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South Carolina State Parks

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In celebration of #WomensHistoryMonth meet Daisy Smith Edgerton from South Carolina. In 1922, a woman forestry educator laid the groundwork for South Carolina's state parks. Daisy Smith Edgerton was a teacher in Charleston who went on to work for the US Forest Service in Washington DC. Conservationists in South Carolina had struggled for years to create a state forest protection system, and Edgerton used her connections with Governor W. G. Harvey to help them achieve that goal. She came back to South Carolina and conducted an intensive, educational campaign in support of forest conservation.

Ultimately, her hard work paid off and the state eventually passed legislation that established the State Forestry Commission. This agency later created our state park system in the 1930s. When she retired, the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service stated: "It is doubtful if anyone did more than [Daisy Edgerton] in the early days to interest women in the Nation's forest problems."

Image credits: The People (Barnwell, SC), 30 November 1922.

