

2010 American Wetlands Month Events

Nationwide

May 4 — Watershed Academy Webcast: Tools for Protecting Coastal Wetlands

Join EPA and other wetland practitioners for a special American Wetlands Month Webcast highlighting three valuable tools available for improving decision-making related to coastal wetland protection and restoration. A recent report shows that despite a national trend of net gain of wetlands in the conterminous United States, the coastal watersheds of the Atlantic Ocean, Great Lakes, and Gulf of Mexico lost 354,000 acres, or about 59,000 acres per year during the period from 1998-2004. This Webcast will provide information on several tools that can help address impacts on coastal wetland ecosystems from immediate (development) to long-term (sea level rise) in order to help improve decision-making and provide readily accessible information to practitioners.

The webcast will be held from 1 – 3 pm EDT. Information on how to register can be found at EPA's Watershed Academy Webcast Web site listed below.

Web site: www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/webcasts/

May 8 — International Migratory Bird Day

Typically held on the second Saturday in May, International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) is celebrated whenever migratory bird arrival is celebrated in your own community. Links on the Web site can help you find an International Migratory Bird Day Festival event near you.

Web site: www.fws.gov/birds/imbd/

May 19 — Expert Panel Event on Capitol Hill: "Resilient Wetlands = Prosperous Economies"

Join us May 19, 4-5:30 p.m. at the Congressional Visitors Center for an expert discussion organized by the Society of Wetlands Scientists, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and ELI. The event will address various approaches to valuing wetland resources by 1) clarifying values wetlands provide to society, such as value to coastal industries and economies, ability to store and sequester greenhouse gases, reduction of flood and storm damage through storage and buffering, etc. and 2) providing policy approaches that recognize and measure values to strengthen wetland protection.

Contact: (202) 939-3829; yoder@eli.org

May 19 — National Wetlands Award Ceremony

The National Wetlands Awards Program celebrates individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication, innovation, or excellence in wetlands conservation. Awards are offered in six categories: conservation and restoration; education and outreach; landowner stewardship; science research; state, tribal, and local program development; and wetland community leader.

This year's ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 19, at the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, Room HVC-215, from 6-8 p.m.

Web site: www.nationalwetlandsawards.org
Contact: (202) 939-3829; wetlandsawards@eli.org

Alaska

May 6–9 — Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival

Alaska will experience a special celebration of spring when the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival, the state's largest wildlife festival, kicks off in early May. Festival participants can choose between over 50 different events, from advanced ornithology workshops, beginning backyard birding presentations, field trips and boat tours to arts events and children's activities.

Contact: Christina M Whiting, Festival Coordinator; 907-235-7740;
shorebirdster@gmail.com

May 15 — Birding Festival at Tetlin NWR — Tok

Now like a "rite of spring" in Tok, this celebration always hosts many activities throughout the day. Each year, there's a different theme which corresponds to the International Migratory Bird Day theme, and this year's theme is "The Power of Partnerships". Favorite activities include a Bird Tour in the morning, followed by many kids' activities at Memorial Park and the Mainstreet Visitor Center in Tok. Visitors enjoy seeing displays of Junior Duck Stamp Art and watching the Young Naturalist Contest.

Contact: Tetlin Refuge; 907-883-5312

Arizona

May 7–9 — Riparian Restoration Weekend — Aravaipa Canyon

Help to restore, through the installation of one rock dams and erosion control structures, a degraded section of Turkey Creek, a tributary of Aravaipa Creek. This is one of the most beautiful canyons in southeast Arizona! Aravaipa Canyon, East End

Web site: www.skyislandalliance.org/calendar.htm
Contact: Sarah Williams; 520-624-7080 x23; sarah@skyislandalliance.org

California

May 1 — Ballona Wetlands Mayor's Day of Service

In conjunction with Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's Day of Service, we will WEED, WATER, CLEAN-UP TRASH, FIX UP the NATIVE PLANT NURSERY at Westside Leadership Magnet school and maybe even plant a few native plants at our community-engaged restoration of this special lagoon wetland on the Los Angeles coast! 8:30 am to noon, Ballona Wetlands Grand Canal Lagoon, Los Angeles, CA.

Web site: www.ballonainstitute.org

Contact: John Ulloth; 310-578-5888; outreach@ballonainstitute.org

May 15 — "Walk on the Wildside!" Outdoor Festival

If you'd enjoy a fun, FREE family-oriented day in the country with lively entertainment and up-close and personal views of many wildlife species, mark your calendar and plan to attend Walk on the Wildside on Saturday, May 15, 2010. Join Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and local partners in celebrating International Migratory Bird Day and local conservation successes. The free event is held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. near the town of Freeport, California, at the Beach Lake Picnic Area.

Web site: www.fws.gov/stonelakes/wow.htm

Contact: Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; 916-775-4420

District of Columbia

May 1, 8, 15, 22 — Bird Walk, Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens

A walk with a ranger to see the changing of the birds as winter migrators leave and summer ones arrive. Good for all ages. 7:45 am to 8:45 am at the Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens visitor center.

Web site: www.nps.gov/keaq/planyourvisit/events.htm

Contact: Ian Lothian, 202-426-6905

Georgia

May 8 — International Migratory Bird Day at Okefenokee NWR

Join the nation in celebrating and learning about migratory birds. Activities include an early morning bird walk, bird activities for children and adults, exhibits, and a night time Owl Prowl.

Web site: www.fws.gov/okefenokee/

Contact: Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 912-496-7836

Illinois

May 8 — International Migratory Bird Day, Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge

Learn about the red tail hawk, one of the most abundant and widespread hawks in Illinois. Enjoy family friendly bird walks, bird house building and bird crafts and games. Events take place at the Pigeon Creek Education Center.

Contact: Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, 618-988-5933

May 15 — International Migratory Bird Day, Upper Mississippi River NWFR - Savanna District

Come and join us in celebrating International Migratory Bird Day at the Ingersoll Wetlands Learning Center.

Contact: Pam Steinhaus, 815-273-2732 ext 16.

Indiana

May 15 — Pinhook Bog Open House, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Take a self-guided hike into Indiana's only "true" quaking bog. Rangers stationed along the trail will keep you safe from the carnivorous plants. You must arrive before 2:00 pm to be able to go on the self-guided hike.

Web site: www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/events.htm

Contact: Ryan Koepke, 219-395-1882

Iowa

May 8 — International Migratory Bird Day at Neal Smith NWR

Come celebrate IMBD at the Neal Smith NWR. With events ranging from bird hikes to making bird crafts at our crafts station, it is a great way to kick off spring and celebrate the warmer months to come.

Contact: Hallie Rasmussen, hallie_rasmussen@fws.gov, 515-994-3400

Louisiana

May 1–31 — Wetlands Walk, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve

Explore Louisiana's wetlands on a ranger-guided walk on a preserve trail. Watch for alligators, listen for frog calls, admire the wildflowers, and hear about the people who lived and worked in the area. Daily walks take place from 10 am to 11 am and may be cancelled during special events at the preserve or due to staffing. Stop at the Barataria Preserve Visitor Center, 6588 Barataria Blvd., Marrero, to find out where the day's walk will begin.

Web site: <http://nps.gov/jela/>

Contact: Barataria Preserve Visitor Center, 504-589-2330 ext 10

Maine

May 28–17 — Birding Festival, Moosehorn NWR

3 day birding festival sponsored by the refuge, friends group and the Cobscook Chamber of Commerce. Field trips to include boat rides, live bird demonstration, talks and childrens activities.

Contact: 207-454-7161

Maryland

May 8, 23 — Guided Bird Walk

Join an experienced birder for a guided birding tour of Blackwater NWR. Meet at Blackwater Visitor Center at 8 a.m. Bring your binoculars and field guides, and dress appropriately.

Web site: www.fws.gov/blackwater

Contact: Blackwater NWR Visitor Center, 410-228-2677

May 15 — Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary 25th Anniversary

The Sanctuary is turning 25 this year! Please come and help us celebrate at an open house from 10 am – 2 pm! Learn how to become a Jug Bay volunteer. Take a guided hike or a boardwalk tour. Nature activities for kids. Free.

Web site: Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Contact: 410-741-9330

May 23 — Meet the Beaver

Join a Park Ranger from 2 – 3 pm at Greenbelt Park Ranger Station to learn about beavers. What attributes make beavers such good swimmers? What are beavers' contributions to wetland and forest habitat? Discover the world of beavers with a park ranger.

Web site: www.nps.gov/gree/planyourvisit/events.htm

Contact: Ranger Barry, 301-344-3944

Minnesota

May 8 — International Migratory Bird Day at Sherburne NWR

Celebrate the return of millions of migratory birds to their breeding areas by joining a guided bird tour at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, May 8. The "Songbird Search," enjoyed most by intermediate and experienced birders, begins at 7:00 a.m. and runs until noon. The 8:30 a.m. tour, "Birds In The Wetlands," includes a car caravan to the Wildlife Drive to look for birds using the wetlands, grasslands and woodland edges. This program is excellent for beginning birders and families. Pre-registration is requested for all tours by calling the Refuge office at (763) 389-3323 ext. 13. Participants are encouraged to bring a pair of binoculars and a field guide to birds. All programs begin at the Old School House and are free and open to the public.

Contact: Refuge office, (763) 389-3323 ext. 13

May 9 — Wings on the Prairie Bird and Nature Festival

Windom Wetland Management District is celebrating the annual "Wings on the Prairie" celebration from 6:30 am until 1 pm. This is a public event for people to come and see what the area has to offer and celebrate Wildlife and Nature. There will be guided bird walks, demonstrations, presentations and kids activities as well as lunch available on-site. Come and enjoy the Prairie!

Web site: midwest.fws.gov/windom

May 20–23 — Detroit Lakes Festival of Birds

Celebrate the spring migration at the 13th annual Festival of Birds! This festival includes bird watching trips to Tamarac, Glacial Ridge, and Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuges. Bird watching trips also take participants into several WPA's of Fergus Falls and Detroit Lakes Wetland Management Districts. Each trip is guided by several experts in the field. Key speakers include Jeff Gorden, Joe Hautman and Carroll Henderson. Located in a transition zone of tallgrass prairie, hardwood and deciduous forests, nearly 200 species of birds can be seen. Workshops, exhibitors, and socials complete the weekend birding experience.

Web site: www.visitdetroitlakes.com/things-to-do/events/festival-of-birds/

Contact: Kelly Blackledge, Tamarac NWR, kelly_blackledge@fws.gov, 218-847-2641

New Mexico

May 21-23 — Tres Alianzas Riparian Restoration Weekend

Join Sky Island Alliance, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance and the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance to learn and practice riparian restoration techniques, including pole-plantings and erosion control, in a secluded section of western New Mexico. San Francisco River.

Web site: www.skyislandalliance.org/calendar.htm

Contact: Sarah Williams; 520 624-7080 x23; sarah@skyislandalliance.org

New York

May 8 — International Migratory Bird Day at Wertheim NWR

Celebrate the incredible journeys of migratory birds between their breeding grounds in North America and their wintering grounds in Mexico, Central, and South America. Enjoy live animals, bird box building, nature hikes, arts/crafts/games, and more. Please call 631-245-5975 for more info and to reserve a spot.

Web site: www.friendsofwertheim.org/

Contact: 631-245-5975

Oregon

May 15 — Birding Festival at Tualatin River NWR

Come to Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge at 19255 SW Pacific Hwy in Sherwood. All ages are invited, rain or shine, for a day of outdoor activities, guided nature walks, live bird education show, native plant sale, hands-on educational crafts for kids, exhibits, presentations, entertainment, food, fun and more. The event and parking are free.

Web site: www.fws.gov/tualatinriver/

Contact: Kim Strassburg, 503-625-5944 x 228

Virginia

May 2 — Huntley Meadows Park Wetlands Awareness Day

Enjoy an afternoon of wetland interpretation, wildlife presentations and a Fun Fair for kids. Bring your friends and family to celebrate the importance of wetlands to wildlife and you. There is a modest fee for some activities. Noon – 3 pm at the Huntley Meadows Visitor Center. Sponsored by FOHMP.

Contact: 703-768-2525

May 7–9 — Birding Festival at Great Dismal Swamp NWR

Migratory Bird Day celebration! Guided bird walks, refuge tours, photography and birding workshops, and night events. Free event, pre-registration required for guided tours and workshops.

Web site: www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp

Contact: Deloras Freeman, 757-986-3705

May 8 — International Migratory Bird Day, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

Come celebrate with the 16th Annual International Migratory Bird Day Celebration. The entrance fee is waived and all activities are free. There will be bird walks, bird crafts, wildlife artists, live animal demonstrations, Native American flute music, lighthouse and bus tours, refreshments, and more. You won't want to miss this year's celebration! This is your opportunity to connect your children with nature and play an important role in celebrating the many collaborative efforts that benefit bird conservation.

Contact: Sally Bowden, Park Ranger, 757-336-6122 x314

Washington

May 8 — What is a peat bog anyway?

Wetland specialist Sarah Spear Cooke offers an inside look at the development of a sphagnum peat bog and the vegetation communities of the peat complex. 10am – noon, Shadow Lake Bog; Richter Interpretive Center; Renton WA.

Web site: www.shadowhabitat.org

Contact: 425-432-4914; info@shadowhabitat.org

May 15 — Shadow Lake Water Chemistry 101

Local peatland expert, Louise Kulzer, will reveal the unique conditions required to support a sphagnum-dominated peatland like Shadow Lake Bog. Families will use pH paper investigate how Shadow Lake Bog water chemistry differs from the water of typical wetlands. 10am – noon, Shadow Lake Bog; Richter Interpretive Center; Renton WA.

Web site: www.shadowhabitat.org

Contact: 425-432-4914; info@shadowhabitat.org

Wisconsin

May 1 — Birding Field Trip at Wyalusing State Park, Bagley, WI

Join field trip leaders Quentin Yoerger & Charles Naeseth to bird Wyalusing State Park in Crawford County, WI. This site was recently designated a Wisconsin Wetland Gem, and is also part of a site that was recently designated a Wetland of International Importance under the international Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. This trip is co-sponsored with Madison Audubon Society.

Web site: www.wisconsinwetlands.org/fieldtrips10.htm

Contact: Brooke Bushman, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, 608-250-9971,
brooke.bushman@wisconsinwetlands.org

May 22 — Backwater Riverboat Tour of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Register today to explore open backwater and side channel riverine habitats that border the floodplain forests of this Wetland Gem. Jon 'Hawk' Stravers will guide us through this noteworthy bird migration corridor during peak nesting period. Tour goes from 10 am – 12 pm and departs from south-end Lawler Park, Prairie du Chien.

Web site: www.wisconsinwetlands.org/fieldtrips10.htm#backwaters

Contact: Brooke Bushman, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, 608-250-9971,
wwaprogs3@wisconsinwetlands.org