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South East Rural Community Outreach

Lower Richland
Clean & Green

P.O. Box 332 ~ Hopkins, SC 29061 ~ www.serco-sc.org ~ 803/788-7185 ~ Non Profit

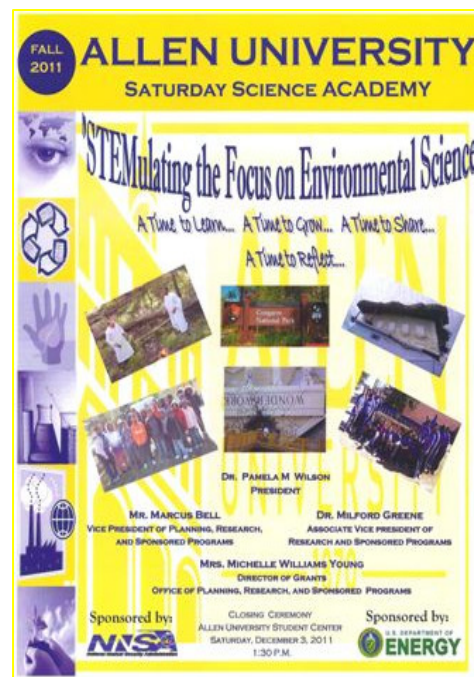
"Preserving History and Enriching Communities of the Lower Richland Corridor"

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Alcorn/Allen University Saturday STEM Academy Visits Historic Harriet Barber House



"STEM" is an acronym for the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Program in which public school students are afforded an opportunity to expand their knowledge about math, environmental science, and 21st century technology. STEM Coordinator Tamikah Battle explained that science, technology, engineering and mathematics are the building blocks of the future. This unique program is designed to assist in meeting the needs of our eager learners by providing opportunities for them to participate in project-based learning opportunities and hands-on training that Allen University provides for students and teachers. The 5th and 6th grade students in the program were accompanied by program assistants Mrs. Sarah Walker and academy instructors: Mrs. Calvernetta Brown, Dr. Latrice Love, Ms. Desiree Smith and Mr. Sherman Sumter. They toured the Harriet Barber House before visiting the Congaree National Park and the Campfire Chronicles.



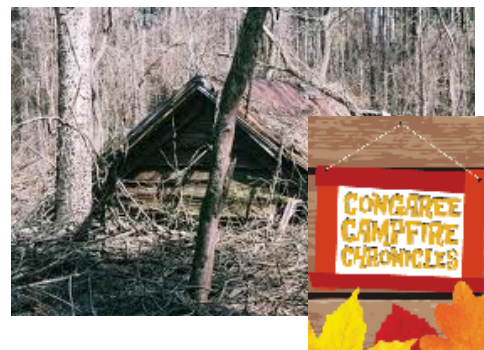
Congaree National Park - 35th Anniversary Celebration



The 35th anniversary of **Congaree National Park** being a national park unit was celebrated on November 5, 2011. The public joined the staff of South Carolina's only national park at the **Harry Hampton Visitor Center** for cake and for a showing of ETV's documentary about the creation of the park, "Roots in the River." Youth visitors were also given the opportunity to complete the Congaree National Park Junior Ranger program during the celebration.

following . . .

The 3rd annual Congaree Campfire Chronicles was also held on Saturday, November 5, 2011 at Congaree National Park. Park rangers guided visitors on a living history walk, exploring stories of the past in the Congaree floodplain over the past 500 years. Costumed interpreters depicted the relationship between people and the land that is now the park in a series of scenes along the park's boardwalk. The 90 minute tours ended with a campfire, marshmallows, and socializing with park volunteers and staff.



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Dec. 12, 2011



Bus Tour – Off to Historical Sites in
Lower Richland Heritage Corridor



"The Old Hearth" - LR Heritage Museum
Historic Village of Hopkins



Christmas Tree - Craft Winner
Rachel Simpson (Beads & Safety Pins)



Historic
Harriet Barber House
Hopkins, SC



Kensington Mansion
Eastover, SC



Red Hill Baptist Church - Organized 1868 - Gadsden, SC

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Hopkins High School Alumni Foundation Banquet

The Hopkins High School Alumni Foundation Banquet was held September 17, 2011 at the Hopkins Middle School Cafeteria in Hopkins. The event began at 6:00 PM and the speaker for the occasion was a 1974 graduate of Lower Richland High School, Attorney Geraldine Sumter of Charlotte, NC. Her formal education in the schools of Lower Richland and her first experience with former Attorney Matthew J. Perry to challenge the school board in 1970 helped prepare her for a distinguished career in law. Attorney Sumter is currently a managing partner of Ferguson Stein Chambers Gresham & Sumter in Charlotte. She is regarded as one of the top civil rights attorneys in the nation. The Hopkins High School Alumni Foundation, organized in 1994, has a very proud history of awarding over 115 scholarships from 1995 through 2010. A small group of alumni has been working diligently for over 16 years to provide financial support for the youth in our community as they pursue their goals in college. Kenneth L. Corbin serves as president and Marie Barber Adams serves as program committee chair.



L/R: Attorney Geraldine Sumter and Hopkins High School Alumni Foundation President, Kenneth L. Corbin



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Eastover Library Groundbreaking December 7, 2011

The expansion of the Eastover Branch of the Richland County Public Library will feature an additional 2400 square feet when completed in October of 2012. The project was made possible with a USDA grant and matching funds from Richland County totaling 1.6 million dollars. Remarkably, it will become the first LEED certified county owned municipal building.



Eastover librarian Dr. Dee Robinson (center) welcomes guests to the groundbreaking ceremony.



Pictured right to left: Melanie Huggins, RCPL Executive Director, Jesse Risher, USDA representative, Kirby Shealy, RCPL Board Chair, Lee Faber, Eastover Mayor, Kelvin Washington, Richland County Council, and John Baker, RCPL Board member.

(Photos: Marie Barber Adams)

Cemetery Research & Preservation Planning Project

Through a grant awarded by the Richland County Conservation Commission, the Council of Village Elders, Inc. and the Chicora Foundation are conducting 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 "Elders" have already erected walking trails on the preserve, and have developed a curriculum-based program for outdoor classroom studies. Previous county conservationists examined the stones and area and determined this site to be an early graveyard. A meeting at the site was recently attended by Richland County Conservation Coordinator Nancy Stone-Collum, Chicora Foundation Director Dr. Michael Trinkley (and staff), Council of Village Elders Board Members Dr. Clarence Hill and J.P. Neal, Jr.. Chicora will soon conduct a preservation assessment to evaluate the cemetery, determining what issues the cemetery faces. The Council of Village Elders and local historians/consultants will develop and carry out long-term preservation plans based on Chicora's recommendations.

