CLEMSON EXPERIMENTAL FOREST INFORMATION

To make informed decisions regarding the future of Clemson’s Land Use property, one must assess key components of the various parcels. Much of this information is contained on the Clemson Experimental Forest web page.

Google: Clemson Experimental Forest

From the choices given, select: ABOUT

1. From the next page, select: ABOUT

and then select: CEF CULTURAL AND HISTORIC INVENTORY
near the bottom

2. Also from this page, select: MANAGEMENT

and then select: NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
near the bottom of the page

These two documents (4 years in completion) provide a comprehensive introduction to the Cultural, Historic and Natural Resources of the Clemson Experimental Forest.

QUIET REFLECTIONS: Coffee table book about the Clemson Forest, by Tommy Wyche and John Garton; available from Amazon. Campus bookstore typically has copies.

An excellent, large map of the Clemson Forest is available at the S.C. Botanical Gardens Visitor Center

A thorough recalling of George Aull’s work to obtain the Clemson Forest is given in an excellent 2012 Masters thesis. Just type into Google: Mr. Aull’s Grand Experiment Paul Alexander Crunkleton, May 2012. It will come up in a choice titled Clemson University Tiger Prints.
NOTES ABOUT THE CALHOUN BOTTOMS

For years this was one of the (if not the) best place for birds in the upstate.

Scott Davis who used to manage the aquaculture facility here was also a birder. He started making a list here about 10 years or so ago. It totaled over 200 species.

Surveys of some amphibians here showed numerous frogs (pickerel frog, green frog, bull frog, grey tree frogs, green tree frogs (a coastal plain species) and others

Bad news:

Over the last few years, the folks that manage the bottoms have done so with little regard for birds or other wildlife.

They have sprayed Round Up along the creeks (killing habitat and also a wonderful colony of cardinal flowers [uncommon]).

Mowing to the edges leaving little or no habitat around the periphery

Not correlating their mowing or plowing with wildlife needs

Draining the ponds which formerly drew many species – kingfishers, spotted sandpiper, great blues, as well as otter, muskrat, raccoons, and many others.

A portion has been filled and made into a parking lot for football.

And more.

On the Audubon Christmas bird count, this area was one of the best (I have led the team that does this area for over 25 years so can see the differences). It was guaranteed to yield numerous snipe, large flocks of Savannah sparrows, meadowlarks (a species of concern), killdeer, we even got a Ross’s goose several years. Now most of these birds are gone or severely reduced in numbers.

I would encourage you to send a note to Provost Bob Jones (an avid birder) to encourage him to develop an interdisciplinary Bottoms Management Plan that will serve not only the needs of the organic farm but also this other uses (recreation, birding, etc.). After all this is a “university facility.”

Email for the provost: provost@clemson.edu

DO NOT USE MY NAME. I MEET WITH HIM PERIODICALLY AND THIS NEEDS TO BE “INDEPENDENT” INPUT.

Thanks.