cyperus sp.

Nutrush

Scleria sp.

Splitbeard Bluestem

Andropogon ternarius

Old-field Broomstraw

Andropogon virginicus

Broomsedge

Andropogon sp.

Three-awn Grass

Aristida sp.

Giant Cane

Arundinaria gigantea

Switch Cane

Arundinaria tecta

River Oats

Chasmanthium latifolium

Slender Spikegrass

Chasmanthium laxum

Longleaf Spikegrass

Chasmanthium sessiliflorum

Woolly Witchgrass

Dichanthelium acuminatum acuminatum

Variable Witchgrass

Dichanthelium commutatum

Open-flower Witchgrass

Dichanthelium laxiflorum

Velvet Witchgrass

Dichanthelium scoparium

Crab Grass

Digitaria sp.

Yard Grass

Eleusine indica

Common Eastern Wild-rye

Elymus virginicus

Plumegrass

Erianthus sp.

Panic Grass

Panicum sp.

Foxtail Grass

Setaria sp.

Smut Grass

Sporobolus indicus

St. Augustine Grass

Stenotaphrum secundatum

Bloodroot

Sanguinaria canadensis

Coralbeads

Nepbroia carolina

Nandina

Nandina domestica

Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis

Sweet Gum

Liquidambar styraciflua

Witch-hazel

Hamamelis virginiana

Muscadine

Muscadinia rotundifolia rotundifolia

Virginia-creeper

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Peppervine

Nekemias arborea

Hog-peanut

Amphicarpaea bracteata

Eastern Redbud

Cercis canadensis

Common Sensitive-plant

Chamaecrista nictitans nictitans

Roundleaf Tick-trefoil

Desmodium rotundifolium

Tick-trefoil

Desmodium sp.

Naked Tick-trefoil

Hylodesmum nudiflorum

Sericea Lespedeza

Lespedeza cuneata

Korean Clover

Kummerowia stipulacea

Chinese Wisteria

Wisteria sinensis

Parsley Hawthorn

Crataegus marshallii

White Avens

Geum canadense

Cinquefoil

Potentilla sp.

Carolina Laurel Cherry

Prunus caroliniana

Eastern Wild Black Cherry
Prunus serotina serotina

Bradford Pear
Pyrus calleryana

Common Dewberry
Rubus flagellaris

Pennsylvania Blackberry
Rubus pensilvanicus

Southern Dewberry
Rubus trivialis

Winged Elm
Ulmus alata

Slippery Elm
Ulmus rubra

Southern Hackberry
Celtis laevigata

Red Mulberry
Morus rubra

Greenfruit Clearweed
Pilea pumila

American Beech
Fagus grandifolia

White Oak
Quercus alba

Southern Red Oak
Quercus falcata

Swamp Chestnut Oak
Quercus michauxii

Water Oak
Quercus nigra

Cherrybark Oak
Quercus pagoda

Shumard Oak
Quercus shumardii

Post Oak
Quercus stellata

Black Oak
Quercus velutina

Common Wax-myrtle
Morella cerifera

Pignut Hickory
Carya glabra

Mockernut Hickory
Carya tomentosa

River Birch
Betula nigra

American Hornbeam
Carpinus caroliniana

Creeping Cucumber
Melothria pendula

Hearts-a-burstin'-with-love
Euonymus americanus

Wood-sorrel
Oxalis sp.

St. Andrew's Cross
Hypericum hypericoides

Common Blue Violet
Viola sororia

Yellow Passionflower
Passiflora lutea

Swamp Cottonwood
Populus heterophylla

Black Willow
Salix nigra

Rhombic Copperleaf
Acalypha rhomboidea

Eastern Flowering Spurge
Euphorbia corollata

Popcorn Tree
Triadica sebifera

Chamber Bitter
Phyllanthus urinaria urinaria

Evening-primrose
Oenothera sp.

Winged Sumac
Rhus copallinum

Eastern Poison Ivy
Toxicodendron radicans radicans

Eastern Box Elder
Acer negundo negundo

Eastern Red Maple
Acer rubrum rubrum

Red Buckeye
Aesculus pavia pavia

Chinaberry
Melia azedarach

Arrowleaf Sida
Sida rhombifolia rhombifolia

Bittercress
Cardamine sp.

Jumpseed
Persicaria virginiana

Smartweed
Persicaria sp.

Red Dock
Rumex acetosella pyrenaicus

Common Pokeweed
Phytolacca americana

Water Tupelo
Nyssa aquatica

Climbing Hydrangea
Hydrangea barbara

Flowering Dogwood
Benthamidia florida

American Persimmon
Diospyros virginiana

Sweetleaf
Symplocos tinctoria

Pipsissewa
Chimaphila maculata

Shining Fetterbush
Lyonia lucida

Indian Pipes
Monotropa uniflora

Sourwood
Oxydendrum arboreum

Sparkleberry
Vaccinium arboreum

Elliott's Blueberry
Vaccinium elliotii

Blueberry
Vaccinium sp.

Coastal Bedstraw
Galium bermudense

Partridge-berry
Mitchella repens

Poorjoe
Hexasepalum teres

Tropical Richardia
Richardia brasiliensis

Carolina Jessamine
Gelsemium sempervirens

Spinypod
Matelea sp.

Climbing Dogbane
Thyrsanthea difformis

Carolina Ponyfoot
Dichondra carolinensis

Morning-glory
Ipomoea sp.

Carolina Horse-nettle
Solanum carolinense carolinense

Glossy Privet
Ligustrum lucidum

Chinese Privet
Ligustrum sinense

Polypremum
Polypremum procumbens

Carolina Wild-petunia
Ruellia caroliniensis

Cross-vine
Bignonia capreolata

Trumpet-creeper
Campsis radicans

Beautyberry
Callicarpa americana

Perilla
Perilla frutescens

Lyreleaf Sage
Salvia lyrata

Skullcap
Scutellaria elliptica

Common Blue Curly
Trichostema dichotomum

Possom-haw
Ilex decidua

American Holly
Ilex opaca

Broadleaf Plantain
Plantago major

Wahlenbergia
Wahlenbergia marginata

Common Ragweed
Ambrosia artemisiifolia

Spanish Needles
Bidens bipinnata

Maryland Golden-aster
Chrysopsis mariana

Mistflower
Conoclinium coelestinum

Woodland Coreopsis
Coreopsis major

Leafy Elephant's-foot
Elephantopus carolinianus

Elephant's-foot
Elephantopus sp.

Red-tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Melanerpes carolinus

Northern Flicker

Colaptes auratus

Downy Woodpecker

Dryobates pubescens

Hairy Woodpecker

Dryobates villosus

Pileated Woodpecker

Dryocopus pileatus

Eastern Phoebe

Sayornis phoebe

Blue Jay

Cyanocitta cristata

Carolina Chickadee

Poecile carolinensis

White-breasted Nuthatch

Sitta carolinensis

Winter Wren

Troglodytes hiemalis

Carolina Wren

Thryothorus ludovicianus

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Regulus satrapa

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Regulus calendula

Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis

Eastern Towhee

Pipilo erythrophthalmus

American Goldfinch

Spinus tristis

Eastern Gray Squirrel

Sciurus carolinensis

White-tailed Deer

Odocoileus virginianus

NEW SPECIES

Restless Bush Cricket

Hapithus agitator

Dusky-winged Hover Fly

Ocyrtamus fuscipennis

Basketgrass

Oplismenus hirtellus

Large Crane-fly

Tipulidae sp.