



July 2011

Hello SCANNers,

Last month I shared the story of my red belly water snake relocation program. This month I'm happy to say that I haven't found any snakes in Lori's pond for a couple of weeks and now it is full of frog and toad eggs. Gray tree frogs are the most prevalent species but lately we've been serenaded by narrow-mouth toads in the pond. I am still dealing with the big brown bats that I removed from our attic last year. The colony has now out-grown the bat house and some have found their way back to our shutters, even though I thought that the screen wire exclusion system I devised would keep them out. So last weekend I had to construct a larger bat box (more like a condominium) that should take care of them for a while. Now I will have to remove them from the shutters, yet again. Having bats roosting here is really neat, but for those of you who have never had them roosting in or on your house, they tend to urinate and defecate on the house and make a smelly mess. However, the guano is a wonderful addition to the compost pile!

One of our long-time SCAN members was honored by the S.C. Wildlife Federation in May. It was recently brought to my attention that Evelyn Dabbs was among 16 folks that were named "Legends of Conservation". Since 1976, Evelyn has banded approximately 14,000 birds at her and Tommie's property, east of Sumter, along the Black River. SCAN visited the Dabb's property several years ago. I found a paper from *The Chat* (Fall 2001) entitled *A 20-year Record of Migratory Bird Movements in the Black River Swamp of South Carolina*. I have placed a copy of the paper on the SCAN Yahoo Groups Site for those who are interested in reading it. If you have not yet joined our Yahoo Groups Site, follow this link (<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/SCNaturalists>), click the "Join This Group!" button, and follow the directions. Congratulations Evelyn and thanks for your dedication!

In June, SCAN re-visited the Pacolet River Heritage Preserve in Spartanburg County. We last visited the site in August, 2004. The trail at the preserve provides a very easy walk down to the river where the bottomland forest has some really impressive trees, especially the large tulip poplars. The *Ligustrum* and *Elaeagnus* are a little distracting but ..... Thanks Phil for hosting the trip.

See you all at Burrough Plantation on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month!

Gordon

## **Borough Plantation**

Sumter County, July 23, 2011

Meet in the parking lot of the Church of the Holy Cross at 10:30 A.M.

The Borough Plantation is located in Stateburg, SC. A working tree farm supports this 4000 acre plantation. The original structure was a wood framed tavern built about 1758, purchased by Thomas and Mary Heron Hooper in 1792 to use as their residence. During the American Revolution it served as headquarters for both General Lord Cornwallis and General Nathanael Greene. Dr. William Wallace Anderson married the Hooper's niece, May Jane Mackenzie, in 1818. Later construction beginning in 1821 included buildings using a rammed earth technique. Walter and Susan Anderson live there now. The property was converted from crop farmland and reforested by Walter's grandmother, Virginia Saunders White, in the 1920's and is South Carolina's "Tree Farm No. 1" as issued by the State Tree Farm System. Jason Smith is the farm manager who lives in the log cabin next door, which was originally built for the forester who helped manage the reforestation and subsequent operations.

National Historic Landmark description: "Constructed in 1821, the Borough House Plantation complex contains the oldest and largest collection of "high style" pise de terre (rammed earth) buildings in the United States. Six of the 27 dependencies and portions of the main house were constructed using this ancient technique." See a complete description at [www.nationalregister.sc.gov/sumter/S10817743001/index.htm](http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/sumter/S10817743001/index.htm)

The majority of the plantation is a managed tree farm. There is a state record *Quercus suber* (Cork oak) on the lawn. On our scouting visit we walked a 2 mile loop around Ice Pond in a non-farmed section of the plantation. We saw lots of butterflies, dragonflies, beaver damage, and the usual wetland flora.



*Quercus suber* (Cork Oak)



Beaver damage at Borough Plantation

We will meet at the Church of the Holy Cross (An Episcopal church). This church was also constructed with rammed earth. Dr. Anderson was chairman of the committee that built the church on land donated by General Thomas Sumter. The church is also on the National Register of Historic Places. Come early and walk around the cemetery. Joel Roberts Poinsett died while visiting Borough plantation and is buried here. Some of the plants that Joel Poinsett gave Dr. William Wallace Anderson as gifts are still present on the property.

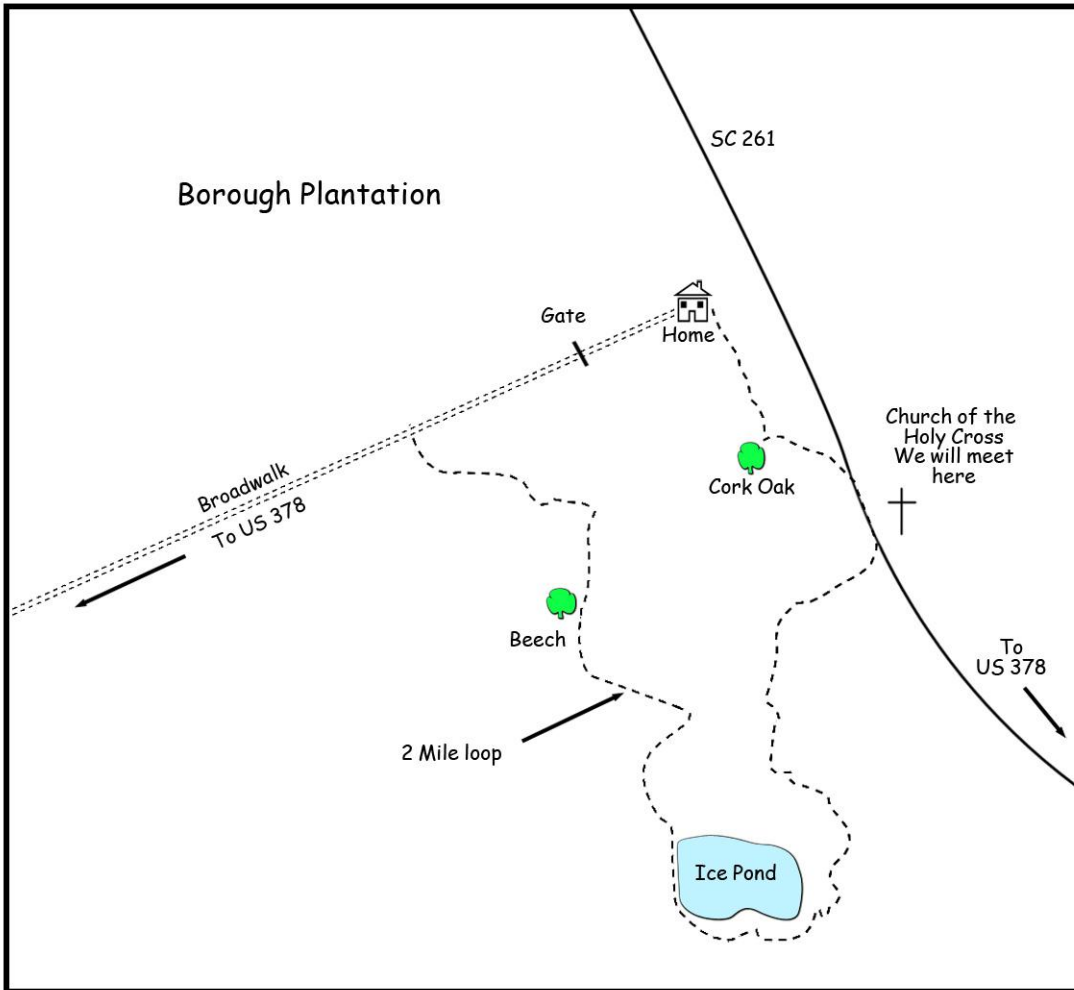
As a bonus Walter will talk about the history of the plantation and give us a tour of some of the buildings. The library has a significant collection of books and old instruments. If the heat is a problem at least come for the tour.

As usual bring water, food, sunscreen and bug spray. It seems that chiggers are especially menacing this year, so spray around your ankles especially thoroughly! There are not many places to gather for supper afterward. Claudia Rainey suggested we try Thai Garden. We went

there after spending a day paddling Sparkleberry and the food we had was great. For those of you that don't care for Thai cuisine, they have a good selection of Chinese dishes.

Directions: The intersection of US 378 and Hwy 261 is the first highway intersection east of the Wateree River. It is a couple of miles west of Shaw Air Base. From the intersection go north about a mile and the Church of the Holy Cross is on the right. There are several churches you will pass to get there.

The map below shows a general layout and the GPS path we walked.



*Borough Library*



The Broadwalk at Borough Plantation