



United States Department of the Interior



Santee National Wildlife Refuge
UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
2125 Fort Watson Road
Summerton, SC 29148
Phone: (803) 478-2217 FAX: (803) 478-2314

For immediate release:
November 1, 2009

For more information, contact:
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Refuge to Host Free Programs

Summerton, SC... The Santee National Wildlife Refuge would like to invite you to attend any one of the free events being held on the refuge during the month of November.

The Santee National Wildlife Refuge is a haven for many species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, so why not come out to the refuge and enjoy all that we have to offer and learn about some of our local residents.

- November 14th at 8:00 am - "Birds of the refuge". Walk through the forested areas along the banks of Lake Marion and observe migratory and resident birds present this time of year. The walk is approximately one mile long and takes you through a forested wetland as well as providing great viewing opportunities into Cantey Bay and the refuge's Bluff Unit.
- November 19th at 10:00 am, join refuge staff for a trash pick up along Fort Watson Road and the banks of Lake Marion. Last month, with the assistance of 4 volunteers from the local area, refuge staff were able to remove a truckload of trash from the refuge which could be harmful to wildlife.
- November 23rd at 1:00 pm - "Santee's WILD Visitors". Learn what animals live on the refuge, how to identify signs of different resident species, and get an up close look at wildlife artifacts.

All activities are free of charge and open to all ages, and will meet at the Santee National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and Office at the designated time.

Santee National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1941 as a sanctuary for migratory birds. The refuge encompasses just over 12,400 acres of habitat along the banks of Lake Marion in four separate units. The refuge visitor center as well as the Santee Indian Mound and site of Fort Watson are located on the Bluff Unit, 8 miles south of Summerton on Hwy 15/301.

There are 550 national wildlife refuges across the country that make up over 150 million acres of land and water for fish and wildlife conservation. The refuge system also offers a variety of outdoor

activities, including fishing, hunting, environmental education, wildlife observation and photography. Many wildlife refuges offer nature hikes, bird watching tours, wildlife drives and trails, and other adventures. Each year, about 40 million Americans discover the wonders of nature by visiting a wildlife refuge. There is at least one wildlife refuge in every state and one within an hour's drive of most major cities.

For more information about programs at Santee National Wildlife Refuge, contact the refuge office at 803-478-2217 or email Susan_Heisey@fws.gov .

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