

SERCO

# 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"*

## focus

LOWER RICHLAND

. LR Heritage Corridor Exploration & Promotion  
. Juneteenth Celebration

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Mt. Moriah's Senior Group Visits Harriet Barber House  
Jeremy Thomas and Laurelwood  
Larry Faulkenberry and Goodwill  
Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports, and Tourism  
Tours Lower Richland

### ~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

Sept. 12-14: Kingville Reunion  
Oct. 3: SwampFest Part I : BBQ, Blues & Jazz  
Oct. 4: SwampFest Part II: SwampFest at the Congaree  
Nov. 8: LR Veterans Parade & Celebration  
Dec. 6: Annual Holiday Taste & Tour  
Dec. 13: City of Eastover – Annual Christmas Parade



### BBQ, BLUES & JAZZ

Second Nature Band

Ann Nesby

Daniel Davis

Carlos Santan

Lenny Williams

**SwampFest at the Congaree**

FREE

Stage Entertainment

Kiddy Carnival

Exhibits

National Park Tours

Vendors

**SAVE THE DATES**

**12TH Annual**

**Barbeque, Blues & Jazz**

Carlos Santan-Ann Nesby-Second Nature-Lenny Williams-Daniel Davis

**SwampFest at the Congaree**

Lee Williams-Tom Cooleedge-More Entertainers TBA-Kiddy Carnival-Park Tours

**October 3RD**

**October 4TH**

**and more**

**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](mailto:sercoevents@gmail.com). SERCO reserves publishing rights. (Photos Eye Rose/Ken B. James), AC Jackson, M. Adams & DS Brooks.





## FOCUS LOWER RICHLAND LR Heritage Corridor Exploration & Promotion

### SERCO Appreciates Your Support - Thank You!



Strawberry Soda-First Juneteenth's Historic Drink



Farm-to-Table Feast  
Bacon-wrapped Quail



Take-away Seeds - Youth Education Field Day



Box Gardening Demonstration / Activity  
Youth Education Field Day



Wavering Place Plantation  
Farm-to-Table Feast



Composting Demonstration & Seedling Take-away  
Youth Education Field Day



**FOCUS: Lower Richland Heritage Corridor** presented the opportunity for guests to experience the richly diverse culture, heritage and natural beauty of the Lower Richland. Our June 2014 event was a unique 3-day **FREE** event promoting Lower Richland County, SC designed for tourists, as well as those with special interest and/or work related to historical preservation/conservation, tourism, eco-development and *agri*-education. The event venues were in rural settings, but only about 13 miles from Columbia, the capital city of South Carolina. Activities included: **6/19-Juneteenth Historic Reception** at the Harriet Barber House, a restored home originally owned by ex-slaves(1880's), and which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, **6/20-Guided Tours: Gems of the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor** (Congaree National Park, historic homes and plantations such as Goodwill, a rice plantation, etc.), **Farm-to-Table Feast** on the grounds of the majestic Wavering Place Plantation which dates back to 1850, and featuring locally grown/raised foods), and **6-21- Expo & Workshops** (held at the St. John Baptist Church Wellness Center). Genealogy discussions were led by Debbie Bloom, Walker Local History Room-RCPL, Chicora Foundation and other local historians. Renowned Artist Jonathan Green was our special guest. The event concluded with the **Youth Education Field Day** and **Lunch on Historic Grounds** at the Harriet Barber House. (Presented by SERCO through Richland County Hospitality Tax Grant & Supported by RC Conservation Commission.)





**FOCUS: Day 1**  
**06/19/2014**

## Juneteenth Historic Reception

The **Juneteenth Historic Reception**, held at the Harriet Barber House, was SERCO's first annual event honoring the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19<sup>th</sup> that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the once enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. Union Army General Granger walked out onto the balcony of Ashton Villa, a grand brick mansion, and read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3 which began most significantly with:

*"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."*



**Andrena Sumter**  
Mistress of Ceremony



**Remarks - David Adams**  
Treasurer, Richland County



**Nathaniel Shiver, Jr.**  
"General Order Number 3"



**Rev. Dr. John U. Kirkland**  
"The SERCO Moment"



**Brenda Miller**  
Original Dramatic Skit



**Nicole & Asleigh Wynn**  
Mt. Moriah Praise Dancers



**Horizon Band SC**



**Eternal Voices &  
Deacon Albert Brown**  
Jubilee Songs



**Jonathan Green - Art Display  
& Juneteenth History Slides**



**Juneteenth History Display**



**Columbia 63 Project**



**FOCUS: Day 2**  
**06/20/2014**

## Guided Tours ~ Lower Richland Heritage Corridor

### Tourists Depart from Historic Harriet Barber House



### Tours of Lower Richland Historical Sites, Churches & Cemeteries



Local Historian Rev. John Middleton –Tour Guide



St. John Episcopal Church Congaree



Red Hill Baptist Church



Cornerstone Memorial – Original Site  
New Light Beulah Baptist Church



Congaree Baptist Church



Government Cemetery  
St. John Resurrection Memorial Garden



Bellaire Plantation

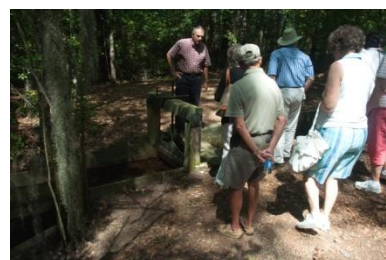




**FOCUS: Day 2**  
**06/20/2014**

**Guided Tour ~ Goodwill Plantation**

Larry Faulkenberry purchased Goodwill Plantation in 1995 with the intent of selling it for profit; however, he fell in love with its rich history and decided on keeping it instead. With each group of visitors, he talks about the history of Goodwill Plantation and his efforts to maintain the historical integrity of the property. What impresses you the most is how he cherishes the personal research done about the slaves who once inhabited the plantation and toiled in the rice fields and other areas of work throughout the 3,000+ acres. He welcomes the yearly pilgrimage to the property that has been established by the Goodwill Baptist Church. After he purchased this property, Larry Faulkenberry has "totally immersed himself in its history while restoring key elements of its historic character and opening the site for public tours." SERCO and the Lower Richland community thank him for providing tours during our FOCUS event, and we look forward to a long partnership with Goodwill and the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor.







**FOCUS: Day 2**  
**06/20/2014**

**Farm-to-Table Feast ~ Wavering Place Plantation**



The **Farm-to-Table Feast**, featuring local foods, was held on the grounds of the Wavering Place Plantation. The Greek Revival big house dates to 1850. The numerous outbuildings all date from 1790 and include the brick kitchen house, the double slave cabin, the smokehouse, the plantation office, and the barn. In 2013, Weston Adams III and Robert Adams VI acquired Wavering Place from their Uncle Julian, continuing Adams ownership dating back to 1768.

Guests dined on pulled BBQ pork, sautéed red & yellow peppers, corn-on-the-cob, salad greens /veggie varieties, cakes and breads prepared by Big T Catering. Adams' Catering also prepared chicken bog and quail breasts, which were donated by the local Manchester Farms company, and which were wrapped in bacon and grilled.







**FOCUS: Day 3**  
**06/21/2014**

Youth Education Field Day

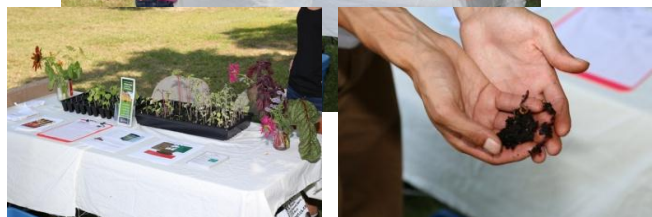
## Historic Harriet Barber House



**Building a Potato Bank**



**Square Foot Gardening**



**USC – Sustainable Carolina**  
**Take Away Plants & Digging for Worms!**



**Display: Inventions by African Americans**





**FOCUS: Day 3**  
**06/21/2014**

**. Youth Education Field Day**  
**. Workshop s & Expo**

## Youth - Congaree National Park



## Youth - Workshop & Expo



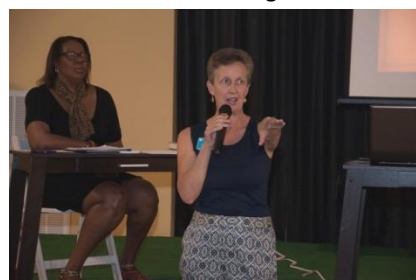
## Workshop & Expo



John Grego, Friends of Congaree Swamp



James B. Atkins Ph. D. — Speaker  
Conservation & Agriculture



Debbie Bloom, RC Public Library (Standing)  
Shiver Family Researcher- Rose Shiver







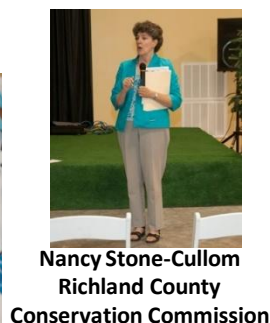
**FOCUS: Day 3**  
**06/21/2014**

**Workshops & Expo**



Renown Artist, Jonathan Green

The canvas art of Jonathan Green, Ph. D., automatically captures a viewer's eyes, and SERCO was privileged that he graciously loaned works for display during our 3-day *FOCUS:* event. However, his high level of social interest, cultural commitments, views on art education in schools, and his agriculture initiative, specifically the historic Carolina rice crop, engage an audience when he speaks. At the end of Green's presentation, the workshops closer paused and said, "I have nothing more to say."



Nancy Stone-Cullom  
Richland County  
Conservation Commission



Historic Columbia Foundation



Anetha Sumter Jackson (r)  
LR Sweet Potato Festival



Sampson Brown  
Golfing History



## FOCUS Wrap-up at the Harriet Barber House

*Something about a home's kitchen...*



Cousins J.P. Neal, D.S. Brooks & J. Green  
talk in the kitchen of the historic Harriet  
Barber House.



Guest Robert F. Triplett (Left) learned  
of event by reading Katie McElveen's  
"Go Columbia" -a weekly column in  
*The State* newspaper.



Carrie B. White, Jonathan Green (F),  
D.S. Brooks, Jean B. Grant, Marie B.  
Adams (Back L/R)

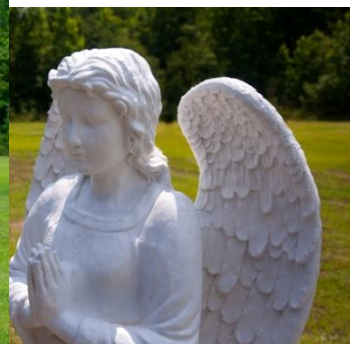




## Memorial Day ~ Monday, May 26, 2014

### ★ Memorial Commemoration / Heritage Celebration

The 9th annual event began at 12:00 Noon with a Memorial Day Commemoration at the St. John Resurrection Memorial Garden (also known as the Government Cemetery), on Ault Road. In a solemn ceremony, the SC Challenge Group & Lower Richland Veterans Formation performed a special tribute. The special guest speaker was Retired Col. Clarke McGriff, US Army. This ceremony was sponsored the J.P. Holley Funeral Home, the Lower Richland Veterans Formation, and SERCO.



**Retired Col. Clarke McGriff  
US Army**







## Memorial Day ~ Monday, May 26, 2014

### Memorial Commemoration / Heritage Celebration ★

Following the Memorial Day Commemoration/Solemn Ceremony at the St. John Resurrection Memorial Garden, there was a procession to the historic Harriet Barber House. There the Heritage Celebration continued with a family-oriented day of fun. Retired Col. McGriff brought greetings, and there was FREE entertainment by the Second Nature Band from Camden and others, a kiddy carnival, hay rides, and food/other vendors.







## 2014 Lower Richland Sweet Potato Festival

Saturday - April 26, 2014



## Mt. Moriah Seniors Group Visits Harriet Barber House

On, July 23, 2014, the Senior Ministry members of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Hopkins, SC,

(Photo shows Seniors Ministry members being accompanied by two Mt. Moriah youth chaperones).



Brenda Oree Miller  
Coordinator



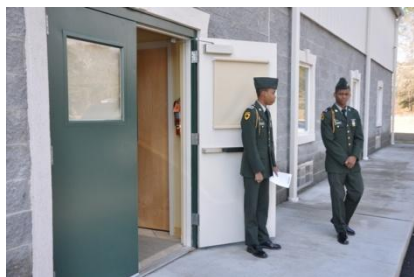




## STRONG THREADS

The sixth annual **STRONG THREADS FESTIVAL** took place on Saturday, February 15, 2014 at the St. John Holistic Wellness Center in Hopkins, SC. The consistently popular annual event presented the Abatsu African Drummers & Dancers, Audrey Smalls and her African American Inventors Exhibit, Lil People Theater of Greenville, SC's , artists, vendors, crafts, traditional games for children, and many more activities.

### Highlights ...







**Midlands Authority for Sports, Tourism and Conventions Visits Lower Richland Heritage Corridor  
SERCO Provides Guided Tour**



Goodwill Plantation owner Larry Faulkenberry (center) shares the history of Goodwill and his vision for the property.



Kelly Barbrey, VP of Sales and Marketing, brought her staff from the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports and Tourism to Lower Richland for a tour of the little known historical gems. The tour began at the historic Harriet Barber House where Marie Barber Adams met them and announced plans for the day. The first stop was the Goodwill Plantation where owner Larry Faulkenberry greeted them and shared the history of the property and his vision for tourism opportunities there. The tour included the Main House where Governor Duncan Clinch Heyward was born in 1864, two slave cabins, the Mill House with its 1760 cast iron water wheel and the blacksmith shop. The Goodwill Plantation has over 38 documented historic sites covering an area of approximately three thousand acres.

The group departed from Goodwill around noon to stop for lunch at the newly opened St. John Holistic Wellness Center where they enjoyed a special meal prepared by Chef Gene Adams. After finishing off some homemade peach cobbler topped with ice cream, the group traveled down Air Base Road to the historic Wavering Place Plantation. Shana Adams, one of the owners, met the group in the beautiful gardens before she took the special visitors on a tour of the main level of the Greek Revival mansion built in 1854.

The tour continued from there to St. John's Episcopal Church of Congaree, Red Hill Baptist Church and to the oldest Baptist Church in Richland County, Congaree Baptist Church. The group returned to the Harriet Barber House at the end of the tour to debrief. Future plans were discussed that included tours of Lower Richland historic sites offered through the Columbia Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau. Barbrey and her staff are looking forward to the second half of their tour in the early fall to visit additional historic sites in Hopkins, Gadsden and Eastover.

**Article/Photo: Marie B. Adams**

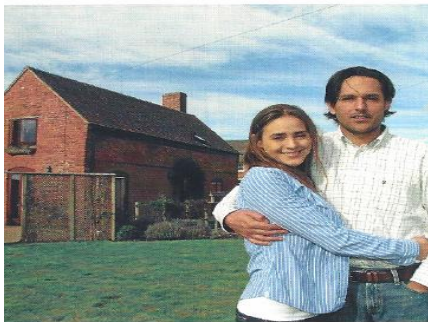




## Promoting The Lower Richland Heritage Corridor - SERCO & Laurelwood Plantation Owners Partner

New Lower Richland resident Jeremy Thomas (formerly of London, England) visited the Harriet Barber House on the final day of *FOCUS: Lower Richland*. Deborah Scott Brooks requested that he sign the visitor/guest book. Brooks learned that the guest was the new owner of the Laurelwood Plantation off Garners Ferry Road, and she quickly went on a mission to make sure that he was introduced to Marie Barber Adams, SERCO Board Director. The meeting was fruitful! Adams, working with her sisters, oversaw the restoration of the Harriet Barber House, which is now on the National Register of Historic Places. To say the least, an exchange began regarding historical restoration, preservation, conservation and promoting early homes and plantations as "gems" of the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor. The two agreed to exchange support and partner in these common interests. Thomas has been invited to attend the next SERCO board meeting, and hopefully, the second half of the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports and Tourism staff's tour in the early fall will include a visit to the Laurelwood Plantation.

Below are extractions- Tart, Shirley, "Laying Down New Roots," *SHROPSHIRE MAGAZINE*, April 2012. (Bottom right photo features Michael Bedenbaugh, Palmetto Trust Historic Preservation, Laurelwood Plantation owner Jeremy Thomas, and Joseph McGill from the Slave Cabin Dwelling Project)



## LAYING NEW ROOTS

WHAT MAKES A YOUNG COUPLE DECIDE TO SELL THEIR GRADE II LISTED HOME AND UP STICKS TO MAKE A NEW LIFE ON ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING PLANTATIONS IN SOUTH CAROLINA? SHIRLEY TART FINDS OUT

They have bought one of the few remaining plantations in South Carolina. Jackie says: "We were thinking of types of property but not with any great expectations of finding any of them. Then Jeremy said he wanted a plantation to renovate and I told him there weren't any left."

But there was one, built around 1830. Laurelwood Plantation, and its 33 acres set in a 150-acre forest was the only plantation in the area. And Jackie found it online just before Christmas 2010.





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**Join Us . . .** The mission of SERCO is to create partnerships within the Lower Richland Community to provide charitable, educational and scientific programs to strengthen and expand the capacity of the community for a better quality of life for its residents.

SERCO invites you to become a part of the outreach movement by supporting our Lower Richland Heritage Corridor events and programs throughout the year:

## **SOUTH EAST RURAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEMBERSHIP FORM**

### **INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES:**

**\$20 INDIVIDUAL    \$40 FAMILY    \$75 ADVOCATE    \$100 PARTNER    \$500 PATRON**

### **ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES & CORPORATIONS:**

**\$1,000 BENEFACTOR    \$2,000 CORPORATE SPONSOR**

### **SUBMIT INFORMATION:**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS :** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**HOME PHONE:** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**WORK PHONE:** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**FAX :** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed form and check to:**

**South East Rural Community Outreach  
Post Office Box 332  
Hopkins, SC 29061**

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