

Bulls Bay Nature Festival - *From the Forest to the Sea*
Saturday, May 21, 2016

The mission of the Bulls Bay Nature Festival - *From the Forest to the Sea* is to increase awareness, promote engagement and foster lasting connections with our unique natural places and wildlife in the Bulls Bay community.

Get outside! Bulls Bay community federal, state and local agencies, organizations, schools and businesses come together once again to bring you the 4th annual Bulls Bay Nature Festival - *From the Forest to the Sea*. Festival activities will happen in the Francis Marion National Forest, on Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Hampton Plantation State Historic Site, the Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center and Bishop Jerden Conference Center.

"*Coastal Kingdom*" Host Tony Mills Keynote Speaker



Tony Mills, Naturalist and Education Director for the LowCountry Institute and host of SCETV's award-winning *Coastal Kingdom*, will deliver the festival Keynote. Tony has been working in the field of environmental education for over two decades with emphasis on southeastern animals and plants. Before his position at the LowCountry Institute, Tony served as the outreach program coordinator for the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. He has written numerous newspaper columns and articles on local plants and animals and co-authored the book *Lizards and Crocodilians of the Southeast*. Research trips have taken him on excursions into the jungles of Mexico and Costa Rica to conduct studies on snakes and lizards and into the Everglades of South Florida to collect introduced pythons and endangered crocodiles. Tony's presentation will feature demonstrations with live animals plus video clips of shows featured on *Coastal Kingdom*.

The festival is a day full of fun for everyone! Activities Include:

Photography workshop at the Sewee Center

Edible and native plant walks

Butterfly, Bird and Wildflower walks

Historic tours at Hampton Plantation

Bulls Island Auto Tour

Kayak paddles into the salt marshes and blackwater creeks

Paddleboarding in freshwater ponds

Live red wolf, reptile, raptor and beekeeping demonstrations and programs

Sweet grass basketry workshop

Family Bike Trip on the Awendaw Passage, Francis Marion NF

Fishing in Sewee Pond

For the Kids:

Archery, fishing, salt marsh and fresh water pond explorations, and nature art

Red wolf masks, turtle hats, fish art, animal tracks and face painting

Wildlife Art Contest and Exposition

Students from Cape Romain Environmental Education Charter School (CREECS), St. James Santee Elementary and Lincoln Middle-High School students in grades 3 - 12 will showcase their creativity and talents in a wildlife art exposition and competition. Winners will see their work displayed in a 2017 wildlife art calendar. 2016 calendars produced from winners of the 2015 contest will be available for purchase at the festival and in the Bulls Bay community. All proceeds from the sale of calendars benefit the art programs in the schools.

Community Vendors

Bulls Bay native plant vendors and artisans will have landscaping plants and beautiful artwork forms on display and for purchase.

Music

The day will be filled with musical entertainment for your enjoyment. Artists will include Awendaw musician singer/songwriter Kathie Livingston, Rene Russell, Rut Leland and Friends, the Awendaw Community Singers and Lincoln Middle-High School Steel Band.

Food

Plan to have lunch at the Festival. Burgers, hot dogs, desserts and other tasty fare will be available throughout the day.

Festival Registration Begins May 2nd! Be sure to check the Bulls Bay Nature Festival website to see what's coming May 21st. Also visit our Festival Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/bullsbaynaturefestival>

Festival Partners: Awendaw Green - Hampton Plantation State Historic Site - The Center for Birds of Prey- Bishop Jerden Conference Center - Nature Adventures Outfitters - Town of Awendaw- Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge - Sewee Outpost - Town of McClellanville- Coastal Expeditions -Francis Marion National Forest - SC Department of Natural Resources -Friends of Coastal SC - SC Forestry Commission