

# SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS



1984

STATE PARKS SUPERINTENDENTS MEETING  
HICKORY KNOB STATE PARK



## AIKEN STATE PARK

Aiken State Park is on the banks of the South Fork Edisto River approximately sixteen miles east from Aiken off U.S. Highway 78 and is located in a part of the South Carolina Coastal Plain known as the Aiken Plateau. This geological division of the Coastal Plain Province was once a beach for an ancient ocean, and is the reason for some of the sandy areas found on the park.

Aiken State Park was named for the county where it is located, Aiken County named for William Aiken, Sr., President of the Charleston and Hamburg Railroad and is famous for the thoroughbred race horses trained there. Two of the most well-known are "Kelso", five times national champion, and "Pleasant Colony", winner of the 1981 Kentucky Derby and Preakness.

Acquired in July, 1934, Aiken is the second oldest park on our park system. Aiken was developed by the National Park Service in conjunction with the State Forestry Commission and the CCC. The CCC Camps, like everything else at that time, were segregated and Aiken was the only State Park developed by a black CCC Camp. (The Camp was not located on the park.) Initially the park contained approximately 867 acres of land and was opened to the public as a "State Forest Park" on August 19, 1936, with a staff on one caretaker (Alton Black, St.), one life-guard, and one concession stand operator. Work was still going on by the CCC, but facilities at the time included a small bath-house, swimming lake, and picnic areas. (Attendance for the first season was 934 total park visitors.) Present park acreage is listed as 1,067.5 acres, but it is possible that a modern survey would show the park to be at least 1,170 acres. These lands were purchased from various owners and, over the years, have been used in a variety of ways. Historically, the park is on lands made famous through many periods of the States development. There was a large Indian settlement, Savanna Town, near the present Windsor; and the Spanish explorers, De Soto and Juan Pardo, visited here. The Augusta Path, the Indian trade route into the Creek Nation, passed close by. (There are at least two significant Indian archeological sites on the park.) Still later, the Tories and Shigs fought bloody skirmishes hereabout. Then, during the years of peace, the first mail train and the longest steam passenger railroad in the country at the time, 1833, was laid down just northward, and during the Civil War and decade of Reconstruction, there was more fighting in the area. More recent the lands now part of the park were cut-over for timber, (a sawmill operated briefly) parts were farmed and a grist mill was in operation. Aiken State Park is approximately 98 percent forested, with principally pine forest dominated by Longleaf and Loblolly pines. On April 6, 1967, a forest fire known as the Windsor Fire burned 4,000



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acres of Aiken County forest land. The park was devastated by the fire, 320 acres of the park were burned so badly that they were later cleared and replanted with Slash pine, also two of the three fishing cabins located near the river were destroyed. Many older trees still shown signs of this fire.

Developed around the river and four spring-fed lakes, Aiken was initially a day-use park. It was a place in the country where people could come to swim, picnic, fish, or just relax in the peace and quiet. Facilities now include: a family campground with 25 campsites, primitive camping area for scouts or other groups, shaded picnic areas with three shelters, seasonal swimming area with concession stand and pedal boats, a large fishing lake with rental fishing boats, a three mile nature trail, grassy outdoor game areas, and recreational equipment available for use. Primarily still a day-use park, Aiken is a popular place from early spring until late fall for Family Reunions, group picnics, and other outdoor social functions. The campground is a favorite meeting place for local camping clubs and families wanting to get away from it all but not having to travel far from home. (Most park visitors come from a fifty mile radius of Aiken.) Birdwatching, hiking on the trail, walking, or a slow drive around the 2.5 mile loop-road are popular activities, with a wide variety of animal life, 48 different types of trees and over 163 species of birds found on the park, there is much to see and do. Many park visitors come just for a cool drink of water from one of the many "Artesian" wells located throughout the park, which, by the way, were put down by hand and average 120 feet deep.

For many years Aiken was thought of as a training ground for park superintendents and partly due to this reason there have been more different superintendents here than in any other park. There have been a total of nineteen different superintendents, and ten of the last twelve were promoted to large parks, and six are still working in the system.

Last, but not least, you can't forget "Ranger Dave". Davis Inabinet worked here at Aiken for twenty-six years with thirteen different superintendents. Dave retired in June, 1983, and is truly missed not only by the people who know him, but by the park. Much of the return business should be credited to Dave, who's love of Aiken State Park showed through his many years of service, his are "big shoes" to fill and it will be a long time before his service record is equalled, if ever.

Mike Hoofman  
Superintendent





## ANDREW JACKSON STATE PARK

Andrew Jackson, the seventh President of the United States and the only native South Carolinian to become President, was born on March 15, 1767, in the Lancaster District, home of the Waxhaw Indians. Andrew Jackson State Park embraces the site of the birthplace of Andrew Jackson.

In the early 1950's Lancaster County purchased 360 acres of land for the Andrew Jackson Park from Reynold S. Crenshaw. The property was then given to South Carolina by the county of Lancaster in 1953. South Carolina accepted it as a state park by act of the General Assembly.

During the fiscal year, July 1, 1953 to June 20, 1954, a museum/superintendent's resident, water system, shelter and bathroom were under construction. During the next fiscal year, July 1, 1954 to June 20, 1955, construction was completed.

The museum is located on a hill overlooking much of the park. All the articles in the museum cover an era from 1750 to 1850. These articles let the visitor to the museum see the way life was when Andrew Jackson lived in this area. Several letters written by Andrew Jackson after he became President can be found in the museum.

Next to the museum is an equestrian statue of Andrew Jackson as a youth, sculptured by Anna Hyatt Huntington. Anna Hyatt Huntington donated the sculptor and the children of the elementary schools of South



Carolina donated nickles and dimes for the base. The statue was unveiled on March 15, 1967.

To the right of the museum is a one room schoolhouse that has school furnishings covering the era from 1776 to 1976. All the furnishings were donated by the Retired School Teachers of Lancaster County.

Across from the schoolhouse is the Park's newest facility, the Meeting House. It is a multi-purpose building. The Meeting House has been used for many weddings, reunions and parties. The building was dedicated to Viola C. Floyd who worked hard to preserve the history of this area. The building rents for \$50.00 per day.

We have two picnic shelters on the park. One is across from the museum and the other one is located next to our fishing lake. The shelters rent for \$16.00 per day.

Our fishing lake is a 13 acre lake built in 1967 and has some great fishing. Some of the variety of fish that can be found in the lake are bass, crappies, and catfish.

Overlooking the lake is a 25-site campground. With the nearness of the sites to our lake, they are most popular.

This past Christmas, I began what I hope will become an annual event called "Christmas at Andrew Jackson." This event was brought about to try to get the local community involved in the park. I



solicited the help of the following groups: the Lancaster Council on Garden Clubs, the Retired School Teachers of Lancaster County, and the children of North Elementary School of Lancaster. Each group decorated a different building on the park. The Garden Club decorated the museum in a simple manner keeping with the era of the furnishings. The Retired School teachers did a beautiful job decorating the one room schoolhouse. They even had one of their members who had taught school in Lancaster for over 45 years dressed up in a long black skirt and white blouse, greeting guests and giving out candy canes from her "lunch pail." The North Elementary children provided decorations for a large cedar tree erected in the Meeting House. All of these decorations were available for the public to see on Saturday, December 10 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Also part of the event was a luminary that outlined the sidewalk around the museum. The candles placed in the bags were lit by some local Boy Scouts.

Thanks to the help of all these organizations and Joanne Angle, Director of the Olde English Tourism District, who got our advertisement on the event to the local radios and newspapers, the "Christmas at Andrew Jackson State Park" was a success!

I am looking to the spring or summer when other events can be scheduled.



JAMES TAYLOR  
SUPERINTENDENT



## BAKER CREEK STATE PARK

Baker Creek State Park is a 1,300 acre park, which was acquired from the Corps of Engineers in 1967 through a 25-year lease. The name of the park comes from the larger of two creeks which run through the park. Baker Creek is located on Highway 378, just four miles west of the town of McCormick.

Baker Creek is designed mainly for camping and day use. There is 100 camp sites, three picnic areas and two boat ramps in the park. There is a swimming area with its own bathhouse and pavilion; which is a "one of a kind" with its contemporary Japanese pagoda style of architecture. Baker Creek also offers pedal boating and a unique style carpet golf course. There is also a unique playground area with its massive wooden log structure and log bridge. Baker Creek State Park also has two walking trails and a bridle trail. Located on the bridle trail is an old house site and old family cemetery dating back to the Civil War. The park is full of wildlife for people to see.

Baker Creek sits on the banks of Clarks Hill Lake, which is one of the largest lakes in the Southeast. Clarks Hill Lake stretches 40 miles up the Savannah River and covers 70,000 acres. There is 1,200 miles of shoreline on the lake. The whole Corps project covers 150,000 acres.

The area around Baker Creek is rich in local history. The surrounding areas used to be the home and hunting grounds for the Shawnee, Chicasaw and Yuchi Indians. Indian mounds are located throughout the



county. The French Huguenots were among the first settlers to this section of the state. The lake now covers several Revolutionary forts, among these were Fort James and Fort Charlotte. The Gold Rush of the 1800's is what people remember most around the area. The Dorn Gold Mines operated until the early 1900's and yielded .9 million dollars during the period when it was a working mine. The people still remember the operation of mines by celebrating Gold Rush Days during the 4th of July. Both gold and Indian artifacts can still be found in the Baker Creek area.

Other attractions in the area are the virgin long leaf pine forest at John de Howe School and the Indian Massacre site outside of McCormick.

Other parks located near Baker Creek are Hamilton Branch, Hickory Knob and on the Georgia side of the lake there is Elijah Clark, Bobby Brown and Mistletoe State Parks.

Baker Creek State Park is not an old park and yet four superintendents have worked at the park. All four are still working with the State Parks System of South Carolina.



LEROY ATKINSON  
SUPERINTENDENT



## BARNWELL STATE PARK

Barnwell State Park is located 3 miles south of Blackville on Hwy. 3. The park is named for the county in which is located. Barnwell County is named for Col. John Barnwell of the S. C. Colonial Milita.

The Park was acquired in 1937 from the Jowers Family, the Shelton Family and a Dr. Briggs. The park began operation in 1940 by the first Superintendent T. D. Creighton.

The acreage of the park was 252 acres, but now consists of 307 acres. It was farm land when acquired. It was developed by the CCC. The high ground on the park features pine and hardwood with some sandhill species. The park contains two lakes and both of these are fed by Toby Creek which eventually empties into the Salkehachie River. Toby Creek was a named passed down during the Civil War. Toby Creek extended from the Edisto Epermental Station to Hagards Mill.

The swimming lake is located on the site of an earlier pond that was there before the park was acquired. It was a Mill Pond and was named Brown's Grists and Saw Mill.

Barnwell State Park has fishing, nature trails, camping, primitive camping, and our cabins built for the Handicap. It also has shelters, picnic area, and a community center.

Our park has had reunions, weddings, parties for the Chamber of Commerce, parties for the Democratic and Republican Candiates. Barnwell State Park is small compared to other parks. We have had 5 Superintendents, one of which was a woman by the name of Beatrice Ross, who is retired and is living at Holmans Bridge.



Jimmy Creech  
Superintendent  
Barnwell State Park



## CAESAR'S HEAD STATE PARK

### MOUNTAIN BRIDGE RECREATION/WILDERNESS AREA

South Carolina's largest state park is located 30 miles north of Greenville, SC on US 276 where the Blue Ridge Mountains meet the South Carolina Piedmont. The dream of the mountain bridge was founded by Tom Wyche in or about 1973. Basically the bridge concept will preserve some 14,000 acres in a narrow strip of mountain land along the border of the Carolinas where the escarpment abruptly drops 2000 feet from the Highlands Plateau in NC to the SC piedmont below.

The origin of the name Caesars Head is uncertain. Some say the natural rock bears a likeness to Roman emperor Julius Caesar. Some say a saddened hunter named the rock as a memorial to a faithful hound who leapt to death in chase of its prey. I presume nobody knows the true answer.

The first land acquisition was in 1976 and it was Jones Gap State Park. This area covers 2200 acres and contains our state's only scenic river being the Middle Saluda. This area is heavily used by day-hikers, backpackers, and trout fisherman. Jones Gap gained its name for the roadbuilder, Solomon Jones who completed the road in 1848. The road was operated as a toll road until 1910. Many mountain folks say Mr. Jones followed the route of a sow pig to lay out the road. The terrain is perfect for Rhododendron and mountain laurel and many plant and wildlife species, some rare, are located here. Many special beauties are preserved due to the Mountain Bridge.

The bridge will connect a strip of land from the Poinsett Watershed to the Table Rock watershed. At this time we have 10,303 acres at Caesars Head. Our visitation jumped to over 440,000 in 1983 which was an increase of near 50,000. Revenue has continued to rise since the opening of the Mountain Trading Post in 1979. More and more people are finding out about all the things we have to offer and are returning often. Last year we held a variety of special activities such as the Scottish fling, Mountain Heritage, a mini-craft Show, and several concerts to mention a few. All were quite successful due to the efforts of the Caesars Head Staff. If attendance continues to rise at the current rate Caesars Head will become one of the more popular tourist attractions in S.C.

One of the biggest focal points at the park is Raven Cliff Waterfall. It tumbles more than 400 feet into the dismal. Mathews Creek along with several streams come together to form this spectacular fall. It is reputed to be the highest east of the Mississippi River. A new trail has recently been completed along with a new parking area. From all indications another parking area will soon be needed because the popularity of Raven Cliff has increased by ten fold over the last two years. The trail is 2.2 miles long and was completed by Trailblazers Diversified. A unique overlook platform was built and offers a perfect viewpoint. Our Ranger/Interpreter has led several guided hikes and this looks as though it could become one of the more popular things we have to offer.

By far the Caesars Head overlook is the most visited area that we have. On a clear day one can see probably 50 miles or more. Paris Mountain



and the city of Greenville are clearly visible almost daily. The cooling towers at the Oconee Nuclear Station, Lake Keowee, and Lake Hartwell can be seen by anyone with a keen eye. The backside of Table Rock and adjacent watershed look as though they are in our backyard. The overlook is different every day in some form or fashion and is at its prettiest at sunset.

Other attractions include Rainbow falls, Headformost Falls, Little Falls, and Hospital Rock. Some say that deserters hid near the rock during the last days of the Civil War.

Caesars Head is no doubt one of the coldest places in our state. Last year we had measurable snow 14 times with the heaviest accumulation at 17 inches. I have to admit that it was comfortable this summer due to the fact that we only hit 95 degrees one time.

Future plans include a linkup with the existing Foothills trail system. If completed it will connect major outdoor recreational areas in three counties across the top of the state. Also in the plans are a lodge/restaurant complex, trailer campground, picnic areas, cabins, and an environmental education camp. The Mountain Bridge is a joint venture between PRT and SCWMR departments. One unique aspect is that hunting is allowed on certain parts of the park. Excellent game management has allowed a big increase in the population of deer, bear, grouse, and turkeys. The streams on the park offer some of the best trout fishing in the upstate.

This unique area offers points of interest for every sector. If you have not been to Caesars Head you definitely owe yourself a visit.

Pete Davis  
Superintendent





## CHARLES TOWNE LANDING 1670 STATE PARK

Charles Towne Landing, located in Charleston on the Ashley River, was the site of the first permanent English settlement in South Carolina in 1670. Almost 300 years later, the site, consisting of 200 acres of highland and 400 acres of marshland, was part of the plantation of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph I. Waring. For many years it had been Mrs. Waring's dream that the site become a public historic shrine. The acquisition and restoration of this historic site was one of the main objectives of the South Carolina Tricentennial Commission. The property was acquired in 1969 with Federal, State, and local funding. Charles Towne Landing-1670 was dedicated on April 4, 1970, and turned over to the PRT Commission on July 1, 1971.

A visit to Charles Towne Landing might be described as a truly unique lesson in Early American History and a recreational experience as well. A visit to the Interpretive Center illustrates the first 100 years of the colony with artifacts and exhibits. The full-scale replica of the 17th century trading vessel "Adventure" emphasizes the important role the sea and trade played in the development of the colony. Replica colonial building in the Settler's Life Area permits visitors to experience the colonist's daily life. The 1670 Experimental Crop Garden includes rice, indigo, cotton, and vegetables the settlers grew for their own use. The Animal Forest, a 20 acre natural habitat zoo, includes bison, wolves, bears, deer, and other animals indigenous to South Carolina in the settlers' time. Recently an otter habitat was added to the Animal Forest through a private donation.

Additionally, the park contains 80 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, picnic areas, man-made lagoons, a movie theater, gift shop, snack bar, and offers many opportunities for outside recreational activities.

In the past year, major community events which took place at the park were the Greek Spring Festival sponsored by Charleston's Greek community, and A Taste of Charleston, which is a charitable function sponsored by the Charleston Restaurant Association. These events were great successes and brought in additional revenue for the park.

Martin Diamond  
Business Manager





## CHERAW STATE PARK

The idea of a public recreation area in Cheraw began about 1932. The town leaders started to raise money and look for a suitable area. They placed cannisters in the stores in town and in the schools, much like the heart Fund or March of Dimes do today.

They intended to create a safe, clean, public swimming area and a pleasant picnic area big enough to accommodate large groups of people. This is still our aim today.

The civic leaders of Cheraw were able to purchase 706 acres of land in the area which is now the Dogwood picnic area toward Highway #1. On March 23, 1934, it was turned over to the state. This was the first area donated by citizens to the state for such a purpose.

The federal government soon added 6,832 acres and began a construction effort by the CCC's and the WPA's. They created a 300 acre lake out of an old cypress swamp. The 1,200 foot long dam backs up water for about three miles in the center of the park.

On the western shore of the lake, the day-use area was created. A large sandy beach with swimming docks, diving boards, boating facilities, and surrounded by picnic areas and nature trails were provided.

On the other side of the lake, two group camps were built. The first and largest, Camp Forest, was opened in 1938. Camp Juniper was opened the following year.

When the CCC boys finished their work, Cheraw had 118 buildings, 108 of these still standing. But more than this, the people of the South Carolina sand hills had a recreational area all their own where they could come and enjoy the natural things God provided, undisturbed by man.

Doyle Boggs was the park's first superintendent. Cheraw State Park contributed to the war effort during WWII by housing some stranded British sailors while their ship was being repaired in Charleston.

The early 1950's were good years for the park. During this time, the park enjoyed some of its biggest crowds. Along about this time the Civil Rights Movement was starting to make itself felt. In July, 1961, Judge J. Robert Martin issued an order for the state parks to comply



totally with the Civil Rights Act of 1954. The state attorney general closed all the state parks, and Cheraw stayed closed almost two years.

George Holder was the Superintendent during this time, from March 29, 1948, until July 10, 1965.

After the park reopened, there were many maintenance problems. Maintenance had been deferred for years and there was a shortage of workers. In 1967, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism was created, ending 33 years of supervision by the Forestry Commission. A \$6.25 million bond issue was the shot in the arm that was needed to send the parks into a new era.

Over the year forest fires have been an annual threat. A bad fire destroyed a residence, picnic shelter, and many acres of woodland in 1951. In the 1970's, a fire bug set fires in threes just about every weekend. When we were called to one fire, we knew that we would find two more.

In 1969, an ice storm did a lot of damage to most of the pines in the park.

Cheraw state park still stands for the ideals for which it was created: a clean, safe, place where the people of the area can come swim, picnic, and just enjoy nature.

Larry Adair  
Superintendent





## CHESTER STATE PARK

Chester State Park is named for the county in which it is located. The park is located three miles southwest from Chester on Highway 72. When upcountry South Carolina was opened for settlement just prior to the Revolutionary War, many settlers moved into this state from Pennsylvania. These settlers brought the names of Chester, York, and Lancaster with them. These names were originally brought from England to Pennsylvania.

The park embraces 523 acres of wooded hills and rolling land and a 160 acre lake. The lands on which the park is located were once productive in early times--so rich that the owners forgot the needs of the soil and worked it to exhaustion in piling up fortunes in cotton. Depleted for many years, it has been reforested and given back to all the people for the riches of healthful outdoor recreation. This bit of retreat in a busy industrial area is bounded on the west by the state road, called "The Calhoun Highway" by the people of the area for the great South Carolina statesmen. Nearby runs the Broad River, which in early times was the route for traffic and shipment of cotton. Acquired in May, 1935, the park was developed as a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp. The forest was replanted and a dam was constructed across bottom land where Two Mile Branch, Three Mile Branch, and Caney Fork Creek merge to form a 160 acre lake. During the rainy season, it features one of the Piedmont's prettiest waterfalls. Chester State Park lake abounds with bass, bream, crappie, and catfish.

The communities in the area are largely industrial and Chester State Park provides an excellent means for recreation for hundreds of families shut up daily in manufacturing plants.

When opportunity permits, hundreds seek the shelter of the park with well-filled picnic baskets or dinners to be cooked on outdoor grills scattered throughout the picnic area. A modern Community Recreation Building equipped with kitchen, dining hall, and restroom facilities adorns a prominent knoll overlooking the lake. This building is quite popular and is heavily used throughout the year for family reunions, company picnics, and Christmas parties.

Three picnic shelters are scattered along the lakeside. The Caney Fork Creek Nature Trail is popular for young and old alike. Fishing boats are available for rent at the boathouse.

An archery range was added to facilities in the early 1970's, as well as an equestrian show ring and grandstand. Two horse shows and two archery tournaments are held yearly. These events draw crowds from near and far. During this period of revitalization, a modern 25-site camping



area was completed. With easy access to Interstate 77, many overnight campers stop by as well as regular park users who make the park their destination point. Nearby Game Management Land offers excellent hunting.

Although Chester County is rich in Revolutionary and Civil War history, it is striving to become a prosperous community. New industry coming into the area brings more families and continued growth. Chester County is unique in that it boasts of having the only glider school east of the Mississippi, the Bermuda High Soaring School. During the summer of 1983, Chester became known as the "Hollywood of the South" with the filming of the CBS television movie "CHIEFS". This brought the county national attention, drawing thousands of tourists into the area. Many took advantage of the facilities at Chester State Park.

With the support of the Chester County Chamber of Commerce, the recently formed Olde English Tourism District and the I-77 Welcome Center publicizing the Chester State Park, I see only positive growth in the future.

Wayne Timms  
Superintendent





## COLLETON STATE PARK

Colleton State Park is named for the county where it is located. Colleton county gets its name from Sir John Colleton, one of the Lords Proprietors, who founded the county in 1685. Colleton County was one of the three original counties of the Province of Carolina, and covers an area of more than 1,050 square miles.

The land for the park was deeded to the State of South Carolina by the Department of Interior on April 28, 1943. Prior to that, the land had been deeded to the Department of the Interior on May 21, 1938, by Mr. R. M. Jefferies. This resulted from an option and a lease on the land for recreational purposes by the National Park Service in 1935. The park was originally known as Colleton Wayside Recreational Demonstration Area, was later shortened to Colleton Wayside State Park, and is now called Colleton State Park.

The park is located 11 miles north of Walterboro, on S.C. Highway #15. The park contains 35.4 acres, and is situated on the banks of the Edisto River. Colleton State Park is in the lower coastal plain area of the state, and contains both pines and mixed hardwoods.

Colleton was one of six wayside parks that were developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program (directed by the National Park Service) in the early 1940's. Originally, Colleton only had two picnic shelters, one restroom, and the caretaker's residence. The campground restroom and 25 campsites were added in 1970, with the aid of federal funds from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Eddie Utsey was the first Superintendent (Caretaker) of the park, and began work in October, 1940. He was followed by M. W. Stone (mid-1940's to 1948), N. A. Carter (July, 1948 to May, 1954), Willard Risher (May, 1954, to July, 1970), Fred Moore (December, 1970, to July, 1971), James Stockman (July, 1971, to August, 1975), Glenn Farr (August, 1975, to February, 1981), and Robert Sullivan (February, 1981, to January, 1984).

Colleton's main usage is from campers, fishermen, and canoeists, due to the park's location on the Edisto River. The main attraction for fishermen is catching redbreasts (a type of bream), which bite best during May and June. Canoe and raft trips are sometimes staged from Colleton to Givhans Ferry, which is about 22 miles by river.

Local attractions include historic homes and plantations in the Charleston area; and Francis Beidler Forest, a National Audubon Society sanctuary located near Harleyville, (about 35 miles from the park). The



park is only an hour's drive from Edisto Beach, which is a popular site for swimming and fishing. This part of the low country is abundant with wildlife, such as deer and ducks, so it also attracts many hunters to the area. Magnolia Gardens and Middleton Gardens are only about 40 minutes away, so many people camp here and ride down to view the gardens during the day.

Colleton is a popular "stop over" point for travelers to Florida, because it is often about half way to their destination. The park's location, three miles off of I-95 also makes it readily accessible to overnight campers. Many come here for the peace and quiet, and to relax and get away from the noise of the city for a while. The Park also has a nature trail, from which many kinds of birds and other wildlife can be seen. In particular, there are several species of hawks and owls in the area. The nature trail is also a good location for studying and identifying trees and plants, including various kinds of ferns and mosses.

Another addition to the park was the primitive camping area in May, 1983; it has received use from both individual tent campers and scout groups.

Robert W. Sullivan  
Superintendent





## CROFT STATE PARK

Croft State Park, located five miles southeast of Spartanburg, between County Road 34 and S.C. 56, derives its name from the fact that it was once part of a World War II training area known as Camp Croft. Construction began December 5, 1940, on this Infantry Replacement Training Center and the first group of enlisted men arrived for training on March 7, 1941. By July 31, 1945, 199,839 men had been ordered into Camp Croft for training in all phases of infantry combat. Following the second World War, Camp Croft fell into disuse. In 1949, the state of South Carolina purchases 7,088 of the 19,034 acres contained in Camp Croft for a state park.

An alert group of local citizens arranged for the transfer of 7,088 acres from the Federal Government to the State, with the price tag of 50% of the fair value and the condition that the use be limited to "public park, recreation, and forestry purposes." The area acquired embraces rolling hills, rocky streams, and a mixture of pine and hardwood forests. Especially picturesque are the enormous oaks on knolls marking the site of old homesteads, and which provide, practically ready made, desirable picnic areas all along a winding loop road.

Historical information is that the upper portion of South Carolina, including Spartanburg County, was Indian Territory prior to 1755. The Cherokees threw open a portion of their hunting grounds for settlement in exchange for protection against their old enemies, the Creeks. This area contains ten present-day counties. Many settlers were attracted by the lure of cheap land and among them was John Thomas, who was born in Wales and reared in Pennsylvania.

When war clouds began to loom between the Colonies and the Mother country, a regiment was organized for Spartanburg and Union counties and John Thomas, Sr., was selected to command this new unit. Available evidence indicates that John Thomas lived on what is now Croft State Park. John Thomas, Sr., his wife, Jane, and his son, John Thomas, Jr., played important roles in the Revolutionary War in the upcountry. It appears that every member of this family had a personal interest in the patriots cause.

Twice during the summer of 1780, Colonials met in battle with British regulars at the spot known as Cedar Spring--then called Green Spring--and twice did the Colonials emerge triumphant. The first battle occurred on July 13. It was an evening of encounter, and victory was won through the heroics of the Colonel's wife. According to Dr. J.B.O. Landrum in his book, Colonial and Revolutionary History of Upper South Carolina, Mrs. Thomas had followed her husband, who was in British Ninety Six District, to help him in what ways she could. On July 12,



Mrs. Thomas overheard some Tory women speaking of a surprise attack planned for the next night at Cedar Spring. Knowing that her son, John Thomas, Jr., who was a Colonel, was encamped there with about 60 men from the Spartan Regiment, she left early the next morning on horseback to give warning. When the British arrived 150 soldiers strong that evening, they found an ambush waiting instead of rebels at slumber. The engagement was short, quick, and decisive. The enemy soon retreated, leaving several of their dead on the battlefield. Following the Revolution, the first hardy families to settle in this area were farmers, soon to follow was the first textile mill in 1816. With this mill came people, homes, stores, community buildings, and a town. Textile continued modernizing and improving until Spartanburg today is represented by businesses from around the globe. The concentration of foreign business in an area the size of Spartanburg is unmatched in the United States. Spartanburg continues to have men that rise about the norm. Two of these were the late Edwin Johnson and Tom Moore Craig, Sr.. Edwin Johnson, Attorney at Law, was a wildlife enthusiast and former member of the South Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission. Tom Moore Craig, Sr., was chairman of the South Carolina Forestry Board and community leader. They were men who had the vision to preserve 7,088 acres for the future so that South Carolinians would be able to enjoy their leisure time. In honor to these men, the two bodies of water located within the park are identified as Lake Edwin Johnson and Lake Tom Moore Craig.

In 1967, when South Carolina Parks, Recreation, and Tourism became an independent agency, Croft consisted of one residence, two picnic shelters, twenty-five campsites, and two lakes with six wooden boats. Over the past sixteen years there have been twenty-five additional sites, and additions of three comfort stations, four picnic shelters, complete equestrian facilities with stables, lighted show ring, and approximately 25 miles of bridle trail. Also an Olympic swimming pool, two tennis courts, bathhouse, contact station and concession building. Many areas throughout the park have been cleared and playground equipment placed along with picnic tables for day-use visitors. Cut through the woods is a jogging trail with many obstacles to keep the user alert and help keep one's body in good physical condition. The latest development to the park is a challenging BMX track. Most of our visitors come to the park because of the many events held throughout the year such as horseshows, swim meets, bike competition, fishing tournaments, and family reunions. Two or three times each year the crowds can be found watching a model airplane show at the airstrip constructed eight years ago. Many visitors are nature lovers and they can roam for hours and revisit to roam again and view nature at a different spot each trip. It is most gratifying to hear from our visitors when they take the time to stop and say "we've really enjoyed the day."

Ray Hayes  
Superintendent





## DREHER ISLAND STATE PARK

Dreher Island State Park is located in Newberry County, on Lake Murray. The park is made up of three islands linked to the mainland by a landfill and two bridges. The property consists approximately 365 acres with twelve miles of shoreline.

Dreher Island was obtained from South Carolina Electric & Gas through a long term lease agreement. The property was designated a State Park, December 31, 1969, and was named Dreher Island after Billy Dreher, one of the many families and landowners displaced by the rising waters of Lake Murray in 1930.

Development as a park officially began in 1970, with the construction of bridges and rough grading of some roads, construction was halted for a variety of reasons: Federal Power Commission permits, Lake Murray environmental impact reports, etc. Wally Brock, was Superintendent during this time. After Mr. Brock's retirement in September 1976, R. F. Parrish was transferred from Hickory Knob State Park to fill this vacancy.

In October 1977, all various permits, agreements and environmental statements were met to the satisfaction of all parties concerned, so that construction could resume again. Original plans in 1970 called for a camping area, tackle shop, marina, picnic areas, a 100 room lodge, a par-3 golf course and a yacht basin. During the time period of 1970-1977, development was reevaluated to exclude the lodge, yacht basin and golf course.

Present facilities are: two camping areas, a 30 site area on the first island and a 67 site area with 14 tent sites included on the third and largest island. Total 111 sites.

Buildings included are four camper comfort stations, seven day use rest stations, fourteen picnic shelters, one community building, one camper recreation building, one gatehouse, a tackle shop with restroom facilities, a fifty slip marina with a comfort station and office combined, three ranger residences, a swimming area and bath house to accommodate approximately 300 swimmers, also a maintenance shop.

Another interesting feature from a maintenance viewpoint, is the park sewer system. There is very little gravity-flow sewer used on the park. Waste is pumped through a series of ten pump stations with a total of thirty-three pumps involved, to a waste treatment plant capable of handling 65,000 gallons per day.



The construction of the dam that created Lake Murray, was completed in 1930. Lake Murray's primary function is the generation of electricity, both hydroelectric and steam. At the time of completion, the earthen dam was the longest in existence, approximately two miles long. Lake Murray's surface acreage is approximately 50,000 acres, with approximately 400 miles of shoreline.

Dreher Island activities are almost totally water oriented. All seven picnic areas are located on the water, with approximately one-half of the 111 campsites being on the water. Also, the tackle shop and ramp area is the site for numerous fishing tournaments year-round. It's not unusual for 75-100 boats to launch on any weekend.

As for future development, there is speculation toward the construction of a motel unit or cabins with a restaurant and conference facility possible in the near future.

Robert Parrish  
Superintendent





## EDISTO BEACH STATE PARK

An adequate description of Edisto Beach State park requires first some background on the island on which it lies. To visit the park without an understanding of the island would be to narrow the experience greatly. Edisto remains unique in many ways; the park is part of this uniqueness.

Richly steeped in history and abundant in natural blessings, the island remained relatively isolated for many years due to its remote location. The rapid development seen in other coastal areas has thus been delayed here.

Before the white men came, a basically peaceful, agrarian Indian tribe inhabited the area. The Edistos left, as a part of their legacy, the present day name of the island. Later the white man made his mark. First the Spanish and later the English settled the area. Settlement prospered from its beginnings. The island's abundant marine life, rich fertile soil, warm climate, and accessible waterways made life relatively easy.

Crops of Indigo and later cotton brought prosperity and great wealth to island planters. Large plantations and magnificent homes began to dot the island. The hand labor these crops required caused large numbers of slaves to be brought in, introducing yet another culture to the area.

War eventually brought ruin to the planters, freedom to the slaves, and changes in lifestyle.

Legend, fact, and folklore combine today to tell the story of the island's past. Stately oaks which likely witnessed the first white settlers here still stand. Century-plus old churches still shelter congregations who can trace their Edisto roots back hundreds of years. Some of the original plantation homes still exist, complete with resident ghosts of past inhabitants. Spirits and superstition yet survive, nurtured by the nearly separate cultures which still exist to some extent here. Descendants of early settlers still carry on their family names here.

The park itself covers 1,255 acres of the southeast portion of the island and is about an hour's drive from any town of major size. The park's beach, marsh, and forest areas and meandering saltwater creeks provide a setting for a wide variety of recreational pursuits.



Acquired in 1935, the park was originally developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Over the years, facilities have been added and modernized, yet despite the ravages of three major storms, several of the original structures remain in use today.

Over the years, the ocean has alternately built up and then reclaimed areas of beach. The park's family cabins, once perched upon sand dunes overlooking the ocean, now occupy a quite wooded area overlooking the salt marsh and Scott Creek. The relocation was necessary due to severe beach erosion from a 1940 hurricane.

The same waves which threaten man made structures aid the beachcomber by constantly uncovering new treasures. Fossilized remains of prehistoric creatures of the area are readily found here. Other treasured finds include arrow and spear heads and the occasional relic from a once thriving nearby resort area, destroyed by hurricane in 1893. The park is widely known as one of the best shell and fossil hunting areas in the state.

A four-mile hiking trail and shorter nature trail wander through dense woodland, shaded by tall palmettoes and moss covered oaks. Wildlife abounds here and the visitor can well imagine how the area must have appeared to its early settlers.

At the end of the hiking trail is the Indian Mound. identified on some maps as Spanish Mount, it is the only remaining location name bearing reference to the island's early Spanish heritage. While the actual purpose of the 15 foot high mound of shells left by Edisto Indians remains obscure, it provides striking evidence of their presence here.

Nearby the mound, a depression in the earth spots the remains of a cave maintained by a band of rum runners during prohibition to conceal their illegal liquor cargoes.

Seventy-five campsites located along the ocean have the highest occupancy rate of any camping area in the park system. Once confined mainly to the summer months, the peak camping season now runs from early March through November. Recently developed overflow facilities help handle some of the overload, however, it is still the lucky camper who finds space available during the busier times of the year.

Boat launching facilities presently awaiting construction should soon provide convenient access from the park to a large variety of water oriented activities available in the area.

The many things that lure people to Edisto number probably nearly as great as the visitors themselves. The sum total of these things is the charm and uniqueness that is Edisto.

Kurt Becht  
Superintendent



## GIVHANS FERRY STATE PARK

Givhans Ferry State Park was acquired in October, 1934, making it the fifth oldest South Carolina State Park. It is one of three state parks located on the Edisto River, and the park was originally known as Edisto State Park. The next year, Edisto Beach State Park was acquired and the name was changed. The ferry was named for Captain Phillip Givhans, who was a revolutionary war soldier and planter who owned and farmed the property when it was a plantation. Before railroads and highways, this was the chief crossing of the Edisto River between the upper western part of the state and the city of Charleston. Before it's day as a ferry, there was a ford here on the famous Charles Town-Savannah Town-Augusta Indian Path, along which traders went into the Creek territory of Georgia. The Edisto River gets it's name from the Edisto Indians and means "People who sprinkle themselves with river water."

The Park was given to the state by the City of Charleston and it was developed by the CCC. The Civilian Conservation Corp had a camp on the park, and many of the local people were given the opportunity to work during the Great Depression.

The City of Charleston gets its water supply from the Edisto River via an underground tunnel. The tunnel known as the Goose Creek Tunnel runs 18 miles from the river bank to the Goose Creek Reservoir. Water falls 40 feet from river level to the tunnel which is egg-shaped with a flat floor and large enough to drive an automobile through. The project was started in 1929 and finished in 1938 and was guarded 24 hours a day during World War II in order to protect Charleston's drinking water. There are no pumps in the system because the tunnel drops a foot a mile on it's way to Charleston, and the tunnel was constructed through a type of limestone known as Cooper Marl, so there was no need for any type of braces.

The park is located on high bluffs of the Edisto River and the area is also known for it's prehistoric interest. In the marl formations of which the river banks are largely composed, people have found bones of great elephants, shark's teeth, and remains of other animals which roamed the land before the time of man.

Principally, Givhans Ferry State Park is known for it's fishing opportunities. This section was known as a recreation place long before it was set aside, laid out in trails, and equipped with four vacation cabins, picnic areas, and a 25 site camping area. Bateaux for many years have slid off the gray banks under the drooping moss and drifted over the clear black waters with fishermen and women who had no notion



of coming back emptyhanded. Even today shad fishing is carried on extensively in this interesting river, which is the longest blackwater river in the world and only major freshwater river that starts in South Carolina and runs to the sea without changing its name. Nowadays the river has been restocked and plenty of advice is available from park personnel and local residents as to the best method of catching Redbreast, Catfish, bream, perch, largemouth bass, jackfish, and striped bass. Eels are also plentiful in the river, and fried eel is very tasty. Visitors must bring their own tackle, but the four vacation cabins are amply provided with utensils for cooking the fish.

Givhans Ferry has property in Dorchester and Colleton Counties. The park was originally 1,235 acres, but in 1982 there was a land swap with Westvaco of 247 acres, and now the park contains 988 acres. Givhans Ferry contains the finest examples of Spruce Pine of any of our parks, and host several colonies of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (an endangered species). Other endangered species that are seen on occasion on the river are alligators and the beautiful high flying osprey.

Givhans Ferry is located 25 miles inland from Charleston on Highway 61 between Summerville and Walterboro. Fifteen miles away on Highway 78 is the Francis Beidler Forest. This is a birdwatchers' paradise and the forest has one of the few virgin stands of cypress trees left in the state.

Visitors to the park also enjoy boating, canoeing, water skiing, and scuba diving. Camping is very popular and we always recommend Charleston as a good place to go sightseeing. Charles Town Landing, Patriots Point, and Fort Sumter are the favorite places to visit.

Givhans Ferry State Park will be 50 years old in October of this year, and also this year, the Parks Division will celebrate 50 years of service to the citizens of the state, and out-of-state visitors. We are looking forward to the celebration. You all come to see us.

Glenn Farr  
Superintendent





## N. R. GOODALE STATE PARK

After the Civil War ended a Union soldier, Major Adams, came south to Kershaw County and acquired 2,100 acres of land located five miles north of Camden. This land had an abundance of pine and cypress trees as well as a large pond and subsequent creek known as Big Pine Tree Creek. After building a large house in the heart of Camden, Adams built a farm house overlooking the mill he had built on Big Pine Tree Creek. The water behind the mill later became known as Adams Mill Pond. During dry spells, people came from miles around to use the mill. Most other ponds were dry, but because Adams pond is fed by over 500 springs, the water level never drops more than six inches. Later Adams sold 100 acres, including several acres of the mill pond, to a Mr. Brown. His family still lives on the land. After many years, a Mr. Little bought the remaining land from Mr. Adams. Not much is known about it during Little's ownership.

In 1952, after Mr. Little's death, his attorney sold 2,000 acres to the Kershaw County Park Commission for \$45,000 for a proposed state park. Two local real estate agents and a bank president appraised this land at \$950,000. Mr. Albert Schellenberg, landscape architect for the state parks, drew the original master plan. However, at this time, the state did not accept the land. The park commission, headed by Mr. N. R. Goodale, a local florist and well-known democrat, went to work. Mr. Goodale hired the highway department for one month to clear land and build roads at a cost of \$45,000. Later, two shelters were built and plans were obtained from Sesquicentennial state park for the bath house. The mill pond was dynamited to the present 140 acres and a swimming area was opened. Between the years of 1952 and 1955, \$150,000 was spent on construction of the park.

On June 8, 1955, the dedication took place with 300 guests. Present were Mr. Jacocks, director of state parks, and television newsman Bob Hickman, who later became Executive Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.

During the construction of Kershaw County Park, Mr. Goodale and the other members of the commission had plans for another swimming area. In the late 1950's and early 1960's, another swimming area and nine-hole golf were added and dedicated to two prominent black physicians of Camden, Dr. Pickett and Dr. Thomas.

Not much was done between then and 1973 when the Division of State Parks was given 764 acres of the original 2,000 from Kershaw County. This land included both swimming areas and the golf course. It then became known as N. R. Goodale State Park. Soon after this change, full-time employees were added. Since that time, Goodale has had four superintendents.



At the present, we offer swimming on the main park, golfing, hiking, fishing, boating, shelters for picnicking, and a new recreation building added in 1981 for community gatherings.

Al Priester  
Superintendent





## GREENWOOD STATE PARK

Greenwood State Park became a part of the South Carolina State Park System in April, 1938. This beautiful lake-side park was named for the county and the lake upon which it is located. Lake Greenwood was built by Greenwood County with assistance from the Federal Public Works Administration for the primary purpose of electrical power generation. Construction began in April, 1938, and when completed in 1940 the lake was 20 miles long with over 200 miles of shoreline.

The land for Greenwood State Park was donated by Greenwood County. Originally the park consisted of 1,114 acres. Later the state and county traded some areas so that the park would have additional water frontage for development. Currently the park has a total acreage of 914 acres.

Most of the initial construction of the park was accomplished by the Civilian Conservation Corps, a public works program set up in the midst of the 1930's depression. Many exquisite examples of their work are still evident on the park today. The granite retaining wall, located at the base of the terraced overlook, is just one example of the enhancing handiwork that these young men accomplished. One unique structure started by the CCC's remains unfinished today. At the main entrance to the park, foundations were poured for two granite entrance walls, and half of one of the walls was completed. Before the walls could be completed, the CCC's were disbanded by the outbreak of World War II.

The park is located on S.C. Highway 702, about four miles northwest of historic Ninety Six and 17 miles east of Greenwood in rolling hill country. Strategically located over the park are three paved boat launching ramps, four picnic areas with large shelters for group use, located near the water, a family campground, a youth camping area, and a swimming area. A carpet golf course is located near the swimming area. Sunbathers can find many areas to enjoy the sun, especially on the large grassy peninsula near the swimming area. This grassy area has become famous, as it is where the female sunbathers attracted the attention of the B-25 bomber crew that was making training runs on the lake in 1944. After spotting the sunbathers, the crew made another low pass and crashed into the lake. This plane was finally recovered from the lake in July, 1983.

The 125-site campgrounds are very popular. All sites have water and electrical connections, and many of them are located on the water. Two dump stations, a recreational building, comfort stations with showers, and camp store are also located in the campgrounds.



Being located on the lake, water oriented activities abound. The lake provides excellent fishing for bass, bream, crappie, and catfish, as well as water skiing and motor boating. Sail boats provide excitement for many, as well as serenity for those that love to watch the silent beauty that they provide. Serenity and educational value can also be derived from the many quiet areas of the park which provide the visitor the opportunity to find an arrow head or catch a glimpse of the squirrels, rabbit, raccoon, fox, opossum, deer, or many species of birds that abound in the park.

There are many attractions in close proximity to the park for visitors to enjoy. Ninety Six Historic Site, a national park, is located outside the town of Ninety Six. This site is currently under development, with much of the embankments of the star-shaped fort still intact from the Revolutionary War. The town of Ninety-six received its unusual name from the fact that it was near the Old Keowee Indian Trail and was 96 miles from Keowee, the largest Cherokee Indian village. Ninety Six was also the site of the first land battle in the south of the Revolutionary War.

Other interesting area side trips include the Greenwood Museum with its displays of Indian artifacts, geological collections, war relics, and mounted animal displays. Park See Company, one of the oldest and largest seed supply companies with its 10-acre trial garden is well worth the visit.

Several annual events in the area make this a great vacation spot. The Historical Heritage Festival Days are celebrated during the second week in June at Ninety Six. This celebration includes re-enactment by colonial units in authentic dress, craft shows, and other events. The South Carolina Festival of Flowers held during the last of July in Greenwood is a sight to behold. The entire county becomes one gigantic flower showplace. This week-long festival has received world-wide acclaim.

As you can see, a visit to Greenwood State Park and the surrounding area provides leisure pursuits that will never be forgotten. We at Greenwood State Park look forward to your next visit.

Joe Hambright  
Superintendent





## HAMILTON BRANCH STATE PARK

Prior to the beginning of construction of the Clarks Hill Reservoir, the area which is now Hamilton Branch State Park contained the large homesites of several local families. A creek branch, the Hamilton branch, had to be crossed to reach those homesites. The creeks and branches of the Savannah were named by the numerous traders who traveled the river. It is from this branch that the park derives its name.

Remnants of the Indian cultures which once lived in the area may be found scattered throughout the park area. The Savannah River Basin was the home of such Indians as the Shawnee, Chickasaw, and the Yuchi. The two small communities closest to the park, Modoc and Parksville, were once thriving towns fueled by the running of the railroad.

The entrance to Hamilton Branch State Park is located fifteen miles south of McCormick, South Carolina, on U.S. Highway 28. McCormick is the location of the state's oldest gold mine, Gold Rush Days. Augusta, Georgia, which is twenty-five miles south of the park on Highway 28, is the home of the nationally famous Masters Golf Tournament.

The park was leased from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which operated a small camping area here, in 1972. Expansion of the park, following existing Corps of Engineers plans continued, bringing the park to its present size of 731 acres. Mixed stands of pine and hardwood are broken by three large picnic areas, campground, two boat ramps, and a primitive camping area. The native growth of dogwood and redbud dress the park with abundant color in the early spring.

The two largest attractions of Hamilton Branch are the Clarks Hill Lake and the large campground. The lake encompasses some 70,000 acres and has nearly 1,200 miles of shoreline. Hamilton Branch is the frequented by hunters scouting the area for the best spot to bag "a trophy buck." The preservation of the natural features of the park helps to make the area a haven for many species of wildlife. Whitetail deer, raccoon, beaver, quail and dove, squirrel, wild turkey, and rabbit are evident when riding through most areas of the park.

Steve Edison  
Superintendent



## HAMPTON PLANTATION STATE PARK

Hampton Plantation State Park located 50 miles north of Charleston, South Carolina lies directly on the South Santee River. Comprising 322 acres of lowland swamps and abandoned rice fields, Hampton Plantation today is a haven for many species of wildlife, most notably deer and turkey.

Hampton Plantation State Park was acquired in 1971 from a sale by the late Archibald Rutledge, the last resident, who was the first poet laureate for South Carolina. An English professor at Union College in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, Dr. Rutledge was a noted writer and poet. After thirty-three years of teaching, Dr. Rutledge retired and returned to live at his ancestral home. One of his most popular books was Home By The River. Published in 1941, the book brought him national attention and many visitors came to see the plantation so vividly portrayed. Over his lifetime Dr. Rutledge wrote 95 books of poetry and prose. He was the recipient of 20 honorary degrees and thirty gold medals for his writings.

Hampton was built around 1750 by Col. Daniel Horry. The first house initially was a typical farmhouse. Within a decade additions to the east and west wings of the house made Hampton the largest house in the area. The house was completed in 1789 with the addition of a large Adam style portico on the south side.



Rice and indigo were the chief products of a lowcountry plantation. Cypress and pine cleared from the rice and indigo fields was converted to shingles and lumber. Owners used every resource available to make the plantation profitable.

Rice played an important role in South Carolina's economy. Vast fortunes were made by the settlers of the Carolina lowcountry and the rice industry reached its zenith in the decade prior to the Civil War. However, the abolition of slavery, on which the rice cultivation was based, brought a decline in the rice industry and it finally succumbed to competition with the Gulf Coast. A series of hurricanes in the last quarter of the century brought an end to rice altogether in South Carolina.

Hampton Plantation State Park today is an excellent area for the study and interpretation of history and architecture. Restoration of the first floor of the house has been completed. Some wall and ceiling areas have been left exposed to show the various stages and aspects of construction, as well as, changes made in the house over the years. Plans call for interpretive displays and exhibits in a museum context placed throughout the house to provide the park visitor with information on a wide variety of subjects.

Park visitors who enjoy flowers are encouraged to visit Hampton in the spring. Some of the prettiest azalea and camellia gardens can be found here. Park grounds and formal gardens are open daily. The mansion house may be toured on weekends, on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to



3:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. School groups may visit during the week by appointment. Hampton Plantation has a large picnic shelter that will accommodate groups up to 50 people. The mansion house may also be rented for special occasions such as weddings or recitals.

A centennial celebration was held last October 23rd to celebrate Archibald Rutledge's 100th birthday. Other programs on colonial lifestyles, early woodworking techniques and classes in architecture are possible for the future.

Hampton Plantation today is the past preserved and protected for the future. Visitors who are looking for a place to get away from the everyday pressures of life are encouraged to visit our unique state park.

ROBERT MITCHELL

SUPERINTENDENT





## HICKORY KNOB STATE RESORT PARK

Over two hundred years have passed since the first settlers escaped to the area which is now western South Carolina. Though the landscape of this area has undergone many changes during this time, people still come here to escape, yet in a very different way.

In the mid-1700's, a group of Scotch-Irish peoples from Virginia and Pennsylvania came to a forest-covered land along the river later named Savannah. They cleared the land for farming and building homes and as a result of the landscape underwent its first major change. As other settlers arrived, namely the French Huguenots and Germans, the area became blotted with small communities. The area grew slowly and quietly until 1851 when gold was discovered on the property of W. B. Dorn. Over the next eight years the mine proved profitable for the Dorn's, and the small town of Dorn's Mine grew up around the prosperous venture. But gold mining was short-lived and the property was sold to Cyrus McCormick, who was never able to operate the mine successfully. However, enough people had concentrated in this one location that in 1882, Cyrus McCormick donated land for public buildings, and thus the town of McCormick was formally named to honor him.

Not until the 1940's did the land of western South Carolina experience much change. Then, in 1946, the Savannah District of the Army Corps of Engineers began the construction of the Clarks Hill Dam along the Savannah River. Upon the completion of the multi-purpose project, which not only controlled flood water along the river and produced hydro-electric power, Clarks Hill Lake was created in 1954. Again the landscape underwent a major change. Though much of the land which attracted the first settlers was covered by the waters of the Savannah River, there was now a new feature to attract people to the area.

The popularity of Clarks Hill Lake and the low economic status of the McCormick area prompted the plans for the building of South Carolina's first resort park. The lake offered an endless variety of recreational opportunities including bass fishing, boating, swimming, and water skiing. Corps projects along with the South Carolina Wildlife Department were conducted to increase the abundance of deer, turkey, quail, and other small game for hunting. Pine forest quickly covered the land around the lake. Recognition of the need to develop Clarks Hill Lake as a South Carolina tourist attraction as well as the need to bring much needed revenue into the area combined to serve as a basis for the development of a resort park.



Hickory Knob State Resort Park was conceived when the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism acquired 1,090.55 acres of land along the shores of Clarks Hill Lake in 1969. The land was leased from the Army Corps of Engineers through a supplementary agreement with Baker Creek State Park for twenty-five years. Hickory Knob began with a master plan which took over ten years to complete construction. In the early 1970's, the Economic Development Administration provided three million dollars to help construct the main road, water and sewer system, the lodge complex (40 lodge rooms, coffee and gift shop, restaurant), eighteen cabins, two docking facilities, barn and stables. With the completion of these facilities, the park officially opened on October 1, 1973. Soon to follow was the construction of the convention center, tennis courts, archery range, skeet and trap ranges, and the camping area. In 1979, the final phase of the master plan began with the construction of the 18-hole golf course, twenty additional lodge rooms, two meeting rooms, and the Golf Pro Shop and Lounge. Additional features on the park included nature trails, swimming pool, playgrounds, putting greens and boat launch areas.

Though the master plan for Hickory Knob Resort Park is complete, the projects still continue. In 1983, the historic Guillebeau House was moved to the park for restoration. The 1764 log home was the last remaining structure of the first French Huguenot settlement in McCormick County. Once restoration is complete, the house will serve as a rental facility.

In addition to the year round recreational opportunities, Hickory Knob offers many special events for its visitors throughout the year. These include such events as the Outdoor Skills Workshop, Spring Archery Tournament, Senior Retreat and Holiday Creations Workshop. Special events in the local area include the Gold Rush Days Festival in McCormick each July.

The wide variety of facilities and recreational opportunities at Hickory Knob serves to attract a wide variety of visitors. Over 500,000 visitors took advantage of the unique facilities in 1983. Promoted equally as the perfect site for a business meeting, conference, church retreat, or family vacation spot, Hickory Knob is adequately equipped to serve the needs of each. So whether you prefer golfing, tennis, boating, camping, swimming, or just plain relaxing in a resort type atmosphere--Hickory Knob is just the place for you?

Ted Williams  
Superintendent





## HUNTING ISLAND STATE PARK

Hunting Island acquired its name from the fact that it was used many years ago as a hunting retreat for a group of businessmen from Pennsylvania. Raccoons and deer were the game most hunted and a sizeable herd of deer and raccoons exist today on the island.

The park is located 16 miles east of Beaufort on U.S. #21. There are six islands located along Highway 21 heading east for Port Royal Island, which includes the town of Beaufort being the first and Hunting Island being the fifth.

Hunting Island was acquired in July, 1938, and development work was initiated by a CCC Camp. This work was delayed by the serious storm of August 11, 1940, and by the entry of this country into the Second World War. By 1943, the park was taken over by the Army. This Army unit was later replaced by the Coast Guard and still later by the Navy. At the end of the war the park was returned to the state to be operated again as a state park. This reopening found many facilities incompleated and the first priority was the moving of a residence from Georgetown Wayside Park to Hunting Island so the Superintendent would have a place to stay.

In 1941, a plan was drawn up to lease lots so that private cabins could be built on the park. The state does not lease lots at this time, but 35 of the private cabins are still on the island.

The initial acreage in Hunting Island is approximately 5,000 acres. The high land portion, about 1,500 acres, consist of 4 1/2 miles of beach and the island is about 3/4 of a mile wide. The beach at low tide is 300 to 400 feet wide, which makes it one of the finest on the Atlantic Coast. The high areas are heavily covered with virgin timber, mostly Palmettos, our state tree, slash pine, and live oaks. Scattered throughout the park are several fresh water lagoons, a natural attraction for wild life - both animal and bird. There is a rookery located on the island which is a nesting area for many of the shore birds, including the eastern brown pelican. We also have a bald eagle nest which was active up until a few years ago, and a osprey nest which is active and raised two birds this year. Among the most commonly sighted animals on the park are the deer, raccoons, alligators, and squirrels.

Probably the second most visited area of the park other than the beach is the Lighthouse. It was first erected on the north end of the island in 1859 and was burned during the Civil War in 1862. It was later rebuilt at a cost of \$102,000, in 1975 near the original location. In 1889, it was moved to its present location due to the eroding coastline. It was decommissioned on June 16, 1933. The light was an



incandescent oil vapor with 100,000 candlepower which could be seen 18 miles away. There are 181 steps to the top of the lighthouse with a height of 133 feet. It is constructed of panels of cast iron which makes it possible to dis-assemble and move, with each panel weighing 1,200 pounds. The lighthouse sits on a concrete foundation eight feet deep and anchored by 36 anchor bolts, two inches in diameter.

Development of Hunting Island has been rapid in the last four years. Prior to tropical storm David in 1979, the existing facilities on the park included 14 vacation cabins, one concession stand, carpet golf, game room, picnic shelter, two comfort stations, nature center and recreation building, Trading Post, 200 site campground and a lighthouse. After tropical storm David, the master plan was put into effect. To accommodate the over one million visitors annually to the park, a new entrance and road system was built. The day use area of the park is divided into two separate areas, north and south beach. Approximately 500 parking spaces are located in the North beach area which includes a concession stand, carpet gold, lighthouse complex, playground equipment, game room, nature trail, picnic shelter and three comfort stations. The other 500 spaces are located in the South beach area which includes fishing int he man-made lagoon, nature trail, concession stand, and comfort station facilities.

Present construction on the park includes 15 - 20 boardwalks from parking areas to the beach and grassing of sand dunes to try and prevent further eroding of the beach. Within the next several weeks, construction will begin on the new 3,500 square foot concession stand to include grill facilities and a new office complex. The office complex, approximately 2,200 square feet will include a reception and interpretive area, three offices, a conference room and public restrooms. Also scheduled to begin in the near future is a 1,200 foot long fishing pier located on the south end of the island extending into Fripp Inlet. This will be a new venture for PRT in that the pier is to e financed and built by private investors under a least agreement with the state.

Long range planning calls for an additional 32 cluster cabins, additional parking, tennis courts, pool complex, and three mini-fishing piers located in the lagoon.

In spite of all the construction and the one millions visitors annually, Hunting Island is still a quiet, semi-tropical, palmetto lined paradise overlooking St. Helena Sound.

Marshall West  
Superintendent





## HUNTINGTON BEACH STATE PARK

Huntington Beach State Park comprises a 2,500 acre tract of estuarine seashore land located along the southeastern shore of South Carolina in Georgetown County, approximately three miles south of Murrells Inlet and fifteen miles north of Georgetown. The site contains three miles of sandy beaches, picturesque sand dunes, protected inlets, marshlands, fresh water ponds, and extensive maritime forest.

The property that is now Huntington Beach State Park was once a part of a four plantation estate (Brookgreen, The Oaks, Springfield, and Laurel Hill) which was hunting and fishing preserve that contained a winter house inland and a beach summer house. The park was named after Archer M. Huntington, a noted philanthropist, and Anna Hyatt Huntington, a world famous sculptoress. The Huntingtons purchased the four plantations that contained a total of 6,635 acres on January 24, 1930, as a site for a winter home and to provide a setting for Mrs. Huntington's sculpture. In 1932, Brookgreen Gardens was incorporated as a nonprofit institution under the laws of South Carolina as "a society for southeastern flora and fauna."

While the gardens were being developed at Brookgreen, the Huntingtons wanted to be close by, so they moved into the large two story gun club house on the beach opposite the entrance to Brookgreen. They enjoyed living among the dunes so much, they decided to build a new home there of their own design. The summer house was dismantled on site and a portion moved out to the highway to serve as a gate house. (This is the ranger's residence located inside the park entrance today.) Two other sections were added to the north side of the new structure and were used as servant's quarters. They were demolished in the 1950's.

Atalaya, as the new home was named because of its resemblance to the watch towers built along Spain's Mediterranean Coast, was completed between 1931 and 1932. Local labor carried out the design instructions of Mr. Huntington, under the direction of William Thompson, a contractor from Georgetown. Mr. Huntington had the gun club house surrounded on three sides with a U-shaped concrete platform 200 feet long on each outer side. He then had the brick masons lay up a wall from here to there allowing for windows at spaced intervals.

When completed, the building had thirty rooms which included the personal quarters of the Huntington's in the ocean front section. The north wing contained the servant's quarters, while the southern wing housed Mr. Huntington's study, his secretary's office, and Mrs. Huntington's studio. Her studio, with high ceilings and a 25 foot



skylight, opened onto a small enclosed courtyard where she worked on here models out of doors. In the rear were stables, kennels, and a power plant for the house, since electrical service was not available to the area at the time of construction.

Contained within the walls of Atalaya is a formal courtyard dissected by a covered walkway with a forty foot tower in the center for water storage. The courtyard is landscaped with palm and palmetto trees as well as other types of vegetation.

During World War II, Atalaya was occupied by troops from the 455th Bombardment Squadron, the U.S. Army Air Corps from Myrtle Beach Air Field. These troops were charged with patrolling the coastline and setting up targets on the beach for practice bombing runs. The grounds were fortified with machine guns, and the building housed a radar unit and the personnel.

The occupation of Atalaya by the Huntingtons was limited to three or four weeks a year over a period of ten to twelve years, with their last trip in the 1940's. After Mr. Huntington's death on December 11, 1955, most of the furnishings were sent to their house in Bethel, Connecticut, and the equipment from Mrs. Huntington's studio was transferred to the new studio at Brookgreen Gardens.

In 1960, Anna Huntington and the Brookgreen trustees leased for fifty years without fee, the acreage east of Highway #17 for use as a state park. The state park, which is now know as Huntington Beach, was to make the area available to the public and to uphold the purpose of Brookgreen Gardens. The park was originally administered by South Carolina's Forestry Commission, and in 1967 was transferred to the newly-created South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreations, and Tourism. It was opened on a limited basis in 1962, and fulltime in the mid-1960's.

Huntington Beach State Park now offers 128 campsites with shower and restroom facilites, picnic areas with rental shelters, a trading post, refreshment stand, nature observation areas including a 1,000 foot marsh board walk, a rock jetty with asphalt topping for fishing convenience, ocean swimming, surf fishing, and, of course, Atalaya. The park is highly considered a natural area and the majority of its visitors are nature lovers. They consist of campers, picnickers, fishermen, bird-watchers, and beachcombers, in that order.

Each spring the park serves as the hose for the "Murrells Inlet Seafood Festival." The day-long event is co-sponsored by PRT and the Murrells Inlet Restaurant Association. An estimated 5,000-7,000 visitors attend the festival each year, and enjoy the very best in seafood specialties offered by the restaurants of Murrells Inlet. During the fall of each year, the beautiful environment of Atalaya is the setting for the highly successful "Atalaya Arts and Crafts Festival." This event is sponsored by PRT and has gained the honorable reputation of being on e of the finest and most professional arts and crafts shows in the southeastern United States. Approximately 12 to 15 thousand



visitors come to enjoy and purchase the works of over 100 exhibitors over the three-day weekend.

Huntington Beach is a vacationers' paradise within itself, but is also surrounded by many famous area attractions. Brookgreen Gardens is located directly across Highway #17 from the park and offers an outstanding collection of outdoor statuary in magnificent outdoor settings. The tiny village of Murrells Inlet, which is located just three miles north of the park, has deep-sea fishing charters and some of the state's finest seafood restaurants. The world-famous "Grand Strand" area of South Carolina's coast is within a half-hour's drive of the park. As a key destination area for millions of people each year, it offers an endless array of motels, restaurants, campgrounds, amusement parks, golf courses, and gift shops.

As you can see, Huntington Beach State Park is full of history and has facilities, areas, or activities to satisfy the interest of all types of people from all walks of life.

Joel M. Copeland  
Superintendent





## KEOWEE-TOXAWAY STATE PARK

Keowee-Toxaway. The name has a strange sound but not unlike names of other places near the park. Places called Jocassee, Eastatoe, Tamassee, and Oconee. All these names have one thing in common. They are words from the Cherokee Indian language. Keowee-Toxaway is a combination of two Cherokee words. Keowee to the Indians meant "Mulberry Grove Place". The river that formed Lake Keowee, on which the park is located, was the called Keowee River. Groves of Mulberrys it is said grew abundantly in the river valley. Keowee or Keowee Town was also the name of the Cherokee Indian settlement near the park. The Cherokee Indians lived in and found plenty of food in the Keowee-River valley. This valley was once the center of the Lower Cherokee Indian civilization. The meaning of the word Toxaway has been lost. Some say it means "land of no tomahawk" since the Cherokees were peaceful. Others say it means "place of shedding tears" because Toxaway is one of the smaller head streams that helped form the Keowee River.

In 1970 Duke Power Company donated 1000 acres on the eastern shore of Lake Keowee to the people of South Carolina to be developed into a state park. Work began shortly after and the park was opened to the public by 1975.

The main emphasis of the park is on the natural beauty of the area and the education of the public on the true history of the Cherokee Indians.

Keowee-Toxaway is located in what is called the upcountry of South Carolina and is split almost in half by state highway #11 appropriately called the Cherokee Foothills Scenic Highway.

On the south side of this highway is the day use area of the park. We have five small picnic shelters, a picnic area, orientation building, and a nature trail with four kiosk museums.

The orientation building focuses on the plants and animals of the Keowee River Valley (past and present), geological formation of the Blue Ridge Foothills, and the early history of the American Indian. It is staffed full time by our receptionist Mrs. Francis Looper. We also have a select group of books for sale on the Cherokee Indians. Sales began in February of 1983 and so far over 400 books have been sold.

After the orientation building the visitor is invited to walk the short nature trail and learn the true history of the Cherokees by viewing self-interpretive exhibits and displays in the four kiosks. These will enlighten the visitor on the life and customs of the Cherokees from before the coming of the first white man until the forced removal of the Cherokees on what is known as "The Trail of Tears".

Visitation to the museum area was good in 1983 with over 15,000 visitors.



On the north side of the scenic highway we have all the other park facilities. The first facility will be on your right, up on a small hill, and is called the Meeting House. This building was given to the park by the people of Holly Springs Baptist Church. It was their old sanctuary built in 1890. It has been completely renovated and been available for public rental for only one and a half years. It is available for meetings, banquets, family reunions, and church socials.

A little farther down the park road and to your left is the newest addition to the park. It is the 24 site fully paved campground. It has been open to campers since late October of 1982. This campground is unique to Keowee-Toxaway. There are ten RV sites with electrical and water hookups and fourteen tent sites with only three centrally located water spigots. The tent sites are separated from the RV sites and built especially for tents. The tent pads are 16' by 16' built up off the ground using crossties filled in with dirt. The price of a tent site is only \$3.00, which is half the price of an RV site. All campers have been very complimentary on the layout of the campground on Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor day weekends of 1983. As word spreads we expect the campground to do even better.

The backpacker can also camp at Keowee along our five mile hiking trail. It is most popular in the spring and fall.

The only other facility at the park is the one cabin located on the shore of Lake Keowee. It is a large cabin sleeping 10 people and renting for \$50. a night. It is very popular in the summer season because a boat dock goes with the cabin. But its popularity in the off season is growing also. In 1983 it was occupied 65% of the time and generated over \$11,000 in revenue.

The keowee-Toxaway area has plenty for the park user to do whether they are staying overnight or just stopping by. Boat landings for Lakes Keowee and Jocassee are very nearby. The newly opened Foothills Hiking Trail, developed by Duke Power, is a short drive away. The Duke Power Nuclear Station along with their Keowee-Toxaway Visitors Center are near and explain the use of nuclear energy for the generating of electricity. These are only a few of the nearby points of interest. Many campers have stayed at Keowee and visited Table Rock and Caesars Head State Parks which are very close.

This upcountry area has something to offer everyone. It is an area that has really grown and become very popular with the building of Lakes Keowee and Jocassee. Over the next fifty years interest and use of this area is surely going to continue to increase. May it stay as beautiful and unspoiled then as it is now.



## KINGS MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Kings Mountain State Park is located 12 miles north of York on South Carolina Highway 161. It adjoins the Kings Mountain National Military Park, making a combining total of 8,882 acres. The State Park was purchased and developed by the Federal Government and later turned over to the state for maintenance and operations as part of it's South Carolina State Park system. Acquired November, 1934 and opened to the public in June, 1940, the state park is now comprised of 6,141 acres. Initial construction and development of both National and State Parks came out of President Roosevelt's New Deal. The Civilian Conservation Corp's major projects at Kings Mountain were the construction of dams, group camps, roads, bridges, the bath house, shelters, and various other structures.

The park offers many recreational attractions such as a family camp ground with 118 sites complete with water, electrical hook-ups, and shower facilities. A supervised swimming area, bath house, concession stand and pedal boats are used by campers and day visitors in the summer months. Other attractions include primitive camping, carpet golf, a picnic area with shelters, and a 64 acre fishing lake which attracts local anglers each year. Fishing boats are available for rent on a half- and a whole-day basis.

Two group camps provide recreation for groups such as horse clubs, church groups, local YMCA, and other organizations. Lodges, cabins, administrative buildings, a dining hall, a kitchen stocked with dinnerware and cooking utensils, and other buildings have been constructed for use of these organizations. Each camp holds approximately 140 campers. A large dining hall is centrally located within easy walking distance of three clusters of cabins. Each cluster contains 8 individual cabins, one restroom, and one lodge building. Each cabin sleeps four campers, while the lodge building is used for classes and various activities. Both camps border a 64 acre man-made lake, which provides a private swimming area with a dock and diving board.

Another attraction developed and constructed by park personnel in 1976 is a living history farm consisting of a number of early log buildings from various places in South Carolina, and intended to show pioneer life in the early 1800's. Farm animals and living history demonstrations are available in the spring and fall upon request. We are now in the process of year-round interpretation and programs at the farm.

Each fall in late September, thousands of visitors come to relive the heritage and enjoy the crafts and games of our upstate pioneer



ancestors. Along with the games and crafts, a black powder muzzle loaders conclave competition is held. The pioneer days and muzzle loaders conclave continue to grow each year. The seventh annual conclave consists of molasses making, basket weaving, spinning, pioneer cooking, demonstrations by local blacksmiths, as well as live folk music during the day and a concert that evening.

Another major undertaking in 1976 was the establishment and development of a greenhouse complex. From one small greenhouse, the nursery has grown into six large greenhouses and three other buildings used for working area and storage. Today the nursery supplies trees, shrubs, and flowers for the entire state park system.

Besides the recreational attractions, campers are able to visit one of the most historic spots in the country. Within walking distance is the National Military Park, which covers the site of the Battle of Kings Mountain, fought October 7, 1780, between the British regulars, and Tories and American Patriots.

A granite monument was erected by the National Government to commemorate the battle and the men who fought there. A hiking trail branches out from the monument and leads to the state park. In addition to this three mile trail are nature trails, horse trails, and for the more ambitious person, a 12-mile hiking trail.

Lew Cato  
Superintendent





## LANDSFORD CANAL STATE PARK

Landsford Canal State Park is located off U.S. 21 approximately 15 miles from Rock Hill, S. C., and consists of 200 acres of land located on the Catawba River. The state acquired the property in 1970 from Duke Power to be developed into a state park. Prior to this, the property was a county park. Landsford got its name from Thomas Land who had been given a land grant from the King of England. The ford or crossing was included in the land grant. Landsford played a prominent part in South Carolina's history. The property changed owners and, William R. Davie became the owner and built his home, called Tivoli, here in 1805. Times were rapidly changing and Governor Andrew Pickens decided that South Carolina must change with the times or fall behind in trade and industry. The Erie Canal had been built connecting Buffalo with the Mohawk-Hudson River Route giving the Great Lakes Region of upstate New York access to the port of New York City. Because the project had paid for itself in a decade, Governor Pickens decided this may be the answer for South Carolina and appointed a committee which consisted of William R. Davie and Joel Poinsett to name a few. This meeting was held in Landsford at the Davie home, and the committee agreed that a canal on the Catawba River may be the answer to the trade industry and the state's survival. Plans were made and Robert Leckie was the contractor. Work began on the canal in August of 1820. William R. Davie died in November of the same year and never saw the completion of the canal. Through many unforeseen problems, the canal at Landsford was completed in 1823. Although the canal was completed that year, it is believed that it was put to only marginal use at that time, due to



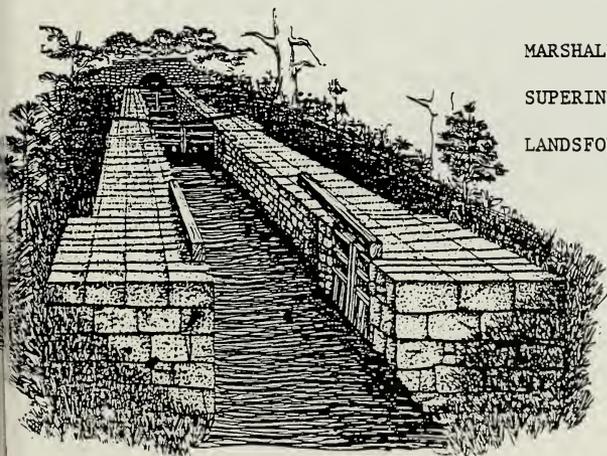
the fact that Rocky Mount Canal, down river, was not yet completed, boats could not use that part of the river. In 1824, as they waited on the completion of Rocky Mount Canal, one of the locks at Landsford collapsed. It was rebuilt and, finished in 1825. It was not until 1830, that Rocky Mount Canal was finished and at this time the canal system could be fully utilized. There were never any records of tolls for Landsford Canal but, there were records for the canals down river and, one could go by these records to get an idea on the tolls at Landsford Canal. There were 670 bales of cotton that went through the canal the first year of operation but after that there were declines for the next 7 years. In 1838, there was no more money appropriated for the canal system and the remains of what we have today is all that is left of a dream to connect the state with water trade. It was never certain the exact failure of the canal system but railroads, recession and the Civil War played a big part in the downfall. The Catawba River at Landsford also played a part in two great wars according to local historians. General Cornwallis is supposed to have led his men through Landsford in retreat from Charlotte to Winnsboro, after the Battle of Kings Mountain. General Thomas Sumter and William R. Davie used Landsford as their mustering ground for their attack on Hanging Rock. General Sherman was delayed by high water at the ford during the Civil War. Indians also used the ford for crossing the Catawba River and erected a sign stone near the canal, to let them know when it was safe to cross the river. If the water was over the sign stone the Indians knew it was unsafe to cross and would wait.



Landsford is rich in history. The park now has a lockkeepers house which was moved from Great Falls (Rocky Mount) and relocated at Landsford. This building will serve as a museum and should be available to the park visitor in the spring of 1984. A two story dog trot cabin, that was relocated and restored at Landsford, is used as a community building and, can accommodate two different groups at once. The park also has a small covered picnic shelter, modern restrooms, a nature trail, a canal trail, paved roads and parking area, a superintendent's residence completed in 1975, and a ranger's residence completed in 1981.

The majority of the park users are fishermen and picnickers. The annual Spring Wildflower Walk is enjoyed by many from our state as well as, our neighboring state of North Carolina. There was an overwhelming turnout for the first Canal History Walk given by Mike Foley this past year (1983). The park is getting more canoers who enjoy riding the rapids at Landsford. Landsford is unique, and has something to offer each park visitor whether it be in history or just tranquility.

MARSHALL L. BRUCKE  
SUPERINTENDENT  
LANDSFORD CANAL STATE PARK





## LEE STATE PARK

Lee State Park is located on I-20 near Bishopville, South Carolina. Containing 2,839 acres, the park was acquired in 1935 and officially opened to the public in 1941. Most of the park consists of a river swamp that is noted for its large trees and abundant wildlife. Many years ago the high ground located on the park supported several small farms. The park contains some excellent examples of the Carolina sand hills and one of these has received natural recognition as a unique natural area.

The sandhill natural area is one of the most enjoyed trails that we have on the park. Old pine stumps indicate that some of these trees were cut years ago. Some have been known to have 370 annual growth rings. Six different species of oak as well as three different pines are located in this area. We try to keep as natural as we can and let mother nature do her job.

Developments on the park include areas for swimming, picnicking, camping, and fishing. There are trails on the park designed to accommodate nature study and horse back riding.

Like most southern states, South Carolina has a Lee County to honor Robert E. Lee. Lee State Park was named for the county where it is located.

Much of the high ground located on the park was once cotton fields, and seven different houses were located on what is now park land. Cotton farming declined with the arrival of the boll weevil and most of these farms were abandoned before it became park land. Most of the park land features a river floodplain swamp. Many of the farmers that once lived on the park used the swamp for a community pasture. A rail fence ran along the high grounds and the cows and hogs were fed enough corn to keep them trained to respond to their owners voice. During the dust bowl days of the 30's, the government shipped starving cattle from the west and kept them in this old pasture area. Sections of the wire fence installed by the government can still be found on the park.

In 1928, a logging railroad was developed through the swamp to get to the large trees found there. The bed for this railroad can still be traced across the park, and one rusting rail lies abandoned at the edge of the swamp.

The swamp still features many record size trees, and it features the largest pine tree known to exist on any of our parks.



There is much evidence that there were several Indian Villages here prior to the coming of the Europeans.

Camping is another attraction to our park. We are located so close to Interstate 20 and our campers appreciate not having to drive out in the country to have an overnight stay, and then they can be back on their trip. The good comments that we get help us to keep the park enjoyable. Also, they have good comments about all of our parks complete hook ups--at least water, electricity, and showers. Some other state are not up to what we have in South Carolina. We had almost a full campground this past November. We had the Holiday Mini Rally Camping Club chose us to be their Fall Mini Rally. This was state wide, and lots of people coming to see us for the first time. We were proud to have good comments about the park.

We have the Cotton Festival each year, which brings lots of people to our area. It seems to get better and bigger each year. Bishopville is not a big town, so they appreciate having a good turnout for the festival. Arts and crafts are a big event at the festival, and also a parade through town with floats and bands.

Two other attractions to our area are the Darlington race twice each year, and the Air Museum in Florence.

There have been thirteen different superintendents at Lee, seven of these were promoted to larger parks, three eventually ended up in the Columbia Office (Holder, Watson, and Thomson), and four past superintendents are still with the system.

Bill Alewine  
Superintendent





## LITTLE PEE DEE STATE PARK

Little Pee Dee State Park is located on the Little Pee Dee River, twelve miles south of Dillon in Dillon County. This area of the state is known as the Pee Dee. Together with this and the park being next to the Little Pee Dee River brought about its name. The Pee Dee area and two rivers in the region is named after the Pee Dee Indians who once inhabited the area. Before the establishment of the state park, the area was part of a larger area known as "The Devil's Woodyard." This name has unknown origin.

The park was acquired in June, 1951, and opened to the public in June of 1955. The 781 acres of land and 54 acre lake comprising Little Pee Dee State Park was donated by various land owners. The first person to initiate the idea of a state park system was Ben Meeks, from nearby Florence, who traveled to Washington, D.C., in 1933 to persuade officials that South Carolina needed a state park system. So in 1933, legislation was passed that made it lawful for South Carolina to have a state park system under the Department of Forestry.

Mr. LaFon Norton, who was working for the Department of Forestry as a forest ranger in 1951, transferred to the parks division to develop Little Pee Dee State Park. During the four years of development, a lake which took 28,000 manhours to build, a bathhouse facility, Scout camping, and picnic area, and shelters were built. The 54 acre lake located on the park started as a low-lying swamp area that is fed by two creeks, Bell swamp and Indian Pot Branch. A family campground was added in the 1960's. During the early 70's, additional family campsites with a restroom facility were added.

An unusual feature located on the park is the white sand dunes, known as Sandy Island, which stretches across one area of the park and is visible evidence of an age when an ocean was here. The park also is inhabited by an endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. The park features a range of habitats from a small swamp featuring bottomland hardwoods to sandhills featuring pines and scrub oaks. The park also contains the rim of a Carolina Bay, and some planted Pines.

The Pee Dee area is noted for the production of tobacco and soybeans. During the late summer months, auction warehouses open up in near-by towns to sell the newly-cured tobacco. Another product of the area is timber production. Different timber companies lease thousands of acres for this purpose.



Floydale, which is located eight miles south of Dillon on Highway 57 was the home of Carlisle Floyd. He composed one of the more successful American Operas, "Suzanna." The Pee Dee River was used in the original manuscript of Stephen Foster's song, "Old Folks at Home", but was crossed out and Swanee written in above it in the second version.

One of the activities that draws people to Little Pee Dee State Park is fishing. The largest big mouth bass from the lake is 11 pounds, 5 ounces. We offer year-round fishing by boat or just from the banks. Use of picnic areas and picnic shelters are also popular. For park visitors who wish to enjoy the surroundings and get away from the noise of everyday life will enjoy our campground with its spacious campsites. During the summer months, the park offers swimming and pedal boats that both the picnickers and campers can enjoy.

Some of the recreation activities available in the surrounding area are fishing for redbreast in the rivers and hunting at local deer clubs. The famed South of the Border amusement park, with its brightly colored advertising signs which stretch along several hundred miles of I-95, is located two miles north of Dillon of I-95, and draws thousands of tourists each year.

Stanley Looper  
Superintendent





## LYNCHEs RIVER STATE PARK

Lynches River State Park was acquired April 17, 1971, from various owners. The park gets its name from the river that borders its western and northern boundaries. Lynches River is a 668 acre park, covered mostly by pine, cypress, and scrub oak trees. The soil found on the high ground is composed of a fine sand.

Lynches River is located 13 miles south of Florence and 13 miles north of Lake City off Highway 52. The park was built in its present location due to the concern and the work of PRT Commissioner C. B. Askins.

Before becoming a state park, Lynches River was a trash dump, a place for moonshiners to hide their stills, and a lovers lane. People of the community say they can't believe the difference in the park now, compared to then.

Park construction began in 1972. The first phase of construction included a picnic area, restroom, playground, ballfield, fishing area, nature trail, primitive camping area, and community building.

The park receives its heaviest use on weekends by the local people. Local people are the residents of Florence, Lake City, and the small communities around the park.

The river is a local fishing spot and a training ground for the learning canoeist. During the rainy season, the river rises so much that it flows over its banks and floods the picnic area along the river.

The primitive camping area is the only overnight facility on the park. This area has hot water, electricity, and restrooms, and is used by Boy Scouts and the National Guard.

The nature trail begins at the picnic area, goes through the woods over a branch of the river, and follows the river's edge back to the picnic area. The trails are two miles in length.

The park has one picnic shelter. The shelter is used on a first-come, first-serve basis. The shelter may be reserved in advance for a fee of \$16 per day. The shelter is located at the northern end of the park.

The community building is a 150 foot diameter building equipped with a kitchen, restrooms, 200 pound icemaker, P.A. system, heat and air conditioning, and has a seating capacity of 380. The building may be rented for \$150 per day or \$75 per half-day. The building is rented by



companies for parties, church groups for social events, and families for reunions. The reunions are where we get most of our out-of-state visitors. These people come from all over to be with friends and family, and to get some of that good food that comes with those reunions.

This past May, the park held an open house for the new swimming pool complex. The pool complex has one main pool and one kiddie pool. The main pool measures 165 feet long, 65 feet wide, has depths ranging from 3 feet to 12 feet, and contains 400,000 gallons of water. The kiddie pool is ten feet in diameter, 1 1/2 feet in depth, and contains about 800 gallons of water.

The complex also has showers, changing areas, restrooms, first-aid room, ticket booth, a grill, and also houses the park office.

The pool complex, the community, and the park are all beautiful facilities. The people of Florence County and the people of South Carolina should be proud of Lynches River State Park and of their state parks system.

Ray T. Stevens  
Superintendent





## MYRTLE BEACH STATE PARK

Myrtle Beach State Park was named after the town of Myrtle Beach. This coastal town was named for the Wax Myrtle which grows so predominantly along the strand. The park is located three miles south of Myrtle Beach on U.S. Highway #17.

In August, 1937, 320 acres of seacoast property south of Myrtle Beach was donated to the State by the Myrtle Beach Farm Corporation. This property is a mile-long quadrangle located between U.S. #17 and the Atlantic Ocean. In the early 1940's when the Air Force Base was being developed, part of the park property located west of the present day Highway 17 was given to the United State Air Force in exchange for beachfront property adjacent to the southern boundary of the park. The present acreage is now 312 acres.

On July 1, 1936, the first official state park visitor entered through the newly painted gates at Myrtle Beach State Park. This began a new way of life in outdoor recreation for South Carolinians. Many of the buildings located in the park today were constructed by the federally funded Civilian Conservation Corp--three residences, picnic shelters, five vacation cottages, and a bathhouse and recreation building. All of these facilities are still in use, except for the bathhouse and recreation building.

During the early stages of development, Myrtle Beach State Park had approximately twenty campsites with trailers. These were rented to fishermen and family vacationers. For approximately twenty years, this was the only campground on the Grand Strand.

In the early 1940's, the park was taken over by the U. S. Military for use during World War II. The superintendent's and Assistant Superintendent's residences were used as headquarters. The shop and storage buildings were used to house supplies and also for vehicle maintenance. The Nature Center was used as the mess hall. In March, 1945, the park was released back to the state.

In June, 1950, the fishing pier was completed and opened to the public. The pier was 640 feet long and was located on the northern boundary of the park. The pier was donated to the park and the state helped to pay for this facility by returning a portion of the revenue to Spring Mills. In October, 1954, hurricane Hazel hit the coast, causing damage to the pier and destroying the boardwalk which connected the pier and the bathhouse.



The summer of 1957 brought the opening of the swimming pool to the public. This facility was also built by Spring Mills for their employees and given to the park. The state also gave back a percentage of this revenue to help pay for the facility. This is still the only public swimming pool located in Myrtle Beach.

In August, 1958, an Air Force plane crashed into the concession area of the pier and on into the parking lot. It destroyed several cars and killed one man and his son. After this incident, because the pier was located in the main flight path of the military aircraft, the pier was moved to the south end of the park. The pier was extended to 750 feet long and reopened to the public in 1960 and the pier manager's house was moved to its present location. Picnic shelters which were located near the original pier were also moved farther south along the ocean front.

On September 18, 1963, Myrtle Beach, along with all State Parks, was closed to the public due to conflicting federal and state laws dealing with civil rights and integration. In June, 1964, the parks reopened to the public, but swimming and cabin rentals were prohibited. They were fully reopened on June 30, 1966.

On July 1, 1967, the state parks came under the newly created Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, ending 33 years of supervision by the Forestry Commission. Also in 1967, the old bathhouse and concession area which served the pool and beach front was torn down because of severe maintenance problems. This building had been a landmark on the park for thirty years. Part of this facility was used for picnic shelters. The second story section of this building was moved to its present location at the entrance to the camping area. It was then converted into a country store and small apartment. This store was necessary to meet the needs of the campers in an area which had grown to 155 campsites.

In 1970, a new public day-use bathhouse and two picnic shelters and grills were constructed from bond issue money.

In 1973, a personnel barracks was constructed to provide housing for 32 seasonal employees. The employees were necessary to meet the growing needs and demands of the public.

In 1975, the first parking fee station was introduced to the public and a fee of \$1 per car was charged to enter the park, causing a lot of complaining from park visitors for the first two years. This fee was placed on the park to help ease overcrowding of the picnic areas. At this time, approximately 1.5 million visitors entered the park. Also in 1974, two new restroom facilities were built and camping area expanded to 300 campsites. Camping, fishing, and family picnic outings are the most popular activities at the park.

In 1980, a new country store was built to better meet the needs of the campers and all park visitors. The old store was remodeled and converted into an extremely nice rental apartment.



There is a wide variety of activities to choose from in Myrtle Beach. Activities include skiing and fishing on the intercoastal waterway, miles of beautiful beaches, enjoying the amusement parks, or playing golf on any one of the forty courses.

Nationwide, Myrtle Beach State Park may be the most well-known of all South Carolina State Parks, due to the fact that it is located in the heart of South Carolina's largest and most well-known tourist area.

Some of the activities offered are 350 shaded campsites, swimming in the ocean or pool, modern vacation cabins, fishing pier, nature trails through acres of wooded areas, or hunting shells and sharks teeth on the beach. Although the park has become surrounded by amusement parks, shopping centers, and motels, and the fact that 2,000,000 visitors entered the park this year, it has failed to spoil the natural beauty of the park, and the day lilies still bloom beautifully each spring.

Robert Turner  
Superintendent





## OCONEE STATE PARK

One of the older state park, Oconee is located on Oconee County on S.C. Highway #107, 10 miles northwest of Walhalla, 19 miles from Senaca, and 30 miles from Clemson University.

The 1,165 acres for the park were acquired in July, 1935, from Oconee County by donation with reversionary title, this being the reason for the park being name Oconee. If it ceases to be a State Park in one year, it goes back to the county. This almost happened in 1963; the parks were closed until June 1, 1964, when they were opened on a limited basis by Legislative Act. Then on July 1, 1966, they were opened on an unrestricted basis.

Oconee was established as one of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corp) camps and work began to build a 20 acre lake, 20 family cabins, picnic areas with shelters, and hiking trails. Lumber was sawed from trees on the property, mostly from dead chestnut that had been killed by an earlier blight, invaded by worms, and now make up the famous wormy chestnut that were used to most all of the original buildings. There are 3 logs cabins, one built entirely of huge chestnut logs. The rock bathhouse, the many chimneys and underpinings for the cabins were built from rock that was removed from the unfinished nearby Stumphouse Tunnel that was begun in the 1830's.

Work was completed by the CCC in early 1937, and the swimming area was opened to the public on June 1, 1937. The rest of the park was opened to the public on June 17 of that same year. From that time until July 1, 1967, Oconee and all other State Parks were a division of the South Carolina State Commission of Forestry. The system operated on a limited budget, enough to hold the parks together; that is, if you straightened out your old nails. July, 1967, marked the end of a 33-year period with the Commission of Forestry. We then became a division of the newly created Division of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. At that time, Oconee had 13 campsites, adequate for that time, but camping was picking up, and with the help of Mr. Sisk, who was an Assistant Director at that time, we opened up 40 more sites. Most of the work was done with our hands, because we still had little equipment and a tight budget.

About 1968, again with the guidance of Mr. Sisk, we started to promote Oconee by giving new reporters, television, and radio personnel free weekends in the cabins. We promoted the many points of interest near Oconee, and other parks as well. In a short period of time, things began to pick up. Another 100 campsites were added, four new restrooms, a new picnic shelter/comfort station, and new trading post.



In 1968, with the help of our first Clemson interns, we began our planned recreation programs. By 1970, we had an extensive recreation program during June, July, and August, and shortly afterward began the special program with the help of Dan Turpin and his department. We were filling up our 140 campsites almost every weekend, cabin rental was on the increase, and some of them were winterized for year-round use. We outgrew the old recreation building, and soon appropriations were made to build a new multi-purpose building which was filled to capacity on opening night. I am fully convinced that the recreation program at Oconee has contributed very much to the increase in attendance and revenue. Also, the many points of interest that are near by include the Chattooga River, popular for trout fishing, and where rafting has become a million-dollar business. The Walhalla National Fish Hatchery, white water falls, Stumphouse Mountain Tunnel, Duke Power Visitor Center, and Clemson University are also located nearby.

Oconee still consists of the same number of acres, 1,165, with about 30 percent developed. It has 20 cabins, 140 campsites, and four picnic areas--two with large shelters and two with small ones; an additional 20 acre lake in the campground, a multi-purpose recreation building and amphitheatre, two 3 1/2 mile trails, and a one mile nature trail. Oconee is the beginning point of the new foothills trail that winds its way 80 miles to Table Rock State Park. Also, in addition to the planned recreation programs, it has a carpet golf course that had 8,600 players last year and a campground recreation building with table tennis and other table games.

Fiscal year 1962-63 showed attendance of 73,000 and revenue of \$28,000-30,000; 1983-83 showed attendance of 220,500, and revenue of 280,000 and operating in the black.

Bob Cothran  
Superintendent





## OLD DORCHESTER

Old Dorchester became a state park on February 25, 1960, under a lease from West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company which is now Westvaco Corporation. On June 20, 1969, a 76,86 acre tract of land was donated to the State of South Carolina. At this same time a .04 acre tract was donated by the Protestant Episcopal Church. Then in April, 1982, the parks acquired an additional 247.18 acres south of the present park and across the Ashley River. These acres should prove to be an invaluable asset in the expansion of Old Dorchester in the future.

The land was part of a land grant of 4,050 acres from the King of England. This land was divided up into farms and they set aside 50 acres for a place of trade, this became the town of Dorchester. The 50 acres were divided in 116 lots of 1/4 acre each. Space was left for the public square and streets. The settlement, being located at the head of navigational waters of the Ashley River and in a horse shoe bend of the river, made the town of Dorchester an important trade center. There were two wharves located on the banks of the river, one for trade and the other for small boat repairs. The remains of these are still visible at low tides.

Just prior to the Revolutionary War, Dorchester was the third largest settlement in South Carolina; Georgetown and Charlestown being larger.

The Fort at Old Dorchester is in the form of a square rebout, with half-bastions at each of the four angles, one of the three types of fort construction used in Scotland. The walls are approximately four feet thick and were originally reinforced with buttresses. Of the four main walls, the north (102 feet) is the longest. The west wall (101 feet long) was capped with brick to make it uniform in height with the others. The walls are made of tabby, a combination of sand and oyster shells embedded in a matrix of burnt shells and lime, this wet moisture was poured into a form and dried to a consistency of concrete. One of the main purposes of the fort was to protect a powder magazine which measured 20 feet by 22 feet and was made of brick construction. One trophy unearthed during excavation of the fort was a coin commemorating the battle of Porto Bello, Panama, struck in England and dated November 22, 1739. Fort Dorchester had some of the most famous names involved with it during the Revolutionary War. General William Moultrie, Captain Francis Marrion, Col. Joseph Grove, Sir Henry Clinton, and Col. Light Horse Harry Lee, Gen. Nathaniel Green, and Col. Wade Hampton.

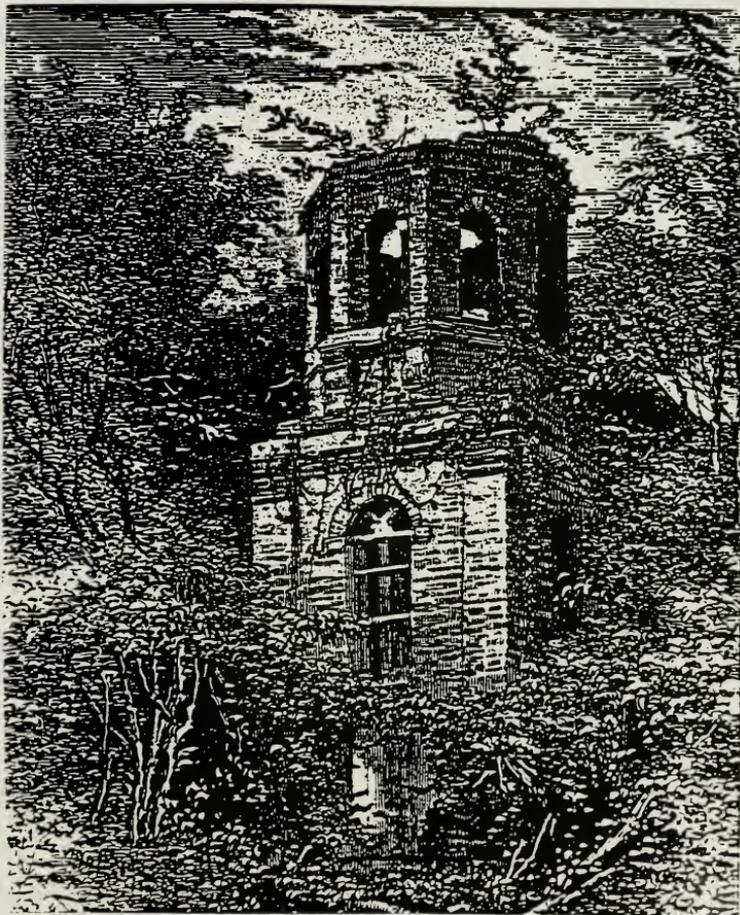
In 1696, the Puritan settlers built a wooden church near the public road but outside the place of trade. In 1700, this was replaced with a



brick structure. Construction of this brick church was 70 feet long and 30 feet wide, cruciform in shape, with Gothic windows which began in 1719. The outer works were completed in 1720. Repairs and additions were made in 1736. The Congregation added a Gothic tower with a ring of bells in 1752. This was occupied and partially burned by the British in 1781. It was reorganized and rebuilt in 1794 and commemorated its 150th anniversary in 1846. It continued to serve for periodic services until 1886 when the earthquake of that year demolished it.

The bell tower and grave sites are all that remain of the old church today.

Charles Cumbee  
Superintendent





## PARIS MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Paris Mountain State Park, located on the northeastern edge of Paris Mountain, just off S.C. Highway 253 and U.S. 25, is eight miles northeast of the city of Greenville in Greenville County, South Carolina. Located closely to the heavily populated metropolitan area of Greenville, it is primarily used by the residents of Greenville County as a day-use area, plus campers from all over the nation. Users come in groups, families, churches, companies, and individually. There are no restrictions as to whom may visit the park since it is a public park.

The entrance to the park is well defined and attractive. Immediately upon entering the park, a sense of seclusion and quietness becomes the atmosphere. The park seems to be alive with wildlife and a thick green forest which blocks the busy outside from the stillness of the park. The park encompasses 1,275 acres and is operated by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. Prior to the creation of PRT, the park was operated by the Parks Division of the State Forestry Commission, who obtained the park, by gift, from the city of Greenville in 1935. Located in the park are three man-made lakes, which were originally constructed as reservoirs and served as the main source of water supply for the City of Greenville from 1890 to 1916. They are now a secondary supply source and are also used for recreational purposes: swimming, boating, and fishing. Use areas consist of a 50-site camping area, amphitheater, group camp, ball field, swimming, boating, fishing, nature trail, hiking trail, seven picnic shelters, and open picnic areas.

Wildlife is protected on the park as no hunting is allowed. Foxes, squirrels, opossums, rabbits, snakes, and many species of birds are found on the park. At one time goats were seen on the mountain, but have long since gone, primarily due to the residential growth on the mountain.

There have been considerable mica deposits found near the present Lake Placid Dam, and some graphite and iron deposits, but little or no revenue has been gained from them.

The majority of the timber coverage is pine with some holly, sweetgum, poplar, sourwood, white oak, hickory, and dogwood. In the spring, many flowering plants grace the park.

The physical facilities of the park are located on four developed areas. The most heavily used is located near the main entrance around the largest of three reservoirs, Lake Placid. Developed are a bathhouse, swimming area, picnic shelters, tables, and a large amphitheatre plus residences for the park superintendent and two rangers. Further



into the park is a 50-unit campsite complete with all modern conveniences. Beyond it is the very popular Sulphur Springs picnic area which handles most of the very large groups and home of the Camp Spearhead Retarded Childrens Day Camp, which uses this area every summer for a period of about six to eight weeks. The most remote area, Camp Buckhorn is located on the parks highest elevation and is equipped for group camping with cabins, restrooms, and a three acre lake.

Management objectives of the state park are to preserve the timber on the park area, maintain the quality of the water in the reservoir and upkeep the developed area for the use of the general public. In other words, to operate the area as a state park.

It is felt that the main interpretive theme for Paris Mountain State Park should be Paris Mountain and its history in relation to the overall relation of the park due to its geographical location on the edge of the mountain. Most of the historical information on the area is centered around the mountain and its early contributions to the historical development of the area.

The mountain is the most prominent natural land mark in the area and is considered a most interesting geographical phenomenon. It rises over 2000 feet and provides a natural protection to the Greenville area, for it is thought that the conformation of Paris Mountain may have something to do with the fact that severe tornadoes have never hit the city of Greenville.

The mountain was once the home of Cherokee Indians and was named after Richard Pearis, who was the first white settler in the region. He was sent to the Greenville area by Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia to stimulate trade with the local indians. Pearis, soon after he arrived, took an Indian for his wife and started a family. By virtue of his association with the Indians, Pearis was given a track of land which included what is now Paris Mountain. Pearis fought as a Tory during the revolution, and after the war was over his property was confiscated by the state and later sold to private owners.

Prior to the 1930's, the mountain had an abundance of cherry trees, but due to the chestnut blight, there are none left. The chestnut not only was a food source for squirrels, humans, and livestock, but also served as a soil stabilizer around the reservoirs and evidence of erosion is in some areas. Many of the homes in the mountain area have chestnut paneling, for after the blight hit, the wood was used in house building because of its hardness. The superintendents house has chestnut in the living room.

In 1970, while developing a 50-unit camping area, the construction crew unearthed what turned out to be the remains of a 19th century charcoal kiln. It was used to obtain charcoal for use in the forge hearths of blacksmiths and also for the furnaces of the early iron industry. This process consisted of placing hardwood cut from the area under a controlled burning situation from which the charcoal was derived. A cord of wood would produce an estimated thirty bushels of charcoal. This was a contributing factor to the depletion of hardwood



in the park area. This coupled with the chestnut blight is why today very few hardwood varieties exist. There is no evidence of any replanting, therefore, no element of conservation was displayed.

Along with the charcoal kiln, a grave site consisting of eleven graves was located. No excavation was done except to clear off the area and replace the crude headstones. Here is an opportunity to interpret misuse of an area by present man. This is based on the fact that no real protection was given to the area except to erect a split-rail fence. Since that time the headstones have been either stolen or broken up by the campers in the area. A sign was erected some time later to let the people know that the ground was under study. The priority of campsites over historical value was overruled. The graves dated back to 1795.

The original park facilities were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program. This program was a part of the New Deal of President Franklin Roosevelt and was a by-product of the conservation movement of that time. The CCC can be related to our present Youth Conservation Corp (YCC), which is designed to give summer jobs to our young people in conservation and preservation work on our park lands.

Ed Millér  
Superintendent





## PLEASANT RIDGE STATE PARK

Pleasant Ridge State Park is named for the county where it is located. The county was created in 1786. In 1797, a county seat was laid out and called by a Mr. L. J. Alston, brother of then Governor Joseph Alston, "Pleasantburg", because of its rolling plains and sparkling streams found in the area. The city later changed its name to Greenville in 1821.

Pleasant Ridge State Park is located 22 miles northwest of Greenville on scenic Highway 11. It was acquired in 1950 from the Enoree Baptist Association, but was not opened to the public until June, 1955, and then it was the only state park which was entirely for blacks, and maintained by the states first black superintendent; not until June, 1964, was it available for use by everyone.

Pleasant Ridge State Park has two modern cabins which are as popular in this mountain retreat as those of Table Rock and Oconee. There is a 25-site family campground as well as three large sheltered picnic spaces, a swimming and fishing area, refreshment stand, rental boats, and a nature trail which in itself offers many outlets for various people, from beautiful wildflowers alongside a cool crisp mountain stream to abandoned liquor stills from years gone by.

The park has 288 acres, however, only about 40 percent of it is for active recreational use. The rest of the park is undeveloped and at the present time no future development is in sight.

Pleasant Ridge has a lot to offer but its greatest attribute is serenity.

The personnel at Pleasant Ridge also have to maintain a small wayside park known as Wildcat Wayside. This is an inviting little park situated in South Carolina's untamed northern piedmont region. It is for those who can appreciate the natural beauty found in its woods, plant life, and trailside waterfalls. A picnic area is also provided in the park. Wildcat Wayside is found just north of Cleveland on Highway 276. Its 62 acres were donated in 1971 by the State Highway Department and the Department of Interior.

The Greenville-Pickens area is fortunate in having several good state park facilities located within a reasonable distance. These facilities provide for a variety of recreational activities. There are five existing state parks in the Greenville-Pickens area: Caesar's Head, Keowee-Toxaway, Paris Mountain, Pleasant Ridge, and Table Rock. Four of the five state parks have artificial lakes and provide facilities for swimming and camping, all five offer hiking, picnicking, and



various recreational and educational programs. In addition to providing a measure of outdoor recreational facilities for the people of the state and its surrounding neighbors, these areas have also captured and preserved an important scenic and natural environment of the mountainous northern section of the state.

Gerard Perry  
Superintendent





## POINSETT STATE PARK

Poinsett is named after the famous South Carolinian, Joel Robert Poinsett, who gained both fame and respect as a naturalist, traveler, author, statesman, and educator. He was born in 1779 in Charleston, South Carolina, and was educated in medicine, military science, and law. He served in the United States House of Representatives, was Secretary of War under Martin VanBuren, (8th president of the United States, 1837-1841), and was the first U.S. Minister to Mexico. He is most remembered for finding the Christmas flower growing wild in Mexico and bringing it to the states. His fellow scientists named it the Poinsettia in his honor. Poinsett died in nearby Stateburg in 1851 at the age of 72, and is buried there in the Church of The Holy Cross cemetery.

In August, 1934, Sumter County donated to the state 1,000 acres of land which is located 18 miles southwest of Sumter on S.C. Highway 261 near Wedgefield for the purpose of creating South Carolina's third state park. The Civilian Conservation Corps, which was part of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal Program, built the park while based in their camp, which was located near our cabin area. Most of our present building, trails, and roads were constructed by these young men. Our lake, however, existed prior to the American Revolution, at which time it was used as a means of flooding rice paddies that were located downstream. Afterwards, until 1916, this body of water was used as a mill pond. Poinsett was first opened to the public in August, 1936.

Poinsett is unique in many ways, lying as it does between the Sandhills and the Coastal Plain, yet resembling a wooded area in the mountains. The hilly terrain of the park is unusual because generally the land in this area is flat. Here you find Mountain Laurel draped with Low Country Spanish Moss and dense Galax cover can be found growing close to the dark waters of the Wateree Swamp. The combination of mountain and swamp growth along with ancient marine deposits of Fullers Earth and Coquina Rock has for years made Poinsett popular with students of nature.

Fuller's Earth is a highly absorbant, claylike substance and derives its name from its first use by "Fullers" (people who processed cloth) who used it to remove the oils and greases from wool. There are large deposits in this area, and quite often there is an outcropping, but more frequently there is a heavy overburden. Modern uses of Fuller's Earth are as a body for low grade lubricants, a base for cosmetics, and as a filter and absorbent in refining lubricating oil. During both World Wars there was an interest in commercial mining in this locality, but it was not feasible due to the heavy overburden and the amount of impurities.



The rock used in the construction of our bathhouse and other structures is known as "Coquina", from the Spanish word meaning "Shell." Coquina had its origin over 50 million years ago when practically all of this area was covered by the ocean. When the abundant marine animals such as oysters, corals, and other died, their shells or skeletons accumulated on the beaches or in shallow waters, where they were broken into fragments by the waves. After millions of years the shells, lime, mud, and other substances were compressed into rock. Over long periods of time the circulating ground waters have completely dissolved the original lime of which the rock was composed and deposited in its place a form of silica called Chalcedony. It is one of the most incredible wonders of nature, that although this complete change of mineral matter has taken place, the shell fragments still preserve the delicate markings they possessed during life.

Besides the natural aspects of the park, we offer a wide variety of other activities to suit everyone. We have four completely furnished rental cabins and a 50 site campground with water and electric hookups. For those who prefer to rough it, we also have a primitive camping area. We have six miles of trails for those who want to walk and picnic shelters and tables if you just want to relax. During the summer months we offer a swimming area, rental boats (fishing and pedal), a nature center, and a refreshment stand.

The park opens at daylight and closes at dark, year-round.

Other places of interest in the area that you may want to visit are the Manchester State Forest which adjoins the park, Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, and the Church of the Holy Cross and the General Thomas Sumter Burial Site both of which are located on Highway 261.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Ed K. Nesbit  
Superintendent





## What We Know About Redcliffe

Governor James H. Hammond had Redcliffe built in 1855. The park today encompasses 640 acres of the original plantation. The dimensions of the house are 52 feet by long with 14 feet high ceilings. From the ground to the eaves of the house is 66 feet and the highest point of Redcliffe is 106 feet (From the bottom of the house to the top of the chimney). The architect was Mr. Goodrich. The house was built with slave labor and lumber cut from Hammond's plantations. Just the carving and detail work of the house cost \$22,000.00.

The present Redcliffe got it's name from a house which was later call "Old Yard" when the family moved from it into the new home. "Old Yard" was built in 1819 by Dr. Galphin, and unfortunately was burned by vandals in 1924.

In November 1973 Redcliffe was given to the S.C. Dept. of PRT by John Shaw Billings, former editor in Chief of Time Life Publications. He was the grandson of James H. Hammond.

In 1975 the State put a new roof on Redcliffe. At that time a temporary partition wall was put up for the ranger's residence on the downstairs level of Redcliffe. Some work was also done for the residence to be updated. In 1981, there were two nice restrooms put in for public use and the ranger's residence was remodeled completely. Walls were moved ceilings were lowered and floors were raised. A wood heating boiler system was also put in at that time. It has lowered the heating expense \$18,000.00 to \$15,000.00 a year.

When people visit the house we try to give them the feeling of living in the late 1800's. Redcliffe is now available for rent for weddings, receptions, family reunions, etc.

Once a year we have the children from "Project Soar, Area 2, Aiken County Public Schools". They put on a very realistic living play of everyone that has ever lived in Redcliffe. E-Z Go Textron have their annual picnic on Labor Day. It has grown to have as many as 4000 to 5000 people.

I would just like to say how proud I am to be the first Superintendant of Redcliffe. If anyone has any questions on Redcliffe, feel free to ask me anytime.

Gene Cobb  
Superintendant Redcliffe State Park





## RIVERS BRIDGE CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL STATE PARK

Rivers Bridge State Park is the only park in South Carolina that is dedicated to the Confederate soldiers who fought in the War Between the States. The park is located six miles west of Ehrhardt, off highway 64. The park was acquired from the Confederate Memorial Association in May 1945 and opened to the public in July of the same year. Rivers Bridge was named after a family whose name was Rivers, who lived in the area during the time of the battle which was fought there. The word "Bridge" comes from the bridge in which the Confederate troops were defending at the time.

The size of the park is 390 acres which consists of land and water, 65% of the land is used for recreation purposes. Located on the park and used by the public is a large community building, swimming pools, museum, concession stand, camping area, shelters, picnic areas and a river for fishing. The river that runs through the park is called the Big Salkehatchie. The swamp area is one of the last swamps to be left untouched by modern machines. A number of animals have been seen in the swamp such as bears, otters, pumas, deer, all sorts of smaller animals and one bald eagle to name a few.

The park has made several developments since it opened to the public. A large community building which will seat over 200 persons, two residences for park personnel, wading pool for small children, also the large swimming pool. The original campground had only five sites,



the new camping area now has twenty-five. New restrooms have been added in the picnic area along with two picnic shelters.

Before the land was given to the Forestry Commission for use as a recreation area, it was used to grow watermelons and corn. The area which was called the "memorial grounds" was taken care of by The Confederate Memorial Association. The "memorial grounds" was the community meeting area for over 100 years. The azaleas which now grow there were planted over 100 years ago also. The Confederate Memorial Association still has their annual memorial service in May of each year. This year will mark the 117th meeting of the association. The service has guest speakers, music and barbecue is served after the service.

During the eighteen hundreds the main road for the area ran directly through what is now part of the park. Sherman's troops used the road on their way to Columbia after leaving Atlanta. The road is still in use to this day by park visitors. Several people have found bullets either fired or dropped by the opposing forces during their march, most of the bullets are found after a heavy rain.

The battle itself was only a small one, but it bought other Confederate forces time to build up their defences. The battle site is maintained by park personnel. On the site visitors can walk through the trenches in which the Confederate troops laid and fired their weapons and cannons at the advancing northern men. The battle itself lasted for only two days, with eighty-eight southern troops either killed or wounded. The Confederate troops had the advantage of being on the high



ground, while the northern troops had to cross the river during bitter February cold weather. The water was nearly three miles wide and was from knee deep to shoulder high in the entire area in which they were trying to cross.

The first superintendent of Rivers Bridge was Ernie Mobly, Sr., who was there for twenty years, following him was his son Ernie Mobly, Jr., who was superintendent for six years. River Bridge has had only five Superintendents since the gates opened in 1945.

During the late sixties the Confederate Memorial Association staged a battle on the site of the original battle field. All of the uniforms and equipment was the exact replicas of the equipment used during the first battle. Several thousand persons were on hand to see the South lose the battle for a second time.

In August of each year, the town of Ehrhardt has its annual event to celebrate the founding of the town. The town was founded by German settlers. The event has art, crafts, German food and street dances.

Most people that visit Rivers Bridge come to picnic and use the swimming pools. On weekends at certain times we have to stop selling tickets to swim until people already in the pool decide to leave.

From August until January some of our campers are deer hunters. They come from several different states. Bamberg County has one of the longest deer seasons in the state, from August 15th until January 2nd.



The surrounding area offers several different options to outdoorsman such as hunting, fishing, birdwatching, looking for Indian artifacts and metal detecting.

JERRY PRICE

SUPERINTENDENT



CHARGE OF WEAVER'S BRIGADE ACROSS THE SALKHATCHUK, SOUTH CAROLINA.—(SKETCHED BY DAVIS.)



## ROSE HILL STATE PARK

The Rose Hill plantation house and surrounding grounds have undergone several changes between the time when William H. Gist developed it and when it became a state park.

Born in Charleston in 1807, Gist moved with his father to Union around 1819. He resided in Union until he attended the South Carolina College. A month before graduation in 1827, Gist quit school over a housing dispute and returned to Union. Coming of age in 1828, he inherited 1,700 acres and 33 slaves from his father. Gist began developing his plantation immediately.

He designed a house that was built on a high point overlooking his property. In front of and to one side of the house is a formal English rose garden. Four magnolia trees were also planted in front of the mansion. The interior and exterior walls of this house were constructed of solid brick, which was made on the property. In 1860, with Gist's fortune greatly increased, he decided to remodel his home. The brick was covered with stucco and a stone block design etched into it. This gave the appearance of being a solid stone structure which was very expensive. Two story porches were also added to the front and rear, with a single story porch placed against the side opposite the rose garden.

By 1860 his land holding had increased to over 9,000 acres and he owned 120 slaves. His real and personal property exceeded \$280,000, but with the economic effects of the Civil War on the South, this amount was reduced to \$40,000 by his death in 1874.

On December 10, 1958, Gist was elected governor of South Carolina. He held office and conducted business from Rose Hill, because prior to the Civil War, there was no governor's mansion in Columbia. Besides building a vast cotton plantation over the years, Gist had been active in politics. As early as 1850 he was a passionate believer in states rights. Gist believed the North was plotting to subjugate the South, so secession and the formation of a Southern Confederacy was the only answer. As governor, he urged secession using his cousin, States Rights Gist to gain support throughout the state and later to speak to the Governors of other southern states. South Carolina, the first state to do so, seceded from the Union in December of 1860. The other southern states soon followed.

Most likely, the family moved after the death of his wife Mary Gist in 1884. Tenant farmers periodically lived in the house. In the early 1930's the house and grounds were turned over to the National



Forestry Department which was developing the Sumter National Forest. As part of the build-up before WWII, the surrounding area was to be used as a practice bombing site.

In 1940, Clyde Franks of Laurens supported by the Fair Forest Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution persuaded the Forestry Department to sell him the house and the 44 acres surrounding it. He intended to restore the house for his son to live in upon his return from the war, but he was killed in 1945, shortly before the end. Clyde Franks continued the restoration and rented the house to several families during the following years.

In 1960, the South Carolina state park system purchased the property from Mr. Franks. Throughout the following years quite a few changes have taken place. A second shelter and new carriage house were built, and three years ago extensive restoration was done on the mansion. The upper and lower tiers of the rose garden have been restored with roses of the period. Great effort has been taken to ensure that authenticity of the mansion and surrounding grounds is preserved.

Chris Hightower  
Superintendent





## SADLERS CREEK STATE PARK

Sadlers Creek State Park is located in Anderson County in northwestern South Carolina. The park is 14 miles southwest of the city of Anderson off U.S. Highway 29 South, and Highway 87, on what is now Lake Hartwell Reservoir.

In the early years of development of Lake Hartwell, much of the park land was privately owned. There were 13 original land owners, and of these thirteen, many were farmers and much of the farming evidence still remains today. There are many terraces across the park areas to keep erosion down. Several areas remain today where old homeplaces stood amidst the cotton and corn fields.

Early development documents date back to June, 1965, when the newly formed Anderson County Recreation Commission approved plans to secure from the Corps of Engineers two recreation areas for parks on Lake Hartwell. These two areas totaled about 500 acres of prime waterfront. One of these areas was an 85 acre island which was never developed and still remains the same today. The other was what is now Sadlers Creek State Park, which encompasses 394.7 acres initial acreage, and remains the same today.

In August, 1965, a document was filed with the Corps of Engineers District Engineers Office, Savannah, Georgia, which was an application for a license for a public park and recreational purposes pursuant to Section 209 of the Flood Control Act of 1954. In October, 1965, a license was granted to the then South Carolina Commission of Forestry and a Capital Improvement Request was made in the 1966-67 budget for starting development. These funds were on a matching basis. Through the land and water conservation act, a development plan was drawn up for a ten year period. Total developments were to cost \$174,807 over the period. This plan called for improvements of present roads, soil surface only, picnic areas, building of picnic tables, installing grills, and vault-type latrines and garbage receptacles.

It was not until January, 1967, when capital improvements funds became available for Sadlers Creek and other areas across the state. After fund were received, actual construction moved at a good pace, although at the same time an administrative reshuffling was occurring. The new state agency, Parks, Recreation and Tourism, was formed. This reshuffling consolidated many duties previously assigned to several different agencies.

In June, 1967, facilities for camping and picnicking were opened officially for public use. Camping fees per night were \$1.75, and a 25¢ fee for picnic table use. Over the years the camping fees have



increased to \$7 and \$8 per night, and the table use fee have been removed, but rental rate of \$16 and \$18 for reserving covered shelters is in effect. Most of the rate changes have been due to rising cost of operations.

Sadlers Creek State Park today serves mainly as a weekend-use park for fishermen, boaters, and campers. With most park visitors coming to relax by the water edge or on the water, many enjoy fishing for the various species or water skiing.

Later developments included a 75-site camping area and three modern comfort stations, bringing the total to 100 campsites. Facilities of additional water and electrical outlets for convention use were installed and were used by the National Campers and Hikers Association for their annual meetings. The latest addition to parks development has been a 24-foot wide concrete boat ramp. This facility was built with fuel tax funds allocated to Anderson County yearly. Future developments include parking area expansion at the boat ramp facility.

Since development and opening in 1967, there have been seven park superintendents, and only two are still with the park system. As for rangers, there has been one located at Sadlers Creek since the park opened. A second ranger position was added in August, 1969, and was held by the now present Superintendent Mike Hendrix of Table Rock State Park. Today the park has two full-time employees and two seasonal employees for summer operations.

Recent special events include bass fishing tournaments, and NCHA Camping Conventions. The newest being the bass tournaments, which have also been popular. Up to 150 boats and 300 fishermen have participated at one time in these two-day events. Many local people enjoy using Sadlers Creek State Park because it is located close to their homes and businesses. For a peaceful experience, please visit Sadlers Creek State Park.

Brooks Jordan  
Superintendent





facilities are normally occupied by those people who like to spend their time searching for the trophy fish that the Santee-Cooper Lakes are known for. With overnight accommodations for up to 180 people, the park also serves numerous groups that are looking for a location to hold a social gathering or a business meeting. The Village Round is the focal point for such gatherings.

Within the boundaries of the Santee State property are 2,354 acres of which approximately 25 percent are actively used or developed. With the capability to provide the park visitor with a pleasant experience in Santee-Cooper Country, Santee State Park carries forward a tradition set in the 1940's and continuing on toward the 21st century.

Mike Davidson  
Superintendent





## SESQUI-CENTENNIAL STATE PARK

Sesqui-Centennial State Park is located 13 miles northeast of Columbia on U.S. Highway No. 1. Sesqui-Centennial gets its name from the Columbia Sesqui-Centennial Commission. Land totalling 1,500 acres was purchased from funds obtained from the sale of Sesqui-Centennial coins minted in 1936, when Columbia celebrated its 150th anniversary. The land was donated in 1937 to the State by Richland County for development as a state park.

Sesqui, as it is known for short, has been very popular over the years. Its location is a key factor in the success of the park. Within 15 minutes, you can be at the State Capitol or in 20 minutes you can visit the Riverbanks Zoo. Just 3 miles from the park are Interstates 20 & 77 and you are just minutes from the Columbia Mall and Fort Jackson Army Base.

The park as it is today totals 1,455 acres and has a 30-acre lake near the center of the park.

Facilities on the park include a jogging trail, exercise course and nature trails. Also, there is an 87-site campground which can accommodate tents, trailers and motor homes. Each site has electrical and water hookups. There are three comfort stations with hot showers. Off to itself is a primitive camping area which can be used for groups such as boy scouts.

Also on the park is a Group Camp which can accommodate 30 people overnight and has meeting space for 50 people. This building has a fully equipped kitchen and is heated and air-conditioned. This facility is an ideal place for a family reunion.

While at the park be sure to see the Log House. The Log House, possibly the oldest building remaining in Richland County, dates back to 1756. The house was moved from its site overlooking the Broad River in 1969 to the park and restored.

Also housed near the picnic area is the "Best Friend of Charleston" train. This train is a hand-crafted reproduction of "The Best Friend of Charleston". The original made its public debut on Christmas day in 1830. It ran between Charleston and Branchville. A boiler explosion later ended the career of the first train. This is the first passenger train in the United States.

Another interesting structure on the park is an Amphitheater which was built in the early days and was used for the play "The Liberty Tree". This is still in use today.

Other facilities include a carpet golf course, a soccer field, picnic areas, shelters, basketball court, baseball field and all types of recreation equipment.



During the summer months you can enjoy swimming in Centennial Lake under the supervision of qualified lifeguards. You can go out in a pedal boat or canoe and if this doesn't strike your fancy, you can go out in one of our fishing boats. We offer excellent fishing.

Also during the summer we have a nature exhibit where you can see a live snake. In the middle of the picnic area is a refreshment stand where you can purchase snack items.

Near the entrance to the park is State Park Fire Tower. During opening hours you can climb to the top and see a beautiful view. Also this is the highest point on the park with an elevation of 467 feet.

One distinction we hold is that the Park Division Training Center is located here. Rangers and Superintendents come from all over the state to learn skills in park operations.

Did you know that Sesqui has the rather unique distinction of being, so far as we know, the only State Park in our nation in which all of the structures were built originally of concrete, even to the road signs?

Did you know the Civilian Conservation Corp constructed most of the buildings and the dam on the park?

Sesqui has had one CCC Superintendent and six park superintendents.

As you see there is much to see and do at Sesqui-Centennial State Park. We have seasonal events throughout the year which include The Spring Green, Sandhills Festival, Easter Egg Hunt and the Governor's Annual Volksmarch.

The park is open during daylight hours and for overnight guests year round.

Come see this unusual park for an unforgettable experience.

George Gordon  
Superintendent





## TABLE ROCK STATE PARK

Long ago when the Cherokee Indians roamed the upper part of South Carolina, they believed that a great chieftan sat on The Stool and dined from The Table which stands at 3125 feet. They also called the area Sah-ka-na-ga, the "Great Blue Hills of God". Many years have past since then. Also have the days when horse and buggies carried people to their destinations. Table Rock State Park is located on Scenic Highway 11, just 16 miles north of Pickens, 20 miles from Easley and 35 miles from Greenville. People from these areas can now be at the park in a matter of minutes.

Before Table Rock became a state park the land was owned by a family of Masters. The area that is now Lake Pinnacle was then cultivated in corn and other row crops. Also, the area had 2 different hotels. The first was built in 1848 and was located at what is now the White Oaks shelter. It burned in the 1890's. The second was built in 1900 and was in the Saddle between Table Rock Mountain and the Stool. The Greenville Watershed purchased the land from the Masters in the 1900's. Then in May, 1935, the land was donated to the Forestry Commission for development as a state park and opened to the public in June, 1940. The CCC's constructed the park and a picture of the group now hangs in the park's Trading Post.

When Table Rock was acquired, the total area was 2,860 acres. Since then an additional 325 acres has been purchased for a flood control lake making a total area of 3185 acres. The new lake, which is still unnamed, will help to control flooding and will be an aid to landowners which are downstream from the lake. This lake will have fishing with the privilege of fishermen using their own boats with electric motors only. Plans will also include a youth camping area along with a shelter complete with restrooms.

Table Rock has grown over the past years from 5 vacation cabins and 30 camping sites to 15 cabins and 100 campsites, of which 25 campsites are reserved for camping clubs or large groups. Also, there are 2 sewage treatment plants, 4 picnic shelters, 2 with fireplaces, a Meeting House for rental use and also for Sunday services during the summer months. There are 13 miles of hiking trails, with 3 different trails. A 2-hour trail, the Carricks Creek nature trail, a 5-hour trail, the Table Rock trail, which takes you to the top of Table Rock Mountain, and a 6-hour trail, the Pinnacle Mountain trail, which takes you to the top of Pinnacle Mountain. Also, the newly constructed 5 day Foothills trail joins with the Pinnacle Mountain trail for the most avid of hikers and backpackers. Table Rock now has a Trading Post, with a laundromat, primitive camping area, 18-hole carpet golf course, canoes, pedal boats, fishing boats, and the ever popular swimming area on Lake Pinnacle, named for Pinnacle Mountain. The lake is fed mainly from streams coming off of Pinnacle Mountain. Also, Table Rock now has a 7400 square foot multi-purpose recreational building called "The Barn". It is a popular place on Saturday nights during the summer months for the weekly square dances. There is also a video arcade located at the bathhouse at the swimming area for young and old alike. And as popular as ever is the Table Rock Lodge Restaurant where people come from near and far to eat the delicious food.



The Table Rock Lodge Restaurant was built in the 1940's by the CCC's and was formerly called the Ben S. Meeks Lodge. It was dedicated in September of 1947. The first Southeastern State Park Directors meeting was held at the Lodge in 1942. In 1982, Hickory Knob was host for the Southeastern State Park Directors meeting. They returned to Table Rock for a tour and a luncheon at the Table Rock Lodge. For some of these men a lot of memories were brought back as they were part of the original meeting at the lodge in the 40's.

Since May, 1935, many things have changed at Table Rock State Park. Many things have been added and many personnel have come and gone. But one thing still remains the same - the magnificent beauty of "The Great Blue Hills of God".

Michael W. Hendrix  
Superintendent





## WOODS BAY STATE PARK

Woods Bay State Park is a 1,591 acre park located in Sumter, Clarendon, and Florence Counties. It is seven miles from Shiloh exit of Interstate 95 and two miles west of U.S. Highway 301, between Olanta and Turbeville.

In 1792, the original state land grant containing what was then known as "Sandhill Bay" was deeded to Mr. Robert Fullwood. In 1800, the bay was sold to William Kennedy so he could utilize the water to power a gristmill. At least three different mills were built over the years and owned by several different men, including Andrew Woods, for whom the bay was named. Sometime during the early 1820's, a mill pond was built adjacent to the bay. An earthen dam was constructed to better maintain the water level needed in the operation of these mills, all of which had ceased operation by the mid 1930's. The earthen dam now serves as the major portion of the nature trail, the age of which can be realized by the number of large trees and gnarled roots growing from the dam.

Woods Bay is an elliptical-shaped depression located in the mostly agricultural flat lands of the South Carolina coastal plain. It has no rivers or streams which supply it with water; instead it maintains a fairly constant level by drainage from surrounding areas as well as water seeping from the ground. Several different landowners actually owned the bay and saw the need for preserving it in as natural state as possible and it was purchased from these individuals in 1973. This would also assure it would remain relatively undisturbed and prevent what occurred in the 1920's from ever happening again. That was when rails were laid into sections of the bay so that most of the timber could be removed in a logging operation.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of Woods Bay is the fact that it is Carolina Bay. Most of these bays occur in the coastal plains of South Carolina, but many are found from Southeastern North Carolina to Northern Florida. Carolina Bays are usually elliptical in shape with their axes aligned in a Northwest to Southeast direction. Some bays are dry, but many are wet and swampy and a few are shallow lakes. Hundreds of these depressions, ranging in diameter from a few hundred feet to five miles, dot the coastal plains. Another interesting characteristic is the fact that these bays are usually bordered by a sand hill region, and in the case of Woods Bay, this sandy region has plants and trees which are common only in the sand hill region of the Carolina's. Most people seem to think these Carolina Bays were called bays because of the presence of water; however, this is not the case. They were named for the trees and shrubs which usually border the rim. These being the red bay, loblolly bay, and sweet bay magnolia. Many theories have been proposed as the formation of the bays, the most common seems to be the



"meteorite theory", which contends that the bays were meteorite scars resulting from a meteor shower that was the result of an ancient comet that had collided with the earth from the northwest. Some scientists and geologists have done much research in this area, stating that if this theory were true, there would be some evidence of intense heat which they have been unable to find. Another theory contends that the bays were formed when this area was covered by the ocean. As the waters started subsiding to their present level, these bays were shaped by the prevailing winds and currents, and sediments were deposited around the edges creating the sand hill regions which are present today. Other theories include giant springs under the ocean floor remaining as depressions after the ocean receded to spawning beds for gigantic schools of fish.

Whatever its origin, Woods Bay has the same characteristics as most other bays. The egg-shaped basin is bordered by sand hills covered with blackjack oak and longleaf pine. The rim of the bay consists of this vegetation containing the different species of bay trees as well as many different wild blueberries and other flowering shrubs, it also contains many species of carnivorous plants. The interior consists of a 1,500 acre swamp containing an open marsh at one end and a dense stand of cypress, sweet gum, and tupelo trees on the other end. The area provides a variety of natural habitats for wildlife, wildflowers, and flowering trees and shrubs. These habitats provide the visitors the chance to observe nature in a manner that is as undisturbed as possible. To further enhance the visitor's experience, there is a 700 foot elevated boardwalk out into the bay which allows even closer observation without getting their feet wet, as well as marked canoe trails which carry visitors even farther into the bay. The park also has a nature trail of approximately one mile around the mill pond which was mentioned earlier. A restroom, picnic shelter, and shaded picnic area is available for those visitors who want to spend the whole day birdwatching, canoeing, looking for Indian artifacts, or just enjoying the scenery.

William K. Smith  
Superintendent

