



April 2011

Hello Everyone,

Last month I mentioned some of the annual springtime changes that we were observing here in northern Richland County, but this month there is much more to report. The pair of wrens that were making renovations to their nest on our front porch is now busily feeding their brood of newly hatched chicks. Other bird news include the recent return of summer tanagers, hooded warblers, whip-poor-wills, hummingbirds, blue-headed vireos, red-eyed vireos, white-eyed vireos, ovenbirds, and parula warblers. Juncos are gone, and the male goldfinches are molting and becoming more handsome by the day. The trout lilies are finished blooming and their developing seed heads are bending towards the ground now and replacing their beautiful blooms are early saxifrage, wind flower, bluets, *Hexastylus*, and wild azalea blooms. The “mystery” trilliums (we’ve never seen them bloom but suspect they are Catesby’s trillium) on our property have emerged and are now about six inches tall. Maybe they will bloom this year!

Last month SCAN visited a real gem among our Heritage Preserves, Cartwheel Bay in Horry County. It was an overcast day, with rain in the forecast for that afternoon, but as usual, we had a great turnout for the trip. We started the day out by exploring the rim of Mossy Bay. We saw many interesting plants, some in bloom including dwarf iris, coastal witch-alder, dwarf azalea, horse sugar, serviceberry, and pixie moss. Many birds were observed and heard, and a real treat for me was seeing my first blue-gray gnatcatcher nest, thanks to the sharp eyes of Red Smith. The construction technique reminded me of a hummingbird nest, only much larger. Flipping an old piece of metal over revealed a marbled salamander. We tried to get into the bay but the vegetation was just too thick, and the smilax thorns were more than our thin human skins could bear.

In the afternoon we explored the beautiful pine savanna habitat between Mossy Bay and Cartwheel Bay. There were several dead pines in this area, and pulling of some of the loose bark revealed a five-lined skink. Tom Jones ventured into the edge of the bay and found Venus flytraps and sweet pitcher plants. It was a wonderful day that ended with a barbecue meal at Shuler’s Barbecue on SC 38 near I-95. Thanks to Claudia Raines for setting up the trip for us.

This month we will visit Foxbrier Farm, in Laurens County on the April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. This is scheduled as an overnight trip so if you can stay with us it should be a great trip. Also included in this newsletter is information about the President’s Special on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Gordon

**Foxbrier Farm**  
**Laurens County, April 23-24, 2011**  
(Meet at the Lake House at 10:30AM)

This April finds SCAN visiting Foxbrier Farm, a large tract of land privately owned by Russell and Judy Burns. Nestled in the rolling piedmont hills of Laurens County, Foxbrier Farm contains multiple aquatic features and an extensive trail system which meanders along streams, hedgerows, and through large stands of old hardwoods. An ecosystem to satiate any naturalists' expectations may be found on these premises!

The lake house will serve as our base camp; the kitchen and bathrooms will be accessible throughout our stay. Please note there are a limited number of beds available for our overnights; however we are welcome to spill over on to the screened-in porch, or camp anywhere nearby on the premises. Fishing is welcome so bring your gear!

Dinner Saturday night will be provided by Russell and Judy Burns and will consist of either barbecue or burgers and all the fresh fixings. Sweet tea and water will be available, but if you would like something different you should bring it. Russell and Judy have offered to provide us with fresh Foxbrier Farm free range eggs for breakfast.

As usual, bring snacks and plenty of water for the trail. We will be close enough to the lake house to have lunch there. Sunscreen and spray for biting insects is also in order. If you plan on spending time in the creeks or streams bring appropriate footwear. Otherwise, any comfortable trail shoe will be sufficient.

Foxbrier Farm should prove to be a fulfilling trip for all SCAN members. Rest assured the "Foxbrier Experience" is one you will not want to miss! If you have not already done so, please let Gordon or Greg Ross know if you are planning on staying overnight or at least for dinner.

**Directions to Foxbrier Farm (Lake House)**

**From Columbia, SC:**

- Follow I-26 W to I-385 N (taking Exit #51 for Laurens-Greenville)
- Continue on I-385 N approx. 10.3 miles, and then take Exit #10 toward Metric Rd. At the top of the ramp, turn right (West) on Metric Rd. and continue approx. 0.3 miles, taking 2<sup>nd</sup> left onto Ghost Creek Rd. (SEE DIRECTIONS BELOW, From Exit #10).

**From Spartanburg, SC:**

- Follow I-26 E to Hwy 49 (take exit #44 for Laurens-Union), turn right at the top of the ramp towards Laurens and maintain course for approx. 6.6 mi.
- Turn right and merge onto I-385 N and maintain course for approx. 5.1 mi. then take Exit # 10 toward Metric Rd. At the top of the ramp, turn right (West) on Metric Rd. and continue approx. 0.3 miles, taking 2<sup>nd</sup> left onto Ghost Creek Rd. (SEE DIRECTIONS BELOW, From Exit #10).

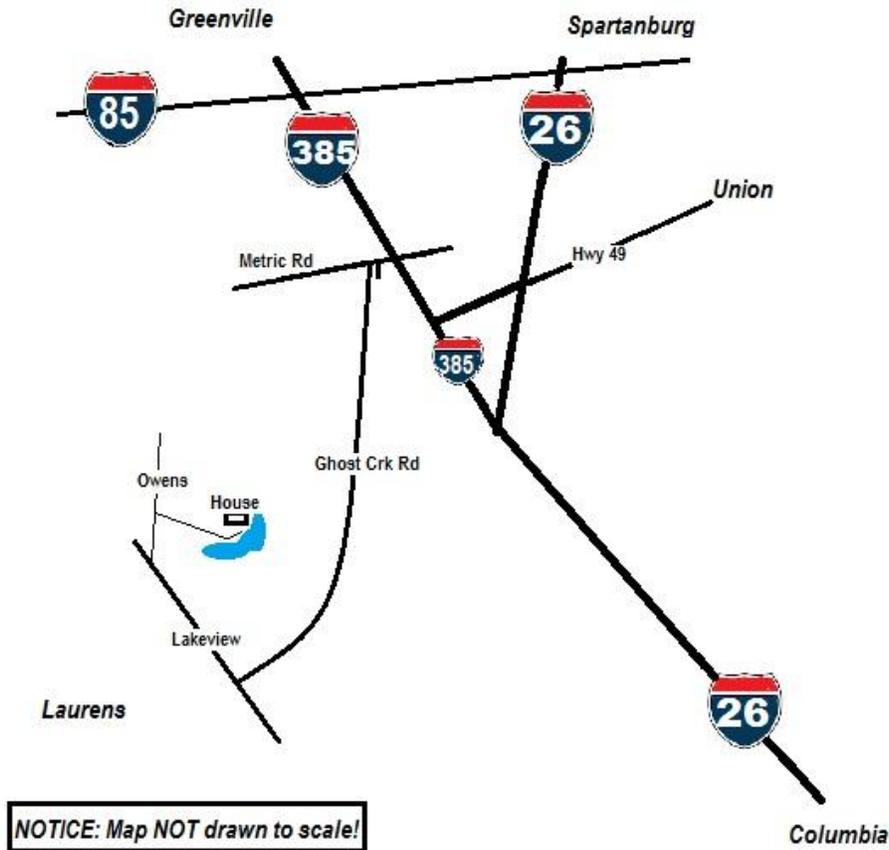
**From Greenville, SC:**

- Follow I-385 S. and then take Exit #10 (for Rd 23 Ora). At the top of the ramp turn left (West) onto Metric Rd. and continue approx. 0.2 miles, and then take 2<sup>nd</sup> left onto Ghost Creek Rd. (SEE DIRECTIONS BELOW, From Exit #10).

**From Exit #10: (at the top of ramp, head West)**

- Take second left onto Ghost Creek Rd. and maintain course until you reach the stop sign (approx 2.3 mi.)
- Turn right onto Lakeview Rd. and drive approx. 1.0 mi. then take 1<sup>st</sup> right onto Owens Dr.
- Continue on Owens Dr. approx 0.25 mi. then turn right onto unpaved farm road (SCAN sign will be visible here).
- Two gates will be visible, drive only through the 1<sup>st</sup>, and then immediately bear right (descending downhill) and maintain course for approx. 0.5 mi. to the Lake House.

**(SEE MAP ON THE NEXT PAGE)**




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**President's Special  
Gordon and Lori's Place  
Big Cedar Creek, Richland County  
May 14, 2011 (10:30AM)**

You are all invited to spend the day exploring our property in northern Richland County. Lori and I have ten acres of predominantly oak-hickory forest, much of which is on a north-facing slope above Big Cedar Creek. At this location, the creek is the boundary between Richland and Fairfield Counties. There should be plenty of wildflowers blooming along the creek and there are generally lots of birds to be seen and heard. Believe it or not, I have never taken the time to compose a comprehensive flora and fauna list for our place! If we have enough time, I'd like to take you to a friend's property a few miles down the road to check out a very interesting north-facing rock outcrop.

Water and restrooms are available as the house will be a short walk from any point on the property. Bring a lunch and we'll picnic at the house. Insect repellent is recommended as the ticks are already out this year.

Directions: From I-77, north of Columbia, get off at Exit 27. Go west from the exit (left if traveling from Columbia, right if traveling from Charlotte) on Blythewood Road for approximately 1.2 miles. Turn right onto Muller Road and follow it until it intersects with US Highway 321 (Winnsboro Road). Cross Highway 321 onto Wildflower Road and drive 1.3 miles to 2521 Wildflower Road, on right (look for the SCAN sign).

From I-20, take Exit 70 onto US Highway 321 (Winnsboro Road) and head north, away from Columbia. From the stop light just north of I-20, drive approximately 11.3 miles, then turn left onto Wildflower Road. Drive 1.3 miles to 2521 Wildflower Road, on right (look for the SCAN sign).

Follow the gravel driveway to the bottom of the hill and you'll be at the house.