



www.friendsofcongarree.org

November-December 2003

## LaBruce Alexander's Five Year Presidency

Carol Kososki



*John Grego, left, President of Friends, honors LaBruce Alexander, Immediate-Past President, at November Board Meeting.*

Congratulations to LaBruce Alexander for completing four and one half years as President of Friends of Congaree Swamp! Under her extraordinary leadership, Friends of Congaree Swamp (FCS) has matured from a fledgling group organized some six years ago to support the conservation of Congaree Swamp.

During Brusi's tenure, the Friends made organizational improvements, sponsored educational, interpretive and research activities, served as advocates for the Swamp, and helped protect the Park. Highlights of Friends' accomplishments include:

- Developed scheduled newsletter, website, email and telephone communications to keep members abreast of organizational activities.
- Developed a grants program for Congaree Swamp for scientific, educational and community projects.
- Advocated for appropriations to fund the Harry Hampton Visitors' Center, entrance road and land acquisitions within the authorized Park boundaries.
- Funded a Midlands YWCA Summer Camp program and feral

pig research program.

- Conducted a program of outings and field trips, including "Big Tree Walks", botanical walks, Saturday morning walks, boat trips and special trips into Congaree National Park, Western Boundary, Congaree Bluff, Congaree Creek and surrounding areas.
- Conducted clean-up activities at the Sox-Goff tract of land.
- Organized "in-town" awareness programs to familiarize residents of Columbia with the Congaree Swamp.
- Produced "Reflections of Congaree Swamp" screensavers and detailed maps of the Swamp for sale.
- Collaborated on a coffee table book of Congaree photos which is still in process.
- Created Congaree Bluff Heritage Preserve.
- Developed airport displays to encourage tourism for Congaree Swamp.
- Built a covered picnic shelter and BBQ area near Harry Hampton Visitors' Center.
- Developed and maintained Friends of Congaree Website: [www.friendsofcongarree.org](http://www.friendsofcongarree.org)
- Advocated widely for Congaree National Park designation and boundary expansion legislation.

Kudos to Brusi! You have been an outstanding President!

## Friends Annual Meeting Big Success

*Jim Welch*



*Wavering Place*

Friends and supporters of Congaree Swamp met for their annual meeting on November 19, 2003 at Wavering Place. They were given an update on Sen. Ernest Hollings bill, S.1313 and Representative James Clyburn's companion



*New picnic shelter*

legislation in the house, H.R. 2580, at the annual meeting of Friends of Congaree Swamp.

Brusi Alexander, President of the Friends group, told the 80 members and guests meeting at Wavering Place in Lower Richland that there was still much work to be done, but much has been accomplished in the five years since the Congaree group was established. The Friends group has been working with the SC Dept of Natural Resources, SC Wildlife Federation, The River

Alliance, The Trust for Public Land and many other groups and individuals to enlarge the monument and to achieve the added status of a national park. The movement will not only protect habitat in what many have called "the greatest floodplain forest in the nation", but can also improve eco-tourism and add to the economy of the Midlands.

In other business at the annual meeting, Sharon Kelly, Robin Carter, Zoe Sanders Nettles, Ann Timberlake and Richard Watkins were reelected for additional terms on the board of directors. Zoe Sanders-Nettles was given a special award recognizing her outstanding service to the Friends of Congaree Swamp. John Cely was cited for his vision, commitment and dedication to the protection and enhancement of the lands of the Congaree



*FOCS awards this Certificate of Appreciation to Zoe Sanders-Nettles in grateful recognition of her trustworthy counsel, unfailing support and generous hospitality.*

dating back to the 60's and 70's when he was first invited to meet the legendary Harry Hampton. It was Hampton who first brought recognition to the swamp and worked unselfishly for its protection as a National Monument.

Members and friends meeting under the big magnolias at Wavering Place also heard from Dr. Julian Adams, owner of the historic mansion and surrounding fields and forests. Dr. Adams said the house was built in 1855 although the first Adams family home there dated to 1760. By 1790 there were 36,000 acres, much of it planted in indigo and rice. That all changed with the invention of the cotton gin and following the end of WWII, bulldozers were brought to the area. Most of the trees between the Wateree and the Congaree Rivers were cleared to make room for growing cotton.



*John Cely receives the FOCS's highest award, "The Order of the Cypress," for his participation in establishing Congaree Swamp National Monument, for his lifetime of roaming and researching swamps and floodplains in South Carolina, and for his sharing his knowledge and love of these areas with others.*



## It Was a Very Good Year...

...As the song says! Over the last 12 months, the *Friends of Congaree Swamp* succeeded with its annual goals of increasing awareness of the Congaree Swamp, assisting the National Park Service with projects, providing services for members, and acting as advocates for protection of our own International Biosphere Reserve: Congaree.

Here are some specific things we accomplished in 2003:

❑ Two photo panels (dioramas) were produced in cooperation with the Columbia Metropolitan Airport, and are now on display in the baggage area, bringing people's attention to Congaree, while they wait for their luggage. *Friends* funded this project.

❑ A large 24 foot by 42 foot multipurpose building (some people call these structures picnic shelters) was built next to the Harry Hampton Visitor Center, paid for with FOCS funds and coordinated with the Park Service. This involved interviewing contractors, setting up agreements, site selection, design selection, not to mention the actual building process.

❑ A committee worked with DHEC on water quality issues and Outstanding Resource Waters.

❑ The ETV Naturescene trio of Jim Welch, Rudy Mancke, and Allen Sharpe presented an evening program at the Richland County Library, talking about their experiences in Congaree.

❑ Excellent field trips were held throughout the year, including a new trip subject matter: ethnobotany, with a trip led by Dr. Gail Wagner.

❑ Groups of *Friends* assisted at National Park clean-up days, and helped with trail maintenance.

❑ Then on February 21, 2003, a letter was written by *Friends* to Senator Ernest F. ("Fritz") Hollings, asking him to support boundary expansions and changing CSNM from a National Monument into a National Park. As of this writing, this is now a *fait accompli* !! Hooray !!!

Between February and November, many, many letters were written, plus e-mails by our members urging adoption of the legislation. This also included trying to get other elected officials to sponsor the designation, plus working with Rep. Jim Clyburn's staff for sponsorship on the House side.

And then there was the hearing which Rep. Clyburn scheduled, to respond to those opposing this legislation. Many of us went to this meeting, prepared to speak in support: however, Rep. Clyburn and his staff did a masterful job, and there was no need.

**What a great year** it has been. And now, after 5 years, I step down as President. It has been an honor to serve these five years of our six year existence. Thank you so much for your support of this great organization. Sanctuary much. Now, on to a new era, and a new and hopefully expanded National Park!

Best wishes,  
Brusi Alexander

## My First Introduction to Harry Hampton and Congaree Swamp

*John Cely*

For as long as I can remember I've been interested in the outdoors and nature, wilderness and wild places. As a youngster I avidly read about the early naturalists and natural history of South Carolina – about a lost heritage of wolves, bison, elk and panthers, Carolina parakeets and passenger pigeons, ivory-billed woodpeckers and trackless cypress swamps that stretched out to the horizon. My readings were tinged with sadness, however, as they made me think I had been born in the wrong century.

When I enrolled at Clemson in the fall of 1965 I spent a lot of time in the library – not tending to my studies as I should have, but reading wonderful books and periodicals on nature and natural history. I remember finding an older issue of South Carolina Wildlife magazine and there on the inside of the back cover was a photograph of the biggest bald cypress I had ever seen. Standing at the base of this giant was the noted South Carolina conservationist and outdoor writer, Harry Hampton. I got so excited about this photograph that I immediately fired off a letter to Mr. Hampton, wanting to know more about this tree and the location. Could it be possible that a part of South Carolina's lost heritage still existed?

I received a speedy reply that included news clippings with photos of more big trees, all located in a large river swamp only 20 minutes from downtown Columbia – the Congaree. The clippings told of Mr. Hampton's efforts to save the swamp from commercial logging and efforts to make it a national park or monument. He extended an open invitation to come visit the swamp anytime.

It wasn't until the following Easter holidays that I was able to take Mr. Hampton up on his offer to see Congaree. I was a little apprehensive as I drove over to his home, Woodlands. He was almost exactly 50 years older than me and the Hampton name is certainly a legend in South Carolina history. I was soon put at ease however; he greeted me in well-worn hunting clothes and was as down to earth and unpretentious as possible. We drove to the swamp in his International Travel-All, a remarkable vehicle he called the "Monster."

As we drove down Bluff Road, I felt an immediate kinship with someone who despite the

age difference, sounded like one of us young guys. I knew a little of Harry's conservation background – his efforts that culminated in the establishment of what later was called the SC Department of Natural Resources, (and, ironically my future employer) and his mission to educate the public on conservation issues. He talked of saving nature for nature's sake, the need to preserve wilderness and wild places. He railed against the despoilers of nature and the waste of our natural resources. His conservation ethic, unlike most of his generation, extended far beyond such practical issues as reducing bag limits and shortening the duck season. Everything in nature had a purpose and was worthy of protection. A tree allowed to live out its natural life span in a forest, then die and recycle, should not be considered a wasted tree according to Harry, but something to celebrate and appreciate. Although he was 50 years older than me, Harry was 50 years ahead of his time.

When we got to the swamp, Harry's 68 year-old legs walked my 18 year-old legs off. He showed me a magnificent bottomland hardwood forest I had only read about – a forest of giant sweetgums and pines five feet in diameter, oaks and cypress that rose up through the swamp canopy for more than 15 stories, a forest where even so-called understory trees like persimmons and hollies exceeded seven feet in circumference and 75 feet in height. The Congaree was truly a forest worthy of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers and Carolina Parakeets.

This was my first exposure to what was later called the "the redwoods of the east" and also one of the most remarkable men I've ever known - Harry Hampton. Several years ago Jim Elder paid me one of the finest compliments I've ever had. He said, "John, I know of two people that truly love that Swamp, that have it in their blood, that dream about it, that are obsessed by it, and that's you and Harry Hampton." I couldn't think of better company to be in.

## **Letter from Harry Hampton:**

Dear Mr. Cely,

Thank you for your letter of November 14. It is gratifying to know that at least one young man is interested in our swamps and big trees.

The cypress is still in the swamp, where I have hunting rights with others, and I have taken various groups down to look the place over. I had some boys from the National Park Service down some years ago and they made a report recommending that it be made a National Monument, which amounts to a park.

I spent a week there with an ornithologist a few weeks ago, and we found some more big trees as you will see from one of the clippings – the one filling in for Bob Talbert. There are many cypresses four feet in diameter and a great many a little smaller, as the company cut only those trees that could supposedly be floated down the creeks, guts and rivers to St. Stephen, where the mill was. However, they did not let the logs dry out sufficiently and thousands of them remain in the creeks and guts and scattered throughout the swamp. And none of the cypress that was not along the waterway was cut.

It is particularly hoped that the area can be preserved as it seems perfect for the Ivory-billed woodpecker, except for the hunters. The two do not mix, it is said by authorities here, in Florida and elsewhere that it might still remain.

If you would like to come down and look over the swamp some time I'd be glad to take you down, as I am always ready for an excuse.

Thanks again for your interest in pristine forest land.

Sincerely,  
Harry R.E. Hampton

P.S. The little organization has not been active lately, as the owners and their employe[e]s are opposed to any change.

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## **Congaree: “What an amazing accomplishment!”**

South Carolina has its first national park – Congaree National Park – as of Nov. 10, when President Bush signed Fiscal Year 2004 Interior Appropriations legislation into law. This law also authorizes the addition of approximately 4,600 acres to Congaree Swamp National Monument (Congaree National Park).

Many people contributed to enactment of Congaree's boundary expansion and national park designation, but Senator Hollings' extraordinary efforts deserve recognition at the top of the list. As expressed by staff of the Trust for Public Land, “What an amazing accomplishment!”

For several years, Senator Hollings has wanted a national park in South Carolina.

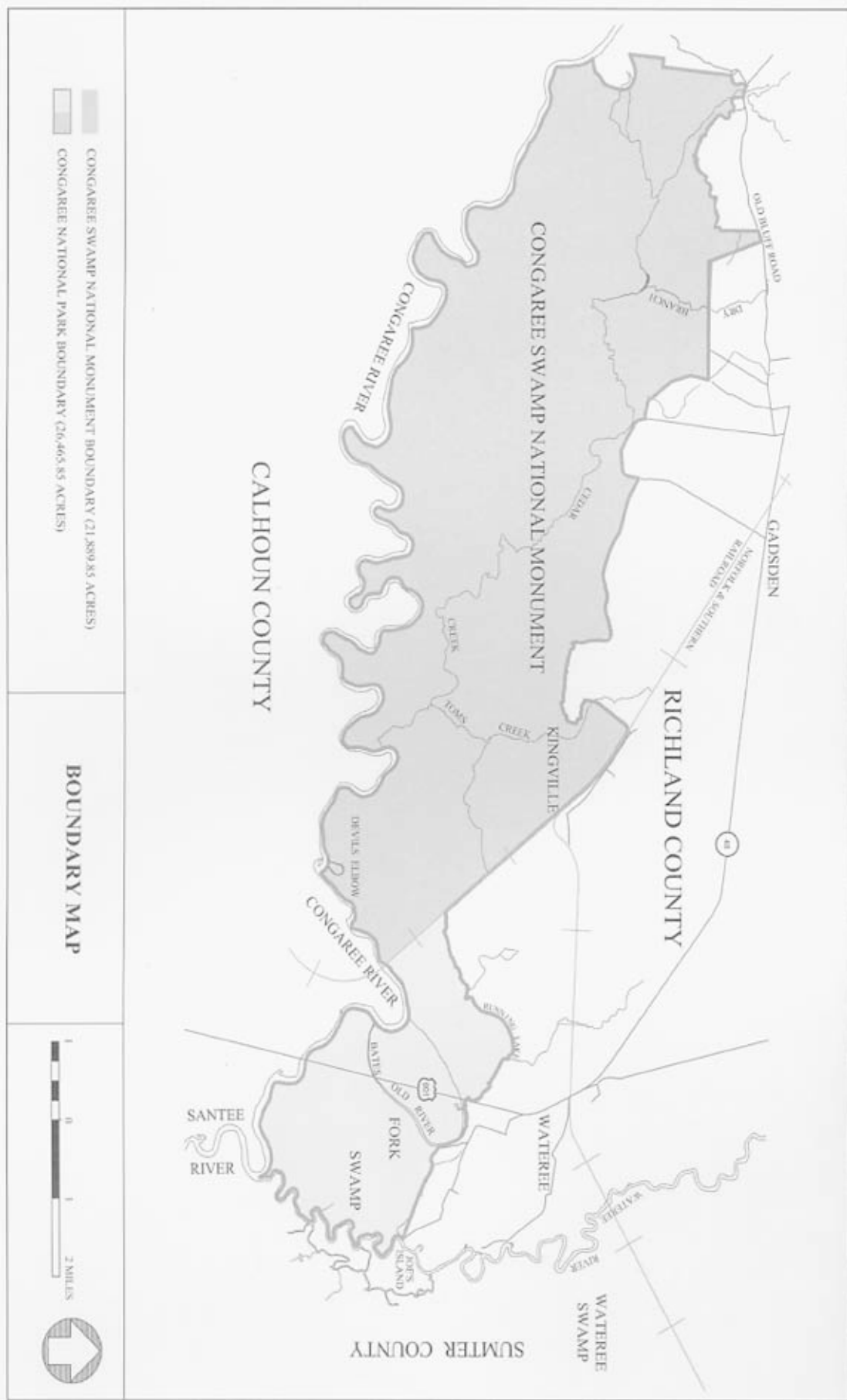
And, since 1995, a Congaree boundary expansion proposal has awaited “the right time.” The

boundary proposal was configured by conservationists, and consists of two key tracts. These two tracts would link the 22,200-acre Congaree Swamp National Monument and the 16,700-acre Upper Santee Swamp Natural Area. This Congaree boundary proposal had not been pursued in 1995 because the owner of one of the tracts was not ready to include the land in legislation to expand Congaree's boundary.

However, in late 2001, this landowner family offered its tract for sale. In 2002, the Congaree Land Trust and Friends of Congaree Swamp notified Senator Hollings that this tract – at the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree rivers – was for sale.

Also in 2002, Friends of Congaree Swamp approached the Trust for Public Land (TPL) about revisiting the 1995 boundary expansion proposal.

**Congaree National Park**  
National Park Service  
U. S. Department of the Interior



TPL assigned a Senior Project Manager, who began a dialogue with the landowners. Thereafter, TPL contacted Senator Hollings about Congaree boundary expansion.

In January 2003, Senator Hollings asked the National Park Service to draft legislation to expand Congaree's boundary and designate Congaree as a National Park.

In February 2003, Friends of Congaree Swamp wrote to Senator Hollings, further documenting the merits of Congaree boundary expansion. Our letter emphasized the fleeting opportunity to acquire these two key tracts from willing sellers.

In June 2003, Senator Hollings and Congressman Clyburn introduced bills (S.1313 and H.R.2580) to authorize the addition of approximately 4,600 acres to Congaree Swamp National Monument and change Congaree's designation from National Monument to National Park. Friends of Congaree Swamp and other entities submitted letters endorsing this legislation – the Congaree National Park Act of 2003. Our letter was printed in the June 23 *Congressional Record*.

This Congaree legislation proceeded on two parallel paths in the Senate. One path led to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, whose Subcommittee on National Parks conducted a hearing Oct. 2 in Washington. Friends of Congaree Swamp board member Harriott Hampton Faucette testified at the hearing. Ms. Faucette is the daughter of Harry Hampton, whose advocacy in the 1950s initiated efforts to protect Congaree's old-growth forest. In addition, Friends of Congaree Swamp and the SC Wildlife Federation jointly submitted a letter for the record of the Oct. 2 hearing.

The other path led to the Senate Committee on Appropriations – of which Senator Hollings is a member. Through Senator Hollings' efforts, the Congaree park designation and boundary expansion provisions were included in the Senate's version of Fiscal Year 2004 Appropriations for the Dept. of the Interior. However, the House of Representatives' version of Interior Appropriations had no Congaree provisions.

Thereafter, a Conference Committee resolved many differences between the House and Senate versions of the Interior Appropriations bill. On Oct. 27, House and Senate conferees approved the Interior Appropriations Conference Report, including the Senate's provisions pertaining to Congaree boundary expansion and national park designation.

The full House of Representatives agreed to the Conference Report on Oct. 30, and the full Senate agreed to the Conference Report on Nov. 3. President Bush signed this Appropriations legislation into law Nov. 10.

The Congaree legislation had encountered some obstacles before it was eventually enacted. Opponents of Richland County's "Town and Country (land use) Plan" entangled the Congaree legislation in their tactics against the County's land use plan. Ignoring the fact that the Congaree legislation very specifically identified the tracts in the boundary expansion, the opponents of Richland County's "Town and Country Plan" claimed the Congaree legislation would "threaten our homes, churches, farms, rights, and children's inheritance."

In response to opponents' assertions, Congressman Clyburn hosted a "Town Meeting on the Congaree Swamp's Future" on Oct. 6 at Hopkins. Mr. Clyburn skillfully guided the discussion and emphasized repeatedly that Congaree National Park legislation is unrelated to Richland County's "Town and Country Plan." He explained that Congaree boundary expansion and national park designation are part of his vision to increase tourism in the 6th Congressional District.

Since the mid-1970s, Congaree has received and benefited from excellent political support – including Senator Hollings, Senator Thurmond, Congressman Spence, and Congressman Clyburn. Governor Sanford added to this history with his Oct. 13 letter, supporting Congaree boundary expansion and national park designation. This legislation also received political support from Richland County Council, Columbia Mayor Bob Coble, and state Senator John Courson.

We have already noted participation of the Trust for Public Land. We are grateful, also, to the National Parks Conservation Association. With their regional staffing and their Washington DC staffing, both organizations contributed importantly to Congaree boundary expansion and national park designation in 2003.

Efforts will focus next on implementing Congaree's authorized 4,600-acre expansion, consisting of riverfront tracts shown on the map referenced in the legislation. This expansion extends a portion of Congaree's eastern boundary to the west bank of the Wateree River. Tracts will be acquired only from willing sellers.

## Congaree Swamp Christmas Bird Count

*Robin Carter*

**Sunday, December 14, 2003**  
**Meet 7:00 am—After hours parking lot**  
**Congaree National Park**

Since 1900, bird enthusiasts have counted birds in North America during the Christmas season. This year some 20,000 counters will take the field, counting all living, wild birds seen or heard within one of hundreds of Christmas Bird Count circles. We have a circle (15 miles in diameter) which covers most of Congaree National Park. Counting birds is fun. You don't have to be an expert; you will be paired up with a leader who knows the birds. There is a \$5.00 participation fee (18 and under free), which goes to the National Audubon Society to help offset the cost of publishing the results of the count on the Internet. Meet at the after-hours parking lot at Congaree Swamp National Monument at 7:00 AM, prepared for a walk in the park. You can stay an hour, a morning, or all day. No advance signup is necessary. For more information contact Robin Carter (782-8820 or email [rcarter@sc.rr.com](mailto:rcarter@sc.rr.com)).

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## American Woodcock Skydancing Foray

*Robin Carter*

**Sunday, January 18, 2004**  
**Meet at the after-hours parking lot at 5:00 PM**  
**Congaree National Park**

The American Woodcock is a shorebird, but not one you will find at the beach. This strange species is found in Congaree Swamp National Monument year round, but mostly in the winter and early spring. In late winter male woodcocks perform a wonderful courtship display, often called woodcock sky dancing. The male first makes a "peent" call while on the ground, then produces a high twittering sound as he flies as much as 200 feet into the air, then circles down, producing a "pete pete pete" sound. Once on the ground he starts all over again with the "peent" call. The ladies are impressed, I guess. Woodcocks usually start displaying shortly after sunset and can keep it going for hours, especially on a full moon night. Usually you hear a lot more than you see of a displaying woodcock, but sometimes you can catch a glimpse of a fat little bird flying against the darkening sky. Limit 20 participants. Meet at the after-hours parking lot at 5:00 PM. Come prepared for a short walk in the dark. Leader: Robin Carter. For more information contact Robin Carter (782-8820 or email [rcarter@sc.rr.com](mailto:rcarter@sc.rr.com)).





## Friends Big Tree Walk Oct. 26 and Nov. 9, 2003

John Cely

We had a good contingent of “swamp trompers” and beautiful weather to see some of Congaree’s famous old growth forest on two Sunday afternoon walks. We made our first stop at a large, 14-foot circumference swamp chestnut oak, *Quercus michauxii*, just off the service road. The swamp chestnut oak, also called basket oak and cow oak, is one of seven oak species growing in the floodplain. The significance of Congaree is highlighted by the fact that of the seven species, two - Shumard and overcup - are pending national champions, and three, the swamp chestnut oak, cherrybark oak, and laurel oak, are state champions. Swamp chestnut oaks are members of the white oak group and can attain large size in the Congaree, with some circumferences equaling or exceeding 18 feet.

After crossing the bridge at Cedar Creek, we hiked down the River/Oak Ridge Trail, then left the trail and looked at some trees in the forest behind Wise Lake. We stopped at two large sweetgums growing next to one another called the “twin sisters.” The sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, is by far the dominant canopy tree in Congaree’s bottomland forest. They grow quickly in the fertile alluvial soil and reach enormous size. These two are “only” 12 feet in circumference. The state champ is in Congaree and is nearly 17 feet in circumference and 169 feet tall. One of the greatest attributes of the Congaree is that the trees are allowed to grow to their maximum size before they eventually die and recycle back to the earth. One of the most impressive trees in the swamp is a national co-champion persimmon, exceeding 7 feet in circumference and 132 feet tall!

This sweetgum, nearly 15 feet in circumference, would be a champion anywhere else but Congaree. As Dr. Robert Jones reported in his survey of Congaree’s big trees several years ago, this swamp has been documented as having one of the tallest hardwood forests in the temperate world. Many of the oaks, pines, sweetgums,

sycamores, and others routinely exceed 150 feet in height.

After leaving the big sweetgums, we did some log hopping across Hammond’s Gut and walked to Hampton Gut where we saw the “Hampton cypress.” This is the same tree in the Harry Hampton photograph, with Harry standing next to it, located in the Visitors’ Center. More than 40 years ago Harry started taking reporters, photographers, naturalists, officials from the National Park Service, and anyone else who would listen, to this tree to publicize the extraordinary qualities of a place little known except to a few local fishermen and hunters. The Hampton cypress measures 23 feet around the buttress and although larger cypress have been found in the swamp, including the state champ that has a circumference of 26 feet, it seems fitting that Harry’s cypress, as befits a man that was 6 feet 4 inches tall, was later found to be Congaree’s tallest at 148 feet.

Bald cypress are famous for their cypress knees. The function of these exposed root protuberances still remains speculative but they definitely add ambience to any swamp setting. We measured one “knee” close to the Hampton cypress that was seven feet high!

We crossed back over Hammond’s Gut and resumed hiking down the River/Oak Ridge Trail until we came to several large cherrybark oaks, *Quercus pagodifolia*, growing on the edge of the trail. This oak is known for its large buttress and enormous crown spread, sometimes approaching 100 feet. Their mushroom shape, top-heavy profile and shallow root system make these large oaks susceptible to being toppled by high winds. We saw one nearby that had been on the ground for 14 years – a victim of Hurricane Hugo. The largest measured cherrybark in Congaree has a circumference of 23 feet.

The cherrybark is a member of the red oak group and this year has been a good one for red oak acorn production. Acorns are the staff of life for many swamp critters. One species closely tied to red oak acorns is the beautiful Red-headed Woodpecker. Their primary diet in winter consists of the small, “bite-size” acorns that they store in bark crevices and cracks for later consumption. Congaree supports a good wintering population of Red-headed

Woodpeckers in years of bumper acorn crops but the birds disappear when acorn production is poor.

We ended our tour with a brief stop at a beautiful beech grove a little further down the trail. Beech don’t like to get their feet wet and grow only on the highest ridges in the swamp. The largest ones at Congaree have circumferences of 8-10 feet and are more than 100 feet tall.



# Who visits the Swamp?

John Grego

In order to help answer this question, the Friends group has been entering information from several years of Visitors' Logs (all the way back to 1996) into a database for analysis. Almost 26,000 entries later, we have some answers.

Of course, this data really tells us about "Who visits the Swamp *and* signs the Visitors' Log" and as such can't give us a full answer to the question posed in the title. After all, given over 100,000 visitors annually, but only 3000 to 6000 entries in the Visitor Logs each year, there are clearly a lot of people who visit but don't sign the Log—and they are probably different from those who do. Nonetheless, this work has brought interesting insights, and provides useful information for the Park Service. We'll examine U.S. visitation in this issue, and then cover international visitors and take a look at visitor comments in future issues.

Year in and year out, South Carolinians account for about 55% of visitor log entries (and 70% of those South Carolinians are from the Columbia area). We can usually count on visitors from all 50 states and Washington DC each year as well; though we can have an entire year go by without an entry from, typically, Hawaii, Rhode Island or one of the Dakotas.

Going strictly by the total number of log entries from 1996-2003, our top 10 states (and their raw counts) are:

- |                   |       |                 |     |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------|-----|
| 1. South Carolina | 13386 | 6. Florida      | 513 |
| 2. North Carolina | 1220  | 7. Pennsylvania | 502 |
| 3. Georgia        | 696   | 8. New York     | 485 |
| 4. California     | 546   | 9. Virginia     | 372 |
| 5. Ohio           | 545   | 10. Michigan    | 317 |

And our 10 lowest counts (remember that Washington DC is in the list) are:

- |                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| 41. Nevada       | 31 |
| 48. Rhode Island | 22 |
| 49. North Dakota | 21 |
| 50. South Dakota | 19 |
| 51. Hawaii       | 13 |

There are no big surprises in either grouping, but the approach hardly seems fair to small or distant states. Correcting for distance from South Carolina seemed unnecessarily complicated, but each state count was divided by its population, and then re-ranked according to the number of visitors per capita. Here are the top 10 states using this ranking system:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. South Carolina | 6. Wyoming       |
| 2. North Carolina | 7. Alaska        |
| 3. Washington, DC | 8. Maine         |
| 4. Georgia        | 9. New Hampshire |
| 5. Vermont        | 10. Virginia     |

This *is* a surprising list. It could be that visitors from some of the states in the Northeast and Northwest on this list are more likely to visit the Swamp ("we don't have anything like this back home"), or simply more likely to sign the Visitors' Log, or a combination of both.

Our alternatively ranked bottom 5 has at least one surprise, but otherwise confirms that we are unlikely to attract visitors from other Southeastern states with extensive bottomland forests:

- |   |
|---|
| 47. California                                    |
| 48. Mississippi                                   |
| 49. Texas   |
| 50. Louisiana (State motto: Thank God for Hawaii) |
| 51. Hawaii  |

Given that local residents are one of those groups unlikely to sign the Log, the large percentage of local residents signing in was encouraging—I came away with the impression that Congaree Swamp has more support within the community than suspected. The Visitors' Log also helped confirm that Congaree Swamp is a nation-wide attraction, or at least a must-see stop for visitors to South Carolina.



## **Friends of Congaree Swamp November 25, 2003**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

LaBruce Alexander  
Frank Caggiano  
Robin Carter  
Harriott H. Faucette  
John Grego  
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Ann Kirkley  
Carol Kososki  
Mildred Myers  
Zoe Sanders Nettles  
Eleanor Niestat  
Bob Render  
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Advocacy – Richard Watkins  
Computer Operations – Ellen Helman  
Fundraising – Frank Caggiano  
Membership – Eleanor Niestat  
Newsletter – Virginia Winn  
Public Relations – Sharon Kelly  
Research – John Grego

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John Grego, President  
Ann Kirkley, Vice-President  
Carol Kososki, Secretary  
Mary Kelly, Treasurer  
At Large: Richard Watkins  
Sharon Kelly  
LaBruce Alexander



# Friends of Congaree Swamp

Post Office Box 7746  
Columbia SC 29202-7746

www.friendsofcongarree.org

November—December 2003

## Be a FRIEND: Get a Friend to Join Today!

**Yes!** I would like to support conservation of Congaree Swamp for future generations. Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please make your check payable to **Friends of Congaree Swamp**.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00 Family	Name(s): _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 Advocate	Mailing Address: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 Partner	Hm Phone: (____) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00 Benefactor	Wk Phone: (____) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000.00 Patron	E-mail: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 Nonprofit Org.		
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000.00 Corporate		

**I would like to work on the following committee(s):**

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy
<input type="checkbox"/> Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter
<input type="checkbox"/> Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

In addition to my membership, I would like to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a donation to **Friends of Congaree Swamp**:  
Memorial to: \_\_\_\_\_ Honorarium for: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Membership to: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide contact information so we can inform the person/family:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order the following items (proceeds benefit FOCS projects): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ copies of **"Reflections of Congaree Swamp"** CD screensaver for Windows 95 or higher @ ~~\$14.95~~ **\$7.50 s/h included**  
\_\_\_\_\_ copies of the beautifully detailed **"Map of Congaree Swamp National Monument and Vicinity"** @ \$12.95 each/plus \$3.50 s/h

**Sale!**

Thank You For Supporting **Friends of Congaree Swamp!**  
Friends of Congaree Swamp, PO Box 7746, Columbia, SC 29202-7746  
FOCS is a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation, EIN: 56-2057087.