

CONGAREE SWAMP NATIONAL MONUMENT  
AN ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

by

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Congaree Swamp National Monument  
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## PREFACE

In 1951, the National Park Service, under the direction of Arthur Demaray, began an Administrative History Program. Guidelines were prepared and all areas were encouraged to prepare administrative histories.

Governmental agencies and corporate America recognized the value of having an administrative history for reference purposes. The National Park Service found that without an administrative history program, it would be increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to meet the complex challenges of management.

From 1951 until the late 1970's, the Administrative History Program received various degrees of attention from National Park Service directors. Consequently, the program never got started. In the late 1970's, several key managers, long cognizant of the need to revitalize the program, took action. They articulated the need for an Administrative History Program and eventually a program was implemented and a National Park Service Historian named. Director Russell Dickenson endorsed the program and gave it high visibility.

In 1989 I began work on an Administrative History of the Congaree Swamp National Monument. In writing it, I have attempted to focus on the Park's story, without being sidetracked into the early history of the region, the geology of the swamp, or other topics better treated elsewhere, the exception being brief background information.

My perspective is as an insider, focusing on what was most significant and consequential, i.e., events associated with the establishment of Congaree Swamp National Monument, what most occupied NPS personnel at the Park, the central offices and service centers charged with land acquisition, and the Monument's planning, development, and general management. Where applicable, I have included accounts of day-to-day operations.

Most of the text has been organized according to topic, except for the area's earliest activities. Due to the meager amount of information available about the area's early days, a more chronological narrative was necessary.

The following provided valuable insight and made significant contributions towards the accomplishment of this project:

- Bob McDaniel, Superintendent, Congaree Swamp NM, went out of his way to share his personal knowledge.

- Tom Piehl and Ralph Bullard, NPS, SERO, helped locate general and land acquisition files.

- Barry Mackintosh, Bureau Historian, NPS, WASO, helped set up the strategy for this project.

- Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian, NPS, Harpers Ferry Center, guided me through the basics of historic research in a correspondence course entitled, "Historic Research."

- Dr. Michael C. Scardaville, Associate Dean of Applied History, University of South Carolina, was my local contact.

-- Richard Watkins (Sierra Club), the late Harry R. E. Hampton, Marion Burnside (past President of the Cedar Creek Hunt Club), John Cely, Tom Kohlsatt, Dr. Wade T. Batson, Dr. Robert Janiskee, James V. Elder, and many others, who were personal contacts of the 1980's.

-- Park staff and a volunteer edited the document, and the Monument's Administrative Support Assistant, Joyce Watts, provided technical expertise.

Because of space limitations, I could not fully document the massive contributions from all the people involved in the effort to preserve the Congaree Swamp. However, their contributions were no less important.

There is a dual meaning embodied in the area being designated as a "National Monument." Aside from the area being of National significance for the natural phenomenon and splendor found in the Congaree ecosystem, it is also a Monument to all the committed people involved in the grassroots movement to preserve "the Greatest Unprotected Forest on the Continent."

Francis T. Rametta

November 30, 1990

"The West is rich in excellently preserved samples of its outstanding forests. The East is exceedingly poor. The permanent preservation of the Congaree would be an excellent step in the direction of rectifying that imbalance. It would give South Carolina a national park that any state would be proud to have."

Richard H. Pough in a letter  
to the Honorable Roy A. Taylor,  
Chairman, House Subcommittee on  
National Parks and Recreation,  
April 27, 1976.

## CHAPTER I

### CREATING THE CONGAREE

Congaree Swamp National Monument lies on the floodplain of the Congaree River and is approximately twenty miles southeast of Columbia, South Carolina, in lower Richland County. The Congaree River flows an unimpeded sixty river miles from its source, where the Broad and Saluda Rivers join near Columbia, to its confluence with the Wateree River.

The Congaree Swamp National Monument, hereafter referred to as the "Monument," was so designated by Congress in 1976. The enabling legislation authorized 15,200 acres for inclusion as a National Monument. A single tract, encompassing 15,135.38 acres and included within authorized boundaries was owned by one family, the Beidlers. The Beidlers, from Chicago, had acquired the land after the Civil War.

The Congaree River is the lifeblood of the Monument and is a major contributor to floodplain, wildlife and vegetative processes.

#### The Remnant Forest

The original 15,135-acre tract harbors a diverse and well-developed old-growth forest of exceptionally large canopy trees. There are eighty-seven different tree species, roughly half the number found on the entire European continent. The significance is

underscored by the presence of state record-sized trees, several of which are eighty percent the size of National champions.<sup>1</sup>

Up until the impact of Hurricane Hugo in September 1989, sixty-four trees that were eighty percent of National record size for their species and over 150 trees larger than twelve feet in circumference could be found in the Congaree Swamp National Monument.<sup>2</sup> "This is an unusually high concentration of record trees. Such trees are more typically found as isolated specimens in second growth forests or as open-grown trees in estates and fields. Thus, the Tract appears to be the last major remnant of the mature bottomland hardwood ecosystem once common in the Southeast."<sup>3</sup>

#### Geologic Brief

The Monument lies on the floodplain north of the Congaree River. The geologic formations underlying the Monument consist of a pre-Cretaceous (over 136 million years old) bedrock. Above the bedrock are sand and clay sediments nearly five hundred feet thick. More recent deposits (less than one million years old) range from

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<sup>1</sup>South Carolina Forestry Commission and Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service, Department of Forestry, "Big Trees of South Carolina," February 1, 1987.

<sup>2</sup>L.L. Gaddy, "Natural Resources Study of Congaree Swamp National Monument, South Carolina," 1979, p.3.

<sup>3</sup>L.L. Gaddy and others, "A Vegetation Analysis of Preserve Alternatives involving the Beidler Tract of the Congaree Swamp." South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, Division of Natural Area Acquisition and Resources Planning, December, 1975, p. 2.

less than one foot to fifty-five feet in thickness and consist of layers of gravel, sand, and clay. Surface materials are mostly fine sand and silty clay, with a high organic content.

Sediments accumulate as thin layers, coating the floodplain after each major flood. A layer of reddish sand, silt, and clay, up to eighteen inches thick overlies a gray layer in the banks of the Congaree River. This reddish layer is believed to be a remnant of increased erosion in the piedmont caused by farming practices since European settlement of the area.<sup>4</sup>

The river changes its course slowly, but continually, sometimes forming cut-off lakes, called oxbows. Gravel and coarse sand are deposited on the outer curves of the river. Sand bars develop on the inner curves. Ancient river beds are buried beneath the present deposits of the Congaree. The thin layers of flood deposits are rich in nutrients, which could be one reason why the trees grow to such large proportions.

#### Scientific Interest

As early as 1953, teams of scientists from the University of South Carolina began cataloging the plants of the Congaree Swamp. As word spread about the magnificent forest, other prominent scientists got involved. Devin Adair Garrity, who published conservation and southern-interest books, visited the swamp. Garrity contacted Dr. Richard H. Pough, "probably the best

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<sup>4</sup>Gary K. Speiran, Glenn G. Patterson and Benjamin H. Whetstone, "Hydrology of Congaree Swamp National Monument, South Carolina." (Columbia, S.C.: U.S. Geological Survey, 1985).

ecologist in the country," and Dr. Pough also took a special interest in the Congaree Swamp forest.<sup>5</sup>

At the time Pough was contacted, he was Chairman of the American Museum of Natural History's Department of Conservation and Ecology. He had been working on an exhibit of old-growth forests. He found out about the Congaree too late to include it in the exhibit, but he did call the Congaree forest to the attention of the National Park Service. In his words:

"Here at last I found trees that matched the description of early botanists and naturalists. My instant reaction was that it must be preserved and I called the attention of the National Park Service to it. After careful study their naturalists agreed with me and it became a 'proposed' national monument."<sup>6</sup>

In a letter dated July 3, 1959, Dr. Pough, President of The Natural Area Council, Inc., wrote to Conrad L. Wirth, the Director of the National Park Service:

"May I put in a word for the preservation of a sample of the wonderful hardwood forest that once occupied the deltas and bottomlands of our southern rivers...I would like to call your attention to the 18,000 acre tract in the lower part of the Congaree River basin in South Carolina...In my opinion, they [The Francis Beidler Charitable Trust of Chicago] would be vulnerable to an appeal from the National Park Service to give this to the nation..."<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Harry R.E. Hampton, "Efforts for Congaree: Part I, 1953-1967," in Congaree Swamp: Greatest Unprotected Forest on the Continent, (Columbia, S.C.: Congaree Swamp National Preserve Association, Sierra Club Foundation, 1975).

<sup>6</sup>South Carolina Wildlife, John Culler, ed., March-April 1975, from a letter in the Readers Forum, p. 8.

<sup>7</sup>Dr. Richard H. Pough to NPS Director Conrad L. Wirth, letter, July 3, 1959.

Soon after, NPS Assistant Regional Director E. M. Lisle requested any information about the swamp which NPS State Coordinator Ben F. Moomaw could provide. In response, the NPS Regional Director received a map, with the following reply: "We talked with a member of the State Fisheries office who had been through that [Congaree] section. He too spoke of heavy and impressive forest there, and especially remembered the swamp as being virtually impenetrable."<sup>8</sup>

In November 1960, Dr. Pough wrote back to the Associate Director of the NPS and stated that, in his opinion, a "most enthusiastic" report and recommendation on the swamp is "essential for success," and expressed his disappointment in the Schreiber-Arnold report on the swamp. He said the report had barely scratched the surface on the uniqueness of the Congaree.

The Southeast Regional Director sent a memorandum to the NPS Director and stated, "We concur in the recommendation of the report that the Congaree Swamp area be favorably considered for addition to the National Park System as a National Monument," and that if the Director concurred with the findings and recommendations of the report, he should contact Dr. Pough.<sup>9</sup>

Dr. Pough's letters apparently influenced the members of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and

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<sup>8</sup>Correspondence found in files of Kings Mountain National Military Park, file # A3815, received in Kings Mountain NP August 23, 1973.

<sup>9</sup>NPS Southeast Regional Director to NPS Director, memorandum, September 13, 1962.

Monuments. The Board recommended that "...this excellent natural area be authorized for establishment in the National Park System as the Congaree Swamp National Monument," and also expressed hopes that Dr. Pough could be of assistance in acquiring the 18,000 acres within the Francis Beidler Charitable Trust. This memorandum was then transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior for review and comment.<sup>10</sup>

Dr. Pough's influence resulted in a preliminary investigation of the scenic, scientific, historical, and recreational values of the area. In 1959, a survey concluded that a biological community of rare quality and considerable scientific value existed. National Park Service personnel made investigations of similar areas in the southeast, but none were found to be comparable to the Congaree Swamp in geological and biological significance.

The NPS Specific Area Report of 1963 recommended that Congaree Swamp be favorably considered for addition to the National Park System as a National Monument.

An appendix to the Specific Area Report, prepared by Dr. William Robinson, Park Biologist of Everglades National Park, focused on the biological significance of the area.

Dr. Robinson concluded that the area had National significance due to the undisturbed nature of the forest. He also stated that the area possessed unique biological values and was one of the

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<sup>10</sup>"Actions of Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments," 47th meeting, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii, October 15-17, 1962.

"last sizable remnants of a major American landscape and forest type that still exists in pristine condition."

In his view, it seemed justifiable and appropriate that the National Park Service give high priority to the acquisition and preservation of Congaree Swamp.<sup>11</sup>

The Specific Area Report became a landmark study, which individuals, conservation groups, and government agencies repeatedly cited in citing their justifications for preserving the Congaree Swamp.

In May 1963, copies of the Specific Area Report were sent to the South Carolina legislative delegation and to the Governor of South Carolina by John Carver Jr., Acting Secretary of the Interior.<sup>12</sup>

On May 22, 1963, the Southeast Region released a news story about the proposal to preserve the Congaree Swamp. This article stated that the Department of the Interior was recommending the establishment of Congaree Swamp as a National Monument.<sup>13</sup>

Dr. Pough wrote to Regional Director Elbert Cox in June of 1963 and said that he had a "long telephone conversation" with the owner of the area, Francis Beidler II, of Illinois.

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<sup>11</sup>U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Specific Area Report. (Richmond, Virginia: U.S. Department of the Interior, May 1962.), pp. 9-11.

<sup>12</sup>John A. Carver, Jr., to Senator Strom Thurmond, letter, May 7, 1963.

<sup>13</sup>U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "The Proposed Congaree Swamp National Monument," news release, May 22, 1963.

In that conversation, Beidler told Dr. Pough that he had no intention of putting the Congaree tract on the market and that "nothing would make him happier than to see it made a National Monument, if that represented its highest use and was clearly in the best public interest." Contradictory to this statement, Beidler said that he was against outright condemnation of the property and that he would want to be paid a competitive price. He also indicated that he felt no urgency in the move towards preservation. He did indicate that he was alarmed at a proposal by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to \_\_\_\_\_. This proposal threatened to alter the natural integrity of the area and adversely effect the Congaree River.

Dr. Pough later wrote to the National Park Service about that conversation, saying, "I know the Beidlers all feel that they got a very dirty deal from some agency of government when the land they owned in the Lake Marion basin was condemned and the timber destroyed, so this attitude is understandable." In that same letter, Dr. Pough also enclosed a first draft of an article which he thought might serve to start building a case for the Congaree's preservation.<sup>14</sup>

Dr. Pough argued that action should be taken soon, and wrote:

"A conservation project of this magnitude takes a lot of planning and calls for many preliminary steps. Not the least of these is that of working out the problem of where the funds are to come from when it becomes necessary to buy the area.

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<sup>14</sup>Dr. Richard Pough to NPS Southeast Regional Director Elbert Cox, letter, June 15, 1963.

If for some reason-a death in the family-the owner should be forced to suddenly put the forest on the market, it is doubtful if there would be time for conservationists to take these steps, while a commercial buyer could probably act in a couple of days."<sup>15</sup>

Dr. Pough did not realize how prophetic his words were going to be. From 1969 until 1973, placing the forest on the market and cutting the Congaree forest created a sense of urgency and spurred the grass-roots movement to preserve the area. It was this sense of urgency which sparked the flames of public sentiment and prodded Congress to authorize Congaree Swamp as a National Monument.

Dr. Pough's initial phone call to Francis Beidler paved the way for NPS Regional Director Elbert Cox to meet with Beidler and Edgar R. Bourke (his timber manager) in Chicago on October 10, 1963.

In this meeting it was learned that Mr. Beidler was a trustee of the Francis Beidler Charitable Trust, which controlled (wholly or in large part) the Congaree forest. Mr. Bourke was the General Manager of the Santee Cypress Lumber Company, which was responsible for the actual timbering operation.

During the course of the two-hour meeting, Mr. Cox explained the National Park Service proposal, the procedure for making a study of the area, and the steps which would follow if legislation was introduced to authorize establishment of the National Monument.

Mr. Cox said that Mr. Beidler and Mr. Bourke were adamant in their opposition to any plan for our acquiring from them the amount

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<sup>15</sup>Dr. Richard Pough to NPS Regional Director Elbert Cox, draft article, June 15, 1963.

of acreage proposed in the Specific Area Report. Any mention of condemnation caused emphatic objections by the two men. Furthermore, Mr. Beidler and Mr. Bourke had already attempted to sway local government officials to their point of view. Both thought that preservation of five hundred acres would be adequate.<sup>16</sup>

Mr. Cox asked the pair if they would object to the preservation proposal if it could be guaranteed that there would be no condemnation proceedings. Mr. Beidler seemed more receptive to this than Mr. Bourke. Mr. Cox wrote, "I believe that with additional time and the assistance of persons who are friends and in the confidence of Mr. Beidler, the purposes of the National Park Service and the need for a Congaree Swamp National Monument will be better understood by him." At the end of his letter, Mr. Cox wrote, "I am providing a copy of this report to Dr. Richard H. Pough, who has been actively interested in the project and through whom I was able to obtain a meeting with Mr. Beidler."<sup>17</sup>

Dr. Pough contacted foresters, conservation groups, and NPS personnel, and visited South Carolina to make talks to various groups about the proposal to preserve the Congaree.<sup>18</sup> He presented the issues to Gary A. Soucie, professional free-lance conservation

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<sup>16</sup>NPS Southeast Regional Director Elbert Cox to the NPS Director, memorandum, October 23, 1963.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid.

<sup>18</sup>Congaree Swamp: Greatest Unprotected Forest on the Continent, p.134.

writer and Mr. Soucie published an article in the July 1975 issue of Audubon Magazine, "Congaree: Great Trees or Coffee Tables?"

Dr. Pough's initial contacts provided the momentum for the preservation movement of the 1970's and he continued to provide support throughout the public campaign. He combined his early efforts with a Congaree Swamp woodsman, Harry R. E. Hampton. Mr. Hampton was a Columbia native and co-editor of the State newspaper. Even before Dr. Pough's involvement, Mr. Hampton had been talking to others about establishing a preserve at Congaree Swamp.

#### Harry R. E. Hampton's Influence, 1950-1979

In the early 1950's, Mr. Hampton began writing and talking about turning the large tract of the Congaree into a "preserve." On April 3, 1954, he wrote a letter to George B. Fell, Executive Director of the Nature Conservancy, describing the area and the need for preservation. Mr. Fell referred Mr. Hampton to the Conservancy's local representative, Doug Wade of the Wildlife Department. In 1954, Harry Hampton also wrote to Mr. Edward R. Bourke, manager of the Beidler interests in Chicago.

Bourke replied that the owners had been forced to sacrifice sixty thousand acres of their best timberlands for the Santee-Cooper project; therefore, Hampton's preservation proposition could not be accepted.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup>Harry R. E. Hampton, "Efforts for Congaree: Part I, 1953-1967," in Congaree Swamp: Greatest Unprotected Forest on the Continent, p. 134.

For at least forty years, Harry Hampton, an ardent conservationist, devoted much of his time to the swamp. He knew its most remote areas, where to find wild turkey, the best places to fish, and its lore and legends.<sup>20</sup> Hampton was described, "as tall, stately and dignified as the trees in the swamp he loved so well."<sup>21</sup>

Hampton was a spokesman for the environment for over forty-five years. His column "Woods and Waters," in which he often referred to the Congaree, appeared regularly in the State newspaper from 1930 to 1964. In 1964 he retired from his position as Associate Editor of the State. He remained active in seeking preservation of the Congaree until his death in November 1980.

Hampton was a major force behind the movement to save the swamp. There were, however, some frustrations along the way. In 1961, he and Pough organized a group called the Beidler Forest Preservation Association, which struggled for six years before it withered due to lack of public support.

Hampton and Pough made a significant impact by urging the National Park Service to complete the field study, evaluation, and recommendations contained in the Special Area Report of 1963. In 1963, the Audubon Society asked the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study. Dr. Wade T. Batson of the University of South Carolina began work to nominate the area as a National

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<sup>20</sup>John Dennis, The Sierra Club Bulletin, February, 1975.

<sup>21</sup>Bob Campbell and Sally Hopkins, South Carolina Wildlife, July-August 1973, vol. 20, no. 4.

Natural Landmark, and John V. Dennis was commissioned by various organizations to record the numbers and species of birds and flora. In 1965, the Charleston Museum engaged Dennis in undertaking this work, and he later conducted a survey of the swamp for the Nature Conservancy.

Dennis published a report on his field studies in July 1967 in Ecological Studies Leaflet No. 12 for the Nature Conservancy.<sup>22</sup>

From 1966 to 1968, Dennis conducted a study of bird life in the various habitats found in the Congaree.<sup>23</sup>

After studying the biology of the area, Dennis made a recommendation that the Congaree Swamp be preserved.

As has already been documented, Pough and Hampton, referred to by Hampton as "Dick and Harry," were the key proponents of the initial preservation movement to establish Congaree Swamp as a unit of the National Park System. However, they did have help from numerous other supporters.

#### The Supporting Cast 1960-1970

While Hampton and Pouch were instrumental in advocating area significance, other key players also took up the banner to preserve the Congaree Swamp. The combination of these efforts instilled a

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<sup>22</sup>Ethel Duram, ed., "Woody Plants of the Congaree Forest Swamp, South Carolina," in Ecological Studies Leaflet No. 12. (Washington, D.C.: Nature Conservancy, July, 1967).

<sup>23</sup>John V. Dennis, "Preliminary List of Birds of Congaree Swamp in South Carolina," in Congaree Swamp: Greatest Unprotected Forest On the Continent, pp. 119-131.

lasting impression on the public and private sectors that the Congaree was unique.

Members of the Beidler Forest Preservation Association, who worked diligently for preservation were: Mrs. W. Bedford Moore Jr., the late R. Beverly Herbert, Paul H. Russell (Forest Supervisor of the National Forests in the South Carolina), the late Dr. James T. Penny of the University of South Carolina, and others, who met several times to discuss ways and means for preservation. In Hampton's words, "...the Beidlers seemed unapproachable, and since we didn't know what to do, we didn't do anything."<sup>24</sup> Peter Manigault, editor of the News and Courier in Charleston, also built a strong constituency for preservation through his newspaper. As a result of Manigault's efforts, financial support was obtained for a study of the flora and fauna of Congaree Swamp.

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<sup>24</sup>Harry R. E. Hampton, "Efforts for Congaree: Part I, 1953-1967," in Congaree Swamp: Greatest Unprotected Forest On the Continent, 1976, pp. 133-135.

### NPS Involvement, 1960's

Through contacts with Pough and Beidler and the completion of the Specific Area Report of 1963, National Park Service officials were involved early on in preservation of Congaree Swamp. Superintendent Moomaw continued his reconnaissance of the area until his retirement in the mid-1970's. The National Park Service also responded to the proposal by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to channelize the Congaree River.

### Reconnaissance

On March 6, 1969, NPS State Coordinator Ben F. Moomaw, wrote his first report to the NPS Regional Director concerning the Congaree Swamp. Mr. Moomaw stated that he had spent a couple of hours in the Richland County Assessors Office "in regards to the ownership of the Congaree Swamp" and that he had been "searching out" a request by Mr. Bob Jacobson of the Washington Office.<sup>25</sup>

Moomaw visited the Forest Supervisor's office of the National Forests in South Carolina and learned of the proposed cutting of the Congaree. As a result, Moomaw held a conference in July with Harry R. E. Hampton, in which they discussed the "general situation of the Congaree Swamp."<sup>26</sup> Moomaw began making regular reconnaissance trips to the Congaree Swamp and reported timber cutting activity to the Regional Director up until the mid 1970's.

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<sup>25</sup>NPS State Coordinator's monthly report for February 1968, Kings Mountain National Military Park, S.C.

<sup>26</sup>NPS State Coordinator's monthly report for July 1968, Kings Mountain National Military Park, S.C.

### Rechannelization Threat

One of the issues that surfaced as a result of early correspondence among the Beidlers, Dr. Pough, and the National Park Service, was the proposal of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to improve the navigation of the Congaree River.<sup>27</sup> In Director Cox's response to the proposal, he wrote that any dredging spoil which resulted from the rechannelization would need to be removed from the proposed National Monument. He also stated, "any changes to the natural conditions along the river where it flows through the proposed National Monument would have an adverse effect on resource values which should be preserved."<sup>28</sup> He further stated that a proposed ditch and dike would block access to the river and effect its aesthetic values, and would cause "serious, permanent, and intolerable impairment of natural and scenic values."<sup>29</sup>

Correspondence between the National Park Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continued. In March 1964, Senator Strom Thurmond called a meeting of representatives from the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and interested citizens, to discuss the proposal. The intent was to focus on the compatibility of the navigational improvements planned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the

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<sup>27</sup>James W. Blair, Assistant Chief, Engineering Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to NPS Regional Director Elbert Cox, letter, September 6, 1963.

<sup>28</sup>Elbert Cox, NPS Southeast Regional Director, to Colonel S.Y. Coker, District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, letter, November 11, 1963.

<sup>29</sup>Ibid.

proposal for a National Monument, and the striped bass spawning runs. In that meeting, Senator Thurmond made it clear that "nothing should interfere with the navigational improvements on the Congaree."<sup>30</sup>

Superintendent Moomaw wrote a summary report about the Governor's Conference on Water Resources, held on March 1 and 2, 1967. He reported that one of the highlights of the conference was a paper presented by the W. D. "Bill" Workman, Editor of the State newspaper. In his document, Workman said that channelization of the Congaree River could possibly ruin the chance for preservation of the Congaree Swamp. Later in the conference, Major General George A. Walker, Division Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said that channelization was a "very remote possibility" and he expressed doubts of possible navigational improvements for "many, many years due to the extremely low estimate of tonage for such a project."<sup>31</sup> Walker's remarks were the last words in the 1960's about improving the navigation of the Congaree River.

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<sup>30</sup>Theodore R. Swem, NPS Assistant Director of Cooperative Activities, to NPS Southeast Regional Director, letter, March 31, 1964.

<sup>31</sup>Superintendent Ben F. Moomaw to the NPS Southeast Regional Director, memorandum, March 6, 1967.

### Summary of 1960's

In September 1968, a briefing statement was prepared for the National Park Service's Southeast Regional Director. This report was a summary of progress concerning the proposal to preserve Congaree Swamp. Key points of the report were:

- It was considered eligible as a national monument with national scientific significance.
- The primary ownership was in the hands of the Beidler family of Chicago who does not want to sell.
- As early as 1953 the University of South Carolina made studies of the area.
- By 1959, SERO personnel, including Fred Arnold, made a reconnaissance of the area and presented their recommendations.
- By 1963 the Service was asked by the Audubon Society and others to make a feasibility study. This was done by a SERO team including Arthur Stupka.
- In 1964, the WASO called for supporting data which was furnished in September."<sup>32</sup>

The briefing statement continued:

"Congaree Forest Swamp has been a low priority item since 1964 but was kept alive by Audubon Society people, The Nature Conservancy, and by Mr. Harry R. E. Hampton, Editor of The State, in Columbia, South Carolina, who is also Chairman of the Beidler Forest Preservation Association.

"In late March of 1968 Director Hartzog made a trip home to South Carolina where he met with Governor McNair and state Officials. They discussed the future of Congaree Forest and it's merits as a Federal or state park. Interest on the local level was kindled immediately."<sup>33</sup>

The final section of the briefing statement was listed under the heading, "Events Since April of 1968," and showed the following:

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<sup>32</sup>Robert N. McIntyre to Kings Mountain National Military Park Superintendent Ben F. Moomaw, briefing statement, September 1968.

<sup>33</sup>Ibid.

"(a) State Coordinator Ben Moomaw was instructed to renew contacts of former years in the state regarding the proposed national monument.

(b) National Audubon Society in April proposed it as a project for their people in 1968.

(c) In June the South Carolina National Forest Supervisor passed on to Ben Moomaw the rumor that the Beidler family of Chicago was looking for a timber operator to log some 15,000 acres of their lands in Congaree Swamp (No confirmation at this time).

(d) In July the Corps of Engineers received local support from Columbia, South Carolina business executives for funds to activate the Columbia-Charleston Barge Canal on the Congaree River. They have no funds appropriated but will press Congress to get project underway. The proposed canal bulk-head on north side of Congaree River may or may not affect the ecology of the proposed National Monument.

(e) In August, the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism by Commission resolution went on record favoring a Congaree Swamp National Monument.

(f) In September of 1970 we have tentatively scheduled a new area study for Congaree Forest Swamp. However, events may cause us to give it higher priority."<sup>34</sup>

The last available record from the 1960's on behalf of the Congaree was a follow-up slip dated March 26, 1969, from Ted Swem of the Southeast Regional Office to Messrs. Bright and Jacobson of the NPS Washington Office. Swem wrote, "Evidently, interest is building up in South Carolina to do something about the Congaree Swamp." The memo further stated that "THE NEWS COURIER, South Carolina, intends to push for the project."<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>34</sup>Ibid.

<sup>35</sup>Ted Swem, Southeast Regional Office to Messrs. Bright and Jacobson, NPS Washington Office, follow-up slip, March 26, 1969.

The arguments for and against preservation of the Congaree Swamp came to a head in the mid-1960's. The opposing factions were forerunners in the battles yet to come in the mid-1970's. The early opposition was comprised of the Forestry Study Committee of South Carolina, the Foresters Council of South Carolina, Mr. Francis Beidler II (owner of the land), Mr. Robert Knoth (a consulting forester from Charleston, S.C.) and Mr. Edward Bourke (General Manager of the Santee River Cypress Lumber Company in Chicago, Illinois).

The early proponents were members of the Beidler Forest Preservation Association, Harry R. E. Hampton, Dr. Richard A. Pough, Paul Bruce Dowling, members of the Nature Conservancy, members of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, and Mr. Peter Manigault (President of the Evening Post, in Charleston, S.C.).<sup>36</sup>

The National Park Service Specific Area Report of 1963, the efforts of Hampton and Pough, and help from a significant supporting cast, were not enough to establish Congaree Swamp National Monument. Without public support, the preservation proposal stalled. The final push to protect the Congaree Swamp needed the spark of public awareness and involvement before action could be taken. The Beidler-owned Santee River Cypress Lumber Company inadvertently provided that spark in the early 1970's by planning a timber harvest of the area. Meanwhile, NPS State Coordinator Moomaw quietly continued submitting his reconnaissance

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<sup>36</sup>Special Area Study: Proposed Congaree Swamp National Monument, South Carolina: Supporting Data, Kings Mountain National Military Park File, September 1964.

reports to the Southeast Regional Director, documenting timbering activity in the Congaree Swamp.

#### Public Arousal - 1970's

In October 1969, John Dennis and Harry Hampton led outings in the Congaree for conservation leaders. Afterwards, committees were formed to implement the National Park Service recommendation to create a Monument. According to Brion Blackwelder, a leader in the movement towards preservation, "About that time, the Nature Conservancy and the National Audubon Society became involved in negotiations with the Beidler family over the purchase of Four Holes Swamp, a virgin cypress blackwater swamp."<sup>37</sup> During the negotiations, conservationists were assured by the Beidlers and their forestry consultant, Mr. Knoth, that they would notify the conservationists before logging occurred in the Congaree Swamp.

Blackwelder, then Executive Director of the South Carolina Environmental Coalition, said, "with an understanding that Congaree was not in immediate danger, local organizers gave the issue a lower profile but continued their research..." of the area. He further stated, "In 1972, conservationists were seriously concerned about cuts that had been made for the past couple of years in parts of Congaree."<sup>38</sup> In 1970, a group of naturalists exploring the Beidler tract came across a clear cut area. It became readily

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<sup>37</sup> Brion Blackwelder, "Efforts for Congaree: Part II, 1969-1972, in Congaree Swamp: Greatest Unprotected Forest on the Continent, p. 137.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

apparent that the situation was rapidly becoming more urgent. The great Congaree bottomland forest was about to disappear in a piecemeal fashion.

Blackwelder said, "local conservationists became more highly organized by 1972 and had adopted Congaree as a priority issue...More outings were scheduled, and preparations were quietly underway for a major campaign. The previous era of work until 1969 had ended with feelings of helplessness; this era began with a feeling that something might still be worked out through negotiation, and ended with the grim realization that Congaree might not endure past the 1970's."<sup>39</sup>

Richard Watkins of the Sierra Club telephoned the NPS Southeast Regional Office on January 18, 1973, to inquire about the Congaree. Associate Regional Director Boyd Finch returned the call and documented the conversation in a memorandum. Mr. Watkins wanted to know what the National Park Service "was doing or might do in connection with the Congaree Swamp, in which timber cutting has recently begun." Mr. Finch said that he had talked with Mr. Watkins about getting legislation to establish the swamp as a unit managed by the National Park Service or having it designated as a National Natural Landmark.

Mr. Watkins stated that conservationists felt that the swamp was in real danger and that they were "making 'last ditch' efforts to save it." The memorandum further stated:

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<sup>39</sup>Ibid, p. 138.

"Mr. Ted Snyder, Southeast Representative of the Sierra Club would be getting together in Chicago tomorrow with representatives of the Beidler family. I was informed that Mr. Richard Poe [sic] of New York City has been in contact with the Mellon Foundation seeking funds to buy the swamp, but he did not know what the status of Mr. Poe's [sic] efforts was."<sup>40</sup>

In February 1973, Ted Snyder wrote to NPS State Coordinator Moomaw that the conservation community was solidly behind the proposal to establish Congaree Swamp as a National Monument. Snyder wrote:

"We are willing to get behind any group that wants to lead a campaign to establish this park, and if no group appears to lead, will do it ourselves."

Snyder further wrote:

"We [Sierra Club] have laid low in recent years for two reasons: (1) trying not to rock the boat while Four Holes Swamp was being acquired, and (2) hoping that cutting would be delayed even longer. Now that it is apparent that cutting is under way, we regard the acquisition of the swamp as having the highest priority."<sup>41</sup>

Attached to Mr. Snyder's letter were notes from a meeting which had occurred between himself and the Beidler family. The Beidlers argued that the timber harvesting techniques they were utilizing would improve the wildlife population by increasing the food supply, and that the area would accrue other benefits. Bourke said that under no circumstances would they sell the Congaree<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>40</sup>NPS Southeast Regional Office to Kings Mountain NMP, memorandum of telephone call, January 24, 1973.

<sup>41</sup>Theodore A. Snyder, Jr., Southern Region Sierra Club Vice-President, to Superintendent Ben F. Moomaw, letter, February 10, 1973.

<sup>42</sup>Notes of meeting with Frank Beidler III, Mr. Bourke and Ted Snyder, Vice-President of the Southern Region of the Sierra Club, Chicago, January 19, 1973.

In spite of continuing preservation efforts, it became evident that nothing was going to be done on behalf of the Congaree without massive public participation and support. James V. Elder, another leader in the move towards preservation, wrote, "plans were made to launch a massive statewide campaign to inform the people of South Carolina about the unique values of the Beidler tract and the danger of losing it if the cutting continued."<sup>43</sup>

Before starting the public campaign to save the Congaree, conservationists once again sought Beidler's cooperation. In January 1973, a delegation went to Chicago to meet with Frank Beidler III and again the conservationists were refused.<sup>44</sup>

The grassroots movement to preserve Congaree Swamp now began in earnest. In the spring of 1974, a two-day outing in the Congaree Swamp by NPS Director Ron Walker and other conservation leaders successfully publicized the preservation effort, but more was yet to come. During meetings on April 22-24, 1974, a proposal was presented to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments, that Congaree Swamp be designated as a Registered Natural Landmark. The Advisory Board made this recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior. On October 18, 1974, based on studies by Dr. Wade T. Batson of the University of South Carolina, the designation was made. This was the first formal designation of the area's significance.

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<sup>43</sup> Jim Elder, "Efforts for the Congaree: Part III, 1972-Present" in Congaree Swamp: Greatest Unprotected Forest On the Continent, p. 142.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid, p. 138.

In the spring of 1974, Jim Elder founded the Congaree Swamp National Preserve Association, a group of conservationists, sportsmen, and concerned citizens.

In March 1974, Elder, Richard Watkins, and Robert E. Bierbaum jointly wrote a letter to Senator Strom Thurmond. They wrote that in the 1960's movement to preserve the Congaree Swamp there had been no sense of urgency. The letter stated:

"There has since developed considerable awareness on the part of both governmental officials and the public of the value of areas such as the swamp, and the start of logging within the swamp has provided the sense of urgency. Congaree Swamp... is the prime example of an eco-system which once covered the river bottom lands throughout the southeast, and no replacement is available when it goes."<sup>45</sup>

A proposal to save the Congaree Swamp and other contiguous areas of river bottomland forest covering some 70,000 acres was presented to the Park Service Director, Mr. Ronald H. Walker, and other Park Service officials at an outing held in Congaree Swamp on February 28, 1974.

In the fall of 1974, a letter-writing campaign was directed to Governor John C. West, urging him to support Congaree Swamp preservation. Governor West subsequently received hundreds of letters supporting preservation. Supporters distributed brochures and presented slide programs statewide. More than a dozen volunteers formed a Speakers' Bureau. Through an intensive well-orchestrated effort, approximately four hundred slide shows were presented and more than forty thousand brochures distributed.

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<sup>45</sup>Robert E. Bierbaum, James V. Elder, and Richard E. Watkins, John Bachman Chapter of the Sierra Club, to Senator Strom Thurmond, letter, March 29, 1974.

Mail "literally poured" into the offices of State and Federal elected representatives and over ten thousand signatures were collected on petitions. Congressman Floyd Spence's office reported that no other issue had produced more mail. Senator Hollings' office said that the mail was running fifteen to one in favor of naming Congaree as a preserve.<sup>46</sup> As a result, Congressional bills were proposed.

Economist T. Dwight Bunce was asked to do an economic impact study of the proposal to preserve the Congaree Swamp. Mr. Bunce published the results of his study on September 20, 1975. The Congaree Swamp National Preserve Association responded with its own report, which stated that the negative impact on the local economy was overstated. Conservation leaders Elder, Blackwelder, Hampton, and Watkins became increasingly involved, meeting with members of the Congressional delegation, presenting slide programs, and contacting public media representatives.

On December 9, 1974, Ann T. Snyder, who played a key role in swamp preservation, wrote in the State newspaper:

"Those who know the Congaree Swamp know we have a forest that rivals the redwoods...Few have seen the big trees of the Congaree. The 11,000 acre tract in the heart of the Swamp, owned by a Chicago family, is virgin forest, except for limited removal of cypress over 50 years ago...The National Park Service in 1963 described Congaree as geologically and biologically the most significant bottomland forest in the South. But time is running out; logging is underway in the

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<sup>46</sup>Jim Elder, "Efforts for Congaree: Part III, 1972-Present," in Congaree Swamp: Greatest Unprotected Forest On the Continent, 1979.

Congaree and in a few years all we may have left are record stumps."<sup>47</sup>

Another woman who contributed to the movement was Ann Jennings, past President of the South Carolina Environmental Coalition. She became a lobbyist in the South Carolina legislature, with an immediate goal of preserving the Congaree Swamp.<sup>48</sup>

Jackie Jacobs, who had attended the Congaree Action Now rally, got involved as the Executive Secretary of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation. She had done graduate studies on the Congaree and became an avid supporter for preservation.<sup>49</sup>

Many women's organizations, such as the League of Women Voters, also advocated swamp preservation. The National Organization for Women (NOW) became the first non-environmental group to pass a resolution calling for preservation of the Congaree Swamp.<sup>50</sup> The garden clubs of South Carolina also supported the move towards preservation.

Margaret N. O'Shea from the State newspaper wrote, "Conservationists fear the Congaree Swamp is also destined to be lost to those who measure the mammoth tree trunks in dollars and cents or to those who advocate damming the Congaree River to

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<sup>47</sup> The State (Columbia, S.C.), letter to the editor, December 9, 1974, 16-A.

<sup>48</sup> Jane Lareau, "Women Environmentalists Stay Busy: There's As Much To Do As There Is Time," Columbia Record, September 29, 1975.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

improve its navigability." Her words revealed a sense of urgency.<sup>51</sup>

### The Opposition

Opponents who organized in opposition included forest product industry representatives, the Society of American Foresters, the South Carolina Forestry Association, and the Beidler family of Chicago. The Beidlers hired a lobbyist to oppose legislation to create a National Park. One of the opposition's claims was that preserving Congaree Swamp would have a negative influence on the local economy. Another was that Congaree Swamp had been under cultivation over 150 years ago and, therefore, was not as pristine as the preservationists were inclined to believe.

Opposing views, written by M.C. Covin, Executive Vice-President of the Holly Hill Lumber Company, and which other foresters shared, were, "...the tug-of-war over the Congaree Swamp raises some serious questions about the public good," and, "in terms of the 1,200 people who would be out of jobs if the firm discontinued logging on its property in Old Kingsville Station area, and in terms of the lumber and firewood losses in times of shortages. Neither would help South Carolina's social and economic framework..."<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>51</sup>Margaret N. O'Shea, "Congaree Swamp Has Shaky Future," The State (Columbia, S.C.), editorial, January 5, 1975.

<sup>52</sup>Ibid.

During the week of June 7-14, 1975, over two hundred professional foresters gathered in Columbia to voice their opposition of the proposal to preserve the Congaree Swamp. The foresters, all members of the Society of American Foresters (SAF), passed a resolution affirming their support for multiple use of the area. They wrote, "...forest land is not fully serving the people if it is used exclusively for a purpose which could also be achieved in combination with other uses."<sup>53</sup>

In a handout entitled, "Notice to Landowners and Sportsmen of the Congaree Swamp," the SAF urged those opposing preservation to write their Senators and Representatives in Washington, the Governor of South Carolina, and members of the State legislature. The major points the SAF wanted to emphasize were:

- Protection of private ownership of property rights
- Threat to forest economy and thousands of jobs
- Not consistent with State or National land use priorities
- 16,000 acres of the proposal (Upper Santee Cooper) is already open to the public
- Beidler family has agreed to protect record sized trees
- Loss in property tax revenue
- Swamp not desirable for general public use

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<sup>53</sup> The State (Columbia, S.C.), June 14, 1975.

- Merit in setting aside a small portion of the over-mature area for scientific study and public use
- State has means to identify and preserve areas of unique scenic or historical value, without Federal intervention
- Too many uncertainties about National Preserve concept"<sup>54</sup>

Harry Hampton's initial response to the opposition was written in the State newspaper:

"If the movement to preserve the grandeur and unique features of Congaree bottomland does nothing else, it has proved the gullibility of South Carolinians in allowing themselves to be brainwashed with hogwash... If this priceless heritage is to be preserved, it is necessary for South Carolinians to stop falling for bunk and more of them get some spunk."<sup>55</sup>

Not all foresters were opposed to the preservation of Congaree Swamp, however. Daniel O. Todd, a long-time employee of the U.S. Forest Service, wrote his views in South Carolina Wildlife:

"As a 31-year veteran of the U.S. Forest Service, I am fully aware of the economic importance of timber. I am also aware of the value of natural areas for the mental and physical health of people in this crowded, frantic, materialistic world. Because of its rare and special qualities, it is my judgment that Congaree Swamp would more greatly serve all segments of our population as a National Preserve under the National Park Service, to include every possible acre."<sup>56</sup>

Bert Platt, whose father was a member of the Cedar Creek Hunt Club (which leased the land from the Beidlers), wrote his views in the State newspaper:

"The advantages that are supposed to come from a Congaree preserve are, in reality, nonexistent. The public hunting and fishing that is promised would be impossibly crowded...the game populations could not stand public hunting...we should

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<sup>54</sup>South Carolina Forestry Association, "Notice to Landowners and Sportsmen of Congaree Swamp," one-page handout, 1975.

<sup>55</sup>Harry R. E. Hampton, "The State's Survey," State (Columbia, S.C.), June 22, 1975.

<sup>56</sup>Ibid.

learn from the parks of the West, where the scenery is often ruined by the litter, confusion, and congestion from public misuse...the swamp is not in danger of being lost forever."<sup>57</sup>

In Hampton's rebuttal of Platt's arguments, he wrote, "One Bert Platt protests the preservation of the Congaree Swamp...this writer has conducted many groups on 'tree walks' through the area, and all have been deeply impressed and inspired by the experience."<sup>58</sup>

#### Additional Publicity

South Carolina Wildlife magazine published an article entitled "Forest of Champion", in its November-December 1975 issue. This publicity resulted in an overwhelming number of letters sent to the magazine staff in support of preserving Congaree Swamp. In the March-April issue, the magazine published many of the letters in its "Readers Forum." An introductory comment was also included, which stated: "The magazine staff extends its thanks to the authors of these letters and of the hundreds we were unable to print due to space limitations."<sup>59</sup>

Intensity between the proponents and opponents increased, culminating in a June 1975 visit through the swamp by Governor James B. Edwards. The Governor's entourage consisted of forest

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<sup>57</sup>Bert Platt, letter to the editor, State (Columbia, S.C.), January 25, 1975.

<sup>58</sup>Harry R. E. Hampton, "The State's Survey," The State (Columbia, S.C.), February 9, 1975.

<sup>59</sup>South Carolina Wildlife Magazine, John Culler, ed., S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, Columbia, S.C., March-April, 1975, vol. 22, No. 2, p. 8.

products industry representatives and one "tag-along conservationist." Governor Edwards essentially backed the Forestry Association's position and was ridiculed in the press by the South Carolina Environmental Coalition. During a resulting meeting between the Coalition and the Governor, Edwards indicated he did not oppose preservation and that he was open to suggestions.

#### Congaree Action Now (CAN)

Not pleased with the Governor's lukewarm response, the proponents began a National campaign to build support for swamp preservation. They planned to hold a rally on September 20, 1975, to kick off the campaign. The rally, named "Congaree Action Now" (CAN), featured Nationally-prominent scientists and conservationists who testified on behalf of the values of Congaree.<sup>60</sup>

The CAN rally was set up to provide an opportunity for local citizens and National conservation leaders to show their support for preservation. Among the scientists and preservationists invited to attend were:

"John Dennis, well-known naturalist who made the botanical studies of Congaree; Earnie Dickerman, a leader in natural areas fights in the Wilderness Society; Brock Evans, Washington Director of the Sierra Club; Dr. Carl Holcomb, Professor of Forestry, Virginia Polytechnic Institute; Destry Jarvis, head of the Washington Office of the National Parks and Conservation Association; Bill Painter, Executive Director of the American Rivers Conservation Council; Ted Snyder, National Vice-president of the Sierra Club; Gary

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<sup>60</sup>Jim Elder, "Efforts for the Congaree: Part III, 1972-Present," in Congaree Swamp: Greatest Unprotected Forest On the Continent, p. 144.

Soucie, a writer for Audubon magazine and previously eastern representative of the Sierra Club, executive director of the Friends of the Earth, and president of the Environmental Policy Center of Washington, D.C.; Dr. James T. Tanner, Chairman of the Graduate Program in Ecology, University of Tennessee and author of Life History of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker; and Dr. Charles Wharton, biologist, Georgia State University and author of several articles on southern river swamps."<sup>61</sup>

By July 23, the campaign was having some success and Governor Edwards modified his previous position. He said, "I would be willing to offer my help in securing a portion of the land for permanent preservation if assurances could be made that the rightful property owners were willing to sell and were assured a fair price for their investment."<sup>62</sup> Governor Edwards then appointed a Steering Committee to complete a fact-finding study.

#### The Steering Committee

The Steering Committee included representatives from various State and Federal agencies. On June 5, 1975, Governor Edwards wrote to Dr. James A. Timmerman, Executive Director of the S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Department, asking for a progress report on the Steering Committee study. He emphasized that the Congaree study should be strictly a fact-finding study to include

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<sup>61</sup>Columbia Audubon Society, "Congaree Swamp Action Project," pamphlet, July 31, 1975.

<sup>62</sup>W. Clark Surratt, "Edwards' Swamp Views 'Encouraging,'" State (Columbia, S.C.), July 23, 1975, 1-B.

impartial and factual information upon which he could base future decisions.<sup>63</sup>

Sixteen members attended the Steering Committee meeting on August 8, 1975, including officials from the Governor's Office, Clemson University, the National Park Service, the S. C. Forestry Association, the S. C. Forestry Commission, the S. C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, S. C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and the Holly Hill Lumber Company.<sup>64</sup> The Committee decided that the study would be conducted by the S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Department, since the Governor did not specify which State agency had the responsibility.

The first item on the agenda was a review of all the literature available regarding Congaree Swamp. The group wanted to make certain that they had not missed any important articles.<sup>65</sup>

The second item of discussion was the development of a work plan. It was pointed out that this plan would be the official response to the Governor's letter authorizing the Steering Committee. They decided to consider a wide range of proposals, including the minimum size of an ecologically-viable tract, and the

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<sup>63</sup>Governor James B. Edwards to Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr., S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, letter, June 5, 1975.

<sup>64</sup>"Minutes of the Congaree Swamp Steering Committee," Columbia, S.C., August 8, 1975.

<sup>65</sup>Ibid.

compatibility of various uses, such as recreation and selective timber cutting.<sup>66</sup>

The third discussion item was the content of the work plan. The committee required that a map be completed of the various vegetation types found on the site, that detailed ecological studies be undertaken, and that a preliminary progress report be completed by December 1, 1975.<sup>67</sup>

While Edwards' position was being re-evaluated, preparation for the CAN Rally continued. The rally was to be held at the Wade Hampton Hotel, across the street from the State Capitol Building. An advertisement in the State newspaper stated, "The public is invited to attend the gathering, which requires a \$5.50 registration fee for lunch."

Two weeks before the rally, only eighty-two people had pre-registered, which left the Congaree supporters wondering whether the whole affair might be a resounding failure. The night before the conference, the pre-registration figure rose to four hundred. The final attendance count was 720 people, from seven states.<sup>68</sup>

On the day of the rally, more than forty telegrams were received by the Governor from persons as far away as Massachusetts and Connecticut. Each letter supported Congaree preservation. Ann

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<sup>66</sup>Ibid.

<sup>67</sup>Ibid.

<sup>68</sup>Lucy Justus, "Swamp Savers Let Their Emotions Show," Atlanta Journal and Constitution Magazine, November 9, 1975, pp. 18-19.

Jennings announced that a petition containing more than ten thousand signatures was ready for presentation to the Governor.<sup>69</sup>

Neither Governor Edwards nor any of the Congressmen attended, although Representative Spence sent an aide.<sup>70</sup>

After the speakers had finished, all seven hundred began chanting "Congaree Action Now, Congaree Action Now..." Perhaps the chant was heard across the street at the Capitol Building. The battle for Congaree preservation now had been elevated in stature and was soon to move into the halls of Congress.

#### Summary and Analysis

In summary, Hampton and Pough had contacted the proper organizations but underestimated the value of public support. Even with the National Park Service suggestion in 1963 to make Congaree a unit of the National Park System, and with backing from key officials, the public was still not sufficiently aware or involved in the preservation proposal. Without public support, the idea to "preserve the Congaree" remained just that, an untried idea. From Hampton's first letters to key officials in 1954, to the NPS Specific Area Report in 1963, up until the early 1970's, the proposal smoldered like a sleeping volcano for over twenty years until public sentiment finally erupted.

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<sup>69</sup>Ibid.

<sup>70</sup>Ibid.

## CHAPTER II

### CONGRESSIONAL DELIBERATIONS AND ACTIONS

The initial thrust to preserve the Congaree involved environmental organizations, individuals, local and National forestry groups, and the Beidler family. Now the conflict moved to the political arena, beginning the second phase of the preservation campaign.

In formalizing the views of the Society of American Foresters, Dr. Robert R. Taylor Jr. made a statement to the South Carolina Congressional delegation. Taylor was a neurosurgeon and local sportsman, whose land would be affected by action on the Congaree. The main intent of his statement, with which the S. C. State Forestry Commission concurred, was to appeal for conservation and multiple use, not preservation.

Environmentalists began mailing skeleton keys to Representative Floyd D. Spence. According to Jim Elder, Spence was the "key to action on Congaree, since the congressman is vital to the success of legislation the association and others want proposed to establish a national preserve at Congaree."<sup>71</sup>

Jim Elder and other preservationists asked South Carolina's Congressional delegation to:

- Call for a moratorium on logging until Congress decides the future of the swamp.
- Urge Congress to ask the Park Service to expedite its study of the swamp.

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<sup>71</sup>"Rep. Spence Gets 'Keys to Action'," State (Columbia, S.C.), September 21, 1975.

-- Introduce legislation immediately to preserve the 21,000 acres already studied by the Park Service."<sup>72</sup>

Thus, over a 6-month period, both sides presented their desires to the S. C. Congressional delegation and conflicting legislative proposals ensued.

#### Public Hearing - October 23, 1975

On October 23, 1975, the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee held a two-hour hearing on a measure authored by Representative William Campbell, D-Richland. Over 250 people packed the South Carolina House Chambers during the hearing. Congaree Preservation supporters proposed that the area be established in accordance with the recommendations of the National Park Service Specific Area Report of 1963.

Proponents of preservation of the Congaree Swamp were blasted as "do-gooders." Peter Buyck Sr. stated, "We're taking better care of the land than these non-owners or do-gooders would do...I do not like the idea of being forced to sell in order to appease a bunch of do-gooders."<sup>73</sup>

Joyce B. Carpenter stated that her family had owned land in the swamp since 1785 and that she wanted to keep it. On the other hand, Professor Ross C. Clark of Erskine College stated, "No other

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<sup>72</sup>William Stracener, United Press International, "Congaree Swamp is Battleground," State (Columbia, S.C.), April 27, 1975.

<sup>73</sup>W. Clark Surratt, "Preservationists Blasted as Do-gooders In Hearing," State (Columbia, S.C.), October 24, 1975.

national feature in the state begins to compare with the Congaree Swamp."<sup>74</sup>

Professor John Mark Dean of the University of South Carolina declared that the Congaree Swamp issue dealt with one of the greatest ecosystems on the face of the earth.

Former State Representative Alex Sanders of Columbia urged legislators to approve the resolution to preserve the Congaree. He said, "This may be your one opportunity to do something that will be remembered 100 years from now."<sup>75</sup>

Brion Blackwelder said that opponents of the preserve were giving misleading information and that he wanted the Beidler family to get a fair purchase price for their landholdings. He said the government would guarantee a fair acquisition price. Two women from Texas countered, stating that "landowners still have not been paid following establishment of the Big Thicket preserve in Texas."<sup>76</sup>

Governor Edwards said, "I am convinced that the resolution under consideration here is the least acceptable of all possible solutions."<sup>77</sup> Edwards said he would support efforts to secure a portion of the area if property owners were willing to sell the land and for a fair price. He said, "However, I cannot and will

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<sup>74</sup>Ibid.

<sup>75</sup>Ibid.

<sup>76</sup>Ibid.

<sup>77</sup>Ibid.

not support any effort to designate a 21,000 acre section without regard for the interests of the owners." <sup>78</sup>

Some owners of lands adjacent to the proposed Monument said they opposed the government taking over the land under any circumstances.

One month later, the resolution to preserve the Congaree Swamp almost died in the S. C. House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. David McInnis, D-Sumter, moved to table the resolution, saying he wanted to preserve part of the swamp, but that the state should do it, not the Federal government. <sup>79</sup>

Representative John I. Rogers, D-Marlboro, moved to keep the resolution alive, stating, "The Congaree is the last forest of its kind in the state and maybe in the country. I think we need to move on it." <sup>80</sup> By a 5 to 4 vote, the Committee decided against tabling the resolution and voted to study the matter further before taking any action. Representative Rogers said he agreed that the committee probably needed more information, including a report on the findings by the Steering Committee previously appointed by the Governor, but that the resolution should be reported out favorably anyway. <sup>81</sup>

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<sup>78</sup>Ibid.

<sup>79</sup>W. Clark Surratt, "Panel Almost Kills Congaree Swamp Resolution," State (Columbia, S.C.), December 4, 1975, 13-B.

<sup>80</sup>Ibid.

<sup>81</sup>Ibid.

Later, in hearings to create a S. C. Coastal Council, Senator Thomas O. Bowden, D-Sumter, introduced a resolution that the State Senate go on record as opposing the takeover because it would not be in the best interest of economic development. Bowden said that there were thirty-five lumber mills and furniture plants within fifty miles of the proposed swamp, producing 150 million board feet of hardwood products annually and employing 32,000 people and that if the area were to become part of the National Park System, thousands of acres of timberlands would be lost to those industries.<sup>82</sup> He said that the only persons interested in going into that "'mosquito infested' wilderness area would be "'bird watchers and snake hole watchers.'" <sup>83</sup>

In July 1975, Representative Campbell introduced House Resolution 3097 "to memorialize the Congress of the United States to expeditiously legislate the establishment of a 21,000-acre natural area in the Congaree Swamp as recommended in the Specific Area Report of the National Park Service in 1963." <sup>84</sup> There was an objection to the bill and it was ordered back to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Following public hearings and the release of the Governor's Steering Committee report in December, the S. C. House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee amended Campbell's original

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<sup>82</sup> "Coastal Bill Moves Ahead," State (Columbia, S.C.), December, 1975.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

<sup>84</sup> South Carolina Congressional Summary Report, July 23, 1975.

resolution to delete reference to specific acreage. The bill was then reported back to the South Carolina House for a vote.<sup>85</sup> On February 19, the South Carolina House passed the amended resolution by a vote of 60-41. A copy was sent to each U. S. Congressman from South Carolina. <sup>86</sup>

By December 20, 1975, pressure was building for South Carolina's legislators to introduce a bill in the United States Congress to preserve Congaree Swamp.

Governor Edwards and other state officials planned to meet in January with officials of the U. S. Department of Interior in Washington, D.C., to discuss the Congaree Swamp.<sup>87</sup> Gubernatorial Aide Heyward N. Dantzler said he arranged the meeting "to determine the scope of what can be done with the Congaree and see what kind of assistance might be available."<sup>88</sup>

The Governor by now had received the Steering Committee report. However, Eugene A. Laurent, in charge of the study that the S.C. Wildlife and Marines Resources Department did for the Committee, said they had only six months and no money to complete the study. Consequently, he said, it was not comprehensive in regard to social and economic matters. Robert R. Scott of the S.C.

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<sup>85</sup> "Congaree Swamp Newsletter," Congaree Swamp National Preserve Association, Sierra Club, LeConte Chapter, South Carolina Environmental Coalition, Feb. 23, 1976, Vol. No. 2.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.

<sup>87</sup> W. Clark Surratt, "Washington Meeting Planned To Discuss Congaree Swamp," State (Columbia, S.C.), December 20, 1975.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

Forestry Association, said "the study is mainly biological and just doesn't go far enough in certain areas."<sup>89</sup> Soon after the release of the Study Report, Joe W. Hudson, Chairman of the South Carolina Wildlife Commission, said in a meeting, that the "fate of the Congaree is now up to the Congress. We've done all we can do."<sup>90</sup>

#### Floyd Spence - Key Man

A combination of forces was steadily building and U. S. Representative Floyd Spence was recognized as the key person because the proposed Congaree Swamp National Monument was in his district. The forces at work included fallout from the "Congaree Action Now" rally, a petition with signatures of over 10,000 Congaree supporters, and lobbying by the Society of American Foresters and South Carolina State Forestry Commission.

Spence said, "I try not to feel under any pressure to introduce a bill. I've got to represent the people who've got to pay for this [Congaree Preserve] ... How do I introduce a bill when I don't know what to put in it?" Later when he was asked if he was going to introduce a Congaree bill he replied, "I don't know, I'm going to try to be rational about it."<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>89</sup>Ibid.

<sup>90</sup>Ibid.

<sup>91</sup>Lee Bandy, "Congaree Swamp Getting to Spence," State (Columbia, S.C.), October 5, 1975, 4-C.

On January 9, 1976, Governor Edwards met with Secretary of the Interior Thomas S. Kleppe and other Department officials to discuss what was to be done with the Congaree Swamp.<sup>92</sup>

Edwards suggested that Congress provide \$20 million to help South Carolina purchase 15,000 acres of the Beidler tract for use as a nature preserve with a provision that the state manage the area.<sup>93</sup> He said Ford administration officials were very interested in the forest and expressed satisfaction with the study which had been done by the Governor's steering committee.<sup>94</sup>

Edwards also said the future of the swamp ultimately was in the hands of Senators Strom Thurmond and Ernest Hollings and Representative Floyd Spence, who would have to propose legislation authorizing purchase of the swamp. He said the final decision would be theirs, once the final land estimates were decided and the Federal government conducted a land appraisal of its own.<sup>95</sup>

In early February, Spence said that he would introduce a bill authorizing the Federal takeover of several thousand acres of the Congaree Swamp and that once the bill was introduced, Federal authorities would begin the process of negotiating with the Beidler family.<sup>96</sup> Spence stated, "I'm going to need some help, and I'm

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<sup>92</sup>"Edwards Suggests Congress Help South Carolina Buy Swamp Tract," State (Columbia, S.C.), January 10, 1976.

<sup>93</sup>Ibid.

<sup>94</sup>Ibid.

<sup>95</sup>Ibid.

<sup>96</sup>Thomas C. Cothran, "Spence Will Seek Federal Congaree Swamp Takeover," State (Columbia, S.C.), February 17, 1976.

going to depend on help from local environmentalist groups and the national groups they are affiliated with."<sup>97</sup> He said he had invited Senators Strom Thurmond and Ernest Hollings to serve as cosponsors, but that as far as he knew, there were no cosponsors of the bill and that neither of the state's U.S. Senators had introduced similar legislation in the Senate.<sup>98</sup>

Senator Hollings' initial reaction was not favorable. He said the bill was a "half-baked proposition designed to take the pressure off some telephone-ringing." He further stated, "I'm not going to cosponsor anything until I know what I'm cosponsoring. Generalities produce nothing but royal headaches. I'm going to hold up (on Congaree) until the situation jells, and I find out where we are headed." Hollings complained that one of the biggest problems with persons pushing state projects like this "is that they rush in with the 'cart before the horse' and no effort is made to study the problems and the real costs." He said, "I'm not in a rush." <sup>99</sup> When Hollings refused to go along with the rest of the South Carolina delegation, he set himself up as a target for Park supporters. A massive telephone campaign was directed to his office.

Then, on February 16, as promised, Spence actually introduced the legislation (H.R. 11891), to establish Congaree Swamp National

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<sup>97</sup>Ibid.

<sup>98</sup>Ibid.

<sup>99</sup>State (Columbia, S.C.), February 25, 1976, 1-B.

Preserve. The bill authorized the Department of Interior to negotiate with the Beidler family for 15,000 acres of the Congaree Swamp for use as a natural preserve. The bill called for the Interior Department to consult with the Governor regarding the development, preservation and management of the preserve and required the Secretary to report to the President within two years on his recommendations on the suitability of maintaining part of the preserve as a wilderness area under the Federal Wilderness Act.<sup>101</sup> The bill was then referred to the Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation.

The next step in consideration of the bill was a public hearing by the Subcommittee.<sup>102</sup> Members of the Congaree Swamp National Preserve Association were told that the public hearing needed to take place immediately since the bill had to be passed by the full Interior Committee by May 15 in order to have a chance of passing the House of Representatives in 1976.<sup>103</sup> In their February Newsletter, Association members were urged to write to Congressman Roy Taylor from North Carolina, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation, asking Congress to

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<sup>100</sup>Lee Bandy, "Spence To Unveil Bill On Congaree," State (Columbia, S.C.), February 16, 1976.

<sup>101</sup>Thomas C. Cothran, "Spence Will Seek Federal Congaree Swamp Takeover," State (Columbia, S.C.), February 15, 1976.

<sup>102</sup>"Congaree Swamp Newsletter," Congaree Swamp National Preserve Association, Sierra Club, LeConte Chapter, South Carolina Environmental Coalition, February 23, 1976, No. 2.

<sup>103</sup>Ibid.

schedule public hearings immediately and to arrange a logging moratorium on the Congaree Swamp forest.<sup>104</sup>

Kathleen S. Ribald summed up the pro-park position and reiterated a sense of urgency in her letter, which appeared on the Editorial Page of the State newspaper:

"It is now more than 12 years since the U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, recommended that the Congaree be favorably considered for addition to the National Park System. No one is trying to rush a decision, but you must admit 12 years is a considerable time to wait. With logging continuing to take an estimated 1,000 acres a year, the question of how much land should be preserved will soon be academic. Because of the logging, our position must be urgent. Once the trees are gone, the land will be of no value. Therefore, a decision must be made before there is no need to make one.

I should suggest that there be an immediate agreement to halt the logging until a decision can be reached. Then if it takes another 12 years, at least there will be something to decide."<sup>105</sup>

In May 1976, Hollings reversed his position and said he favored preserving 15,000 acres of the Congaree Swamp but still thought Spence's bill was "half-baked." Hollings claimed the press had misrepresented his views and that he definitely was interested in preserving the area. In an interview with State Representative Bill Campbell on May 21, he said that he supported "immediate

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<sup>104</sup> Ibid.

<sup>105</sup> Kathleen S. Reibold, editorial letter in State (Columbia, S.C.), February, 1976.

protection of the Congaree Swamp...in no uncertain terms...I'm for preserving the Swamp and have been for some time."

On May 26, Senators Thurmond and Hollings introduced separate bills, calling for preservation of the 15,000-acre Beidler tract. The two bills were generally similar to the one introduced by Representative Floyd Spence on February 16. The final payment for the swampland, according to the Thurmond-Hollings legislation, would be made from money available in the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Department of Interior had estimated the Congaree value at \$31.1 million.<sup>107</sup> Now, with the support of both Spence and Thurmond, establishment of the Monument was soon to become a reality.

During Congressional proceedings, Senator Hollings said that he had been approached in 1966 by Ambrose Hampton (Publisher of Columbia Newspapers, Inc.) and Peter Manigault (Publisher of several Charleston papers) about preserving the swamp. Hollings recalled, "I kept up my efforts to persuade the Beidlers to sell some of the acreage, at least, and...finally persuaded them to yield 5,000 acres."<sup>108</sup>

A newspaper article on September 2, 1976, said the bill to save the Congaree Swamp was given little chance of passing this year because Senator J. Bennett Johnston, D-La., "wants detailed

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<sup>106</sup>Lee Bandy and W. Clark Surratt, "Hollings For Preserving The Swamp," State (Columbia, S.C.), May 25, 1976, 1-A.

<sup>107</sup>"Both Thurmond, Hollings Seek Congaree Preserve," State (Columbia, S.C.), May 27, 1976, 1-B.

<sup>108</sup>Ibid.

cost and boundary estimates from the U.S. Interior Department" and "doesn't want to write a bill authorizing federal purchase of the Beidler tract until the Interior Department has completed its study of the area." The Senator said "a voluntary, one-year moratorium on timber cutting would protect the acreage in question while Congress works on a more detailed Congaree purchase bill next year."<sup>109</sup>

The Congaree bill was passed by the House of Representatives on September 21. The bill provided \$35.5 million to be paid to the Francis Beidler family of Chicago, owners of the land, to preserve some 15,200 acres.<sup>110</sup> However, proponents were alarmed at a possible year's delay in the Senate and increased their efforts to get the bill passed before the October adjournment.

Jim Elder said, "...if Hollings can persuade Jackson to bring the Congaree bill directly from his committee to the Senate floor, then the legislation stands a good chance of getting through." He said there was nothing to be gained by delaying Congaree authorization until 1977.<sup>111</sup>

On September 28, on a voice vote, the U. S. Senate passed legislation "almost identical to the one authored by Rep. Floyd D.

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<sup>109</sup>"Congaree Cost, Size Estimate Asked," State (Columbia, S.C.), September 2, 1976, 1-C.

<sup>110</sup>Lee Bandy, "Congaree Preserve Virtually Assured," State (Columbia, S.C.), September 29, 1976, 1-A.

<sup>111</sup>W. Clark Surratt, "Congaree Preservation Forces Hopeful," State (Columbia, S.C.), September 23, 1976, 6-A.

Spence, R-S.C ... to preserve the rarest portion of the Congaree Swamp as a national monument." <sup>112</sup>

The next day, September 29, the House of Representatives accepted, without debate, the Senate version of the bill, sending it to the White House for President Ford's signature.

On October 18, 1976, 22 years after Harry R. E. Hampton wrote his first letter on behalf of Congaree Swamp preservation, President Gerald Ford signed Public Law 94-545, authorizing the establishment of the Congaree Swamp National Monument.

In Jan Stucker's article in the State newspaper on September 30, key individuals were listed as deserving congratulations:

"Rep. Floyd D. Spence (R-S.C.)...who worked like a Trojan...Sen. Strom Thurmond...[who] outdid himself on the Congaree...and rounded up enough Senators to constitute a quorum for the session that voted out the bill...Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., and Rep. James Mann, D-S.C....[who] toiled hard for the measure...the Columbia-based Congaree Swamp National Preserve Association...members...and particularly its president, James V. Elder and another founding member, Dick Watkins [who] spent thousands of hours on their campaign to save the Congaree... I can't think of a nicer way for South Carolina to celebrate its Bicentennial than with the Congaree Swamp National Monument." <sup>113</sup>

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<sup>112</sup>Ibid.

<sup>113</sup>Jan Stucker, "S.C. Congressmen Realize Congaree Swamp Preservation," Columbia Record, September 30, 1976.

CHAPTER III  
LAND ACQUISITION

Directions for expanding the public domain in Congaree Swamp were first set forth in the Park Enabling Legislation, Public Law 94-545, Sec. 2(a), which states:

"Within the monument the Secretary is authorized to acquire lands, waters, and interests therein by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange. Any lands or interests therein owned by the State of South Carolina or any political subdivision thereof may be acquired only by donation."<sup>114</sup>

On April 11, 1977, the U. S. District Court filed a Declaration of Taking for the taking of 367.60 acres of land for inclusion in Congaree Swamp National Monument as authorized by Public Law 94-545.

On May 23, 1977, the same court prepared a Certificate of Possession, which stated that the "plaintiff, United States of America, is in possession of this the property described in this condemnation action." There were three tracts included, 181 acres in the Boggy Gut area, 82 acres near the entrance road to the Santee River Cypress Lumber Company, and 104 acres bordered by property formerly owned by the D. D. Buyck family.<sup>115</sup>

W. P. Crawford, Superintendent of Fort Sumter National Monument (also Acting Superintendent of Congaree Swamp National Monument, signed the Certificate of Possession. Crawford reported

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<sup>114</sup>Get information to go in here

<sup>115</sup>Ibid.

to Boyd Finch, Associate Regional Director for Planning and Assistance, that he had received a copy and would keep an eye on the property until a Superintendent was assigned.<sup>116</sup>

#### Stipulation

On February 23, 1978, the U.S. District Court in Columbia, S.C., issued a Stipulation and Entry of Order, granting the National Park Service temporary possession of the 14,700-acre Beidler tract. It gave the Government the right to acquire the land for a period of one year from the date of the Order. The Order further stated that the U. S. Government had deposited two million dollars with the court, that the deposit was for the use and benefit of the Beidler family, and that the money would be applied towards any final financial settlement.<sup>117</sup> It granted the Park Service the right to enter the property to gather data and to plan for future visitor use.<sup>118</sup> The Agreement provided several alternatives for the Federal Government to back out if there were valid reasons, i.e., if the price was too high.<sup>119</sup>

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<sup>116</sup>Ibid.

<sup>117</sup>Stipulation, U. S. District Court, for the District of South Carolina, Columbia Division, Civil Action #77-2046, February 23, 1978.

<sup>118</sup>Southeast Regional Director to the Assistant Manager Southeast/Southwest Team, Denver Service Center, memorandum, March 10, 1978.

<sup>119</sup>Ibid.

During that time, the Federal Courts were processing condemnation procedures for the remaining 14,770 acres of land. The initial trial date was set for May 5, 1979.

The one-year temporary possession ran out, but the National Park Service regained access to the property on February 23, 1978, upon approval of a Certificate for Immediate Possession. Data collection continued during the summer and fall of 1978, while an NPS planning team drafted and assessed preliminary alternatives for visitor use and general development, boundary adjustments, and wilderness suitability.

On November 13, 1978, draft alternatives were submitted for review and comment. Following the addition of review comments, the Assessment of Alternatives was approved for printing on June 14, 1979. The printed document was received at the Park on September 20, 1979, and copies were made available for sixty days of public review on October 30, 1979.<sup>120</sup>

On September 29 and 30, headlines appeared in leading newspapers in Charleston, Columbia, Spartanburg, Florence, and Greenville, reporting that Congaree Swamp negotiations were at a standstill. According to reports, the Beidlers were fed up with Government "foot-dragging" and were ready to resume timbering unless action was promptly taken.<sup>121</sup>

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<sup>120</sup>Superintendent, Congaree Swamp National Monument to Congressional Liaison, memorandum, December 12, 1979.

<sup>121</sup>"Congaree Swamp Negotiations At A Standstill," Spartanburg Journal, September 30, 1977.

Congress authorized \$35.5 million to purchase the Beidler tract. However, the Beidlers wanted more money. Since the Government was not authorized to negotiate for extra funds, the proceedings halted. This prompted the Government to settle in court. A voluntary moratorium on timbering was about to terminate, creating a sense of urgency.<sup>122</sup>

The Beidlers began discussions with timber buyers who wanted to purchase the Congaree's valuable hardwoods.

National Park Service Southeast Regional officials stated that they would file condemnation papers in order to gain possession before any timbering could be done.<sup>123</sup>

The Beidlers encouraged the Government to start condemnation proceedings because they felt that a court judgment would hold that their property was worth more than the amount offered by the Government.<sup>124</sup>

A Government spokesman in the Southeast Regional Office stated that Complaint of Condemnation papers were on the way to Washington which would put the matter of purchasing the property into the courts.<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>122</sup> Ibid.

<sup>123</sup> Marilyn Thompson, "Beidlers Discuss Cutting," Columbia Record, October 5, 1977.

<sup>124</sup> "Swamp Plan Stalled," Herald (Rock Hill, S.C.), October 6, 1977.

<sup>125</sup> "NPS: Condemnation Papers Filed For Congaree Swamp," State (Columbia, S.C.), October 6, 1977.

At a Recreation Users Advisory Committee meeting on October 18, NPS planning team captain Craig Axtell said that the Beidlers had asked for \$35 million and that half that amount had already been allocated, although the entire amount had been appropriated by Congress. Mr. Axtell said that the Beidlers wanted the entire amount and that was the hold up "at the present."<sup>126</sup>

Mr. Axtell also stated at the meeting that the planning team was considering five acquisition alternatives for inclusion in the Monument. Their final decision would go to Congress, and the Congress in turn would make a decision on which alternative was viable.

By mid-November, the U.S. District Court litigated the expenditure of money which would be needed for Park acquisition. The negotiations between the NPS and the Beidler family had broken down, and were resumed between the U.S. Justice Department and the Beidlers.<sup>127</sup>

#### First Superintendent Assigned

The Park's first Superintendent arrived at the Park in early July 1978. Robert S. McDaniel was reassigned from Washington, D.C. In a news conference together with other National Park Service representatives, he said that until a property settlement could be

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<sup>126</sup> "Minutes on Recreation Users Advisory Committee Meeting on Congaree Swamp National Monument," October 18, 1977, Columbia, S.C.

<sup>127</sup> "Congaree Swamp Negotiations Have Moved Into Legal Arena," State (Columbia, S.C.), November 24, 1977.

maintained, his primary job would be to coordinate and make public all planning and studies being conducted in the swamp.

U.S. District Judge Robert Chapman gave the Government until August 1978 to arrive at a purchase agreement for the property. He stated that if no agreement was reached by that time, he would "consider appointing a land commission to hear the price dispute."<sup>128</sup>

On November 22, 1978, Judge Robert W. Hemphill tentatively set a trial date for the determination of the price of the Beidler tract. He also submitted a schedule of pretrial matters which would take place during the months preceding the trial. It was agreed that Judge Hemphill would receive a list of names from which he would select three land commissioners to make a determination of the value of the land and its timber.<sup>129</sup>

Research continued relating to pretrial matters until June 6, 1979. At that time Superintendent McDaniel wrote to the Southeast Regional Director, "On August 24, 1979, we will lose control over the park that is currently provided to us by court order of February 1978." He added "...an urgent appeal is requested for an extension of our operational status. If this is not permitted,

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<sup>128</sup> "Swamp Acquisition Continues," Standard (Aiken, S.C.), July 14, 1978.

<sup>129</sup> Anne Marshall, "Swamp Land Trial Date Set," Columbia Record, November 2, 1978.

then it is entirely possible that the Beidler interest will resume cutting timber..."<sup>130</sup>

In August, the Southeast Regional Director contacted the Office of the Solicitor and the Department of Justice and received information that possession would be extended until February 1980. In addition, an appraisal had been made for the Beidler tract by Eley Frazier, III, for the Beidlers to the tune of \$60 million.<sup>131</sup>

In October 1979, the Land Acquisition Plan was completed and sent to the Southeast Regional Office. Soon afterwards, the Regional Director wrote back that the Land Acquisition Plan would not be necessary because "all lands authorized for purchase are in condemnation..."<sup>132</sup>

The Park continued to operate under a Stipulated Agreement between the Beidlers and the National Park Service. The trial date was extended from November 1979 until May 1980.<sup>133</sup>

On February 22, 1980, a Declaration of Taking was filed which officially transferred ownership of the Beidler property to the U.S. Government. This stated, "It appears that the Government is entitled to possession of the property involved in this action.

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<sup>130</sup> Superintendent to Southeast Regional Director, memorandum, June 6, 1979.

<sup>131</sup>NPS Associate Director to the Southeast Regional Director, memorandum, August 6, 1979.

<sup>132</sup>Southeast Regional Director to the Superintendent, Congaree Swamp National Monument, memorandum, November 19, 1979.

<sup>133</sup>Superintendent's Annual Report for 1979 to Southeast Regional Director, March 18, 1980.

Accordingly, the Government is hereby granted immediate possession of such property. AND IT IS SO ORDERED."<sup>134</sup>

A partial payment of \$32 million was made to the owner, with the remainder to be paid pending litigation in the Federal courts. The trial began on October 28, 1980, and continued through the end of the year.<sup>135</sup>

Although the initial authorization was for \$35 million, Public Law 95-42 provided that the initial amount could be expanded by ten percent of that amount per year. In February 1980, the U.S. District Court estimated that the maximum "ultimate" financial outlay would be a court award of \$38,425,000 and the payment of interest for two and one-half years at 7.74% of \$7,435,237 from February 28, 1978.

The Solicitor's Office opposed the interest payment and said, "We intend to urge that Justice vigorously litigate this issue. In our opinion, no interest is due for this period because the stipulation controlling the government's possession specifically did not provide for it."<sup>136</sup>

The Associate Solicitor, David A. Watts, wrote the Attorney General in February 1980 that it was "necessary, advantageous, and in the best interest of the United States to acquire by

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<sup>134</sup>Civil Action 77-2046-5, U. S. District Court, District of South Carolina, Columbia Division, Filed February 22, 1980.

<sup>135</sup>Ibid.

<sup>136</sup>"Congaree Acquisition Proceedings," Acting Solicitor, Parks and Recreation Office of the Solicitor, Washington, D. C., February 11, 1980.

condemnation, with a Declaration of Taking and with a request for an order of immediate possession" the Beidler tract. Furthermore, he wrote that the Treasurer of the United States was about to forward to the United States Attorney a check "in the amount specified" as compensation for the interest.<sup>137</sup>

On February 19, 1980, Acting Associate Solicitor David A. Watts signed a Declaration of Taking in Washington, D.C. The land comprised the 14,770.65 acres of the Beidler tract, and a sum of \$30,588,000 was deposited in the Registry of the Court "for the use and benefit of the persons entitled thereto."<sup>138</sup>

#### Land Commissioners and Trial

On February 9, 1979, the Court ordered the appointment of three Land Commissioners to hear the case: Ben Scott Whaley, Robert W. Foster, and Lucas Dargan.<sup>139</sup>

Litigation and testimony continued for two more years until March 10, 1982, when the Report of the Commissioners was filed in the U.S. District Court, District of South Carolina, Columbia Division.

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<sup>137</sup>Office of the Solicitor, Washington, D. C. to the Attorney General Honorable Benjamin R. Civiletti, Department of Justice, letter, February 19, 1989.

<sup>138</sup>Declaration of Taking, U.S. District Court, for the District of South Carolina, Columbia Division, Civil Action No. 77-2046, February 19, 1980.

<sup>139</sup>Court Order, Civil Action Nos. 77-652, 77-653, 77-2046, filed February 9, 1980, in the U. S. District Court, for the District of South Carolina, Columbia Division.

A summary of the history of land acquisition was included in this report. Stated in the summary was the fact that condemnation proceedings against the three timber sale tracts were commenced on April 11, 1977, by the filing of separate Complaints of Condemnation, accomplished by Declarations of Taking and Deposits of Just Compensation.

Condemnation proceedings against the large tract began by the filing of a Complaint in Condemnation on October 14, 1977. Subsequently, by Court Order dated February 23, 1978, the proceedings involving the large tract were consolidated with the action involving the Timber Sale Tracts.

Prior to commencement of the trial, Ben Scott Whaley resigned due to ill health. His replacement, G. Dowling, also had to resign due to ill health.

The trial actually began on October 28, 1980. The Commission sat for sixty-one days from November 17, 1980, through August 19, 1981. Hearings and the testimony generated over 7,400 pages of transcript. The Commission heard testimony from twenty-five witnesses and admitted into evidence a large number of documentary exhibits.

Recommendations of the Commissioners on March 10, 1982, were as follows:

- "1. The fair market value of the large tract (Beidler tract) to be \$46,000,000;
2. The fair market value of the 82 acre tract to be \$282,420;
3. The fair market value of the 104 acre tract to be \$333,590;

4. The fair market value of the 181 acre tract to be \$393,130."<sup>140</sup>

Although the original Report of the Commissioners was filed on March 10, 1982, the Court issued an Order on Exceptions and Objections to their final report on July 8, 1982, remanded certain exceptions by landowners, and answered other questions which had been put forth to the Commissioners.

The Commission filed a Supplemental Report on September 27, 1982, in which it corrected a typographical error in a financial value. The Supplemental Report reiterated that the fair market value of the large tract was to be approximately \$46 million.

In the meantime, the U.S. District Court received voluminous memoranda to support objections and exceptions to the commissioners Supplemental Report.

A Government memorandum was written in opposition to the Supplemental Report which repeated an earlier stance.

Judge Robert W. Hemphill's final decision was, "The Court denies all exceptions, by government or landowners and affirms the Supplemental Report of the Commissioners. AND IT IS SO ORDERED."<sup>141</sup>

On July 15, 1983, a Joint Motion for Approval and Adoption of Stipulation as to Rates of Interest as Part of Just Compensation was filed in the District Court. It stated, "The parties jointly

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<sup>140</sup>Report of the Commissioners, U. S. District Court, District of South Carolina, Columbia Division, Civil Action Nos. 77-652, 77-653, 77-654, 77-2046-5, March 10, 1982.

<sup>141</sup>Court Order on Supplementary Report, U. S. District Court, District of South Carolina, Columbia Division, Civil Action Nos. 77-652, 77-653, 77-654, 77-2046, filed July 15, 1983.

move the Court to approve the stipulation as to interest rates and to enter an order to that effect."<sup>142</sup>

As negotiations continued, the defendants filed for a Defendant's First Request for Production of Documents and a Defendant's First Set of Interrogatories to Plaintiff April 27, 1984. These were fact-finding documents through which the Courts would obtain needed information in order to continue the litigation for the purchase price of the Congaree Swamp National Monument.<sup>143</sup>

Superintendent McDaniel complied with the Court Orders and sent file materials, logs, publications, and documents issued between February 23, 1978, and February 22, 1980.<sup>144</sup>

On Friday, August 16, 1985, U.S. District Judge Eugene Gordon of Greensboro, North Carolina, filed a sixty-page Court Order for the National Park Service to pay \$58,500,000 plus interest for its purchase of the Congaree Swamp National Monument. This Court Order broke the "last remaining legal barrier to government ownership of the swamp." Judge Gordon had been called in to hear the case after the death of U.S. District Judge Hemphill in 1984.<sup>145</sup>

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<sup>142</sup>Ibid.

<sup>143</sup>Ferrell L. Glenn, Attorney at Law, Columbia, S.C., to the Honorable Wistar D. Stuckey, Assistant U.S. Attorney, "Defendant's First Request for Production of Documents," and "Defendant's First Set of Interrogatories to Plaintiff," April 27, 1984.

<sup>144</sup>Superintendent, Congaree Swamp National Monument to Solicitor's Office, memorandum, May 17, 1984.

<sup>145</sup>Margaret N. O'Shea, "Judge Sets Price Tag On Congaree," State (Columbia, S.C.), August 17, 1985.

Judge Gordon's Memorandum of Decision ruled in favor of the defendants and subsequently provided payment of interest from February 1978 through February 1980. The increase put the costs beyond the funds available authorized under Public Law 98-141. Appeals were under consideration by the Justice Department.<sup>146</sup>

Not until 1986 did Superintendent McDaniel write in his Annual Narrative Report, "All appeals and court decisions are concluded which closes the books on the acquisition of the Beidler property."<sup>147</sup>

The total appropriation for the Beidler tract, the three smaller tracts, and for the buy-out of the timber contracts on the three smaller tracts, plus interest, came to \$75,256,500. The total expenditures as of May 1989 were \$72,233,579. The total acreage acquired as of May 1989 was 15,138.25 acres.<sup>148</sup>

#### New Additions

The Park enabling legislation specified that the National Park Service would prepare a General Management Plan for the use and development of the Monument. Part of the development included expansion of the Monument boundaries.

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<sup>146</sup>Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report for 1985, January 30, 1986.

<sup>147</sup>Superintendents Annual Narrative Report for 1986, January 23, 1987.

<sup>148</sup>Land Protection Plan, Congaree Swamp National Monument, May 1989.

A Draft General Management Plan and accompanying map showed proposed land additions of 2,464 acres. This amount was the official National Park Service position for boundary additions.

Local environmental organizations disagreed with the amount of acres of the National Park Service proposal. Richard Watkins, still active in the Sierra Club, spearheaded a group of environmental leaders and other public agencies in a major effort to expand the boundary in excess of the National Park Service proposal.

In a public hearing held on December 10, 1987, at Lower Richland High School, over one hundred people attended with the majority of them supporting a 6,300-acre expansion which they dubbed the "Citizens Boundary Proposal." On December 30, Superintendent McDaniel reported that he had received several hundred written comments from the public, the majority supporting the Citizens Boundary Proposal.

Senators Thurmond and Hollings introduced a bill, S. 2018 on February 1, 1988, which incorporated the Citizens Boundary Proposal in lieu of the National Park Service recommendations for boundary adjustments. In early August the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered the amended bill, favorably reported.

The final result was Public Law 100-524, "Congaree Swamp National Monument Expansion and Wilderness Act," which was signed into law October 24, 1988.

The new legislation required the preparation of a Land Protection Plan, which was approved May 22, 1989. The

recommendation of this plan was that in order to comply with Public Law 100-524, i.e., the Congressional intent to manage the area as wilderness and proposed wilderness, and to provide visitor and administrative facilities, "it will be necessary to acquire lands in fee;" in other words, to buy the lands outright.

Also, the Land Protection Plan recommended that the National Park Service encourage private land owners and Federal, State, and local agencies to insure that actions taken outside the boundary would not detrimentally affect the Monument resources.

Three million dollars were appropriated for land acquisition through Public Law 100-446. The funds were made available for acquisition of the high priority tracts. Land acquisition will continue throughout the next several years.

## CHAPTER IV

### PLANNING FOR ADMINISTRATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND USE, 1976-1989

Planning for the Congaree Swamp National Monument officially began with the Park enabling legislation, Public Law 94-525, with specific directions:

"Sec. 4. Within three years...the Secretary shall...report his recommendations as to the suitability or the non-suitability...for preservation as wilderness..."

"Sec. 5(b.). Within three years...the Secretary shall develop and transmit...a general management plan...indicating:

1. the lands and interest in lands adjacent or related to the monument which are deemed necessary or desirable for the purposes of resource protection, scenic integrity, of management and administration of the area in furtherance of this act, and the estimated cost;

2. the number of visitors and types of public use within the monument which can be accommodated in accordance with the protection of its resources;

3. the location and estimated cost of facilities deemed necessary to accommodate such visitors and uses."<sup>149</sup>

Public hearings covering Park development were held during July of 1977 at Lower Richland High School. A National Park Service Team from the Denver Service Center conducted the hearing. Participating were team captain Craig Aztell; members Alex Carter and Kate Gavan; Marion Burnside, President of the Cedar Creek Hunt Club; and Paul Spangle, Acting Superintendent of Congaree Swamp National Monument.

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<sup>149</sup>Public Law 94-545.

Superintendent McDaniel, upon arrival July 2, 1978, stated that his primary job would involve planning. He wrote, "My first encounter, upon arrival in Columbia, was a meeting with Denver Service Center's planning team and SERO Regional Public Affairs officer Jim Ryan."

Thus, Park planning began on the right foot in a marriage between planning and public relations which has continued.<sup>150</sup>

Positive interaction between the public and team representatives enabled the group to prepare the first draft of an Assessment for Alternatives. The final draft was completed in November of 1978.

In line with the early planning efforts, several studies were made by the end of 1979:

Archeological Survey, University of South Carolina  
Research Bibliography, University of South Carolina  
Natural Resources Study, L. L. Gaddy  
Herpetofauna Study, Rudy Mancke

Superintendent James F. Kretschmann of Horse Shoe Bend. Superintendent Ping Crawford of Ft. Sumter National Monument, and Landscape Architect Kate Gavan prepared a Statement for Management. A copy was sent to the Regional and Washington offices for review and comments. The Southeast Regional Director approved it on January 16, 1979.

The Denver Service Center Planning team collected data during the spring and summer of 1977. National Park Service planning

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<sup>150</sup> Superintendent's Annual Report for 1978, February 14, 1979.

efforts continued until the area was closed to personnel and contractors in December of 1977. Planning and data collection resumed on February 23, 1978, following approval of the Certificate of Possession.

The research team collected data in 1978 and drafted and assessed preliminary alternatives for visitor use, general development, boundary adjustments, and wilderness suitability. Following incorporation of review comments, the Assessment was approved on June 14, 1979, and printed copies were received at the Park in September.

All alternative development proposals recommended minimal construction, which continues to apply today. The Assessment also recommended that development be avoided near the red-cockaded woodpecker site in order to enhance the species by careful management of its habitat.

Four boundary adjustments were included in the alternatives:

1. No action.
2. Acquisition of 3,450 acres on north boundary and north of the Congaree River.
3. Acquisition of 4,500 additional acres located across the river in Calhoun County.
4. Acquisition of an additional 3,300 acres in the southeastern portion of the Monument.

Alternative number three, acquisition in Calhoun County, proved to be the undoing of the planning process in the Park's early planning stages.

The political climate in Calhoun County was not conducive to the acquisition of Calhoun County lands by the Federal Government. The Assessment of Alternatives and the Park's first General Management Plan were withdrawn due to political pressure on the National Park Service.<sup>151</sup>

On May 31, 1979, Superintendent McDaniel received a letter from Charles H. Cushman of the National Park Inholders Association requesting a legislative history of the area. Whether or not Mr. Cushman had any influence on the Calhoun County resistance to the expansion proposal is unknown to this author.<sup>152</sup>

The first Statement for Management was approved by the Southeast Regional Director on January 16, 1979, and was available for public distribution by May.

Three research studies were completed in the initial planning effort: a natural resource study by L. L. Gaddy; a herpetofauna study by Rudy Mancke, and a research bibliography prepared by some members of the faculty of the University of South Carolina. An archeological survey was almost complete by the end of 1979.

Paul Spangle had spearheaded the effort for three exciting years, dealing with the Assessment for Alternatives for development, land acquisition, and wilderness area consideration. When Paul Spangle retired, a new team captain, Bill Springer, was assigned to the task of planning and development.

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<sup>151</sup>Congaree Swamp National Monument, briefing statement for General Management Plan/Wilderness Study, 1979.

<sup>152</sup>Superintendent McDaniel to Mr. Cushman, National Park Inholders Association, letter, May 31, 1979.

A biological assessment for the Park was completed by the Denver Service Center and was incorporated into an Environmental Impact Statement.

#### Fire Management Plan

On December 6, 1988, Steve Smith, Guy Taylor, and Jim Watkins began work on the Fire Management Plan. The issue of controlled burns necessary to manage the red-cockaded woodpecker site was addressed in the Plan. This is the basis for management of the red-cockaded woodpecker site. At present, Resource Management Specialist Rick Clark is working on the Fire Management Plan, revising it according to the new Fire Management guidelines.

#### Environmental Review

An environmental review of the Assessment of Alternatives was completed in February.\* It addressed environmental impacts and proposed wilderness. An Environmental Impact Statement was completed in August 1980, but was withdrawn from further consideration when conflicts arose between the National Park Service and the Calhoun County Congressional delegation.

Local residents voiced considerable opposition to proposals to expand the Park to include a portion of Calhoun County. Georgia Pacific Corporation also opposed expansion onto their timber lands. Soon after, Georgia Pacific began cutting timber roads into the areas the National Park Service had considered acquiring. Conservation groups, again with a "sense of urgency" triggered by

the threat of cutting within the proposed Park area, sought Congressional support to bring the Congaree under Federal control.

HR-7703 was filed which would have provided the needed additional acreage to the Park, but it died because of a lack of public support. Attempts were then made to negotiate for the needed land. Meetings were held with Georgia Pacific Vice-President Thomas Mitchell and his associates, Bill McVickers and John Taylor. Also, Cleve Pinnix and Clay Peters, U.S. Congressional staff members from the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, and National Park Service Southeast Region officials Boyd Finch and Bill Springer attended the meetings.

The Assessment for Alternatives also addressed wilderness suitability and stated that five thousand acres in the eastern third of the Beidler tract were suitable and the remaining two-thirds would gradually become more suitable as the effects of logging wore off.

Soon afterwards, with input from local conservation groups, a new proposed boundary line was drawn and submitted for consideration by the National Park Service. By the end of 1980, approval of the proposed boundary had not occurred. Thus, the General Management Plan, as required in the Park enabling legislation, was further delayed.

In summary, the Park's first plans, the General Management Plan, the Assessment of Alternatives, and associated plans were thwarted because of political pressure from the Calhoun County Congressional delegation. The legislative delegation was backed by

residents who were against Park expansion onto their side of the Congaree River. Also, there was opposition from the Georgia Pacific Corporation.

Preparation of the General Management Plan was put on the back burner until the latter part of the 1980's. In the meantime, work on other plans was initiated.

#### Other Plans 1981-1987

The Draft Resource Management Plan was completed and sent to the Southeast Regional Office in 1981. By 1982, the Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment had been approved by Regional Director Neal G. Guse.

In the Resource Management Plan, resource issues were formalized into project statements which included several baseline research projects. These included benthic microinvertebrate studies, ecosystem and hydrologic framework studies, feral animal surveys, ground water investigation, acid precipitation monitoring, and fishing management studies. Cultural resources studies included a cultural resources management and protection study and archeological studies.

Other planning documents were completed in the 1980's including the Statement for Interpretation and Scope of Collections. Action plans such as the sign plan, fire plan, and Standard Operating Procedures, were completed, and the Statement for Management was updated.

### General Management Plan Resurrection 1987-1988

The Draft General Management Plan was completed in 1987 with assistance from the Southeast Regional Office. Park Planner John Fischer was the team captain who coordinated the project. This Plan was made available for public review on November 10, 1987. A public hearing held at Lower Richland High School in December attracted over one hundred people.

By December the National Park Service had received several hundred written comments from the public sector. The majority supported the Citizens Boundary Proposal of 6,300 acres instead of the National Park Service proposal of 2,464 acres.

A Wilderness Suitability and Environmental Assessment was completed in September 1987. This was an information-gathering study in preparation of the final draft of the General Management Plan. The General Management Plan, completed in December 1988, stated that the boundary additions to the Monument, which had been designated as potential wilderness, would add approximately seven thousand acres to the Beidler tract at a cost of \$10 million. It addressed three primary goals of the Park enabling legislation:

1. boundary adjustments and estimated costs,
2. types of public use and numbers of visitors which could be accommodated in order to protect the resources,
3. the location and estimated cost of needed facilities.

The final draft of the General Management Plan included the Citizens Boundary Proposal as one of the alternatives for land acquisition.

Land acquisition involved twenty-six different parcels of land. Parcels along the Congaree River would provide protection of significant timber resources. Parcels adjacent to the north and east boundary of the Monument would protect additional bottomland hardwood timber, the red-cockaded woodpecker colony site, an historic floodplain dike, and remnants of the historic Huger's road and bridge.

The most important parcel would be a corridor for access to the Monument on the north boundary.

A variety of other issues covered in the General Management Plan will continue to affect future management decisions, including the designation of backcountry campsites, installing wayside exhibits, maintaining existing hiking trails in a primitive condition, and planning new trails.

Additional issues were addressed in the plan: Cedar Creek Hunt Club structures would not be removed until construction of a visitor center; the air quality monitor would be retained until it became obsolete; the existing headquarters and ranger station would

become quarters for Park staff; and, all structures would be retrofitted to accommodate handicapped visitors.

Resource management would be enhanced by acquiring those lands with hydrological significance. Staffing would increase, and the Land Protection Plan would identify the optimum strategy for acquiring new additions.

Superintendent McDaniel, Park Planner Richard Sussman, and Realty Specialist Barbara Sulhoff were responsible for preparing the Land Protection Plan. The Plan, completed in May 1989, addressed the minimum actions necessary to assure resource protection, provide visitor services, carry out management responsibilities, and provide essential public access. The Land Protection Plan also established priorities for these actions. Requests for expenditure of appropriated funds would be based on the approved Plan.

In summary, the primary operating plan for the Park from 1979 until 1987 was the Statement for Management. Although the first attempt at putting together the General Management Plan was thwarted because of political pressure, the second try in 1988 was successful. The General Management Plan was approved in December of 1988.

As a result of final approval of the General Management Plan, and with supporting legislation dealing with boundary expansion and appropriation of funds, the Land Protection Plan was completed, prioritizing the land acquisition process.

The General Management Plan and the Land Protection Plan now provide guidance for the Park manager in acquiring new parcels.

Appraisals have been made of the value of specific parcels, first offers were made, and a few parcels have been bought at the time of this writing. Furthermore, staff at Congaree Swamp National Monument now have a General Management Plan which will guide Park administrators throughout the decade of the 1990's.

CHAPTER V  
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Scientific Research 1950's & 1960's

As interest in the Congaree Swamp rose in the early 1950's, scientific research projects increasingly supported justifications for establishment of the Monument and influenced National Park Service management decisions after authorization.

In the early 1950's, scientists from the University of South Carolina started research projects. Dr. Wade Batson, a botany professor, had been taking his students into the swamp for several years. He accumulated lists of plant species and added specimens to the University's botanical collection.

One of the first research documents on the Congaree was a report by Fred Seely in 1953 which documented tree sizes and ages. Other early studies included "A Mature Pine Stand in the Congaree Bottom Land," by Lawrence F. Swails, Jr., William D. Anderson, Jr., and Wade T. Batson; and, "The Congaree River Swamp," by William E. Hoy -- both which were published by the University of South Carolina in 1957.

In 1962, Batson, Thomas L. Keefe, and Steve C. Dial reported previously-unpublished research entitled "The Floristics of Cypress-Gum Stands in the Congaree Swamp."

The scientific community's interest in Congaree Swamp intensified when Dr. Richard Pough wrote letters to key people about the scientific significance of the Congaree Swamp. As a

result of Dr. Pough's efforts, National Park Service scientists were involved from the outset.

Dr. Pough involved other scientists in the effort to support establishment. Dr. William Robertson, Park Biologist for Everglades National Park, prepared biological notes for the Appendix-A supplement to the Specific Area Report: Proposed Congaree Swamp National Monument, in the early 1960's.

A formal statement of the scientific importance of the Congaree Swamp was transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior by memorandum from the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments notes on its 47th meeting held October 15-17th, 1962. This memorandum stated that the board members had "given careful consideration to the scientific significance of the Congaree Swamp in South Carolina."<sup>153</sup> They continued, "The Board is convinced that Congaree Swamp is an outstanding example of a near virgin southern hardwood forested swamp and that it contains a biological community of rare quality and considerable scientific value. The board therefore recommends that this excellent natural area be authorized for establishment in the National Park System as the Congaree Swamp National Monument."<sup>154</sup>

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<sup>153</sup>Meeting Minutes-Att. No. 22, "Actions of Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments, Congaree Swamp, South Carolina, 47th meeting, October 15-17, 1962.

<sup>154</sup>Ibid.

John V. Dennis prepared a landmark research document in 1966, "A Preliminary Report on the Woody Plants, Birds and Mammals of the Congaree Swamp, South Carolina." This report described the natural history of the area and indicated that it was a unique ecosystem which deserved protection. Conservationists used this report to justify preservation in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

These species lists complemented those of Professor Wade T. Batson of the University of South Carolina, who had identified Congaree plant species for a period of more than twenty-five years.

Species lists are continually updated as new plants and animals are found. Still relatively unknown are the fungi, lichens, and insects. Many species have been recorded but the lists are incomplete. The Resource Management Plan currently being developed will address the collection of baseline data.

#### Research in the 1970's

In December 1975, a research paper titled, "A Vegetation Analysis of Preserve Alternatives Involving the Beidler Tract of Congaree Swamp," was completed by L.L. Gaddy, Thomas S. Kohlsaatt, Eugene Laurent, and Kenneth B. Stansell. This report covered the body of knowledge available on the Beidler Tract. Information from this report was used by both opponents and proponents for Congaree Swamp preservation.

Another study, begun in 1973, "A Floristic Analysis of the Congaree River Floodplain, South Carolina: Succession and Regeneration" by David W. Crews, was completed in 1976 and

submitted to Dr. Wade T. Batson, Department of Biology, University of South Carolina as a Master's thesis.<sup>155</sup>

This study determined floristic composition and successional trends. One hundred and twenty-eight varieties of trees, shrubs, and herbs were listed. Several different plant growth periods were listed including the undisturbed forest, one-year-old and two-year-old clear cuts, and selective cuts of one and three year's regrowth. This is the first known study of successional plant growth in the Congaree Swamp.<sup>156</sup>

The study concluded that the type of logging techniques had no marked effect on plant regeneration and that whether or not plant regeneration was leading towards reestablishment of a climax forest would need further study.<sup>157</sup>

In February of 1971, Otto Florschutz, Jr., wrote "a Congaree River Swamp Biological Reconnaissance Report." His investigation was done at the request of the Southeast Regional Office in anticipation of acquiring a portion of the Congaree as a National Wildlife Recreation Area. He recommended that the Beidler Tract be purchased for preservation.

\*In 1974, Dr. Wade Batson received a Natural Landmark Evaluation Grant. He was hired by the Federal Government to make

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<sup>155</sup>David W. Crewz, "A Floristic Analysis of the Congaree River Floodplain, South Carolina: Succession and Regeneration," Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in the Department of Biology, University of South Carolina, 1976.

<sup>156</sup>Ibid.

<sup>157</sup>Ibid.

specific recommendations as to whether or not Congaree should be designated as a Registered National Landmark. In March 1974, Dr. Batson wrote his recommendation stating, "In my opinion, the site appears to meet natural landmark criteria and I recommend that it be so designated." The recommendation was signed by the Acting Southeast Regional Director on April 2, 1974.<sup>158</sup>

It was then forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for consideration. Congaree Swamp was studied by the National Park Service for possible inclusion as a Registered National Natural Landmark under two different themes -- inland wetlands of the United States and Eastern deciduous forests (Oak-pine and southeastern evergreen forest regions). The Congaree was recommended under both theme studies as a potential Natural Landmark. Both studies also recommended further consideration as a unit of the National Park Service. On May 23, 1974, the recommendation that Congaree be designated as a National Natural Landmark was pending before the Secretary.<sup>159</sup>

Scientific research completed the 1970's fueled the fires for Congaree Swamp preservation and supported designation as a Registered National Natural Landmark. Thus, the scientific community made its presence felt in the movement towards establishment of the Congaree Swamp National Monument. In a

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<sup>158</sup>Wade T. Batson to the Secretary of the Interior through the Regional Director, recommendation for Registered Natural Landmark, March, 1974.

<sup>159</sup>NPS Acting Director Russell E. Dickenson to the Honorable Strom Thurmond, letter, May 23, 1974.

similar vein, management decisions were supported and justified based on scientific studies.

### Cultural Resources Research

Although the primary purpose for the establishment of the Congaree Swamp National Monument was to protect the old-growth riverbottom forest, the story of past and present human relationships must be addressed. After all, it was the result of a few men's decisions which allowed the area to exist uncut for over 80 years.

Cultural resources were first studied in "An Archeological Survey of Congaree Swamp: Cultural Resources Inventory and Assessment of a Bottomland Environment in Central South Carolina" by James L. Michie, July 1980.

This work reported the results of the cultural sites inventory of the floodplain, with an interim survey of upland areas. One of the conclusions was that the bottomland environment restricted human activity.

Researchers made an assessment and inventory of all the cultural artifacts found. Man-made cattle mounts and dikes were two of the features noted in Michie's report.

In his earlier Cultural Resources Study, Paul Manly reviewed and reported all the literature which related to the history of the area which would become Congaree Swamp National Monument, but he didn't find much material because there was little available.

In his report of July 1976, he stated that early man probably used the area for hunting and gathering food stuffs. He also wrote that there was no historic chronology that could be related to the Congaree area, but he did describe regional activities of early man. Prehistoric man probably took advantage of Congaree's freshwater mussels, fish, deer, bear, turkey, and other products such as nuts, berries, and edible plants.<sup>160</sup>

Manly wrote a chronological narrative, discussing the various time periods of prehistoric man, early settlement and the Revolutionary War period. He contended that until a cultural resources survey was conducted, the effects of acquisition and development on archeological and historical resources could not be assessed. Since cultural resources were known to exist in the area, he felt it would "...be necessary to assume their existence everywhere until demonstrated otherwise by qualified personnel." He continued, "Data derived from study of these resources may provide valuable insight into man's use of a unique environment over thousands of years."<sup>161</sup>

In support of cultural resources research, Park employees have routinely monitored cattle mounts, earthen dikes, Huger's road and bridge abutments, and locations of artifacts found within the boundaries of Congaree Swamp National Monument.

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<sup>160</sup>Paul Manly, "Proposed Congaree National Preserve, 'Cultural Resources Study,' Environmental Assessment of Boundary Alternatives, Literature Search," Department of the Interior, NPS, Denver Service Center, Denver, Colorado, July, 1976.

<sup>161</sup>Ibid.

### Flurry of Research, 1977-1985

Interest in conducting research projects on Congaree peaked in the late 1970's until the mid-1980's. Many research projects were completed and published during this time period.

Studies and documentation of record trees, birds, endangered and threatened species, pine beetles, hollies, air quality, cladocerans, benthic macroinvertebrates, reptiles and amphibians, hydrology, habitat types, and water quality all added to baseline data for the Monument.

Pivotal studies during this time included the 1979 Natural Resources Inventory by L. L. Gaddy and the Research Bibliography and Archeological Survey completed by faculty of the University of South Carolina.

The Natural Resources Inventory has been used as a major reference work by Park staff throughout the 1980's and into the 1990's. The Resource Management Plan currently being developed will address the need for further studies to complement this pioneering work.

The other document, A Research Bibliography of the Congaree Swamp National Monument Area, is an extensive work covering physiology, geology, seismology, soils and hydrology. It also addresses climatology, birds, mammals, and plants. Theses, books, and journal and newspaper articles which relate to the Congaree Swamp National Monument are included. Preliminary lists of vascular plants, birds, mammals, climatological data, and soil surveys are appended. It also recommends future research which

needs to be done.<sup>162</sup> This document will remain useful for Park management decision-makers.

Three more research projects were completed, including a water quality study and a benthic macroinvertebrate study in 1984 and a hydrology study in 1985.

### Resource Management

The scientific research completed in the early 1970's led to practical applications, first as support for preservation, then to justify Congaree's first formal designation as a Registered National Natural Landmark in 1974. The scientific community made its presence felt in the move towards establishment.

Ranger Guy F. Taylor was assigned as the Law Enforcement Specialist and Resource Management Specialist in April of 1978. One of his first resource management projects involved a landowner of a tract adjacent to the Monument. Mr. Frank Barron, Richland County Coroner, dug a trench and laid a drainage pipe onto Park land which drained into Cedar Creek. Superintendent McDaniel brought the matter to the attention of the United States District Attorney's Office. Warnings were issued to Mr. Barron but nothing was done to remove the drainage ditch.

Mr. Barron wrote letters to Congressman Spence and National Park Director William J. Whalen. Superintendent McDaniel responded

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<sup>162</sup> Steven N. Handel and others, "Research Bibliography of the Congaree Swamp National Monument Area," prepared under contract for the Department of the Interior, NPS, Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia, by the faculty of the University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C., May 1979.

to Mr. Barron's letters: "Considerable controversy developed over this matter after Mr. Barron brought the issue to the attention of Congressman Spence and Senators Hollings and Thurmond. The U.S. Attorney's Office is preparing to bring this matter to court."<sup>163</sup>

Superintendent McDaniel, Mr. Barron, and the U.S. Attorney met to try to settle the issue before going to court. In August 1979, a meeting was arranged to negotiate a solution to the drainage problem. Another meeting was held later. By the time the meetings ended, representatives from the U.S. Soil Service, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Assistant Solicitor, civil engineers, County Sanitation Officer, biologists from Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Congressional delegation, and staff from the University of North Carolina were involved. According to Superintendent McDaniel, "All were instrumental in resolving the need for any future action in the case."<sup>164</sup>

The drainage pipe stayed in place with no further development through the mid-1980's. Ranger Taylor monitored the drainage ditch until his retirement in 1989. At one point, he poured concrete down into the drainage pipe to prevent drainage into Cedar Creek.

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<sup>163</sup>Congaree Swamp National Monument Superintendent Robert S. McDaniel to NPS Regional Director Joe Brown, memorandum, July 23, 1979.

<sup>164</sup>Superintendent McDaniel to NPS Southeast Regional Director, memorandum, 1979.

As the decade progressed, so did Ranger Taylor's experience and interest in the Park maintenance operation. By 1988 he had become the unofficial Chief of Maintenance.

Chip Davis was assigned to the Park in October of 1983 as a Resource Management Trainee. One of his key projects was the planning, organization and implementation of a Fire Management Program for the red-cockaded woodpecker site located in the Park. He transferred to Cumberland Island National Seashore in December of 1985.

Superintendent McDaniel wrote in his 1985 Annual Report, "The transfer of Davis will leave a void in our resource management program since the current staff will not have the time to devote to this important phase of operations. Park funding base will not allow for recruitment of another person to fill this important position."<sup>165</sup>

Resource management duties continued to be shared as collateral duties among the remaining staff. Three projects were underway in 1988. These included a water quality study of the major creeks, an investigation of human and animal impacts on plants, and a study of the relationship between vegetation patterns and flooding.<sup>166</sup>

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<sup>165</sup>Superintendent McDaniel's Annual Report for 1985 to the NPS Southeast Regional Director, January 30, 1986.

<sup>166</sup>NPS Annual Science Report, 1988 Inventory of Research Activities in the National Parks, Annual Science Report NPS/NR/ASR-89/01, the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D. C.

In September of 1989, the Park gained a full-time Resource Management Specialist when Ranger Richard A. Clark reported on duty. Since then, there has been another surge of resource management projects, with ten new research proposals and funding requests of over \$250,000 for 1990. As of March 1990, five research projects were underway.

### Summary

Changes in the position of Resource Management Specialist at the Congaree Swamp National Monument have reflected changes in overall National Park Service policy. In the 1980's, resource management took on a role of increasing importance Service-wide.

At Congaree Swamp, Ranger Taylor was assigned the dual role of Law Enforcement Specialist and Resource Management Specialist. Ranger Davis was a Resource Management Specialist Trainee assigned to the Park for two years and was supervised by Ranger Taylor.

Ranger Taylor's duties expanded until he was involved in maintenance operations nearly ninety percent of the time. Thus, resource management functions increasingly became a collateral duty. Interpretive and law enforcement staff assumed more of the collateral resource management duties.

Throughout the 1980's, resource management at Congaree Swamp was often carried out through collateral duties. The result was a rather disjointed program until 1989, when increased focus was put on resource management and Rick Clark was assigned Resource Management Specialist. With the advent of a Resource Management

Specialist, the program seems to have more continuity. Hopefully, this continuity will continue throughout the 1990's.

CHAPTER VI  
IMPORTANT MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Impacts of Local Interest Groups

From the early 1950's until now, the Congaree Swamp has been impacted by local interest groups. These groups sometimes supported and sometimes opposed Park establishment and management.

During the battle to establish the area, local interest groups such as the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, Environmental Coalition, National Organization for Women, and South Carolina Wildlife Federation, supported establishment. Also, local groups were specifically created for the purpose of establishing a Congaree Swamp National Monument. These included the Beidler Forest Preserve Association, begun in 1961 by Harry R. E. Hampton, and the Congaree Swamp National Preserve Association, begun in the early 1970's by James "Jim" V. Elder.

The Beidler Forest Preserve Association faded out by the end of the 1960's. The Congaree Swamp National Preserve Association and the Environmental Coalition ended after their goal of establishing the Congaree Swamp National Monument had been achieved.

Local groups opposed to establishment of the Monument were the Forestry Study Committee of South Carolina, Foresters Council of South Carolina, and the local chapter of the Association of American Foresters.

In the decade of the 1980's, the local Sierra Club had the greatest impact on important management concerns. Sierra Club leaders, most notably Richard Watkins, have not always agreed with National Park Service management policies. For example, leaders of the Sierra Club lobbied the Congressional delegation for a seven thousand-acre expansion of Park boundaries, while National Park Service managers had requested little more than two thousand acres.

Another example is that Sierra Club leaders recently lobbied for different priorities in acquiring additional lands for Park expansion. The Sierra Club wants the Service to purchase Georgia Pacific property first, which contradicts the direction set forth in the Park's Land Protection Plan.

In spite of the disagreement, the mutual goal of both the Sierra Club and the National Park Service is to spend the allocated funds for purchasing new lands as soon as possible.

#### Development of Support Facilities

A variety of structures were left after the Cedar Creek Hunt Club moved out of the area in 1983. The old Hunt Club lodge still stands on stilts a mile from the bluff line. The lodge was repainted and the roof repaired. The building has been used as a storage area since then. No definite plans have been made as to the use of the structure, although several alternatives have been proposed. The alternatives proposed are to use it as an environmental education center, an office, a theater for

audiovisual programs, a research lab, a conference center, and a storage area.

A patrol cabin was repaired and upgraded on a small scale during the 1980's. It has been used by law enforcement staff and researchers. It will continue to be used, minimally.

In addition to upgrading structures which were already on-site, the National Park Service developed new facilities in the 1980s. The Weston Lake Loop Trail, a three-mile loop, was the first trail cleared and was completed in 1982. In 1983 and 1984, volunteers, Jobs Bill workers, Youth Conservation Corps members and Park employees built a 3,600-foot boardwalk from the bluff parking lot to Weston Lake.

By the end of 1985 over twenty miles of trails had been cut, cleared, and marked, and footbridges had been added where needed.

The ranger station, built in 1985, was used as ranger offices, rest rooms, and a visitor contact point. In 1988, an addition was built onto the ranger station. The building is now used as the Park headquarters, as a visitor contact station, and as an Eastern National Park and Monument Association sales outlet.

Handicapped-accessible public rest rooms were added behind the ranger station. Also, the boardwalk was made accessible to persons in wheel chairs.

In the late 1980's, Ranger Guy Taylor and maintenance staff constructed a barn, sheds, and a maintenance yard. The area is used for storage, maintenance functions, and vehicle and boat parking.

### Archeological & Historical Finds

Artifacts have been found in the field and brought into the office without the aid of professional archaeologists. Items were accessioned and were ready to be catalogued, but were held for inspection by the Regional Chief Curator, Dale Durham. Mr. Durham suggested we remove the museum objects from the formal cataloguing process and put them into a user collection. A foot adz is the only artifact in the permanent collection.

Lack of an appropriate storage area has been the primary factor in not building a larger permanent collection. This has been documented in annual museum reports.

Several historic structures have been documented. Ranger Taylor located cultural sites, such as Cooner's mound, the Adams' earthen dikes, irrigation structures, and Huger's road and bridge abutments, within the Park. These sites were reported in the literature by Dr. Mitchie.

### Land Additions

The National Park Service is currently in the process of acquiring additional acreage for Congaree Swamp National Monument. Within the next several years, all of the lands which were documented in the Citizens Boundary Proposal should be added. Superintendent McDaniel has made it his highest priority to successfully accomplish this project.

### Major Personnel Changes

The first person actually on site was Dan Gould. He arrived in 1976 and began the search for office space. He then left the National Park Service and Ranger Guy F. Taylor took his place in 1977.

Ranger Taylor introduced himself to Park neighbors, thus beginning a successful public relations effort. Ranger Taylor gradually increased his responsibilities until his retirement in 1989. He began as a field ranger and resource manager, and then became involved in the maintenance program. He wore three hats: Resource Management Specialist, law enforcement officer, and maintenance manager.

As stated previously, Superintendent Robert S. McDaniel started the first planning effort and has continued as the Park's first and only Superintendent.

Fran Rametta was hired as the Park Naturalist in 1980 and has continued in that position until the present.

Chip Davis, Duncan Hutchinson, Bill Jackson, and Paul Stevens briefly worked at the Park. In maintenance, Booker T. Sims and Eugene McCrea worked for several years until McCrea was promoted to a position in Washington, D.C.

Four seasonal rangers were hired to assist Duncan Hutchinson during the first hunting season after the Cedar Creek Hunt Club lease expired in 1983.

In the mid-1980's, Joyce Watts replaced Jean Hembree as the Administrative Officer, and James "Jim" Watkins was hired as the Law Enforcement Specialist.

The most recent additions to the staff are Kathryn Brett in law enforcement and interpretation, and Resource Management Specialist Rick Clark.

Many others have worked with Park staff as members of the Youth Conservation Corps in 1982 and 1983, as volunteers, as temporary maintenance help, and as office assistants.

CHAPTER VI  
FOR PUBLIC USE, OUTDOOR RECREATION, AND ENJOYMENT

The first sentence of the authorizing legislation for Congaree Swamp National Monument reads, "Be it enacted...that in order to preserve and protect for the education, inspiration, and enjoyment of present and future generations...there is hereby established the Congaree Swamp National Monument."

One of the first projects in the new Monument was a focus on public relations, information, and interpretive services.

Superintendent McDaniel's welcome to the new Park included a meeting with National Park Service Public Affairs Officer Jim Ryan. A press conference was held with local news media reporters, community leaders, and staff from other Government agencies. This was the beginning of a public relations program which has continued to the present. In 1978, a play entitled "Swamp" was produced in cooperation with Park staff, the South Carolina Arts Commission, and a company called Stage South. The play was presented to school children throughout the South.

Through the 1980's, an influx of writers, photographers, and reporters has increased public awareness of the Congaree Swamp and its programs.

Some of the key products of this media program were articles about the swamp published in Southern Living, South Carolina Business, Charlotte Observer, Boston Globe, South Carolina Wildlife, and Atlanta Constitution.

Other public relations projects included staff interviews by reporters for the National Geographic Society, and the subsequent publication of America's Wild Woodlands. Two South Carolina Educational Television tapes were produced about the swamp by Rudy Mancke for his Nature Scene series - "Land of the Giants" and "Congaree Part II."

WTBS of Atlanta filmed scenes in the Monument for the program "Spirit of America." Other films produced in the 1980's include a wedding on the boardwalk at Weston Lake, newscasts of Park floods on WIS-TV 10 in Columbia, PM Magazine coverage, and films by the University of South Carolina School of Journalism.

The most notable publicity in recent times occurred as a result of Hurricane Hugo, which struck on September 21-22, 1989. Television broadcasts and news stories, which included Congaree Swamp, covered this event.<sup>167</sup>

### Interpretive Services

The Park's first interpretive services began in 1978. Ranger Taylor presented guided nature walks and off-site slide programs to elementary and high school students.

Francis T. Rametta transferred into the Park Naturalist position on June 15, 1980, and gradually assumed the public relations duties at the Park.

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<sup>167</sup>Notes from weekly reports and Superintendent's Annual Reports, 1978-1989.

Public walks and guided canoe tours were planned and begun in early 1982. A special program, the Harry Hampton Memorial Walk, was started in November of 1981. This program is presented annually in commemoration of the late Harry R. E. Hampton's involvement in the Park preservation movement.

Information brochures were prepared and distributed to the public.

"Wildflower Pilgrimage," a statewide program coordinated by the National Park Service and the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, began in 1981.

Interpretive programs were first advertised in local media in 1982.

A volunteer program began in 1982. Three volunteers assisted Park staff in guided programs and in accumulating slides and photographs. The first volunteer groups were recruited for clearing canoe trails and for litter removal.

Annual updates for the Statement for Interpretation were written and the first Monthly Public Use Reports were begun in the mid-1980's. Three miles of hiking trails were cleared and accompanying footbridges were built to accommodate visitors.

By 1984, interpretive services expanded with increasing numbers of guided walks, environmental education programs, and off-site programs presented in spring and fall.

In 1985, Superintendent McDaniel wrote in his Annual Report, "We are able to provide better service for visitors with new...trails that were built in 1985 and also new locally-produced

handout materials." New signing and bulletin boards were installed.

New programs included a Christmas program, guided night walks called "Owl Prowls," and other special programs in conjunction with the annual celebration of American Rivers Month in June.

By the end of 1985, thirty-eight volunteers had participated in information desk duties, and clean-up and maintenance of trails. On several occasions in 1986, the daily visitor count tallied more than three hundred people.

In 1988, an Eastern National Park & Monument Association sales outlet was installed in the Ranger Station.

The hunting lease held by the Cedar Creek Hunt Club restricted activities in the Monument until January 1, 1983. Until then, ranger-led guided walks and canoe tours had to be coordinated with the Cedar Creek Hunt Club members in advance, especially during hunting season, so that shooting accidents could be avoided.

Currently, Park visitors participate in activities which are compatible with the natural resources, i.e., hiking, fishing, bird watching, canoeing, and primitive camping.

Primitive camping by permit only began in 1984 when a group campsite was established in a clearing next to the Bluff Trail. This is the only area where campfires are allowed. Combination canoe and camping trips have been popular along Cedar Creek.

Three primary interpretive themes were suggested in the Area Proposal of 1963:

1. The riverbottom forest community associated with the floodplain, with visible former river courses reflected in topography and vegetative patterns

2. The remarkable sizes of the trees, including a number of national and state champions

3. The swamp ecology of the bottomland hardwoods, with relatively unspoiled flora and fauna.

Plans and proposals for self-guided nature trails and wayside exhibits have been programmed for 1990 and 1991.

In accordance with the authorizing legislation and the wilderness legislation, the type of visitor experience which will be encouraged is that of quiet contemplation, solitude, and appreciation and study.

Future plans include a visitor center which will provide space for visitor contacts and interpretive exhibits and displays. It will also provide a central contact point for giving information and communicating rules and regulations.<sup>168</sup>

### Camping

In the early 1980's, camping was allowed on a limited basis. University groups often camped with permission from the Superintendent and the Cedar Creek Hunt Club.

As camping requests became more frequent over the years, a permit system was instigated. Campers are required to have a

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<sup>168</sup>General Management Plan, Congaree Swamp National Monument, December 1988, National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, Department of the Interior.

permit before an overnight stay, and they are subject to regulations as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations and in the Superintendent's Compendium. Camping is available only under primitive conditions with no facilities.

### Fishing

In the early 1980's, fishing was allowed only with permission from Marion Burnside, President of the Cedar Creek Hunt Club. Since the Park was opened to the public in 1983, fishing has been allowed under South Carolina state regulations and with a South Carolina fishing license. Numbers of fishermen have increased, resulting in a greater impact on the Park's resources. One of the problems created by fishermen is littering.

Several solutions to this problem have been suggested, including putting up anti-litter signs, upgrading visitor desk contacts to make fishermen aware of littering, and to prohibit fishing altogether.

### Boating

Boating was restricted to Hunt Club members and friends up until 1983. At that time Superintendent McDaniel determined that motorboats would be banned from all Park waters. Currently only non-motorized boats or boats with electric trolling motors are allowed on Park waters. This policy will continue as long as it is feasible.

### Law Enforcement

Ranger Taylor worked for several years as the sole commissioned law enforcement officer for the Park. His philosophy was a "soft-peddle" approach to wrongdoers. He gave them the benefit of the doubt. He believed that with "honey" was the best way to fight fire. Other rangers who have worked with Taylor say that "he had the charm and intelligence to talk a man out of his rifle without ever drawing his own weapon." Ranger Taylor's "southern gentleman" hospitality made a distinct impression on the Hunt Club members who were about to lose their Hunt Club to the Federal Government. This low-key attitude towards law enforcement is admired by the staff and other rangers who know him.

As testimony to his "perservationist" mind-set there are numerous cables strewn along the fringes of the Monument to keep out vehicles, all put up by Taylor. Also, foot bridges were purposely made narrow to discourage use by any type of motorized vehicles. Taylor was dependable and always got the job done. Some of the current park staff wanted to honor him by naming a small creek after him and call it "Taylor's Gut."