

Celebrate Wetland Treasures In May!

Raleigh, NC – Carolina Wetlands Association joins wetlands enthusiasts all over the country to raise public awareness about the beauty and importance of the nation’s wetlands during May, American Wetlands Month. To promote the importance of wetland ecosystems, the Carolina Wetlands Association announces its third class of ***Wetland Treasures of the Carolinas***. Wetland Treasures contain ecologically valuable wetlands, protected by conservation plans, and diversity of plants and animals.

“We are thrilled to celebrate these Wetland Treasures,” said Laura England, coordinator of this project. “We hope Carolinians will take pride in our wetland heritage, and we owe a great deal of gratitude to the organizations and agencies that are protecting these natural treasures,” said England. The 2018 Wetland Treasures of the Carolinas are as follows (click on links to view a factsheet):

- **[Black River Swamp](#) in Bladen, Pender and Sampson Counties, NC**

 - Wetland Type: Bottomland Hardwood Forest
 - Tour Date: Saturday, May 12 – [Register here](#)

- **[Hemlock Bluffs](#) in Wake County, NC**

 - Wetland Type: Bottomland Hardwood Forest
 - Tour Date: Saturday, May 5- [Register here](#)

- **[Lewis Ocean Bay](#) in Horry County, SC**

 - Wetland Type: Carolina Bay
 - Tour Date: Saturday, April 28- [Register here](#)

- **[Pink Beds Bog](#) in Pisgah National Forest, NC**

 - Wetland Type: Southern Appalachian Bog
 - Tour: Saturday, May 19- [Register here](#)

- **[Sparkleberry Swamp](#) in Lake Marion, SC**

 - Wetland Type: Riverine Swamp Forest
 - Tour Date: Saturday, May 19- [Register here](#)

“We are offering tours of all our 2018 wetland treasure sites starting the last weekend in April and throughout May. We invite Carolinians to come experience the beauty, wonder and ecology of wetlands up close with us,” said Rick Savage, President of the Carolina Wetlands Association. Field tours details are listed above, as well as on the Carolina Wetlands Association website at carolinawetlands.org.

Wetlands play an important role in both the ecology and economy of the Carolinas. They are beautiful, magical places and are sanctuaries for people and wildlife. These hardworking ecosystems provide natural flood control and filter runoff, which helps keep our rivers, lakes, and drinking water clean.

Carolina Wetlands Association thanks the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, whose Wetland Gems program is the model for this program. Carolina Wetlands Association promotes the understanding, protection, restoration, and enjoyment of North and South Carolina's wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education, and advocacy. More information online at carolinawetlands.org.

American Wetlands Month is supported by many federal agencies, non-profit organizations and corporations and is coordinated nationally by the Izaak Walton League of America.

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