



2125 Fort Watson Road  
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## Santee Birding and Nature Festival

### April 27<sup>th</sup> – April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012

### Field Trip Itinerary



#### Thursday April 26<sup>th</sup>

<b>Refuge at Night – Santee National Wildlife Refuge</b>	
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<b>7:30 pm – 9:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: Free</b>
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This program will explore the refuge in search of nocturnal creatures that inhabit the area, focusing on the sounds these animals make – owls, frogs, and night herons are all possible. **\* Meet at Santee National Wildlife Refuge Bluff Unit Visitor Center\***

#### Friday April 27<sup>th</sup>

<b>Audubon Center at Francis Beidler Forest</b>	
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<b>6:15 am – 11:00 am</b>	<b>Cost: \$7/person</b>
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Birdwatching along a boardwalk through a virgin cypress-tupelo swamp, owned and operated by the National Audubon Society. Guaranteed to see Prothonotary Warblers, as well as many nesting species (Summer Tanagers, Eastern Wood Peewees, Acadian Flycatchers, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and a variety of other neotropical migrants. Easy walking. **\*Meet at entrance to Francis Beidler Forest\***

<b>ACE Basin NWR – Edisto (Grove) Unit</b>	
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<b>6:30 am – 11:00 am</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
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This field trip will focus on bird, reptile, amphibian, and vascular plant natural history. A walking tour of selected areas within the 11,800 acre Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) will be the primary focus. This property, also known as the Edisto Unit, is located on the Edisto River and provides habitat for a diversity of flora and fauna. The group will visit freshwater, brackish, and saltwater wetlands, bottomland hardwood forest, and pine flatwoods habitats. Participants will be able to observe the painted bunting, summer tanager, Acadian flycatcher, wood stork, bald eagle, and many other species. Please bring water, hiking footwear, sunscreen, and bug repellent. We will meet at the gate where there is a grassy parking area with large signs. Maximum number of participants: 15

<b>Exploring Bear Island Wildlife Management Area</b>	
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<b>6:30 am – 11:00 am</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
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Bear Island WMA is a well-known birding hotspot in the ACE basin of South Carolina and a designated "Important Bird Area". Located alongside the Ashepoo River in Colleton County, it comprises over 11,000 acres of managed impoundments and tidal marshes, with some cultivated areas and mixed forest. Some of the birds that might be seen on this trip include migratory shorebirds, Mottled Duck, Wood Stork, Black-necked Stilt, Painted or Indigo Bunting, Mississippi or possibly Swallow-tailed Kites, Orchard Oriole, Eastern Kingbird, Least Bittern, Summer Tanager, Tree Swallow and possibly Barn Owl. We can also expect to see a good number of herons, egrets, ibis and anhingas. **\*Meet at the parking area by Mary's House Pond\*** \*No facilities

\*Meeting Location GPS Point: 32.592681,-80.462655

<b>Brosnan Forest</b>
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<b>7:00 am – 11:00 am</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
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Owned and operated by Norfolk Southern Railway, most of this property is managed under a conservation easement. Managed longleaf pines are home to the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Bachman’s Sparrow, and associated bird and butterfly species. **\*Meet at entrance to Brosnan Forest\***

<b>Santee National Wildlife Refuge – Cuddo Unit</b>
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<b>7:00 am – 11:30 am</b>	<b>Cost:FREE</b>
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This walking tour will explore the many habitats of the Cuddo Unit of Santee National Wildlife Refuge in search of Painted Bunting, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Common Yellowthroat, and Prothonotary Warbler. Also, Summer Tanager, Orchard Oriole, and a variety of wading birds. Moderate walking. **\*Meet at Cuddo Unit entrance – Santee National Wildlife Refuge\***

<b>Birding w/ Bill Thompson III – Santee National Wildlife Refuge Bluff Unit</b>
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<b>7:30 am – 11:30 am</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
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Bill Thompson III, editor of Birdwatcher’s Digest and author of several books on birds, will be leading a trip to the Bluff Unit of the Santee National Wildlife Refuge. Come join our keynote speaker as he tracks down such desirable species as Painted Bunting, Prothonotary Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, Bobolink, and Bald Eagle. **\* Meet at Santee National Wildlife Refuge Bluff Unit Visitor Center\***

<b>Reptiles and Amphibians – Santee NWR Bluff Unit</b>
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<b>8:00 am – 12:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
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Learn about the reptile and amphibian species of South Carolina’s Coastal Plain and the Santee National Wildlife Refuge with Steve Bennett, herpetologist, as he takes participants out on the refuge and demonstrates sampling methods he is using as part of his 2-year inventory and monitoring work being conducted on the refuge. The first hour of the program will be a slide-show in the Visitor Center and following the presentation, participants will look at some of the survey techniques being used to document the amphibian and reptile species. This will include looking under coverboards, use of dip-nets, and checking a variety of aquatic traps. Participants in the field trip should dress accordingly and wear boots, or other shoes you don’t mind getting a little wet. With any luck we should be able to see a few of these species “in the wild”. **\* Meet at Santee National Wildlife Refuge Bluff Unit Visitor Center\***

<b>Advanced Wildlife Photography – Santee NWR Cuddo Unit</b>
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<b>8:30 am – 11:30 am</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
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This three hour field trip is aimed at people who would like to learn how to use their camera more effectively when taking photos of wildlife. We will cover briefly some technical features of modern digital SRL cameras and then concentrate on field techniques for effective wildlife photography.

Note: Photographers are expected to bring their own camera and review the instruction manual prior to the field trip (if you don’t already know all of the camera’s bells and whistles). We will cover most of the Cuddo driving loop but will be walking for most of the field work so wear some comfortable shoes. **\*Meet at Cuddo Unit entrance – Santee National Wildlife Refuge\***

Some techniques we will talk about and demonstrate:

- Choosing between aperture, shutter speed and ISO.
- Bright sun light photography and how to expose with bright backgrounds.
- Low light level photography and use of flash.

- Taking the right field gear (to include some tips on wet weather photography).
- Getting to know your subject (where to look and what to look for).
- Getting close versus a bigger lens.
- Making yourself invisible (use of photography blinds, etc.)
- Capturing the animal's behavior and mood.
- Where to practice?
- Some precautions during wildlife photography.
- Digi-scoping techniques.

<b>Old Santee Canal Park</b>	
<b>10:00 am – 12:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
<p>Come visit the site of the first canal ever built in America. Allow the park's educators to show you both the historical and natural beauty of this small yet beautiful and important piece of land. The tour includes a historical and educational video on building the first canal as well as a guided tour through the Stony Landing Plantation House (circa 1850) and concludes with a one-mile easy guided boardwalk tour to discuss the natural aspect of Biggin Swamp. Many wading birds as well as alligators, turtles and a nesting pair of osprey can be observed during this trip. <b>*Meet at Old Santee Canal Park Interpretive Center*</b></p>	

<b>Bulls Island Nature Walk</b>	<b>20 min/40 max</b>
<b>10:00 am – 3:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: \$40/Person</b>
<p>Join us for an adventure through the Class One Wilderness estuaries of Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge for a guided exploration of Bulls Island, "The Gem of Cape Romain". This adventure will explore the dynamic edges between the ecosystems of the barrier island as we move from the salt marsh flats through the maritime forest, past the fresh water ponds to the awesome bone yard beach. We will experience the natural history as it combines with the human history and visit the very beaches where the Sewee Natives met the original settlers in 1670 in route to create the new colony of Carolina.</p> <p>The birding opportunities on this trip are abundant due to the very different ecosystems available. The birds of the estuary yield to the woodland species of the forest and then onward to the impounded water habitats and pelagic opportunities of the open Atlantic.</p> <p>This is a rare glimpse into the wholeness of barrier island processes that will include geological morphology, flora and fauna identification, human history, and there always other surprises on the way.</p> <p>A moderate amount of walking is required and trip highlights include:  Atlantic Bottle Nosed Dolphins, American Alligators, 293 avian species, and Bone Yard Beach.  <b>*Meet at Garris Landing in Awendaw*</b></p>	

<b>Carolina Bays – Wildlife and Conservation</b>	<b>10 max</b>
<b>1:00 pm – 4:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
<p>Carolina bays are elliptical wetlands with a northwest to southeast orientation that are unique to the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The destination for this trip is Bennett's Bay, a peat-filled bay providing access to pocosin and bay forest habitat types. A diversity of flora and fauna characteristically associated with non-flowing Coastal Plain wetlands will be observed. The current theories on the formation of Carolina bays will be discussed along with the conservation status of these important natural areas. Please bring water, hiking footwear, and bug repellent. <b>*Meet at Bennett's Bay Heritage Preserve*</b></p>	

<b>Santee Canal Guided Canoe Trip</b>	<b>15 person max</b>
<b>1:30 pm – 3:30 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>

Take a guided canoe trip through the historical and natural beauty of the Santee Canal, the first canal built in America. Follow the guided naturalist as they discuss the historical importance of the canal and this beautiful natural setting. Many wading birds as well as alligators, turtles and a nesting pair of osprey are among the many wildlife species that call the wildlife home. This is a family-friendly, leisure pace, guided canoe trip. **\*Meet at Old Santee Canal Park Interpretive Center\***

<b>Fisheagle Swamp/Lake Tour</b>	<b>28 person max</b>
<b>1:30 pm – 3:30 pm</b>	<b>Cost: \$26/person</b>

Explore the sunken forests of Lake Marion on a pontoon boat tour and enjoy the various bird species found on the lake including Osprey, Anhinga, Great Blue Heron and more! See alligators, enjoy wildflowers and experience many natural wonders as the tour meanders the open waters of South Carolina's largest lake. **\*Meet at the Santee State Park Boat Ramp\***

<b>Plantation Island Canoe/Kayak Trip (Bring Your Own Boat)</b>	<b>12 person max</b>
<b>1:30 pm – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>

Take a peaceful guided canoe/kayak trip in the newest of the refuge's paddling trails. Tour a portion of the Plantation Islands while learning about the natural and cultural history. **Must provide own canoe/kayak.** **\*Meet at Cuddo Unit entrance – Santee National Wildlife Refuge\***

<b>Cypress Gardens Boat Tour</b>	<b>30 person/max</b>
<b>2:00 pm – 4:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: \$15/Person</b>

April is a great time to tour Cypress Gardens with the alligators sunning and non-native azaleas still blooming. Dogwoods should be in bloom and native blue flag iris flowering. Other species which may be blooming include Leucothoe, water-spider orchid and Virginia sweet spire. Winter migrants like yellow-bellied sapsuckers, hermit thrushes and ruby-crowned kinglets may still be around and spring migrant warblers and others are arriving. Cypress Gardens is a good place to see great-crested flycatchers and we have our own vulture roost in the back of the swamp. Late April is one of the best times of the year for butterflies at the Gardens with the swallowtails, pearly-eyes, and satyrs usually abundant. Guides will point out some of these species and talk about the natural and cultural history of our swamp, a former rice reservoir, as well as the history of Cypress Gardens and the movies filmed here. We'll also sample some of the smaller vertebrates, invertebrates and aquatic plants to admire them under a videoscope. The boat tour will last about 45 minutes. Boats are open, large, flat-bottom wooden boats that can carry 10 to 12 adults each. Hats, walking shoes, binoculars and cameras are recommended. Insect repellent may be needed on some of the more remote trails. Be sure to allow some time to walk some of the trails and see the Swamparium, butterfly house and Heritage Room. The Heritage Room features artifacts from an archaeological excavation of the former Dean Hall Plantation slave quarters that recovered some of the greatest concentration of colonoware pottery pieces of any plantation site. **\*Meet at Cypress Gardens Visitor's Center\***

<b>Keynote Dinner w/ Bill Thompson III</b>	<b>100 person max</b>
<b>6:30 pm – 9:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: \$40/person</b>

Join us at the Holiday Inn – Santee for a wonderful buffet-style dinner. The Keynote Speaker for the evening will be Bill Thompson III.

**Bill Thompson III** is the editor/co-publisher of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, America's longest-running magazine for birders. He's the author of numerous books on birds, including *Bird Watching For Dummies*, *Identify Yourself: The 50 Most Common Bird Identification Challenges*, *Identifying & Feeding Birds*, and the forthcoming *Young*

*Birder's Guide to Birds of North America*. He writes a weekly blog, *Bill of the Birds* ([billofthebirds.blogspot.com](http://billofthebirds.blogspot.com)) and hosts a podcast called *This Birding Life*. Bill regularly speaks, guides, and performs at birding festivals across North America and consults internationally on ecotourism marketing. He has watched birds in 47 US states and in 28 countries. In his spare time he's the leader of the country-rock band The Rain Crows. **\*Meet at the Holiday Inn-Santee\***

## Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>

<b>Audubon Center at Francis Beidler Forest</b>	
<b>6:15 am – 11:00 am</b>	<b>Cost: \$7/person</b>
<p>Birdwatching along a boardwalk through a virgin cypress-tupelo swamp, owned and operated by the National Audubon Society. Guaranteed to see Prothonotary Warblers, as well as many nesting species (Summer Tanagers, Eastern Wood Peewees, Acadian Flycatchers, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and a variety of other neotropical migrants. Easy walking. <b>*Meet at entrance to Francis Beidler Forest*</b></p>	
<b>McAlhany Nature Preserve</b>	
<b>7:00 am – 11:30 am</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
<p>The three main habitat types at McAlhany Preserve are bottomland hardwoods, mixed pine-hardwoods forest and open fields (with an ongoing longleaf pine restoration project). There is also a 9-acre oxbow lake and about a mile of frontage on the Edisto River.</p> <p>Target species may include: Wood Duck, Mississippi Kite, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Purple Martin, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wood Thrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Parula, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak. <b>*Meet the field trip leader at the McDonald's in St. George*</b></p>	
<b>Pine Island/Dingle Pond (Santee NWR)</b>	
<b>7:30 am – 11:30 am</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
<p>Visit two different units of the Santee National Wildlife Refuge, located on the northern shore of Lake Marion. On the Pine Island Unit you may see such species as the Painted Bunting, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, and Summer Tanager. Also wading birds such as the Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Great Egret, Wood Storks, and White Ibis. The Dingle Pond Unit is home to a Carolina Bay, a unique habitat found only in the Southeast. Bird species found here may include Black and White Warblers, Wood Ducks, Prothonotary Warblers, Northern Parula, and Wood Thrush. <b>*Meet at the Pine Island Unit parking area – Santee National Wildlife Refuge*</b></p>	
<b>Birding with Bill Thompson III, Bluff Unit (Santee NWR)</b>	
<b>7:30 am – 11:30 am</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
<p>Bill Thompson III, editor of <i>Birdwatcher's Digest</i> and author of several books on birds, will be leading a trip to the Bluff Unit of the Santee National Wildlife Refuge. Come join our keynote speaker as he tracks down such desirable species as Painted Bunting, Prothonotary Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, Bobolink, and Bald Eagle. <b>* Meet at Santee National Wildlife Refuge Bluff Unit Visitor Center*</b></p>	
<b>Birding with Alan and Ruth (authors of <i>The Biggest Twitch</i>) – Cuddo Unit (Santee NWR)</b>	
<b>7:30 am – 11:30 am</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
<p>World record holders and authors, Ruth Miller and Alan Davies, will guide participants through the Cuddo Unit of the Santee National Wildlife Refuge. This walking tour will explore the many habitats</p>	

of the Cuddo Unit of Santee National Wildlife Refuge in search of Painted Bunting, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Common Yellowthroat, and Prothonotary Warbler. Also, Summer Tanager, Orchard Oriole, and a variety of wading birds. Moderate walking. **\*Meet at Cuddo Unit entrance – Santee National Wildlife Refuge\***

<b>Spiers Landed Kayak Trip (Bring Your Own Boat)</b>	
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<b>8:00 am – 11:00 am</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
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Spiers Landing trip on Lake Marion in Cross offers a great opportunity to see eagles, osprey and an assortment of wading birds as you paddle along the shoreline and among the numerous cypress trees along this trail. Total time for this trip will be between three to four hours with an opportunity to take breaks along the way. **\*Meet at Spiers Landing\*** \*Directions to landing: <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=33.3957,-80.1988>\*

<b>Sparkleberry Swamp Canoe/Kayak</b>	
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<b>8:00 am – 12:00 pm</b>	<b>20 person max</b> <b>Cost: \$20/person</b>
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Join the guides of Nature Adventures Outfitters, one of South Carolina's premier outdoor outfitters for a discovery trip in the Santee Swamp. Canoe and kayak excursions will be led into areas of the Santee River, Sparkleberry Swamp, Wadboo Creek, or Echaw Creek, depending on water levels. Children 18 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Release forms will be signed upon arrival. **\*Meet at the Sparkleberry Swamp Boat Launch\***

<b>Birding Botany Bay WMA</b>	
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<b>8:00 am – 12:00 pm</b>	<b>15 max</b> <b>Cost: FREE</b>
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Enjoy a beautiful bird and nature walk on the causeway at Botany Bay Plantation leading to a wild and unspoiled boneyard beach. We will encounter birds in the marsh, throughout the hammock islands, and on the marsh relics on the beach as well as see Least Terns and Wilson's Plovers in their protected nesting sites. We will also see Painted Buntings and learn about the fauna as well on our ½ mile trek to the beach. **\*Meet at the Botany Bay beach parking at 8:00 a.m.\***

<b>Francis Marion National Forest – Tidwin Plantation</b>	
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<b>8:00 am – 12:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
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The Francis Marion National Forest (FMNF) provides essential stopover habitat for hundreds of autumn and spring migrating bird species, as well as critical breeding habitat for migrants and year round residents. To date, approximately 250 different species of birds have been documented on the FMNF, 220 of which have been documented on Tibwin Plantation alone. Boots or shoes that can get wet & muddy are suggested. Bring water, snacks/lunch, insect repellent, and of course, your binoculars. (Plan for approximately 3 miles of walking and 4 hours in the woods. No facilities!) Tibwin is adjacent to Hwy 17 N, approximately 3 mi. S of McClellanville & 11.7 mi. N of Sewee Visitor Center. Check local weather forecast for Charleston County the day before event. The walk will be cancelled if there is greater than 40% chance of rain on April 28. **\*Meet at South Tibwin parking area.\***

<b>Butterfly Walk at the Albemarle Corporation</b>	
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<b>9:30 am – 12:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
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Albemarle Corporation is a chemical plant in Orangeburg that has set aside 100 acres of habitat called the "Hundred Acre Woods". This site is known for the Goatweed Leafwing that has only been sighted in 3 other counties in SC. Along the trails through several habitat types, many species of butterflies may be observed including; Spicebush Swallowtail, Red-spotted Purple, Variegated Fritillary, American Lady, Carolina Satyr, and Least Skipper. Arthur Sweatman, on staff at Albemarle, will

accompany the group on the trip. There is a shelter facility on site if participants would like to bring a picnic lunch. **\*Meet at the Albermarle Entrance\***

<b>Snake Ecology at Cheeha-Combahee Plantation</b>	<b>6 person max</b>
<b>9:30 am – 2:30 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>

This field trip will take place on Cheeha Combahee Plantation, a privately-owned quail hunting plantation in Wiggins, SC. The longleaf pine savanna and flatwoods habitats are home to one of the southeast's most imperiled predators, the Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake. We will spend the trip searching for Eastern Diamondbacks while discussing their ecology, importance to the longleaf pine ecosystem, and current threats to their survival. Please be sure to wear comfortable field clothes, have some bugspray handy, and bring a lunch. Snake protection is a must, so please provide your own snakeproof boots and/or snake chaps. **\*Plan to meet at the entrance to Grain Bin Road off Wiggins Road (gps point 32.633933°, -80.590386°) in Wiggins, SC\***

<b>Happy Herpetologists</b>	
<b>10:00 am – 11:30 am</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>

Ever touched a live turtle, snake or alligator? Here's your chance! The educators at Old Santee Canal Park will highlight all the amazing characteristics that make reptiles the fascinating and mysterious animals that they are today. Using live animals, we will allow you the opportunity to get up close and personal with the local inhabitants at the park. This program is VERY family friendly and will be entertaining for all members of the family. **\*Meet at the Old Santee Canal Park Interpretive Center\***

<b>SSSSnakes!!</b>	
<b>10:00 am – 11:30 am</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>

Have you ever been walking through the woods and come upon a snake? After the startling effect and reaction, did you wonder what type it was or whether it was dangerous? If you did, join us at the Santee State Park for a lecture and demonstration by Mr. Darrell Linder on snake identification. Mr. Linder will teach you how to identify snakes, discuss their behavior, and dispel many popular misconceptions about our reptilian neighbors. He will have several live specimens from his own collection for you to see close up. Come join us for an informative and entertaining event! **\*Meet at the Santee State Park Village Round\***

<b>Wambaw Creek Kayak Tour</b>	<b>20 person max</b>
<b>10:00 am – 1:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: \$20/person</b>

This is a "Nationally Recognized and Designated Trail" located in the heart of a Protected Wilderness area in the Francis Marion National Forest. This beautiful Blackwater Creek is a tributary to the Santee River and was paddled by the Santee and Coastal Plain Indians for thousands of years. Giant 1000 year old Bald Cypress trees can be seen in the upper section and Water Oak, Water Ash, Red Maple and Swamp Dogwood shade the banks of its pristine black waters. It offers spectacular birding and wildlife viewing. Banks of the river reflect geological precedence of the Rice era where Historical earthen dikes give way to a flooded subtropical forest of abandoned rice fields once owned by prosperous Rice Plantations. **\* Meet at Bull's Bay Supply/Shell Gas Station at the Intersection of Hwy 17N and HWY 45\***

<b>SSSSnakes!!</b>
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<b>1:00 pm – 3:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
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Have you ever been walking through the woods and come upon a snake? After the startling effect and reaction, did you wonder what type it was or whether it was dangerous? If you did, join us at the Santee State Park for a lecture and demonstration by Mr. Darrell Linder on snake identification. Mr. Linder will teach you how to identify snakes, discuss their behavior, and dispel many popular misconceptions about our reptilian neighbors. He will have several live specimens from his own collection for you to see close up. Come join us for an informative and entertaining event! **\*Meet at the Santee State Park Village Round\***

<b>Backyard Wildlife Habitats</b>
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<b>1:00 pm – 3:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: \$5/person</b>
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Join Sara Green from the SC Wildlife Federation to learn how to attract more wildlife to your yard by providing food, water, cover & places to raise young. You will learn about native plants & wildlife species and find out how to have your yard certified by the National Wildlife Federation. You will also get the chance to make some suet & take some home to feed the birds in your own yard. **\*Meet at the Santee Family Development Building – Santee Town Hall Complex\***

<b>A Social and Ecological Tour of the Lowcountry Plantation Landscape</b>
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<b>1:00 pm – 4:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
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This walking tour will pass through typical habitats on Lowcountry plantations and discuss the ecological and social history of these areas. We will discuss pre-Columbian habitats and how colonization and growth of southern plantation society influenced the ecology of this landscape. We will talk about the ecological benefit of rice culture during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. We will also discuss the landscape level impact of conservation in the ACE Basin, much of which is due to vestiges of plantation ownership. **\*Meet at the Folk Land Management Office in Green Pond\***

<b>Exploring Donnelley Wildlife Management Area</b>
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<b>1:00 pm – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
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This field trip will focus on bird, reptile, amphibian, and vascular plant species and community associations across a variety of Lowcountry habitats. A driving and walking tour of selected areas within the 8,000 acre Donnelley Wildlife Management Area will be the primary focus. Donnelley WMA is located between the Ashepoo and Combahee Rivers within the ACE Basin and provides habitat for a diversity of flora and fauna. The group will visit freshwater, brackish, and saltwater wetlands, longleaf pine savannah and flatwoods, depression meadows, and evergreen hammocks. Participants will be able to observe the painted bunting, summer tanager, Acadian flycatcher, wood stork, bald eagle, and many other species. Please bring water, hiking footwear, sunscreen, and bug repellent. **\*Meet at the check station on Donnelley Drive off US HWY 17.\***

<b>Stumphole Swamp Kayak (Bring Your Own Boat)</b>	<b>12 person max</b>
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<b>1:00 – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
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We will paddle across open water to the flooded forest known as Stumphole Swamp. This is a scenic area with abundant wildlife. Expect to see Great Blue Heron, Anhinga, Double-crested Cormorant, Osprey, Great Egret, and American Alligator. We may see Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Eastern Kingbird, Orchard Oriole, Wood Duck, American Coot, Kingfisher, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, and others. Bring: water, hat, PFD, snacks, compass (in case you get separated from the group)

to get back), camera, binoculars, and GPS. There are no facilities at the landing or on the trip, so plan ahead \* **Bring your own kayak required**\* \* **Meet at Stumphole Landing**\*

<b>Santee Canal Guided Canoe Trip</b>	<b>15 person max</b>
<b>1:30 pm – 3:30 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>

Take a guided canoe trip through the historical and natural beauty of the Santee Canal, the first canal built in America. Follow the guided naturalists as they discuss the historical importance of the canal in this beautiful natural setting. Alligators, turtles and nesting osreys are among many of the wildlife that call the swamp home. This is a family-friendly, leisure pace guided canoe trip. \***Meet at the Old Santee Canal Park Interpretive Center**\*

<b>Sparkleberry Swamp Canoe/Kayak</b>	<b>20 person max</b>
<b>1:30 pm – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: \$20/person</b>

Join the guides of Nature Adventures Outfitters, one of South Carolina's premier outdoor outfitters for a discovery trip in the Santee Swamp. Canoe and kayak excursions will be led into areas of the Santee River, Sparkleberry Swamp, Wadboo Creek, or Echaw Creek, depending on water levels. Children 18 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Release forms will be signed upon arrival. \***Meet at Sparkleberry Landing**\*

<b>Santee NWR – Birds and Butterflies</b>	
<b>1:30 pm – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>

Hiking tour on the Bluff Unit of the Santee National Wildlife Refuge. Mixture of songbird and waterbird species will be seen in a diversity of habitats. Butterflies and other insects abound in the open fields of the Bluff Unit. Moderate Walking. \* **Meet at Santee National Wildlife Refuge Bluff Unit Visitor Center**\*

<b>Leaf Art with a Park Ranger</b>	
<b>2:30 pm – 3:30 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>

Come take a walk with a State Park Ranger to learn more about the trees that live at Santee State Park. While on the walk, we will collect a few leaves that we'll take back to the park's Village Round. We'll try to identify the trees using the leaves and then use the leaves to create a unique art piece that you can take home with you. The 1 hour program is for adults and children ages 5 and up. Minors should be accompanied by parent or guardian. Meet at Santee State Park's Village Round. \***Meet at the Santee State Park Village Round**\*

<b>The Biggest Twitch – Around the World in 4000 birds!</b>	<b>30 person max</b>
<b>3:30 pm – 5:30 pm</b>	<b>Cost: \$10/person</b>

Everyone has dreamt of doing it but very few have actually done it. Packed up their lives and lived their dream, leaving behind the safe and secure for the freedom and excitement of doing exactly what they've always wanted to do.

This is the tale of two people who did just that, the tale of a world record-breaking journey around the globe. Alan Davies and Ruth Miller had reached a point in their lives when they wanted something more and knew that if they didn't go for it now, they probably never would. They could find no good reason for not undertaking this fantastic journey and once they'd started telling people about their dream, there was no going back.

Follow the ups and downs of their birding year in this fast-paced adventure of birds, people and places. Anyone with an interest in travel, wildlife or human relationships will be gripped by this epic tale. \***Meet at the Santee Family Development Building – Santee Town Hall Complex**\*

<b>Combahee River Canoe/Kayak Tour</b>	
<b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: \$40 person</b>
<p>The ACE Basin is a magnificent estuarine system created by the Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto Rivers. On this trip we will follow a meandering black water creek deep into the rice culture of the the past which defines the character of the landscape. Cypress trees cradling Osprey nests, remnants of the days when rice was king, and mirror-like reflections of the sky make this a trip not to be forgotten.</p> <p><b>*Meet at Sugar Hill Landing off River Rd. near Yemassee*</b></p>	

<b>Hoot! Hoot! Hooray – Santee State Park</b>	
<b>4:00 pm – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
<p>Join a park ranger from Sesquicentennial State Park as we discover the secret lives of owls! We will uncover their nocturnal habits and unveil their amazing adaptations in this fun family nature program about the owls of South Carolina. See an owl skull up close, listen to the eerie sounds of an owl call and find out what owl pellets are made of! Come find out some fascinating facts about some of our favorite feathered friends! <b>*Meet at the Santee State Park Village Round*</b></p>	

<b>Birding Social/Countdown – Santee State Park</b>	
<b>6:30 pm – 8:30 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
<p>Join festival participants and organizers for a time of fellowship and fun, as we gather at the Santee State Park Village Round. Organizers will countdown the species of wildlife seen during the festival and host a trivia contest to test participants' knowledge of natural history in South Carolina. Come out, swap stories, and meet new friends during this festive and informal event. Light refreshments will be provided. Bill Thompson III will be on hand with his guitar providing a little light-hearted entertainment! <b>*Meet at the Santee State Park Village Round*</b></p>	

## Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>

<b>Manchester State Forest and Pointsett State Park</b>	
<b>6:15 am – 12:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
<p>Participants will set out early in the morning in search of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, an endangered species generally found in longleaf pine forests in the Southeast. A diversity of habitats will be observed on this trip including; longleaf pine forests, ponds, wooded ravines, and floodplain forests. Other notable species that might be seen; Brown-headed Nuthatch, Louisiana Waterthrush, Swainson's Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, Broad-winged Hawk and Mississippi Kite. <b>*Meet at intersection of State Road 261 with Rd. 808*</b></p>	

<b>Birding Santee Cooper WMA</b>	
<b>7:30 am – 11:00 am</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
<p>Santee Cooper Wildlife Management Area is a scenic 3,000 acre area managed by the SC Department of Natural Resources. Located on the southern shore of Lake Marion, near the town of Eutawville. Target species for this area are osprey, purple gallinule, summer and scarlet tanager, painted bunting, indigo bunting, and bobolink. <b>Meet at the entrance to Santee Cooper WMA*</b></p>	

<b>Birding Congaree National Park</b>	
<b>8:00 am – 11:30 am</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
<p>This old growth floodplain forest has been designated as a Globally Important Birding Area. Look for neotropical migrants among some of the tallest trees of their type in the nation. Target species include Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, Summer Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, and more. Easy walking. <b>*Meet at the Congaree National Park Visitor Center at the appointed time.*</b></p>	
<b>Giant Cement Quarry Fossil Trip</b>	
<b>8:30 am – 11:30 am</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
<p>Opened in 1949, the Giant Cement Quarry near Harleyville was the first cement quarry opened in South Carolina. A hotbed for fossil enthusiasts, fossils as old as 40,000,000 years old have been found at the quarry and have produced such wonders as: giant ground sloths, ancient horses, dire wolves, mastodons, sabertooth cats, ancient camels and the list goes on!! Having access to the quarry is a rare event so please join us for this special program in search of fossils. Closed toed shoes are required and digging tools (buckets, small shovels, etc) are recommended. Children must be supervised at all times by parent or guardian. Moderate walking. <b>*Meet at the entrance to Giant Cement Quarry*</b></p>	
<b>Francis Marion History Tour</b>	
<b>9:00 am – 1:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
<p>Mr. Bob Barrett, Executive Director of the Francis Marion Trail Commission, will guide participants to sites around Clarendon County of significance to Francis Marion and the Revolutionary War. Stories of the site, fables, and tales will be told to enlighten the participants about the history of Marion and his significance in South Carolina. Tearcoat Swamp, Halfway Swamp, and the Richardson Cemetery will be included in the tour. <b>* Meet at Santee National Wildlife Refuge Bluff Unit Visitor Center*</b></p>	
<b>Old Santee Canal Park Tour</b>	
<b>10:00 am – 12:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
<p>Come visit the site of the first canal ever built in America. Allow the park's educators to show you both the historical and natural beauty of this small, yet beautiful and important, piece of land. The tour includes a historical and educational video on building the first canal, as well as a guided tour through the Stony Landing Plantation House (ca. 1850) and concludes with a 1 mile easy guided boardwalk tour to discuss the natural aspect of Biggin Swamp. Many wading birds, as well as alligators, turtles, and a nesting pair of osprey can be observed during this trip. <b>*Meet at the Old Santee Canal Park Interpretive Center*</b></p>	
<b>Butterfly Tour – Santee NWR (Cuddo Unit)</b>	
<b>10:30 am – 1:30 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>
<p>This trip around the Santee National Wildlife Refuge is a great introduction to the butterfly species of Central South Carolina. A variety of skippers will be seen as well as Carolina Satyr, Sleepy Orange, Variegated Fritillary, Question Mark, and Swallowtail species are all possible. <b>*Meet at Cuddo Unit entrance – Santee National Wildlife Refuge*</b></p>	

<b>Cape Romain - Key Inlet Estuary Tour</b>	
<b>11:00 am – 4:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: \$45/person</b>

Join Coastal Expeditions on an adventure through the Class One Wilderness of the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. This excursion will explore the northern end of Cape Romain and will include excellent viewing and photography opportunities of the historic Cape Romain light houses built in the mid 1800's. The birding has been described as among the best in the nation. The typical birds of the salt marsh estuary are abundant; egrets, herons, oystercatchers, pelicans, terns, willets, plovers, as well as the possibility of more rare sightings of sharp tailed and sea side sparrows, clapper rails, and perhaps the long-billed curlew! **\* Meet at the Robert Ashley Public Landing in McClellanville\***

<b>Congaree National Park Canoe Trip</b>	
<b>12:30 pm – 3:30 pm</b>	<b>12 max</b> <b>Cost: FREE</b>

Easy paddle along Cedar Creek that runs through Congaree National Park. target species include: Pileated Woodpecker, Prothonotary Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, and Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Children under 17 must be accompanied by an adult. **\*Meet at the Congaree National Park Visitor Center\***

<b>Giant Cement Quarry Fossil Trip</b>	
<b>2:00 pm – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>

Opened in 1949, the Giant Cement Quarry near Harleyville was the first cement quarry opened in South Carolina. A hotbed for fossil enthusiasts, fossils as old as 40,000,000 years old have been found at the quarry and have produced such wonders as: giant ground sloths, ancient horses, dire wolves, mastodons, sabertooth cats, ancient camels and the list goes on!! Having access to the quarry is a rare event so please join us for this special program in search of fossils. Closed toed shoes are required and digging tools (buckets, small shovels, etc) are recommended. Children must be supervised at all times by parent or guardian. Moderate walking. **\*Meet at the entrance to Giant Cement Quarry\***

<b>Wildlife of the MeadWestvaco Nature Trail</b>	
<b>2:00 pm – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Cost: FREE</b>

This field trip will focus on bird, reptile, amphibian, and vascular plant species and community associations with a walking tour along a boardwalk through tidal river swamp, bottomland hardwood forest, and mature pine/hardwood forest. The MeadWestvaco Nature Trail is located on the Edisto River within the ACE Basin and provides habitat for a diversity of flora and fauna. Please bring a lunch, water, hiking footwear, and bug repellent. **\*Meet at trailhead for the MeadWastvaco Nature Trail in Jacksonboro\***