

SCDNR Fall 2013 Coastal Explorations Series Calendar

All events are free (unless noted otherwise by \$\$\$\$) and open to the public.
Registration is required for all events via the website and opens 30 days in advance.

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/NERR/seminarseries.html>

- Once registered, participants will receive directions and further event details at least one week prior to the offering.

- Please direct any questions to the following:

Lauton Sutley, SCDNR//ACE Basin NERR, 843-953-9354 or sutleyl@dnr.sc.gov

Please Read First! - "The Coastal Exploration Series (CES) largely highlights managed properties, projects, and expertise of the Reserve staff and that of the SCDNR. In that effort CES events are often held outdoors and activities and conditions could include, but are not limited to, extreme heat or cold, exposure to insects, walking or standing for long periods of time on unstable surfaces, climbing onto or out of boats, docks, and trailers, etc.

Please contact Lauton Sutley by phone at 843-953-9354 or by email at sutleyl@dnr.sc.gov prior to registration if you have a disability that you feel might prevent your participation in an event."

Samworth WMA

Speakers: Jim Lee

Date: Monday Oct 7th

Time: 10 AM – afternoon

Location: Samworth WMA

Participants will meet at 10:00AM in the historic Dirleton plantation house for an introduction and presentation and then embark on a guided foot tour of the area via the nature trail to view both cultural and natural resources. Participants should dress for the day's weather and wear sturdy footwear for the 2-mile walk. Guests are invited to picnic on the piazza after the tour.

North Inlet- Winyah Bay

Speakers: Beth Thomas

Date: October 23rd 2013

Time: 10:00 AM – early afternoon

Location: North Inlet Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Hobcaw Barony, Georgetown SC

Limited to 15 participants

Take a walk through maritime, upland forest, and wetland habitats to see all that Hobcaw Barony has to offer. Reserve staff and naturalists will help identify common animal and plant species as well as give the history of the property. The group will travel by van to selected sites.

Participants must wear comfortable walking shoes and bring insect repellent if they so desire.

Cameras and binoculars welcomed.

Plankton Workshop

Speaker: Nick Wallover

Date: October 24th 2013

Time: 1 PM

Location: Hunting Island State park

Join SC DNR Biologist Nick Wallover to learn about the wonderful world of Marine plankton.

Participants will learn how to and actually collect plankton samples before bringing them to the lab for further observation. Collection will be on the state park pier and the remainder of the event will take place in a classroom setting.

Estuarine Invertebrates of the ACE Basin

Speaker: Dr. Alex Marsh

Date: Friday November 1st

Time: 11:30 a.m. – early afternoon

Location: Coffin Point, St. Helena Island

Limited to 20 participants.

Join Dr. Alex Marsh, Beaufort resident and retired Florida Atlantic University professor, on this exciting discovery of living organisms often overlooked. The group will explore the mud and sand flats of St. Helena Sound to identify some of the common, but rarely seen, invertebrates of the intertidal zone. Participants will likely capture a variety of polychaete worms, bivalves, gastropods, numerous crustaceans and others. Be prepared to get wet and muddy as we dig along oyster reefs and Spartina. Please dress for weather and wear closed-toed shoes; bring any food or drink you will require for the outing. Event will require walking on beach, in mud and shallow water. Gloves are suggested if plan to handle shellfish.

Botany Bay Plantation

Speakers: Lauton Sutley

Date: Wednesday November 6th

Time: 10 AM - Afternoon

Location: Botany Bay WMA

Welcome to Botany Bay Plantation, the jewel of the ACE Basin. Come along as we visit Botany Bay Wildlife Management Area, with its charming oak alleys, bone yard beaches, and maritime forests. Participants will tour the property by wagon stopping at points of interest to discuss issues of cultural and natural resources. The trip includes a 2 mile round trip walk to the beach. Please keep in mind that this is a Wildlife Management Area and restrooms will not be available,

as well bring any food and water you may need. Dress appropriately for the weather and possible insects.

Yawkey Wildlife Management Area

Speaker: Jamie Dozier, SCDNR

Date: Nov 13th

Time: 10:00 a.m.- early afternoon

Location: Ferry landing, Georgetown, S.C.

The Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center was willed to DNR in 1976 by the late Tom Yawkey. Participants will catch a glimpse of the 31 square miles of marsh, managed wetlands, open beach, longleaf pine and maritime forest which together create what is considered one of the most outstanding gifts to wildlife conservation in North America. The Yawkey Wildlife Center is utilized for research and is primarily managed as a wildlife preserve. Participants will have a firsthand experience of this property, learning about the abundant plant and wildlife that inhabit it and why these areas are so important to protect.

Dixie Plantation

Speakers: Barney Holt

Date: Tuesday November 5th

Time: 10 AM

Location: Dixie Plantation

The College of Charleston's, 881 acre, Dixie Plantation has opened its doors and arranged a visit and walk on the 3.2 mile nature trail. The property, which was once a working plantation serving

the Charleston area, is now a living laboratory for the students and researchers. The outing will cover property history, current uses, and importance in natural and cultural resources. The nature trail will take some time and participants should be prepared to stand and walk for long periods of time and have any necessary food and water you might need. Dress appropriately for weather and insects.

Reptiles and Rattlesnakes

Speakers: Tony Mills,

Date: TBD

Time: TBD

Location: Parris Island

Limited to 15 participants.

Tony Mills, naturalist and herpetologist with the LowCountry Institute, will discuss the natural history of reptiles of the Lowcountry. Researchers for DNR and Partners will share life history of these fascinating animals and discuss his work on Parris Island. Following the lecture segment, the group will go into the field utilizing radio telemetry to track tagged rattlesnakes at PI. Event will start with classroom lecture and conclude with tracking exercise in woodlands of Parris Island to find Eastern Diamondback. The tracking exercise can include high walking over uneven ground, extreme temperatures, exposure to native fauna , insect, etc. Please wear long pants, and closed toed shoes/boots. Also bring any food or drink you will require for the duration of the outing.

Winter Birding at Harbor Island

Speaker: Dr. Sid Gauthreaux

Date: Friday December 6th

Time: 11:00 a.m. – early afternoon

Location: Harbor Island, S.C.

Limited to 20 participants

Join noted ornithologist, Dr. Sid Gauthreaux, for a winter shorebird outing on Harbor Island. Following a classroom discussion on local species and the importance of habitat for wintering shorebirds, the group will take a two mile beach walk on sandbar adjacent to Harbor Island to view wintering shorebirds. This event includes a 2 mile hike across sandy beach encountering “weather of the day”. Access to beach is across long boardwalk over dunes. We suggest you bring binoculars (spotting scope if you have one) and water. Dress appropriately for weather and beach walk. Harbor Island was recently designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by The Audubon Society.

Nemours Plantation- Rice Culture and Impoundments in the ACE Basin

Speaker: Dr. Ernie Wiggers (President and CEO of Nemours Wildlife Foundation)

Date: Wednesday December 11th

Time: 8:30 AM to noon

Location: Nemours Plantation

Limited to 20 participants.

Much of the Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto Rivers (ACE) Basin are composed of plantations that historically used the river systems for rice cultivation, and now host abundant wildlife and maintain a unique cultural heritage. The outing will feature a tour of one of the primary

plantations of the ACE Basin. Dr. Wiggers will narrate the offering with a focus on the management of plantation impoundments and the use of these areas by wildlife. Waterfowl, shorebirds, birds of prey and other bird species will be identified.

Event will start with classroom presentation by Dr. Wiggers and continue in open wagons on a tour of the plantation impoundments. Dress for weather of the day. Suggest participants bring any food or drink they will require for the outing.