



SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

IMPACT REPORT



2021 SCWF Photo Contest, "Scenes of SC" winner: Hunting Island, by Teresa Kopec.

Thank you for your voice and support - you are critical to our success! The generosity of our donors, sponsors, and grant funders allows our organization to support wildlife, and to protect our irreplaceable ecosystems so that they may be enjoyed for generations to come. Each of our donors provides critical funds to protect our state's beautiful landscapes, which provide extraordinary habitat for a great diversity of wildlife.

"When I was growing up, my father, Harry Hampton, was passionately focused on the need to conserve our state's wildlife at a time when hunters had no bag limits. It made him very angry that some hunters were so greedy that they gave no thought to the fact they were depleting our precious wildlife. He would be so very grateful to know that the Federation he helped to found is continuing, through the tireless efforts and dedication of its staff, to conserve our irreplaceable wildlife."

- Harriott Hampton Faucette

The mission of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation (SCWF) is to conserve and restore South Carolina's wildlife and wildlife habitat through education and advocacy.

"There are some who can live without wild things and some who cannot."

- Aldo Leopold

SCWF is for those who cannot imagine our state without the wild creatures and the wild places that inspire our mission. Our C.A.R.E model (Conserve, Advocate, Restore, Educate) ensures that we keep South Carolina wild for future generations.

CONSERVE

SCWF was founded in 1931 by sportsmen who were concerned about our dwindling populations of White-tailed deer and Eastern wild turkey due to overhunting. Their foresight resulted in the healthy populations that we have today! SCWF's recent work has prevented bird deaths from window strikes, increased habitat for monarchs and birds to raise their young, and conserved waterfowl habitat through the sale of federal duck stamps.



CollidEscape window film installed at Richland Library Ballentine prevents bird strikes, and it is transparent from indoors! Image courtesy of Richland Library.

Plishing Challenge!

This new effort to conserve and enjoy SC's aquatic resources allows new or experienced anglers an opportunity to help keep our waterways clean and litter-free, use best fishing practices such as catch and release, and connect with friends and family in our beautiful freshwater and saltwater habitats. This virtual event runs from **June 1 to August 31, 2022** with prizes awarded to top participants. Go to scwf.org/plishing to register!

CollidEscape Saves Birds

Nearly 1 billion birds die from window strikes in the U.S. annually. Birds see trees in the reflection, causing them to strike windows at high speeds. Richland Library Ballentine had a significant number of bird strikes and reached out to SCWF for help. Through a grant from the Richland County Conservation Commission, and in partnership with Richland County Public Library, SCWF had CollidEscape film installed on the windows, which has eliminated bird strikes without compromising the view from indoors. Not one single bird has struck their windows since the installation in February 2022! The library now serves as a successful demonstration site for other building owners throughout SC to replicate.

Auctions, Conservation Dinners, & 90th Anniversary

In 2021, SCWF celebrated our 90th anniversary with friends old and new at a festive oyster roast in Columbia, held a successful Wild Summer Nights online auction, and two deliciously informative Forks, Knives, & Spoonbills conservation dinners.

Help support our wildlife and habitat education, restoration, and conservation programs through these 2022 events:

Wild Summer Nights Online Auction: July 14-17
Bid on outdoor adventures, gear, art, travel, and more!

Forks, Knives, & Spoonbills Conservation Dinners:
Experience chef-created menus while learning how you can help wildlife.

Rock Hill: May 12 * Aiken: June 8
Greenville: June 16 * Columbia: June 24

scwf.org/events



Embellished marsh print by Annie Howell

ADVOCATE

The South Carolina Wildlife Federation works with state legislators to protect precious wildlife habitat, and to ensure that sound scientific data is used to make decisions that affect wildlife. SCWF also works closely with the National Wildlife Federation to engage our supporters on issues of national significance.

2021-2022 SCWF Legislative Priorities

The *SC Conservation Enhancement Act* would restore a dedicated stream of funding derived from a portion of the real estate deed recording fee collected by the State to the SC Conservation Bank to increase its role in protecting and preserving threatened lands through grants to qualified recipients for the fee simple purchase of properties and conservation easements.



SCWF works at the state and federal levels to protect habitat across the state, including this breathtaking wilderness at Lake Jocassee. Photo by Ellen Haynes.

The *County Green Space Sales Tax Act* would allow county governments, upon a successful county-wide referendum, to impose up to a 1% sales and use tax specifically earmarked for the acquisition of land and green spaces within the county. This would give counties, the new front line in land conservation, a significant tool to protect and preserve threatened lands from ever-increasing development pressures.

SCWF supports new regulations proposed by SCDNR and approved by the General Assembly that would:

- restrict the possession, ownership, and sale of Tegu lizards, as well as regulations which would identify and regulate other non-native and invasive species
- ban dogs from selected barrier islands, either completely or during shorebird nesting and migration season, where threatened and endangered bird species nest and feed during migration
- allow for Sunday hunting of specific species on specific Wildlife Management Areas or other properties owned or managed by the state. (H. 4616, the bill that directs SCDNR to promulgate these Sunday hunting regulations is still pending in the legislature)

Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 3742 & S. 2372)

These bipartisan bills will dedicate \$1.397 billion annually toward voluntary conservation efforts for wildlife at risk, and will prevent species from requiring the emergency room measures of the Endangered Species Act. Funding would come from fees and penalties collected from environmental violations that aren't already targeted to existing programs. In South Carolina, this bill will send more than \$14 million annually to the SC Department of Natural Resources to implement habitat restoration, wildlife management, research, and projects that support outdoor recreation. It would specifically protect habitat for important wildlife species such as the diamondback terrapin, American kestrel, painted bunting, black bear, coral snake, and American eels.



Black bear would be better protected in South Carolina with passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. Photo by Ann Timberlake.

"America's wildlife are in crisis and this groundbreaking legislation tackles the problem at the magnitude that is necessary. We thank Senator Lindsey Graham for co-sponsoring this fiscally responsible effort to help at-risk wildlife with collaborative, voluntary measures across every state, territory, and Tribal nation." - Sara Green, SCWF Executive Director

RESTORE

SCWF helps wildlife thrive through our habitat restoration programs, which are increasingly critical as both cities and human populations expand.

2021 Restoration Projects

- **4,000+ native milkweed seed packets** distributed to enhance habitat for Monarch butterflies
- **3,972 items of litter removed** from Archer's Lake in Irmo by 30 volunteers in just 3 hours!
- **1,000 native trees** planted in Britton's Neck community
- **500+ newly Certified Wildlife Habitats** registered all over South Carolina



2021 Photo Contest, "Backyard Habitat" winner: Hummingbird on Mexican Salvia, by Charles Rucinski.



Thanks to a grant from Dominion Energy, we installed a 560-sq ft pollinator garden at Chapin Town Hall. The garden, which consists of mostly native plants, supports a large number of birds, pollinators, and reptiles in its first year!

Visit scwf.org/habitat to learn how to create a certified habitat in your own backyard to support wildlife!



Why W.A.I.T.?

SCWF partners with conservation-minded businesses throughout the state who want to help wildlife thrive by enhancing their properties and providing educational opportunities for their employees and communities. In 2021, we welcomed Bridgestone and Colgate-Palmolive as our newest partners.

Pee Dee Tree Planting Project



Community members and volunteers helped plant trees in Britton's Neck.

SCWF, partner organizations, and residents joined together to plant **1,000 native trees** in rural Britton's Neck in Marion County. This community has had serious flooding issues over the last several years. As a result, schools and businesses have closed and residents have been forced to abandon homes that were in their families for generations. The trees planted help to absorb water and provide drainage to improve the quality of life for residents, combat climate change, and make the community more resilient to future flooding.

SCWF partnered with New Alpha Community Development Corporation, SC State University's Environmental Action Club, The Dogwood Alliance, and the National Wildlife Federation.

"I am seeing a disconnect from nature. People do not understand that we are a part of nature; what happens to nature affects us. Education is the key to fostering a connection to nature so that people will want to protect it."

- Reverend Leo Woodberry, New Alpha Community Development Corporation

EDUCATE

Education remains at the core of our mission. We have our greatest impact when we educate others about South Carolina's wildlife and wild spaces, which fosters an understanding and appreciation for our beautiful state.



Women's Outdoor Retreat!

SCWF was excited to bring back the popular Women's Outdoor Retreat in 2021. This weekend-long event is designed for women to experience nature and outdoor recreation with like-minded ladies in a non-competitive environment. Nature walks, kayaking, fishing, outdoor cooking, and archery were just a few of the nearly 30 classes offered. Save the date for October 7-9, 2022!

Project WILD

This year, SCWF began to offer the national Project WILD curriculum, whose mission is to provide wildlife-based conservation and environmental education that fosters responsible actions toward wildlife and related natural resources.

2021 Education Participants

- **Nearly 4,000 Education Participants** reached through online nature learning, school presentations, and social distanced education classes
- **3,000+ Free Ranger Rick Magazines** distributed to children and schools
- **211 registrants, volunteers, and staff** attended the Women's Outdoor Retreat
- **44 Scholarship Applications** received from SC college students studying environmental sciences
- **16 newly created Educational Videos and Webinars** added to our YouTube channel for a total of 47 free and accessible wildlife learning resources.



Project WILD teacher training at Riverbanks Zoo.

Academics Afield at Clemson University

This new SCWF program introduces students to hunting by pairing them with experienced student hunters, who take an active role in mentoring their peers. By participating in shooting sports and student-mentored hunts, Academics Afield demonstrates the connection between hunting and conservation. Students learn how hunters help biologists manage wildlife populations, and the ways that license fees support conservation.



Academics Afield students at Jocassee Gorges on their first hunt.

"I am confident that programs like Academics Afield will help build bridges over the disconnect from wildlife and the outdoors that our society experiences. I can personally attest that the changes I saw in the eyes of students that participated in this program gives me hope that a little more advocacy for conservation will live on in the hearts of the inaugural class of Clemson Academics Afield students."

- Emery Tumbleston, 2021 Academics Afield Intern

2021-2022 CORPORATE & FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS:

3M

Abacus Planning Group

Adams and Reese, LLP

AgSouth Farm Credit

Bass Pro Shops & Cabela's Outdoor Fund

BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina

BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC

Boeing Employees Community Fund

BorgWarner

Bridgestone

Central Carolina Community Foundation

Colgate-Palmolive

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Conservation Voters of South Carolina

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Palmetto Citizens Federal Credit Union

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Pump House Restaurant

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Richland County Conservation Commission

Riverbanks Zoo

Robinson Gray Stepp & Laffitte

Schneider Electric

Security Federal Bank

South Carolina State Credit Union

Shaw Industries

TD Bank

Wells Fargo

Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC

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2021 SCWF Photo Contest, "Carolina Critters" winner: Dolphin pod strand feeding near Kiawah, by Gayle Bryan.



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