



Friends of Congaree Swamp Newsletter



June, 1999

Land Acquisition: Great News

In December 1998, Congress appropriated \$1 million for land acquisition at Congaree Swamp National Monument.

This appropriation is a victory for citizen participation. Members of Friends of Congaree Swamp, Columbia Audubon Society, and Sierra Club wrote many letters during 1998, emphasizing Congaree's need for land acquisition funding.

The congressional delegation responded positively. Sen. Hollings, a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, was especially instrumental in obtaining this funding.

Part of this funding will be utilized to purchase

Congaree riverfront tracts, totaling about 500 acres, currently available from a willing seller. Without this additional funding, the National Park Service lacked enough money to purchase the tracts.

In addition to \$1 million for Congaree Swamp National Monument, Sen. Hollings obtained land acquisition funding for Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge (\$1 million), the

Tibwin tract at Francis Marion National Forest (\$1.7 million), and Jocassee Gorges (\$2 million).

Sen. Hollings can be thanked for obtaining land acquisition funding for Congaree Swamp National Monument and other important natural areas in our state.

Address:

The Honorable Ernest Hollings
125 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510-4002

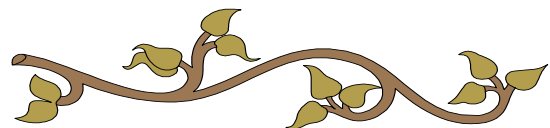
Swamp Gets a New Look

John Temple, Board Member

For the past few months, VIP's (Volunteers in the Park) at Congaree Swamp have been privileged to witness a remarkable demonstration of inter-governmental department cooperation. The National Park Service has been working in concert with Army and Air Force National Guard units to construct a much needed paved entrance road on park property which will enable visitors to drive and park at a new large education and exhibit center located on the edge of the bluff, overlooking the river flood plain. The center is scheduled, weather permitting, for completion and dedication in the Fall. All of this construction is being done at a substantial saving in tax dollars.

Beginning in 1978, property owners bordering the park permitted access via a gravel road through their property to the current Ranger Station. Over the past 20 years, as the volume of park visitation increased, this access became an

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New Look (continued)

increasingly unsatisfactory entrance to the park and a burden to the neighbors. By 1998, an entrance through park property from Old Bluff Road to a new visitor center became high priority. A construction survey estimated that the cost of the 1 1/2-mile paved access road and parking lots carried a price tag of \$1.7 million, and the total cost of the road and education center topped 5.8 million. National Park funds for such an expenditure were not available.

At a park staff meeting, Lewis Prettyman, Maintenance Manager and veteran army staff sergeant, suggested investigating the possibility of using the National Guard to build the entrance road. Martha Bogle, Park Superintendent, picked up on the idea, and with the help and cooperation of many interested persons, including The River Alliance, Richland County Legislative Delegation, our U.S. Congressional Delegations and of course individual friends of Congaree Swamp, a win/win plan was formulated. At considerable savings in time and money, the entrance road and

visitor center could be constructed, using the Army and Air Force National Guard. These units are manned by men and women skilled and experienced in the construction of aircraft runways, roads and buildings worldwide for military and humanitarian purposes. National Guard organizations welcome the opportunity to be of service and use the construction projects for training and honing their many skills.

The plan to use the National Guard was approved, and, as a result, the original cost estimate of \$4 million for the education center was reduced to less than \$2 million. To date, the \$1.7 million projected for the entrance road has cost the Park Service less than \$117,000 dollars.

Those National Guard units who have performed so effectively constructing the road and education center are:

Road Construction:

169th Civil Engineering Squadron — SC Air National Guard

200th Red Horse Squadron – Ohio Air National Guard

201st Red Horse Flight – Pennsylvania Air National Guard

122nd Engineering Battalion – SC Army National Guard

Education Center Construction

169th Civil Engineering Squadron – SC Air National Guard

113th Civil Engineering Squadron – Washington, DC Air National Guard

180th Civil Engineering Squadron – Ohio Air National Guard

124th Civil Engineering Squadron – Idaho Air National Guard

A recent visitor to the sites was impressed with the skills, efficiency and enthusiasm of all personnel. A number of guard members expressed delight with Congaree Swamp National Swamp and plan to return with their families to show them what they had achieved and enjoy the natural wonders of the swamp.



Congaree National Monument Employees Receive National Park Service Regional Awards



Lewis Prettyman and Martha Bogle honored at Regional Awards Ceremony.

Congaree Swamp National Monument Maintenance Worker Lewis Prettyman and Superintendent Martha Bogle were presented with National Park Service Regional awards at the Southeast Region Superintendent's Conference in March. Prettyman was named Employee of the Year and Bogle was honored as Superintendent of the Year. It was the first time in the history of the awards that recipients of both awards were from the same park.

Southeast Regional Director Jerry Belson recognized Prettyman's creativity in "getting the job done." Prettyman was successful at recruiting volunteer groups and individuals to assist with completion of the final ½-mile segment of the boardwalk loop trail and with trail clearing. He also wrote a successful grant request for the funding of materials to complete the boardwalk. Perhaps his greatest contribution came as a result of multiple roadblocks to acquiring National Park Service funding for construction of a park entrance road to replace the current privately owned access road. Prettyman suggested that Superintendent Bogle write a letter to the National Guard requesting that its engineering and heavy equipment units build the park access road as a training and service project.

Bogle was recognized for managing the park through a period of significant changes, including construction of the park's first entrance road and visitor center. She worked with The River Alliance, Richland County, and the Army and Air National Guard to arrange an innovative partnership to construct the road. As a result of the success of the partnership, the Air National Guard and the Monument entered into an agreement to have National Guard units from across the country construct the park's 10,300 sq. ft. education center and administration building. The two partnerships will save more than 3.5 million dollars from the original estimates and will complete an infrastructure that would not have been constructed anytime in the foreseeable future. Regional Director Belson recognized that the park would have had difficulties competing for tight federal dollars with National Park Service sites with greater name recognition. He applauded the "can do" attitude of Bogle and her staff.

A Little History:

In the 1950s and 1960s, Harry Hampton was the first advocate of preserving the old-growth forest of Congaree Swamp. In recognition of Mr. Hampton's early advocacy, the new education and administration building at Congaree Swamp National Monument will be named in his memory.

Last year, when Harriott Hampton Faucette joined "Friends of Congaree Swamp," she enclosed this letter about her father's pioneering efforts to preserve Congaree's old-growth forest.

Harry Hampton Remembered A daughter's Perspective

Dear "Friends,"

When I picked up this flyer at The Purple Cow grocery yesterday, this was the first I knew that such a group existed. Perhaps information has been sent to me and got lost in the shuffle..

As the daughter of Harry Hampton - the man who originally spearheaded the movement to save the swamp, far ahead of his time - I am most assuredly interested!

My father fought a one-man battle for many years, incurring the wrath of those with hunting rights in the swamp and enduring ridicule from his own family members, who thought he was just an eccentric fighting for some crazy cause. For years, Daddy criss-crossed the state in his old yellow Ford, making speeches on behalf of saving the swamp; of ten he met with a hostile audience. Some even "booed" him! These efforts involved much night driving, which his poor vision - especially at ter dark - made especially hazardous.

But nothing deterred my father from his mission to save this last stand of virgin forest in the Southeast - not the ridicule, the hostility nor the lack of understanding on the part of others who could not see his "vision."

Although it finally became the task of younger men to see Daddy's vision realized, he'd worked like hell for this! You can be sure I'm interested!

Harriott Hampton Faucette

Research at the Swamp

John Grego, Research Committee Chair

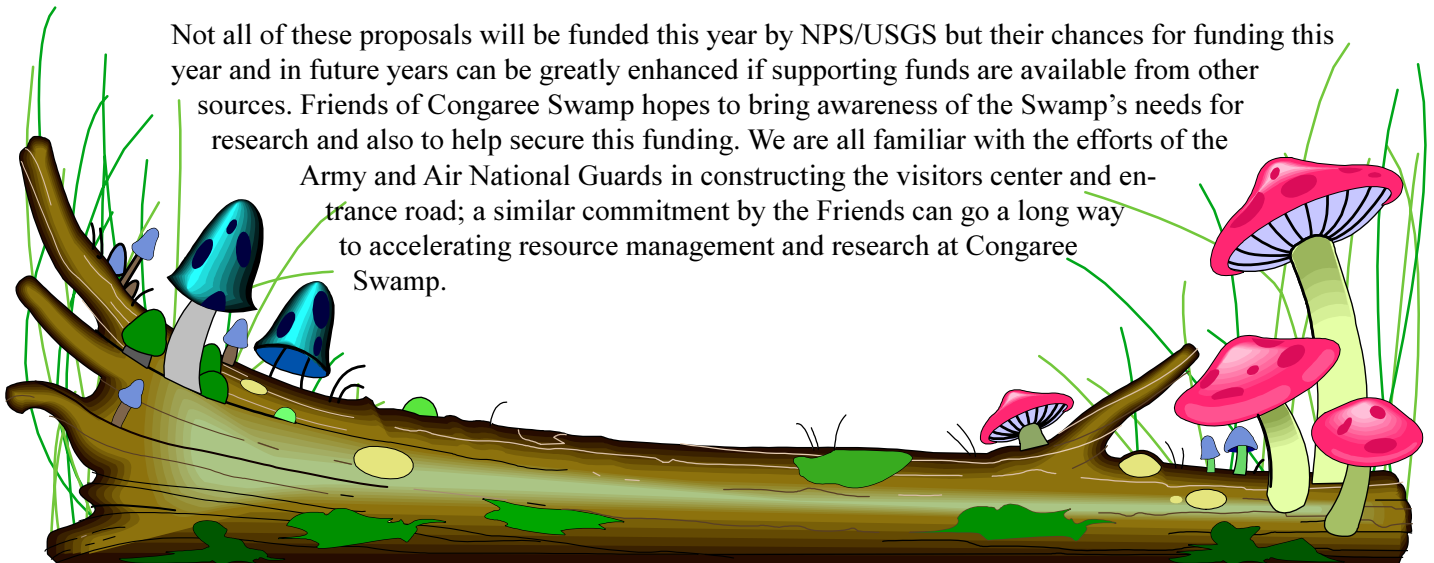
The Research Committee has had a successful year introducing researchers to opportunities at the Swamp. As the chair, my most important work for the committee so far has been as a liaison between researchers and Bobbi Simpson, the Monument's Natural Resources Manager. As the Natural Resources Manager, Bobbi is responsible for coordinating the research efforts at the Swamp related to the Monument's natural resource management goals.

The Natural Resources staff has had a long-standing relationship with researchers throughout the Southeast. In particular, Prof. Rebecca Sharitz of the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory has conducted numerous studies on the effects of disturbances (man-made, historical hydrologic changes and the occasional Category IV hurricane) on the community ecology of floodplain forests; John Cely of the SC Department of Natural Resources has conducted a long-term study of neotropical migratory bird populations in the Swamp; hydrologists from the Columbia field office of USGS Water Resources have performed extensive water quality surveys of the Swamp. In future newsletters, I will familiarize you with the work of these and other researchers at the Swamp.

The National Park Service (NPS) provides much of the funding for resource management and research projects. The current funding bias is towards projects that produce tangible results, thus projects emphasizing basic research important to the Swamp have difficulty obtaining funding. This past year, researchers submitted proposals to the NPS on the following topics:

- ◆ Species Diversity and Condition of the Fish Community (SC DNR Water Resources) — \$83,000
- ◆ Surface Elevation Modeling and Vegetation Response to Forest Floodplain Hydrology (USGS Wetlands Research Center) — \$175,000
- ◆ Digitized Two-Foot Contour Topographic Map (University of Georgia Center for Remote Sensing and Mapping Science) — \$50,000
- ◆ GIS Database of Water Quality (USGS Water Resources—Columbia) — \$25,000
- ◆ Feral Hog Reduction Program (Research Planning Inc) — \$26,000
- ◆ The Extent of Mercury Contamination in Sediments, Macroinvertebrates and Fish (USGS Water Resources—Columbia/NAWQA) — \$31,300
- ◆ Effects of Trace Metal Contamination on Ecosystem Function (Auburn University) — \$39,000

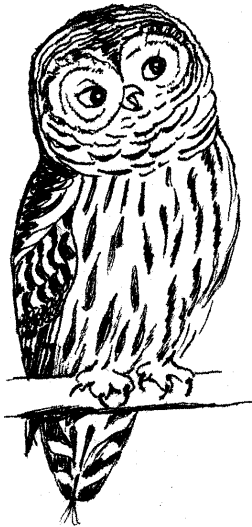
Not all of these proposals will be funded this year by NPS/USGS but their chances for funding this year and in future years can be greatly enhanced if supporting funds are available from other sources. Friends of Congaree Swamp hopes to bring awareness of the Swamp's needs for research and also to help secure this funding. We are all familiar with the efforts of the Army and Air National Guards in constructing the visitors center and entrance road; a similar commitment by the Friends can go a long way to accelerating resource management and research at Congaree Swamp.



New Book Coming Soon to Congaree Swamp

Larry Edmond, SCOIS

Cruising the Congaree will be much easier for a whole new generation of Congaree Swamp National Monument visitors, thanks to a group of teachers, government officials and volunteers who have produced a new activities guide for youngsters.



Cruising the Congaree is the title of the new 209 page natural history and career exploration activities guide designed to help teachers conduct curriculum based in-classroom or field trips for elementary and middle school students. The guide includes games, reproducible coloring materials, experiments, booklets, trail maps, and much more. The guide provides detailed lesson plans, with objectives, duration, state standards and curriculum areas covered by each of 25 lessons.

The instructional guide is designed to increase awareness of careers available to people interested in Congaree Swamp. The guide is also intended to foster pride in the natural resources encompassed by the Congaree Swamp National Monument and its myriad

ecosystems. The guide will focus attention on global environmental issues.

The guide was developed from a number of sources throughout South Carolina and the United States. Classroom teachers and counselors, working in cooperation with the National Park Service and the South Carolina Occupational Information System (SCOIS), created the activities and projects covered in the guide. SCOIS is the information system managed through a consortium of nine State agencies called the South Carolina Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (SCOICC). For over nine months, a development team has been working to complete the guide. Among the many who have worked on the project are: Martha Bogle, Congaree Swamp Superintendent; Nancy Bosco, SCOICC Administrative Assistant; Joellen Cook, Counselor; Larry Edmond, SCOICC Information Resource Coordinator; Elizabeth Hoover, SCOICC Administrative Assistant; Janice Jolly, School-to-Work Coordinator; Carol Kososki, SCOICC Director; Frances S. Mazur, Teacher; Kathy Mustard, Teacher; Joyce K. Rush, Teacher; Jane C. Shuler, Counselor; and Virginia E. Winn, SC Employment Security Commission Graphic Artist/Editor.

Plans are to introduce *Cruising the Congaree* at the Education and Business Summit June 28, 1999 in Columbia. Later in the Fall, additional seminars will be held with teachers in the Midlands, to introduce this new resource.

If you are in the field of education and would like more information about *Cruising The Congaree*, contact Superintendent, Congaree Swamp National Monument, (803) 776-4396.

Newly Elected Leadership

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Officers: LaBruce Alexander, President
Carol Kososki, Vice-President
Richard Watkins, Secretary
Margaret Stilwell, Treasurer

At Large: John H. Temple
Marian Hampton
Susan DeFoe

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

LaBruce Alexander (h) 803-776-3578
John Cely (h) 803-782-7450
Charles Cole, Jr. (h) 803-738-8192
Barbara L. Davis, CFP (h) 803-798-8052
Susan DeFoe (h) 803-799-6163
◆ Gregg Fagan (h) 803-781-1870
◆ John Grego (h) 803-783-9270
◆ Marian Hampton (h) 803-776-2867
Carol Kososki (h) 803-787-1706
Mildred Myers (h) 803-353-8423
Zoe Sanders Nettles (h) 803-782-2478
David Rembert, Jr. (h) 803-771-4967
Rebecca Sharitz (h) 803-649-7619
Margaret Stilwell (h) 803-782-3890
◆ John H. Temple (h) 803-736-3734
Ann Timberlake (h) 803-799-8298
◆ Kelvin Washington (h) 803-353-1003
Richard Watkins (h) 803-432-4253

◆ *These are newly elected board members.*

COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS:

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Carol Kososki (h) 803-787-1706
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Mary Beth Jeffords (h) 803-782-5234
Newsletter:
Virginia Winn (h) 803-787-1592
Research:
John Grego (h) 803-783-9270
Strategic Planning:
Jim Prater (h) 803-252-8499

Please call the committee chairman (above) if you wish to participate on a committee.

Memorials and Honorariums

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Sent by:

Name _____

Address _____

Please notify:

Name _____

Address _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Mail to: Friends of Congaree Swamp,
PO Box 7746, Columbia, SC 29202

Membership Application

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES:

- \$15-34—Individual
- \$35-49—Family
- \$50-99—Advocate
- \$100-499—Partner
- \$500-999—Benefactor
- \$1000-up—Patron

Name: _____

Address: _____

**ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES
& CORPORATIONS**

- \$50-99—Non-Profit Org.
- \$100-499—Affiliate
- \$500-999—Associate
- \$1000-up—Corporate

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

E-Mail Address: _____

The **Friends of Congaree Swamp's** newsletter is published quarterly. If you have an article or photographs you wish included please get them to the editor by the following schedule:

Jan 15th — 1st Quarter
Apr 15th — 2nd Quarter
July 15th — 3rd Quarter
Oct 15th — 4th Quarter

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Get a friend to be a
“Friend.”

Help us increase our membership!

