

SERCO

South East Rural Community Outreach

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"

Lower Richland
Clean & Green

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STRONG THREADS

DANCING - SINGING - FOOD - MUSIC - ART - VENDORS - YOUTH GAMES

Empower your children with knowledge for their minds, body, and soul

This is a FREE EVENT

Saturday, March 16, 2013
from 12:00pm - 3:00pm
116 Barberville Loop
Lower Richland Boulevard
Hopkins, SC 29061

Awesome Youth Choir Showcase!

Don't miss the interactive workshops!

- Performance Techniques
- Music Writing
- Drumming
- African Dancing
- Genealogy

Reginal Skeeters
Vocalist - Songwriter
Motivational Speaker

ABATSU
African Drummers & Dancers

Historic Harriet Barber House Museum

Alternate rain location:
 St. John Baptist Church
 230 JW Neal Circle
 Hopkins, SC 29061
 Questions Contact - 803-250-5752
strongthreads@gmail.com

WWW.STRONGTHREADS.COM

Design by: (803) 347-5544

The sixth annual STRONG THREADS FESTIVAL takes place Saturday, March 16, 2013, 12 noon – 3:00pm, on the grounds of the historic Harriet Barber House in Hopkins, SC. STRONG THREADS, Inc. celebrates the heritage, history and culture of African-Americans with music, dancing, storytelling, visual and creative arts, and drama for audiences of all ages. **The rain location will be at St. John Baptist Church, 230 J.W. Neal Circle Hopkins SC 29061.**

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Strong Threads VI

BBQ, Blues & Jazz

10th Annual Congaree SwampFest

Friends of Congaree Annual Meeting

LR Veterans Day Expo

Welcome Tracy Stakely

Replica of Sam Barber Well

Holiday Taste and Tour

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

March 15: African American Heritage Commission Annual Meeting & Luncheon

March 16: Strong Threads VI

April 27: Sweet Potato Festival

May 3-4: Eastover Parade & Barbeque Festival

May 27: Annual Memorial Day & Heritage Celebration

June 8: Gadsden Family & Friends Day

August 3-7: Mosaic Richland County Summit

We Welcome News: Please send news and announcements to SERCO by U.S. mail ~ Attention D.S. Brooks, PO Box 332, Hopkins, SC 29061 or e-mail: sercoevents@gmail.com. SERCO reserves publishing rights. (Photographer, Ken B. James)



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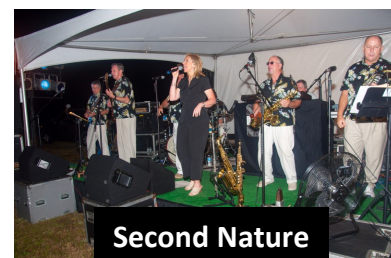
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The Congaree Swampfest celebrated 10 years of culture, food and fun in Lower Richland in two parts. On Friday evening, October 5, 2012, the weekend began with an Evening of BBQ, Blues & Jazz at the historic Harriet Barber House, 116 Barberville Loop and Lower Richland Boulevard. The host for the evening was "Still Bill" Alston of Beale Street on WLXC Kiss 103.1FM. The concert featured Katrina Garvin of Columbia, SC, Second Nature of Camden, SC, and Carlos Santan of Atlanta, GA - back by popular demand.

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The celebration continued on Saturday, October 6th, 11:00 AM at the Congaree National Park and the festival site on the yard of Old Mount Moriah. The host was Jeffrey Lampkin from WACH Fox 57. A wide array of artists (singers, dancers, instrumentalists, etc..) performed. Activities ran throughout the day, offering Free admission and a great opportunity for local and out-of-state visitors to experience the rich culture of the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor. Free shuttle buses transported visitors from the festival site to the national park. No matter the age or interest, there were activities for everyone! (Funded by Richland County Hospitality Tax Grant)



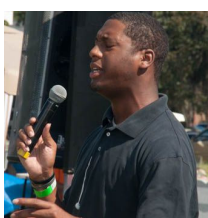
Park staff Sean Kelsey



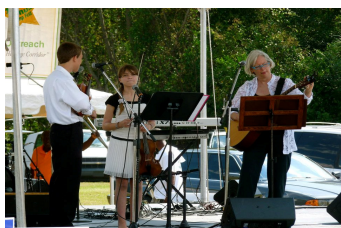
L/R: Teacher/Ranger Rod Taylor, Rice Creek Elem. & VIP (Volunteers in Park) Jim Boylston



Friends of Congaree Swamp



Jarod Smith, Vocalist



Fine Thymes String Band



Dr. Kaize Adams, Recording Artist



Daniel Davis, Violinist



Kiki Clark Sheard, Recording Artist



Lower Richland Veterans Formation



Lower Richland High School Majorettes



Lower Richland High School JROTC



Lower Richland High School Band



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Harriet Barber House Hosts Friends of Congaree Swamp Annual Meeting

Friends of Congaree Swamp met October 28, 2012, at the historic Harriet Barber House in Hopkins for its 2012 Annual Meeting. Friends members also toured nearby sites. Allen House led a tour of Wateree Baptist Retreat Center, a 44-acre tract along Cedar Creek. The center includes a trail through the Cedar Creek floodplain with views of the creek. Members also visited the Neal Ecological Research and Education Center and Nature Preserve, a 58-acre conservation easement, on the property of Rev. J.P. Neal Jr. Visitors also received a tour of the Reese Cemetery (recently documented by the Chicora Foundation), led by Rev. Neal and Dr. Clarence Hill of The Council of Village Elders. After the business meeting, members enjoyed an oyster roast on the Harriet Barber House grounds, catered by Robert Barber of Bowen's Island Restaurant. Also, Friends' member Andy Fiffick, prepared grilled chicken, and James Adams (spouse of Marie Barber Adams) surprised the group with one of his specialties, fish stew. (Photos: Friends of Congaree Swamp Newsletter, Fall 2012 – John Grego)



Allen House



Uninvited Emus from
Next Door Visit Harriet
Barber House



Friends' Carol Gist
Shucks Oysters



J.P. Neal &
Marie B. Adams

Lower Richland Veterans Day Expo



Military veterans and their families, friends and neighbors attended **Lower Richland Veterans Day Expo 2012** at Hopkins Park November 3, 2012. Guests enjoyed a free day of family fun, prizes, arts/crafts, food and merchandise vendors, and children's play area. Entertainment was provided by NuSOUND band, Phi Iota Dance Fraternity, Lower Richland High School JROTC, and featured national recording artist Keith "Wonderboy" Johnson. Information was available about employment opportunities, as well as social security and health benefits. Members of the Lower Richland Veterans Formation also answered questions for veterans and their families about veterans benefits, including respite care and educational benefits. The Lower Richland Veteran's Formation Chapter #2 was founded by Rev. Sammy L. Wade, Director, in 2002 and has been established to provide assistance to homeless veterans. Their goals also include aiding veterans and their spouses in applying for compensation benefits, assisting veterans in obtaining their identification cards and keeping veterans informed of current disability changes.

10th Annual

Congaree SwampFest Art Contest

Winners K-8



Prizes for winners sponsored by Friends of Congaree Swamp. Dr. John Grego, Board Chair.