

Celebrations by Field Station
Endangered Species Day: May 21, 2010
Southeast Region

Updated: April 20, 2010

Alabama: [Contact: Denise Rowell 251-441-6630] The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is celebrating Endangered Species Day by encouraging students to learn about threatened and endangered plants, fish, and animals through art. The Service is hosting a statewide art calendar contest open to all students in public, private or home schools. To enter, the student will draw or color a picture of one or more species listed as threatened or endangered in the state of **Alabama**. Entries must be postmarked by May 5, 2010.

Judges will pick 13 winners throughout the state. The winners will be broken down into one winner per grade, beginning with grade one and ending with grade twelve. Each winner's artwork will represent a month on our 2011 Endangered Species Day Calendar. The overall state winner's artwork will be the calendar's cover. In addition, the **overall** winner's classroom will also be given a \$500 gift card for biology/science supplies, and have his or her artwork framed with a plaque. We will announce the winners on Endangered Species Day, May 21, 2010. [<http://www.fws.gov/daphne>]

Arkansas: Arkansas Field Office - 2010 Endangered Species Day

[Contact: Erin Leone 501-513-4472] The Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office has organized the 1st Annual Endangered Species Day Art Contest. The art contest is similar to the national contest sponsored by the Endangered Species Coalition with several modifications. All art work must illustrate an endangered, threatened, or candidate species that occurs or has historically occurred in Arkansas. We will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes to the following age groups: K-2, 3-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Each winner will receive a Service plaque and a VISA gift card in the sum of \$100, \$50, and \$25, respectively. The overall winner will receive an additional \$500 VISA gift card. In support of the art contest, we sent out informational packets to every school campus in the state (~1,400), home school groups, and the Environmental Education News mailing list (~2,800 educators). The packets contained information and links to our contest, the national contest and the Endangered Species Coalition curriculum.

We are working with Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission to promote endangered species day, the curriculum, and art contest at teacher workshops this summer. The goal is to host several teacher workshops next summer, guiding teachers through the curriculum and introducing them to the art contest. We are also working to correlate the state standards to the art contest to encourage teachers to incorporate the curriculum and contest into their classroom. [<http://www.fws.gov/Arkansas-es/esday.html>]

Florida:

Panama City: [Indigo Snake Exhibit at local Kids Museum](#)

[Contact: Laura Jenkins 850-769-0552 x252]

Jr Museum of Bay County, FL

- Purchase of the snake and materials for the Museum to have an exhibit
- Participate with Museum for the "grand opening" of the exhibit
- Provide educational materials about the snake as a NW FL T&E species as well as other T&E species in NW FL

Program with Middle School

[Contact: Vivian Negron-Ortiz 850-769-0552 x231]

Mowat Middle School, Bay County, FL - about 3 groups will participate (about 50 students)

An interactive and educational talk about biodiversity and climate change:

- educate about NW FL endemic and rare species (T & E species), current threats (including climate change)
- present PCFL "A Typical Work Day for FWS is Not Your Typical Day" (if possible a copy will be provided) Our GIS biologist and Denise Rowell put together a 12-minute presentation we can use anywhere, the presentation stresses that we work for T&E species and their habitats. Pretty photos and beautiful music!

South Florida: [Contacts: Dana Hartley 772-562-3909 x236; Paula Halupa 772-562-3909 x257]

Date: Saturday May 22, 2010

Time: 10AM-2PM

Venue: Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge

Target Audience: Families, with activities and information for both children and adults

Anticipated attendance: 500-1,000

Objective: Raise awareness for endangered species, their habitats, and threats and increase visibility of the Refuge and SFESO.

Activities

- 9AM - Private dedication of "Joe Michael Memorial Trail" followed by public opening at 10AM with ongoing van rides to the overlook (~3/4 mile from parking lot).
- "Make a manatee" booth - an interactive way for children to learn about a local, endangered mammal
- Fish printing booth
- Butterfly garden (at the actual butterfly garden and its neighboring kiosk)- with education on endangered and candidate butterfly species in S FL, habitats, and threats and a list of butterfly species found at Pelican Island NWR.

Kiosk area for adult (and child) education where we will use posters created for Earth Day to explain about endangered and threatened species (and habitats) in S FL including:

- Voluntary conservation agreements (Safe Harbor and Candidate Conservation Agreements)
- FL panther
- Federally listed plants of Lake Wales Ridge
- A poster detailing all listed species found at Pelican Island and Archie Carr NWRs (made especially for Endangered Species Day)
- Ecological Services booth - explaining where our office is and what we do
- Survival Suitcase (includes collection and explanation of illegal wildlife products confiscated by enforcement)

Jacksonville: [Contact: Bill Brooks, 904.731.3136]

On May 21, we propose to set up multiple stations with endangered species-related exhibits (see list of potential exhibits below) on the large lawn at the Jacksonville Zoo. In addition to wandering around the various exhibits, visitors will have the option to participate in an endangered species scavenger hunt. They will be given a sheet with a list of items (e.g., sea turtle skull) that they must go find amongst the exhibits. There will be a sticker with a unique symbol (e.g., triangle, circle) hidden on each scavenger hunt item. They must make note of each unique symbol with the items on their list. In many cases, they will need to ask the biologists manning the stations some questions in order to find the items on the list and discover the hidden symbols. We will be giving away small prizes to everyone who participates in Endangered Species Day (e.g., activity/coloring book, temporary tattoo). We will also award special prizes (e.g., stuffed animal) using a random selection process. We plan to invite our partners to participate (e.g., Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Georgia DNR, St. Johns River Water Management District) in the event with us.

Potential exhibits:

1. Plants - color photos of the different listed plants in NE Florida, maybe some live plants as well
2. Reptiles - sea turtle parts and products, live gopher tortoise, gopher tortoise burrow scope, eastern indigo and Atlantic salt marsh snake photos
3. Mammals - manatees bones, whale bones, Anastasia Island and southeastern beach mouse photos, Atlantic salt marsh vole photos
4. Birds - Florida scrub-jay diorama, wood stork decoy with satellite tag and map of movements, whooping crane leg, egg, life-size cutout, spotting scope and binocs to view a bald eagle nest
5. Tools of a Biologist - dipnet, seine net, mist net, Sherman live traps, mouse eartags, trail camera

6. Prescribed Burn/Fire Truck
7. Manatee Boat

Georgia:

Regional Office (Metro Atlanta): [Contact: Kelly Bibb; 404-679-7132] On May 21, we will be celebrating Endangered Species Day with the Atlanta Botanical Garden. The event will be all day. We plan to set up multiple stations with endangered species-related exhibits and activities at the Garden in close partnership with their amphibian conservation scientists and botanists. We will have other partners joining us including the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. We will have live animal and plant demonstrations (bald eagle, carnivorous plants, frogs, tortoise, snakes, scrub plants). We will have kids' activities— interactive type lessons for all ages. Law enforcement will share confiscated wildlife products and their work to protect against illegal trade of endangered species.

Potential exhibits:

1. Video showing on Endangered Species and their Protection in the Garden's theater.
2. Frog Conservation
3. Plant Recovery
4. Law Enforcement – Illegal wildlife products display

On May 11, 2010, at the Atlanta REI store, REI is celebrating Endangered Species Day with USFWS. We will be putting on an evening lecture at 7 pm for the public and members on endangered species, successes in their recovery, and where you can find and learn about listed species locally. Great displays and fun guests.

On May 18, 2010, at the Kennesaw REI store, REI is celebrating Endangered Species Day with USFWS. We will be putting on an evening lecture at 7 pm for the public and members on endangered species, successes in their recovery, and where you can find and learn about listed species locally. Great displays and fun guests.

Athens: [Contact: Deborah Harris; 706-613-9493 ext 224]

For Endangered Species Day this year, Georgia Ecological Services (ES) Will be doing initiative to assist Georgia National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs). The emphasis will be to learn about the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) and the ongoing recovery efforts for that species.

The teachers at Jasper County Schools near Piedmont NWR are committed to teaching the children about natural resources and endangered species in their local area. We will work with about 600 students on activities at the Refuge and outdoors at the school to actively engage them about the RCW and other endangered species and what the Service is doing to help recover them. The high school students and a group of Girls Scouts will use binoculars at the NWR and have a chance to see an RCW during nesting season. They may also be able to help band the nestlings. At the school, we will use an active Project Wild type game, as well as teach them about observing birds with binoculars.

We plan to purchase backpacks with the FWS logo and put a pair of binoculars, endangered species materials, and field guides in each one. These will be kept at the Refuges for year-round outreach. We will also have endangered species day stickers, fact sheets, coloring sheets and other items as handouts for each student.

Kentucky: [Lead contacts: Mike Floyd and Carrie Lona; 502-695-0468]

May 10 - FWS will be making a presentation to the Audubon Society in Louisville. The talk will focus on Kentucky glade cress, a rare plant that occurs around Louisville, but FWS will also talk about our agency and federally listed species in Kentucky.

May 21 - Endangered Species Day event at the Salato Center in Frankfort (Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resource's facility). We will have several groups participating – KY State Nature Preserves Commission, KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, our FWS Frankfort ES office, our FWS LE office from Louisville, and perhaps Wolf Creek NFH and Clarks River NWR. We expect several hundred school kids, plus other guests. We will have displays on bats, mussels, plants, illegal import/trade (LE office), etc. plus activities with native plants and pond critters. We are still working on materials/handouts, but we plan to

have nice packets (posters, KY T&E booklets, "Russell the Mussel" books, etc.) for teachers. Of course, the Salato Center has much to offer as well. Should be fun!

Later in the summer, our office we will be teaming with the Big South NRRRA (Park Service) and KSNPC on vegetation removal of Cumberland rosemary sites along the Big South Fork Cumberland River. We hoped to do this activity on the 21st, but think now it would be best to delay the event until later in the summer. KSNPC will be conducting surveys in KY in June along the river, so we should be able to focus our efforts based on their surveys.

Louisiana: [Lead contact: Debbie Fuller 337-291-3124, Monica Sikes]

- We will participate in a two-day celebration at Audubon Zoo in New Orleans again this year. On Friday, we anticipate mostly school groups and in addition to the hands-on activities below, we will be distributing ESA Teacher Packets. Our hands-on activities at the zoo on Friday and Saturday include making endangered species bookmarks, and distributing suggested reading lists of nature books; sponsoring a scavenger hunt for endangered species that are in the zoo; we hope to run the "Be A Bear Obstacle Course" featuring the Louisiana black bear life history; and teach whooping crane origami and education.
- We will be cooperating with Kisatchie National Forest and LDWF Heritage Program to host a one-day outdoor classroom for a local school group focusing on the ESA and endangered species of LA. Kids will be able to see and learn about candidate (LA pine snake), threatened (LA pearlshell mussel), endangered (RCW), and recovered species (bald eagle).
- In conjunction with the national ESD art contest we will setting up a month-long display of endangered species art created by children of our office staff, other offices in our building, and other partners. We hope to end the display with a cookies and ice cream social.

Mississippi: [Lead contact: Terri Jacobsen; 601-321-1129]

Like last year, we will encourage several schools to submit endangered species art posters done by their students both locally and to the national contest. I again partnered with another agency to present an endangered species program to 6 schools (grades 2-3). We did the presentations in January. In May, we will post some of the children's art work at the Mississippi Natural Science Museum like we did last year. This year, I am looking into developing a 2011 calendar that will feature some of the children's endangered species poster art work.

Working with an art instructor, we will hold a painting class to do a series of paintings of MS endangered species. During each painting class, we will give out information about endangered species and give a presentation about the particular T&E species we are painting. I also hope to hold a teacher workshop on endangered species to tie the painting series together. The artwork and T&E information will then be displayed at local public libraries, nature centers and museums. Hopefully get a news story out also.

I also want to hold a girls scout endangered species day.

North Carolina:

ASNC: [Lead contact: Gary Peebles; 828-258-3939]

We will be putting resources and work in toward a riverside outdoor classroom at a high school that abuts Appalachian elktoe habitat. For a specific Endangered Species Day event, we imagine scheduling a ground breaking event and get people from our office out to work on construction and giving some river programs to the kids.

RANC: [Lead contact: Dale Suiter; 919-856-4520, ext 18]

We are looking at doing a media event each day that week (or possibly starting the week before) to bring attention to each of the four species that our office considers a priority. Priority species are golden sedge, red cockaded woodpecker, Tar River spiny mussel and Cape Fear shiner. In addition, we are working with the North Carolina Botanical Garden and the Chatham Conservation Partnership to have an event at their location. FWS is also doing a scavenger hunt at the Museum of Natural Sciences for Endangered Species Day.

Alligator River/Pocosin Lakes NWR:

Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands: [Lead contact: Lilibeth Serrano; 787-851-7297 ext 239]

The Caribbean Field Office proposes to build awareness and mobilize community involvement to benefit 21 threatened and endangered species in the Northern Karst Region. The Caribbean Field office will hold outreach activities, including a festival, to attract people to nature by appealing to the aesthetic, cultural and spiritual values of nature. El Merendero park is managed by the Municipality of Quebradilla and is the perfect backdrop for the event, as it is one of the few places where the Harlequin butterfly can be found during its early development stages. It also has several federally listed species or is current range for several federal listed species, candidates, and species of concern. During the event we will have a full-day of exhibits, caterpillar explorations, artistic activities, presentations and entertainment. We will make the event open to the general public. There will be activities for kids (transects, hands on type stuff) and adults (trails). There will be 4 to 5 stations [15 mins each]; a biologist boot camp where kids and adults can do field work/activities. There will be presentations on endangered species. Funding will go to an interpretative sign on endangered species at this location. Neighbors to the park will be invited. A renowned folk artist will do a demonstration of wood carving. The event will be a little after the 21st, but is going to be a grand affair!

South Carolina: [Lead contact: Jennifer Koches; 843-727-4707]

March 24, 2010: Charleston Air Force Base has their Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration where @ 1,000 5th grade students from throughout Charleston County come to learn from exhibitors about natural resources. We always have an Endangered Species booth there.

April 23, 24, 25, 2010: The Santee Birding and Nature Festival - draws a few hundred folks into the Central South Carolina region for 3 days of birding and nature activities/field trips. We have an exhibit hall set up at the Santee Cultural Arts Center where participants in the festival can come and browse exhibits. I have reserved space there for 2 booths and we devote one of them to Endangered Species Outreach.

Tennessee: [Lead contact: Wally Brines and Geoff Call; 931-528-6481]

Participate in the City of Crossville's 2010 Sustainability Fair for 500 fifth graders from Cumberland County, TN, April 29, 2010.

Send out 17 emails to area schools announcing the National Endangered Species Day Art Contest. DONE!

Produce stickers and magnets of four to five TN endangered species (plant, mussel, fish, bat, crustacean).

Produce map of Cumberland County T&E Species to distribute during the Crossville 2010 Sustainability Fair.

Wally Brines will conduct 8 Threatened and Endangered Species Cargo Kit Programs at area schools, will send letter to area schools announcing availability of Cargo Kit Program, and, will send letter to area boy and scout troops announcing availability of Cargo Kit Program.

Geoff Call to conduct an interpretive walk with the TN Native Plant Society on June 26, 2010.

We will announce National Endangered Species Day Art Contest on the CFO website. DONE!

Wally Brines will conduct an Endangered Species Cargo Kit Program at the Nature Fest on the TN Tech University Campus on April 22, 2010.

Wally Brines will conduct a hummingbird program at Austin Peay State University on May 6, 2010, for the Audubon society.