



www.friendsofcongarree.org

Spring 2003

NatureScene Team Members to Share Swamp Experiences

Sunday, May 4, 2003

3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Richland County Public Library

(Corner of Assembly Street & Hampton Street, Columbia, SC)

NatureScene team members Rudy Mancke, Jim Welch And Allen Sharpe will share some of their experiences in the Congaree Swamp during a special program May 4 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the Richland County Public Library auditorium.

The program is free and open to the public.

Presented by Friends of Congaree Swamp, the program will feature Sharpe's slides of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians that inhabit the swamp along with swamp stories and behind-the-scenes tidbits from Mancke and Welch.

NatureScene, a production of South Carolina Educational Television for more than 25 years, has given the swamp national exposure many times over the years.

“Foods, Fibers & Medicines: An Historical Use of the Plants Around Us

Dr. Gail E. Wagner, University of South Carolina

Sunday, March 30, 2003 @ 1:00 pm – 3:00pm

Light rain or shine we'll walk the boardwalk.

Heavy rain we'll enjoy a slide show with hands-on activities.

Limited to the first 30 members to sign up

Meet at the Visitors' Center,
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Learn how the early settlers and Native Americans used plants for food, fiber, medicines, construction and even poison. Dr. Gail Wagner, one of the few paleobotanists in the Southeast, will lead a walk from the visitors' center to the clearing as she shares little-known uses for everyday plants in the swamp.

Dr. Wagner, an associate professor of anthropology at the University of South Carolina, also is on the faculty of the USC School of the Environment. Her interests focus on the relationships between people and plants, both past and present. She is a veteran of archaeological projects in the Southwest, Israel, India and South Carolina. She is working to summarize the prehistoric uses of plants in the state.

If you are interested in joining Friends on this educational walk please contact Virginia Winn, vwinn@sces.org. Please put in the subject "Foods, Fibers, and Medicines". I will e-mail you and let you know if you are (or are not) one of the first 30 people to sign up. If you do not have email you can call me at work, 803-737-2702.

Cely to Lead Nature Walks at CSNM

First Saturday of Each Month

9:30 – 11:00 am

Meet at the Visitors' Center

John Cely will lead nature walks for the park the first Saturday of each month, beginning in March. He will talk about the natural history, big trees and ecology of the swamp. The walks begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Visitors' Center and will last for one- and-a-half to two hours.

The walks are open to the public and no registration is required. Friends members are encouraged to join John and get to know your park better.

Spring Owl Prowls Scheduled

Registration Required Two Weeks in Advance!

The Congaree Swamp National Monument's Spring Owl Prowl Program will be offered Friday evenings in March, April, May and part of June.

Registration is required two weeks in advance. Call 803-776-4396 well ahead of time because the prowls fill up quickly.

NatureFest Planned for CSNM

April 25, 26, & 27, 2003

Congaree Swamp National Monument staff is busy lining up speakers and fieldtrip leaders for their annual NatureFest. Last year they had 450 attendees and expect even more this year. Try and make it out to this lively event. It's always fun and even educational!

Advanced Notices & Reminders by E-mail

We now e-mail our membership with advanced notices and reminders of fields trips and other activities, including schedule changes, so it is very important to keep your e-mail address up to date.

Send your name and e-mail address to Ellen Helman: ellenyh@mindspring.com.

Board Member Featured

FRIENDS' Board member Mildred Myers was featured in The State on Sunday, January 5, 2003. She received a half-page write-up, with photograph, for her efforts to promote environmental justice across the state, and particularly in Lower Richland County. The Sunday feature by John Monk was titled, "Everyday Heroes: 10 Stories of Inspiration."

Mildred certainly is an inspiration, and we appreciate her efforts.

Nature Walks with Bob Bundy

Every 2nd Saturday of Each Month

10:00 am – Noon

Meet at the Visitors' Center

Congaree Swamp National Monument

No reservations needed.

The *Nature Walks with Bob Bundy* series is starting its second year out at Congaree Swamp National Monument. Bob Bundy was a long time Friends of Congaree Swamp Board member and is a local science teacher. The walks start at 10:00 am and run from one-and-a-half to two hours. If someone wants to join us for part of the walk, they are welcome for as much time as they want to spend. Many people walk out the low boardwalk with us and then split off onto another trail. Sometimes we return by the rest of the boardwalk loop, sometimes by the service road, and sometimes we just turn around and head back the low boardwalk. We judge the distance based on who we have that weekend and what they can do so most walks are accessible to all.

These guided walks provide visitors with an introduction to the Congaree National Monument. The walks focus on a variety of subjects in areas such as birds, plants, history or other topics. The walks build an appreciation for the Congaree's world-class natural resources.

Come join us as we learn about the varied habitats of this unique region of South Carolina.

Congaree Creek HP in the Rain

The day before this field trip, the temperature was around 73 degrees. The day of the field trip, Feb 16? It was reversed, at 37 degrees! For that reason the over-capacity crowd of 30 plus, who had signed up for the trip, decided to stay warmly and snugly at home.

Eight folks however, plus trip leaders Robin Carter and Chris Judge, showed up Sunday, Feb. 16, for the hike. They trudged into the flooded swamp for a cold, wet, but interesting hike. At one point the group had to cross a narrow creek on an even narrower log.

Everyone who went has said the trip was well worth it. For that reason, Friends has scheduled another, hopefully drier, field trip on Sunday, May 11, to see this beautiful area.

Big Trees Walks with John Cely

Sunday, March 23, 2003 (Sorry, this one is FULL!)

Sunday, April 6, 2003 (Sorry, this one is also FULL!)

Fall Walks: Dates to be announced.

For those who missed the spring Big Tree walks, John Cely will lead two more walks in the fall. The spring walks, scheduled March 23 and April 6, quickly reached their 30-person limit.

The walks will explore some of the back areas of Congaree Swamp National Monument, including the huge, old-growth trees that Harry Hampton sought to protect. Some of the trees you'll see on this three-hour, four-mile off-trail walk include sweet gums, cypress, beech, and Cherrybark Oaks.

The fall dates will be announced later this summer. Initial announcements are made by e-mail and posted on the web site:

www.friendsofcongarree.com.

Field Trip Again Planned to Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve Sunday, May 11, 2003 2:00 PM Rain or Shine

Friends of Congaree Swamp is sponsoring a second field trip to Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve near Cayce in Lexington County. This 627-acre preserve contains four significant archeological sites—a South Appalachian-Mississippian Indian village, a 10-12,000 year old Paleoindian campsite, the 18th century town site of Saxe Gotha, and another site that spans all of these time periods. Jon Rood, Cultural Preserve Manager, will guide us along the Guignard Brickyards Loop Trail, where we hope to see evidence of the old brick works in a regenerating floodplain forest. This site even has alligators and they may be out in May if the weather is warm. Some of you may remember Jon from his time working at the Monument as a Forestry Technician and canoe tours leader.

Although this is early in the season, you may need insect repellent. Also bring binoculars, field guides, and something to drink. Wear hiking shoes, and clothing appropriate to the weather.

If you would like to join us please contact Robin Carter, 4165 East Buchanan Drive, Columbia, SC 29209. Phone: (803) 787-8820. E-Mail: rcarter@sc.rr.com. Please give him your name, address, phone number, e-mail, and names of your guests. You will be sent directions to the site when you register via e-mail (or snail-mail, if you are not connected.)

Sincere Sympathy...

Friends would like to express their sincere sympathy to Robin Carter and his family for the loss of his mother, Geraldine Re, 1926-2003.

