



www.friendsofcongarree.org

Winter 2003

Harry Hampton Would Have Loved It!

Sharon Kelly

The Friends' annual meeting held November 3 at Woodlands was just the kind of gathering he enjoyed most—people who work to preserve the uniqueness of his beloved Congaree Swamp enjoying the hospitality of his home. The only things missing were his legendary "Jiffy Juleps."

Harry's daughter, Harriott Hampton Faucette, and granddaughter, Mardie Faucette, graciously opened the grounds for the meeting and worked hard to make sure they were ready for the event. Harriott recounted several tales of growing up at Woodlands and talked about her father's passion for the swamp and the battle he waged to preserve it.



Harriott Hampton Facette welcomes Friends to "Woodlands."

LaBruce Alexander, President of the Friends of Congaree Swamp, highlighted the group's accomplishments during the year.

South Carolina historian and author Walter Edgar entertained the crowd of about 85 with a history of the Hampton family, beginning with the Revolutionary War.

Board members elected to serve three-year terms were LaBruce "Brusi" Alexander, Mary Kelly, Carol Kososki, Eleanor Niestat, Virginia Winn and Ann Kirkley.



Friends spend afternoon at Harry Hampton's home place.

FCS also is working with a group of photographers to produce a guide to be sold at the Visitors' Center.

Following the meeting, John Nelson led a short botanical walk around the grounds before everyone adjourned to enjoy Ben Moise's "World Famous" Oyster Roast, accompanied by John Grego's homemade chili.

Dick Goodwin and his jazz trio provided musical entertainment.



Walter Edgar, keynote speaker.

And What did the FRIENDS' Group accomplish in this, our 5th year?



Brusi Alexander, highlights accomplishments.

☞ We had some great field trips, like to Alfred Burnside's property along the Congaree River, a western boundary hike (an area little explored by most), and a joint trip with the Audubon Society to the Dabbs property. Thanks to Bob Bundy, there were monthly Saturday trips to walk around the Monument.



Dr. John Nelson leads nature walk.

☞ We participated with the Park Service staff in a clean-up at the new 391 acre Sox Goff tract addition. This involved pick-ups of everything from refrigerators to mailboxes: enough to fill a 2 ton dump truck.

☞ Administratively, we planned and approved a Research Grant application process, adopted a new logo, and transitioned our computer and membership operations. Also, the Board had a planning retreat to chart directions for the future.

☞ We gave a grant of \$4,000 to the YWCA of the Midlands for summer camp students to visit the Park, and supplied hands-on equipment for their outdoor experience.

☞ We also helped with supplemental funding of a feral hog disturbance study.

☞ In addition, 2 potential new projects began this year. We began data gathering on constructing a 22 foot by 42 foot picnic shelter at the National Monument. Your FRIENDS' group is also working with a photography association to produce a color photograph book to be sold at the Hampton Visitors' Center.



Oysters were enjoyed by all.

Thank you for being a member, and a FRIEND.
The future holds good things ahead!



A Big THANK YOU To...

☪ **Harriott and Mardie Faucette:** hosting the gathering at the Hampton homeplace and providing all sorts of “amenities” accompanying that. Their time, energy and thoughtfulness is beyond compare.

☪ All Board members who brought such excellent desserts;

☪ also to **Sharon Kelly** and **Brusi Alexander** on planning, coordination, and set-up, **Bob Render** with tables, parking, and clean-up, **Mary Kelly** with finances and membership, and **Carol Kososki** with set-up and taking meeting minutes; ☪ plus, thanks to **Dr. John Nelson** for leading the botanical “walk-about” for the members between the meeting time and the eating time.

New Service from Friends...

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

If you are a new or renewing member please supply you correct e-mail address on the form on page 8.

If you are a current member and have changed your e-mail address or have never given us your e-address please send your name and e-address to Ellen Helman:

ellenyh@mindspring.com.

Board Voted In At Annual Meeting

The following Board members agreed to serve and were elected for 3-year terms at the Annual Meeting: LaBruce Alexander, Mary Kelly, Carol Kososki, Eleanor Niestat, and Virginia Winn.

New members to the Board are:

Sharon Kelly: She has worked as a reporter and editor at The Columbia Record and The State newspapers, public information officer for Lexington County, free-lance writer and adjunct journalism professor at USC and is now the public information coordinator at the S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

Ann Kirkley: She has experience in the area of economic development; first recruiting large industries to the State for the SC Department of Commerce, and, then establishing the Office of Business Development (who objective was the recruitment of capital tourism) for the SC Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism . While at SCPRT she was involved with tourism-related economic development for the ACE Basin which increased her interest in resource protection. She is interested in working with Friends of Congaree Swamp to raise South Carolinians’ awareness of this resource and its long-term value.

We wish to express our appreciation to outgoing Friends’ Board members Bob Bundy and John Nelson. Bob has been active in organizing and leading our Saturday nature walks at CSNM and John has led numerous field trips and outings.



Membership Survey Report

John Grego

I designed the survey to study the strength of member's commitment to the goals (as outlined in the mission statement) of Friends of Congaree Swamp. Each element of the mission statement is represented by one or two items on the survey, and a few demographic items were added. I piloted the survey with a board member and a regular member of Friends, and received editing suggestions from Sharon Kelly. To date, 33 surveys have been returned, which would be a typical response rate for a one-time mailing. With relatively few responses, I won't over-analyze the data. I'll comment on the representativeness of the sample, then move on to an examination of the items.

With relatively few surveys returned, care should be taken in interpreting the results. Looking at the demographics, it seems as though there is a reasonable cross-section of members. Thirteen of the members did not attend the Annual meeting last year, and 13 respondents visit the Park once a year or less (these two categories are not mutually exclusive); it seems that less active members are represented in the survey. Twenty one respondents are from Richland County, and this may actually be representative of South Carolina visitors to the Park in general. It is interesting to note that three respondents were out of state, and they all report visiting the Park several times a year.

The following items provoked the strongest responses; another item ("There are many opportunities to volunteer at the Park") prompted strong agreement as well.

Table 1: Items with Strong Responses

Item	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The Friends should help fight development threats near the park	22	8	3		
The Friends should work cooperatively with landowners to secure conservation easements on tracts adjacent to the Park	20	12	1		
The Friends should work with the Park to increase opportunities for ecological research		16	12	5	
The Friends should help the Park provide educational opportunities at all age levels	10	16	5	1	
The cultural history of the Park is one of its potential assets	10	18	4		
Neighboring industries represent a threat to the Park	6	15	8		

Respondents did not really disagree with any of the goals in the Friends' mission statement, but there were a few items that evoked both strong agreement and strong disagreement. These items are recorded below.

Table 2: Items With Split Opinions

Item	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Current land uses near the Park are compatible with the Park's mission	2	2	5	18	4
Residents of the Midlands see the Park as one of the area's biggest assets	2	5	4	16	4
The Friends should work to develop permanent public access to remote areas of the Park	2	6	9	10	4
The Friends should work to purchase tracts adjacent to the Park from willing owners	3	9	8	8	3

Survey continued page 7

Camp Laf-A-Lot and Eureka Success due to Friends Grant

Ann Lichliter, YWCA Program Director

The YWCA of the Midlands hosted two camps at the Congaree Swamp and Educational Center during the summer of 2002. Forty youth participated in Camp Laf-A-Lot, a camp that provides enrichment and educational opportunities to youth in kindergarten through fifth grade. Twenty five girls participated in Eureka, a girls empowerment program for girls ages 11-16 that encourages young girls to explore science and math fields along with personal development.

The YWCA of the Midlands utilized Congaree Swamp's curriculum entitled "Cruising the Congaree" when working with the youth.

The students were first taught about the park rules and safety procedures. As they hiked throughout the park they learned about the swamp and its inhabitants as they studied its different ecosystems; identified plants, birds, and animals by site as well as tracks; learned the difference between poisonous and non-poisonous snakes; and identified its many insects. There was also an emphasis on careers in park service. Many of the students were interested in knowing what courses they needed to prepare them for college and career planning. According to completed surveys, the park ranger and wildlife biologists were the most popular and most desirable occupations in park service. The students left the Congaree Swamp National Monument with an understanding of the importance that areas like this be preserved for the benefits of all life.

In the spring of 2002 Wendy Nance, Director of the YWCA, approached the Friends Board with a grant request for \$4,000 to fund Camp Laf-A-Lot and Eureka. After consideration, the Board agreed that this project complied with the educational goals of Friends as stated in our mission statement.



**Fieldtrip Planned to
Congaree Creek HP
Sunday, February 16, 2003
2:00 PM
Rain or Shine**

Friends of Congaree Swamp is sponsoring a field trip to Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve in Cayce, 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, but we are not likely to see any in February. 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.)

YWCA continued page 6



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Big Trees Field Trip with John Cely

Sunday, March 23, 2003

2:00 – 5:00 PM

Meet at the Harry Hampton Visitors' Center by 1:45 so we can leave promptly at 2:00.

Limited to the first 30 members to sign up!

Join Friends as we explore some of the back areas of Congaree Swamp National Monument and see the really big trees that Harry Hampton sought to protect. On this 3-hour/4-mile off-trail walk we will see huge sweetgums, cypress, beech and Cherrybark Oaks, to name a few.

We will take the River Trail to the back end of Wise Lake where several sweetgum are 12-13 feet in circumference. If we are lucky, and we can

find a suitable log crossing, we will go see the "Harry Hampton" cypress in Hampton Gut; several of which are 14-18 feet in circumference and one is the tallest in the swamp - 148 ft; these are virgin cypress probably at least 500 years old. We will then backtrack and proceed along Hammond's Gut to a beautiful beech ridge, with trees 8-9 feet in circumference and 125 feet tall. Near Pearsons Pond we will encounter the largest Cherrybark Oak in the Swamp - 23 feet around and 165 feet tall. Even though Cherrybark Oak typically grow on the higher ridges, their pronounced buttress suggests a tree preferring low sites. The hallmark of the Cherrybark is its height; these trees routinely exceed 150 feet in height. Almost as impressive is their crown spread, sometimes approaching 100 feet.

Total walking miles for this trip will be about 4, **some of which will be off-trail where the terrain can be uneven and strewn with obstacles such as cypress knees, vines, and downed limbs and logs.** Hiking boots are recommended although a sturdy pair of tennis shoes will work too. Participants should be in good physical condition.

If you would like to participate on this trip please contact John Cely and let him know how many to expect. His phone number is (hm) 803-782-7450 or (wk) 803-419-9645; or you can email him at jcely@clemsun.edu.

YWCA continued

In addition, the children involved in Eureka utilized the Educational Center to facilitate team building exercises and personal development activities.

All of the children that engaged in swamp activities reported that they enjoyed their experience. One six year old girl said "I liked looking at the slides of bugs and drawing bugs." Another child reported "The movie about the swamp was good and we got to draw pictures of all the things we saw at the swamp." These experiences provide youth a unique opportunity to learn first hand and to begin to understand the importance of natural habitats like the Congaree Swamp.

Thank You

Friends would like to thank the **Palmetto Garden Club** for their generous gift of \$250.

We would also like to thank **Jim and Ruth Elder** for their gift in memory of **Elizabeth Hampton**.



Bee Tree Hike Enjoyed by All

John Grego

A large group of Friends, led by John Nelson, participated in a hike on Dr. Alfred Burnside's Bee Tree property in the Richland floodplain upstream of Congaree Swamp on September 27, 2002.

Reaching the property was an adventure in itself. After a thorough vehicle inspection by Westinghouse Commercial Nuclear Fuels security personnel, we swung around the plant, and crossed Sunset Lake (an old mill pond on Mill Creek) at its spillway. The cars then slipped and slid their way down the road right to the bank of the Congaree; pine plantations and a couple large clear-cuts en route gave one a real appreciation for the Monument.

The hike followed the high ground along the river downstream to the Bee Tree property. John pointed out lots of fall flowers, including mistflower, bear's-foot, wingstem, false nettle and ironweed (you'll have to ask him for the Latin names). An invasive pest that is also a problem in the Monument, Chinese privet, lined both sides

of the trail much of the way. Fauna wasn't as prevalent as flora, though we did flush a couple deer, saw a migrating Swainson's warbler, and a hackberry butterfly, perched on John's cap, was his constant companion on the trip downstream.

We explored a couple of abandoned houses near the start of the trip, most likely used by tenants. A 1908 map shows a row of three houses belonging to

the then-owner, a Mr. Owen, while an 1887 Army Corps of Engineers' map shows two pairs of houses, Lykes' and Patterson's quarters, in the same location.

We proceeded past an old homesite built by Dr. Burnside's father (only a chimney remains) and stopped for lunch at a sandbar. The river was high, unfortunately, and any plans for wading or swimming had to be postponed for another day. There was high drama while posing for our group picture—one of the boys put his weight on a dead tree limb while climbing into position, and the broken limb landed square on his brother's head. He was none the worse for wear, but now you know why we carry those disclaimer notices on our trip postings.

We got to meet our host, Dr. Burnside, on the way back—he was riding out to check on a cabin that he was renovating along a scenic bend on the river. We were properly grateful, and hope to have the opportunity to indulge his hospitality again, especially some day when the river's not so high.



Survey continued

Note the strong consensus on conservation easements as opposed to the ambivalence on land acquisition; this may simply reflect the impracticality of acquiring large tracts of land. Clearly, advocacy, land protection/stewardship, research and education/interpretation are considered important missions of Friends. Nonetheless, there are disagreements, particularly with respect to stewardship, on how best to proceed. Items related to visibility, promotion, and significance of the Park provoked less extreme reactions, though that may simply be inherent to those goals. The Friends either visit the park infrequently (13 visited once a year or less) or very frequently (18 visited several times a year or more); it would be interesting to study why so many Friends members visit infrequently.



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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: _____

My e-mail address is: New Changed

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 each/plus \$3.50s/h
_____ copies of the beautifully detailed **"Map of Congaree Swamp National Monument and Vicinity"** @ \$12.95 each/plus \$3.50 s/h

Thank You For Supporting **Friends of Congaree Swamp!**
Friends of Congaree Swamp, PO Box 7746, Columbia, SC 29202-7746
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