



Wetland News Digest

Editor's Note

Dear Wetlanders,

The big news story this month has been about the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court on *Sackett vs EPA* which significantly narrowed the federal government's authority over certain wetlands, tributaries, and other aquatic resources. All nine justices agreed that the wetlands on the *Sackett* property should not be subject to Clean Water Act regulation, and that the significant nexus test provided for in the 2006 case, *Rapanos v. United States*, should no longer determine the scope of federal jurisdiction. We have provided two news stories in [Editor's Choice](#) about the decision for you.

In [National News](#), we have included a story on new developments regarding the Enbridge Pipeline, and in our [State and Tribal News](#) section, you'll find an update on the hotly contested Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project in California, among many others. NAWM's staff hope you enjoy the stories we have collected for you this past month.

I also wanted to share with all of you, that the August 2023 edition of *Wetland News Digest* (formerly called *Wetland Breaking News*) will be our final edition of this long running publication. In response to feedback received from our membership, *Wetland News Digest* has become a bit antiquated and duplicative of other communications we have developed over the years. The vast majority of news stories shared in *Wetland News Digest* are shared in a more timely, weekly email update to our members each Thursday, called Insider's Edition. Insider's allows our members to receive news stories the week they are published and also contains updates regarding NAWM's webinars, trainings, etc. We also share many important updates for everyone via our website and on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

If you are not a member of NAWM yet, I encourage you to consider joining our community of practice. NAWM's membership rates are recognized nationally as being very affordable and membership comes with multiple benefits – you can find out more about how to [become a member here](#). I want to thank all of you for your interest in and support for *Wetland News Digest* over the years.

Best regards,

Marla Stelk, Editor, *Wetland News Digest*, NAWM

In this Issue

[Editor's Note](#)

[Editor's Choice](#)

[National News](#)

[State and Tribal News](#)

[Wetland Science News](#)

[Resources and Publications](#)

[Potpourri](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)



***Dedicated to
Protecting
the Nation's
Wetlands***



Editor's Choice

Supreme Court water ruling could transform NEPA, ESA

By Pamela King – E&E News Greenwire – June 15, 2023

In its blockbuster Clean Water Act ruling last month, the Supreme Court did more than ratchet back EPA oversight of the nation's wetlands — the justices may have also removed key pathways to endangered species protections and climate reviews of major federal projects. *Sackett v. EPA*, a case about whether an Idaho couple illegally filled in a wetland while building their dream home, [set forth a massive cutback](#) of federal safeguards for wetlands without a clear surface connection to traditionally navigable waters like lakes and streams — going further to restrict the Clean Water Act's scope than even the Trump administration had proposed. [Read more.](#)

White House picks up the pace on regs

By Kevin Bogardus and Kelsey Brugger – E&E News Greenwire – June 14, 2023

The White House revealed plans for energy and environmental regulations Tuesday, with rules primed to meet a crucial deadline to avoid being overturned by Republican lawmakers if President Joe Biden loses his reelection bid. The spring Unified Agenda offers a window into the Biden administration's intent to shore up regulatory actions on air, water and climate in the months ahead. [Read more.](#)

Could Mother Nature cut off California's water guarantee?

By Jennifer Yachnin – E&E News – Greenwire June 12, 2023

In the contentious, yearlong negotiations over how to share the pain of Colorado River shortages, California officials leaned on their state's status as the basin's most senior water rights holder — or the last in line to take cuts when supplies run low — to fend off arguments it should bear the brunt of reductions. The gambit worked, ultimately sparking a compromise in which California will share cuts with Arizona and Nevada over the next three years. The deal means the state will give less than 10 percent of its annual allocation, in line with its original offer. [Read more.](#)

Supreme Court dramatically shrinks Clean Water Act's reach

By Annie Snider – Politico – May 25, 2023

The Supreme Court on Thursday significantly shrank the reach of federal clean water protections, dealing a major blow to President Joe Biden's efforts to restore protections to millions of acres of wetlands and delivering a victory to multiple powerful industries. The ruling from the court's conservative majority vastly narrowing the federal government's authority over marshes and bogs is a win for industries such as homebuilding and oil and gas, which must seek Clean Water Act permits to damage federally protected wetlands. Those industries have fought for decades to limit the law's reach. [Read more.](#) [Read the opinion *Sackett v. EPA* \(2023\) here.](#)

NAWM POLICY DOCUMENTS

May 26, 2023 – Press Release: NAWM Responds to Sackett Decision

Yesterday, the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Sackett established a new standard for determining when a wetland or other water is a water of the United States (WOTUS), that substantially reduces the extent of Clean Water Act (CWA) protections for wetlands and non-navigable tributaries. In effect, the Court has adopted the “relatively permanent” standard from Rapanos and eliminated a significant nexus as a basis for jurisdiction. All justices concurred in the judgement that the Sackett’s wetlands are not WOTUS, but for varying legal reasons laid out in concurring opinions. [Read full press release](#).

May 24, 2023 –NAWM and NEIWPC Submit Letter to Senate Leadership Regarding Section 401

NAWM and NEIWPC sent a letter to Senate Leadership expressing concern about the revisions to Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification included in the U.S. House of Representatives debt ceiling-related bill. The House-passed legislation provisions would have, among other things, prohibited consideration of state or Tribal law when doing a section 401 certification analysis and provided that section 401 no longer applied to federal authorization of natural gas pipelines. NAWM and NEIWPC urged the Senate to continue its historic recognition of, and deference to, states’ sovereign authority over the protection, management, and allocation of their water resources and to maintain the current proper balance between state and federal authorities. [Read the letter here](#).

May 30, 2023 –NAWM Comments on Proposed Rule: 24 CFR Parts 50, 55, 58, and 200 Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands; Minimum Property Standards for Flood Hazard Exposure; Building to the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard

NAWM has provided comment on HUD’s proposed Floodplain and Wetlands Construction Standard. This standard proposes to establish criteria for avoiding and minimizing impacts to floodways for projects which are funded or insured by HUD. This proposed rule was written to address Executive Orders 11990 and 13690 directing agencies to protect floodways and wetlands. [Read letter here](#).

[View all NAWM Policy Documents](#)

National News

As Mississippi Riverfront development booms, wetlands become crucial to stave off flooding

By Eric Schmid – Marketplace – June 20, 2023

The Mississippi River has been having a bit of a moment. “People all over the world want to come and see this iconic natural phenomenon that is the Mississippi,” said Colin Wellenkamp, executive director of the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative. “It has a larger international following than the Grand Canyon.” More and more, people want to interact with the Mississippi and the scenery along its 2,340 miles through activities like birding and canoeing, as well as parks and public spaces right next to the water, Wellenkamp said. But the cities Wellenkamp works with face one unavoidable problem: [The Mississippi floods](#), and climate change is making those floods carry more water and last longer. [Read more.](#)

Supreme Court Ruling Curtails EPA Oversight of Wetlands – Check State Rules Before Acting

Armstrong Teasdale – June 20, 2023

On May 25, 2023, the United States Supreme Court in *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency* held that the federal Clean Water Act applies only to wetlands that are “indistinguishable” from the bodies of water they adjoin through a “continuous surface connection.” The decision is likely to lead to further uncertainty as to which “wetlands” are regulated, while testing the strength of state laws to protect wetlands no longer within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA) reach. [Read more.](#)

Judge orders stretch of pipeline that crosses tribal land to shut down in three years

By Zack Budryk – The Hill – June 19, 2023

A federal judge has ordered a Canadian oil firm to shut down a section of its pipeline in Wisconsin that crosses tribal land, a partial victory for indigenous groups that have long opposed the project. A federal judge has ordered a Canadian oil firm to shut down a section of its pipeline in Wisconsin that crosses tribal land, a partial victory for indigenous groups that have long opposed the project. [Read more.](#)

Current efforts are not enough in Chesapeake Bay cleanup, report says. New thinking is required

By Eliza Noe – PHYS.org – May 15, 2023

When it comes to reducing pollution in the Chesapeake Bay, throwing more money at the problem may not be enough. A new independent study suggests better tactics are needed in order to improve the health of the bay and its estuaries. The [report](#), released May 9, says some improvement has been made in the 40 years since the original Chesapeake Bay Agreement was signed. But it says recent progress to reduce pollutants have been lagging. [Read more.](#)



MARSH MENTORSHIP-ASSISTED RESOURCE & SUPPORT HUB

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NAWM's 2024 Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting

June 18-21, 2024

National Conservation Training Center
Shepherdstown, WV

More information coming soon.

If you have any questions, please call (207)892-3399

State and Tribal News

AZ, CA, NV: Colorado River states announce breakthrough water sharing deal

By Kirk Siegler – NPR – May 22, 2023

The White House has announced a key deal with Arizona, California and Nevada to conserve large amounts of water from the drought-afflicted Colorado River. The breakthrough agreement aims to keep the river, which has been shrinking at an alarming rate due to climate change and overuse, from falling to a level that could endanger the water and power supply for major cities in the West and vast stretches of hugely productive farmland. [Read more.](#)

CA: Team effort to spread awareness about Tahoe's aquatic invasive species

Tahoe Daily Tribune – June 5, 2023

With summer arriving in Tahoe, residents and visitors are looking forward to spending time on the lake's sparkling blue waters. To protect that treasured experience and the lake's water quality, public, private and nonprofit partners have come together to inform recreators about the threat of aquatic invasive species – harmful, non-native plants and animals. Without a watchful eye and preventative action, invasive species could proliferate, turning those blue waters a murky green.

[Read more.](#)

CA: Judge Orders Halt to Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

By Louis Sahagun – Los Angeles Times – May 30, 2023

A California Department of Fish and Wildlife plan to introduce tidal flows into the Ballona Creek wetlands has come to a screeching halt after a judge ruled recently that the agency's environmental impact report on the project failed to adequately account for flood risks. In a May 17 decision, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge James C. Chalfant ordered the agency to set aside its certification of the final EIR for the project because it "failed to disclose and analyze flood control design parameters" associated with proposed levees and other infrastructure. [Read more.](#)

CO: There's More to Saving the Colorado River Than Cutting the Water Taken from It

By Moira McDonald and Jordana Barrak – Walton Family Foundation – June 11, 2023

Colorado River Basin states recently reached a historic agreement to dramatically reduce the amount of water they take from the river over the next three years. While the magnitude of the cuts under this compromise is unprecedented, it is not nearly enough to avert the crisis facing the river and the seven states, 30 tribal nations and 40 million people who depend on it.

[Read more.](#)

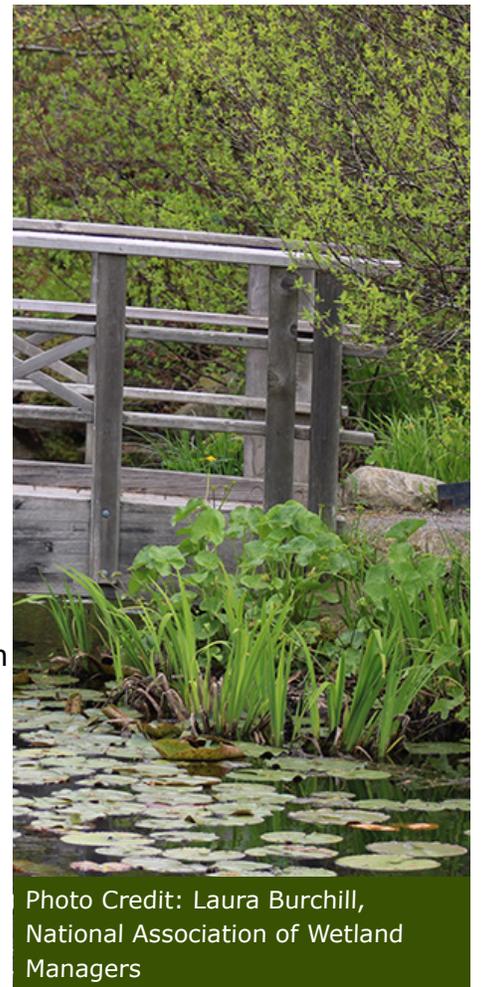


Photo Credit: Laura Burchill,
National Association of Wetland
Managers

CO: Colorado's wetlands are endangered by climate change and invasive species. New federal money will help protect them

By Carl Bilek, Ryan Warner, and Caitlyn Kim – CPR News – June 3, 2023

Look out at some of Colorado's most stunning places and there's a good chance that land is held by the Bureau of Land Management. The BLM this week announced it will invest \$160 million nationwide in what it calls "restoration landscapes." Colorado will get \$5 million for North Park near Walden and just more than \$6 million for the San Luis Valley. The idea is to help public lands across the West withstand new and growing challenges, like invasive species and climate change. [Read more.](#)

CO: New task force aims to provide lawmakers with solutions to protect Colorado River

By Colette Bordelon – Denver 7 – May 15, 2023

Rain in Denver means the classic comment from Coloradans has been flowing faster than the creeks through the city: "We need the moisture!" That sentiment is only natural in a state that has suffered a drought for more than two decades, according to water experts. [Read more.](#)

HI: Maui County Wetlands Map to Help Mitigate Flooding, Protect Environment

Mauinow – May 30, 2023

The county's Department of Planning is creating a public tool that will help reduce flood risk for human life and property while protecting and restoring Maui County's important natural wetland ecosystems, county officials announced. As part of a new county law to restore and protect wetlands, titled Ordinance 5421, Planning officials are working on a comprehensive wetlands overlay map that will identify existing and future wetland areas. Once it is launched on the County of Maui website, the map will help property owners, land managers and county planners with important land-use decisions, according to department officials. "Wetlands are valuable features in the landscape that provide a number of beneficial services, including safeguarding and improving water quality, providing wildlife habitat sanctuaries and reducing coastal storm damage," Planning Director Kathleen Ross Aoki said in a news release. "Protecting wetlands will also help to mitigate flood hazards and protect life and property in Maui County." [Read more.](#)

IL: Illinois environmentalists push for state action to protect wetlands after Supreme Court ruling rolls back federal rules

By Karina Atkin – PHYS.org – June 6, 2023

Across the country, marshes, swamps and bogs quietly soak up flood water and filter pollutants. Ecologists agree they are one of the best natural defenses against climate change. But after a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling, more than half of the country's 118 million acres of wetlands, according to estimates from the environmental firm Earthjustice, will effectively no longer have federal protection from developers and polluters. Illinois, which has lost 90% of its wetlands since 1818, is among the more vulnerable states with no state-level protections for wetlands on private property. Those on public land are still protected. [Read more.](#)

LA: Warning issued for Lake Pontchartrain over potential harmful algae

By Mark Schleifstein – Nola.com – June 6, 2023

If you've noticed a greenish tinge to the water in Lake Pontchartrain while traveling from the northshore this week, you're not hallucinating. Satellite data collected by NASA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science identified an explosion of cyanobacteria across much of Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas on Sunday and Monday, but also across a number of other lakes and open water areas south of the Mississippi River in late May and early June. [Read more.](#)

LA: With river's help, new land emerges in Barataria Basin

By Mark Schleifstein – nola.com – May 22, 2023

A bumpy, 20-minute ride on a Star Wars-like people mover crosses new land, the result of a nearly complete marsh creation project in an area that badly needs it. The ride was part of a recent tour to showcase the Upper Barataria Marsh Creation project, built by pumping sediment nearly 14 miles inland from the Mississippi River. Paid for with more than \$181 million from the \$5 billion set aside by BP to restore natural resources damaged during the company's 2010 Deepwater Horizon accident and oil spill, the project overseen by NOAA Fisheries will have built close to 1,200 acres of new land when it is completed in October. [Read more.](#)

LA: Proposed Mississippi flood control project has many worried about impact along Pearl River

By David Jones – Fox 8 – May 24, 2023

A proposed major Mississippi flood improvement project near Jackson has Louisiana officials and residents on edge, concerned about potentially dire environmental impacts affecting livelihoods downstream along the Pearl River. [One Lake](#), an Army Corps of Engineers project funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, would create a 1,500-acre lake along the Pearl River in the Jackson area as part of the Corps' efforts to mitigate Mississippi flood risk. The project has been hailed by officials in Jackson. [Read more.](#)

MA: Using Nature to Fight Rising Seas: Floating Wetlands

By Erick Trickey – NGN Magazine – May 25, 2023

Picture Boston Harbor, a few years from now. The East Boston Greenway, a leafy urban trail, no longer stops a block from the pier, but extends into the ocean. A floating semi-circular trail arcs across the water; cyclists buzz and pedestrians stroll along it. This is more than a buoyant park. The real innovation surrounds the path. On both sides, marsh grass splays out from hundreds of 6-foot-wide floating spheres, made of deadwood and coconut fiber. The bobbing green-brown globes are man-made, a new wetland riding atop the ocean. This is the Emerald Tutu — a new coastal defense against rising seas, conceived by Julia Hopkins, a Northeastern University civil and environmental engineering professor, and fellow researchers. If it works, it could protect low-lying East Boston from future floods caused by climate change. [Read more.](#)

MI: Landmark Great Lakes coastal wetland program continues restoration drive that began in 2010

By Gary Wilson – Great Lakes Now – June 12, 2023

It was 2010 when after a decade of lobbying by Great Lakes advocates, federal funding in the U.S. to restore the Great Lakes began to flow to the tune of \$475 million. Beneath the radar in that first year, Central Michigan University [received](#) \$10 million to lead a team of regional scientists who would study coastal wetlands that had been severely degraded over time. The degradation was to the point that 50 percent of Michigan's coastal wetlands had been lost. In some areas like the Detroit River, the loss was 90 percent. [Read more.](#)

MT: Forest Service to start wetland construction on property near Gardiner

Isabel Hicks Chronicle – Bozeman Daily Chronicle – June 5, 2023

The Forest Service is set to do wetland construction work this month on a land parcel north of Yellowstone National Park near Gardiner in a move to restore biodiversity and wildlife connectivity to the area. The Forest Service acquired the property, which lies east of the Yellowstone River and Highway 89, in a land swap in 2019. The goal of the restoration work is to create a passive wetland system with high-quality habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife to flourish, according to a Forest Service release. [Read more.](#)

NY/CANADA: Lake trout research underway on Lake Ontario

By New York Sea Grant – Niagara Frontier Publications – June 7, 2023

Lake trout research underway on Lake Ontario is part of the U.S.-Canada Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative (CSMI) field year on the lake. Research collecting data on lake trout movement using acoustic telemetry tags is being led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in collaboration with the U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Fisheries, with outreach assistance from New York Sea Grant (NYSG). The research team is using specialized tags that communicate with acoustic receivers stationed on the lake bottom. The tags will provide information about the migration patterns and habitats used by adult lake trout. This innovative technology is particularly useful for locating spawning habitats and will help to inform future restoration efforts for potentially degraded spawning sites. [Read more.](#)

NC: North Carolina could loosen protections for isolated, 'dry' wetlands under new farm bill

By Gareth McGrath – StarNews Online – June 20, 2023

A bill that would help farmers and give property owners more options to develop their land but also could increase North Carolina's vulnerability to flooding is now on Gov. Roy Cooper's desk. The legislation is the N.C. Farm Bill, a biannual bill that covers a lot of generally mundane issues related to agriculture in the state's rural areas. But it is language in the bill that would remove state protections for isolated wetlands and ephemeral ponds and wetlands that aren't wet all of the time, like pocosins, that is drawing the ire of environmentalists. [Read more.](#)

NC: Proposed NC Law Could Mean Supreme Court Wetlands Ruling has 'Drastic' Impact

By Adam Wagner – The News&Observer – May 26, 2023

A proposed state law could mean that the Supreme Court's decision this week to roll back Clean Water Act protections for many wetlands has significant impact for North Carolina, according to environmental advocates. In *Sackett v. EPA*, the Supreme Court ruled that in order to be considered a "water of the United States," and thus to receive protection, a wetland needs to be indistinguishable from a larger body of water. Environmental advocates warned that provision along with the Supreme Court's ruling could imperil fragile wetlands in North Carolina, opening them up to development and increasing flood risks for low-lying communities throughout the state. [Read more.](#)

PA: Spring "Pulse" Event Increases Flow of the Allegheny River, Bolsters Downstream Ecosystem

Contact: Trent Knoss – The Nature Conservancy – June 8, 2023

A spring "pulse" event recently conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at the Kinzua Dam in Pennsylvania released 3.2 billion gallons of water into the [Allegheny River](#) in order to mimic natural flow patterns. The pulse is the latest milestone in a decades-long collaborative effort between the USACE, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and other local partners to ensure a healthy future for the Allegheny River and nearby communities. [Read more.](#)

PA: How a Cranberry Farm in the Pine Barrens Transformed into Rare Wetlands and a Hiking Destination (3:13min video)

By Jenna Miller – The Philadelphia Inquirer – May 30, 2023

Biologist Emile DeVito points out carnivorous plants and 8-foot-thick peat moss on a tour of the rare landscape at Franklin Parker Preserve in the Pine Barrens. The New Jersey Conservation Foundation bought the giant cranberry operation 20 years ago to convert back to wetlands. [View Video.](#)

UT: Trespassing threatens the Provo River Delta Restoration Project

By Heather W. Smith – abc4 – June 13, 2023

The Provo River Delta Restoration Project is asking for your help. The project has been facing delays and safety problems due to trespassing issues. The restoration, which began in June 2020, will recover the natural ecosystem of the June Sucker, an endemic species of Utah Lake and the Provo River. Partners in the project are asking for help from residents and explorers, alike, to remind people to stay out of the area. The project is experiencing trespass at the Delta site as well as a section of the original channel of the Provo River leading to the Delta site. [Read more.](#)

UT: Freeport Drain Wetlands to clean water for Great Salt Lake

By Kade Garner – abc4 – May 17, 2023

While the Great Salt Lake is up nearly five feet from the historic lows it reached last year, innovative projects are underway to save the lake. The latest to be completed is The Freeport Drain Wetlands. In a statement, Utah’s Watershed Restoration Initiative explained the project’s objective: “This project will complete the Engineering required to create 40 acres of new emergent marsh and open water habitats and maintain and restore natural wetlands that are historically associated with the Great Salt Lake freshwater zones on State of Utah Sovereign Lands. Water Quality Monitoring will be provided before and after data to achieve the best picture of how the completed project has effective water quality entering the Great Salt Lake ecosystem.” [Read more.](#)

UT: The Amazing Trace: the epic adventures of Utah’s elusive boreal toads

By Adam Kavalunas – Utah Division of Wildlife Resources – Wildlife Blog – May 16, 2023

Boreal toads are a high-elevation amphibian found across the western United States and Canada. Although they are widespread throughout this far-flung region, both the number and distribution of toads have declined in recent decades. In an effort to combat this decline, the Utah Division of Wildlife releases captive-raised boreal toads to help bolster local populations. [Read more.](#)

WA: Getting fish passage over Skagit dams will take decades

By Gustavo Sagrero Álvarez – KUOW – June 13, 2023

Seattle City Light has a new plan to include fish passage on the Upper Skagit dams. The plan is required as part of the process of getting the dams relicensed by the federal government. This comes after years of conflict with tribes who say the three Skagit dams are getting in the way of the salmon. If successful, the fish passage plan would reintroduce salmon to a habitat they haven’t visited for more than 50 years. [Read more.](#)



Photo Credit: Matt Schweisberg, Wetland Strategies and Solutions, LLC

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Funding

U.S. EPA announced the availability of \$30 million for restoration projects that advance environmental justice in underserved and overburdened communities across the Great Lakes. This RFA expects to provide funding for two types of applications: applications that aim to provide funding for projects in a particular region of the Great Lakes Basin, and applications that aim to provide funding for projects across the entire Great Lakes Basin.

A webinar to discuss the RFA is scheduled for **May 23rd at 10:00 CST**. For additional information, please visit the [website](#). Responses to questions will be updated weekly and posted to this [website](#).

If you have general and technical questions that have not yet been addressed, please contact Cara Walsh (glri-rfa@epa.gov).

Applications will be accepted through **August 11, 2023**.

Sign up for the [Great Lakes News email list](#) to receive information about funding opportunities to support Great Lakes environmental work and updates about Great Lakes environmental projects.



Photo Credit: Capisic Pond, Portland, ME; Dan Williams

Members' Only Webinar Series

Modeling Resilience in Coastal Wetlands

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. EDT

Presenters:



Kelly Van Baalen
Climate Central



Kyle Runion
The University of Texas
Marine Science Institute

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NAWM 40TH Anniversary Trivia Contest

In celebration of NAWM's 40th Anniversary, we will ask a NAWM trivia question at the beginning of each members' webinar.

Be the first person to type in the correct answer and win a NAWM 40th Anniversary T-Shirt.



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Recorded Members' Only Webinar Series

Developing a Statewide Hydraulic Modeling Tool

Held Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Presenters:

- ▶ **Scott Jackson**, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- ▶ **Gardner Bent**, New England Water, Science Center
- ▶ **David Hilgeman**, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

National Wetland Condition Assessment: The Second Collaborative Survey of Wetlands in the United States

Held Thursday, June 8, 2023

Presenter:

- ▶ **Gregg Serenbetz**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds

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Recorded Hot Topics Webinars

Development of Rapid Streamflow Duration Assessment Methods for Nationwide Coverage

Held Thursday, April 13, 2023

[View Recording](#)

Presenters:

- **Brian Topping**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OWOW
- **Tracie Nadeau**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

American Wetlands Month Webinar: Celebrating the Endangered Species Act at 50 and the Importance of Conserving Wetlands and Wetland-dependent Species

Held Wednesday, May 17, 2023

[Recording Available Soon](#)

Presenters:

- **Martha Balis-Larsen**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- **Elizabeth Holmes Gaar**, NOAA
- **Kara Moore-O'Leary**, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- **Aimee Weldon**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Implications of the Supreme Court's Sackett Decision for Protection of Wetlands and Waters

Held Wednesday, June 14, 2023

[Recording Available Soon](#)

Presenters:

- **Jon Devine**, Director, Federal Water Policy Natural Resources Defense Council
- **Donna Downing**, Senior Legal Policy Advisor, National Association of Wetland Managers
- **Timothy Hoffman**, Senior Counsel, New York State Attorney General
- **Pat Parenteau**, Professor of Law Emeritus, Vermont Law School

Tribal Wetland Programs Webinars

Education and Outreach Efforts to Support Tribal Wetland Programs

Thursday, September 21, 2023
3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

[Register](#)

Approaches to Sustainable Funding for Tribal Wetland Programs

Thursday, November 2, 2023
3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT

[Register](#)

Recorded Tribal Wetland Programs Webinars

Monitoring and Assessment: Data Collection and Applications for Tribal Wetland Programs

Held Thursday, April 20, 2023

[View Recording](#)

Presenters:

- **Kerryann Weaver**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- **Michelle Bahnick**, Tulalip Tribes of Washington
- **Buddy Gopher**, Chippewa Cree Tribe
- **Laurel Wilson**, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Geospatial Mapping Tools and Techniques for Tribal Wetland Programs

Thursday, June 15, 2023 - 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT

Presenters:

- **Mike Knudson**, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota - GeoSpatial Services
- **Ferin Davis Anderson**, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- **Dustin Carl**, Chugach Regional Resources Commission

[Recording Available Soon](#)

Recorded Wetland Mapping Consortium Webinar

Examples of semi-automation for mapping Cowardin classes and wetland vegetation in Alaska

Held Thursday, April 27, 2023

[View Recording](#)

Presenter:

- **Timm Nawrocki**, Alaska Center for Conservation Science

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Wetland Science News

Ancient fish, modern problem: How the pallid sturgeon could be a warning for the Missouri River

By Elizabeth Rembert – NPR – June 14, 2023

Every day in the spring and fall when water temperatures are right, a team of scientists meet at a boat ramp off the Platte River in Nebraska. Waders on, they board an airboat and head to the fishing lines they baited with worms the night before. They're looking for the endangered pallid sturgeon, a funny-looking fish with a long snout and humped back, all covered in sandy scales. [Read more.](#)

Karen Telleen-Lawton: Shaking Out What Happens in the Salt Marsh

By Karen Telleen-Lawton – Noozhawk – May 29, 2023

Cool stuff happens in salt marshes. Signs in the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park describe the life cycle of parasitic trematodes (eww, right?), whose function is so important that it warrants an hour-long video by UCSB and USGS's Dr. Kevin Lafferty. The functions of healthy wetlands are essential at many levels. They are nurseries not just for leopard sharks but halibut and countless other finfish and shellfish. Migratory birds stop by for nutrition and rest on their travels long or short. Two hundred bird species call our area salt marshes home. [Read more.](#)

Drones give a clear view of frog habitat

By Elizabeth Munding – USDA Forest Service – May 19, 2023

Picture an IMAX-style aerial film of a high-elevation wetland complex boasting every shade of green, from lime to emerald to olive, amid its vast landscape. Behind this image is Forest Service hydrologist Kyle Wright, his feet firmly on the ground, operating an unmanned aerial system or "drone" over this portion of Big Marsh in Oregon's Little Deschutes River Basin. [Read more and view video.](#)

EPA approves listing Gallatin River as impaired

By Isabel Hicks – Bozeman Daily Chronicle – May 12, 2023

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency gave final approval this week to list a stretch of the Gallatin River as impaired, prompting Montana to continue studying the river's pollution sources and come up with a cleanup plan. The determination comes over a year after five groups petitioned the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to consider the Gallatin River as impaired by toxic algal blooms. Last June, the DEQ issued a draft decision that the river was impaired, but the state needed federal approval of the decision to finalize the river's status under the Clean Water Act. [Read more.](#)



**NAWM will be updating their website in July.
Stayed tuned.....**



NATURAL FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS ALLIANCE (NFFA)

The Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA) is an affiliation of nonprofit and private organizations, government agencies and individuals dedicated to the protection and preservation of the natural functions of floodplains, including coastal areas. As a founding member of the NFFA, the National Association of Wetland Managers hosted meetings, workshops, and webinars for the NFFA from 2011-2022. At the end of 2022, NAWM handed over coordination responsibilities for the NFFA to [American Rivers](#).

On February 16th, 2023, leaders from NAWM and American Rivers held a webinar to update and renew the affiliation, share findings from the NFFA & Wetland Mapping Consortium report, National Action Plan to Protect and Restore Floodplains, and share information on future NFFA activities. American Rivers will be hosting a new NFFA webpage on their website soon. In the meantime, we have an [updated webpage](#) that includes the current information.



Resources and Publications

Advanced Water Mapping and Analytics

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

A federal interagency workgroup was formed to develop contemporary and interoperable wetland and hydrography datasets that enable strategic, science-based decision-making across multiple high-priority applications, including infrastructure investment, climate change, and water quality. **Advanced Water Mapping and Analytics** (AWMA) initiative members are working to align the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Army's water resource interests with the U.S. Department of Interior's authoritative and ever-improving inland water mapping datasets and extensive expertise in hydrologic modeling. More specifically, the federal partners aim to accelerate improvements to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Geospatial Dataset, implement the U.S. Geological Survey 3D Hydrography Program, and foster innovations in related hydrologic modeling techniques. The efficiency of NWI dataset production will be improved through greater leveraging of 3DHP and other products, and interoperability with 3DHP data will be increased by reducing feature duplication and enhancing feature alignment. This effort better meets user requirements by leveraging resources, enhancing data production efficiency and providing the high-quality data needed to support a wide-array of decision-support needs and tools. Visit this interactive [StoryMap](#) to learn more about the Advanced Water Mapping and Analytics Initiative.

Funding Opportunities

[Southeast New England Program \(SNEP\) 2023 Stormwater and Natural Infrastructure Grant](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Apply by June 30, 2023;
No.: EPA-I-R1-SNEP-2023B

[Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant Program \(GLEJGP\)](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;
Apply by August 11, 2023; Funding No.: EPA-I-R5-GL2023-GLEJGP

[Inflation Reduction Act: NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge](#)

NOAA; Apply by August 21, 2023; Funding No.: NOAA-NOS-OCM-2023-2008068

Support NAWM

MEMBERSHIP

NAWM has a long history of blazing trails in advocating for sound wetland science and sensible water policy. By joining NAWM, your membership carries many benefits including our Members' Webinar Series, Federal Policy Tracker, opportunities for involvement on committees, and exclusive publications.

DONATIONS

Your private donations directly support NAWM's (501(c)(3) nonprofit) ability to respond to time-sensitive issues as they arise and allow us to provide information, expert analysis, and recommendations regarding the impacts of potential policy and law on wetland protection programs and efforts. You may also opt to support the Jon A. Kusler Student Scholarship.

SPONSORSHIP

Take advantage of one of NAWM's many sponsorship opportunities and reach thousands of engaged webinar audience members, publication readers, and attendees at our Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting.



NAWM Learning Options Available

We have three online training modules readily available to you:



The recordings are free to view, anytime/anywhere. There is an option to take a quiz to test your knowledge and earn a Certificate of Completion. NAWM Members may access this free membership benefit by logging on to your [Membership Portal](#). Non-members may also access the quizzes on a fee basis.

Our fourth training series - [USDA-NRCS Conservation Planners Training Webinar](#) - is available to view and build knowledge. The quiz/certificate options for this series will be added at a later date.



Potpourri

Intervention necessary to improve Tri-City river health

Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business – May 2023

Outsiders to the Tri-Cities often see an arid landscape with green life only where human hands have touched the earth. Locals, too, see their desert surroundings. But many view themselves as inhabitants of a riverine world. Two mighty rivers join south of Pasco and a significant river, the Yakima, enters the Columbia between Kennewick and Richland. [Read more.](#)

Meet 'Chonkosaurus,' the Thick Snapping Turtle Stealing Hearts

By Eduardo Medina – DNYUZ – May 14, 2023

Even from afar, the snapping turtle perched on rusted chains in the Chicago River looked gargantuan. Kayakers enjoying a spring outing recorded the plump reptile, marveling at its wrinkled and chunky legs and its shell, which barely covered its thick green body. In the video, which was posted on Twitter this month, one of the kayakers, Joey Santore, sounding astonished, cries with an expletive: "Look at the size of that thing!" Indeed, to honor the size of that thing, the turtle was given the name Chonkosaurus. [Read more.](#)

To all our Wetland Friends:



From all of us at NAWM

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Baton Rouge, LA;

Apply by December 29, 2023

[Senior Permitting Consultant](#)

Multiple Locations - MA;

Apply by October 27, 2023

[Wetlands Compliance Specialist](#)

Manhattan, NY; Apply by July 7, 2023

[Visit the NAWM Job Board](#)



Photo Credit: Ryan Hagerty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Wetland Photos

We are always looking for new wetland photos. If you'd like to share your wetland views in our publications and social streams, [submit your photo\(s\) here.](#)



Photo Credit: Sheldon Lake State Park, NE Houston, TX, Andrew Sipocz, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Calendar of Events

WEBINARS

June 2023

June 23, 2023 10:30 a.m. EDT	Wisconsin Wetlands Association Webinar: Wetland monitoring and protection on the Red Cliff reservation
June 27, 2023 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT	Missouri River Basin Climate Extremes, Trends and Climate Change Webinar

July 2023

July 18, 2023 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. EDT	Association of Massachusetts Wetland Scientists Webinar: MassDEP Roundtable on the new Bordering Vegetated Wetlands Delineation Handbook
July 19, 2023 11:00 a.m. EDT	Society for Ecological Restoration: Why and How Implementing Rights of Wetlands Can Enhance Restoration and More
July 26, 2023 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT	National Association of Wetland Managers: Members' Webinar Series: Modeling Resilience in Coastal Wetlands

September 2023

September 21, 2023 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT	National Association of Wetland Managers: Tribal Wetland Programs Webinar: Education and Outreach Efforts to Support Tribal Wetland Programs
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November 2023

November 2, 2023 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT	National Association of Wetland Managers Tribal Wetland Programs Webinar: Approaches to Sustainable Funding for Tribal Wetland Programs
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Photo Credit: Alligator along the bank of Mac Bayou, Wallisville, TX; Tom Douglas, Bayou Preservation Association

CONFERENCES/EVENTS

June 2023

June 26-29, 2023
Des Moines, IA

[2023 North American Prairie Conference](#)

June 27-30, 2023
Spokane, WA

Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting: [Wetland adaptation from floodplains to ridgelines](#)

July 2023

July 8, 2023
Lothian, MD

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary: [Mysteries of the Marsh - Lyons Creek Kayak](#)

July 17-19, 2023
Denver, CO

American Water Resources Association 2023 Summer Conference: [Connecting Land & Water for Healthy Communities](#)

July 22, 2023
Avalon, NJ

[Wetlands Institute Summer Celebration](#)

July 24-27, 2023
Seattle, WA

National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA) [45th Annual Meeting](#)

August 2023

August 6-11, 2023
Portland, OR

[2023 ESA Annual Meeting: For All Ecologist](#)

August 14-17, 2023
Syracuse, NY & Online

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals: [Tribal Lands and Environmental Forum](#)

September 2023

September 12-15, 2023
Kalamazoo, MI

Michigan Wetlands Association Conference: [Visions for the Future](#)

September 13, 2023
New Gloucester, ME

Maine Association of Wetland Scientists: [2023 Natural Resources Workshop](#)

September 16, 2023
Fredericksburg, VA

Friends of the Rappahannock: [Riverfest](#)

September 17-24, 2023
New York, NY

Climate Group: [Climate Week NYC](#)

September 26-28, 2023
Bonn, Germany

Integrated Carbon Observation System: [5th European Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change, Riverine and Coastal Wetlands](#)

October 2023

October 11-13, 2023 Lake Arrowhead, CA	California Lake Management Society (CALMS) 38th Annual Conference
October 12-13, 2023 Cleveland, OH	Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition: Great Lakes Conference
October 15-18, 2023 Corpus Christi, TX	Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 77th Annual Conference
October 16-19, 2023 Lincoln, NE	North American Invasive Species Management Association 31st Annual Conference: Foundations for Success
October 23-28, 2023 Santa Marta, Columbia	17th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Ecological Economics: Economies for life: Alliances for practicing ecological economics in a world in transition
October 24-25, 2023 Galveston, TX	Restore America's Estuaries: 2023 Living Shorelines Workshop
October 27, 2023 Las Vegas, NV	Clark County Wetlands Park: Haunt the Wetlands

November 2023

November 2, 2023 Virtual	Natural Areas Association: 2023 Natural Areas Virtual Conference
November 2-4, 2023 La Crosse, WI	2023 Midwest Environmental Education Conference
November 6-8, 2023 Cary, NC	American Water Resources Association: 2023 Annual Water Resources Conference
November 6-9, 2023 Minneapolis, MN	NEIWPC: National Nonpoint Source Workshop
November 14-16, 2023 Tucson, AZ	US Water Alliance: One Water Summit

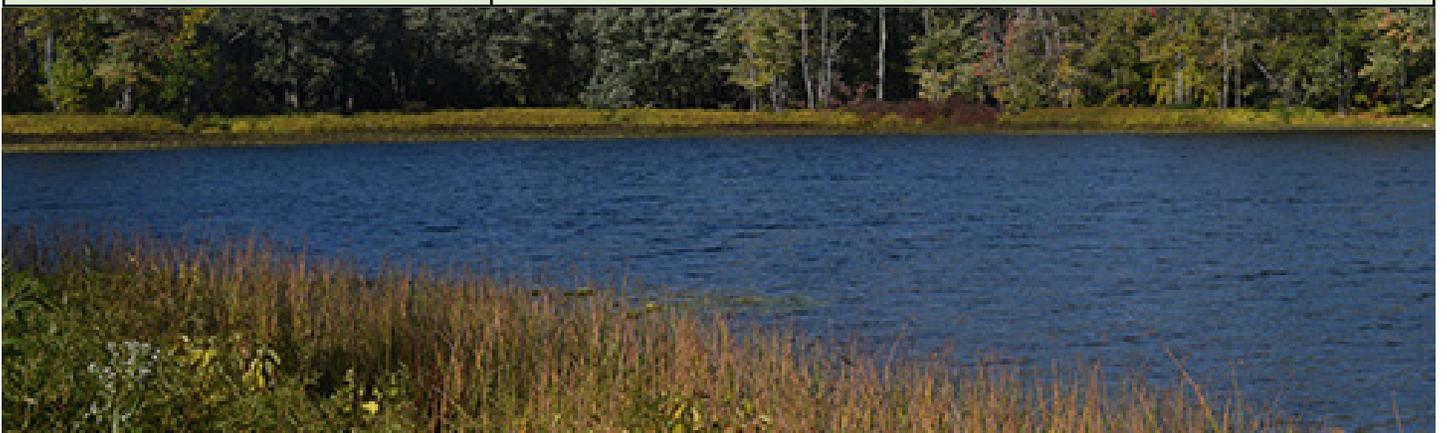


Photo Credit: Sharon Weaver, National Association of Wetland Managers

February 2024

February 20-22, 2024
Greenbay, WI

Wisconsin Wetlands Association: [Wetland Science Conference](#)

May 2024

May 13-16, 2024
Grand Rapids, MI

River Network: [River Rally](#)

May 20-24, 2024
Windsor, Ontario, Canada

[IAGLR 67th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research](#)

June 2024

June 18-21, 2024
Shepherdstown, WV

National Association of Wetland Managers: [2024 Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting](#)

November 2024

November 12-14, 2024
Duluth, MN

[Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference](#)



Photo Credit: Powell Sinkhole; Michelle Cook, Kentucky Division of Water

TRAINING COURSES

June 2023

June 26-30, 2023
Shepherdstown, WV

The Conservation Fund Course: [Compensatory Mitigation Training Course](#)

July 2023

July 9-15, 2023
Steuben, ME

Eagle Hill Institute Course: [Wetland Identification, Delineation, and Ecology](#)
NAWM Members receive a 20% Discount.

July 13, 2023
Various Locations
Marquette County, MI

Michigan Wetlands Association Training: [Fern Identification Workshop](#)

July 15, 2023
Portsmouth, NH

University of New Hampshire Workshop: [Wetland Classification](#)

July 19-20, 2023
Jackson, MI

Michigan Wetlands Association Training: [Wetland Grass Identification](#)

July 27-28, 2023
Atlanta, GA - Piedmont

Duncan & Duncan West Course: [Hydrophytic Vegetation](#)
NAWM members receive a 15% Discount.

July 27-28, 2023
Online

Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Course: [Introduction to Wetland Identification](#)

July 31-August 4, 2023
Logan, UT

Utah State University Course: [Sediment Transport in Stream Restoration and Design](#)

August 2023

August 2-3, 2023
Oakland County, MI

Michigan Wetlands Association Training: [General Wetland Plant Identification](#)

August 6-12, 2023
Steuben, ME

Eagle Hill Institute Course: [Aquatic Flowering Plants, with a Review of the Potamogetonaceae](#)
NAWM Members receive a 20% Discount.

August 8, 2023
Lowell, MI

Michigan Wetlands Association Training: [Freshwater Mussel Identification](#)

August 9-10 2023
Online

Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Course: [Vegetation Identification for Wetland Delineation: South](#)

August 12 and 19, 2023
Portsmouth, NH

University of New Hampshire Workshop: [Summer Plant Identification for Wetland Boundary Determination](#)

August 13-19, 2023 Steuben, ME	Eagle Hill Institute Course: EPT Taxa: Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera <i>NAWM Members receive a 20% Discount.</i>
August 21-24, 2023 Aliquippa, PA	Swamp School: Wetland Delineation Training <i>NAWM members receive a 10% Discount.</i>
August 22-23, 2023 Logan, UT	Utah State University Course: Basic Wetland Delineation
August 23, 2023 Marysville, WA	Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: Beginners Plant ID for Wetland Delineation
August 23-24, 2023 Lansing, MI	Michigan Wetlands Association Training: Wetland Shrub Identification
August 24-25, 2023 Logan, UT	Utah State University Course: Field Botany: Wetland and riparian plants
September 2023	
September 11-12, 2023 San Diego, CA	Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: Riparian Habitat Restoration for the Arid Southwest
September 11, 13 & 15, 2023 Online	Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Course: Hydric Soils
September 11-15, 2023 St. Michaels, MD	Environmental Concern Course: Basic Wetland Delineation
September 21-22, 2023 Charleston, SC	Duncan & Duncan West Course: Identification of Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes <i>NAWM members receive a 15% Discount.</i>
September 26-28, 2023 Whitefish, MT	Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: Wetland Delineation with Emphasis on Soils and Hydrology



Photo Credit: Marla Stelk, National Association of Wetland Managers

October 2023

October 2-5, 2023
Raleigh, NC

Swamp School: [Wetland Delineation Training](#)
NAWM members receive a 10% Discount.

October 9-10, 2023
St. Michaels, MD

Environmental Concern Course: [Evaluating Hydric Soils in the Field](#)

October 25-27, 2023
Online

Northwest Environmental Training Center Course: [Wetlands: Science and Regulatory Management](#)

November 2023

November 6-7, 2023
Online

Northwest Environmental Training Center Course: [Habitat Site Restoration](#)

November 6-9, 2023
Charleston, SC

Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: [Federal Wetland/Waters Regulatory Policy](#)

November 16, 2023
Bellingham, WA

Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: [Demystifying Wetland and In-Water Permitting in Washington State](#)

December 2023

December 2 and 16, 2023
Portsmouth, NH

University of New Hampshire Workshop: [Winter Plant Identification for Wetland Boundary Determination](#)

December 4-7, 2023
San Diego, CA

Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: [Federal Wetland/Waters Regulatory Policy](#)

December 5-6, 2023
Portage, WI

Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: [Problematic Delineation Seminar](#)

December 6-8, 2023
Portage, WI

Environmental Concern Course: [Winter Woody Plant ID](#)



Photo Credit: Laura Burchill, National Association of Wetland Managers



Photo Credit: Fort Knox, Meade County, KY; Michelle Cook, Kentucky Division of Water

Wetland News Digest

The National Association of Wetland Managers' *Wetland News Digest* (WND) is a monthly compilation of wetland-related stories and announcements submitted by readers and gleaned from listservs, press releases and news sources from throughout the United States. WND chronicles the legislative, national, state and tribal news relevant to wetland science, policy, practice and law. It also links to new publications, tools and resources available to wetland professionals as well as events and training opportunities for those working in water resources and related fields. *Wetland News Digest* (formerly "Wetland Breaking News") has been published for over twenty years and NAWM has been a nationally recognized resource for information on wetland science and policy since 1983. The items presented in *Wetland News Digest* do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or of the National Association of Wetland Managers. Send your news items, comments, corrections, or suggestions to news@nawm.org.

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