



Friends of Congaree Swamp News

Save the date

The fall North American Butterfly Association Butterfly Count will be held **Saturday, September 9**, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dr. David Shelley, Congaree National Park education coordinator, and Carolina Butterfly Society members Marty and David Kastner are organizing the annual event.

Participants will spend the day conducting field observations counting butterflies along the trail system and within various habitats of the park. The count will last until about 4 p.m., weather permitting.

Please come for all or just part of the day. The fall count always records many more species than the summer count, so be prepared for a busy day!

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Groundwater withdrawal an increasing concern

High levels of groundwater withdrawal from our rivers is an increasing concern, especially in areas where there is little regulatory supervision.

Sammy Fretwell's April 2017 reporting in



"The State" on groundwater withdrawal policy focused on the impact of mega farms in Aiken County. These large farms that withdraw groundwater for irrigation have only to register with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control and report use if they withdraw more than three million gallons a month.

The article noted that other areas in the coastal plain are Capacity Use Areas, which require a groundwater use withdrawal permit. The permit calls for a Best Management Plan for water use and conservation, a justification for withdrawal and a 30-day Notice of Intent prior to any plans for withdrawal, which creates an opportunity for review.

A 2004 recommendation by regulators to create a Capacity Use Area ranging from Aiken County to Lexington and Richland counties had been ignored until this year. Prodded by politicians and Fretwell's article, DHEC has renewed plans for a Capacity Use Area for Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Lexington, and Orangeburg counties.

Fretwell's articles focused on the besieged Edisto River watershed, but piqued our curiosity about Congaree National Park's watershed, or at least the portion of the watershed in Lexington, Richland and Calhoun counties.

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President's Corner

Dr. John Grego

WPA recordings

Tales of Congaree, the two-volume compilation of folk tales, hauntings, Jim Crow tales and ballads collected by E.C.L. (Ned) Adams in the late 1920s from Thaddeus Goodson, Scipio Shiver and other African-American residents of Lower Richland County, is well-known to park enthusiasts.

When I teach an Honors College service course about the park, I always have my wife Rhonda present an extended lecture on the tales. Rhonda first incorporated *Tales of Congaree* into her lectures at Benedict College, and has continued to teach from the tales at Midlands Technical College.

She has also lectured at the park as part of the Lunch and Learn series, and recently spoke at USC-Lancaster as part of the Native American Studies Center Lunch and Learn program.

While preparing for the USC-Lancaster lecture, Rhonda received an email from Rose Shiver requesting assistance with an interesting set of recordings Rose had found while researching her family's past.

Rose Shiver is a founding member and officer of the Lower Richland Heritage and Genealogy Society and the granddaughter of Scipio Shiver. Rose found a reference to March 1939 recordings made by Charles Seeger, the father of famed folk singer Pete Seeger. Seeger was chairman of WPA (Works Progress Administration) Committee on Folk Art, and

the recordings were one of its projects.

The recordings featured none other than Thad Goodson, along with other residents of Lower Richland County. The recordings have always been a part of the Library of Congress' catalog, and in no way hidden.

The percussive "bones" that Goodson plays on the recordings, for instance, have been handed down to his family members through the decades.

Nonetheless, Rose's inquiries earlier this year led to a sequence of events that have led to more widespread access to these recordings.

While Rose ran into some obstacles obtaining access to the recordings, Rhonda received

permission from the Library of Congress to use some of the recordings strictly for scholarly purposes. Other recordings were thought to require family permission for use.

For her USC-Lancaster presentation, Rhonda focused partially on Ned Adams' strong interest in the interplay between the tales and music and song. She included recordings of the song, "The McKenzie Case," chronicling a 1910 murder in Eastover.

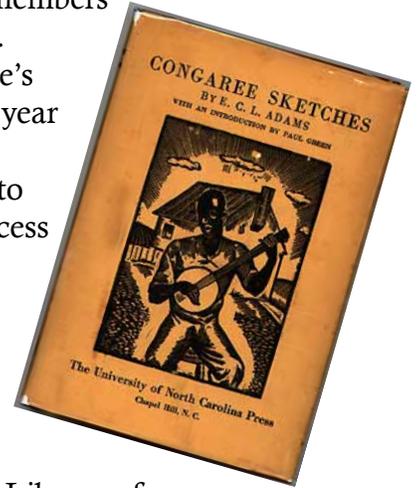
Rhonda's presentation attracted the attention of Hardy Childers, a Columbia resident with a strong interest in local history, while he was conducting an online search of *Tales of Congaree*.

He was particularly intrigued by a note that the presentation would include a recording of Thaddeus Goodson playing bones.

Hardy contacted Rhonda about the recordings, and then worked through the Library of Congress to receive access to the entire set of disks recorded by Charles Seeger, containing some 20 songs.

Using his background in film and music, Hardy edited the recordings to compile 20 song files that can be heard on one of his YouTube channels (<https://www.youtube.com/user/superbudgetcolumbia>).

The songs include material directly related to



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Friends of Congaree Swamp advocates for Congaree National Park and its unique environment.

Dr. John Grego, President

Sharon H. Kelly, Editor

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Grego

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Tales of Congaree, though many of the songs are simply recordings of songs learned from other sources by Lower Richland residents Thaddeus Goodson, Belton Reese, Israel Alston and Sallie Adams. Some of the recordings provide contextual narration by Ned Adams himself.

Typed notes by Charles Seeger record the participants and the instruments they played. Most of the recordings were “Brevard Plantation, Adams Mill on Bluff Road, near Columbia, SC”.

The renewed attention in these recordings is in its infancy, but the convergence of family history, academic study and musical study of this important part of Lower Richland’s African-American cultural legacy compels sharing with a wider audience.

Laser lights

I attended a July public forum on Southern Lights, the planned laser art installation on the Congaree River by artist and University of South Carolina faculty member Chris Robinson.

The static display could be in place as long as 10 years—the lifetime of the lasers—and organizers plan to illuminate the display nightly for three hours.

Congaree Riverkeeper and Friends board member Bill Stangler mediated the panel discussion, which included Robinson and representatives from What’s Next Midlands and One Columbia.

During the public input session, I shared observations about bird activity along the city’s riverfront that could be affected by the laser show.

Most research on laser impacts on birds has been done to study how to deter birds from unsafe areas, such as polluted water impoundments, or to prevent them from flocking near runways or agricultural fields.

Birds are sensitive to laser light, and it is thought, though not confirmed, that they see the lasers as physical objects to be avoided, so lasers do have an effect on bird behavior.

More than 50 people attended, including residents, paddlers, and river walk enthusiasts. Speakers during the public input session were widely supportive of the project, though nearly unanimous in expressing concerns about the project’s persistence and longevity.

Speakers worried about impacts on a wide variety of wildlife, and the effects of additional light pollution on favorite evening activities, including moonlight paddles or something as simple as experiencing an unobstructed view of sunset along the river.

Most recommended a shorter duration for the project, and limiting the display to weekends or special occasions.

Organizers suggested practical reasons for illuminating the display daily. There were a couple major areas in which the organizers fell short. One had to be impressed by the spectrum of local expertise, insights

and experiences shared by the speakers, and it was a mistake for the organizers to wait till the eleventh hour to unveil the project.

They had done a great deal of background consultation on the project, and stated that the uncertainty surrounding the project delayed input, but it was clear that they would have benefited from earlier input from the community.

I don’t mean to belabor birding, but information they received from Cornell Lab of Ornithology on bird migration was lost in translation in their presentation, and any local birder could have enlightened them.

An equal concern exists with the organizers’ stewardship. In response to concerns about the project’s impacts, it was suggested that the lasers could be turned off if problems arise.

The false equivalency between initiating a project and attempting to curtail it once started should not be made. In a similar vein, whenever river users asked questions about possible impacts, organizers tended to put the responsibility for noting project impacts on the river users themselves.

It seems clear that the organizers should build a monitoring plan into the project, rather than rely on anecdotal reports of impacts once the project is under way.

The show had a one-night stand Aug. 19 and then was put on hold while organizers work out kinks in the alignment and automation, which could take a few months.

Groundwater

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The articles noted that long-established farms in Lexington and Calhoun counties—Rawl & Sons and Haigler Farms, respectively—were the major users of groundwater in each of those counties. Rawl & Sons lies almost entirely in the Edisto watershed, with only a modest portion in the Congaree River watershed, while Haigler Farms in southeastern Calhoun County falls in the Four Holes Swamp watershed, and hence the Edisto River watershed. What about other groundwater users in these counties?

Groundwater data for 2016 is not available on DHEC's website, but the website does link to the 2015 Report on Water Use, which would not include some of the major new groundwater withdrawals.

In 2015, Richland County withdrew a relatively modest 1,150 million gallons of water, mostly for industrial, not agricultural use. Lexington County withdrew almost 5 billion gallons of water, with more than 3 billion gallons used for irrigation. By comparison, Orangeburg County ranks highest in groundwater use, with more than 10 billion gallons, half of that used for irrigation.

To learn more about individual customers in Richland, Lexington, and Calhoun counties, we filed a Freedom of Information Act request with DHEC. The top 10 users in each county appear below, including amounts and uses. All three counties' groundwater users are dominated by a single large customer, though similarities end there.

No large agricultural withdrawals occur in the park's immediate watershed, though the park's watershed does experience some impacts from sources upstream of the park, whether on the Congaree River, the Wateree River or tributaries that enter the park.

Richland County

Richland County's use is eclectic, with the largest users being the International Paper plant; SCE&G's Wateree Station coal power plant on the Wateree River, upstream of the eastern portion of Congaree National Park; and the Martin Marietta quarry on the Broad River. Groundwater for the quarry is likely used for washing gravel and

watering operations to suppress dust.

All other users withdraw only modest amounts of water. Southland Fisheries is an aquaculture plant, some of whose ponds are immediately adjacent to the park near Bannister Bridge.

There are a few LLC's in Richland County that have permits for irrigation, but failed to report usage. These LLC's are largely farms in the Congaree River floodplain upstream and downstream of the park.

Usage is indicated in millions of gallons.

- International Paper Eastover Mill, Industrial, 680
- SCE&G Wateree Station, Water Supply, 265
- Martin Marietta Aggregate North Columbia, Mining 90
- Woodlands Country Club, Golf Course, 35
- Town of Eastover, Water Supply 20
- SCARNG Training Site, Water Supply 10
- Southland Fisheries, Aquaculture 10
- Spring Valley Country Club, Golf Course 10
- McEntire Air National Guard Station, Irrigation 3
- Cobblestone Park Golf Club, Golf Course <1

Lexington County

As noted, Rawl & Sons Farm is the largest customer in Lexington County, though the county has several large users of groundwater, distributed among mining, industry, irrigation and water supplies for small municipalities.

Luther E. Kneece Farms withdraws water under two different registrations.

- Rawl & Sons Farm, Irrigation 1780
- Gunter Farms, Irrigation 465
- Martin Marietta Aggregate, Cayce Quarry, Mining 340
- US Silica Company (Columbia Plant), Industrial 335
- Bluegrass Materials Co., Edmund Mine, Mining 275
- Gaston Rural Community Water District, Water Supply 270

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Annual Meeting

Friends of Congaree Swamp will return to the Harriet Barber House off Lower Richland Boulevard in Hopkins for its Annual Oyster Roast and Business Meeting on Sunday, October 29.

In addition to enjoying the grounds and touring the historic house, self-guided tours to local cultural and natural sites will be arranged.

Look for registration materials soon.

Groundwater

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- Luther E. Kneece Farms, Irrigation 230
- Gilbert-Summit Rural Water District, Water Supply 225
- Delano R. Kneece & Son, Irrigation 150
- Luther E. Kneece Farms, Irrigation 140

Calhoun County

Calhoun County uses groundwater primarily for irrigation, along with smaller municipal water supplies.

- Haigler Farms, Irrigation 2340
- Palmetto Farms, Irrigation 595
- K & R Farms, Irrigation 580
- Upper Calhoun/Sandy Run, Water Supply 255
- W.M. Smith Farm, Irrigation 105
- Town of St. Matthews, Water Supply 85
- Upper Calhoun/Belleville, Water Supply 60
- John Olson Farm, Irrigation 45
- Jeff Reeves Farm, Irrigation 45
- Kaigler Farms, Irrigation 40

Volunteerism match benefits Friends

When Jon Astor went looking for stress relievers to balance his job at Boeing, he chose Congaree National Park.

Astor, who volunteers as a wilderness canoe assistant tour guide at the park in the spring and fall, earned a \$250 donation to Friends of Congaree Swamp from his employer. Boeing has a program that matches employee volunteer hours at \$10 an hour.

Astor said the company couldn't contribute directly to the park because it's not a non-profit organization.

The program "is kind of a motivation to volunteer," said Astor, who works as a fabrication specialist at Boeing, designing aircraft interiors.

It's a stressful job, he said, "so when you get some free time, you want to disconnect and spend some time in nature."

Friends is grateful for his time and Boeing's generosity.

Kingsnake Trail Guide will include off-trail destination

Hot on the heels of the recently posted Boardwalk Loop Trail Guide, we anticipate that a guide for the Kingsnake Trail will be posted on our website by the end of August.

Rather than the more comprehensive approach USC Honors College student Pooja Malhotra used for the boardwalk, this guide will have a narrower focus, more in the spirit of our previous guides (Weston Lake Loop Trail, Bluff Trail, Oakridge Trail).

The guide will include a new feature—an optional off-trail visit to the impressive Moccasin Pond bald cypress. We included this option with some trepidation, but feel we provided enough caveats to deter the casual hiker while at the same time meeting a demand from some of our more experienced members for information about some of the park's more accessible off-trail attractions.

As with our other trail guides, look for the guide under the Visit tab on the webpage.

Save the date

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Common Buckeye

We will meet at 9 a.m. at the Harry Hampton Visitor Center. All ages and experience levels are welcome. Appropriate clothing is required, including long pants and closed-toed shoes.

Butterflies like the sun, so bring sun protection and plenty of water. Bug spray, water, snacks, and a sack lunch are also recommended.

Close-focus binoculars are recommended as well, but not required. A limited supply of binoculars will be available for use during this program, and these may be reserved ahead of time at the front desk. This program is free, but space is limited. Advance reservations are requested.

For more information contact David Shelley at (803) 647-3966 or david_shelley@nps.gov.

Migratory bird hike

Join us **Saturday, Sept. 23**, for a fall hike to look for migratory birds moving through the park on their way back to the Caribbean, Central America and South America.

This is also a chance to see if we can still find some of our summer resident bird species



Acadian Flycatcher

that have not yet moved on.

During the hike, we will have the opportunity to practice identification skills (mostly of resident and summer species), and will be able to observe several species up close; American Redstart are often found in good numbers, for instance. The hike will be part of the Fall North American Migration Count for Congaree National Park, an idea first originated by Kathleen O'Grady, and our observations will be part of a statewide compilation.

We plan to cover other areas of the park both preceding and following the morning hike and welcome additional volunteers.

We will meet at the Harry Hampton Visitor Center at 8:30 a.m. and the hike should last until noon. Bring water, insect repellent and binoculars. The hike will follow portions of the Sims Trail, Boardwalk Loop Trail and Bluff Trail.

If interested, contact John Grego at (803) 331-3366 or friendsofcongaresswamp@gmail.com.

Aquatic critters hike

Congaree National Park hosts a wide variety of aquatic life that most visitors never see or experience. Join us on **Saturday, Oct. 14**, from 8:30 a.m. until noon for an aquatic critters appreciation hike.

Dr. Jim Bulak, research coordinator for the S.C. Department of Natural Resources' Freshwater Fisheries Lab, will lead the tour.

He will organize a team to electrofish Tom's Creek, rather than our usual location along Cedar Creek. We will bring along nets to collect and discuss the fish, crayfish, insects, salamanders and other critters we catch.

Inspecting the specimens collected will take more than an hour. Jim will arrange to have a macroinvertebrate specialist along to assist with identifications.

Participants should be in moderate physical shape. Wear long pants and jogging shoes or light hiking boots. Bring water and insect repellent.

Those who wish to assist with sampling should bring water shoes or boots.

This hike is limited to the first 25 people to sign up. We will meet at the visitor center parking lot and carpool from there.

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To sign up, contact John Grego at (803) 331-3366 or friendsofcongareeswamp@gmail.com.

Big tree hike

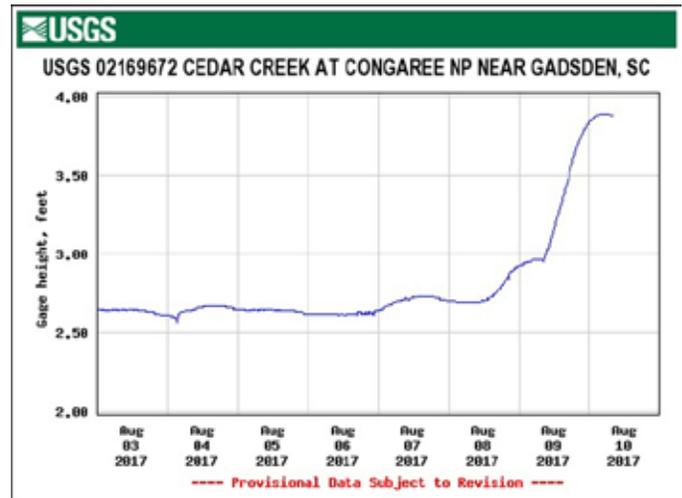
Last January we did a field trip to a champion tree sector, one of 50 created by Frank Henning, the park's former Learning Center director, and Prof. John Kupfer of the University of South Carolina's Geography Department as part of a project to update the park's big tree database.

On **Saturday, Dec. 2**, we will visit another sector to the south of the Oakridge Trail to discuss the project and share some of our discoveries. The areas we visit will depend on water levels, but if conditions are normal, we should be able to visit some newly documented trees, including possible state champions American Beech and Red Maple and a potential national champion Laurel Oak. We will also visit the fallen national champion Laurel Oak and a large grapevine.

Meet at the Harry Hampton Visitor Center at 9 a.m. The hike will last until 3 p.m., so bring lunch and something to drink. Participants should



American Beech trunk



Cedar Creek gage donation

Friends of Congaree Swamp will again co-sponsor the U.S. Geological Survey gage at Cedar Creek with Congaree National Park. The park service previously covered the entire cost of this gage from its own resources, but we have helped since the 2013 sequestration when the park service faced successive 5% budget cuts.

Our half of the cost of the annual contract with USGS's Water Resources Division be \$3760 and represents one of our organization's major recurring costs each year.

As part of our sponsorship, our logo appears with the park service's logo at the USGS website for Cedar Creek (https://waterdata.usgs.gov/sc/nwis/uv?site_no=02169672), which provides a useful association for Friends with the only Outstanding National Resource Waters in South Carolina.

More importantly, we help maintain an essential resource for research and the park's interpretive activities, particularly their signature canoe/kayak outings.

be in good physical condition with sturdy foot wear. This will be a moderately strenuous hike with a total walking distance of about 9 miles, and the potential of a couple water crossings.

The hike will be limited to 30 people. Preference will be given to members of Friends of Congaree Swamp.

Contact John Grego at 803-331-3366 or friendsofcongareeswamp@gmail.com to sign up.



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Join Friends of Congaree Swamp today!

Yes, I want to support conservation of Congaree Swamp for future generations. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____. (Please make checks payable to Friends of Congaree Swamp.)

Individual \$15 Name(s) _____
 Family \$35 * Mailing address _____
 Advocate \$50 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Partner \$100 ** Phone _____ Email _____
 Benefactor \$500
 Patron \$1000
 Nonprofit \$50
 Corporate \$1000

Please keep your information current to receive special notices about field trips, events, scheduling changes and acknowledgements in addition to a quarterly newsletter.

*For a contribution of \$35 or more, you may choose one:

- Baseball cap maroon _____ tan _____
- Tan visor _____
- Bandana with map of Congaree National Park gold _____ blue _____ red _____

**For a contribution of \$100 or more you will receive a copy of "The Natural History of Congaree Swamp."

In addition, I would like to donate \$ _____ as a gift.

Thank you for supporting Friends of Congaree Swamp!

Friends of Congaree Swamp, P.O. Box 7746, Columbia, SC 29202-7746
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