

SCDNR Spring 2017 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."

Birding at Bear Island

Speaker: Pete Laurie

Date: Wednesday Feb 22nd

Time: 9 AM-1 PM

Location: Bear Island Wildlife Management Area

Limited to 20 participants.

Join 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.

Bonneau Ferry WMA By Bicycle

Speaker: Will Carlisle

Date: Friday, March 17th

Time: 10 AM -2 PM

Location: Bonneau Ferry WMA

Limited to 20 people.

The SC Department of Natural Resources acquired Bonneau Ferry Wildlife Management Area (WMA) from MeadWestvaco in 2004. The area covers 10,700 acres of pine savannahs, bottomland hardwoods, wildlife openings, wetlands and reservoirs. Recreational opportunities abound, from hunting and fishing to bird watching, hiking and viewing the area's rich cultural attributes, such as the ruins of the Comingtee Plantation House, the Rice Mill and the nearby Childsbury Heritage Preserve. Join us and learn how the SCDNR is working hard to manage this special property to provide quality outdoor experiences for the public as well as habitat for native wildlife of all kinds, including white tailed deer, wild turkey, bobwhite quail, waterfowl and a variety of non-game species, including bald eagles and endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers. The group will travel by bike at a casual pace (-10mph) and explore the property. Plan accordingly and this is a BYOB event (bring your own bike.)

Bayless Fish Hatchery:

Speaker: Forrest Sessions

Date: Tuesday, April 4th

Time: 10 AM - noon

Location: Bayless Fish hatchery, Bonneau SC

Limited to 20 participants

Learn all about the wonders of aquaculture at the Dennis Wildlife Center Fish Hatchery. Participants will tour the facility and get to see spawning fish first hand. The group will also see incubating striped bass and American shad eggs, larvae, and broodstock. Lastly we will observe migrating fish utilizing the fish lift to get into the canal and lake.

Night Sounds at Donnelly WMA

Speaker: Tony Mills

Date: Tuesday, May 9th

Time: 5:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Location: Check station, Donnelly Wildlife Management Area

Limited to 20 participants.

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 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! Bring evening meal, drinks. 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 what you need. Bring evening meal, drinks.

Horseshoe Crabs

Speaker: Dr. Al Segars

Date: Wednesday May 10th

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.

Horseshoe Crabs

Speaker: Dr. Al Segars

Date: Wednesday May 12th

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.

Shorebirds

Speaker: Sid Gauthreaux

Date: Monday May 16th

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.