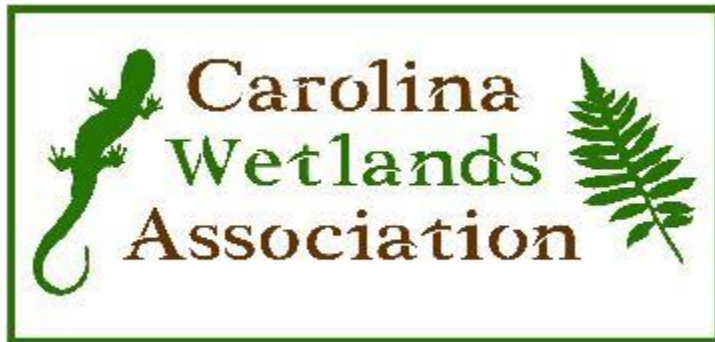


Association of State Wetland Managers

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

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

Board of Directors



**Rick Savage, Retired, NC DENR*

**Kim Matthews, RTI*

**Kristie Gianopulos, Consultant*

**Norton Webster, Consultant*

Tara Alden, 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 Matthis, River Guardian Foundation

Curt Richardson, Duke University

** Executive Committee members*

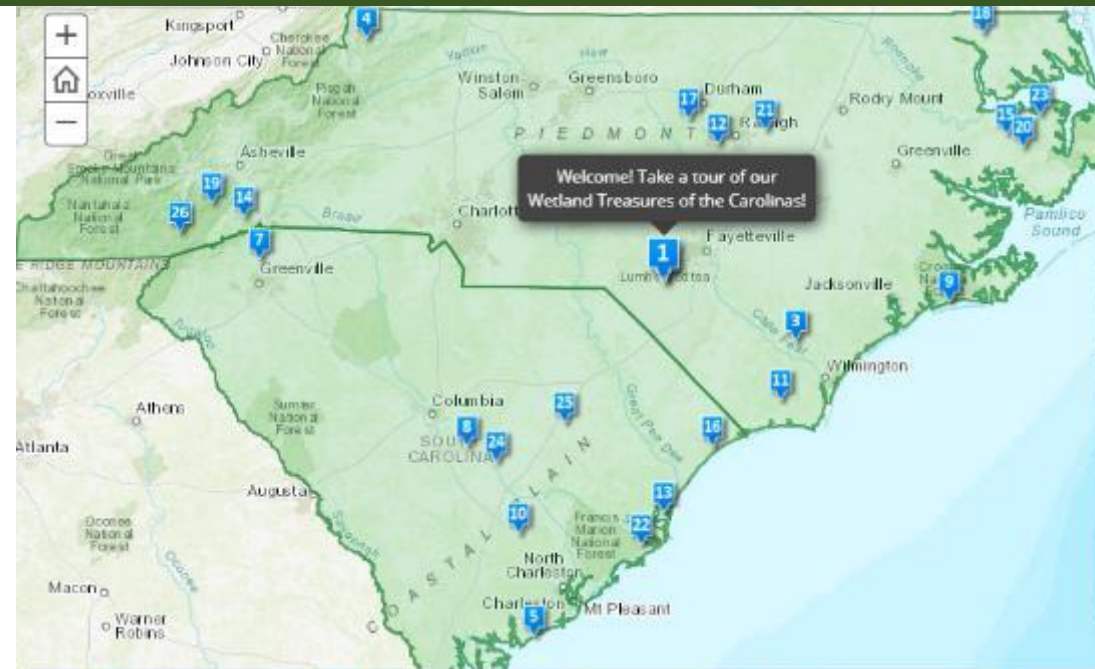
www.carolinawetlands.org

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



Wetland Treasures of the Carolinas



esri A Story Map

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

Wetland Treasures of the Carolinas

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



Panthertown Valley Bog

- Location: Jackson County, NC
- Wetland Type: Southern Appalachian Bog
- Site Owner: U.S. Forest Service
- Unique Feature: One of the rarest wetland in an unmatched setting of granitic domes.
- Fact Sheet
- More information
 - US Forest Service
 - Friends of Panthertown
 - NC DWR video



2020 WETLAND TREASURES OF THE CAROLINAS

BROGDON BOTTOMLANDS

Photo courtesy of Triangle Land Conservancy
 Courtesy: Chris Lewis

ECOLOGICAL & SIGNIFICANCE
 Brogdon Bottomlands is a 1,120-acre site on the Neuse River purchased by Triangle Land Conservancy in 2010. The tract sits in the heart of the Neuse Lowlands and is the largest unproduced natural heritage area as well as one of the largest contiguous patches of undeveloped land in private ownership in the Triangle region of North Carolina. The Neuse Lowlands lie southward of Smithfield in Johnston County where the Neuse winds out to a vast floodplain full of wetlands, swales, and extensive stands of cypress and oak hardwood forests. The Lowlands is a most extraordinary wilderness area in the U.S. essentially undeveloped and untouched for a eons. The site protects one of the largest areas in the Triangle region.

Three miles of frontage on the Neuse River and over 10,715 feet of stream feeding the Neuse, a water park, small wetland areas, sloughs, swales on the property and a thicket providing an water and flood control for downstream life. The massive floodplain is both effective at filtering impurities from the Triangle's raw water runoff, and absorbing stormwater excess.

This property is being acquired as one of the largest natural Best Management Practices (BMPs) on the Neuse River.

FLORA & FAUNA
 The property is an exceptional wildlife habitat for neotropical birds, the scowles, black bears, crows, bobcats, and other rare species. The bottomland hardwoods are dominated by cherrybark oak, swamp cypress, and red maple. Water hickory, American hornbeam are also found in the property. In addition, large swaths of N.C. native oaks are dominant the understory and create excellent habitat for migrating birds. The tract also contains several oxbow lakes, vernal pools, and large sloughs which provide excellent habitat for salamanders, frogs, and other reptiles and amphibians.

THREATS
 The purchase and protection of the Brogdon Bottomlands will preserve the vital floodplain and wildlife habitat functions in a highly developed agricultural area of the Neuse watershed.

ACCESS
 The site is currently not open to the public.

SOURCES
 Triangle Land Conservancy. Click [here](http://www.tlcva.org) for more info.

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



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



www.carolinawetlands.org

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

Strategic Plan (2019 – 2022)

- 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).

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 WRRRI and AEES)



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



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
 - Rick.savage@carolinawetlands.org
- **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