

# News Release

## *National Wildlife Refuge System*



### **Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge**

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### **Friends of Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge Host Free Youth Fishing Day on May 30th**

McBee, S. C.....Want to see your children grin from ear to ear? Then, reserve your spot for a fun day of fishing at Oxpen Lake during the Youth Fishing Day on Saturday, May 30, 2015 at Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge. Hosted by the refuge Friends Group, the event will begin at 8:30 am and is open to all youth under 16 years of age. No fishing license is required. Nothing compares to the joy of a child catching their first fish!

We'll provide all the fishing equipment, bait, and tackle, but if you want to bring your "lucky" fishing rod, that'll be fine too. Be sure to bring your own bucket or stringer to take your catch home. Volunteers and refuge staff will be on hand to demonstrate proper casting techniques and to help bait hooks if needed. Parents are encouraged to help kids, but will not be allowed to fish. We want the kids to have all the fun! Everyone can take home free fishing activity coloring books, posters and other educational materials.

After a full morning of "fishin", we'll wrap up around 11:30 a.m. with a celebratory lunch at the Lake Bee Recreation Area for all participants and volunteers. Drawings will be held for door prizes donated by The Friends of Carolina Sandhills Refuge and a host of other sponsors.

Oxpen Lake is located at the end of the refuge Wildlife Drive off of S. C. Highway 145. Follow the signs from the Lake Bee Recreation Area at Highway 145. Pre-registration for this event is required. Call the refuge office by May 26th at 843-335-8350 or email youth name, age, adult contact name, and telephone number to [crosswordkay@aol.com](mailto:crosswordkay@aol.com).

Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge is a 46,000-acre longleaf pine forest managed primarily for the red-cockaded woodpecker, a federally endangered species. Along with rolling sand hills dominated by the longleaf pine-wiregrass ecosystem, the refuge is home to streamside pocosins, open fields, hardwood ridges, wetlands and open water ponds. This mosaic of habitats provides for the needs of more than 190 species of birds, 42 species of mammals, 41 species of reptiles, and 25 species of amphibians. More than 800 species of plants have been identified on the refuge, including rare species of pitcher plants, Well's pixie-moss, and the white-wicky. The refuge is located in Chesterfield County. The Friends of Carolina Sandhills NWR is a group of citizens dedicated to supporting the role of the refuge in protecting and preserving the longleaf/wiregrass ecosystem; promoting the enjoyment and responsible use of the refuge by the public; and engaging in educational and civic activities to promote the refuge and the wise stewardship of its resources.

##### End of Release #####