

Field Trip Information - 2024 OBFS Annual Meeting

NOTE: For tours designated *Off Site*, transportation to/from meeting location is NOT provided, unless otherwise stated

All tours offered on Tuesday, November 12th

1) *Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center Tour (Off Site)*

- **Group Size:** Up to 14 (minimum of 5)
- **Description:** “Experience a bus guided tour with SCDNR staff around the 24,000 acre Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center. Participants are introduced to the history of the islands, drive through various wildlife habitats and historic sites, and hear about the legacy of Tom and Jean Yawkey. The activity level of this trip is easy but participants do have to maneuver two floating docks as they board a pontoon boat for a short ride across the Intracoastal Waterway.” (SCDNR, 2022). Majority of tour on island is via an air-conditioned bus.
- **Start Time:** 10:00 am (arrive by 9:45 am)
- **Length:** Approximately 4 hours (box lunch provided)
- **Meeting Location:** South Island Public Boat Ramp, Georgetown (~30 minutes south of Hobcaw Barony, at the end of South Island Road County Road S-22-18). Suggested departure time from Hobcaw Barony is 9:00 am.
- **Cost per person:** \$16
- **Website(s):**
 - <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/db89c81742d044fba79dae3727664f78/page/Home/>
 - <https://www2.dnr.sc.gov/ManagedLands/ManagedLand/ManagedLand/64>

2) *Sandy Island Tour (Off Site)*

- **Group Size:** Up to 20 (minimum of 5)
- **Description:** “Take a journey back in time on a tour of Sandy Island, a hidden jewel on South Carolina’s Hammock Coast that is only accessible by boat. Located between the Waccamaw and Great Pee Dee rivers in the Pawleys Island area, Sandy Island is the last true undeveloped island on the east coast of South Carolina. Residents still travel to and from the island by boat, as they have for generations. Tours de Sandy Island include an in-depth history of the Gullah people of Sandy Island, and visit the old Mt. Rena cemetery, Sandy Island’s schoolhouse, its volunteer fire department, its villages, as well as a stop at Pyatt’s General store.” (Hammock Coast - SC Tourism, 2024). Activity level is easy but participants will walk across floating docks to board the former Sandy Island school boat for a trip across the Waccamaw River. Majority of tour on island is via school bus.
- **Start Time:** 9:00 am (arrive by 8:45 am)
- **Length:** Approximately 2.5 hours (no bagged lunch necessary)
- **Meeting Location:** Sandy Island Boat Landing, Pawleys Island (~ 30 minutes north of Hobcaw Barony, at the end of Sandy Island Road / County Road S-22-362). Suggested departure time from Hobcaw Barony is 8:00 am.
- **Cost per person:** \$35
- **Website(s):**
 - <https://hammockcoastsc.com/destinations/sandy-island/>
 - <https://www.toursdesandyisland.com/>

3) *Black River Cypress Preserve – Guided Bike Ride (Off Site)*

- **Group Size:** Up to 20 (minimum of 5)
- **Description:** “The Black River Cypress Preserve (BRCP) is a privately owned nature preserve. Its primary purposes are conserving flora and fauna, protecting the ecological functions of the Black River and its watershed, and preserving the aesthetic beauty of the river and its associated forests. The Cypress Preserve offers a unique opportunity to experience some of North America’s most diverse and exotic ecosystems—from mysterious black water swamps and rivers to sparkling pine savannas. Participants will explore via the Preserve’s biking trails, led by Preserve staff. Each trail features interpretive signs and plaques, identifying the flora and fauna that have evolved in these landscapes over millennia” (Black River Cypress Preserve, 2022). Exertion level is moderate.
- **Start Time:** TBD, likely 9:00 am (arrive by 8:45 am)
- **Length:** Approximately 3 hours (box lunch provided)
- **Meeting Location:** 16368 County Line Road, Andrews, SC (~ 45 minutes west of Hobcaw Barony). Suggested departure time from Hobcaw Barony at 8:00 am.
- **Cost per person:** \$16
- **Website(s):** <https://www.cypresspreserve.org/>

4) *Black River Cypress Preserve – Guided Kayak (Off Site)*

- **Group Size:** Up to 20 (minimum of 10)
- **Description:** “The Black River Cypress Preserve (BRCP) is a privately owned nature preserve. Its primary purposes are conserving flora and fauna, protecting the ecological functions of the Black River and its watershed, and preserving the aesthetic beauty of the river and its associated forests. The Cypress Preserve offers a unique opportunity to experience some of North America’s most diverse and exotic ecosystems—from mysterious black water swamps and rivers to sparkling pine savannas. Participants will paddle through the swamps along well-maintained canoe and kayak trails, led by Preserve-approved and experienced guide(s)” (Black River Cypress Preserve, 2022). In addition to paddling, hiking/biking will be required to access the boat landing. Exertion level is moderate.
- **Start Time:** TBD, likely 9:00 am (arrive by 8:45 am)
- **Length:** Approximately 3 hours (box lunch provided)
- **Meeting Location:** 16368 County Line Road, Andrews, SC (~ 45 minutes west of Hobcaw Barony). Suggested departure time from Hobcaw Barony at 8:00 am.
- **Cost per person:** \$121
- **Website(s):** <https://www.cypresspreserve.org/>

5) Discover Hobcaw Barony Tour (On Site)

- **Group Size:** Up to 14 (minimum of 5)
- **Description:** “This two-hour tour requires little walking and includes highlights of Hobcaw Barony’s 16,000 acres of history, ecology and research. A privately owned research reserve, the property represents every environment and century of the Lowcountry. The bus stops for a tour inside Bernard Baruch’s c.1930 home that played host to politicians, generals and newspapermen, as well as Winston Churchill and President Franklin Roosevelt. In addition to Hobcaw House, tours include a drive by the home and stables of Bellefield Plantation, the home of Mr. Baruch’s oldest daughter Belle Baruch who owned all the property by 1956, as well as a stop in one of four slave villages – settlements on Hobcaw Barony that were constructed by enslaved people then inhabited by them and their descendants well into the 20th century. Information shared will include coastal ecosystems, native wildlife and endangered species (2024 Belle W. Baruch Foundation). Activity level is easy; majority of tour via air-conditioned bus.
- **Start Time:** TBD, likely 10:00am (arrive by 9:50am)
- **Length:** Approximately 2 hours (no bagged lunch necessary)
- **Meeting Location:** Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center
- **Cost per person:** \$30
- **Website(s):** <https://hobcawbarony.org/>

6) Villages of Hobcaw Barony Tour (On Site)

- **Group Size:** Up to 14 (minimum of 5)
- **Description:** “Although Friendfield Village is the most frequented African American village at Hobcaw Barony, there are remnants of additional, hidden villages, rarely seen by the public. On this tour, participants will visit the four villages to discuss the history of each village through oral interpretation as well as historical photographs of these areas. On the way to Barnyard Village to see the newly renovated cabin as well as the remaining extant buildings in that location, participants will drive-by the lone cabin at Alderly/Oryzantia, once owned by Joseph and Theodosia Burr Alston before stopping in Barnyard. Next stop is Strawberry Village where the one room schoolhouse that educated many children over time is located, and lastly a stop at Friendfield Village. (Exertion level: moderate impact – standing and walking on uneven terrain at times).” (2024 Belle W. Baruch Foundation).
- **Start Time:** TBD, likely 1:00 pm (arrive by 12:50 pm)
- **Length:** Approximately 2.5 hours (no bagged lunch necessary)
- **Meeting Location:** Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center
- **Cost per person:** \$30
- **Website(s):** <https://hobcawbarony.org/>

7) Gullah Tea Experience (On Site)

- **Group Size:** Up to 40 (minimum of 10)
- **Description:** A locally-sourced and blended tea tasting with Gullah Herbalist, Jacque Williams, featuring ingredients from across the Lowcountry and specifically, Hobcaw Barony. The event will include light snacks and an introduction to Gullah culture and traditional natural resource use.
- **Start Time:** 9:00am (arrive by 8:55am)
- **Length:** 2 hours (no bagged lunch necessary)
- **Meeting Location:** USC Kimbel Lodge
- **Cost per person:** \$25
- **Website(s):** N/A

8) Gullah Roots Tour (Off Site; Transportation Provided)

- **Group size:**
- **Description:** Gullah-Geechee history comes alive as the Gullah Roots Tour Company provides an authentic Gullah-Geechee heritage experience with a driving tour of historic Georgetown focused on regional Black history followed by reflection over a genuine Soul Food meal. Activity level is easy; majority of tour via air-conditioned bus.
- **Start Time:** 9:30am (arrive by 9:20am)
- **Length:** Approximately 4 hours
- **Meeting Location:** Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center (lunch included; no bagged lunch necessary)
- **Cost per person:** \$100 (includes Soul Food lunch and reflection)
- **Website:** N/A

9) **North Inlet Estuary and Salt Marsh (On Site – Morning)**

- **Group size:** Up to 14 (minimum 5)
- **Description:** Introduction to the natural history, culture, and ecology of North Inlet estuary, with a particular focus on the research, education, and outreach activities of the University of South Carolina’s Baruch Institute and the North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. We’ll travel through the various habitats of North Inlet estuary via boat, including tidal creeks, salt marshes, barrier islands, and oyster reefs, and employ a mix of research methods (including plankton nets, seines, and trawls) to sample the diverse collection of flora and fauna. Activity level is easy but will require traversing floating docks to board and depart small boats.
- **Start Time:** 8:30am (arrive by 8:15am) and 12:30pm (arrive by 12:15pm)
- **Length:** Approximately 2.5 hours (no bagged lunch necessary)
- **Meeting Location:** Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center
- **Cost per person:** None
- **Website(s):**
 - https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/baruch_institute/index.php
 - <https://northinlet.sc.edu>

10) **North Inlet Estuary and Salt Marsh (On Site – Afternoon)**

- **Group size:** Up to 14 (minimum 5)
- **Description:** Same tour as above, but in the afternoon instead.
- **Start Time:** 12:30pm (arrive by 12:15pm)
- **Length:** Approximately 2.5 hours (no bagged lunch necessary)
- **Meeting Location:** Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center
- **Cost per person:** None
- **Website(s):**
 - https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/baruch_institute/index.php
 - <https://northinlet.sc.edu>

MONDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2024

11) **Scenic, Historic Plantersville Bike Ride (Off-Site, Transportation Provided)**

- **Group size:** Up to 25 (minimum 5)
- **Description:** The 25-mile Bike Tour of Plantersville will begin at the Plantersville Cultural Center (PCC) at 8:00 AM, with bus service from Baruch. Bikes will be provided or you can bring your own. Riders should prepare for an easy ride on paved and hard-packed gravel/coquina roads. The lowcountry is flat, total elevation change is about 100 feet. This is a modified version of the 25-mile Tour de Plantersville route that is operated annually by The Village Group. Participants will embark on a scenic bike ride, with the first scheduled stop at Hasty Point Plantation. Here, they will have the opportunity to take a break, enjoy light snacks and water, and go sightseeing at this historic site. A second stop will be

planned along the route for participants to rest and appreciate the beauty of our natural surroundings and ending back at PCC. Plantersville Road is a State Scenic Byway, the only one in Georgetown County and the Pee Dee Region of SC. The history of Plantersville is steeped in the Georgetown rice culture and the slave labor that made it so prosperous. An important aspect of antebellum rice production was the unique societal culture that supported the crop. Rice planting was an exacting science, which required strict attention to details, and adaptability to changing conditions on the part of the planter, his overseer, the slave driver, and the field hands. The rice plantation slave community was rich in a culture known as Gullah. Gullah culture includes storytelling, cuisine, music, folk beliefs, crafts, farming and fishing traditions, as well as its own language and dialect exhibiting strong influences from West and Central African cultures.

- **Start Time:** 7:30am
- **Length:** Approximately 2.5 hours (pick up box lunch before departure)
- **Meeting Location:** Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center for provided transportation to PCC
- **Cost per person:** \$80
- **Website(s):** <https://tourdeplantersville.com/>
<https://thevillagegroup.org/> <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/waccamaw>
<https://www.fws.gov/story/2023-04/more-space-more-opportunities>