



# Friends Of Congaree Swamp

## First Field Trip of the Year Scheduled for February

### Gorgeous Views Looking into Congaree Swamp from Calhoun County

February 17, 2001

Walk Starts at 10:00am - End Early Afternoon

Co-Leaders: LaBruce Alexander and John Nelson

Limit: First 30 members to sign up.

**Rain Date (bad weather)  
Will Be Scheduled If Necessary**

If the weather is truly bad please call 803-787-1706 to see if the field trip has been cancelled.  
If it has to be rescheduled, you will be notified of the new date at a later time.

Come join the *Friends* on our first field trip of 2001 to a privately-owned 200-acre tract overlooking the Congaree Swamp National Monument on the Calhoun County side. This site is lovely and runs along the river, with good walking trails, and splendid views from atop the bluffs. Also on the site is a 5-acre area deeded to Calhoun County as a protected Indian village site.

Wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes. Bring food and drink to eat on the trail. Although it's early in the season it never hurts to bring insect repellent. There are no restroom facilities at the site.

Meet the group no later than 9:45a.m., at Lucy's Restaurant on Hwy-601. Take SC-48 (Bluff Road) to US-601 Turn right (south) onto US-601. Cross over the Congaree River into Calhoun County. Lucy's Restorant is on the corner of US-601 ans SC-267. We will drive from the restaurant to the site. Please mail your registration form ASAP (by Feb. 14th) or call Carol Kososki by Feb. 14 at 803-787-1706 (home phone) to reserve a space on the walk.

### Registration Form

**Calhoun County Field Trip  
February 17, 2001**

**YES!** I (we) would like to join you for the Calhoun County Field Trip.

Member's Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Deadline: February 14, 2001**

Mail to: Friends of Congaree Swamp Sarvis Field Trip  
% Carol Kososki, Education Chair  
5225 Lakeshore Drive  
Columbia, SC 29206

Phone: 803.787.1706

## Plants of the Lower Board Walk

David Rembert

On Sunday afternoon November 12<sup>th</sup> the Annual Meeting of the Congaree Swamp was held. We had planned several activities that were to begin at about 2:30 and these began without any problems, at least as far as my group was concerned.

In any event we began our walk that was billed as “the plants of the lower board walk.” Last year we had a similar venture only a month earlier in the fall.

On this particular afternoon in November we were presented with very pleasant weather and rather dry conditions in the swamp. As a result of the lateness of the season and the dry conditions, we were limited in the plants found in vigorous growth. However, undaunted, we proceeded to experience the full flavor of this most exquisite of old growth bottomland, hardwood forest.

As was the case last year, we saw several ferns including the cinnamon fern, the royal fern, the sensitive fern, and the ebony spleenwort. In addition we observed the last remains of clearweed, false nettle, wax weed, jewel-weed, Walter’s hypericum, duck-potato, climbing hempweed, marsh fleabane, and a sedge (*Carex* sp.).

Because of the season we concentrated on the large vines and hard wood trees typical of this kind of habitat. The vines of interest were poison ivy, Virginia creeper, climbing hydrangea, cross vine, supple jack, and grape vines. Some of these vines reach high into the forest canopy and have become quite large.

The dominant trees became apparent as we walked deeper into the swamp. Cathedral like bald cypress and tupelo gum trees reached high above into the fading sunlight giving us pause as we gazed around in silent awe.

We all began to realize what a true gift we have in this treasure in the midlands of South Carolina.



Rembert, left, talks to one of 5 groups about the flora of the swamp.



Cely, right, leads the “Biodiversity” walk. Transition zones are usually very diverse areas because they often share characteristics of both plant communities on either side of them as well as have plants (and animals) sometimes found in neither one.

## Transition Zone Offers Habitat Diversity

John Cely, DNR

Our field trip was pretty sparse as far as seeing much: we turned a few logs (and being good conservationists turned them back again) to see what kind of life we could find under them but nada except for a couple of beetle grubs (probably pretty tasty with some worchester sauce). We talked about the forest canopy at Congaree being extremely diverse with a very high species richness while at the same time the ground cover/understory is relatively “undiverse” presumably because periodic flooding and inundation is a harsh environment for most understory plants to live in; we looked at a few vines and again, the Congaree has a diverse vine (the biologists like to call them lianas) biota with at least 20 species. We also discovered the machine gun-like drillings left on the trunks of trees by the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a common winter resident in the Swamp. We confined our walk primarily to the “transition zone” or ecotone between the upland and the floodplain. In the case of the Congaree, the transition zone is very narrow, no more than a few yards and consists of the side slope grading into the swamp.

Transition zones are usually very diverse areas because they often share characteristics of both plant communities on either side of them as well as have plants (and animals) sometimes found in neither one. The beech tree is a good example of a transition species at Congaree - it doesn’t like to get its feet wet (although some do occur in the floodplain) requires rich soils found in the transition zone, and doesn’t do well in the drier soils where the upland pines grow.

# 3rd Annual Swamp Stomp Brings Good Fellowship

Francis Robinson, Events Chair

The Friends of Congaree Swamp held their annual meeting on Sunday, November 12th, at the picnic area of the ranger station at the Congaree National Monument. A beautiful November afternoon was enjoyed by one hundred and twenty members and family.



Carter, center, readies his group for an afternoon of birding on the boardwalk.

both young and old. **Bob Janiskee** took several groups through the new visitors center which is almost ready to open to the public. The wonderful new building and the educational displays are very exciting. The long fall drought made the anticipated canoe trips impossible.



Danielle Howle entertains group while "Big T BarBQ" feeds us well.



A variety of nature walks, "Biodiversity", "Fall in the Swamp", "Plants of the Lower Boardwalk" and "Birding on the Boardwalk" were led by **John Cely**, **John Nelson**, **David Rembert** and **Robin Carter** respectively. These excursions in small groups were very enjoyable for

The Friends gathered at 4:00 P.M. in the picnic area for entertainment and the annual meeting. **Danielle Howle**, a well-known singer and a devotee of the swamp, entertained with original songs from her most recent albums. When the crowd had gathered, **Bruce Alexander**, President of the Friends, called the meeting to order. **Robin Carter** and **Bob Bundy** were elected to the Board. The



Harriott Hampton Faucette accepts the Order of the Cypress.



Mary Kelly and Mina Winn, seated, take registration.

prestigious **Order of the Cypress** was presented to **Harriott Hampton Faucette** and her two daughters, **Mary Rutledge Cantey** and **Martha Faucette**. The framed award had a picture of Harriott's father, Mr. Harry Hampton, standing in front of one of

the swamp's record breaking Cypress trees.

Following the annual meeting, Danielle continued to entertain the crowd with her singing while they dined on Big T's delicious Bar B Q buffet. The peach pie inspired Danielle and her young audience to create a delightful song about peach pie that they all performed at the microphone. As the darkness came, the lingering crowd gathered around a camp fire and a glorious moon rose over the trees.



*"If you didn't come, you really missed it this year!"*

## “Fall in the Swamp”: Fortunately, nobody fell in!

John Nelson



*Nelson, above right, gathered a crowd for his walk on “Fall in the Swamp”. Friends of Congaree Swamp also entertained many of the Womens League group that was also enjoying the swamp on Sunday.*



On a beautiful, coolish afternoon, a healthy-sized crowd gathered outside the HQ for the “Fall in the Swamp” walk. Everyone was eager to see what floristic bounty the swamp had to offer, and we were treated to a huge assortment of plants.

Some of the notable stops included a discussion of “epiphytes” such as Spanish moss and “parasites” such as Mistletoe, both conveniently growing on the same tree. Characteristic woody plants seen along the road were red maple, sweetgum, water oak, sparkleberry, and wax myrtle. It soon became clear that leaf-fall in native oaks varies quite a bit: some oaks (e.g. water oak) tend to hang onto their leaves through much of the winter, while others (e.g. cherrybark) tend to lose theirs fairly quickly.

Beech trees, too, were putting on an early autumnal display. Beech leaves tend to die on the branches without falling until very late in the winter. There weren’t any beech nuts to be seen, but the bark of the trees showed well why this species is also called “Initial tree” (though we didn’t carve our names). The bluff and edge of the floodplain is one of the more diverse habitats within the entire swamp, and we observed plenty of Horse-sugar, Devil’s walking-stick, and muscadine.

The “highlight” of the walk was scrambling down the bluff onto the floodplain itself and getting a feel for a completely different plant community. Plenty of true mosses and patches of Partridge berry (with bright red fruits) were seen on the ground. On the way out we were reminded of the great diversity of viny species at the National Monument, and we got close looks at climbing hydrangea, the detested Japanese honeysuckle, and massive catbriars and poison ivy vines.

Although it was a short trip, there was plenty to look at. One of the great things about studying plants at CSNM (and just about anywhere else in SC) is that you don’t have to go very far to see a lot!

**Don’t forget to take a look at  
[www.friendsofcongarree.org](http://www.friendsofcongarree.org)**

*Our very own web site developers, Laura Kososki and Ed Kujowski, came all the way from Atlanta just to enjoy a beautiful day at the swamp.*



## New Visitors' Center Virtually Complete

**Bob Janiskee**

After nearly two years of construction, incorporating more than 7,000 hours of labor donated by the Air National Guard, the park's new Education & Administration Building ("visitor center") stands virtually complete. Soon visitors will be driving on the new 1.5-mile paved access road, parking in the three spacious lots, and strolling the curving brick walkways to enter a building that is sure to delight and amaze them.

Dominating the large exhibit hall is "Big Tree," a hollow-based cypress that soars majestically through the ceiling. The first of four exhibit islands is also complete, and along one wall runs the enormous outline of exhibit-to-be "Downed Tree." The 10,300-square foot building has a spacious theater and multi-purpose room, a conference room/library, loads of office space, a well-equipped kitchen/break room, and other features sure to make Superintendent Bogle and her hard working staff feel like they've died and gone to heaven.



## Highlights of the Year 2000

**Brusi Alexander, President**

>> A great crowd and great weather made the Big Tree Trip off the beaten path an exhilarating success on March 25.

>> Our first evening educational speaker program featured **Yancey McLeod** talking about floodplains and other matters. It was cosponsored with the Congaree Land Trust.

>> The Friends participated in a SC Educational Television telethon, and also cosponsored Earthday, with the Friends name on the promotional literature.

>> We received 2 new Corporate supporters, **Wachovia** and law firm **Nelson, Mullins, Riley and Scarborough**.

>> Much time and effort went into working on the Devils Elbow tract, an inholding on the river. Also, efforts were made to seek protection for a tract across the river from the Swamp.

>> Research committee chairman **John Grego** conducted several projects, the most known of which was his challenge of the Lockwood Greene data about the floodplain on the Congaree River upstream from the Swamp.

>> The Boat Safari trip up the Congaree River from the 601 bridge to look at the eastern end of the Swamp was a unique and delightful experience. Thanks go to the **Kososkis**, the **Rhodes**, and **John Cely** for making this trip such a delight.

>> This year, the Friends has originated its own website, thanks to **Ed Kujowski** and **Laura Kososki**.

—In all, a successful year, and excellent outreach activities. It happened because of wonderful members and because of your support.

## Thank You for a Successful 3rd Annual Swamp Stomp

Food arrangements, planning, invitation mailing:

**FRANCES ROBINSON**

Invitation design, photography: **VIRGINIA WINN**

Field trip leaders: **JOHN NELSON, JOHN CELY, DAVID REMBERT, ROBIN CARTER, JOHN TORRENCE, BOB JANISKEE**

Program, Field Trip Coordinator: **CAROL KOSOSKI**

Registration Table: **BOB RENDER, MARY KELLY, MINA WINN**

Order of Cypress Award: **ANN TIMBERLAKE, BRUSI ALEXANDER**

Printing and registration bu mail: **BOB RENDER**

Extra refreshments: **BILL RIDDLE**

Music: **BEN GREGG, BRUSI ALEXANDER**

Park Service staff whose assistance made the event possible: **MARTHA BOGLE, PAT DAGGE, LEONA MCMANUS, LEWIS PRETTYMAN**

# Center for Old-Growth Bottomland Research and Education

John Grego, Chair, Research Committee

Congaree Swamp National Monument has been awarded a \$1.125 million 5-year grant by the National Park Service to create a Center for Southern Old-Growth Research and Education. The physical centerpiece of this project will be the Ranger Station, which will be converted to a field laboratory, classroom laboratory and dormitory space. The grant will greatly increase human resources at Congaree Swamp as well; funding includes salary for a GIS specialist, an educational specialist and two technicians. Their positions will be added permanently to the Swamp's budget at the end of the grant.

Though a good deal of research is conducted at the Swamp, there has been little available research infrastructure. With the prospect of a place to stay along with basic research facilities, the Swamp will attract even greater research interest. **Professor Rebecca Sharitz** of the University of Georgia and the Savannah River Ecological Laboratory, has conducted more research in Congaree Swamp than anyone. She was instrumental in developing the research focus for the Center and obtaining supporting nominations from a dozen universities up and down the East Coast.

Under the guidance of the learning specialist, the classroom lab should be available to educators throughout the Midlands for training and education. In addition, we encourage individual professors and educators to use the facilities. As an example, **Professor Jim Morris**, of USC's Biology Department (who helped with the equipment budget for the Center) plans to teach an Honor's College Biology course once the lab becomes available.

An essential part of the NPS's Learning Centers was the development of multi-park partnerships. This was difficult for Congaree Swamp, since almost all the nearby parks are small interpretive or historical parks. We plan to use the GIS facilities at the Center to aid partner parks in resource management. **Bobbi Simpson**, the Resources Manager at Congaree Swamp, secured the interest of the historical parks and a couple additional parks with similar missions: Big Thicket National Preserve and Jean Lafitte National Historic Park. Bobbi should also be congratulated for shepherding the proposal through the award process.

Funding for the Center will not be available for another year.

## \*\*\* IMPORTANT \*\*\*

Please check your mailing label to see if there is an asterisk by your name. If there is, it's time to renew your membership. You can utilize the registration form on page 8 of the newsletter. If you have questions about your membership status, contact:

Mary Beth Jeffords  
phone: (843) 572-3768  
e-mail: [slopemstrj@aol.com](mailto:slopemstrj@aol.com)

You can also call 803-776-9105 and leave a message.  
Thanks!

# CONGAREE ACTION NOW: A Fight Can Be Fun!

September 20, 1975

If you missed it, you missed the rally of the century!

Jim Elder, president of the Congaree Swamp National Preserve Association, and Gary Soucie, a field editor for "Audubon" magazine, emceed the rally with humor and style. Ann Jennings, president of the S.C. Environmental Coalition, introduced distinguished guests, including Harry Hampton (the earliest proponent -in the 1950s- of protecting Congaree's old-growth forest), aides of Congressmen Spence and Mann, and former state Rep. Alex Sanders.

Dr. James Tanner, University of Tennessee ecologist and Ivory-billed Woodpecker expert, compared the Congaree with other bottomland forests. Dr. Ross Clark, botanist at Erskine College, noted the biological significance of Congaree and cited its importance as a gene bank for the future. Biologist John Cely cited documents at the state archives in discussing history of the Beidler tract. Dr. Carl Holcomb, professor emeritus of forestry at VPI and regional vice-president of Sierra Club, discussed the multiple use concept and noted that it need not include timber cutting. Dr. Robert Janiskee, director of USC's Graduate Program in Geography, described opportunities at Congaree for recreation.

Dwight Bunce, an economist, summarized results of his in-depth study of the economic impact of preserving the Beidler tract. Dr. Charles Wharton, biologist at Georgia State University and an expert on southern river swamps, described ecological benefits and taxpayer benefits of preserving Congaree Swamp. Carlyle Blakeney, National Audubon Society Southeast Representative, discussed public and private strategies for natural area protection. Peter Harnik, from Environmental Action in Washington D.C., discussed Congaree action in the context of congressional environmental voting records.

Ernie Dickerman, of The Wilderness Society, emphasized the need to take the Congaree issue to every elected official, broadening the effort to include mayors, city and county councils, and state legislators. He reminded the audience that although the fight to preserve Congaree will be hard, "a fight can be fun!"

John Dennis, naturalist and author, related his experiences in Congaree Swamp over the past 15 years, and discussed Indian lore of the region. Destry Jarvis, of the National Parks and Conservation Association, emphasized that "there are no Congaree Swamps in our park system. South Carolina has a unique area that should be open to the public." Bill Painter, of the American Rivers Conservation Council, noted the absence of flat water and swamps in the Wild & Scenic Rivers System, and compared logging of Congaree's old-growth forest to "tearing down Independence Hall and selling the bricks."

Brock Evans, director of Sierra Club's Washington D.C. office, delivered a free-flowing torrent of inspiration which deeply moved the audience. He described Congaree's majestic forest and the winding Congaree River as representative of the Southern heritage, and he called on South Carolinians to consider it their obligation to add Congaree to the nation's treasure of parks.

South Carolinian Ted Snyder, national vice-president of Sierra Club, concluded the rally with a series of questions, which the audience answered thunderously for the governor and the congressional delegation to hear:

**"What have the people of South Carolina and the nation been  
demanding for the last two years?"**

**CONGAREE ACTION NOW!**

**"What do we owe generations yet unborn?"**

**CONGAREE ACTION NOW!**

**"What must we have in 1976?"**

**CONGAREE ACTION NOW!**

**"Now – GO GET IT!"**

## Memorials and Honorariums

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

**Sent By:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please notify:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Membership Application

**INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES**

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

**ORGANIZATIONS, BUSI-  
NESSES &  
CORPORATIONS**

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

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:**

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Phone:**

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax:**

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**“Be a Friend...  
...Get A Friend to Join!”**



**Friends of Congaree Swamp**

PO Box 7746

Columbia SC 29202-7746

803.776.9105

[www.friendsofcongarree.org](http://www.friendsofcongarree.org)

**January, 2001**