

SCDNR Spring 2014 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.”

Ernest F. Hollings – ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge

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

Date: Thursday, Feb 20th

Time: 10:30 am to 3:30 pm

Location: Grove Plantation/Jehossee Island

Limited to 15 participants.

Exploration of the natural, cultural, and historical resources on Jehossee Island, as well as, wildlife management discussion of historic ricefield impoundments:

Event will begin at the circa 1828 Grove Plantation House (Refuge Headquarters) wherein a short video presentation on the Refuge and the greater ACE Basin Project will be provided. The tour group will be transported by Refuge watercraft to Jehossee Island on the South Edisto River. Once on Jehossee Island, the group will continue with a trailer/walking tour of the Island’s diverse points of interest. The tour will offer cultural, historical and natural resource interpretation and include outstanding birding opportunities. Dress for weather of the day. Suggest participants bring any food or drink they will require for the outing and plan on using

restroom facilities at the Grove Plantation prior to leaving for Jehossee Island, which has no improved facilities. At approximately 3:00 pm, the tour group will be transported from Jehossee Island back to the Grove Plantation on the mainland.

[Birding at Bear Island](#)

Speaker: Pete Laurie

Date: Thursday, Feb 27th

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.

[Birding at Bear Island](#)

Speaker: Pete Laurie

Date: Thursday, March 6th

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.

[Edisto Trail Walk](#)

Speaker: Billy McCord

Date: Wednesday, March 12th

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Location: Edisto Nature Trail

Limited to 20 participants.

This rewarding, 1.5-mile loop runs through a forest maintained by the MeadWestvaco Corporation, a global packaging company. The Edisto Nature Trail proper is an easy one-mile loop, but an inner loop extends the distance by a half mile. Both sections of the trail wind through a typical Lowcountry forest that includes mature pines, hardwoods, and bald cypress. Tag along with Billy McCord as he guides us through the quintessential Lowcountry habitat.

Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority

Speaker: Mandy Abbot

Date: Tuesday, March 18th

Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Location: BJWSA

Limited to 15 participants.

Join us in touring the Beaufort Jasper Water Sewer Authority. Come and learn about where your drinking water comes from and where your waste water ends up. This facility treats and delivers an average of 20 million gallons of drinking water each day to over 48,000 retail customers. The tour will last about 2.5 hours and participants are encouraged to bring any food or water they may need for the event.

Pee Dee/Waccamaw River Delta Excursion

Speaker: Jim Lee

Date: Thursday, March 20th

Time: 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Location: Samworth WMA

Limited to 12 participants.

This trip is a day-long exploration by boat on the lower reaches of the Waccamaw and Pee Dee in coastal Georgetown County. The trip will begin and end at Samworth WMA headquarters on the Pee Dee River. Explorers will visit the historic Dirleton Plantation House for an orientation and overview of the journey then board boats to view some of the former ricefields, now managed wetlands. The journey continues upriver past a number of the historic plantations to Bull Island where we will go ashore to view relics of the timber industry. USFWS personnel will guide us through exhibits @ Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge. After a lunch break, we will travel down the Waccamaw River to Sandy Island and go ashore to view red-cockaded woodpecker habitat and talk with Nature Conservancy Representatives about this unique property.

Limited to 12 participants. Everyone should dress for weather of the day and carry bag lunch, drinking water, and camera/ binoculars. Footwear should be suitable for wet, muddy conditions.

History in the ACE Basin

Speaker: Sarah Miller

Date: May 5th

Time: 10 AM

Location: Bennet's Point SC

Limited to 10 participants.

Dr. Sarah Miller will examine some of the interesting historic events of the ACE Basin and share their importance to the understanding of American history. Discussion of early explorers, Native Americans, the American Revolution and the Civil War will highlight the varied and interesting history of the lowcountry. Weather permitting, attendees will be able to view some of these sites and visitors will get a feel for the history of the area as we cruise the Ashepoo River.

Kayaking the ACE Basin

Speaker: Ernie Wiggers

Date: Thursday, May 1st

Time: 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location: Nemours Plantation

Limited to 15 people

Join ACE NERR staff on a visit to Nemours plantation for a presentation on the Lowcountry rice culture by Dr. Ernie Wiggers, wildlife biologist and Director of the Nemours Wildlife Foundation. Following the classroom presentation, the group will tour by kayak the Combahee with professional outfitters, Beaufort Kayak tours, from Sugar Hill landing on the Combahee.

Registration will be opened 30 days prior to event and will be confirmed upon payment of \$40.00 to Beaufort Kayak Tours.

<http://www.beaufortkayaktours.com>

Participants must participate in both classroom and field / kayak outing.

Night Sounds

Speaker: Tony Mills

Date: Thursday, May 8th

Time: 5:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Location: Main office, Donnelly Wildlife Management Area

Limited to 20 participants.

Donnelley 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.

Spring Shorebirds

Speaker: Sid Gauthreaux

Date: Friday, May 9th

Time: 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: Harbor Island SC

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.

Horseshoe Crab Tagging

Speaker: Dr. Al Segars

Date: Thursday, May 15th

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 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.

Otter Island Cleanup

Speaker: Dr. Al Seagars

Date: Monday, May 19th

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Bennet's Point SC

Limited to 10 participants.

Join the ACE Basin NERR (National Estuarine Research Reserve) staff for a Beach Sweep /cleanup of beautiful Otter Island. Otter Island is an approximately 2,000 acre barrier island in the ACE Basin. Cleanup will entail picking up, by hand, litter and debris that has washed up along the 2.5 mile Otter Island beach. Prior to heading out by boat from McKenzie Field Station, a presentation on the ACE Basin and Otter Island will be offered.

Participants need to be prepared to walk 2.5 miles in heat, weather of the day. Need to bring lunch and drinks, wear appropriate footwear, sunscreen and bring gloves.

Trash bags and water will be provided.

Turtle Walk on Botany Bay Plantation

Speaker: TBD

Date: TBD (June)

Time: TBD

Location: TBD