

The End of an Era

On Saturday, December 7, 2013 a hiker observed that Peach Tree rock had fallen off its base. The rock was originally formed by erosion when the waters of the Atlantic receded long ago. The lower layers eroded more quickly creating the upside down sandstone pyramid. This iconic structure gave Peach Tree Rock Heritage Preserve its name.

Nature is always changing and evolving. Erosion from rain and other storm events over time continued to erode the base of Peach Tree Rock. This along with the occasional carving from users at the Preserve led to the felling of the rock. The Nature Conservancy and the SC Department of Natural Resources will continue to monitor the rock which remains encircled by a chain fence to deter the public from climbing or carving it. Due to the crumbly nature of the sandstone, it wasn't possible to keep it artificially held up, and there are no plans to try and change its location or position. Peach Tree Rock Heritage Preserve is still a wonderful place to visit rich in culture, history, interesting geology, plants and wildlife.



Photo by Brett Moule, SCDNR