



# Friends Of Congaree Swamp

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A different kind of field trip is being offered this fall. Friends of Congaree Swamp and Congaree Land Trust, with permission from Congaree Swamp National Monument, are co-sponsoring a field trip that will take a **LIMITED** number of participants off-trail and into the back regions of the monument.

This is open to participants who are both **HEALTHY** and **PHYSICALLY FIT** only—if you start, there is no turning back or lagging behind!

## **“BUSHWHACKING IN THE SWAMP”**

(No, we are not planning on cutting down the vegetation.!  
This is just a great title.)

**Saturday, October 6, 2001**  
**9 am until late afternoon**  
**(up to 10 miles)**

This is potentially an all-day hike through the Congaree Swamp, led by Dr. John Nelson, botanist, beginning at the Cedar Creek area along the Kingsnake Trail. We will go south all the way to the river, turn around and come back. Park/Meet at the canoe put-in.

The canoe put-in is on Cedar Creek Road. There is a place there to park. One would drive east along Old Bluff Rd until arriving at Cedar Creek Road, and turn right. Go south until you see the sign. There is an obvious turn/bend in the road there (to the north). This is where we meet, and hopefully come out of the woods.

It is open to **THE FIRST 20** members of Friends of Congaree Swamp and Congaree Land Trust who sign up. They must be 18 years or older and be physically up to the challenge.

**BE PREPARED! BRING** plenty of water to drink, and enough food to keep you happy for most of the day. Also bring a compass if you have one. Be aware that there are NO bathroom facilities. There are, however, plenty of stickerbushes, poison ivy, Lizard-Men, bugs, and potentially snakes. Please understand that this outing is offered to participants who are **HEALTHY** and **PHYSICALLY FIT**, as this will be a challenging walk. Please be flexible with your schedule; this outing will almost certainly take up much of the day.

SEE PAGE 5 FOR REGISTRATION FORM

## Voices in the Swamp Field Trip A Success

Robin Carter

On Saturday, 2 June 2001 Caroline Eastman and I accompanied about 12 members and guests of the Friends of Congaree Swamp on a low key bird walk around the boardwalk loop in the park. Conditions were perfect — overcast, cool, slight breeze, and almost no biting insects! It was about the most pleasant walk I have ever had at the park in the month of June.

We encountered (mostly by hearing) good numbers of common breeding birds during our walk, as well as good numbers of lizards, common butterflies, a water snake, a few turtles, and assorted other critters with wings but no feathers.

Here is our bird list. Some 39 species were observed. The most unusual species found were Black-and-White Warbler and Chipping Sparrow (first June records for the park). Both of these were along the new park entrance road, in a part of the park which used to be seldom visited by birders.

Great Egret — 1	Eastern Wood-Pewee — 3	Wood Thrush — 1
Turkey Vulture — 1	Acadian Flycatcher — 5	Northern Parula — 20
Mississippi Kite — 3	Great Crested Flycatcher — 5	Yellow-throated Warbler — 3
Red-shouldered Hawk — 4	White-eyed Vireo — 4	Pine Warbler — 5
Yellow-billed Cuckoo — 5	Yellow-throated Vireo — 2	Black-and-white Warbler — 1
Barred Owl — 1	Red-eyed Vireo — 10	Prothonotary Warbler — 15
Chimney Swift — 20	Fish Crow — 6	Kentucky Warbler — 5
Ruby-throated Hummingbird — 1	Carolina Chickadee — 5	Common Yellowthroat — 1
Red-headed Woodpecker — 1	Tufted Titmouse — 25	Hooded Warbler — 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker — 8	White-breasted Nuthatch — 6	Summer Tanager — 4
Downy Woodpecker — 3	Carolina Wren — 8	Chipping Sparrow — 1
Pileated Woodpecker — 3	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher — 4	Northern Cardinal — 10
		Indigo Bunting — 5
		Common Grackle — 6
		Brown-headed Cowbird — 1



## Moon Light Cruise John Cely, DNR

Fifteen friends turned out for the Congaree “moon light cruise” but it proved to be quite moonless—it was obscured by clouds the entire time! This was partially offset, however by the spectacular lightning bug display—thousands were up in the canopy, 50-60 feet high or higher, making the night sky sparkle like diamonds. For inquiring minds, my meager knowledge of lightning bugs (aka fireflies to my northern friends) knows that this bioluminescent beetle uses this unique feature primarily as a mating tool; each species of lightning bug has its own unique sequence of flashes and flash duration; if the flash is sexy enough, the female will respond in kind (don't ask me how the males and females avoid getting confused over this). In a twist typical of mother nature, however, some females of different species have learned to copy the flash sequence of other species and lure unsuspecting males close enough to get eaten! Talk about domestic violence.

We also had several Barred Owls serenade us by the creek bank. Overall, however, the swamp was surprisingly quiet. We did have an occasional frog chorus, mainly from Gray Treefrogs but also a few Green Frogs.

This was certainly a unique way to experience this wonderful jewel we call the Congaree Monument; hopefully we will be able to enjoy the moon next time. BTW, didn't see or feel a mosquito the entire trip!

## **Park Service Acquires 390.6 Acres**

On a map of Congaree Swamp National Monument, you have probably noticed the long rectangular "inholding" that extends from the Congaree River toward the center of the park. This tract, containing 390.6 acres, is one of more than thirty parcels authorized for acquisition when Congress, in 1988, enacted the Congaree Swamp National Monument Expansion and Wilderness Act (Public Law 100-524).

In the years since 1988, the National Park Service has purchased most of the parcels authorized by Congress. The 390.6-acre tract was the largest of the parcels not yet acquired.

In February 2001, the National Park Service acquired this tract. Purchase price was \$859,906.33. Among the benefits, this acquisition will enable the park's trails to be extended near the riverfront.

Friends of Congaree Swamp, Sierra Club members, and Columbia Audubon members should feel a special sense of accomplishment because they wrote many letters during 1998, asking Congress to appropriate money for land acquisition at Congaree Swamp National Monument. Congress responded by providing \$1 million in December 1998. This funding enabled the National Park Service to purchase the 390.6-acre tract.

Congaree Swamp National Monument protects more than 20 miles of river frontage. Acquisition of the 390.6-acre tract almost completes the park's river frontage. Only two riverfront discontinuities remain – one very small parcel not yet acquired within the park's authorized boundary, and the 27.82-acre Devil's Elbow tract, not in the authorized boundary.

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## **\*\*Photographs Needed by August 22\*\***

Friends of Congaree Swamp is looking for good quality prints/slides/digital images of the flora (plants) and fauna (animals/insects) found in the Congaree Swamp area for use in an upcoming fundraising project. These can be scenic or close-up shots in a horizontal format. If your photograph(s) is/are used in the project, you will be given written credit as a contributor.

Please print or type on a label with your name, return address and phone number on all prints/slides submitted. If you are sending slides you can use Avery #5267 Return Address Labels to label them or write directly on the slide mount. Put a label on the back of all prints. Your prints/slides will be returned to you upon completion of the project.

Every effort will be made to keep your submissions safe, but Friends will not be liable for any loss or damage that may occur while in our possession or in transit.

If you are willing to let Friends use your photographs in this fundraising project, would you please send them to Virginia Winn, 3025 Dalloz Road, Columbia, SC 29204. Digital images can be emailed to [vwinn@sces.org](mailto:vwinn@sces.org). If you have any questions please call Virginia at home between 5:00pm and 7:00pm @ 803-787-1592. (Please do not call after 7:00pm.)

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## ***Tree Identification Workshop***

**Congaree Swamp National Monument,  
Harry Hampton Visitors Center**

**Saturday, September 8, 2001  
9:00 am until Noon  
Leader: Bob Bundy**

**Limited to the first 15 participants**—adults and children 10 years old (4th grade) and older—so please register early.

Participants will receive a written reminder with directions to the swamp and another list of what they need to bring with them.

Have you ever wondered as you walk through the forests about what living things there are around you? We often look for animals and other critters but often cannot see the trees for the forest. Friends of Congaree Swamp is offering a Tree Identification Workshop, the first in a series of workshops which will cover such topics as trees, plants, flowers, insects, animals, reptiles/amphibians, etc. Let us know what you would like to learn about.

This workshop will involve the study of the parts of trees that allow their identification and the use of keys so that each participant will be able to identify trees on their own. We will start with about an hour of instruction in the classroom using simple tree keys and then will go out and practice identifying some of the trees that we see. Everyone should return with the skills that they need to go home and identify some of the trees in their area.

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## ***Bird Banding Migratory Song Birds*** **Weenee Woods, Sumter County**

**Saturday, September 22, 2001  
9:00 am to 2:30 pm  
Leaders: Evelyn and Tommy Dabbs**

**Banding:** Evelyn Dabbs will be banding song birds in the morning until the nets are empty. There is no way to guarantee she will have birds in her nets, but this is in the middle of the migratory season, so it will be one of our best chances. Evelyn participates in Cornell University's ongoing songbird banding project. She has given this demonstration to many groups for many years, and it is always well received by both young and old alike.

**Canoeing:** Bring your own canoe and life preservers and join Tommy Dabbs while he explores the Black River Swamp. Time and weather permitting Tommy will probably take several groups out.

**What to bring:** Bring your own snacks, lunch and plenty of water or other drinks. It can still be very hot in September. Bring bug repellent and sun screen. Wear comfortable outdoor clothes and shoes. If you plan on joining the canoers, bring a full change of clothing/shoes in case you fall in.

**Directions:** From Columbia come east on Hwy 378, taking the HWY 378 Bypass around Sumter; stay on this HWY (as if going to Myrtle Beach). After about 8 miles from the east end of the bypass is Black River Swamp (has a designated sign) with 3 bridges. After passing over the 3rd bridge get in the left lane and take the 2nd exit which has a conspicuous guard rail marking it. Turn left into the cross-over median and straight ahead of you, after crossing over the west bound hwy, is the entrance with two mail boxes. Then, ahead you will see a sign which reads "Weenee Woods". Just follow the lane until it drops you in the Dabbs' yard.

**Registration Form**

Registration Deadline: August 24, 2001 (Friday)

**“Tree Identification Workshop”**  
with Bob Bundy

Member's Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Friends of Congaree Swamp is not liable for any injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending a Friends event.**

Mail to: Friends of Congaree Swamp  
Tree Identification Workshop  
c/o Bob Bundy  
108 Rook Branch Lane  
Columbia, SC 29209

Phone: 803-776-4535 or 803-463-2560

**Registration Form**

Registration Deadline: Sept. 26, 2001 (Friday)

**“Bushwhacking in the Swamp”**  
with John Nelson

\_\_\_\_\_ Friends Member \_\_\_\_\_ CLT Member  
Member's Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Friends of Congaree Swamp is not liable for any injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending a Friends event.**

Mail to: Friends of Congaree Swamp  
Bushwhacking in the Swamp  
c/o John Nelson  
3801 Duncan Street  
Columbia, SC 29205

Phone: 803-777-8196 or 803-252-1417

**Registration Form**

Registration Deadline: Sept. 7, 2001 (Friday)

**“Bird Banding Migratory Birds”**  
with Evelyn and Tommy Dabbs

Member's Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Friends of Congaree Swamp is not liable for any injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending a Friends event.**

Mail to: Friends of Congaree Swamp  
Bird Banding  
c/o Virginia Winn  
3025 Dalloz Road  
Columbia, SC 29204

Phone: 803-737-2702 (8:30am-3:30pm ) or  
803-787-1592 (5:00pm-7:00pm)

**New Board Member...**

A native Columbian, Eleanor Rubin Niestat is a graduate of Emory University with an M.A. from U.S.C. Over the years she has been active in many organizations throughout the region, and currently serves as secretary of The Friends of the USC School of Music, publicity chairman of the SC Medical Association Alliance and member of the public relations committee of the SC Medical Assn., community relations chairman of the Columbia Jewish Federation, board member of the Southeast Region of the ADL, and interest group chair of the USC Woman's Club. She is married to Dr. Herbert B. Niestat, and they have 3 adult children and the sweetest dog in Columbia.

**\*\* If you see an asterick on your mailing label please renew your membership. All contributions help the swamp\*\***

**Mark Your Calendar:**  
 Annual Meeting: Sunday, November 11, 2001.  
 Enjoy an oyster roast while viewing a high bluff  
 overlook on the Calhoun county side of the  
 Congaree River.

July, 2001

www.friendsofcongarree.org

803.776.9105

Columbia SC 29202-7746

PO Box 7746

**Friends of Congaree Swamp**



### Friends of Congaree Swamp 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

### Friends of Congaree Swamp 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, BUSI-  
 NESSES &  
 CORPORATIONS**

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

Home Phone:

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

Work Phone:

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

Fax:

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

E-Mail Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

\_\_\_\_\_

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