Association of State Wetland Managers

Research in North Building Capacity to Protect and Manage Wetlands through the Development of State Wetland Associations

June 24, 2020

Presenters:

- Rick Savage, President
- Kim Matthews, Vice-President

Find us online at:
www.carolinawetlands.org
Overview

- 501(c)(3) non-profit in North Carolina
- Formed in 2015
- Non-member organization
- Description: a non-partisan, science-based organization advocating for wetlands.
- Governed by Board of Directors (13 members)
- 5 Committees (Finance, Policy, Science, Program, Development)
- 100% volunteer-based organization

www.carolinaawetlands.org
In the beginning...

• North Carolina’s state wetland monitoring program
  • Funded by EPA Wetland Program Development Grants
  • One of the leading state programs
• In 2014, change in state’s administration and legislation lead to drastic changes in the North Carolina’s water resources programs
  • WPDG funding was returned to EPA
  • De-centralization of state programs and decrease in staff
• Similar trends were seen in South Carolina

Note: Go to www.ncwetlands.org for more information on North Carolina’s Division of Water Resources’ program.
Timeline

• Winter 2014:
  • Learned about the Wisconsin Wetland Association

• Spring 2015
  • Rick attends ASWM annual meeting meets Erin O’Brien
  • Rick gets support from core group of wetland supporters

• June 2015
  • First meeting of core group (~20 people)
  • Draft Articles of Incorporation and elect first Board of Directors
  • Formed committees

• Summer 2015
  • Launched website

• June 2016
  • Application approved - 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization

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Board of Directors

*Rick Savage, Retired, NC DENR
*Kim Matthews, RTI
*Kristie Gianopulos, Consultant
*Norton Webster, Consultant
Tara Allden, Kimley-Horn
Kristine Cherry, South Atlantic Partners

*Heather Clarkson, Defenders of Wildlife
Geoff Gisler, SELC
Shaefny Grays, NC State University
Daniel Hitchcock, Clemson University
George Howard, Restoration Systems
George Matthiis, River Guardian Foundation
Curt Richardson, Duke University

* Executive Committee members

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Program Committee

- Promotes the value and services of wetlands to everyone
- Develops educational materials
- Organizes and/or participates in events to educate the public
- Highlights
  - Wetland Treasures of the Carolinas
  - Landowners Guide to Wetland Restoration

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Wetland Treasures of the Carolinas

2. Antioch Bay
3. Black River Swamp
4. Bluff Mountain Fen
5. Botany Bay Preserve
6. Brogden Bottomlands
7. Bunched Arrowhead
8. Congaree National Park
9. Croatan National Forest
10. Francis Beidler Forest
11. Green Swamp Nature Preserve
12. Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve
13. Hobcaw Barony
14. Kanuga Bog
15. Phelps Lake Shoreline
16. Lewis Ocean Bay Preserve
17. Mason Farms Reserve
18. Merchants Millpond
19. Pink Beds
20. Pocosin Lakes
21. Robertson Millpond Preserve
22. Santee Coastal Preserve
23. Scuppernong River Swamp
24. Sparkleberry Swamp
25. Woods Bay
26. Panthertown Valley Bog

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Wetland Treasures of the Carolinas

More information at: www.carolinawetlands.org
- Factsheets, Video, Links

www.carolinawetlands.org
Science Committee

• Endorses scientific research
• Reports on current wetland research
• Promotes the State of the Wetlands in the Carolinas
• Works with the stakeholders and landowner in conducting wetland assessments and advice about wetland management
• Highlights
  • State of the Wetlands
  • Ramsar wetland designation

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Development Committee

- Maintains the list of supporters
- Seeks funding opportunities
- Develops the structure and organization
- Maintain web site; social media; and determine how information is delivered.
- Responsible marketing and advertising
- Develops the monthly newsletter
- Manage a Web/Cloud storage

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Policy Committee

• Develops policies for the Association
• Reviews policies developed by Committees
• Reviews policies which may have an effect the function of the Association
• Reviews policies that may have an effects the mission of the Association

Finance Committee

• Develops budget
• Maintain record of all donations
• Monitors receipts for donations
• Decides on priorities of how the money is spent and how it is allocated
GOAL 1: Secure formal recognition for unique and vulnerable wetlands in the Carolinas.

GOAL 2: Report on the status, trends, and value of wetlands in the Carolinas to support good decision making of local officials, mitigation providers, educators, and the general public.

Goal 3: Provide services, knowledge, and support of wetland protection and management with land trusts and other conservation groups in North and South Carolina.

GOAL 4: Participate in regional efforts to establish relationships with county and municipal level decision-makers to develop support and provide tools for wetland management.

GOAL 5: Educate Carolinians about societal and ecological wetland services to increase the understanding and appreciation of wetlands by communities.

Goal 6: Provide information and encourage wetland owners to use best practices to protect and manage existing wetlands.

Goal 7: Support public policy and increase awareness through education regarding how to better utilize wetland restoration and mitigation (regulated and volunteer).

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Accomplishments

**Partners/Affiliates**

- NC Conservation Network
- NC Wildlife Federation
- SC Conservation Coalition
- WakeNature Preserve
- Winyah Rivers Coalition
- Wetland Forest Initiative
- Riverkeepers
- The Nature Conservancy and Environmental Defense Fund
- And many more!

- NCWF Affiliate of the Year
- Wetlands Matter Event
- NC’s Natural and Working Lands Initiative
- Co-sponsor conferences (NC WRRI and AEES)

www.carolinawetlands.org
Where we are today

Number of subscribers:
- 650 (newsletter)
- 950 (Facebook)

Annual Budget: ~$5,000 (past 5 years)

Current Projects/Initiatives:
- Volunteer wetland monitoring program (first funded program)
- Workshop to educate local decision makers about wetland value and NBS
- Work with local communities to use their wetlands to mitigate flooding problems

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Keys to Success

For other organizations:
• Catalyst event
• Dedicated core of supporters
• Diversity on Board
• Partnerships with other organizations
• Using partnerships to your advantage
• Show up and talk to people
• Be comfortable asking for $
Thank You

- **Rick Savage**, President
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- **Kim Matthews**, Vice-President
  - Kim.Matthews@carolinawetlands.org

Sponsors

- Axion Environmental, Inc
- Backwater Environmental
- Kris Bass Engineering
- Land Mechanic Design, Inc
- Restoration Systems, LLC
- Water & Land Solutions
- Wildlands Engineering

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