

SCDNR Spring 2018 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."

Nemours Plantation- Rice Culture and Impoundments in the ACE Basin

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

Date: Tuesday March 13th

Time: 9:00 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.

Santee Coastal reserve

Speaker: Achi Treptow

Date: Wednesday March 14th

Time: 10 AM – early afternoon

Location: Santee Coastal Wildlife Management Area, McClellanville ,S.C.

Limited to 20 people.

Santee Coastal Reserve is a 24,000 acre Wildlife management Area located in Northern Charleston County. Freshwater, brackish, and tidal wetlands dominate this landscape and provide habitat for a vast array of wildlife species. Visitors may expect to see many different resident and migratory birds and other wetland dependent species as they explore and learn about the history of rice culture in coastal South Carolina.

We suggest you bring binoculars (spotting scope if you have one) and water. Dress appropriately for weather and bring any food and drink you may need for the day (we will be there over lunch)

Hammock Island walk

Speaker: Lauton Sutley, Billy McCord

Date: Wednesday April 18th

Time: 9 am – 12 pm

Location: Bennets Point SC

Limited to 15 people.

Join DNR staff for a day out on hammock islands. The group will take part in a beach sweep of Pine Island and Hutchinson island as well as experience interpretation of hammock island habitats. The group will travel by boat and learn about the management of these unique Lowcountry features. Participants should be prepared for exposure to sun and wind and bring food and water appropriate for a half day outing.

Shorebirds

Speaker: Nick Wallover, Lauton Sutley

Date: Monday May 21st

Time: 10 a.m. - until

Location: Harbor Island SC

Limited to 20 people.

Every year, thousands of shorebirds on their spring migration stop at Harbor Island to feed on millions of horseshoe crab eggs laid in the sand around the time of the Spring full moon. On this morning shorebird walk, we hope to observe shorebirds foraging as the tide begins to fall, exposing horseshoe crab eggs laid the night before in the intertidal zone. This time of the year is one of the best for viewing shorebirds in South Carolina, both in numbers and also diversity, as they are fueling for flights to their nesting grounds. The walk will be followed immediately after by a talk about shorebirds and horseshoe crabs in the Harbor Island classroom. The walk will cover over a mile on boardwalk and sand, wear comfortable shoes and plan for cool breezy conditions. Binoculars are recommended, although there will be optics to share among the group.

Horseshoe Crabs

Speaker: Nick Wallover, Lauton Sutley

Date: Friday May 18th

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Otter Island SC

Limited to 12 participants.

Join DNR veterinarian Al Segars and DNR staff in a spawning survey and tagging of the fascinating Horseshoe Crab! Join us for an opportunity to learn about the critical role Horseshoe Crabs play in both wildlife populations and human health!

Event will start with classroom session and then head to the island by boat. Be prepared to wade in knee deep water and be exposed to hot and buggy conditions. No sandals, need closed toe shoes for wading.

Be prepared for being on the beach for several hours, bring water, and lunch, as well as bug spray and sunscreen.

Horseshoe Crabs

Speaker: Nick Wallover, Lauton Sutley

Date: Tuesday May 29th

Time: 5:00 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.

Location: Harbor Island, S.C.

Limited to 20 participants.

Join DNR veterinarian Al Segars and DNR staff in a spawning survey and tagging of the fascinating Horseshoe Crab! Join us for an opportunity to learn about the critical role Horseshoe Crabs play in both wildlife populations and human health!

Event will start with classroom session and then head to beach (approximate one mile walk each way!). Be prepared to wade in knee deep water in the dark on return beach walk. No sandals, need closed toe shoes for wading.

Bring flashlight, bug spray, jacket (cool to cold at night on beach).

Once you join group on beach you must stay until conclusion and return with group.