



**2022 Special Edition**

## South East Rural Community Outreach

P.O. Box 332 ~ Hopkins, SC 29061 ~ [www.serco-sc.org](http://www.serco-sc.org) ~ [sercoevents@gmail.com](mailto:sercoevents@gmail.com) ~ Non-Profit

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

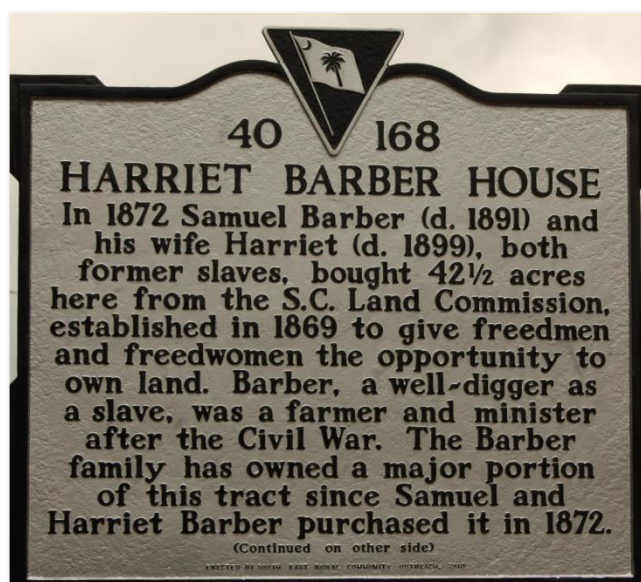


**Sunday, June 19, 2022 – 2:00 p.m. – Historic Harriet Barber House – Free Admission**  
**Stage Entertainment ★ Food/Non-Food Vendors ★ Displays & More!**

*A Special Thanks to Our Major Sponsors...*



***Congratulations Richland County Council Chairman Overture Walker!***



### *Celebrating a Home for History: 1872 -- 2022*

Our Juneteenth Celebration at the Historic Harriet Barber House is scheduled for Sunday, June 19, 2022 – 2:00 p.m. It is designed to promote knowledge and understanding of the history, stories and culture of African Americans in Richland County and other areas of our state. It is remarkable that Sam and Harriet Barber purchased this property containing 42.5 acres through the SC Land Commission during the Reconstruction Era in 1872, and **150 years** later, we are celebrating Juneteenth on a large portion of the original tract of land! One major focus will be placed on the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network where the Harriet Barber House is among several other historic sites in

our state recognized for its significance during this era. Exhibits, performances, guided tours and opportunities for public participation will give visitors insight into the lives of formerly enslaved families who lived on this property and over the state. Congratulations to the Barber Family for 150 years of land ownership in Hopkins, SC!

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US Biosphere Network
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- SwampFest 2021 Family Day

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 07, 2022: 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Eastover Parade & BBQ Festival  
May 20, 2022: Congaree Fireflies Viewing Event Begins  
May 30, 2022: Memorial Day Holiday  
June 19, 2022: Juneteenth National Holiday Celebration  
*Historic Harriet Barber House*  
**SwampFest Weekend**  
September 30, 2022: SwampFest BBQ, Blues & Soul  
October 1, 2022: SwampFest Family Day *Historic Harriet Barber House*

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# Congaree Biosphere Region



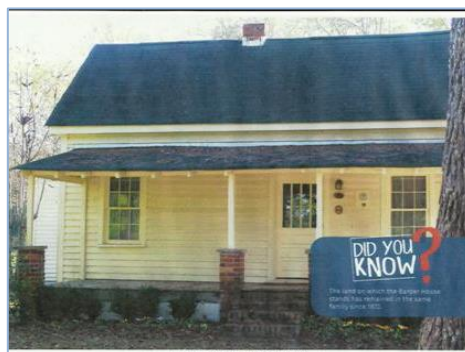
Pictured (L/R): Guillermo J. Espinosa, Principal Environmental Planner for the Central Midlands Council of Governments; Jeremy Dertien, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow for the Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation at Clemson University; Cliff McCreedy of Arlington, VA; Marie Barber Adams; Chenille Williams, Education Programs Coordinator for Richland County Stormwater Management Division.

"On February 8, 2022, Cliff McCreedy, Coordinator of the US Biosphere Network, brought a team to the Harriet Barber House to conduct interviews and filming that will be used to create a video to showcase the Congaree Biosphere Region. Patrick Kirby, an award-winning environmental filmmaker from American University, captured the interviews and historical setting on film."

"The Congaree Biosphere Region is an internationally recognized destination that encompasses the unique natural assets and history of lower Richland County," according to Cliff McCreedy. He also stated that many biosphere regions have used their international recognition as a brand and local pride to build a destination stewardship program." McCreedy, the US Biosphere Network Coordinator, spent the day at the Harriet Barber House with his crew to begin filming a short video to capture the unique beauty and history of the Lower Richland area.

## HARRIET BARBER HOUSE RECOGNITION

The Historic Harriet Barber House is featured in the new 2022 calendar created by the Richland County Public Information Office. The photos of the house from the past and the present are captured on the page for the month of October. Limited printed copies were available; however, you can access the calendar from the Richland County home page. ([www.richlandcountysc.gov](http://www.richlandcountysc.gov)). The Experience Columbia SC office at the corner of Lady and Gervais Streets prominently displayed pictures, artifacts and other information about the Harriet Barber House for the month of February. Special thanks go to Rhonda Williams, Visitor Services Manager, for selecting the Historic Harriet Barber House for Partner of the Month in February 2022.



Harriet Barber House (Richland County, SC)						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**OCTOBER**

Built in the late 1850s, this structure is significant for its association during the late 19th century with the S.C. Land Commission, a unique attempt by a Southern state to give formerly enslaved Black people the chance to own land. County funding for interior and exterior restoration. Historic image courtesy of Historic Columbia.

**Greg Cunningham, Chief of Interpretation, Education & Visitor Services Takes a New Position.** He is leaving Congaree National Park for another position with the National Forest Service. His new position is the Recreation Program Manager for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests. Greg's parting message to SERCO was "Working alongside SERCO and each of you over the past seven years has been a highlight of not only my experience at Congaree, but of my 15-year National Park Service career. As a private citizen and proud resident of Lower Richland, I would like to stay connected with SERCO if possible. You all do amazing things for our community and for the park and I would like to provide whatever assistance and/or support I can."



## 2022 Synchronous Fireflies Viewing Event



Every year, Congaree National Park hosts synchronous fireflies for approximately two weeks between **mid-May and mid-June**: Synchronous Fireflies Viewing Event. Specific information about the event will be published on this site later this winter. The Park staff are expecting this year's event to be similar to the one held in 2021. This would include nightly limits on the number of vehicles, tickets issued through a lottery system, and charging an event fee. During this time visitors can experience an awe-inspiring display of synchronous flashing while the fireflies search for a mate. For information on the scientific research of fireflies at Congaree National Park, be sure to visit the Old Growth Bottomland Forest Research and Education Center's Fireflies' page. Further info may be obtained at the Congaree National Park's **Fireflies' website**: <https://www.nps.gov/cong/fireflies.htm>

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.** ***"Covid-19 Pushed Many Americans to Retire. The Economy Needs Them Back."** The unexpected absence of older American workers is complicating an already difficult labor shortage, since no one knows how many will return". By: Amara Omeokwe Oct. 31, 2021, 10:42 am ET*

*"Veronica Primus, 69 years old, retired in June from her job as a literacy coach with the Richland School District in Columbia, S.C. "My principal said, 'You can't stay another year?,' " recalled Ms. Primus, who before the pandemic had planned to work two more years. "And I said, 'No, I'm tired.' " Ms. Primus said one reason she retired was that she believed educators would be under pressure to close student achievement gaps caused by the pandemic, and she didn't want the stress. She plans to expand her education consulting business to stay busy and supplement her retirement savings and Social Security benefits. After five decades working in education, she said she would first take a few months to "take a pause, take a breath."*

## THRIVING EARTH PROJECT: Dr. Tameria Warren



Quenten Masters, 2021 Fishing Management and Engagement Intern, monitoring and cataloging fish species in Cedar Creek at Congaree National Park. Cedar Creek, a regional paddling destination, drains approximately 68 square miles of Lower Richland County and faces significant development pressure.

This project seeks to leverage a community-level and interdisciplinary approach to water quality monitoring that engages local decision-makers, resource users, community members, and scientists. The South East Rural Community Outreach (SERCO), Congaree National Park (represented by Community Science Fellow and biological science technician Claudia Santiago), and other local community leaders will facilitate a 5-phase plan. The project will establish a water quality monitoring protocol based on South Carolina's SC Adopt-A-Stream methodology but modified to better access local geomorphology. Practical folklore knowledge from the local African American community and other historically excluded communities will align the initiative with local cultures and help establish its relevance.

### **Mark your calendar for these meeting dates:**

June 11 @ the Harriet Barber House

July 9 @ JD's Place in Gadsden

August 6 @ Richland Library Eastover

**The community leads will engage local community and partners to communicate water quality monitoring results and topics.**

# Juneteenth Symposium

June 18, 2021

Juneteenth 2021 opened up with a virtual symposium hosted by Dr. Crystal Eddins, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at UNC Charlotte. As a 7th generation Barber family member, Dr. Eddins introduced a panel of dynamic speakers for the Friday June 18th event. Plans are underway for the 2022 Juneteenth Symposium. Please look out for more details soon.



**Dr. Crystal Eddins**

Assistant Professor of Africana  
Studies, UNC Charlotte

**Topic: *From Reconstruction to  
Reparations: Race, Inequality  
and Social Movements***



**Dr. Tiffany B. Adams**

General Education Faculty,  
St. Andrews University in Charlotte, NC

**Topic: *Lowcountry Legend: Examining  
the Impact of Robert Smalls***



**Ms. Nakisa Glover**

Founder and Co-Executive  
Director of SolNation

**Topic: *A Case for Climate Reparations***



**Dr. Janaka Lewis**

Associate Professor of English  
at UNC Charlotte

**Topic: *Lives of Black Women and Girls  
in the Reconstruction Era***

*Celebrating*

**JUNETEENTH**  
**1865**

**JUNE 19**  
**12:00 Noon**

**Held on the grounds of the Historic Harriet Barber House, Hopkins, SC**



**Headliner: Rev. John P. Kee**



**Stage Host: Bishop Wendell Sumter and Creeklife**



**Sumter Tribe  
of Cheraw Indians**



**Oriana Rhema  
Productions:  
Actors Portray  
Sam & Harriet Barber**



**"Chronicles of Adam"  
Dontavious Williams**



**Richland County  
Councilwoman Cheryl  
English of District 10  
posed for souvenir  
picture (Right)**



**John Lakin & Band of Worshippers**

***We Thank Our Sponsors:***



*Celebrating*

**JUNETEENTH**  
**1865**

**JUNE 19**  
**12:00 Noon**



The COMET: Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority provided a shuttle to the Congaree National Park.



Assisted by Park Rangers, youth decorated an old canoe using paint



Debra Watkins played music in front of the Harriet Barber House.



Indigo Soul



TiffanyJ



Families Celebrating Togetherness



Buffalo Soldiers:  
Midlands Chapter 9 & 10



Cultural Expressions  
Drummers & Dancers



Renowned artist, Jonathan  
Green, with Rev. M'Lilian Scott

# The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Congaree SwampFest

## Day 1/Friday Oct. 1, 2021: BBQ, Blues & Soul Concert

The 18th Annual Congaree SwampFest/Part 1: BBQ, Blues & Soul Concert took place October 1, 2021, on the grounds of the Historic Harriet Barber House.



**STAGE HOST**  
**Curtis Wilson**



**National Recording Artist**  
**Angie Stone**  
(Columbia, SC Native)



**Jessie**  
**"James Brown"**  
**Sumter**



**Just Vibes**



**National Recording Artist**  
**Tony Terry**

# The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Congaree SwampFest

## Day 2: SwampFest Family Day ~ Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021

The 18th Annual Congaree SwampFest/Part 2: SwampFest Family Day took place on Saturday, October 2, 2021, on the grounds of the Historic Harriet Barber House.



**STAGE HOST**  
**THE BIG DM 101FM**  
**Jeffrey Lampkin**



**Saluda River Band**



**Sumter Tribe of  
Cheraw Indians**



**Zeb Harrison & The  
Sounds of Praise**



**Buffalo Soldiers**  
**Midlands Chapters 9 & 10**



**Paris Bennett**



**Deborah Watkins**



**Camm Wess**



**Cultural Expressions  
Drummers & Dancers**

# The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Congaree SwampFest

## SwampFest Family Day ~ Friday Oct. 1, 2021 & Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021



**65 RVs Camped for the Event**



**Crowd Dancing**



### **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS**

SC Humanities Growth Grant  
Richland County Hospitality Tax  
Grant  
The COMET  
Blue Cross/Blue Shield  
Joseph H. Neal Health  
Collaborative  
Premier Physician Group, LLC  
**Thrash:** The Smash Room  
DHEC

**Vendors**

*Please 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed form and check to:

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



*South East Rural Community Outreach is a nonprofit 501 ( c ) (3) organization under the laws of  
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