

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Alligator River/Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge
P. O. Box 1969
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Contact: Bonnie Strawser - 252-473-1131



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News Release

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Fish and Wildlife Service celebrates Endangered Species Day with partners in the community

On May 16, 2008, The Southeast Region of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service celebrates Endangered Species Day. In many southeastern states, Service staff will join their conservation partners - State natural resources agencies, conservation organizations, businesses, and the public - to recognize the ongoing efforts and accomplishments being made on behalf of the Region's 322 federally listed species.

“Our celebration of Endangered Species Day is an opportunity to showcase success stories of partnership, vision, and dedication that have allowed us to make progress in recovering species including the red wolf,” said Sam. D. Hamilton, the Service’s Southeast Regional Director. “The Day also provides great opportunities to host events educating people about endangered species, the threats they face, and what can be done to help them.”

In Columbia, North Carolina, Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge will host an open house from 10:00 am until noon on Friday, May 16. Educational stations will offer visitors and students a chance to learn about the endangered red wolf and the use of telemetry, eastern black bear, and a variety of other animal species that call northeastern North Carolina home. Refuge and the Red Wolf Coalition staff and volunteers will give short presentations and be available to answer questions. The Pocosin Lakes Refuge video and “Recovering a Species” red wolf video will be shown throughout the morning. Everyone is invited to attend and learn more about endangered species. “We’re always excited when we can offer folks a chance to learn about the wealth of wildlife and other natural resources found here on the Inner Banks” said Howard Phillips, Refuge Manager of Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. “This is the only place in the world where red wolves are wild and free, so come and visit.”

While you’re in the area, tour the Walter B. Jones, Sr., Center for the Sounds, walk the boardwalk along the Scuppernon River, and visit the Red Wolf Coalition office in downtown Columbia. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy along the river’s shoreline or visit one of the many downtown restaurants. Pettigrew State Park at Lake Phelps is also a short drive from the refuge.

For more information, please call Wendy Stanton, 252-796-3004 Ext. 224, or Kim Wheeler, 252-796-5600. Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is located south of Route 64 at the west end of

Columbia.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, is the federal law established to provide for the conservation of the nation's endangered and threatened species, their habitat, and the ecosystems in which they depend.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.



Fourth and fifth graders enjoy a visit to Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
Photo credit: USFWS