



# Wetland News Digest

## Editor's Note



Photo Credit: Marla Stelk, NAWM

Dear Wetlanders,

I hope you are all enjoying a bit of the summer season, despite the crazy weather patterns we have been experiencing. Here in Maine, we only had 7 days without rain in the entire month of June – my yard has become a biome for mushrooms and slugs. But at least Maine hasn't had the catastrophic flooding like Vermont. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, about 27% of the lower 48 states are in drought and many are

experiencing record breaking high temperatures. There seem to be very few places right now that exist in between having too much or too little rain.

In this month's edition of *Wetland News Digest*, NAWM staff have included 3 stories in [Editor's Choice](#) regarding the "now what?" question after the Sackett decision. In [State & Tribal News](#), we have two stories regarding [Tribal treaties](#) and rights to water in the [Colorado River](#). We also have an interesting story regarding a potential [solar farm project](#) in Kansas adjacent to a wildlife refuge, causing concerns for migratory bird mortality. In addition, we included a story regarding the [battle in North Carolina](#) to maintain its wetland protections.

All of us at NAWM hope you enjoy our collection of news stories from the past month, and we wish you all a safe and enjoyable remainder of the summer season!

Best regards,

Marla Stelk,  
Editor  
*Wetland News Digest*  
NAWM

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Protecting  
the Nation's  
Wetlands*



# Editor's Choice

## Judge freezes WOTUS fight until Biden issues new rule

By Pamela King and E.A. Crunden – E&E News – July 11, 2023

A federal judge has temporarily halted a legal battle over the Biden administration's signature water regulation until EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have a chance to rework the rule in light of a recent Supreme Court decision. The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas [ordered a stay in the case](#) Monday, stopping the litigation, even as Texas and Idaho had asked Judge Jeffrey Brown to use the Supreme Court's ruling in *Sackett v. EPA* to [scrap the Biden water rule](#) once and for all after it had been blocked in more than half the country. [Read more.](#)

## U.S. House Dems want data on impact of Supreme Court ruling on wetlands protection

By Jacob Fischler – Idaho Capital Sun – July 10, 2023

Top Democrats on the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee asked federal agencies Monday to track possible negative effects from a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that limited federal authority to regulate clean water. Washington's Rick Larsen, the ranking Democrat on the committee, and Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee ranking member Grace Napolitano of California, expressed concern in [a Monday letter](#) to the heads of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers that the Supreme Court's [ruling in May](#) would degrade water quality across the country. [Read more.](#)

## Environmental takeaways from a transformative Supreme Court term

By Pamela King – E&E News – July 5, 2023

Nearly one year after the nation's highest bench stunned the world by overturning 50 years of abortion rights, the nine most powerful jurists in the United States toppled environmental precedent in a ruling that wiped out protections for wetlands across the country. And it appears they're still just getting started. "We're not clarifying when we muck with over 50 years of understanding of how things work," said Robin Kundis Craig, a law professor at the University of Southern California, of the court's May ruling in *Sackett v. EPA*. "It portends a court that is willing to revisit everything." [Read more.](#)



Photo Credit: Marla Stelk, NAWM

# National News

## House OKs defense bill blocking Biden climate action

By Andres Picon – E&E News – July 14, 2023

House Republicans on Friday muscled through the annual defense policy bill, including one provision that would block the Defense Department from implementing President Joe Biden's climate orders. The final vote on the National Defense Authorization Act was a tight one, 219-210, with each party losing four votes. Aside from the climate order provision, the NDAA [included a number of amendments](#) promoting nuclear energy, climate resilience and mineral acquisition. [Read more.](#)

## EPA steps up return-to-office mandate for managers

By Kevin Bogardus – E&E News – July 13, 2023

EPA's managerial class, but not its rank-and-file staff, will have to be in the office more often as the agency moves on from the Covid-19 pandemic. EPA will require managers and supervisors to spend more days on site, gradually ramping up in-office work in the coming months, Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe told employees in [an internal email](#) obtained by E&E News. Yet bargaining unit staff members, represented by EPA's unions, will see no change to their telework and remote work schedules, at least for now. The bulk of EPA's workforce can continue to telework for the majority of the workweek, despite pressure from the White House, Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser and Republican lawmakers on Capitol Hill to return more federal employees to their cubicles downtown. [Read more.](#)



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# State and Tribal News

## **CA: Can We Prevent Another Algaepocalypse in the [San Francisco] Bay?**

By Guanani Gómez-Van Cortright – Bay Nature – July 10, 2023

Starting in July 2022, a dark, reddish-brown tinge crept across San Francisco Bay, leaving dead fish in its wake. Carcasses piled up, first on the shores of Alameda and Lake Merritt, then South Bay, then all the way to Point Pinole. In a matter of weeks, more than 800 sturgeon and countless other fish perished from a lack of oxygen and, possibly, algal toxins. Last summer's "algaepocalypse" was the Bay's worst harmful algae bloom ever recorded. Since then, officials from wildlife, water, and health agencies have been scrambling to piece together what happened—and how future algae blooms might be prevented. Ten months later, they are just starting to get answers. [Read more.](#)

## **CA: Eel River restoration project wraps up**

By Sage Alexander – Times Standard – June 27, 2023

A restoration project wrapped up that has provided new public access to the estuary of the Eel River. The Ocean Ranch restoration project has reconnected wetlands with the Eel River Estuary, and reopened to the public in January after two years of construction work. Kate Freeman, a biologist for Ducks Unlimited, said there is an urgency to this kind of restoration work. "With 90% of California's historic wetlands lost, projects like this can't happen quickly enough," she said. [Read more.](#)

## **CA: Cal. Coastal Commission approves Oceanside wetlands restoration**

By Phil Diehl – The San Diego Union-Tribune – June 25, 2023

Three tidal channels and a saltwater marsh with native plants and wildlife will be created along the Loma Alta Creek at Buccaneer Beach in Oceanside under a restoration plan approved this month by the California Coastal Commission. "The project is purely for the benefit of protecting coastal wildlife, (and) adapting the creek system and the surrounding area to climate change, while improving water quality and recreational opportunities," said Oceanside project manager Justin Gamble. [Read more.](#)

## **CA: Threatened Species Return to Spawn in Sacramento River**

Oakdale Leader – June 15, 2023

Dozens of adult sturgeon and hundreds of other large fish including threatened Chinook salmon have moved safely from receding floodwaters within the Yolo Bypass back to the Sacramento River thanks to the coordinated operation of the Fremont Weir Adult Fish Passage among the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), NOAA Fisheries and Yolo County. [Read more.](#)

## **Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe: 'This water needs to be protected': California tribe calls for preservation of Tulare Lake**

By Ian James – Los Angeles Times – June 27, 2023

When Leo Sisco was growing up on his tribe's reservation, he heard elders' stories about the great lake that once sustained their people, and how it was drained and taken away from them. This year, Sisco has been witnessing a remarkable transformation as Tulare Lake has reappeared on low-lying farmland near the reservation. The chairman of the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe has been noticing the water is attracting many birds, and he has been coming regularly to the lakeshore to offer prayers and look out over the water, which stretches to the horizon. [Read more.](#)

## **CO: Fireflies are thriving in Colorado wetlands. Scientists want to shed light on why.**

By William Alistetter – The Colorado Sun – July 10, 2023

On a recent trip to Illinois, Charley LeCrone took his wife and two young daughters to see the fireflies he remembered fondly from childhood. But when dusk fell, the fireflies' blinking yellow-green lights failed to appear. Fireflies don't live there anymore. Fireflies need a fresh, moist environment to thrive, which is why they are widespread — but also under threat — across much of the eastern United States. But unbeknownst to many, fireflies also thrive in scattered oases across Colorado and can be seen flashing their mating calls in wetlands for a few short weeks in June and July. [Read more.](#)

## **Chemehuev Indian Tribe: Decades after the Colorado River flooded the Chemehuevi's land, the tribe still doesn't have its share**

By Anna V. Smith, Mark Olalde and Umar Farooq – High Country News – July 5, 2023

At night, the lights of Lake Havasu City's hotels, boat launches and neighborhoods reflect off the reservoir that gave this busy Arizona tourist town its name. The federal government dammed the Colorado River just downstream in the 1930s, providing the water and recreation opportunities that have allowed the community to flourish. The opposite side of the reservoir is dark and so quiet that water lapping on the shore and bats clicking overhead can be heard over the distant hum of boat engines. This is the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe's reservation in California. The water that rose behind Parker Dam to create Lake Havasu washed away homes and flooded about 7,000 acres of fertile Chemehuevi land, including where tribal members grazed cattle. [Read more.](#)

## **Ute Tribe: Tribal voices now being heard at the Colorado River table**

By Allen Best – Colorado Newswire – June 21, 2023

Voices of Native American residents, long shunted to the side room, if acknowledged at all, are being heard more clearly in Colorado River discussions, as reflected in two recent water conferences in Colorado. At the first, a drought summit held in Denver, a panel that was devoted to the worsening imbalance between water supplies and demands included Lorelei Cloud, the vice chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Her presence was an overt acknowledgement by conference organizers that the Ute tribe, if a part of Colorado, is also a sovereign. That's something new. [Read more.](#)

## **FL: Fla. Heat wave may be a harbinger of harsh summer for ocean life**

By Rob Hotakainen and Alex Hargrave – E&E News – July 12, 2023

After the heat index soared past 108 degrees Fahrenheit for the third consecutive day in Miami on Tuesday, Brian McNoldy had only one word to describe the record-breaking temperatures: “outlandish.” “And there’s really not much sign of a break coming,” said McNoldy, a senior research associate with the University of Miami’s Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric and Earth Science. Even in a state known for its hot weather, the unprecedented marine heat wave has scientists worried about not only how humans will fare but what will become of Florida’s prized corals, which have [experienced precipitous declines](#) in recent decades. Researchers have long warned that hot summer waters are potentially devastating to coral reefs. [Read more.](#)

## **GA: Rare southern elktoe mussel inches closer to endangered species protections**

By Kayla Goggin – Couthouse News Service – June 20, 2023

The southern elktoe mussel, a freshwater mussel native to the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin in Alabama, Georgia and Florida, has been proposed for inclusion on the endangered species list, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced on Tuesday. The agency is also [proposing](#) to designate 578 river miles of critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act across 25 counties in the three states to bring the southern elktoe back from the brink of extinction. [Read more.](#)

## **KS: A refuge for wildlife in Kansas is no place for a large-scale solar project**

By Shawna Bethell – Kansas Reflector – July 5, 2023

Acciona Energy USA, a subsidiary of Madrid, Spain-based Acciona Energy, plans to develop a solar farm on a large swath of land bordering Cheyenne Bottoms. For now, officials have placed a [temporary moratorium](#) on all permits for commercial solar development within the unincorporated area of Barton County, allowing the planning commission time to consider zoning regulations. According to environmental manager and zoning administrator Judy Goreham, the moratorium will last until Dec. 31, with the option to either extend or eliminate that deadline, depending on the amount of time the commission needs. Generally speaking, I support solar power. But careful placement of large-scale infrastructure is crucial and locating it anywhere near a wetland — especially a wetland of critical habitat — is unconscionable. [Read more.](#)

## **LA: Nicholls Farm Creates Wetland Research Area with Support of Ducks Unlimited & the Natural Resources Conservation Service**

KQKI News – June 2023

The Nicholls Farm has dedicated a newly created wetland for coastal restoration research and other projects, thanks to the support of Ducks Unlimited and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Water is pumped from Bayou Folse into the wetland so that the plants can filter out nutrients, and then the nutrient-free water is returned to Bayou Folse. This project will reduce the amount of nutrients that reach the Gulf of Mexico. A second wetland research facility is set to be located directly across from Bayou Folse at the Nicholls Farm. [Read more.](#)

## **MN: Carp-ocalypse now: Invasive silver carp in Minnesota waters**

By Mike Mosedale – Minnesota Reformer – July 5, 2023

As he dipped a net into a big cylindrical tub in the dimly lit fish laboratory at the University of Minnesota's Hodson Hall, Peter Sorensen scooped a half dozen small silvery fish and gazed at the wiggling, bug-eyed creatures with a look of benevolence. "I don't hate them, I really don't," said Sorensen. "It's not their fault they're here." Sorensen, a longtime researcher and professor at the university's Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, restricts the diet of his captives to stunt their growth. If he didn't, he explained, the fingerling-size fish would already weigh 10 or 15 pounds — an unwieldy size for lab experiments. The fish in question — silver carp — have occupied Sorensen's professional attention for over a decade. It's an outgrowth of rising concerns that the highly invasive species is inexorably moving up the Mississippi River from Iowa. [Read more.](#)

## **MS: Mississippi landowner thrives by partnering with GreenTrees to restore wetlands and combat flooding**

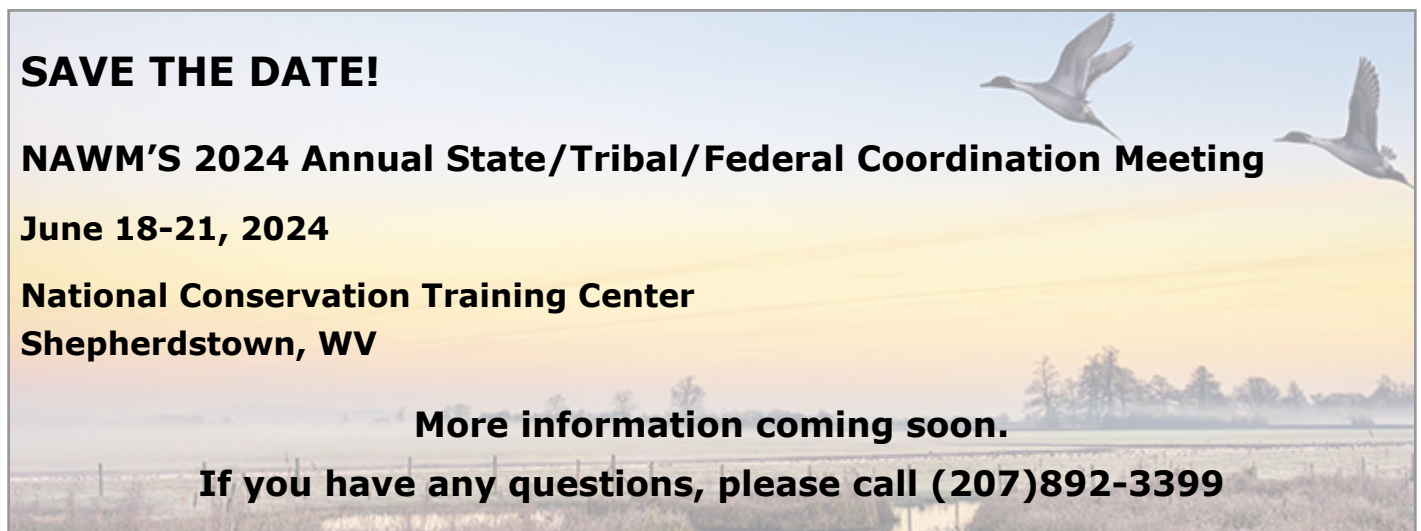
Nola.com – July 2, 2023

Richard Hawthorne was managing a tractor dealership when he purchased his 210-acre property in Valley Park, Mississippi in 1995, a soggy sprawling flatland bristling with 4-inch-tall hardwood plantings courtesy of the USDA's [Wetlands Reserve Program](#) (WRP). But the feds weren't the only ones working to restore this delicate swampy habitat to its natural, flood-fighting state. GreenTrees was already contracted to help plant the native oaks that would transform this former farm into wetland forest for native wildlife. "They've been great to work with," Hawthorne says. "I've been dealing with them since the beginning." [Read more.](#)

## **MS: As Mississippi Riverfront development booms, wetlands become crucial to stave off flooding**

By Eric Schmid – Marketplace – June 20, 2023

The Mississippi River has been having a bit of a moment. "People all over the world want to come and see this iconic natural phenomenon that is the Mississippi," said Colin Wellenkamp, executive director of the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative. "It has a larger international following than the Grand Canyon." No longer is the nation's largest river seen as only a corridor for commerce. [Read more.](#)



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**NAWM'S 2024 Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting**

**June 18-21, 2024**

**National Conservation Training Center**  
**Shepherdstown, WV**

**More information coming soon.**

**If you have any questions, please call (207)892-3399**

## **Blackfoot Indian Reservation: Blackfeet Bring Bison Home to Chief Mountain**

By Tristan Scott – June 28, 2023

A brazen bison calf was the first to clamber off the livestock trailer and into the shadow of Chief Mountain, where for a few wobbly moments it stood alone, blinking uncertainly at a sprawling ancestral homeland that hasn't supported a herd of wild buffalo for 150 years. An instant later, in a thunderclap of hooves, the russet-coated calf was joined by two dozen of its shaggier, surer-footed compatriots, their dark humps heaving against the square, sacred massif that dominates the horizon of their new home on the range. [Read more.](#)

## **NM: Pesticide spraying near New Mexico river used to kill invasive grasshoppers called off by feds**

Fox News – July 3, 2023

Federal land managers have called off plans to spray pesticides near the Rio Chama in northern New Mexico as part of an effort to eradicate invasive grasshoppers. The decision announced Thursday by the Bureau of Land Management followed an outcry by environmentalists and others who worried that dispersing 670 gallons of carbaryl — a potent neurotoxin — would also kill bees, monarch butterflies and other insects vital to the area's ecosystem. Although the U.S. Agriculture Department conducted an environmental assessment earlier this year, the Bureau of Land Management said additional analysis and outreach was needed. [Read more.](#)

## **NY: At the Adirondack Park Agency, Critical Questions about Wetland Protection Are Not Asked**

By David Gibson – Adirondack Almanack – June 23, 2023

APA's staff presentation [about the variance recently issued for SL Marina on Lower Saranac Lake](#) may have been "heroic," just as APA chair John Ernst stated. The marina has a lengthy and complex history of regulatory and legal actions since 2014 to remove wooden, dilapidated shoreline covered slips that predated the APA Act and replace them with modern boat slips out into the water, among other improvements. APA staff covered that history with competence and explained why approval of a variance to the Agency's shoreline setback regulations would improve the shoreline's ecological health and, of course, advance the marina's business and services. With some 290 boat slips, this is the largest private boat marina in the Adirondack Park. What the presentation and APA member questions did not clearly answer is why a wetland permit was not required during this round of review. A wetland permit was required and issued to SL Marina during the earlier Agency review in 2020. Why not now? [Read more.](#)

## **NC: North Carolina Coastal Federation gets \$1.6M to restore Carteret wetlands**

By Brad Rich – CoastalReview.org – June 28, 2023

The North Carolina Coastal Federation this month received a \$1.6 million grant from the North Carolina Land and Water Fund Flood Risk Reduction Program to design and implement the restoration of 1,100 acres of ditched and drained timberland to wetlands within the Newport River watershed. The restoration will include blocking the flow from the drainage ditches to decrease the amount of water moving to the river during a storm. The project also will restore the floodplain area along the tributary running through the center of the property to allow for floodwater storage. [Read more.](#)



## **NC: NC House, Senate override governor's veto of Farm Act, jeopardizing 2.5 million acres of NC wetlands**

By Lisa Sorg – NC Newsline – June 27, 2023

The House overrode Gov. Cooper's veto of the Farm Act today, stripping 2.5 million acres of wetlands — an area one and half times larger than the state of Delaware — of environmental protection. The vote was 78-40 in favor of the override. State Rep. Pricey Harrison, a Guilford County Democrat who has served in the legislature nearly 20 years, urged her House colleagues to sustain the governor's veto. She called the measure "the most destructive environmental bill since I was elected in 2004." State Rep. Abe Jones, a Democrat from Wake County, said the bill could be "much, much, much better if we extracted all the junk" — meaning the wetlands provision. The Senate overrode the governor's veto Monday by a 29-17 margin, with the votes landing along party lines. Gov. Cooper [vetoed Senate Bill 582](#) last week because it would strip legal protections from half the state's wetlands. [Read more.](#)

## **OH: Ohio is set to regulate wetlands after U.S. Supreme Court limits federal control**

By Zaria Johnson – Ideastream Public Media – July 10, 2023

The U.S. Supreme Court limited federal Clean Water Act protections over certain wetlands in a ruling earlier this year. But wetlands that lose federal protection in Ohio will still be regulated, by the state instead of the federal government, because Ohio has robust statewide wetlands standards. [Read more.](#)

## **VA: An anatomy of two Eastern Shore wetlands restoration projects**

By Stefanie Jackson – Eastern Shore Post – June 20, 2023

Since Virginia was first colonized in the 1600s, it has lost around 45% to 50% of its wetlands, and nonprofits like The Nature Conservancy are striving to save what remains. Since 1995, the conservancy, a global nonprofit organization with land holdings on the Eastern Shore, has preserved and restored thousands of acres of wetlands in Virginia through the Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund. On the Eastern Shore, the conservancy maintains two restored wetlands sites: Level Ponds, near Parksley in Accomack County, and the new Custis site on U.S. Route 13 near Exmore in Northampton County. Level Ponds, on the bayside, is approximately 12 years old and was created to offset the impact to non-tidal wetlands from the construction of Walmart in Onley. The Custis site, on the seaside, was built to offset development in the Atlantic Ocean Basin, which includes parts of Virginia Beach in addition to Accomack and Northampton counties. [Read more.](#)

## **WI: New Dane County wetland mitigation project first of its kind in Wisconsin**

HNG News – June 26, 2023

Two state agencies and a federal agency have joined forces to introduce a first of its kind wetland mitigation project to Wisconsin, Dane County Executive Joe Parisi announced on June 21. The Dane County Land and Water Resources Department is working with Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources and the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service on developing Wisconsin's first Agricultural Wetland Mitigation Bank. [Read more.](#)

# Members' Only Webinar Series

## Modeling Resilience in Coastal Wetlands

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. EDT

### Presenters:



**Kelly Van Baalen**  
Climate Central



**Kyle Runion**  
The University of Texas  
Marine Science Institute

[Register](#)

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### NAWM 40TH Anniversary Trivia Contest

In celebration of NAWM's 40th Anniversary, we will ask a NAWM trivia question at the beginning of each members' webinar.

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# Tribal Wetland Programs Webinars

## Education and Outreach Efforts to Support Tribal Wetland Programs

Thursday, September 21, 2023

3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

[Register](#)

## Approaches to Sustainable Funding for Tribal Wetland Programs

Thursday, November 2, 2023

3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT

[Register](#)

# Recorded Tribal Wetland Programs Webinars

## Geospatial Mapping Tools and Techniques for Tribal Wetland Programs

Held Thursday, June 15, 2023

[Recording Available Soon](#)

Presenters:



**Mike Knudson**  
Saint Mary's University  
of Minnesota -  
GeoSpatial Services



**Ferin Davis Anderson**  
Shakopee Mdewakanton  
Sioux Community



**Dustin Carl, Chugach**  
Regional Resources  
Commission

[View all Recorded Tribal Wetland Programs Webinars](#)

# Recorded Members' Only Webinar Series

## National Wetland Condition Assessment: The Second Collaborative Survey of Wetlands in the United States

Held Thursday, June 8, 2023

Presenter:



**Gregg Serenbetz**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,  
Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds

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# Recorded Hot Topics Webinars

## Implications of the Supreme Court's Sackett Decision for Protection of Wetlands and Waters

Held Wednesday, June 14, 2023

### Presenters:

- **Jon Devine**, Director, Federal Water Policy Natural Resources Defense Council
- **Donna Downing**, Senior Legal Policy Advisor, National Association of Wetland Managers
- **Timothy Hoffman**, Senior Counsel, New York State Attorney General
- **Pat Parenteau**, Professor of Law Emeritus, Vermont Law School

[View Recording](#)

## Celebrating the Endangered Species Act at 50 and the Importance of Conserving Wetlands and Wetland-dependent Species

Held Wednesday, May 17, 2023

### Presenters:

- **Martha Balis-Larsen**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- **Elizabeth Holmes Gaar**, NOAA
- **Kara Moore-O'Leary**, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- **Aimee Weldon**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[Recording Available Soon](#)

# Wetland Science News

## **Multi-sensor fusion models enable fast and accurate detection of surface water quality**

By Zhang Nannan – PHYS.org – July 14, 2023

A research team at the Hefei Institutes of Physical Science of the Chinese Academy of Sciences has proposed a new strategy for rapid and accurate detection of surface water quality by fusing the data from the ultraviolet-visible spectra (UV-Vis) and near-infrared (NIR) spectra of surface water. The study, published in *Spectrochimica Acta Part A: Molecular and Biomolecular Spectroscopy*, aims to enable real-time monitoring of water quality parameters, which is crucial for the prevention and control of surface water pollution. [Read more.](#)

## **Like humans, coral reefs have a healing process. Researchers are working to understand it**

By David Pulgar and Joseph McClain – PHYS.org – July 14, 2023

Coral reefs—the foundation of many aquatic ecosystems—are among the ocean’s most vulnerable inhabitants. While natural processes, like animal predation and storms, frequently damage corals, human impact, like ship collisions and global warming, can destabilize these environments beyond their ability to recover. [Read more.](#)

## **Study crowns widgeon grass as Chesapeake’s new top seagrass species**

By Karl Blankenship – Bay Journal – July 6, 2023

The Chesapeake Bay has a new seagrass champion, but it’s not necessarily good news for the Bay. The Bay supports roughly 24 underwater grass species but, for decades, eelgrass dominated. The tall, deeply rooted plants formed vast meadows that accounted for two-fifths of the Bay’s total underwater grass acreage as recently as the late 1990s. But the Chesapeake is near the southern edge of its range, and eelgrass has since suffered a series of heat-related die-offs. By 2019, it accounted for just 19% of the Bay’s grass coverage, according to a new study. And a different grass reigns instead. [Read more.](#)

## **NAWM’S Wetlands One-Stop Mapping**

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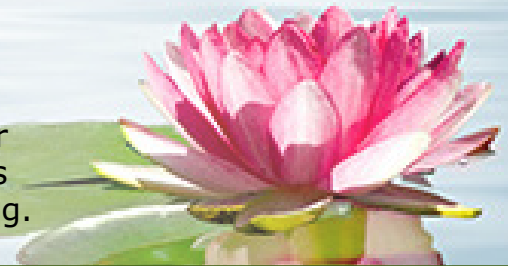
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Our fourth training series - [USDA-NRCS Conservation Planners Training Webinar](#) - is available to view and build knowledge. The quiz/certificate options for this series will be added at a later date.





**Hang on to some good views!**

**NAWM is updating their website.**

**Stayed tuned.....**

## **NATURAL FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS ALLIANCE (NFFA)**

The Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA) is an affiliation of nonprofit and private organizations, government agencies and individuals dedicated to the protection and preservation of the natural functions of floodplains, including coastal areas. As a founding member of the NFFA, the National Association of Wetland Managers hosted meetings, workshops, and webinars for the NFFA from 2011-2022. At the end of 2022, NAWM handed over coordination responsibilities for the NFFA to [American Rivers](#).

On February 16th, 2023, leaders from NAWM and American Rivers held a webinar to update and renew the affiliation, share findings from the NFFA & Wetland Mapping Consortium report, National Action Plan to Protect and Restore Floodplains, and share information on future NFFA activities. American Rivers will be hosting a new NFFA webpage on their website soon. In the meantime, we have an [updated webpage](#) that includes the current information.





# Resources and Publications

## Report on Nature Based Solutions and Coastal Adaptation Released

Center for Climate Adaptation Science & Solutions – June 16, 2023

The University of Arizona’s Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions, in collaboration with the [Aspen Global Change Institute](#), has just published a report titled [Understanding the Effectiveness of Coastal Nature-based Solutions: Practitioner-based Learning](#). This assessment involved interviewing more than 60 coastal adaptation practitioners from the US and Pacific Islands to document their experience in implementing nature-based solutions to protect coastal areas against sea level rise and coastal storms. [Read more](#).

## Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission Releases Waterfront Planning Toolkit

Bay Lake – 2023

The Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission has launched the [Waterfront Planning Toolkit](#), a Wisconsin Coastal Management Program funded project designed to provide assistance and resources to communities interested in planning for the unique obstacles and opportunities that come with development on the waterfront. It strives to articulate the value of waterfront plans and help communities shape the long-term resilience and sustainability of their waterfronts by establishing a set of tools and best practices to promote successful planning efforts.

## Funding Opportunities

### [Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant Program \(GLEJGP\)](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;

Apply by August 11, 2023; Funding No.: EPA-I-R5-GL2023-GLEJGP

### [CZM Habitat Protection and Restoration Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\) Competition](#)

NOAA; Apply by August 14, 2023; Funding No.: NOAA-NOS-OCM-2023-2008054

### [Inflation Reduction Act: NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge](#)

NOAA; Apply by August 21, 2023; Funding No.: NOAA-NOS-OCM-2023-2008068

# Potpourri

## Request for Proposals on Including Indigenous Ways of Knowing in Decision-Making for Ocean and Coastal Management

The Lenfest Ocean Program [released an RFP](#) for projects that elevate Indigenous Peoples in sharing their traditions, culture, knowledge, and wisdom to improve evidence-based decision-making for the management, conservation, and restoration of coastal marine species, habitats, and ecosystems. The RFP is intended to support identification, analysis, and/or communication of Indigenous Knowledge and wisdom (where it is culturally appropriate); and engagement approaches that facilitate the inclusion of this knowledge into ocean and coastal management decisions. The deadline to apply is **Monday, October 16, 2023**.

## House Republicans come for EPA agents' guns

By Lamar Johnson and Kevin Bogardus – E&E News – July 7, 2023

House Republicans are once again angling to get rid of EPA enforcement officers' firearms. Rep. Clay Higgins (R-La.) has offered legislation — [H.R. 4416](#), the "No Funds for Armed Regulators Act of 2023" — that would eliminate funding for armed law enforcement agents at the federal government's premier environmental agency as well as the IRS and Department of Labor. The bill represents the GOP's latest attempt to strip EPA of its guns, a recurring target for the party's lawmakers that stretches back across administrations. [Read more.](#)

## Disaster towns: Victims of environmental catastrophes — and Americans' short attention spans

By Mike Lee – E&E News – July 10, 2023

A few weeks after a Norfolk Southern train derailed in this small town, the signs started going up in yards and on storefronts. East Palestine, where spilled chemicals and clouds of black smoke had forced thousands from their homes, would be "the greatest comeback story in American history," the signs declared. Norfolk Southern pledged to "make it right in East Palestine." EPA Administrator Michael Regan promised to lay down the law. Senators from Ohio and neighboring Pennsylvania introduced a bill to make freight trains safer. The Department of Transportation pledged to tighten regulations on the rail industry. [Read more.](#)



Photo Credit: Tom Douglas, Bayou Preservation Association

## Visit the NAWM Website

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## NAWM Jobs Boards

### [Wetland Scientist](#)

Maine; Apply by July 31, 2023

### [Team Leader, Wetland/ Stream Mitigation and Monitoring \(Administrator IV\)](#)

Baltimore, MD; Apply by August 7, 2023

### [Water Quality Manager \(Natural Resource Protection and Sustainability Manager 2\)](#)

Portland, OR; Apply by July 26, 2023

[Visit the NAWM Job Board](#)



Photo Credit: Bridgett Costanzo, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## 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](#).



Photo Credit: Laura Burchill, NAWM

## New Webinar in the Natural Hazard Mitigation training project:



This [webinar](#) is part of a training program focused on building cross-governmental relationships and awareness of what is going on in different departments, agencies, and at various levels of government in terms of hazard mitigation and water resource protection planning and program development. It is a partnership of the [National Association of Wetland Managers](#) (NAWM) and the [Association of State Floodplain Managers](#) (ASFPM) with the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA), funded by an EPA cooperative agreement.

To view the January 17th introductory webinar, [visit our website here](#).

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Funding

U.S. EPA announced the availability of \$30 million for restoration projects that advance environmental justice in underserved and overburdened communities across the Great Lakes. This RFA expects to provide funding for two types of applications: applications that aim to provide funding for projects in a particular region of the Great Lakes Basin, and applications that aim to provide funding for projects across the entire Great Lakes Basin.

For information and responses to questions please see the EPA [website](#).

If you have general and technical questions that have not yet been addressed, please contact Cara Walsh ([glri-rfa@epa.gov](mailto:glri-rfa@epa.gov)).

Applications will be accepted through **August 11, 2023**.

Sign up for the [Great Lakes News email list](#) to receive information about funding opportunities to support Great Lakes environmental work and updates about Great Lakes environmental projects.

# Calendar of Events

## WEBINARS

### July 2023

July 19, 2023 11:00 a.m. EDT	Society for Ecological Restoration: <a href="#">Why and How Implementing Rights of Wetlands Can Enhance Restoration and More</a>
July 26, 2023 11:00 a.m. EDT	Society for Ecological Restoration: <a href="#">McCoy's Creek and Alligator Creek Stream Restoration Projects</a>
July 26, 2023 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT	National Association of Wetland Managers: <a href="#">Members' Webinar Series: Modeling Resilience in Coastal Wetlands</a>
July 28, 2023 11:30 a.m. EDT	Wisconsin Wetlands Association Wetland Coffee Break: <a href="#">Starhead Topminnow: The rare star of the backwaters of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway</a>

### September 2023

September 22, 2023 11:30 a.m. EDT	Wisconsin Wetlands Association Wetland Coffee Break: <a href="#">Getting the most out of chemical control of wetland invasive plants with herbicide-additive systems</a>
September 21, 2023 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT	National Association of Wetland Managers: Tribal Wetland Programs Webinar: <a href="#">Education and Outreach Efforts to Support Tribal Wetland Programs</a>
October 13, 2023 11:30 a.m. EDT	Wisconsin Wetlands Association Wetland Coffee Break: <a href="#">Wetland bryophytes</a>

### November 2023

November 2, 2023 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT	National Association of Wetland Managers Tribal Wetland Programs Webinar: <a href="#">Approaches to Sustainable Funding for Tribal Wetland Programs</a>
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Photo Credit: Andy Robertson, St. Mary's University of Minnesota, GeoSpatial Services

# CONFERENCES/EVENTS

## July 2023

July 22, 2023  
Avalon, NJ

Wetlands Institute: [Summer Celebration](#)

July 24-27, 2023  
Seattle, WA

National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA) [45th Annual Meeting](#)

## August 2023

August 6-11, 2023  
Portland, OR

[2023 ESA Annual Meeting: For All Ecologist](#)

August 14-17, 2023  
Syracuse, NY & Online

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals: [Tribal Lands and Environment Forum](#)

## September 2023

September 12-15, 2023  
Kalamazoo, MI

Michigan Wetlands Association Conference: [Visions for the Future](#)

September 13, 2023  
New Gloucester, ME

Maine Association of Wetland Scientists: [2023 Natural Resources Workshop](#)

September 16, 2023  
Fredericksburg, VA

Friends of the Rappahannock: [Riverfest](#)

September 17-24, 2023  
New York, NY

Climate Group: [Climate Week NYC](#)

September 26-28, 2023  
Bonn, Germany

Integrated Carbon Observation System: [5th European Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change, Riverine and Coastal Wetlands](#)

## October 2023

October 11-13, 2023  
Lake Arrowhead, CA

California Lake Management Society (CALMS) [38th Annual Conference](#)

October 12-13, 2023  
Cleveland, OH

Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition: [Great Lakes Conference](#)

October 15-18, 2023  
Corpus Christi, TX

[Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 77th Annual Conference](#)

October 16-19, 2023  
Lincoln, NE

North American Invasive Species Management Association 31st Annual Conference: [Foundations for Success](#)

October 19-22, 2023  
Cape May, NJ

New Jersey Audubon: [Cape May Fall Festival: So. Many. Birds.](#)

<b>October 2023</b>	
October 23-28, 2023 Santa Marta, Columbia	17th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Ecological Economics: <a href="#">Economies for life: Alliances for practicing ecological economics in a world in transition</a>
October 24-25, 2023 Galveston, TX	Restore America's Estuaries: <a href="#">2023 Living Shorelines Workshop</a>
October 27, 2023 Las Vegas, NV	Clark County Wetlands Park: <a href="#">Haunt the Wetlands</a>
<b>November 2023</b>	
November 2, 2023 Virtual	Natural Areas Association: <a href="#">2023 Natural Areas Virtual Conference</a>
November 2-4, 2023 La Crosse, WI	<a href="#">2023 Midwest Environmental Education Conference</a>
November 6-8, 2023 Cary, NC	American Water Resources Association: <a href="#">2023 Annual Water Resources Conference</a>
November 6-9, 2023 Minneapolis, MN	NEIWPC: <a href="#">National Nonpoint Source Workshop</a>
November 14-16, 2023 Tucson, AZ	US Water Alliance: <a href="#">One Water Summit</a>
<b>February 2024</b>	
February 20-22, 2024 Greenbay, WI	Wisconsin Wetlands Association: <a href="#">Wetland Science Conference</a>
<b>May 2024</b>	
May 13-16, 2024 Grand Rapids, MI	River Network: <a href="#">River Rally</a>
May 20-24, 2024 Windsor, Ontario, Canada	<a href="#">IAGLR 67th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research</a>
<b>June 2024</b>	
June 18-21, 2024 Shepherdstown, WV	National Association of Wetland Managers: <a href="#">2024 Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting</a>
<b>November 2024</b>	
November 12-14, 2024 Duluth, MN	<a href="#">Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference</a>

# TRAINING COURSES

## July 2023

July 27-28, 2023 Atlanta, GA - Piedmont	Duncan & Duncan West Course: <a href="#">Hydrophytic Vegetation</a> <i>NAWM members receive a 15% Discount.</i>
July 31-August 4, 2023 Logan, UT	Utah State University Course: <a href="#">Sediment Transport in Stream Assessment and Design</a>

## August 2023

August 2-3, 2023 Oakland County, MI	Michigan Wetlands Association Training: <a href="#">General Wetland Plant Identification</a>
August 6-12, 2023 Steuben, ME	Eagle Hill Institute Course: <a href="#">Aquatic Flowering Plants, with a Review of the Potamogetonaceae</a> <i>NAWM Members receive a 20% Discount.</i>
August 8, 2023 Lowell, MI	Michigan Wetlands Association Training: <a href="#">Freshwater Mussel Identification</a>
August 9-10 2023 Online	Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Course: <a href="#">Vegetation Identification for Wetland Delineation: South</a>
August 12 and 19, 2023 Portsmouth, NH	University of New Hampshire Workshop: <a href="#">Summer Plant Identification for Wetland Boundary Determination</a>
August 13-19, 2023 Steuben, ME	Eagle Hill Institute Course: <a href="#">EPT Taxa: Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera</a> <i>NAWM Members receive a 20% Discount.</i>
August 21-24, 2023 Aliquippa, PA	Swamp School: <a href="#">Wetland Delineation Training</a> <i>NAWM members receive a 10% Discount.</i>
August 21-25, 2023 Fergus Falls, MN	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Course: <a href="#">Wetland Assessment, Restoration and Management</a>
August 22-23, 2023 Logan, UT	Utah State University Course: <a href="#">Basic Wetland Delineation</a>
August 23, 2023 Marysville, WA	Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: <a href="#">Beginners Plant ID for Wetland Delineation</a>
August 23-24, 2023 Lansing, MI	Michigan Wetlands Association Training: <a href="#">Wetland Shrub Identification</a>
August 24-25, 2023 Logan, UT	Utah State University Course: <a href="#">Field Botany: Wetland and riparian plants</a>



<b>September 2023</b>	
September 11-12, 2023 San Diego, CA	Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: <a href="#">Riparian Habitat Restoration for the Arid Southwest</a>
September 11, 13 & 15, 2023 Online	Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Course: <a href="#">Hydric Soils</a>
September 11-15, 2023 St. Michaels, MD	Environmental Concern Course: <a href="#">Basic Wetland Delineation</a>
September 21-22, 2023 Charleston, SC	Duncan & Duncan West Course: <a href="#">Identification of Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes</a> <i>NAWM members receive a 15% Discount.</i>
September 26-28, 2023 Whitefish, MT	Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: <a href="#">Wetland Delineation with Emphasis on Soils and Hydrology</a>
September 28-29, 2023 Online	Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Course: <a href="#">Introduction to Wetland Identification</a>
<b>October 2023</b>	
October 2-5, 2023 Raleigh, NC	Swamp School: <a href="#">Wetland Delineation Training</a> <i>NAWM members receive a 10% Discount.</i>
October 9-10, 2023 St. Michaels, MD	Environmental Concern Course: <a href="#">Evaluating Hydric Soils in the Field</a>
October 24, 2023 Padilla Bay Reserve Mt. Vernon, WA	Washington State Departments of Ecology Training: <a href="#">Using Field Indicators for Hydric Soils</a>
October 25-27, 2023 Online	Northwest Environmental Training Center Course: <a href="#">Wetlands: Science and Regulatory Management</a>
<b>November 2023</b>	
November 6-7, 2023 Online	Northwest Environmental Training Center Course: <a href="#">Habitat Site Restoration</a>
November 6-9, 2023 Charleston, SC	Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: <a href="#">Federal Wetland/Waters Regulatory Policy</a>
November 16, 2023 Bellingham, WA	Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: <a href="#">Demystifying Wetland and In-Water Permitting in Washington State</a>

## December 2023

December 2 and 16, 2023 Portsmouth, NH	University of New Hampshire Workshop: <a href="#">Winter Plant Identification for Wetland Boundary Determination</a>
December 4-7, 2023 San Diego, CA	Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: <a href="#">Federal Wetland/Waters Regulatory Policy</a>
December 6-8, 2023 St. Michaels, MD	Environmental Concern Course: <a href="#">Winter Woody Plant ID</a>
December 20-21, 2023 Tampa, FL	Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Course: <a href="#">Wetland Delineation Training</a>
December 18-21, 2023 Tampa, FL	Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Course: <a href="#">Regional Supplement Wetland Delineation Training</a>



Photo Credit: Portia Osborne, NAWM



Photo Credit: Andy Robertson,  
St. Mary's University of Minnesota,  
GeoSpatial Services

# ***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](mailto:news@nawm.org).

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