



**2007**  
**ACE Basin**  
**Mini-Pulse**  
**June 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**McKenzie Field Station**  
**Bennetts Point, SC**

### **What is a Pulse?**

The annual "pulses" of the Carolina Vegetation Survey have become established as special events for those interested in the natural history of the Carolinas. We sample a wide variety of natural communities in areas well known for their biological diversity. Many of these areas are not readily accessible without special arrangements with landowners/managers. This is an ideal way to see new and exciting areas, meet others interested in botany and ecology, and to share knowledge and experience.

### **Where is the ACE Basin?**

The ACE (Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto rivers) Basin is a 350,000 acre area made up of many different habitat types such as brackish water tidal marshes, fresh water, wetlands, bottomland hardwoods, pine and hardwood uplands, barrier islands and beaches. It is one of the largest undeveloped estuaries on the East Coast of the United States.

### **What are we looking for in the ACE Basin?**

From Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup> through Thursday June 7<sup>th</sup> we will be studying a variety of habitats accessible by boat and by car. One of the primary goals of this pulse is to thoroughly sample the isolated hammock islands and shell mounds that are frequent throughout the SC Lowcountry, but are understudied. Both maritime forests and high-calcium shell forests will be surveyed on these islands and on several mainland sites. Bottomland hardwood forests, swamp forests and freshwater, brackish and salt marshes are easily accessible from our base camp and will also be included in the survey. If you have suggestions for any particularly interesting survey sites in the ACE Basin, please share your recommendations. Boating enthusiasts are encouraged to bring watercraft to aid in accessing these unique sites. The field station is located along a deep water creek with access to a landing and a dock.

### **Schedule**

Our base camp will be at McKenzie Center Field Station. We have reserved the facility for the nights of Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> through Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. There is no charge for accommodations. Those wishing to participate in this pulse may begin working with us on any day and stay as long as desired (any length of time from one day to the full six days). Our first day in the field will be Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The best plan would be to arrive the night before the first day you plan to work. For those of you interested in

joining us for the first day of field work, our first night at the base camp (see directions below) will be Friday June 1<sup>st</sup>. If you prefer to join us in the morning, please be ready to leave for the field from the base camp no later than 7:30 AM on the morning you wish to start. Our last scheduled day in the field will be Thursday June 7<sup>th</sup>, but we do not have overnight facilities for that night.

### **Registration**

*Although our accommodations allow us some flexibility in the number of people staying with us, we are asking that you contact Joel Gramling ([joel.gramling@citadel.edu](mailto:joel.gramling@citadel.edu) 843-953-6459) in advance of the pulse to let us know of your plans.* Notifying us of your plans will also help us with advance planning for teams. However, do not let failure to notify us, keep you from participating. We will be happy to have you participate, even if you did not get around to indicating your interest in advance.

### **Lodging**

Built in 2002 the McKenzie Center is the hub for research in the ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve. Measuring 4000 sf, the facility includes wet and dry laboratory space, meeting rooms, staff offices and a dormitory. In the tradition of field stations, the facility is well equipped to meet research needs and adequately equipped to meet the personal needs of researchers.

You must come prepared to make up your own bed. A light sleeping bag would be a simple solution, or you can bring your own linens. Don't forget towels, pillow, pillowcase, toiletries, etc. Dorms are equipped with single mattress bunk beds.

### **Meals**

Individuals are responsible for their own meals. We will have access to kitchen facilities (and grills) at McKenzie Center Field Station, so you can bring food to store and prepare. We'll eat breakfast at the station, and leave promptly for the field each morning. We'll take our field lunches with us (bring plenty to drink), and then either eat out for dinner or prepare dinner meals at the station. You may want to bring your own drinking water as the facility's has a high mineral content that some do not like.

Please note that restaurants and grocery stores are approximately 40 to 50 miles away located in Charleston, Walterboro or Beaufort, SC. There is a small bait/tackle and seafood retailer next door which sells gas, diesel, snacks, tobacco, beverages and ice. Store hours and days open vary.

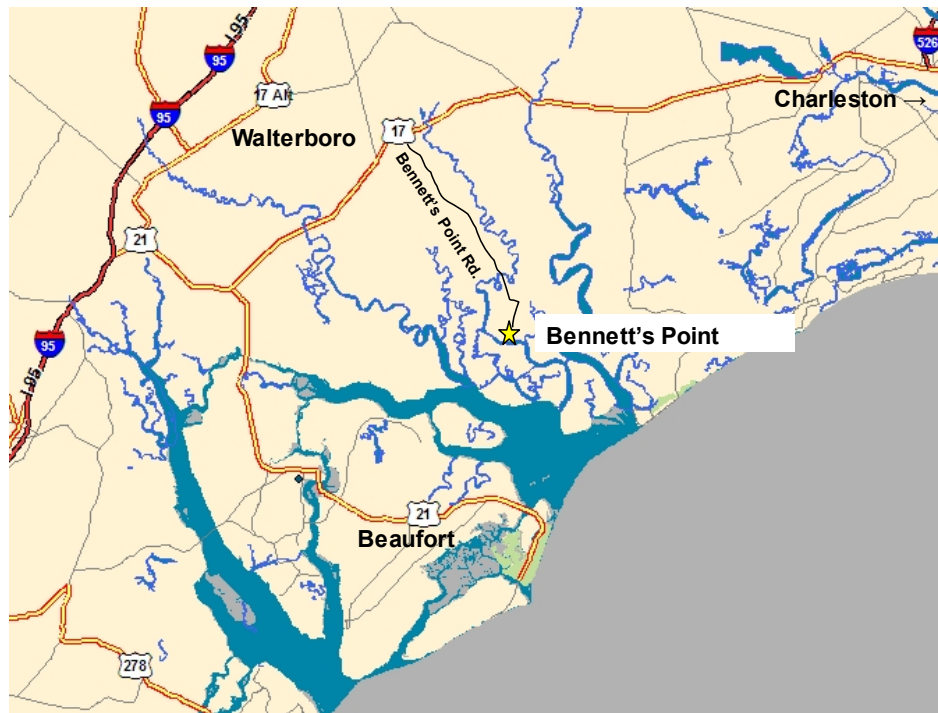
### **Map and Directions**

#### **Directions To Michael D. McKenzie Field Station (ACE Basin):**

McKenzie Field Station can be accessed from Highway 17 near Green Pond, SC (between Beaufort, SC and Charleston, SC)

**From Charleston (~1.5 hrs)** get on Hwy 17 heading south. Look for a sign for Bennett's Point and Bear Island, and turn left at the sign onto Bennett's Point Road

**From Beaufort (<1.5 hrs)** get on Hwy 17 heading north. Look for a sign for Bennett's Point and Bear Island, and turn right at the sign onto Bennett's Point Road



**From Spartanburg (4 hrs) & Columbia (2.5 hrs)** take I-26 eastward to I-95 (Exit 169A). Follow I-95 South to SC-64 (Exit 57). Turn left at Bells Highway toward Walterboro. Turn right at North Jefferies Boulevard. About one mile later, make a left turn onto Green Pond Highway (SC 303) and drive southward for 16 miles. Take a left on Hwy 17 (Ace Basin Parkway) heading north. Look for a sign for Bennett's Point and Bear Island, and turn right at the sign onto Bennett's Point Road.

**From Raleigh-Durham (5 hrs)** take I-40 eastward to I-95 (Exit 328A). Follow I-95 South to SC-64 (Exit 57). Turn left at Bells Highway toward Walterboro. Turn right at North Jefferies Boulevard. About one mile later, make a left turn onto Green Pond Highway (SC 303) and drive southward for 16 miles. Take a left on Hwy 17 (Ace Basin Parkway) heading north. Look for a sign for Bennett's Point and Bear Island, and turn right at the sign onto Bennett's Point Road.

**Then:**

Go approximately 16 miles where the road will curve sharply to the right, and you will pass a small brick fire station on your left. The Michael D. McKenzie Field Station will be on your left soon after the fire station. Turn into the gate and park in front of the building in any of the available spaces. If you get to B&B Seafood, you've gone too far and are just past the field station.

To search for driving directions to McKenzie Field Station online, you can use Bennetts Point, SC as your destination in Google maps, Expedia or Mapquest.

GoogleMaps link for McKenzie Field Station:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?q=McKenzie+Field+Station&ie=UTF8&oe=UTF-8&msa=0&msid=11555099472111326390.00000112057c3cbdf6bcd&hl=en&t=h&om=1&z=11&ll=32.646313,-80.508499&spn=0.276941,0.450439>

### **Safety and Participation Guidelines**

Some general information regarding general field logistics, safety, and liability can be found below. We are looking forward to seeing you!

The pulse events have an excellent safety record, and we ask your assistance in our efforts to make PULSE safe for all participants. If you are unfamiliar with hazards associated with field work, please consult with one of the coordinators. As you plan for PULSE, please keep in mind the conditions we will experience. The weather this time of year in the Carolinas is generally quite warm, and rainfall may be plentiful. Please equip yourself accordingly. A daypack with the basics for fieldwork is a necessity. Keep in mind that we typically eat lunch in the field, so plan to bring lots to drink and a bag lunch. Ticks and chiggers are generally a problem during the warmer months in the Carolinas. We recommend that you come equipped with a roll of duct tape for sealing pants legs to boots, if needed. Also bring whatever insect repellent/killer you prefer to use (100% DEET products are good repellents).

Pulse includes intensive field work in small groups of 3-5 persons. It is important that all participants share the spirit of collegial inquiry and discovery, that individuals respect the rights and feelings of others, and that all data be recorded as accurately and completely as possible.

Participants who are concerned about activities or performance of other participants should immediately report such concerns to one of the organizers. The organizers reserve the right to limit the level of participation of any individual so as to assure the overall well being of the other participants and the quality of the data acquired. Participants should understand that participation in the pulse events is voluntary and may involve risks including but not limited to motor vehicle accidents and other potential personal injuries and property damage. Participants must assume responsibility for all risks. Further, participants must indemnify and hold harmless the coordinators of the pulse events and their employers from any liability arising from or proximately caused by participation. You will be asked to sign a liability waiver before participating in PULSE.

### **Questions?**

Feel free to contact Joel Gramling at 843-953-6459 or [joel.gramling@citadel.edu](mailto:joel.gramling@citadel.edu).