



SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS

SCAN

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May 2024

April Trip Recap:

Last month SCAN visited Audubon's new Fort Motte Cliffs (Arant tract) property. Tim Evans, Director of Land Conservation for Audubon South Carolina, gave us an introduction, a lay of the land, and tips on where to go and what to look for. He and Dick Watkins, the adjacent landowner, led many from our group around while others ventured off on their own. Several of us took the zig-zag route down to the river and later to the pond.

SCAN would like to extend a sincere thank you to Tim Evans, Dick Watkins, and Kam Arant for their hospitality and for allowing SCAN to visit the property!

Marty Kastner, Central Regional Director

Hell Hole Bound!

This month we're heading down to the Francis Marion National Forest for our annual Memorial Day weekend camp-out (Friday through Monday) and multi-day soodle around the Hellhole Bay Wilderness Area. If you've never made it to a Hell Hole weekend with SCAN before, or cruised the roads night herping, it's a magical experience you won't soon forget!

If you're just looking for a day trip or not able to camp-out, Tom Austin will be leading a more typical SCAN walk at Hampton Plantation State Historic Site at the southeast corner of the National Forest on Saturday, 5/25. Saturday evening, we'll all reconvene at Hell Hole Campground for comradery and the reinstatement of the Hell Hole potluck dinner. So, pack your tent, whip up your best dish, throw your favorite beverages on ice, and we can't wait for you to join us Memorial Day weekend at Hell Hole!

Tom Austin, Secretary & Southern Regional Director

SCAN Outreach Opportunity this June:

SCAN has again been invited to command a table at Cypress Gardens' Conservation Days event this June 8th, 2024. Cypress Gardens is located in-between Moncks Corner and Hanahan, SC, about 30 minutes north of Charleston. Your fellow SCANner Tom Austin (me) will be also be there giving a presentation on Pollinator Gardening for Butterflies in the Lowcountry, on behalf of the Carolina Butterfly Society and the Edisto Island Open Land Trust. With that said, I'll be wearing three hats that day and need some help representing SCAN!

We have a banner and outreach materials ready to go. We just need volunteers to sit at the SCAN table and preach the good word to passers-by! Please feel free to bring some field guides, fossils, critter bits, or dead things for show-and-tell so folks can get hands-on with some artifacts of our natural world. If you're not interested in tabling, please still consider coming out to say 'howdy' and enjoy the other festivities and natural features the Gardens have to offer. The more the merrier!

If you'd be interested in helping with this event, please reach out to Tom Austin at scnaturalists76@gmail.com. Cypress Gardens is still finalizing the event, so further details will be soon to come.

Tom Austin, Secretary & Southern Regional Director



Attendees: Dave Schuetrum, Dave Kastner, Marty Kastner, Ron Ahle, Kim McManus, Bill Twomey, Todd Johnston, Phillip Harpootlian, James Wilson, Tim Evans, Dick Watkins, Steve Katsberg, Wanda Harris, Chris Harris, John Demko, Jean Prothro, and Breanna Blue



Tim Evans and Dick Watkins (center) led the charge.
(photo Dave Schuetrum)



There were some big trees out there, this oak was
Over 200 years old! (photo Dave Schuetrum)



Glimmers of the horizon beyond the bluff.
(photo Dave Schuetrum)



Bear-Corn *Conopholis americana* in the leaf litter.
(photo Dave Schuetrum)



Variegated Fritillary on Indian Blanket.
(photo Dave Kastner)



Quite the mansion of a Beaver lodge!
(photo Dave Kastner)



Black-and-Yellow Lichen Moth *Lycomorpha pholus*.
(photo Breanna Blue)



Whitman's Jumping Spider *Phidippus whitmani*.
(photo Breanna Blue)



Wolf Spider *Rabidosa* sp. with her young 'uns.
(photo Breanna Blue)



Clover Stem Borer *Languria mozardi* on Butterweed.
(photo Breanna Blue)



A wildflower meadow Dave Schuetrum helped establish.
(photo Dave Schuetrum)



St. Matthews House of Pizza welcomed us for dinner!
(photo Dave Schuetrum)

Francis Marion National Forest - Hell Hole Swamp

BERKELEY COUNTY, SC

May 24th – 27th, 2024

Hampton Plantation Historic Site

CHARLESTON COUNTY, SC

May 25th, 2024

Thursday – Monday

For the 12th year, SCAN will join the naturalist group Under a Low Country Moon (ULCM) for their annual interpretive weekend. ULCM has been gathering over Memorial Day weekend since 2001. The group focuses on snake, frog, and turtle spotting throughout the Francis Marion National Forest. Teams and individuals slowly travel the dirt roads in vehicles and on bicycles, watching for snakes and other critters. Stops are made at pitcher plant bogs, ponds, pine forests, and cypress swamps for on-foot exploration. The fun doesn't stop when the sun goes down! Evening road cruises are often the highlight of the weekend. Back at camp, folks gather around the fire to tell tall tales and roast a few marshmallows.

For the folks who wish to camp, follow the directions to the grassy field that serves as home base just off Hwy 41 on Hell Hole Road. This is primitive camping, so plan to “pack it in, pack it out.” The first campers typically set up Thursday evening and the last tents are struck around mid-morning on Monday. For those who prefer hot showers on occasion, there are several hotels in about 30 – 45 minutes away in Moncks Corner or Mount Pleasant.

Restrooms are available at the Circle K / BP in Jamestown, approximately 15 minutes away from camp.

Notes:

- Hell Hole Road has been fixed!!! Which means road cruising is back on the itinerary! Note, a vehicle with high ground clearance or 4x4 is recommended. Bicycles are a good alternative if that's more your style.
- The mosquitoes will be out in full force. Stock up on TheraMacells, bug spray, and long-sleeved shirts.
- The Subway located inside the Circle-K has not been open consistently in recent years. Have a plan B in mind if you usually get sandwiches from this shop.

Saturday: Hampton Plantation - 10:30 am start on 5/25/2024

SCAN's “official” outing day is Saturday. This year, we're exploring Hampton Plantation State Historic Site on the Santee River up above McClellanville. We'll meet at Hampton Plantation at 10:30am. From the SC Parks site:

“Hampton Plantation State Historic Site is home to the final remnants of a colonial-era rice plantation and now serves as an interpretive site for the system of slavery and rice cultivation in the region from the colonial period through the end of the Civil War. The property also tells the story of the freed people who made their homes in the Santee Delta region for generations after emancipation. ... The plantation grounds include walking trails through pine forest, views of Wambaw Creek, and the remains of rice fields that once stretched as far as the eye could see. Hampton inspired the works of SC's first poet laureate, Archibald Rutledge—the last private owner of the house, who lived there until 1969.”

Hampton Plantation Historic Site has free admission. (However, there is a \$10 admission fee to enter the house, \$6 for SC Seniors.) There are restrooms at the site.

For more information visit: <https://southcarolinaparks.com/hampton>

Saturday Potluck and Social at Hell Hole Camp Ground: 5/25/2024 at ~4:30pm

After our regularly scheduled SCANNing of Hampton Plantation and the FMNF on Saturday, we'll be reinstating a traditional institution and convening at the Hell Hole campground for a potluck dinner and revelry! So please bring a dish, serving ware, a chair, your smile, and some campfire stories. It's BYOB, so don't forget your cooler! There is no power on site, so make sure your dish can either be served cold, kept hot, or heated on a camp stove.

After the potluck, there will be night herping and road cruising. So, plan to stick around late if that's your jam!

Directions to Hell Hole Campground:

Forest Road 158 / Hell Hole Road

GPS Coordinates: 33.1785, -79.7653

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. *(It sneaks up on you!)*
13. Take the first RIGHT into the campground.

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

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 5.4 miles.
4. Continue onto Clements Ferry Road / State Road S-8-33 for 0.1 miles.
5. Turn right onto SC-41 N and go 17.7 miles.
6. Turn RIGHT onto Hell Hole Road / Forest Road 158. *(It sneaks up on you!)*
7. Take the first RIGHT into the campground.

Please note that Google Maps will take you to a different part of Hell Hole Road if you simply punch in "Hell Hole Road." Make sure you're navigating to the intersection of Hell Hole Road and Hwy 41. (Use the GPS coordinates.) Cell phone coverage is spotty, with lots of dead zones. Texts work better than phone calls most of the time.

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Directions to Hampton Plantation State Historic Site:

1950 Rutledge Rd, McClellanville, SC

GPS Coordinates: 33.201, -79.436

From Hell Hole Campground (~45 minutes):

1. Turn LEFT on SC-41 toward Charleston and drive 5.9 miles.
2. Turn LEFT on Steed Creek Road and drive 11.9 miles.
3. Turn LEFT on US-17 N (at the road end) and drive 16.0 miles.
4. Turn LEFT on Rutledge Rd and drive 1.9 miles.
5. Turn RIGHT through the main gate (past the "big brown sign") and travel ~0.5 miles to the parking lot.

HAMPTON PLANTATION

STATE HISTORIC SITE



Arant Tract / Fort Motte Cliffs
Calhoun Co., SC
April 27, 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.

FLORA

Ebony Spleenwort

Asplenium platyneuron

Southern Lady Fern

Athyrium asplenoides

Christmas Fern

Polystichum acrostichoides

Longleaf Pine

Pinus palustris

Loblolly Pine

Pinus taeda

Wild Ginger

Asarum sp.

Virginia Snakeroot

Endodeca serpentaria

Little Brown Jug

Hexastylis arifolia

Common Pawpaw

Asimina triloba

Sassafras

Sassafras albidum

Green Dragon

Arisaema dracontium

Blue-eyed-grass

Sisyrinchium angustifolium

Lesser Quaking Grass

Briza minor

Witchgrass

Dichanthelium sp.

Sweet Gum

Liquidambar styraciflua

Virginia-willow

Itea virginica

Muscadine

Muscadinia rotundifolia

Thick-pod White Wild Indigo

Baptisia alba

Red Mulberry

Morus rubra

Common Chinquapin

Castanea pumila

American Beech

Fagus grandifolia

White Oak

Quercus alba

Overcup Oak

Quercus lyrata

Blackjack Oak

Quercus marilandica

Mocernut Hickory

Carya tomentosa

Hickory

Carya sp.

American Hop-hornbeam

Ostrya virginiana

Tread-softly

Cnidioscolus stimulosus

Spurge

Euphorbia sp.

Red Buckeye

Aesculus pavia pavia

Eastern Bastard-toadflax

Comandra umbellata

Prickly-pear Cactus

Opuntia sp.

American Persimmon

Diospyros virginiana

Pipsissewa

Chimaphila maculata

Sourwood

Oxydendrum arboreum

May White Azalea

Rhododendron eastmanii

Sparkleberry

Vaccinium arboreum

Deerberry

Vaccinium stamineum

Blueberry

Vaccinium sp.

Partridge-berry

Mitchella repens

Bearcorn

Conopholis americana

Bellflower

Campanula sp.

Venus's Looking-glass

Triodanis perfoliata

Appalachian Ragwort

Packera anonyma

Devil's-walking-stick

Aralia spinosa

Cramp Balls

Annulohypoxylon thouarsianum

Sterium lobatum

Sterium lobatum

Bowl-and-doily Spider

Frontinella pyramitela

Orchard Orbweaver

Leucauge venusta

Orchard Spiders and Allies

Leucauge sp.

White Fishing Spider

Dolomedes albineus

Wolf Spider

Lycosidae family

Whitman's Jumper

Phidippus whitmani

Largid Bug

Largus succinctus

Hickory Leaf Gall

Phylloxera sp.

Wool-sower Gall (wasp)

Callirhytis seminator

Southern Yellowjacket

Vespa squamosa

Eastern Pondhawk

Erythemis simplicicollis

Little Blue Dragonlet

Erythrodiplax minuscula

Blue Corporal

Ladona deplanata

Blue Dasher

Pachydiplax longipennis

Variable Dancer

Argia fumipennis

Blue-tipped Dancer

Argia tibialis

Fragile Forktail

Ischnura posita

Click Beetle

Limonius basillaris

Pipevine Swallowtail

Battus philenor

Zebra Swallowtail

Eurytides marcellus

Black Swallowtail

Papilio polyxenes

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Pterourus glaucus

Cloudless Sulphur

Phoebis sennae

Sleepy Orange

Abaeis nicippe

Eastern Tailed-blue

Cupido comyntas

Azure Butterfly

Celastrina sp.

Variegated Fritillary

Euptoieta claudia

FAUNA

Question Mark

Polygonia interrogationis

Anglewing Butterfly

Polygonia sp.

American Lady

Vanessa virginiensis

Common Buckeye

Junonia coenia

Carolina Satyr

Hermeuptychia sosybius

Carolina/Intricate Satyr

Hermeuptychia sp

Least Skipper

Ancyloxypha numitor

Orange-patched Smoky Moth

Pyromorpha dimidiata

Southern Cricket Frog

Acris gryllus

Eastern Ratsnake

Pantherophis alleghaniensis

Belted Kingfisher

Megaceryle alcyon

Carolina Wren

Thryothorus ludovicianus

Wood Thrush

Hylocichla mustelina

Red-Eyed Vireo

Vireo olivaceus

Prothonotary Warbler

Protonotaria citrea

Northern Parula

Setophaga americana

Ovenbird

Seiurus aurocapillus

Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis

Indigo Bunting

Passerina cyanea

Painted Bunting

Passerina ciris

Summer Tanager

Piranga rubra

American Beaver (nest)

Castor canadensis

NEW SPECIES**Yellow-thighed Bentbristle**

Neoitamus flavofemoratus

Phylloxera caryaeglobuli

Phylloxera caryaeglobuli