

## Farewell to Tracy Swartout - SERCO Board Member/Congaree National Park Superintendent

Tracy Swartout has been named Deputy Superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park. She began her new assignment September 2, 2012. As Deputy Superintendent, Swartout will provide management oversight and guidance for the day-to-day operations of the park. "I am thrilled to be selected to serve at Mount Rainier, which protects a wealth of natural and cultural resources and provides visitors a place to seek both recreation and renewal. It is an inspiring landscape, offering visitors diverse opportunities to develop connections with the forces of nature that dominate the park's physical environment" said Swartout. Former Superintendent at Congaree National Park in South Carolina, Swartout is a 12 year NPS veteran, who began her career in the NPS Washington office, leading the Business Management Group (BMG) within the office of the Comptroller. After six years traveling to all seven NPS regions to support park management, she left to join the team at Congaree. During her six years at Congaree, Swartout worked with park partners, environmental groups, and developers to provide greater protections for the area's natural and cultural resources while encouraging the community to get involved in the park. She promoted heritage tourism and oral history work through the Southeast Rural Community Outreach organization, initiated the park's first living history program, Congaree Campfire Chronicles, and spearheaded the first focus groups addressing African American non-visitors in the NPS. Swartout also oversaw more than 1,800 acres of land acquisition, an active Research and Education Center, and an accomplished Exotic Plant Management Team, serving more than a dozen parks in the Southeast. In addition, she renewed the park's law enforcement program, which had been dormant for several years. Prior to the NPS, Swartout worked for the National Parks Conservation Association, stationed at Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. "I am excited by the opportunity to serve as the new Deputy Superintendent for Mount Rainier National Park and am honored to join the talented team already in place at the park," Swartout said. "Tom and I are looking forward to becoming a part of the Rainier family, and our son is looking forward to seeing snow once again." Swartout and her husband Tom, an environmental engineer who specializes in water and wastewater systems, will relocate to Mount Rainier with their two children, Grayson and Sierra. The family enjoys outdoor recreation, music, cooking and the arts.



Traci Swartout, husband Tom, and children, Grayson and Sierra. Plaque presented by SERCO at Harriet Barber House farewell event.



*-Extract Mount Rainier National Park News Release*

## 3rd Annual Kingville Festival & Reunion



The 3rd Annual Kingville Festival & Reunion was held on September 14 & 15, 2012, and was presented by the Kingville Historical Foundation. On Friday night, the two day event began with "Dancing Under The Stars." On Saturday, activities included several entertainment groups, kids activities, historical tours, and a talent show. Kingville was once the "king" of the railroad line between Charleston and Columbia during the 1800's. The Festival was sponsored by Kingville Historical Foundation and is a tourism event made possible by a grant from Richland County Hospitality Tax Fund. For further info, please see: [www.kingvillehistoricalfoundation.org](http://www.kingvillehistoricalfoundation.org) or telephone: (803)920-4983.



## Cemetery Research & Preservation Planning Project

### CHICORA FOUNDATION DOCUMENTS EARLY REESE FAMILY BURYING GROUND Neal Ecological Science Educational Center and Heritage Preserve



Reese Descendents (L/R: Wendell Epps; Lt. Gen. E.G. "Buck" Shuler, (USAF, Ret.); Keith Rose Jr., Gen. Shuler's grandson; Col. E.G. "Buck" Shuler III; Martha Dinkins Thompson; Evelyn Harrell Moore; Barbara Thompson) pictured with Rev. Dr. Albert Aiken Neal and J.P. Neal, Jr.



Figure 16. Broken stone for Mary H. Reese that requires conservation treatment.



Atty. Ted Hopkins



Marie B. Adams and  
Carrie B. White



Dr. Mike Trinkley  
Chicora Foundation



Dr. Clarence Hill  
Council of Village Elders



Chair Kelvin Washington,  
County Council – Distr. 10



Rev. John Middleton  
Local Genealogist



Through a grant awarded by the Richland County Conservation Commission, the Council of Village Elders, Inc. and the Chicora Foundation conducted research and site surveillance to document a cemetery site off Cabin Branch Road, Hopkins. Archaic rectangular stones were discovered in a circular area surrounded by a trench on privately owned property which has already been set aside as an ecological preserve. The conservation grant project was coordinated by Marie Barber Adams, and the grant application was written by Deborah Scott Brooks. The "Elders" have already erected walking trails on the preserve, and have developed a curriculum-based program for outdoor classroom studies. The Council of Village Elders and local historians/consultants hope to develop and carry out long-term preservation plans based on recommendations of Chicora's Director Dr. Michael Trinkley (and staff).



**SERCO**Lower Richland  
Clean & Green

# South East Rural Community Outreach

P.O. Box 332 ~ Hopkins, SC 29061 ~ [www.serco-sc.org](http://www.serco-sc.org) ~ 803/788-7185 ~ Non Profit*"Preserving History and Enriching Communities of the Lower Richland Corridor"*

Summer 2012 Issue ~ Page 7

## Lower Richland Heritage Corridor Visitor's Guide – 2nd Edition

SERCO has produced a second edition of their Lower Richland Heritage Corridor Visitor's Guide. The guide has been expanded; it now contains pictures and information for 46 historical sites. The guide also contains a larger fold-out map which provides a numbered legend. The guide has been placed in SC Welcome Centers throughout the state, local libraries, and also distributed to other preservation/conservation and tourist related organizations. The publication was made possible with funds from the Local Hospitality Tax Revenue Fund and Richland County Council.



## Historic Harriet Barber House Hosts Lower Richland Master Plan Team



(L/R) Doug Quackenbush, Harry Miley, Deb Ryan, Cleve Walker, Kate Pearce, LaToya Grate, Meg Nealon, Tracy Hegler, David Castle, Holland Leger, and Marie Adams. (Not pictured: Jake Petrosky, Team Member)

The picture shows the team working on the Lower Richland Master Plan. The plan is sponsored by Richland County Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP is part of the Planning Department) and is being done with collaboration from residents and property owners. The goal of the master plan is to create a document that highlights the area's positive features and recommends ways to keep the assets, and incorporate desired enhancements. Individuals from the Planning Department, lead consultant LandDesign, and other project team members are included in the picture. Planning area property owners and residents will be invited to attend soon to be announced public meetings. Meeting dates/times notices will be posted in the community. (Photo-Info: LaToya Grate, Richland County Comprehensive Planner – Contact: 803 576-2162 or [GrateL@RCGov.us](mailto:GrateL@RCGov.us))

## New SERCO Calendar of Events for 2012-2013

**Now Available!!!**

Handy guide for all major events in the Lower Richland Community.

Promotion made possible with funding from Richland County Hospitality Tax Grant.

## ...from Friends of Congaree Swamp Newsletter



### Annual meeting slated Oct. 28

*Friends of Congaree Swamp will hold its annual meeting and oyster roast Sunday, Oct. 28, on the spacious grounds of the historic Harriet Barber House in Hopkins.*

*The event will be preceded by tours of recently protected local natural and cultural sites. Robert Barber of Bowen's Island will again provide South Carolina oysters and Friends members will provide chili, roast chicken, vegetarian selections, beverages and desserts.*

*Look for registration materials soon.*

**SERCO**Lower Richland  
Clean & Green**South East Rural Community Outreach**P.O. Box 332 ~ Hopkins, SC 29061 ~ [www.serco-sc.org](http://www.serco-sc.org) ~ 803/788-7185 ~ Non Profit**"Preserving History and Enriching Communities of the Lower Richland Corridor"**

Summer 2012 Issue ~ Page 8

**6th Annual Holiday Taste & Tour - Lower Richland Heritage Corridor****Tour Norfolk-Southern Railway Museum Exhibit Car**

SERCO invites all to spend "An Old Fashion Christmas" in the Historic Village of Hopkins, SC

6th Annual Lower Richland Heritage Corridor

# Holiday Taste & Tour

Special Feature!  
**FREE**



**Exit** **Entrance**

**NS**  
NORFOLK SOUTHERN

The historic Hopkins Village is a stop on the Exhibit Car's 30th Anniversary Tour! The restored 1926 Pullman passenger car was converted to a mobile museum in 1971.

**Saturday - December 1, 2012 ~ 12 Noon**  
214 Hopkins Road @ Lower Richland Boulevard

On-site Museum Excursion of Lower Richland Historic Sites ~ Entertainment: Fort Jackson Army Band and local talent  
FREE food samplings and Farmers/Flea Market ~ Vendors: Oyster Roast and a variety of food, crafts and gifts

Further Info: (864) 205-0767 ~ Sponsored by SERCO & Richland County Hospitality Tax Revenue Fund

SERCO's 6th Annual Holiday Taste & Tour promises to bring a unique special feature, and a most memorable "Old Fashion Christmas" to the Historic Village of Hopkins on Saturday, December 1st, 1:00 Noon ~ 4:00 P.M. Norfolk-Southern Railway has scheduled the Village of Hopkins to be one of only 15 stops on their Exhibit Car's 30th Anniversary tour! The Exhibit Car is a restored 1926 Pullman passenger car that was converted to a mobile museum in 1971. The FREE tours through the train will offer display models of locomotives, historical information, flat-screen monitor images, an interactive challenge game, photo booth, locomotive simulator, and much more.

The railroad system is intertwined with the heritage of the "Village of Hopkins." History tells us that this was once a bustling location, originally named "Hopkins Turnout" between 1836 and 1842, when the South Carolina Railroad completed a turntable there. The Village of Hopkins is located at 214 Hopkins Road, at Lower Richland Boulevard, only 11 miles from Columbia.

Additionally, SERCO presents an On-site Museum Excursion comprised of vintage photo collections, models, artifacts, etc. of historical sites that exist throughout Lower Richland and guided by local historians. Entertainment includes a variety of local talent, FREE food samplings, Farmers/Flea Market, vendors for an Oyster Roast, and assorted food items, crafts and gifts for sale. There will be rides for children as well. FREE parking will be available with shuttles from overflow parking lots near the event site.

For further information, contact Frederick Middlebrooks – (864) 205-0767 or [fmiddlebrooks@gmail.com](mailto:fmiddlebrooks@gmail.com). This event is sponsored by SERCO and made possible by a Richland County Hospitality Tax Grant.

