



# Friends of Congaree Swamp

[www.friendsofcongaree.org](http://www.friendsofcongaree.org)

Winter 2002



## 4th Annual Swamp Stomp Enjoyed By All

More than 100 Friends of Congaree Swamp and guests gathered Sunday afternoon, Nov. 11, for the 4th Annual Swamp Stomp. The event was held on private property south of the Congaree River, on a bluff overlooking Congaree Swamp National Monument. The afternoon gave people the option to participate in nature walks – one along the crest of the bluff, and the other descending to the Congaree River. Ann Timberlake had frisbees, etc, for the children attending.

After the nature walks, President LaBruce Alexander reported on activities of Friends of Congaree Swamp during 2001 (see page 3). She also introduced the screensaver of the Swamp which the FRIENDS has just developed.

Next, Richard Watkins described some history of the south side of the Congaree River corridor, dating back to the 1730s when Amelia Township was established.

Following these talks, Swamp Stomp participants were ready for food, featuring an oyster roast catered by Ben Moise of Charleston. FOCS Board member and USC statistician John Grego proved

that his many talents also include cooking. John provided chili, as well as cranberry-walnut pie.

As dusk approached, participants departed for home after enjoying an afternoon in a scenic setting, with good weather, interesting nature walks, good food, and good fellowship. Many thanks to Ann Timberlake for organizing this 4th Annual Swamp Stomp.



Brusi Alexander, president of FOCS, presents Jim Elder (left) with the Order of the Cypress, at a ceremony held at CSNM on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

**November 2001  
Friends of Congaree Swamp  
Bestow  
The Order of the Cypress  
Upon  
James V. Elder  
For his vision and leadership  
Of the citizen campaign  
1973-1976  
to create  
Congaree Swamp National  
Monument**

## A TRIBUTE TO HARRY HAMPTON November 14, 2001

by Alex Sanders

*Alex Sanders is a former legislator, chief judge of the South Carolina Court of Appeals and president of the College of Charleston. He is currently running for the US Senate. This excerpted speech was given at a gathering of Friends of the Congaree and The Congaree Land Trust.*

Nobody could possibly discuss fully — or, perhaps, even meaningfully — the importance of Harry Hampton to the life of the Congaree Swamp or to the life of South Carolina in general. That is a rich history. Looking to history for a scaling of values confronts the problem of separating history from historians or, in the words of Yeats, separating the dancers from the dance....

I recently came to realize that many Americans have had a common experience over the course of the past half-century. I read something written by Robert Redford. Robert Redford, the movie star, of all people. He wrote about the history of the environmental movement, and I was struck by how very similar his experience in Southern California was to mine in South Carolina.



I was no different than most children growing up in a middle class neighborhood in Columbia, South Carolina, during the 40's. It was a

time of transition: the end of a depression and the onslaught of World War II. We knew what saving meant.

Recycling was a familiar concept. It was paper drives, save your mother's nylon stockings for parachutes, mash tin cans flat and turn them in to be made into tanks. It was margarine instead of butter, savings bonds, savings stamps, no bubble gum, no cap pistols, and a shortage of just about everything. With our wooden hand-carved weapons, baseball mitts and Sky King rings, we just went about satisfying our need for pleasure as best as we could while we tried not to get caught in our trespasses.

Terms like quality of life and natural resources were for scholars and none of our business. Then after the war, things began to change, and fast. Columbia changed from being a country town, with mule-drawn wagons on Assembly Street and began to become a metropolis....

Cities and towns all over South Carolina changed as well. Our natural environment, our greatest asset, indeed our only asset, which had been taken for granted, was suddenly threatened.

People were spilling into Columbia, swarms by the day, and Columbia was anxious to accommodate, so

*(see HamptonTribute, page 5)*

## Highest Honor Given to Watkins

On January 19, **Dick Watkins** was presented with the "Conservationist of the Year" award by the S.C. Wildlife Federation at its 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conservation Awards Banquet at Middleton Gardens.



The Wildlife Federation write-up stated: "Richard Watkins, a St. Matthews, SC resident, is this year's South Carolina Wildlife Federation Conservationist of the Year. Richard has been a steady volunteer in protecting the Congaree Swamp area since 1973, when he was a leader in the Citizens' Action Campaign to protect the Congaree Swamp. After the initial 3-year campaign, Richard served on the original team which ultimately accomplished the Congaree Preservation Act.

Richard was also instrumental in the authorization of the Congaree Swamp National Monument (CSNM) as a Wilderness Area, as well as in the 1988 extension of the borders of the CSNM. He helped obtain federal appropriations for land acquisition. Recently Richard helped protect the Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve (the Sarvis tract, Heritage Trust property overlooking 23,999 acres of CSNM). Richard is a core leader in the effort to stop Congaree floodplain development—including serving as the team's point of contact with legal counsel and researching archives to establish a factual basis regarding historical floods.

Most recently, Richard has been very active in an attempt to stop the connector between Lone Star and Rimini at the headwaters of Lake Marion. He encouraged SCWF to initiate a partnership with other organizations in a relationship that has rallied area residents to object to the bridge that will cut through the Congaree Swamp.

Richard Watkins is always quietly ready, willing, and very able to work to protect the Congaree watershed. A true conservationist, Richard Watkins has devoted almost 30 years of quiet dedication to preserving South Carolina habitat for future generations."

Congratulations to Dick for this well-deserved honor!

## Thank You...

to the folks who helped with the 2001 Swamp Stomp:

**Dick Watkins**—providing the lovely setting, leading a field trip, giving a history of the area, and helping with reservations

**Ann Timberlake**—event coordinator and photographs

**Bob Render**—reservations and tables

**Mary Kelly**—financial and registration table

**Dr. John Nelson**—leading a field trip

**Dr. John Grego**—for his “rave reviews” homemade chili and cranberry pie, and **all other Board members** who contributed food

**Jim Welch**—photographs



## What Your Support Accomplished in 2001

### The 4<sup>th</sup> year of existence for the FRIENDS OF CONGAREE SWAMP was indeed a good one.

In the area of Outreach, we had some excellent field trips: Thanks to Robin Carter, John Cely, and John Nelson, we had birding trips, a moonlight canoe cruise on Cedar Creek, and a Bushwacker trip into the wilds, which received excellent newspaper coverage. We had a very large crowd visit the Sarvis tract, which will be discussed below.

The Education Committee, under the leadership of Bob Bundy, conducted an interesting Tree Identification workshop for the public and members.

In the area of Protection, we continued to monitor/work on developmental pressures along the Congaree River floodplain and floodway. Also, the Park Service obtained the 390.6-acre Sox-Goff track in Feb 2001. The FRIENDS had lobbied Congress to get a \$1 million appropriation through Sen. Hollings, which provided the funds for this event.

On our February 17<sup>th</sup> field trip to the Sarvis tract in Calhoun County overlooking the Monument, a huge caravan of cars met at Lucy's Restaurant in the greater suburbs of Fort Motte. This was the first public introduction to this exciting tract, which had been subdivided for development into single lots. It was the FRIENDS who initiated conservation interest in this tract. And, with the help of other conservation groups and the Department of Natural Resources, the tract was purchased on July 19<sup>th</sup> by DNR.

What an exciting culmination ceremony, when the tract was dedicated as a state Heritage Preserve on August 10<sup>th</sup>! Thus, a special place has been protected, and adjacent land across the River from Congaree Swamp National Monument will stay pristine, and the view from the Monument will not be ruined by the sight of a housing development and human incursion there.

In the area of Support, the FRIENDS endorsed the Congaree Swamp Park Service for the National Park Service Award, for its partnership with the National Guard and the River Alliance in their joint efforts on building the Visitors Center. Our Park indeed won the national award for its outstanding efforts. We also gave several grants for Swamp research.

We presented the Order of the Cypress to Jim Elder “for his vision and leadership of the citizen campaign, 1973-76” to protect Congaree Swamp.

In addition, FRIENDS worked with other organizations such as the Congaree Land Trust and Sierra Club on joint projects, Earth Day, and field trips.

Organizationally, the FRIENDS in 2001 increased the number of field trips, improved the newsletter, worked on changing our logo, and created a Congaree Swamp screensaver with images of the Swamp, to promote public awareness.

**In all, You, A member of FRIENDS OF CONGAREE SWAMP accomplished much, and our Thanks go to You for a successful year.**



**NATURE WALKS AT CSNM**

**Congaree Swamp National Monument  
(Topics will vary)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Every Month**

**10:00 am (unless otherwise stated) – Early Afternoon  
No Registration Required – Open to the Public**

Friends of Congaree Swamp will be starting a nature walk series on the second Saturday of each month. Each of these walks will be led by a member of the Friends of Congaree Swamp and be open to the general public. The focus of these walks will be various aspects of the natural and human history of the swamp. We have experts on topics from birds to botany, who will try to tie the life and physical features of the swamp together.

Come and join us for a walk starting Saturday, Feb 9 and continuing each second Saturday of the month. We will meet at the back porch of the Harry Hampton Visitors Center at 10:00 AM.

Contact Bob Bundy, Education Chair, if you have any questions or suggestions, 803-776-4535 or e-mail: [BundyR@aol.com](mailto:BundyR@aol.com).

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**SOX-GOFF CLEANUP DAY**

**Saturday, March 2, 2002**

**Congaree Swamp Visitor's Center  
8:30 am - until**

The Park Service has obtained the Sox-Goff tract (that long inholding coming up from the river, which you see as a different color on your Congaree Swamp National Monument brochure). And we need to help them clean the tract up.

Please help and see a new part of the Monument. Bring a bag lunch and drink, plus gloves and sturdy shoes. If you have a collapsible lawn cart (which may have to fit into a boat), please bring it to help with trash pick-up.

If the weather is bad or recent rains make the trip difficult, the alternate trip date will be March 9th.

Call the FRIENDS at 776-9105 to register your attendance, and the number of persons coming with you. Also be sure to leave your phone number!

If bad weather forces a change of plans, we will leave a message at our 776-9105 phone, so you can call that number and get information on a delay or cancellation.

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**CONGAREE BOUNDARY HIKE**

**Congaree Swamp National Monument  
Saturday, March 23, 2002**

**9:00 am - until**

**Leader: John Grego**

**Registration Deadline: March 20, 2002**

Hike along the little-visited western boundary road to the Congaree River and then onto the sandbar. There will be a few off-trail excursions to visit interesting features of the area. Meet at 9 am at the overflow parking lot.

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The Columbia Audubon Society invites  
Friends of Congaree Swamp to join them for

**BIRD BANDING MIGRATORY SONG BIRDS**

**Wenee Woods in Sumter County**

**Saturday, April 20, 2002**

**9:00 am - 2:30 pm.**

**Leaders: Evelyn & Tommy Dabbs**

**Limit: First 25 members to sign up**

**Registration Deadline: April 17, 2002**

Evelyn Dabbs will be banding song birds in the morning until the nets are empty. Evelyn participates in Cornell University's ongoing songbird banding project. She has given this demonstration to many groups and it is always well received by both young and old alike.

Bring your own snacks, lunch and plenty of water or other drinks. Also bring bug repellent and sun screen. Wear comfortable outdoor clothes and shoes.

Directions to Wenee Woods: 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 bypass is Black River Swamp (has a designated sign) with 3 bridges. After passing over the 3rd bridge get in 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 "Wenee Woods". Just follow the lane until it drops you in the Dabbs' yard.

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**BOAT TRIP UP THE CONGAREE RIVER**

**Saturday, May 4, 2002**

**Congaree River Bridge (Bates Landing)**

**9:00 am - Mid-afternoon**

**Leader: John Cely**

**Limit: First 25 members to sign up/5 boats**

**\$25.00 per person**

**Registration Deadline: May 1, 2002**

This trip will be a repeat of a trip we had a couple of years ago to see some virgin cypress, including the state champ, in the isolated "east end" of the monument.

We will meet at the US Hwy 601 boat landing under the Congaree River bridge (Bates landing) at 9:00. This will be a BYOB - bring your own boat - or ride with someone who has one. Boats should have some horsepower (anything under a 15-20 h.p. is too small) in order to get to the destination point in a reasonable time. People bringing boats should HAVE them in the water and ready to go by 8:45. We will get back to the landing around mid-afternoon.

Bring a lite lunch and beverage but large coolers should be left behind for space considerations.

It may be muddy in places so old tennis shoes or rubber boots are best. There will be some off trail hiking over uneven terrain and protruding cypress knees to get to the cypress, so strong ankles and sure footedness are required.

**MIGRATORY BIRD COUNT (Nature Walk Series)**  
**Congaree Swamp National Monument**  
**Saturday, May 11, 2002**  
**Leader: Robin Carter**

**7:00 am - 11:00 am** (*Note change in time*)

Meet at 7AM at the after-hours parking lot, on the new entrance road. The trip will take 3-4 hours, and will follow the boardwalk trail. Beginners welcome. Bird SONGS will be pointed out as a part of this outing. (This is a contributory, voluntary action...part of the North American Migration Count.)

**HIKE TO THE RIVER**  
**Saturday, September 28, 2002**  
**Leader: John Nelson**

This will be an all day field trip which will either follow the River Trail, all the way down to the river, or an excursion to Alfred Burnside's property upstream from the National Monument. This could involve a SWIMMING event at one of the nicest sand bars along the river.

More information to follow in a future newsletter.

**Hampton Tribute** continued

development became key. Road builders, housing contractors and real estate agents began descending like carnivores eager to capitalize on post-war opportunity. I watched as the city began to choke on the air of unchecked development. Interstate highways and shopping malls began to wipe out neighborhoods and small farms. Consumption was all that mattered. And it all seemed right then. It was symbolic of our war victory.

We were anxious to return our energy back home. "It was the best of times..." as Charles Dickens said. A time when the word "development" was new and only positive. A sign of health, freedom and progress. But the consequences of such rapid growth were subtle. Even small towns began to compete with each other for the latest in city amenities. They first became suburbs and then began to merge into the cities and, in many cases, to resemble the cities for which they were supposed to present an alternative. In some small towns, when people went to the 7-11, they called it "going to the mall."

Industry played its part. Along our South Carolina rivers and near our ports, graying, hazy clouds were forming - signs of America building itself strong. Even though timber cutting was occurring at a frightening rate, we didn't see the danger to our future. We needed materials for construction.

The government was a willing supporter, not just a benign neglecter of the environment. The tax structure was formulated to encourage, in many instances to require,

(see *Hampton Tribute*, page 6)

**Nature Walks do not require registration and are open to the public.** The other field trips are for members of Friends of Congaree Swamp and their guests. Please register below or contact John Nelson directly.

MAIL TO: Friends of Congaree Swamp,  
 c/o John Nelson, 3801 Duncan St., Columbia, SC 29205  
 Home: 803-252-1417 [johnbnelson@sc.rr.com]  
 Work: 803-777-8196 [nelson@sc.edu]

- \_\_\_ **March 23—Congaree Boundary Hike**  
 Registration Deadline: **March 20**
- \_\_\_ **April 20—Bird Banding Migratory Song Birds**  
 Registration Deadline: **April 17**  
 Limit: First 25 FOCS members to register
- \_\_\_ **May 4—Boat Trip Up the Congaree River**  
 Registration Deadline: **May 1** \$25.00 per person  
 Limit: First 25 FOCS members to register/5 boats
- \_\_\_ **Sept 28—Hike to the River**

Member's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

for (which trip): \_\_\_\_\_

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

**2002 Field Trips & Other Events**

- Feb 9 —Nature Walk at CSNM, 10:00 am
- Mar 2 —Sox-Goff Cleanup Day, 8:30 am
- Mar 9 —Nature Walk at CSNM, 10:00 am
- Mar 23 —Congaree Boundary Hike  
 (Hike the western boundary road with John Grego)
- Apr 13 —Nature Walk at CSNM, 10:00 am  
 ("Hot (Swamp) Fun in the Summertime" with John Nelson)
- Apr 20 —Bird Banding, Sumter County, 9:00 am
- May 4 —Boat Trip Up the Congaree River,  
 (Hike to remote section of swamp with John Cely)
- May 11 —Nature Walk at CSNM, 7:00 am **\*\*Note time\*\***  
 (Migratory Bird Count with Robin Carter)
- June 8 —Nature Walk at CSNM, 10:00 am
- July 13 —Nature Walk at CSNM, 10:00 am
- Aug 10 —Nature Walk at CSNM, 10:00 am
- Sept 14 —Nature Walk at CSNM, 10:00 am
- Sept 28 —Hike to the River  
 (Hike down to the River with John Nelson)
- Oct 12 —Nature Walk at CSNM, 10:00 am
- Nov 9 —Nature Walk at CSNM, 10:00 am
- Dec 14 —Nature Walk at CSNM, 10:00 am

**Hampton Tribute** continued

development. The purity of the natural experience began to be overtaken. Because the change was coming so rapidly, some of us began to fear its consequences. We sought scenic wilderness for enjoyment or for “inviting the soul,” as Walt Whitman said. For many of us, that meant the woods and waters, the still abundant fields and forests of South Carolina. For others, that meant the beach. But not for me. I was a woods and waters boy.

When I was a child, I did not know but one person who owned a house at the beach. He was Judge Walter Bristow’s father, a medical doctor, and we thought of him as a person of enormous wealth beyond calculation. His house was at Edisto Island, separated from the front beach by the paved road. Walter once invited me to go there. It was a high point of my childhood. Of course, no one at that time would have been so foolhardy as to build a house actually on the beach. We knew that, even as children. We had read the Three Little Pigs....

For those of us who had no ready access to the beach or inclination for the golf course, Harry Hampton became our voice. His newspaper column was entitled “Woods and Waters.” His gentle voice spoke for us, and he educated us. He was our inspiration and our prophet. More than anything, he was our teacher. His appearance on the scene could not have been better timed. Like the Ivory-billed woodpecker, he was there when we needed him.

I first encountered Harry Hampton in 1948 – almost a half-century ago – when he provided the lands behind his home as a permanent encampment for Boy Scout Troop 14.... Harriot told me the other day about a member of a much later generation of young people who wanted to experience the swamp, and arrangements were made for Harry to take them on a hike. One of them was heard to complain about having to “follow that old man.” Before the day was over, he had walked their legs off and left them utterly exhausted. He was disappointed that he had to stop because they couldn’t keep up.

We are, of course, all familiar with his steadfast and lifelong devotion to preserving the Congaree Swamp. I will not tell you what you already know. I will, however, mention an aspect of the matter you may be surprised to learn. We all know that he traveled all over South Carolina and all across the Southeast making speeches about the Congaree Swamp and educating thousands as to its importance.

But did you know that he was a very shy man. To stand in front of an audience was painful to him. The greatest sacrifice he made for the Congaree Swamp was overcoming his natural aversion to public speaking and, for that matter, to calling attention to himself in any regard.

Harry Hampton was a giant of a man in more ways

than one. He stood six feet four and a half inches without his hunting boots. As a child, he appeared to me as tall as the trees in the Congaree Swamp – as tall in stature and as tall in rectitude. As an old man now myself, I still think of him that way, and I always will. At the dedication ceremonies for the statue of our late, great mayor, Kirk Finlay, I recalled the life of Sir Christopher Wren, who was the greatest city planner and architect of all time. Although Harry Hampton was a man of the country, not the city, an important aspect of the life of Sir Christopher Wren is, nevertheless, applicable to him.

Sir Christopher Wren is buried in the great cathedral he designed, St. Paul’s in London. No tombstone marks his grave. Instead, there is a simple tablet nearby, inscribed with his epitaph. The words are in Latin: “*Si monumentum requiris, circumspice:*” “If you seek his monument, look around you.” If you seek Harry Hampton’s monument, walk out into the Congaree Swamp he loved so well, and look around you.



But, there is a better way for us to honor his memory. Every generation has had its span of time and events to dazzle the mind. I suspect that, until now, it has

all been impressive and positive. During Harry Hampton’s span of time, he saw the change from horses to cars to planes to jets to rockets to the moon and beyond. I may be the beginning of a generation that wonders: are we beneficiaries of our progress and development or are we victims? The phrase drummed into my being as a child still rings, “We are working, sacrificing so that you may have a better life.”

But are we still? And is it? As the bumper sticker says: “We have not inherited the Earth from our parents. We are borrowing it from our children.” We are at a point where we must ask a different question: What are we to develop for our survival, and what are we to preserve for our survival?

We are a schizophrenic lot. On one hand, we love our state, and yet we seem bent on tearing it apart for short-term gain. Too often, profit is the only criterion. Too often, resources and valuable assets are sold off in the interest of the quick buck. During the past decade, we have lost ground. Environmental concerns have been viewed as a move to impede this great nation’s progress. If our land, our air and our water are to have a future, we must become far better stewards of our environment.

Our world needs more long-range planning and less short-term greed....

If we are to have adequate air to breathe, water to drink, woods and waters to use as a “sanctuary for the soul,” then we need new attitudes and new ideas and a new commitment to the old ideals of Harry Hampton. Let us, then, give thanks today for his life and dedicate ourselves anew to his example. Let us strive to make him proud of us as we have been so proud of him. That is the best way for us to honor him today.

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

- 15.00 Individual
- 35.00 Family
- 50.00 Advocate
- 100.00 Partner
- 500.00 Benefactor
- 1000.00 Patron

- 50.00 Nonprofit Org.
- 1000.00 Corporate

- New Member
- Renewal

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Hm Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Wk Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Field Trips     Fundraising     Public Relations     Membership
- Education     Advocacy     Events     Newsletter
- Research     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

FOCS is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 corporation, EIN: 56-2057087. Donations are tax deductible.  
Friends of Congaree Swamp, PO Box 7746, Columbia, SC 29202

**Friends of Congaree Swamp  
Memorials and Honorariums**

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

**Sent By:**

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**Please notify:**

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**Memorials & Honorariums**

Pat Robertson...  
In honor of the **Faucettes: Harriott, Mary, and Mardie**

Mina and Virginia Winn...  
In memory of **Margurite Bauknight**

Winter 2002

www.friendsofcongarere.org

803-776-9105

Columbia SC 29202-7746

PO Box 7746



## From the Board...

**Frank Caggiano** and **Virginia Winn** were elected to the Board in November, 2001. Frank will serve a 3-year term in place of Bob Janiskee, while Virginia will serve the remainder of Charles Cole's term.

Frank Caggiano has served our state for many years as Director of Research and Administration for the SC House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee (1974-1978), Director of the Office of Senate Research (1978-2001), and Clerk of the Senate (1984-2001). Since retirement from the Senate, Frank has jointly started a consulting firm, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Services, Inc., and serves as its President.

Virginia Winn is a multi-media consultant, photographer, and layout artist. She has worked for the Employment Security Commission since 1979 and the state since 1973. Concurrently with her state employment, she has run independent businesses in graphic design/illustration, photographic restoration, and

publication layout from her home. She has published the FRIENDS newsletter since its inception.

John Grego, Bob Render, and Jim Welch's terms had ended, but each have been reelected for a new 3-year term.

Thank you to RETIRING DIRECTORS CHARLES COLE and BOB JANISKEE, who have served Friends of Congaree Swamp on the Board of Directors.

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## Science Symposium Held At CSNM

Congaree Swamp National Monument held its first research conference ever (COSW Science Symposium I) on January 22-24 in the new Harry R.E. Hampton Visitor's Center. Sixty participants from throughout the Southeast listened to presentations on research past and present at the swamp.

The Friends of Congaree Swamp arranged funding for a Tuesday evening gathering at the picnic shelter and a Wednesday reception at Rising High on Main Street. Several Friends also gave talks. In particular, ROBIN CARTER spoke on citizen participation in research. JOHN CELY, who was called on more than once to share his knowledge of the swamp, joined DICK WATKINS and MARK KINZER in a session on historic land use patterns in the Swamp.

The conference served as a valedictory of sorts for BOBBI SIMPSON, the park's Natural Resources Manager. Bobbi's tenure at the park has seen a marked increase in cooperative research efforts. She will be leaving Congaree and will be based at Point Reyes National Seashore to oversee invasive plant management for California parks.