



SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS

SCAN

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Columbia, SC 29224

www.scnaturalists.org

March 2024

Spring has sprung and pollen season is upon us! With that comes the waking of wildflowers, stirring of snakes, songbird migration, and wonderful weather for a ramble or soodle.

Last month SCAN convened at the western end of the Wateree Passage of the Palmetto Trail to cover the Richland County portion of the Passage. We had great weather and the old railbed trail, although monotonously straight and flat, provided easy walking, offered a unique view of the floodplain of the Wateree River, and yielded some surprising biodiversity! I've included some highlights from the day in the photo collage on the following pages.

This month we're heading to the Western Region of South Carolina to visit the Horn Creek Trail in the Lick Fork Recreation Area within the Long Cane District of the Sumter National Forest in Edgefield County, SC. Ron Ahle will be leading. Please note, there is a \$3 self-service parking fee for the Lick Fork Recreation Area. So, make sure you've got enough quarters in the cup holders before departing!

Tom Austin, Secretary



Attendees: Sharon Yomtob, Mandy Johnson, Mark Cujak, Bill Twomey, Rita Zollinger, Paul Baker, Dave Schuetrum, Edward Ingram, Caroline Eastman, Tom Austin, John Demko, Gordon Murphy, Phil Harpootlian, Ron Ahle, Alison Smith, Jerry Bright, and Lee Morris.



We stress tested the new parking lot.



Dave and Gordon hunting for herps.



The boardwalks were quite impressive in scale and gave a unique perspective on the Wateree's floodplain.



Turning back after at about halfway.



Coral Greenbrier (*Smilax walteri*).



Young gators (*Alligator mississippiensis*).



One part of a pair of Otters (*Lontra canadensis*).



Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium Sempervirens*).



Red Maple gone to seed already (*Acer rubrum*).



Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) was out in full bloom and thriving atop the old railroad bed!



American Sycamore seed-balls (*Platanus occidentalis*).



Rainbow Swamp manifest in the railway ditching.

Lick Fork Lake Recreation Area (Horn Creek Trail)

Edgefield County, SC

GPS Coordinates: 33.72642, -82.04029

Sumter National Forest; Long Cane Ranger District

Saturday, March 23, 2024, 10:30 AM to ~4:30 PM

Lick Fork Lake Recreation Area is often described as one of the lesser known “jewels of the forest” and is considered one of the top wildflower areas near Edgefield, SC. There are two hiking trails to choose from. The Lick Fork Lake Hiking Trail is an easy two-mile loop surrounding the lake that provides scenic views of piedmont pines and hardwoods. The Horn Creek Trail is a moderate 5.7-mile loop trail that journeys away from the recreation area and allows hikers to explore more of the forest and streams. The Horn Creek Trail features lush vegetation, good water flow along the creeks, and wildflowers in bloom. The trail passes through hardwood bottoms, across streams and along pine ridges offering views of a wide variety of wildlife habitats and distinctive piedmont vegetation. The pine ridges are covered with mature pine trees and bluestem grasses and there is an active red-cockaded woodpecker colony that the trail passes through. Hardwood forest communities along Lick Fork Creek and Horn Creek include beech forest, mesic oak-hickory forests, and hardwood bottoms. The hardwood bottoms and associated steep slopes are primarily mature forest characterized by high wildflower diversity and abundant bird life. Lick Fork Creek is a small stream with primarily bedrock substrate that could contain interesting fish species such as the Christmas darter and/or amphibians such as dusky salamanders. Therefore, this might be a good site for a dip net. Horn Creek, on the other hand, is a rather large piedmont stream that has mostly a sand substrate and extensive beaver-related hydrologic modifications with abundant sycamore and river birch as well as shoreline grasses. It is an excellent area for odonates.

The Horn Creek Trail is the preferred trail in that it provides a greater diversity of habitats. However, it is long and takes many hours to complete. Not really a problem because there is a remote parking area about halfway down the loop that provides for a 3-mile hike instead of a 6-mile hike. This can be accomplished by using a carpool system. We can organize carpool connections when we meet in the morning. If you are interested in camping, there are 9 campsites on a first come, first serve basis in the recreation area. I recommend arriving early on Friday to ensure a campsite. The campsites are nice for car camping, but not awesome. If for some reason you arrive expecting a campsite and there is not one available, there are some hotel options nearby and other camping options near McCormick.

There are other recreation opportunities in the area for wildlife and plant viewing including the Turkey Wine Creek Trail and the Stephen's Creek HP. If you would like a mountain bike adventure, you could check out the 12-mile Turkey Wine Creek Trail or the 25 Mile Forks Area Trail. Also, you can canoe the flat water of Turkey Creek or visit Edgefield, home of 10 South Carolina governors. Remember, if you plan to extend your trip to two or more days, you can camp at the recreation site or find accommodation in Edgefield such as Quality Inn & Suites or The Edgefield Inn.

~Ron Ahle, Western Region Director

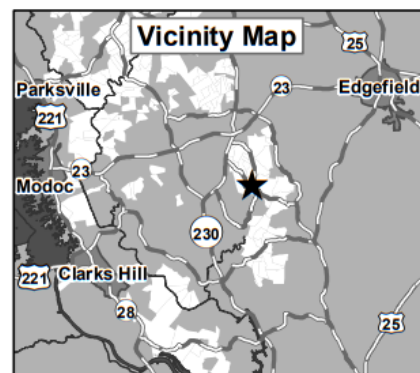
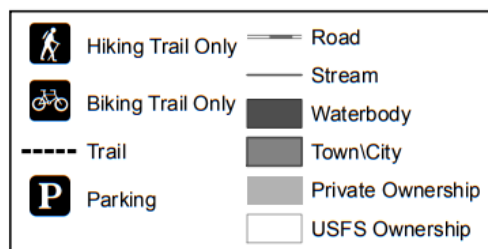
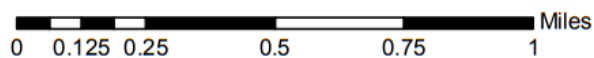
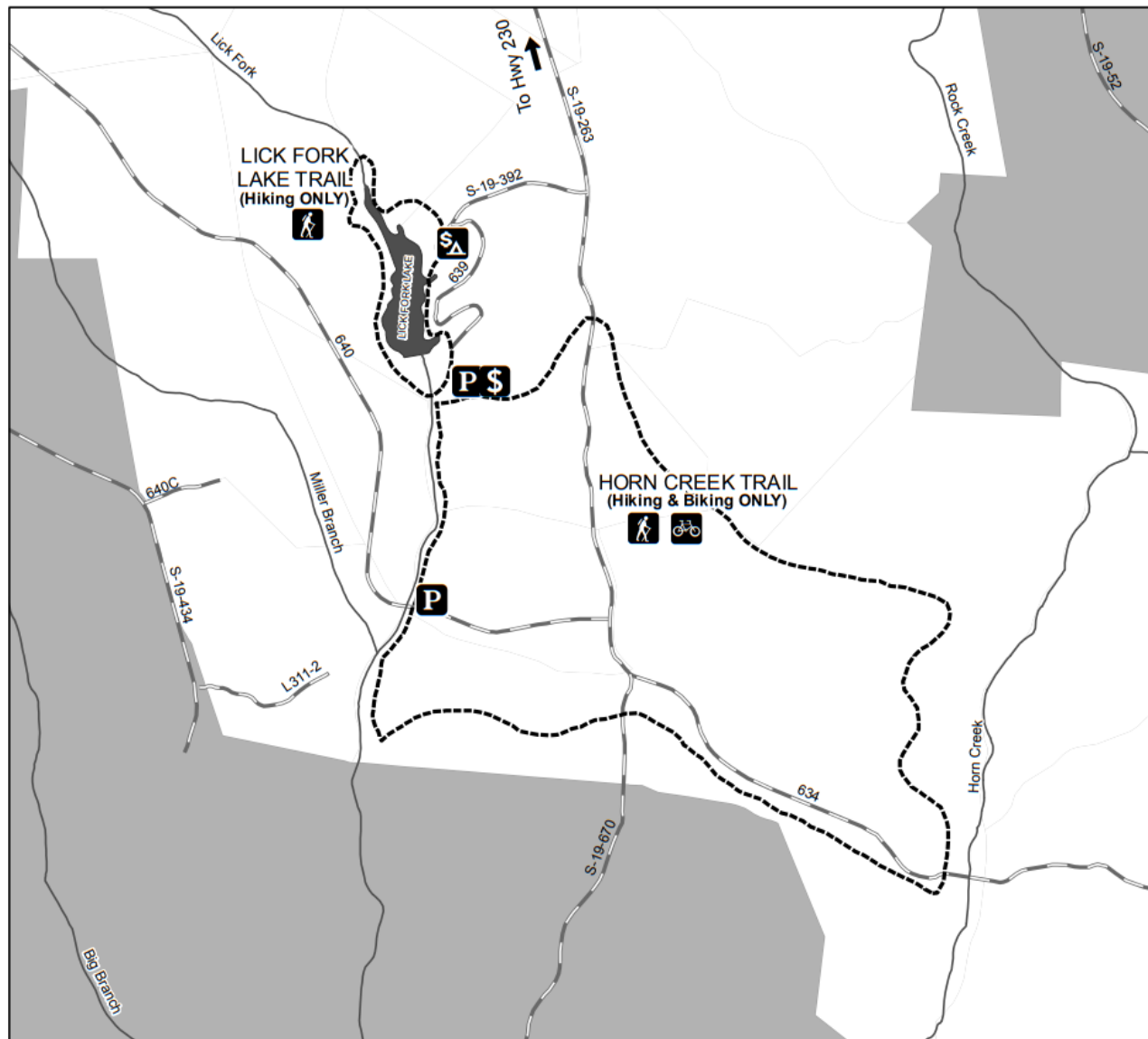
DIRECTIONS:

From the square in downtown Edgefield, travel south on Hwy-23 for 8.3 miles. Bear left onto Hwy-230 and travel for 0.4 miles. Turn left onto Lick Fork Lake Road (S 19-263) and travel 1.9 miles. The entrance is on the right. We'll meet in the Lick Fork Lake Recreation Area at the parking lot near the boat ramp. There is a small use fee of \$3 per day per vehicle, and a \$7 campsite per night (pay at a self-serve fee station at entrance). A new vault toilet is available in the campground. Water is also available. For more information and a printable map on the recreation site, go to [fseprd499617.pdf \(usda.gov\)](https://www.fseprd499617.pdf).

Trip Leader: Ron Ahle

Lick Fork Lake Recreation Area

Sumter National Forest



November 2022

Photos of Horn Creek Trail from February, 2024:



Lick Fork Creek (Photo by Ron Ahle)



Red-cockaded Woodpecker colony (photo by Ron Ahle)

**Wateree Passage of the Palmetto Trail
Richland County, SC
February 24, 2024**

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

Cladonia sp.
Usnea strigosa

FLORA

Japanese Climbing Fern
Lygodium japonicum
Ebony Spleenwort
Asplenium platyneuron
Resurrection Fern
Pleopeltis michauxiana
Loblolly Pine
Pinus taeda
Eastern Red Cedar
Juniperus virginiana
Bald-cypress
Taxodium distichum
Broadleaf Pondlily
Nuphar advena
White Water-lily
Nymphaea odorata odorata
Southern Magnolia
Magnolia grandiflora
Duckweed
Landoltia punctata
Common Duckweed
Lemna minor
Duckweed
Lemna sp.
Mud-midguts
Wolffiella gladiata
Catbrier
Smilax bona-nox bona-nox
Whiteleaf Greenbrier
Smilax glauca
Bristly Greenbrier
Smilax hispida
Common Greenbrier
Smilax rotundifolia
Jackson-brier
Smilax smallii
Red-berried Greenbrier
Smilax walteri

Crane-fly Orchid
Tipularia discolor
Onion
Allium sp.
Snowflake
Leucojum aestivum
Daffodil
Narcissus pseudonarcissus
Needle Palm
Rhapidophyllum hystrix
Dwarf Palmetto
Sabal minor
Cabbage Palmetto
Sabal palmetto
Common Cattail
Typha latifolia
Cattail
Typha sp.
Spanish-moss
Tillandsia usneoides
Rush
Juncus dichotomus
Common Rush
Juncus effusus solutus
Blue Ridge Brome Sedge
Carex bromoides montana
Sedge
Carex sp.
Umbrella Sedge
Cyperus sp.
Woolly Bulrush
Scirpus cyperinus
Old-field Broomstraw
Andropogon virginicus
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
Witchgrass
Dichanthelium dichotomum
Open-flower Witchgrass
Dichanthelium laxiflorum
Common Eastern Wild-rye
Elymus virginicus
Sugarcane Plume Grass
Erianthus giganteus

Tall Fescue
Lolium arundinaceum
Italian Rye-grass
Lolium multiflorum
Japanese Stilt-grass
Microstegium vimineum
Vasey Grass
Paspalum urvillei
Annual Bluegrass
Poa annua
Foxtail Grass
Setaria sp.
Smut Grass
Sporobolus indicus
Bloodroot
Sanguinaria canadensis
Kidneyleaf Buttercup
Ranunculus abortivus
Sycamore
Platanus occidentalis
Sweet Gum
Liquidambar styraciflua
Parrot-feather
Myriophyllum aquaticum
Muscadine
Muscadinia rotundifolia rotundifolia
Grape
Vitis sp.
Common Vetch
Vicia sativa sativa
Mock Strawberry
Potentilla indica
Carolina Laurel Cherry
Prunus caroliniana
Eastern Wild Black Cherry
Prunus serotina serotina
Common Dewberry
Rubus flagellaris
Pennsylvania Blackberry
Rubus pensilvanicus
Southern Dewberry
Rubus trivialis
Winged Elm
Ulmus alata
Elm
Ulmus sp.
Southern Hackberry
Celtis laevigata
Sawtooth Oak
Quercus acutissima
White Oak
Quercus alba
Laurel Oak
Quercus laurifolia
Swamp Chestnut Oak
Quercus michauxii

Water Oak*Quercus nigra***Cherrybark Oak***Quercus pagoda***Willow Oak***Quercus phellos***Live Oak***Quercus virginiana***Common Wax-myrtle***Morella cerifera***River Birch***Betula nigra***American Hop-hornbeam***Ostrya virginiana***Wood-sorrel***Oxalis* sp.**St. Andrew's Cross***Hypericum hypericoides***St.-John's-wort***Hypericum* sp.**Common Blue Violet***Viola sororia***Black Willow***Salix nigra***Carolina Crane's-bill***Geranium carolinianum***Eastern Poison Ivy***Toxicodendron radicans radicans***Eastern Box Elder***Acer negundo negundo***Eastern Red Maple***Acer rubrum rubrum***Chinaberry***Melia azedarach***Mouse-ear Cress***Arabidopsis thaliana***Hairy Bittercress***Cardamine hirsuta***Red Dock***Rumex acetosella pyrenaicus***Curly Dock***Rumex crispus crispus***Sticky Mouse-ear***Cerastium glomeratum***Common Chickweed***Stellaria media***Water Tupelo***Nyssa aquatica***Pipsissewa***Chimaphila maculata***Sparkleberry***Vaccinium arboreum***Elliott's Blueberry***Vaccinium elliotii***Cleavers***Galium aparine***Hairy Bedstraw***Galium pilosum***Partridge-berry***Mitchella repens***Carolina Jessamine***Gelsemium sempervirens***Eastern Anglepod***Gonolobus suberosus suberosus***Carolina Ponyfoot***Dichondra carolinensis***Common Jacquemontia***Jacquemontia tamnifolia***Glossy Privet***Ligustrum lucidum***Chinese Privet***Ligustrum sinense***Polypremum***Polypremum procumbens***Common Toadflax***Linaria canadensis***Virginia Plantain***Plantago virginica***Corn Speedwell***Veronica arvensis***American Mistletoe***Phoradendron leucarpum*
*leucarpum***Cross-vine***Bignonia capreolata***Trumpet-creeper***Campsis radicans***Brazilian Vervain***Verbena brasiliensis***Henbit***Lamium amplexicaule amplexicaule***Perilla***Perilla frutescens***Lyreleaf Sage***Salvia lyrata***American Holly***Ilex opaca***Silverling***Baccharis halimifolia***Coastal Tall Thistle***Cirsium nuttallii***Elephant's-foot***Elephantopus* sp.**Common Dog-fennel***Eupatorium capillifolium***Spoonleaf Purple Everlasting***Gamochaeta purpurea***Brazilian Cat's-ear***Hypochaeris chillensis***Dwarf-dandelion***Krigia* sp.**Coastal Plain Lettuce***Lactuca graminifolia graminifolia***Appalachian Ragwort***Packera anonyma***Butterweed***Packera glabella***Grass-leaved Golden-aster***Pityopsis graminifolia***Fragrant Rabbit-tobacco***Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium***Goldenrod***Solidago* sp.**Frost Aster***Symphyotrichum pilosum pilosum***American Aster***Symphyotrichum* sp.**Common Dandelion***Taraxacum officinale***Asiatic Hawk's-beard***Youngia japonica***Common Elderberry***Sambucus canadensis***Japanese Honeysuckle***Lonicera japonica***English Ivy***Hedera helix helix***Southern Chervil***Chaerophyllum tainturieri***Sanicle***Sanicula canadensis***Southern Sanicle***Sanicula smallii***Shelf Fungus***Ganoderma* sp.**Oyster Mushroom***Pleurotus ostreatus***Columned Stinkhorn***Clathrus columnatus***Clover***Trifolium* sp.**FAUNA****Earthworm***Lumbricus* sp.**Wolf Spider***Lycosidae* family**Angled Crab Spider***Tmarus angulatus***Blackberry Gall (wasp)***Diastrophus cuscutaeformis***Yellowjacket***Vespula* sp.**Black & Yellow Mud-dauber***Sceliphron caementarium***Pipe-organ Wasp***Trypoxylon politum***Sleepy Orange***Abaeis nicippe***Eastern Comma***Polygonia comma***Red Admiral***Vanessa atalanta***Juvenal's Duskywing***Erynnis juvenalis***Polyphemus Moth***Antheraea polyphemus***Toad***Anaxyrus* sp.**American Alligator***Alligator mississippiensis***Green Anole***Anolis carolinensis*

Pied-billed Grebe
Podilymbus podiceps
Double-crested Cormorant
Phalacrocorax auritus
Great Blue Heron
Ardea herodias
Great Egret
Ardea alba
Ruddy Duck
Oxyura jamaicensis
Ring-necked Duck
Aythya collaris
Lesser Scaup
Aythya affinis
Bufflehead
Bucephala albeola
Killdeer
Charadrius vociferus
Ring-billed Gull
Larus delawarensis
Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura
Black Vulture
Coragyps atratus
Bald Eagle
Haliaeetus leucocephalus
Red-shouldered Hawk
Buteo lineatus
Red-tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis
American Kestrel
Falco sparverius
Mourning Dove
Zenaida macroura
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus
Red-headed Woodpecker
Melanerpes erythrocephalus
Northern Flicker
Colaptes auratus
Downy Woodpecker
Dryobates pubescens
Hairy Woodpecker
Dryobates villosus
Pileated Woodpecker
Dryocopus pileatus

Eastern Phoebe
Sayornis phoebe
Tree Swallow
Tachycineta bicolor
Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata
American Crow
Corvus brachyrhynchos
Fish Crow
Corvus ossifragus
Tufted Titmouse
Baeolophus bicolor
Carolina Chickadee
Poecile carolinensis
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Sitta pusilla
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
Hermit Thrush
Catharus guttatus
American Robin
Turdus migratorius
Gray Catbird
Dumetella carolinensis
Brown Thrasher
Toxostoma rufum
Blue-headed Vireo
Vireo solitarius
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Setophaga coronata
Pine Warbler
Setophaga pinus
Northern Cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis
Song Sparrow
Melospiza melodia

Chipping Sparrow
Spizella passerina
White-throated Sparrow
Zonotrichia albicollis
Swamp Sparrow
Melospiza georgiana
Red-winged Blackbird
Agelaius phoeniceus
Common Grackle
Quiscalus quiscula
American Goldfinch
Spinus tristis
Eastern Gray Squirrel
Sciurus carolinensis
American Beaver
Castor canadensis
Coyote
Canis latrans
North American River Otter
Lontra canadensis
Feral Pig
Sus scrofa
White-tailed Deer
Odocoileus virginianus

NEW SPECIES

Obscure Sap Beetle
Conotelus obscurus
Mossy Rose Gall Wasp
Diplolepis rosae
Forsstroemia Mosses
Forsstroemia sp.
Oyster Mushroom
Pleurotus pulmonarius
Ganoderma sessile
Ganoderma sessile