

American Wetlands Month Activities 2016

The following list of activities for American Wetlands Month (AWM) was compiled for your use and enjoyment by the Society of Wetlands Scientists (SWS), Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Spread the word about the wonder of wetlands!



The Nature Conservancy

ASWM will be celebrating AWM by posting a new piece of trivia on its Facebook page Monday-Friday throughout the month. Fun little tidbits will include trivia quizzes, interesting and strange facts about wetlands, wetland photo quizzes, and great ideas for ways you can celebrate American Wetlands month at work and at home. To join the fun, tune in daily to the ASWM Facebook page [here!](#)

ASWM Webinar on American Wetlands Month: What you can do to protect and restore wetlands? Wednesday, May 18th, 3:00pm ET. Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of American Wetlands Month with the ASWM, SWS, EPA, NOAA, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. During this webinar, you'll hear about federal agency AWM activities and the new Wetland Treasures and Wetland Ambassadors programs from SWS. To register click here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6286522977211817220>. For more information, contact Marla Stelk at the Association of State Wetland Managers at marla@aswm.org.

Colorado Natural Heritage Program is pleased to announce the release of the *Colorado Wetlands Mobile App!* The App is available for *FREE* at both the Google

Play Store and iTunes App Store. The Colorado Wetland Mobile App contains three main sections:

- *Wetland Plants*: Detailed descriptions and photos of 711 plant species found in Colorado's wetland and riparian areas. The plants are searchable through many different search criteria and filters.
- *Wetland Maps*: Access to digital National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps. The App shows NWI maps for the entire state of Colorado and can use location information from the device to show mapped wetland where the user is located. The Maps screen can also be used to search for wetland plants potentially found at the user's location.
- *Wetland Types*: Brief description of the most common wetland and riparian types found in Colorado. Wetland types can also be used as a filter for searching plant species.

For more information, please see the user's manual online:

http://www.cnhp.colostate.edu/download/documents/2015/Colorado_Wetland_App_Users_Guide.pdf.



Please spread the word! Distribute widely to relevant networks. Feedback is encouraged -- comments and questions can be addressed to: Denise Culver:

denise.culver@colostate.edu or Joanna Lemly Joanna.lemly@colostate.edu.

Google Play link

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=edu.colostate.cnhp.cwic&hl=en>

For iPhone or iPad access: Search "Colorado Wetland" in the App Store on your device.

EPA: Check out EPA's webpage for American Wetlands Month

<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/may-american-wetlands-month-learn-explore-take-action>

The results of the 2011 National Wetlands Condition Assessment is scheduled for publishing in mid-May and will be accessible through the EPA Wetlands homepage.

This survey encompassed tidal and nontidal wetlands and is the first of its kind to evaluate the ecological condition of our nation's wetlands. EPA plans to host a webinar featuring these results in June (date TBA).

Follow EPA on twitter @EPWater and tweet pictures of you or others in your community celebrating American Wetlands Month using the hashtag #WetlandsWork. EPA is also supporting the National Wetland Awards Ceremony (see below).

NOAA: What's Wild in Our Wetlands?": In early May, NOAA Fisheries will be launching a new web feature about the wild and tasty fish in our nation's coastal wetlands. From blue crabs in mid-Atlantic seagrass beds, to salmon in Pacific northwest

forested wetlands, lots of interesting fish, shellfish, and other fun creatures can be found in the wetlands of our coastal states. To learn more, look for this feature by May 9th on the NOAA Coastal Wetlands webpage at

<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/protection/wetlands/>

National Wetland Awards Ceremony: May 11, 6-8pm at the U.S. Botanic Garden, Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the Environmental Law Institute, the National Wetlands Awards are presented annually to individuals who have excelled in wetlands protection, restoration, and education. Through coverage in the *National Wetlands Newsletter*, coordinated media outreach, and an awards ceremony on Capitol Hill, awardees receive national recognition and attention for their outstanding efforts. The program is administered by the Environmental Law Institute and supported by EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, NOAA Fisheries, and the Federal Highway Administration. ELI coordinates the awards program while our federal agency supporters provide financial support, serve on the selection committee, and/or participate in the ceremony. Learn about the 2016 winners at

<http://elinwa.org/2016-national-wetlands-awards-winners>

SWS Europe Chapter's Annual Meeting is May 17-20, 2016 in Potsdam, Germany. Plans are already underway for this 11th annual meeting organized by Dominik Zak, Jörg Gelbrecht and colleagues. The meeting theme is "Wetland Science and Society: Knowledge Transfer, Conservation Conflicts and Restoration Management." Meeting content includes oral and poster presentations with field trips to the Spree River Biosphere Reserve and managed wetland sites. For more information and registration visit <http://sws-europe.igb-berlin.de/registration.html>.

SWS Mid-Atlantic Chapter is hosting a field trip to the Great Swamp in north-central New Jersey on May 21, 2016. Members, students, and guests are invited! Events start at 9AM at the Somerset County Environmental Education Center with information on projects at the Great Swamp, the planning/design of constructed wetlands, and the hydrology for mitigation/constructed wetlands. Activities include field observation of the various wetland types found along the trails and boardwalks within the 15-square mile Great Swamp. Participants can enjoy formal discussions on wetland conditions, plant identification, and even conduct wetland delineations at problem areas. The event will wrap-up with an optional social and early dinner at Casa Maya, an authentic Mexican restaurant along the southern edge of the Great Swamp. Registration will be limited to 25 as facility space is limited. Attendance of this event will provide 0.4 credit towards PWS certification renewal. Learn more and register today:

https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=SWS&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=86e21f29-b875-4bdd-b506-7cc98d64c8b4&msm=3cab8679-0507-48d9-aece-db55e4fb376e&cst=b99a2180-8ac1-4c7a-b451-abfd85f83175&ent=dc133858-5651-4887-9a85-cfba734ead6b

SWS Western Chapter: The California Society for Ecological Restoration's (SERCAL) Annual Conference is May 11-13 at Kings Beach, CA. The theme is *Creativity in Collaboration*. SERCAL will meet on the North Shore of Lake Tahoe to explore creativity at the intersection of science, design, and collaboration. Participants can learn from each other and explore creative ways to inquire, collaborate, and restore landscapes – celebrating masterpieces of collective conservation. <http://www.sercal.org/upcoming-events/2016/5/11/sercal-2016-creativity-in-collaboration>

SWS Wetland Treasures: SWS is excited to announce its first-phase launch of the Wetland Treasures initiative! As part of the Wetland Treasures rollout, SWS is calling on all government and non-government organizations with critical, special, or rare wetland lists to submit a Wetland Treasures application during American Wetlands Month. The goal of the Wetland Treasures initiative is to raise public awareness of wetlands and their many benefits to human health and environmental quality. To meet this goal, the Wetland Treasures initiative will create a one-stop-shop for information on the biology, ecology, conservation status, and access opportunities of high-functioning wetlands across the nation. SWS is also collaborating with the U.S. National Ramsar Committee so that Wetland Treasures can become a vehicle for identifying and processing future applications for U.S. Ramsar designation.

The first-phase of the Wetland Treasures initiative is to create an inventory of wetlands that have already been deemed important by agencies and organizations. These pre-qualified treasures will be used as a reference set to judge future wetland applications. Visit www.wetlandtreasures.org to learn more about the initiative, create a new account, and fill out an application for a wetland. All applications received by Tuesday, May 31, 2016 will be considered for the first-phase and will be reviewed by a team of regional experts to ensure that the criteria for Wetland Treasures status are met. The first-ever certified Wetland Treasures will be announced in July 2016. There is a team of wetland professionals waiting to assist you with your application questions. Please visit the website or email the initiative committee at wetlandtreasures@gmail.com for more information.

University of Florida Wetlands Club is organizing a group of UF students to attend the SWS Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi. UF has a GoFundMe account to raise funds for student attendance at: https://www.gofundme.com/wetlands_club

The Club is also leading a wetland walk for a 2nd grade class, will be participating in the UF Earth Festival, is hosting a joint meeting with the American Water Resources Association, and will be helping at a local spring festival. More details about our upcoming and past events can be found at our blog: <http://ufwetlandsclub.blogspot.com/>