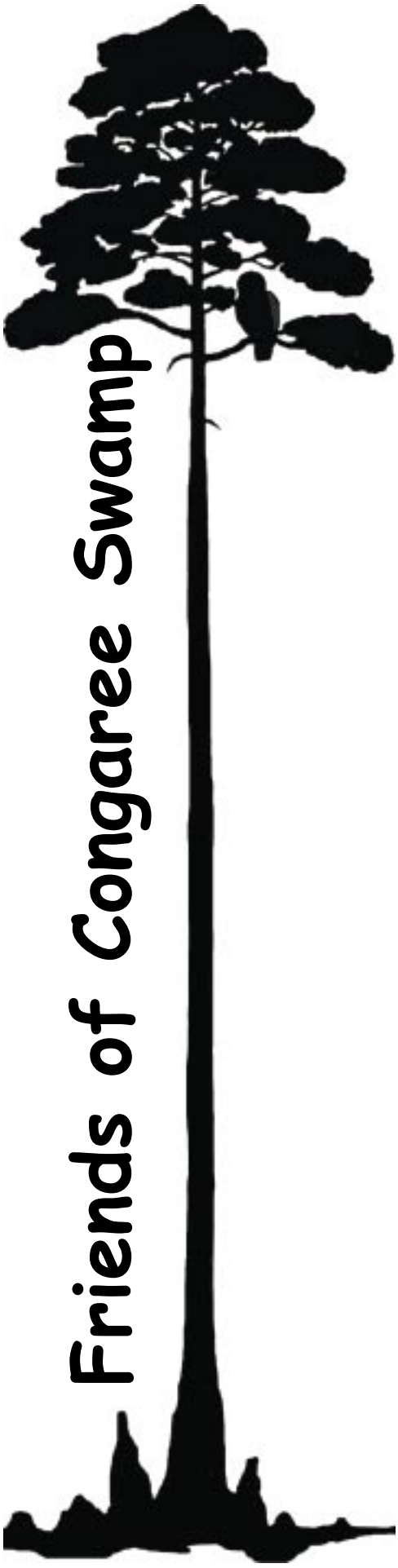


July 2000
www.friendsofcongaree.org

Boat Trip Scheduled for Friends' Members

Saturday, July 15, 2000
9:00am – 1:00pm

$25.00 per person

Several boats will be available to ferry us to a remote section of the Congaree Swamp. We will be seeing some of the largest remnant virgin cypress left in the South, including South Carolina's current champion, 26 feet around and 132 feet tall.

Who Should Come:

People in good physical condition should plan on attending this trip. There are no footpaths in this part of the monument, and in some areas we will be negotiating steep banks and there could be slippery footing. Tennis shoes or light boots with good traction are a must. Long pants are advisable since we will be cutting our way through vegetation. If the current water level remains the same, this part of the swamp is dry, so we won't have to get our feet wet. But, if it rains and the water level rises, plan on some wading and mud.

Boat Trip Continued Page 2

Please Cut Out and Return ASAP
Space Available on a First Come Basis

Attending: _____ at $25.00 each Total Enclosed: $ _____

Name(s): _____

Phone (day): _____ Phone(night): _____

You will be called and notified about reservations.

Mail to: Friends of Congaree Boat Trip, % Carol Kososki,
5225 Lakeshore Drive, Forest Acres 29206

Boat Trip Continued

What To Bring:

Bug repellant; Sunscreen; Life preserver, if you have one you prefer (don't go buy one); Plenty of water that you can carry on your person; Light lunch or snack, if desirable. (Small coolers only, if necessary.)

Meeting Place:

Meet no later than 8:45am; board and leave the landing by 9:00am. Please be on time or early. We will meet at the Hwy 601 boat ramp at the Congaree River which is about a 40 minute drive from downtown Columbia; take Bluff Road (SC 48) all the way until it hits 601; stay on 601(toward St. Matthews), going south on the elevated causeway; slow down just before the bridge and look for the drive on the right that takes you under the bridge and to the boat ramp. There are no facilities at the landing but plenty of trees in the swamp!

Friends Board Adopts Resolution

The Board of Friends of Congaree Swamp passed a resolution endorsing the Congaree Swamp National Monument Management Objective which states: "Support the perpetuation of traditional land uses such as farmland and forests and maintenance of the scenic integrity along the Congaree River corridor from Cayce lock south to the Wateree River."

As a result of questionable data and procedures in FEMA's decision of August 1999 regarding the Congaree River floodway, Friends of Congaree Swamp requests and will participate in ongoing research and dialogue pertaining to upstream development of the Congaree River floodplain.

Senior Citizens Explore Park

Lisa K. Smarr

My favorite story about Congaree Swamp involves some senior citizens I took to the park a few years ago. I took a group of about 12 ladies, and we walked to the end of the boardwalk. It took some time, but it was quite an experience! It was springtime, the snakes were out and could be observed sunning on the forest floor. One lady spotted what appeared to be several snakes "tangled up." The ladies gathered around and began to try to count the heads and tails of the snakes. They were also trying to determine just how many snakes were "tangled up." While this Mutual of Omaha Wild Kingdom moment was taking place, our park ranger was standing by quietly. Suddenly one of the ladies declared with a great deal of confidence, "them snakes is fightin'! " Our ranger grinned just a little and said only, "No m'am, they're not fighting." His diplomatic response was lost on the ladies, but I will never forget the look on his face when Mrs. Harris declared that the snakes were fighting.

The Virtual State House, Nearly A Reality

Frank Caggiano
Clerk of the Senate

I had been asked by Virginia Winn if I was interested in getting involved with the Friends' Newsletter; I responded positively and offered to do a State House briefing. I decide to provide some general information about electronic access and the innovation that has occurred to make the virtual State House nearly a reality. I will begin reporting on specific issues in future pieces.

While all of us would like to have the time and the resources to personally attend and monitor the sessions of the General Assembly, up until now it has been practically impossible. Through the dedicated efforts of a little known and very creative legislative agency [LPITR], those limitations are now a thing of the past. With the variety of information, easy access and search capabilities offered through LPITR's network, it is now possible to visit the State House and find the information you want any time of the day or night, seven days a week.

By pointing your web browser to the address www.scstatehouse.net you can access a nearly endless array of data which is available and updated on a daily basis. A brief selection from the generous menu includes:

- Members of the Senate and the House with address, telephone listing and e-mail
- Committee rosters for the Senate and the House
- Access to all bills with history and full text of all versions
- Meeting schedules for the Senate and the House
- Live web broadcast of Senate and House proceedings {close captioned}
- S.C Code of Laws in a searchable format
- A great Kids page
- A personal bill tracking service with e-mail notification
- Much, much more

Bills you may want to review on your first visit may include: S.12 the "Farm and Forest Lands Protection Act", passed by the Senate and currently pending consideration in the House; H.3782 the "South Carolina Conservation Incentives Act" signed by the Governor on May 19th; S.691 the "South Carolina Forest Management Protection Act" signed by the Governor on May 30th and many other bills introduced and pending in various stage of consideration.

Within the limits of time and my first duty to the Senate, I will be happy to assist anyone in finding or retrieving information regarding pending legislation or related topics.

Tip-Ups:

These mounds of dirt are caused when a tree is blown over and its root system, often quite large, causes the surrounding earth to break away, forming a mound of dirt. Since these mounds of dirt are quite a few feet above the surrounding area, they can support plant life which would not normally grow in the wetter terrain. This diverse plant life is usually brought in by mammals and birds, and the habitat is isolated to the mounds.

The mounds are also home to a variety of animal life including mammals, reptiles, amphibians and insects.

When Congaree Swamp was first being explored, the old maps often indicate the location of "indian mounds" throughout the area. It is now speculated that these "indian mounds" were probably the remnants of old tip-ups.

Standing Dead Trees:

Not all trees that die fall to the ground and decay. Many of them remain standing and begin to die from the top down. These standing dead trees are vital to a healthy habitat in the swamp. As the tree dies, insects attact the bark and wood fibers. Birds, such as the many species of woodpecker found in the swamp, come to eat the insects. Woodpeckers also excavate holes in the dead trees to use for nesting sites. Once a woodpecker family has vacated one of these holes, other cavity nesting birds take them over. And so the cycle continues until evenually the tree falls and a new process of decay and habitat development begins.

TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

The Friends of Congaree Swamp Board of Directors recently elected two new Board members: Mr. Robert Render and Dr. Robert Janiskee.

Bob Render is a realtor with Russell and Jeffcoat Realtors and has served on the Friends of Congaree Swamp Membership Committee.

Dr. Robert Janiskee is employed by the University of South Carolina Department of Geography in Tourism/Travel Research. Bob has been an active volunteer at the Swamp and involved in Swamp activities for many years.

We wish to extend a warm welcome to the Board to both of our new directors.

Youngest Ever FRIENDS Member

We are pleased to announce that **Mary Beth** (Membership Chairperson) and **Wes Jeffords,** excellent and active FRIENDS members, have just had their first child. Their baby girl arrived Friday, June 23rd, at 12:13 PM. Her name is Ansley Dawn Jeffords, and she weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. and was 20 inches long.

Bets are that she will be canoeing by the end of the summer! (Do they make life preservers that small?)

Congratulations to all three!!!!

The following officers were elected by the Board of the Friends of Congaree Swamp on Tuesday, May 9, 2000:

LaBruce Alexander, President
Carol Kososki, Vice-President
Richard Watkins, Secretary
Margaret Stilwell, Treasurer

APRIL FOOLS' DAY FABULOUS

Wonderful weather, a wonderful guide, and an impressive array of trees made the April 1st field trip a great success. Titled the "Big Tree" trip, our expectations were certainly met. Visit our website at www.friendsofcongaree.org to see the trees visited, which guide **John Cely** has annotated for the web.

Although the trip was originally scheduled for the previous weekend, rain had flooded the area to be visited and the lower boardwalk. Not to disappoint members, the trip was switched to April 1st.

Many thanks to **John Cely** for his expertise and his time.

A wonderful grant will be recognized at the Annual Meeting in November. Details will be in the next newsletter.

First Time In Swamp Ecosystem

Lisa Smarr, Friend's member, and her friend Clay (bottom, right) take some of his Korean classmates to visit Congaree Swamp. It was their first experience in this type of ecosystem.

WATERSHEDS PRESENTATION A SUCCESS

By Carol Kososki, Friends of Congaree Swamp Education Committee Chair

Congratulations to Yancey McLeod for his successful presentation entitled "Water, Plants, and People: Our Interconnection with Watersheds in the Midlands" on Thursday, May 11, 2000. The presentation that took place at the newly renovated Logan School on Elmwood Avenue was jointly sponsored by Friends of Congaree Swamp and Congaree Land Trust. McLeod, former Commissioner of the Richland County Conservation District and President of the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts discussed watersheds in the Midlands and their relationship to us.

A special note of thanks is in order to **Ms. Ann Jennings** of Congaree Land Trust for her participation in arranging and publicizing the event.

The Friends of Congaree Swamp Education Committee is planning more activities in the future. Stay tuned for details!

Memorials and Honorariums

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Sent by:

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Please notify:

Name _____

Adress _____

_____

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

Organizations, Businesses & Corporations

❑$50-99—Non-Profit Org.
❑$100-499—Affiliate
❑$500-999—Associate
❑$1000-up—Corporate

Amount Enclosed: $_____

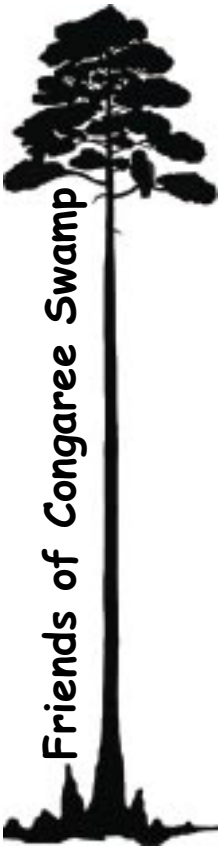
Name:
_____
_____
Address:
_____
_____
_____

Home Phone:
_(____)_____
Work Phone:
_(____)_____
Fax:
_(____)_____
E-Mail Address:
_____

The ***Friends of Congaree Swamp's*** newsletter is published several times a year to keep its members informed about the activities of the organization as well as environmental issues. If you have an article or photographs you wish included, please send them to the editor.

Virginia E. Winn
Newsletter Chairman
3025 Dalloz Road
Columbia, SC 29204

(H) 803-787-1592
(H) vewinn100@aol.com
(W) 803-737-2702
(Fax) 803-737-0995
(W) vwinn@sces.org



PO Box 7746
Columbia SC 29202

803.776.9105

www.friendsofcongaree.org

July, 2000