



Wetland News Digest

Editor's Note

Today I had the honor of attending the U.S. EPA's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act (CWA) on the banks of the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, Ohio. As most of you know, the National Association of Wetland Managers is headquartered in Portland, Maine, and as such, we are particularly proud of our late, great Senator Edward S. Muskie, who was the principal author of the CWA. Our nation has accomplished so much since 1972 to ensure generations to come will be able to enjoy healthy wetlands and rivers, and all the amazing benefits they provide not only for clean drinking water, but also for wildlife, aquatic species, biodiversity, and our economies. I hope you will join us for a very special webinar on Thursday, October 27th in celebration of the CWA where we will hear from our colleagues in the National Park System who have championed wetland restoration and protection, starting with a case study of a wetland restoration happening right here in Maine, in Acadia National Park.

In this issue of Wetland News Digest, I have highlighted three specific stories in Editor's Choice that speak to the challenges we face today. Although our nation has come a long way and made great strides since 1972, we still face significant challenges such as climate change which are, in many ways, more insidious. Burning rivers grab people's attention, but how we as a community of practice address perhaps less flashy hot topics such as environmental justice and the massive loss of biodiversity of plants and animals will determine if we can celebrate new successes in another 50 years.

I hope all of you find some way to celebrate the CWA's 50th anniversary today and throughout the month of October, and I look forward to continuing to partner with you as we roll up our sleeves to collectively face the challenges of our day.

Best regards,

Marla Stelk
 Editor, *Wetland News Digest*
 NAWM

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Lauren Driscoll,
 NAWM Board Member

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Editor's Choice

NAWM Sponsorship Opportunities



Wetland News Digest



Wetland News



Members' Webinars



Annual Meeting

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Information**

Photo Credit: USFWS

Inside the environmental justice movement's big win

By Emma Dumain – E&E News – October 11, 2022

Environmental justice activists consider their success in stopping passage of a permitting reform bill last month their movement's highest profile achievement to date. The question now is whether they can do it again. In the coming weeks, they'll have to stop Democrats from negotiating with Republicans on a revised permitting proposal that could get attached to must-pass legislation. At the same time, advocates are pushing for a House floor vote on a landmark environmental justice bill that would carry enormous symbolic weight. [Read more.](#)

How fight over states' rights may upend permitting overhaul

By Nick Sobczyk and Jeremy Dillon – E&E News – October 5, 2022

Lawmakers hope they can revive permitting reform talks over the next three months, but they face fundamental political divides that have dogged environmental debates for decades. The two parties don't agree on what constitutes "permitting reform." And like many squabbles in the nation, it comes down to a dispute over states' rights — albeit from different perspectives. Democrats want to give the federal government more power to bypass states and permit long-distance transmission lines, a prospect that doesn't sit well with rural state Republicans. Read more. [Read more.](#)

In a first, U.S. appoints a diplomat for plants and animals

By Dino Grandoni – The Washington Post – September 29, 2022

As temperatures rise and habitats shrink, hundreds of thousands of plant and animal species around the world are at risk of vanishing. For the first time, the United States is designating a special diplomat to advocate for global biodiversity amid what policymakers here and overseas increasingly recognize as an extinction crisis. Monica Medina is taking on a new role as special envoy for biodiversity and water resources, the State Department announced Wednesday. She currently serves as the department's assistant secretary for oceans and international environmental and scientific affairs. The appointment underscores the Biden administration's desire to protect land and waters not just at home but to also conserve habitats abroad. [Read more.](#)

NAWM Hot Topics Webinar



Celebrating the Clean Water Act 50th Anniversary: Wetland Restoration in our National Parks

Thursday, October 27, 2022 - 3:00 p.m. EDT

Join NAWM on Thursday, Oct. 27th to conclude a month-long celebration of the Clean Water Act's (CWA) 50th Anniversary with our Hot Topics webinar highlighting wetland restoration projects in our national parks. The CWA was championed by the late Senator Edmund S. Muskie from Maine, and since NAWM is headquartered in Portland, Maine, we will begin the webinar by hearing about a wetland restoration project in Acadia National Park using funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. More details to come soon!

Presenters:

- Brian Henkel, Wild Acadia Project Coordinator, Friends of Acadia
- Katie Vinzant, Restoration Biologist, National Park Service, Biological Resources Division-Landscape Restoration & Adaptation Branch

[More Information](#)

[Register](#)

A Certificate of Attendance to be used toward Continuing Education Credits is available when participating in NAWM's live webinars. All NAWM members receive free Certificates of Attendance for webinars. Non-Members who request a certificate will be charged a processing fee of \$25.00. You will have up to 60 days to retrieve your certificate. Certificates are not available for viewing recorded webinars. [More information can be found here](#). Membership information can be [found here](#).

NAWM Hot Topics Webinar Recordings

- **MARSH is Coming! Learn More about the new Mentorship Assisted Resource & Support Hub**
- **American Wetlands Month Webinar: The Importance of Wetlands to Tribal Communities**
- **Wetlands, Flooding, and the Clean Water Act**

[View Recorded Hot Topics Webinars](#)

National News

Biden's promise to tribes faces test in Great Lakes

By Hannah Northey – E&E News – October 11, 2022

Rows of neon green shoots of native rice jut out of the Kakagon River, evidence of a local tribe's protection despite facing climate change and increased pollution, flooding, pipelines and mining. The Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa has for millennia used its own knowledge and practices to protect the Kakagon River and the internationally recognized wetland it feeds — the largest remaining natural bed of wild rice or "manoomin" in the Great Lakes. The Biden administration has promised to protect and incorporate those methods in its overhaul of the nation's regulatory and permitting regime. The unprecedented White House effort, experts say, would address hundreds of years of federal resource management practices that have essentially shut out tribal input, sometimes with disastrous consequences — from cratering caribou populations in Alaska that fueled famine to deadly wildfires in California. [Read more.](#)

Chesapeake Bay Foundation: Bay States Not on Track to Meet Chesapeake Bay Goals By 2025

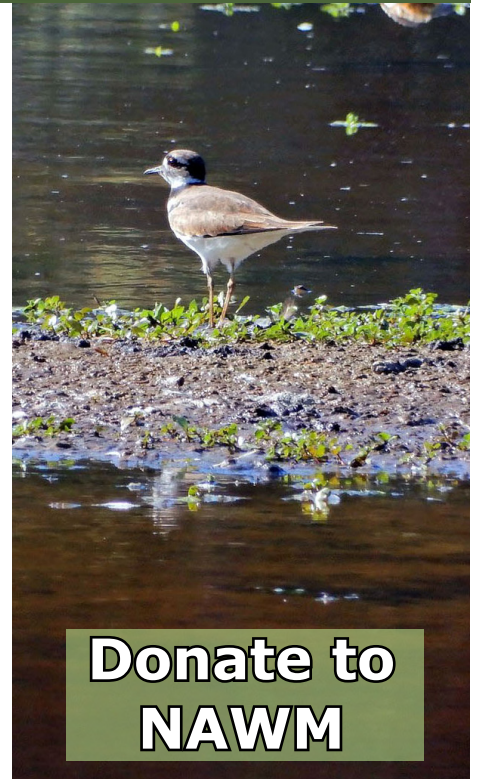
Shore Daily News – October 8, 2022

Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania, the states with the largest runoff into the Chesapeake Bay, are not on track to meet their goals to restore the nation's largest estuary by 2025. Those are the findings in a report released Tuesday during a video press conference by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, an environmentalist organization. The assessment comes just days before a meeting in Washington of the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council, a high-powered consortium that includes the governors of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware and New York; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser and the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission. [Read more.](#)

NAFWS Awarded \$170,000 for National Tribal Climate Resilience Work

Native American Fish and Wildlife Society – October 5, 2022

This Fall, the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS) was awarded two grants totaling \$170,650 by the First Nations Development Institute (FNDI) under the Stewarding Native Lands program. Through this funding, NAFWS will host a series of discussions for Tribal fish and wildlife professionals across the U.S. to increase their understanding of confronting, combating, and adapting to climate change. "With funding through the First Nations Development Institute's Stewarding Native Lands program, NAFWS is excited to provide a space where Tribal fish and wildlife professionals from across the regions and country can discuss innovative ways to improve fish and wildlife management and conservation measures involving the climate crisis and take these skills home to implement on their own Tribal lands," said Dr. Thorstenson. [Read more.](#)



**Donate to
NAWM**

Your private donations directly support National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM) ability to respond to time-sensitive issues as they arise and allow us to provide information, expert analysis, and recommendations regarding the impacts of potential policy and law on wetland protection programs and efforts.

Photo Credit: ncwetlands.org

The Supreme Court appears determined to shrink the Clean Water Act

By Ian Millhiser – Vox – October 3, 2022

Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency, which the Supreme Court heard on Monday, is a devilishly difficult case. It involves the proper meaning of a vague phrase in the Clean Water Act, the principal law protecting America’s waters from a wide range of foreign substances. On the eve of oral arguments in Sackett, the Court appeared likely to settle on one of two approaches suggested by two conservative justices in [Rapanos v. United States](#) (2006), the last Supreme Court case to consider how to define the term “waters of the United States.” But neither test seemed to satisfy a majority of the Court during Monday’s oral argument. [Read more.](#)

Justices ponder Clean Water Acts application to wetlands in Jacksons first oral argument

By Amy Howe – SCOTUS Blog – October 3, 2022

The Supreme Court returned to the bench on Monday for the start of its new term. The justices did not waste any time in getting down to business, hearing argument in a long-running dispute over an Idaho couple’s efforts to build a home on land that they own – but which the Environmental Protection Agency has deemed a “wetland.” At the end of nearly two hours of argument in Sackett v. EPA, the justices appeared torn between wanting to protect the nation’s waters and the desire to have more clarity for property owners, who can face stiff fines for violating the Clean Water Act. [Read more.](#)

NAWM Has Fall Learning Options Available

We have three online training modules readily available to you:



The recordings are free to view, anytime/anywhere. There is an option to take a quiz to test your knowledge and earn a Certificate of Completion. NAWM Members may access this free membership benefit by logging on to your [Membership Portal](#). Non-members may also access the quizzes on a fee basis.

Our fourth training series - [USDA-NRCS Conservation Planners Training Webinar](#) - is available for to view and build knowledge. The quiz/certificate options for this series will be added at a later date.



NAWM WETLAND MAPPING CONSORTIUM WEBINAR

NWI Updates:

What's New at the National Wetlands Inventory Program

Tuesday, November 1, 2022 - 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT



Jane Harner
U.S. FWS, NWI



Herb Bergquist
U.S. FWS, NWI

[More Information](#)

[Register](#)

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RECORDED NAWM WETLAND MAPPING CONSORTIUM WEBINAR

Building on an Initial Wetland Inventory and Classification to Map Ramsar Wetland Sites in Mexico

Held Thursday, September 22, 2022



Robb Macleod
Ducks Unlimited



Norma Rangel
Ducks Unlimited de México

[View Recording](#)

State and Tribal News

NAWM Members' Webinar:

Navigating the Future: Where is the Clean Water Act Heading?

Tuesday
November 8, 2022
3:00-4:30 p.m. EST

Panel:

Julia Anastasio
Association of Clean
Water Administrators

Pat Parenteau
Vermont Law School

Mark Ryan
Former EPA Counsel

Donna Downing
NAWM

More
Information
Coming Soon!

Photo Credit: Sharon Weaver,
NAWM

AL: Black Warrior Riverkeeper sues Warrior Met Coal over water pollution

By Dennis Pillion – AL.com – September 15, 2022

Birmingham-based environmental group Black Warrior Riverkeeper has filed a lawsuit against Warrior Met Coal and an associated company over pollution entering the river from a massive coal mine in Tuscaloosa County. The Riverkeeper group says that pollution from waste storage ponds at Warrior Met Coal's Mine No. 7 is seeping into two unnamed tributaries to Texas Creek and Davis Creek, which then flow into the Black Warrior River at Lake Holt, a popular fishing and recreation spot. [Read more.](#)

AZ: NPS to poison non-native fish below Glen Canyon Dam

Williams-Grand Canyon News – September 20, 2022

The National Park Service will soon begin active efforts to remove invasive smallmouth bass and green sunfish from the Colorado River below the Glen Canyon Dam. The EPA-approved fish piscicide rotenone (CFT legumine) will be used to kill the invasive, predatory fish. The first treatment was planned for Sept. 17-18, potentially followed by a second treatment within two months to address fish that may have hatched or remain hidden in dense vegetation after the first treatment. [Read more.](#)

CA: Tidal marsh or 'fake habitat'? California environmental project draws criticism

By Ian James – Los Angeles Times – September 10, 2022

Southwest of Sacramento, the branching arms of waterways reach into a patchwork of farm fields and pastures. Canals and wetlands fringed with reeds meet a sunbaked expanse of dry meadows. These lands on the northwestern edge of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta have now been targeted for restoration following the widespread destruction of estuary marsh habitats that began over a century ago. [Read more.](#)

CA: California tribes will manage, protect state coastal areas

By Sophie Austin – Associated Press – October 9, 2022

Five California tribes will reclaim their right to manage coastal land significant to their history under a first-in-the-nation program backed with \$3.6 million in state money. The tribes will rely on their traditional knowledge to protect more than 200 miles of coastline in the state, as climate change and human activity have impacted the vast area. Some of the tribes' work will include monitoring salmon after the removal of a century-old defunct dam in the redwood forests in the Santa Cruz mountains and testing for toxins in shellfish, while also educating future generations on traditional practices. [Read more.](#)

CA: As the Salton Sea shrinks, a radical plan to save it with ocean water is rejected

By Ian James msn – October 5, 2022

For as long as the Salton Sea has faced the threat of ecological collapse, some local residents and environmentalists have advocated a radical cure for the deteriorating lake: a large infusion of ocean water. By moving desalinated seawater across the desert, they say, California could stop its largest lake from shrinking and growing saltier and could restore its once-thriving ecosystem. [Read more.](#)

CO: The upstream water used to keep Lake Powell afloat is running out

By Rachel Ramirez – CNN – September 29, 2022

Upstream reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin might not have enough water to keep Lake Powell above a critical threshold indefinitely, federal officials have warned in recent weeks, as the West's ongoing megadrought saps water from across the West. The Flaming Gorge reservoir on the Green River, which this year is releasing a huge amount of water downstream to help Lake Powell, may only have enough water left for two more similar emergency releases, US Bureau of Reclamation officials told CNN, though they have yet to fully model the situation. [Read more.](#)

FL: Florida refuge gets reinforcements as it cleans up from Ian

By Michael Doyle – E&E News – October 12, 2022

Florida's hurricane-battered J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge is an important step closer to a complete damage assessment and eventual rehabilitation with the emergency reopening of the severed Sanibel Causeway connecting island to mainland. A convoy of some 350 trucks, trailers and first-responder vehicles crawled Tuesday across the temporarily patched 3-mile causeway to reach Sanibel Island. The causeway, which took a direct hit from Hurricane Ian last month, won't be fully open to the public until Oct. 21, while island repairs will stretch out for a long time to come (Greenwire, Oct. 3). [Read more.](#)

FL: The historical development of Southwest Florida made Hurricane Ian worse

By Zeke Baker – The Washington Post – October 4, 2022

Hurricane Ian devastated parts of Southwest Florida, with Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) labeling the damage as "indescribable" before the storm barreled into South Carolina. The hurricane washed away homes, decimated Sanibel Island, closed parts of Interstate 75 and left Lee County — home to Fort Myers — without water. While some see catastrophic hurricanes such as Ian as an act of nature — blaming bad luck for the damage — scientists cite climate change for the rise in "super hurricanes" of at least Category 4 or higher reaching U.S. shores. [Read more.](#)

FL: Oxygen in the water emerging at Florida's natural springs predicts their health

By Matt Cohen – The Gainesville Sun – September 23, 2022

One in five molecules in Earth's air is oxygen. We have life itself to thank. Over time, a planetary balancing act of plants and animals and rocks and water has stabilized the oxygen in our atmosphere. No other element so exquisitely reveals the self-regulating wonder of our living planet. While oxygen exerts influence on all ecological systems, those that lie underwater are especially attuned to its ebbs and flows. For more than a century now, oxygen measurements in water have been central to understanding freshwater ecosystems. [Read more.](#)



TRIBAL WETLAND PROGRAMS WEBINARS

Protecting Waters and Wetlands in Indian Country: An Overview and Case Studies from EPA's New Tribal Wetland Program Guide

Thursday, November 17 - 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EST

A Path to Successful EPA Grant Applications for Your Tribal Wetland Program

Thursday, December 8, 2022 - 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EST

More Information Coming Soon!

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RECORDING AVAILABLE SOON TRIBAL WETLAND PROGRAMS WEBINAR

Getting Started with Tribal Wetland Plans

Held September 29, 2022

Presenters:



Yvonne Vallette
U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency,
Region 10



Mary Iorio
Environmental Division,
Three Affiliated Tribes



Tiffany Allgood
Environmental
Programs Office,
Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Recording Available Soon

LA: Tulane researchers see promise in using recycled glass to help save Louisiana's coast

By Keith Magill – Houma Today – September 30, 2022

A project with roots in Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes aims to prove sand made from recycled glass can be used to help bolster Louisiana's coast against persistent erosion.

Last fall, after Hurricane Ida, Tulane University led work on a test project in Pointe-aux-Chenes and surrounding areas using a \$700,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. Others participating include the Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe, LSU, Jackson State University and Glass Half Full, a New Orleans-based company that converts glass into sand and crushed material called "cullet" for coastal projects, construction and other uses. Their project, called ReCoast, so far has shown the material can grow native marsh grasses and willow trees, is non-toxic to marine life and can resist erosion better than silt, researchers say. [Read more.](#)

LA: Louisianans have tried to tame the Mississippi River for decades. Now they may set it free

By Oscar Tickle – Houma Today – September 28, 2022

Don Beshel walks out of his office and looks out on his marina. Where once were dozens of boats now sit only a few. The levee has more boats washed up from flooding than line his docks. The air here used to have salty undertones. Now fresh water from the Mississippi River has mixed with salty water from the Gulf. The air is now stale – along with Beshel's business. He blames a breach in the levee downriver back in 2011. Before the breach, oysters and saltwater fish like mullet thrived around his marina. Now the water brims with different kinds of fish. The old marsh is gone, replaced by a nearly unrecognizable landscape lined with rows of black-willow trees. Boats cannot find their way out of the marsh due to silt dumped by fresh water from the breach. [Read more.](#)

LA: LSU researchers join multi-institutional team to investigate sources of methane in coastal wetlands

LSU – September 27, 2022

Scientists estimate that methane, as a greenhouse gas, may be responsible for approximately 20 to 25 percent of all global warming since the Industrial Revolution. Even more troublingly, as man-made sources have been reduced, the amount of the gas in the atmosphere has continued to grow, fed by natural sources. Now, LSU researchers are joining a multi-institutional team to investigate factors affecting natural methane emissions, using a \$2.91 million grant from the National Science Foundation. They will be working in a location close to home: Louisiana's coastal wetlands. [Read more.](#)

MD: Md. Wetlands Sanctuary Saves Hundreds of Salamanders During Hurricane Ian Rainfall

Chesapeake Bay Magazine – October 10, 2022

When Hurricane Ian brought relentless rainfall to the Chesapeake region, wildlife experts at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary had their minds on salamanders. With high rainfall totals predicted, citizen scientists at the Patuxent River wetlands preserve predicted the marbled salamander would be on the move, looking for a vernal pool in which to lay their eggs. But their travel could be put to a tragic end as the tiny salamanders tried to cross roads near the sanctuary. So, the vernal pool specialists sprang into action. Of the 23 species of salamanders listed by the Maryland Biodiversity Project the marbled salamander is the only terrestrial one with a fall reproductive cycle and it involves a remarkable migration. [Read more.](#)

MN: Northland peat bogs are carbon hogs, if they are intact

By John Myers – Duluth News Tribune – September 26, 2022

Scientists have known for decades that peat bogs are carbon sinks, that their deep layers of organic matter built up over centuries can capture and store huge amounts of carbon dioxide. But when you drain a bog, or mine it, or otherwise disturb it, bogs can go from carbon capturers to carbon emitters. All the carbon stored over millenia goes out into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, increasing the buildup of greenhouse gasses causing global climate change. It's estimated that damaged and drained peatlands worldwide emit 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide annually, roughly 5% of all human-caused greenhouse gas emissions. [Read more.](#)

NJ: Tiny oysters play big role in stabilizing eroding shorelines

By Wayne Parry – The Press of Atlantic City – August 30, 2022

Denise Vaccaro bought her home on the Jersey Shore over 20 years ago, charmed by the little beach at the end of a sandy spit on Barnegat Bay where she could sit and read while listening to the waves and enjoying the cool breezes. That home was destroyed 10 years ago in Superstorm Sandy, and the beach she loved is also gone, claimed by rising seas that are eroding the shoreline and pushing water to porches. It's a story being played out on shorelines all around the world as once idyllic beach communities are washing away, and residents are struggling to adapt. But a partial solution being tried around the world is also being done here: establishing oyster colonies to form natural barriers that blunt the force of waves and help stabilize eroding shorelines. [Read more.](#)

NC: Carnivores & Our Coast: Sea-level rise is moving & erasing North Carolina's coveted coastal marshes

By Elisa Raffa – WNCT – October 7, 2022

"The reason I find them so interesting is because they're that frontier of change, and so they're so responsive to things that we humans do," reflects Himmelstein. These coastal wetlands are crucial to the food we eat, the homes we build, and the storms we survive, "whether it modifies the coastline or affects the way sea levels are rising, they're some of the first environments to respond to that." But marshes are changing faster now than ever before, "it is all-natural, these things have happened in the past, but the rate at which we're seeing them happen is what's alarming a lot of us in the climate science field." [Read more.](#)

OR: Coos Bay researchers use tea bags to understand marsh health

By Rolando Hernandex – OPB – September 14, 2022

Researchers at Oregon's South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve are importing teabags from the UK, but they're not using it to brew a cup of tea in between studies. These tea bags are being used to get a better understanding of what carbon storage is like in the marshes and wetlands outside of Coos Bay. The bags were buried underground in the start of the summer and were recently dug up to examine how much they have decomposed and see how much climate change is affecting the decomposition process. [Read more.](#)

PA: A \$31 Million Wetland Restoration Project in South Philly Breaks Ground

By Marielle Argueza – Next City – September 6, 2022

After a decade of hydrology studies and planning, the Philadelphia International Airport is now breaking ground on a \$30 million wetland mitigation effort in FDR Park, South Philadelphia's largest park. Officials say the project includes a habitat restoration component but will also increase park accessibility, as frequent flooding has often left parts unusable. [Read more.](#)

SC: Protecting coastal habitats can mitigate impacts of tropical storms

By Toni Reale Charleston – City Paper – October 5, 2022

As Hurricane Ian whipped through the Lowcountry as a Category 1 storm, many wondered with two months left of hurricane season whether this would be the first of many more. Scientists can't predict storm frequency with confidence, but they can predict with certainty that hurricanes will become more intense. What could this mean for the Lowcountry, its citizens, the economy and our treasured coastal places? [Read more.](#)

WA: Ecology invests nearly \$35 million to help rivers and streams

Contact: Jimmy Norris – Washington Department of Ecology New Release – October 5, 2022
Communities around the state will soon receive grant funds to support projects that protect rivers and improve streamflows. The Washington Department of Ecology is slated to distribute about \$35 million for 26 high-priority projects in 22 watersheds. The funding supports projects to increase water storage capacity, improve fish habitat, acquire water rights, and improve water management and infrastructure. [Read more.](#)

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[Mentee Application](#)

Join or Renew Your NAWM Membership In October Receive a #CWA50 Anniversary Tote



Execu-dog Lucy is always on the move. Whether in the office or exploring the outdoors, she likes to stay mobile with her commemorative #CWA50 tote*.

As part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Clean Water Act (#CWA50), we're sending these free totes to new Members who [Join](#) in October or current NAWM Members who [Renew](#) Membership in October (One per member, as supplies last).

This handy #CWA50 tote* is just the right size for daily adventures!.

[Join/Renew](#)

*Lucy not included

Students Join NAWM or SWS by December 31st

Double your membership value with a

2X1 SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FOR STUDENTS

NAWM is a national nonprofit that builds capacity for states & tribal wetland managers, fosters collaboration & training for wetland professionals, and promotes the use of sound science in aquatic resource management, policy, & practice.

[Join NAWM](#)

Started primarily as a scientific society based in the U.S., SWS is now International with the mission to promote best practices in wetland research, education, conservation, restoration, and management. [Join SWS](#)



How do I claim my dual membership?

01

Join either the Society of Wetland Scientists or the National Association of Wetland Managers as a student (reduced membership rate of \$30!)

02

Get a student membership to the other society for free! Benefit from student opportunities from both groups for the price of one.

Wetland Science News

'It's a battle': Why there's a growing fight to stop phragmites around the Great Salt Lake

By Carter Williams, KSL.com – Deseret News – September 21, 2022

The threat of the Great Salt Lake flooding is far from anyone's minds these days, especially after back-to-back years of record-setting low water levels. But it was a different story in the 1980s. Experts sought plans to pump out lake water to quell the risk of flooding as the lake threatened to harm neighboring communities on a regular basis. The floods that did occur not only caused damage to surrounding towns and cities at the time, they ultimately ushered in a completely new headache for the Great Salt Lake ecosystem once the water subsided. The rising salty water killed off native vegetation that once surrounded the lake, and phragmites — an invasive reed species that can grow up to 15 feet in height — slipped in at some point and took over, said Karin Kettenring, a professor of wetland ecology at Utah State University's College of Natural Resources. [Read more.](#)

Chesapeake Bay watershed may be resilient over time. But 'healthy' is far off, study says

By Kirstian Jaime, Salisbury Daily Times – Delmarva Now – September 16, 2022

The water quality of the Chesapeake Bay watershed has only gotten worse according to data from one study that found more dead zones and algae blooms in tributaries. The Chesapeake Bay Program announced Wednesday that only an estimated 29.6% of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries met clean water standards for clarity, dissolved oxygen and toxic algae growth during the 2018-2020 assessment period. This is lower than the previous score of 33.1% received during 2017-2019. [Read more.](#)

Microplastics found throughout Delaware River and its tributaries

By Frank Kummer – The Press of Atlantic City – August 31, 2022

Microplastics were found in all 15 locations in the Delaware River watershed that were tested the last several years in a study by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), meaning that tiny fibers of rayon, polyester and other man-made fibers permeate the waterway. "They were found in every sample and in every stream in every segment of the river," said Jake Bransky, an aquatic biologist with the DRBC, a federal and interstate agency that manages the river. "So they are definitely pervasive." In addition, microplastics were found in all three types of collection methods used by the DRBC: a bottle, a net and a more sophisticated device. [Read more.](#)



Giving Tuesday

Giving To Jon

Jon A. Kusler Student Scholarship

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GIVING
TUESDAY

November 29, 2022



NAWM Jobs Board

CA: Tenure Track Faculty - Department of Wildlife Management (Wetland and Waterfowl Ecology)

Cal Poly Humboldt, Arcata, CA, Apply by November 15, 2022

MA: Part-time Lecturer in Environmental Policy (non-tenure-track)

Tufts University, Medford, MA, Review begins November 1, 2022

VT: Wetlands Ecologist & Compliance Coordinator - Limited Service

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Apply by November 6, 2022

Washington, DC: Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Apply by November 17, 2022

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Wetland Photos

We are always looking for new wetland photos. If you'd like to share your wetland views in our publications and social streams, [submit your photo\(s\) here](#).



Resources and Publications

Using Structured Decision Making to Evaluate Wetland Restoration Opportunities in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

By David M. Martin, Amy D. Jacobs, Chase McLean, et. al. – Springer – October 8, 2022
Wetland restoration is an important water quality and climate resilience strategy. Wetland restoration rarely considers tradeoffs at large spatial and temporal scales, which limits capacity to aid decision makers. High resolution data can reveal hundreds to thousands of possible restoration options across a landscape, but guidance for setting restoration targets at these scales is limited. This study uses structured decision making (SDM) as a process for evaluating the desirability of numerous restoration options, with a case study on the Outer Coastal Plain of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, USA. [Read more.](#)

STUDY: Lagoons from the Arctic’s “Forgotten Coast” Teem with Fish and Birds, Vulnerable to Climate Change and Human Development

Contacts: Stephen Sautner – WCS Newsroom – October 6, 2022
A new scientific review article led by WCS captures the unique and dynamic characteristics of coastal lagoon ecosystems in the Arctic Beringia Region and discusses how climate change effects and human development could alter these habitats. Lagoons make up 40 percent of the Chukchi Sea coastline of Alaska and are integral components of ecological protected areas such as Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, and Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, they are important wild food harvesting locations for the Iñupiat People, who rely on subsistence hunting and gathering to maintain their food security. [Read more.](#) [Read the study.](#)

Pulitzer-winning novelist Annie Proulx digs into the history and value of our wetlands

By Nancy Lord Anchorage – Daily News – October 1, 2022
According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, “Wetland habitats in Alaska are numerous and complex, making up 43.3% of the state’s surface area.” That’s a good reason to pay attention to Pulitzer Prize winner Annie Proulx’s latest book, “Fen, Bog and Swamp: A Short History of Peatland Destruction and Its Role in the Climate Crisis”. Proulx says at the start that what began as a personal essay for trying to understand connections between wetlands and the climate crisis grew into a major research project during the pandemic. She eventually narrowed her inquiry to the three types of wetlands — fens, bogs, and swamps — that form peat. [Read more.](#)

USGS Report: Harmonizing wetland soil organic carbon datasets to improve spatial representation of 2011 soil carbon stocks in the conterminous United States

U.S. Geological Survey – July 2022
These datasets represent a revised national scale estimate of wetland soil carbon stock assessments by improving representation of soil organic carbon densities. This assessment is based on a three-step approach to harmonize survey and point-based data for predicting soil organic carbon density from percent organic carbon alone (or percent organic matter, with conversion), when reliable dry bulk density information is not available. Given issues with survey-level extrapolation of soil pedons into discontinuous hydric soils, quantile, segmented data analysis provides a more accurate spatially explicit soil organic carbon density product. These modeled data leverage spatial and statistical distributions of soil organic carbon percent data of the conterminous United States (CONUS) for two national-scale soil datasets: a wetland-specific field campaign, the EPA National Wetland Condition Assessment, and the USDA NRCS SSURGO survey. [Read more.](#)

Potpourri

One year on, trees returning to restored tidelands

By Michael S. Lockett – The Daily World – September 30, 2022

A stone's throw from 101, north of Hoquiam, the traffic is muffled by the growing things at the river's edge between the road and me. The river itself is glassy as we paddle the canoe north up the Hoquiam River, old pilings jutting out of the water at even intervals, the sun still shining this Wednesday afternoon but the clouds at the edge of sight presaging a change in the weather. I'm headed upriver with Tom Kollasch, the watershed restoration program manager for the Pacific and Grays Harbor conservation districts, going to see tidelands isolated by an old logging railway one year after a five-year effort to restore their connection to the river. [Read more.](#)

Study tracks waterbird use of Chicago-area wetlands

By Diana Yates, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign – PHPYS.org – September 14, 2022

A three-year study in northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana found that—even at small scales—emergent wetlands or ponds support many wetland bird species. The study also found that, at least in the years surveyed, the level of urbanization had little effect on most of the studied species' use of such sites, provided the right kinds of habitat were available. [Read more.](#)

Nearly \$32 million in grants to help fish, birds, streams, trails in Delaware River watershed

By Frank Kummer – The Press of Atlantic City – August 28, 2022

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced \$15.8 million in grants last week toward Delaware River watershed conservation that includes helping restore shad in the Brandywine, preserving wildlife on Delaware Bay, and enhancing the Schuylkill River Trail — among a host of other projects. Environmental and conservation groups pitched in an additional \$16 million in matching grants, bringing the total to \$31.8 million for watershed projects. [Read more.](#)

Funding Opportunities

[Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act \(NMBCA\) Grant](#)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Apply by November 3, 2023

[Cooperative Agreement for CESU-affiliated Partner with Gulf Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit](#)

U.S. Geological Survey; Apply by November 14, 2022; Search: G23AS00053

[ERDC Broad Agency Announcement - Various Research and Development Topic Areas](#)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Research and Development Center; Apply by February 28, 2023; Search: W912HZ22BAA01



Calendar of Events

WEBINARS

October

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| October 19, 2022 4:00 p.m. EDT | NE CASC Webinar: Identifying trade-offs and opportunities for forest carbon and wildlife using a climate change adaptation lens |
| October 20, 2022 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. EDT | Swamp School Webinar Course: USACOE Wetland Vegetation Inventory Training |
| October 26, 2022 1:00 p.m. EDT | Center for Watershed Protection Webinar: Urban Forestry |
| October 25, 2022 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. EDT | New York Department of Environmental Conservation Webinar: The New York Protected Areas Database: Mapping Conservation Lands and Uses in Municipal Planning |
| October 27, 2022 3:00 p.m. EDT | National Association of Wetland Managers: Hot Topics Webinar: Celebrating the Clean Water Act 50th Anniversary: Wetland Restoration in our National Parks |

November

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| November 1, 2022 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT | National Association of Wetland Managers: NWI Updates: What's New at the National Wetlands Inventory Program |
| November 9, 2022 4:00 p.m. EDT | University of Massachusetts Amherst Webinar: More than the sum of their parts? Interactions of invasive species and other environmental change |
| November 16, 2022 1:00 p.m. EDT | Center for Watershed Protection Webinar: Behavior Change for Watershed & Surface Water Management |
| November 17, 2022 3:00 p.m. EDT | National Association of Wetland Managers: Tribal Wetland Programs Webinar: Protecting Waters and Wetlands in Indian Country: An Overview and Case Studies from EPA's New Tribal Wetland Program Guide |

December

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| December 8, 2022 3:00 p.m. EDT | National Association of Wetland Managers: Tribal Wetland Programs Webinar: A Path to Successful EPA Grant Applications for Your Tribal Wetland Program |
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CONFERENCES/EVENTS

October

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| October 22, 2022 Combine, TX | John Bunker Sands Wetland Center: Wings Over the Wetland: Twilight Soiree |
| October 23-28, 2022 Albany, NY | NEIWPC: 11th U.S. Symposium on Harmful Algae |
| October 25-27, 2022 Baltimore, MD | EcoAdapt: National Adaptation Forum |
| October 25-27, 2022 Green Bay, WI | Midwest Invasive Plant Network: Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference |
| October 27, 2022 Sacramento, CA | Water Education Foundation: Water Summit 2022: Rethinking Water in the West |
| October 29, 2022 Durham, NH | Society of Wetland Scientists New England Chapter Annual Meeting, Conference, and Field Trip: The Role of Wetlands in Climate Resilience |
| October 29, 2022 North Haven, CT | Connecticut Association of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc.: 45th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference |
| October 29, 2022 Durham, NH | Society of Wetland Scientists New England Chapter Annual Meeting, Conference, and Field Trip: The Role of Wetlands in Climate Resilience |

November

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| November 6-10, 2022 Spokane, WA | The Wildlife Society's 29th Annual Conference |
| November 7-8, 2022 Raleigh, NC | North Carolina Sea Grant: The North Carolina Coastal Conference |
| November 7-9, 2022 Seattle, WA | American Water Resources Association Annual Water Resources Conference |
| November 7-10, 2022 Kissimmee, FL | North American Invasive Species Management Association 30th Annual Conference |
| November 10-11, 2022 Fulton, MD | Centre for Watershed Protection: Coastal & Island Symposium |
| November 14-16, 2022 Ballina, New South Wales | Centre for Coastal Biogeochemistry at Southern Cross University: 15th Australasian Environmental Isotope Conference |

| November | |
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| November 16-17, 2022 Deadwood, SD | Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance: 2022 Water Conference |
| November 17-19, 2022 Austin, TX | Texas Society for Ecological Restoration 25th Annual Conference |
| November 29-December 1, 2022 Indian Wells, CA | ACWA Conference Fall Conference & Exhibition |
| December | |
| December 4-8, 2022 New Orleans, LA | Restore America's Estuaries: 2022 Coastal & Estuarine Summit |
| December 6-8, 2022 Anchorage, AK | Arctic Rivers Summit |
| December 8-9, 2022 Fort Lauderdale, FL | Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit |
| December 12-16, 2022 Chicago, IL & Online | AGU Fall Meeting: Science Leads the Future |
| February 2023 | |
| February 6-10, 2023 Anchorage, AK | Alaska Forum on the Environment 2023 |
| February 21-23, 2023 St. Louis, MO | Midwest Climate Collaborative: Midwest Climate Summit |
| March 2023 | |
| March 1-3, 2023 Austin, TX | Texas Land Trust Council Conservation Conference |
| March 25, 2023 Middletown, CT | Connecticut Land Conservation Council Conference |
| May 2023 | |
| May 8-11, 2023 Jacksonville, FL/Virtual | National Mitigation & Environmental Markets Conference: Invest in the Environment |

Miami University's Project Dragonfly is accepting applications for 2023 Earth Expeditions graduate courses that offer extraordinary experiences at global field sites in 15 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Americas. [Learn more.](#)

TRAINING COURSES

November

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| November 1, 8, 15 and 29, 2022 Online | Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Course: ArcGIS: Introduction |
| November 1-4, 2022 Portland, OR | Portland State University Course: EPP 234 - HEC-RAS - Steady Open Channel Flow Modeling Emphasizing Stream Restoration Applications |
| November 2-4, 2022 Live Remote, NJ - TBD | Northwest Environmental Training Center Course: Wetlands: Science and Regulatory Management |
| November 10, 2022 Chelsea, MI | Michigan Wetlands Association Training: Winter Woody Plant Identification |
| November 14-17, 2022 Angier, NC | Swamp School Course: Principals of Wetland Design |
| November 14-17, 2022 Columbus, OH | Richard Chinn Environmental Training, Inc. Course: Regional Supplement Wetland Delineation Training |
| November 15-16, 2022 Atlanta, GA | Duncan & Duncan Wetland & Endangered Species Training: Advanced Hydric Soils, Atypical Wetlands, and Hydrology (Coastal Plain or Eastern Mountains/Piedmont) |

December

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| December 5-7, 2022 St. Michaels, MD | Environmental Concern Course: Winter Woody Plant ID |
| December 5-8, 2022 Raleigh, NC | Swamp School Course: Standard Wetland Delineation Training [Classroom/Field] |
| December 5, 7, 8 & 9, 2022 Online | Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Course: Wetland Construction: Principles, Planning, and Design |
| December 6-7, 2022 Portage, WI | Wetlands Training Institute, Inc. Course: Problematic Delineation Seminar |
| December 12-15, 2022 Tampa, FL | Richard Chinn Environmental Training, Inc. Course: Regional Supplement Wetland Delineation Training |

The Wetland Foundation

Now accepting applications for the 2023 Student Travel Awards

[Deadline to apply is December 18, 2022](#)

Wetland News Digest

The National Association of Wetland Managers' *Wetland News Digest* (WND) is a monthly compilation of wetland-related stories and announcements submitted by readers and gleaned from listservs, press releases and news sources from throughout the United States. WND chronicles the legislative, national, state and tribal news relevant to wetland science, policy, practice and law. It also links to new publications, tools and resources available to wetland professionals as well as events and training opportunities for those working in water resources and related fields. *Wetland News Digest* (formerly "*Wetland Breaking News*") has been published for over twenty years and NAWM has been a nationally recognized resource for information on wetland science and policy since 1983.



The items presented in *Wetland News Digest* do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or of the National Association of Wetland Managers. Send your news items, comments, corrections, or suggestions to news@nawm.org.



Photo Credit: Marla Stelk, NAWM

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