



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Congaree National Park

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Congaree News Release

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Annual Butterfly Count at Congaree National Park

Congaree National Park is seeking volunteer "citizen scientists" of all ages to assist with the park's annual Butterfly Count, which will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2008. Volunteer counters will meet at 9:00 am at the Harry Hampton Visitor Center. The count will last until 3:00 pm, weather permitting. In preparation for this year's count, two free butterfly identification skills training sessions will be offered at Congaree National Park on Saturday May 31, 2008 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm and again on Saturday June 14th from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. To register for one of these training sessions or for the June 28 Butterfly Count, please contact: David Shelley, Education Coordinator at 803-776-4396, ext. 15 or via email at david_shelley@nps.gov.

The annual butterfly count at Congaree National Park is part of a larger monitoring project through the North American Butterfly Association (NABA), which organizes counts across North America and publishes annual reports. The North American count program has been held annually since 1975, when only 29 counts were held. In 2007, 483 counts were held in 48 U.S. states, 5 Canadian provinces, and 2 states in Mexico. Volunteers around North America select a count area with a 15 mile diameter and conduct a one-day census of all butterflies observed with that circle. The counts are usually held in the few weeks before or after early July, but the best timing for the butterfly observation in each count circle varies. The count program is intended to promote interest in butterflies and provide results useful for scientific monitoring of butterflies. The first organized butterfly count at Congaree National Park took place nearly 10 years ago and resumed in 2004.

Congaree National Park is located southeast of Columbia, off of Old Bluff Road (state route 48), in Hopkins, South Carolina. The 26,000 acre park is situated within the floodplain of the Congaree River. Visitors come from all over the world to experience the park's old growth forests, champion sized trees, and rich biodiversity. For more information, feel free to visit the Congaree website online www.nps.gov/cong. More information about the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) and the count program, check out the NABA website at www.naba.org.

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