

[SCDNR Spring 2012 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."

[Astronomy:](#)

Speaker: Kristen Mattson and Marie McClune

Date: Tuesday, January 24th 2012

Time: 6 PM

Location: Spring Island SC

Come discover the lowcountry sky at night and learn about our place in the solar system with Sky Rangers Kristen Marshall Mattson and Marie McClune. We will focus on the constellations of the winter hexagon and use the familiar constellation Orion to "star hop" to neighboring star groups. Bring binoculars to help you spot lesser-seen space objects and dress to be outside! Kristen is an environmental educator with the LowCountry Institute and a co-instructor of the Master Naturalist program. Marie is a docent at the Coastal Discovery museum and former geology/astronomy teacher. Both completed the Astronomical Society of the Pacific's online workshop to become "Sky Rangers."

[Birding at Bear Island](#)

Speaker: Pete Laurie

Date: Monday, February 20, 2012

Time: 8:30AM to 1:00 p.m.

Location: Bear Island Wildlife Management Area

Limited to 20 participants.

Join Pete Laurie and SCDNR staff on a tour of the Bear Island Management Area, with an emphasis on birding. Wetland impoundments and various habitats exist within Bear Island which makes this area a bird watchers paradise. Participants will travel in hayride style as they are pulled in an open trailer with bench seating. Birds to be experienced throughout the day include, but are surely not limited to, Tundra Swan, White Pelican, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Glossy Ibis, and a variety of Egrets, Herons and waterfowl.

Dress for “weather of the day” as will be in exposed wagon at Bear Island. Bring lunch/ drink, binoculars.

[Birding at Bear Island](#)

Speaker: Pete Laurie

Date: Saturday, February 25, 2012

Time: 8:30AM to 1:00 p.m.

Location: Bear Island Wildlife Management Area

Limited to 20 participants.

Join Pete Laurie and SCDNR staff on a tour of the Bear Island Wildlife Management Area, with an emphasis on birding. Wetland impoundments and various habitats exist within Bear Island which makes this area a bird watchers paradise. Participants will travel in hayride style as they are pulled in an open trailer with bench seating. Birds to be experienced throughout the day include, but are surely not limited to, Tundra Swan, White Pelican, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Glossy Ibis, and a variety of Egrets, Herons and waterfowl.

Dress for “weather of the day” as will be in exposed wagon at Bear Island. Bring lunch/ drink, binoculars.

[Wildlife and Nature Photography - Tips for Taking Your Best Shot - \\$\\$\\$\\$](#)

Speaker: Marvin Bouknight and Eric Horan

Date: Sunday, February 26, 2012

Time: 6:30 a.m.- sunset

Location: ACE Basin- Donnelly and Bear Island Wildlife Management Areas

- Meet at Donnelly Wildlife Management office

Limited Space available

Join Marvin Bouknight and Eric Horan for a nature and wildlife photography workshop in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

This one day, comprehensive workshop will offer instruction, tools, and techniques for improving your wildlife photography. Class and fieldwork discussions and instruction will feature techniques for safely approaching your subjects, understanding wildlife behavior, scouting your subject, use of blinds and other concealment, wildlife/nature photography etiquette, and much more. Technical and creative instruction will include such topics as camera settings and functions, lens selection, controlling depth of field, exposure, composition, shooting techniques, and the study of good lighting including the use of on and off camera flash. Join us for a fun-filled, educational and instructional workshop that will help give your next photo adventure your best shot!

This program is designed for intermediate level photographers. Minimum requirements for participation are:

- *DSLR camera*
- *Minimum of a 250mm telephoto lens*
-

This event will include walking on uneven ground along dikes/ marshy areas and through woodlands. Participants must be prepared for prolonged standing in outdoors, exposure to “weather of the day”, insects.

There is an \$80.00 fee for this program. Lunch is not included (bring your own!).

We anticipate demand to exceed the 14 spaces available for this event. Should requests exceed number of slots, participants will be chosen by lottery. Signup form allows two participants per application.

Applicants will be notified by e-mail of their status on Friday, February 17, 2012. Following notification of acceptance in event, the participant must secure their space in event by payment to instructors by Wednesday, February 22, 2012 (instructions will be sent for this upon obtaining event slot). Spaces not paid for by close of business day on that day will be offered to alternates on event wait list.

[Nemours Plantation- Rice Culture and Impoundments in the ACE Basin](#)

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

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2012

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.

Ernest F. Hollings – ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge

Speaker: Mark A. Purcell (Refuge Manager) / Larry Hartis (Refuge Wildlife Biologist)

Date: March 14, 2012

Time: 8:30 AM to noon

Location: Grove Plantation

Limited to 20 participants.

Exploration of the 1828 Grove Plantation House and grounds (listed on the National Register of Historic Places), as well as, wildlife management discussion of neighboring historic ricefield impoundments:

Event will begin with tour through the Grove Plantation House; followed by a PowerPoint-based presentation by Mark Purcell pertaining to the refuge and greater ACE Basin Project. The program will conclude with a walking tour of the plantation grounds and nearby impoundments offering outstanding birding opportunities. Dress for weather of the day. Suggest participants bring any food or drink they will require for the outing.

SCORE: Volunteer Activity

Speakers: Lauton Sutley and Allison Kreutzer

Date: March 20th 2012

Time: 10:30 AM -2:30 PM

Location: Garris Landing State Highway S-10-1170, Awendaw, SC

Participants will learn about the significance of oyster reefs along the South Carolina coast through hands-on activity. We will learn about the SCDNR's SCORE project which utilizes bagged oyster shell to create the base of oyster reefs. Bagged oyster shell allows an area for SPAT (oyster larvae) to attach and mature, that is make more oyster reefs. Participants will head outside to learn hands-on about creating oyster reefs by bagging shell material and assisting

with a reef build. Shells bagged for this event will be utilized for reef “planting.” Please wear closed toed shoes and clothes you don’t mind getting dirty, water is provided but you will want to bring a lunch or snack.

Winter shorebirds at Harbor Island

Speaker: Dr. Sid Gauthreaux

Date: Monday, March 26, 2012

Time: 9:30 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.

Birds of Prey: \$\$\$\$

Speakers: Stephen Schabel

Date: Tuesday April 3rd, 2012

Time: 10:00 am – early afternoon

Location: Avian Conservation Center

We will tour the Avian Conservation Center (Center for Birds of Prey) in Awendaw SC. Get a close hand look at birds of prey commonly seen in Lowcountry skies. Get an up-close view of many of the birds and the behind the scenes operations. Participants will get to experience a flight demonstration in the aviary and learn from the center’s very knowledgeable staff. We will be standing for the majority of the event and you may want to bring snacks or water.

There will be a \$10 fee for this event, payable at the time of the event.

We anticipate demand to exceed the spaces available for this event. Should requests exceed number of slots, participants will be chosen by lottery. Signup form allows two participants per

application.

North Inlet- Winyah Bay

Speakers: Beth Thomas

Date: April 25th 2012

Time: 10:00 AM – early afternoon

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

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.

Reptiles and Rattlesnakes

Speakers: Tony Mills, Mike Martin

Date: Tuesday, May 1, 2012

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

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. Mike Martin, PhD student working with Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes on Parris Island, will share life history of these fascinating animals and discuss his work on Parris Island. Following the lecture segment, the group will join Mike in the field utilizing radio telemetry to track his 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.

Estuarine Invertebrates -Cancelled

Speaker: Dr. Alex Marsh

Date: ~~Cancelled~~

Time:**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.

Night Sounds**Speaker:** Tony Mills**Date:** Thursday, May 17th**Time:** 5:00p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**Location:** Main office, Donnelly Wildlife Management Area

Limited to 20 participants.

Donnelly Wildlife Management Area, an 8,000-acre tract of land managed by DNR, is home to diverse habitats including rice impoundments, longleaf pine forest and tidal marsh. This event, led by Tony Mills, a herpetologist with The Lowcountry Institute, will begin with a presentation highlighting a few animals that depend and thrive upon these isolated wetlands. Participants will venture out into the evening in a wagon-style vehicle, to experience the sounds of the night. As dusk settles in, the forest will come alive showcasing an array of lightning bugs, frog sounds and more. Although this event is our latest in the day, it is one not to be missed!

Event will consist of classroom segment followed by open wagon ride through Donnelly WMA with stops at selected locations to look and listen. Dress for weather, may be cool on wagon in evening; bring flashlight.

Horseshoe Crabs**Speaker:** Dr. Al Segars**Date:** Sunday May 6th**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!

Bring evening meal, drinks. Events will start with classroom session and then head to beach (approximate one mile walk each way!). Be prepared to wade in knee to thigh deep water in the dark on return beach walk. No sandals, need closed toe shoes for wading. Group will be asked to assist in tagging process by carrying Horseshoe crabs a short distance to processing table.

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.

Horseshoe Crabs

Speaker: Dr. Al Segars

Date: Monday, May 4th

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

Location: Edisto Beach, 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!

Bring evening meal, drinks. Events will start with classroom session and then head to beach (approximate one mile walk each way!). Be prepared to wade in knee to thigh deep water in the dark on return beach walk. No sandals, need closed toe shoes for wading. Group will be asked to assist in tagging process by carrying Horseshoe crabs a short distance to processing table.

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.

Horseshoe Crabs

Speaker: Dr. Al Segars

Date: Thursday, May 3rd

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

Location: Coastal Discovery Museum, Honey Horn-Hilton Head 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!

Bring evening meal, drinks. Events will start with classroom session and then head to beach (approximate one mile walk each way!). Be prepared to wade in knee to thigh deep water in the dark on return beach walk. No sandals, need closed toe shoes for wading. Group will be asked to assist in tagging process by carrying Horseshoe crabs a short distance to processing table.

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.

Keep a close eye on the calendar for additions and revisions!!