

Friends of Congaree Swamp

## Major Grant Received

A \$200,000 grant has been received by the Friends of Congaree Swamp from Harriott H. Faucette and her daughters Mary Rutledge Faucette and Mardie Faucette. The grant was given through the Fat Cat Foundation in memory of Harry R. E. Hampton.

"As the daughter and the grand-daughters of Harry R.E. Hampton, these generations are carrying on the legacy of Harry Hampton, who was the foremost and earliest protection advocate for Congaree Swamp," said LaBruce Alexander, President of Friends of Congaree Swamp. "We are very pleased and appreciative of this gift, and I know that Harry, who spent so much of his time crusading for Congaree Swamp protection, would also be pleased that his family continues the caring that he began."

"Those of us who knew Harry and worked with him are even more deeply touched. His memory and his spirit truly live on."

Many thanks go out to this thoughtful and committed family!

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**3rd Annual  
Swamp Stomp  
coming November 12<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*Danniel Howle to sing\*\***

**\*\*Tours of the new Visitors' Center\*\***

See article inside....

## **Third Annual Swamp Stomp Sunday, November 12**

The Friends of the Congaree Swamp will host an afternoon of swamp activities followed by the Annual Meeting and a barbeque supper. All events will take place at the Ranger Station/Picnic Area of the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Registration begins at 2:00 PM and a variety of walks will depart promptly at 2:30 PM.

John Cely — **“Biodiversity” Walk**

John Nelson — **“Fall in the Swamp” Walk**

David Rembert — **“Plants of the Lower Boardwalk”**

Robin Carter — **“Birding on the Boardwalk”**

Bob Janiskee — several **“Visitors’ Center” Tours**

John Torrance — **Canoe Trip** (limited to 12 people)

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 4:00 PM in the Picnic Area. New Board members will be elected, and The Order of The Cypress will be presented.

Danielle Howle, a well-known singer and a devotee of the swamp, will entertain with original songs from her most recent albums.

Big T Bar B Q of Gadsden, S. C. will serve chicken and pork, rice, hash, vegetables and homemade pies.

**An invitation will be sent later in  
October, but put  
November 12<sup>th</sup> on your calendar.**



### **Danielle Howle A Celebrity in the Swamp**

Danielle Howle, a devotee of the Congaree Swamp, will be in her element entertaining at the Friends’ Annual Meeting at the Congaree National Monument. Such original songs as “From the Tops of Trees” and “Swamp Song” will greatly add to the enjoyment of the afternoon in the swamp. Danielle Howle, a resident of Columbia, has performed all over this country and has numerous albums including CATALOG and LIVE FROM MCKISSICK. She has a delightfully light and humorous stage demeanor and a wonderfully deep, full bodied alto voice. She simply loves to sing and play the guitar, and we will be lucky to hear her on November 12th.

## **Twenty-Five Years Ago... September 20, 1975 — CONGAREE ACTION NOW!**

Establishment of Congaree Swamp National Monument in 1976 was preceded by an intense three-year campaign to build citizen support, which was essential to obtain political support.

During the Spring of 1975, Congressman Spence, Senator Thurmond, and Senator Hollings had not yet committed to introduce legislation to protect Congaree's old-growth forest in the National Park System. Therefore, Jim Elder, president of the Congaree Swamp National Preserve Association, proposed a huge rally to focus attention on Congaree's majestic old-growth forest and the urgent need for congressional action to protect this forest.

A name was selected for the rally: Congaree Action Now! The date was set: September 20, 1975. And the site was selected: Carolina Inn, on Assembly Street in Columbia.

Planning and preparations for Congaree Action Now! proceeded throughout the Spring and Summer of 1975, with extensive participation by the Congaree Swamp National Preserve Association, Sierra Club, the South Carolina Environmental Coalition, Columbia Audubon Society, and others.

Finally, September 20 arrived. About 400-450 people — from both Carolinas and beyond — had pre-registered to attend, but rally organizers were not prepared for what happened. When the doors opened, an overflow crowd of more than 700 people streamed in.

Never before had so many people attended an environmental rally in South Carolina. Clearly, citizens wanted Congaree Action Now! Throughout the day, this huge audience listened to an impressive array of national speakers. At the end of the day, these citizens demanded Congaree Action Now!

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!”

Thereafter, 1976 became the year of Congaree action and decision. Establishment of Congaree Swamp National Monument in 1976 remains a major accomplishment of citizen action in South Carolina, and unquestionably, Congaree Action Now! was the most memorable event of the remarkable Congaree campaign.

# Boat Trip to Remote Area of Swamp

## July 15, 2000

Although the day was hot on July 15<sup>th</sup>, their spirits were high. Seventeen members of “Friends” were being treated to a special day. They were journeying to areas of the swamp not generally open to the public. Also they had on the agenda a visit to the State champion cypress.

South Carolina State Biologist John Cely started out the trip at the 601 boat landing where the members boarded 3 boats and headed 6 miles upstream. Upon landing, despite the dark canopy overhead, the forest floor had a pretty good carpet of sedges (*Carex*), and other vegetation that manages to get enough sunlight to survive. Pawpaws are a dominant understory small tree and the only food source for the beautiful Zebra Swallowtail butterfly caterpillar, which was seen in abundance. Some areas also had stands of native bamboo or cane, which is a member of the grass family. Although cane is a grass, it has a woody stem. Cane was a favored forage plant for cattle and other livestock that used to range throughout the river swamps for much of the State’s early development. Unfortunately, reminders of civilization in the form of debris washed in from earlier flooding were noticeable - old soda bottles, various balls, light bulbs, and even a tire or two.

After hiking around this area for a while, the group again headed upstream a few more miles to see the State champion cypress. The Congaree virgin cypress trees probably average 500-700 years but the really big ones, like the State champion, could easily approach 1000 years, making them the oldest living thing in Richland County. The champion measures 26 feet in circumference and 131 feet tall. The maximum age attained by these patriarchs is not known, but one cypress log from the Santee River system that went through the saw mill had 1600 growth rings!

Due to the dry weather in the area, the participants enjoyed hiking on dry land. They studied the flora and fauna of this unique habitat as well as measured the circumference of these magnificent giants. Although most of the participants were from the Columbia area, Mark Kinzer traveled all the way from Atlanta, GA, for the experience.

Everyone had a wonderful time and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the big trees of Congaree Swamp!





## Nomination for New Board Members

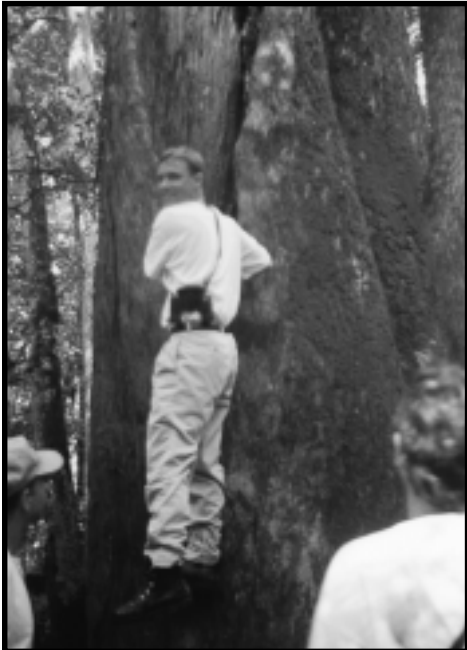
**John Cely** and **David Rembert** will be stepping down at the end of their term as Board members. They have served since the Friends of Congaree began. We thank them for their past service.

The nominating committee has placed **Bob Bundy** and **Robin Carter** on the nomination slate to be voted on by the members present at the Annual Meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Bob Bundy** is a native of Lancaster and has taught science and natural history in South Carolina for 16 years. He is presently teaching chemistry at White Knoll High School. For the past 2 years, he has worked aboard a barge tug on the Intracoastal Waterway and has experienced the marine and lowcountry ecosystems from a very different perspective. Bundy has enjoyed visiting the swamp for many years and has also enjoyed taking high school students there to show them the treasures of the swamp.

Born in Miami, FL. and raised in Virginia and Ohio, **Robin Carter** has lived in Columbia since 1985 and has been an avid fan of the Congaree Swamp National Monument since his arrival. Carter is a graduate of both Harvard University (AB in Social Relations) and Duke University (PhD in Linguistic anthropology) and has taught anthropology at the university level. He is presently working as a computer consultant for TMFloyd and Company.

Carter has been a birder since 1970 and has birded in 48 of the 50 US states, all the provinces of Canada (but not the territories), Mexico, Belize, and Costa Rica. He is the author of *Finding Birds in South Carolina* and *Favorite Birding Trails of South Carolina*. He maintains a database of about 10,000 bird observations at CSNM which combines the reports of approximately 80 birders and produces a bird checklist for the CSNM on behalf of the Columbia Audubon Society.



## 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

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

***"Be a Friend...  
...Get a Friend to Join!"***

PO Box 7746  
Columbia SC 29202

803.776.9105

**Friends of Congaree Swamp**

October, 2000