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.  
(\textit{photo Dave Schuetrum})

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

Glimmers of the horizon beyond the bluff.  
(\textit{photo Dave Schuetrum})

Bear-Corn \textit{Conopholis americana} in the leaf litter.  
(\textit{photo Dave Schuetrum})

Variegated Fritillary on Indian Blanket.  
(\textit{photo Dave Kastner})

Quite the mansion of a Beaver lodge!  
(\textit{photo Dave Kastner})
Black-and-Yellow Lichen Moth *Lycomorpha pholus.*
(photos Breanna Blue)

Whitman’s Jumping Spider *Phidippus whitmani.*
(photos Breanna Blue)

Wolf Spider *Rabidosa* sp. with her young ’uns.
(photos Breanna Blue)

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

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

St. Matthews House of Pizza welcomed us for dinner!
(photos 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 Thermacells, 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 I-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.
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 asplenioides

**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

**Mockernut Hickory**  
Carya tomentosa

**Hickory**  
Carya sp.

**American Hop-hornbeam**  
Ostrya virginiana

**Tread-softly**  
Cnidoscolus 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 anoma

**Devil’s-walking-stick**  
Aralia spinosa

**Cramp Balls**  
Annulohypoxylon thouarsianum

**Sterium lobatum**  
Sterium lobatum

**Bowl-and-doloi Spider**  
Frontinella pyramitela

**Orchard Orbeaver**  
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**  
Vespula squamosa

**Eastern Pondhawk**  
Erythemis simplicicollis

**Little Blue Dragonlet**  
Erythrodiplax minuscula

**Blue Corporal**  
Ladona deplanata

**Blue Dasher**  
Pachydiplax longipennis

**Variable Dancer**  
Argia jumipennis

**Blue-tipped Dancer**  
Argia tibialis

**Fragile Forktail**  
Ischnura posita

**Click Beetle**  
Limonius basilaris

**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**  
Aploioeta claudia
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*

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NEW SPECIES

Yellow-thighed Bentbristle  
*Neoitamus flavofemoratus*

Phylloxera caryaeglobuli  
*Phylloxera caryaeglobuli*