



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

May is American Wetlands Month



George Gentry

American Wetlands Month events are spearheaded by the Izaak Walton League of America, in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The League encourages communities to focus on May activities and conduct wetland conservation efforts throughout the year. To learn more or to register your event, visit <http://www.iwla.org>.

The Environmental Protection Agency also has a site for American Wetlands Month events and activities information on its web site (<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/awm>) and encourages groups that are planning local, regional, or national events to provide EPA with information about planned events. More information on EPA's wetlands programs can be viewed at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands>, or by calling the toll-free Wetlands Helpline at 1-800-832-7828.

Explore a wetland near you. There is probably a scenic wetland near you to visit and explore. To find a wetland, consult your local parks department, state natural resource agency, the National Wildlife Refuge System (<http://www.fws.gov/refuges>), or view on Google Earth™ using wetland data (<http://www.fws.gov/nwi/WetlandsData/GoogleEarth.htm>)



David Hall

Snowy egrets nest and feed in wetlands.

Take action to protect and restore wetlands. Support and promote wetlands, informing community members about wetlands' vital roles, "adopting" a wetland, joining a local watershed group, or participating in a wetland monitoring, restoration, or cleanup project. Buy a Duck Stamp to protect habitat <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/>. To learn more about what you can do to help these valuable natural resources, visit <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/awm/#you>.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1/800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>
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Wetlands Fact Sheet

Bogs, Potholes,

Pools: Protect

America's Wetlands

May was first celebrated as American Wetlands Month in 1990. This annual celebration has become a grass roots effort in many States and now involves many organizations interested in wetlands protection.

Celebrations for the month are usually local events sponsored by conservation organizations, counties, towns, National Wildlife Refuges and other Federal agencies. Events may include national wetlands meetings, wetland fairs, conservation education, wetland restoration, or habitat clean-up events.

What you can do:

Learn about wetlands. This is a great time to better understand what a wetland is, where wetlands can be found, and the importance of wetlands, through EPA's wetland fact sheets <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/facts/contents.html>, or the Service's publications and Wetlands Mapper <http://www.fws.gov/nwi>.



North Dakota Prairie Pothole, an isolated wetland important to waterfowl and other wetlands dependent species