



## Getting to Know Wetlands: Innovative Planning and Development Approaches for South Carolina's Wetland Resources



*A Seminar for Elected and Appointed City and County Officials and Staff, Developers, Planners, Realtors, Consultants*

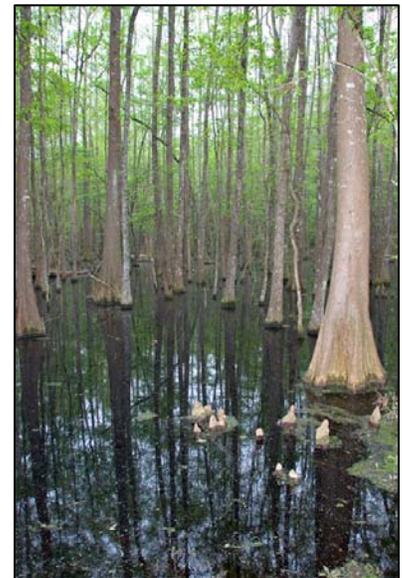
**July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Wetlands provide many free services to our communities, from flood storage to protecting water quality. They also inspire debate and confusion among developers and local governments regarding how and where land development can occur. Without understanding the link between land uses and their cumulative effects on wetlands, individual land use decisions often complicate wetlands management and land development processes and limit the important functions that wetlands provide to us free-of-charge.

This event is designed to help local elected and appointed officials, government staff, and local professionals understand why wetlands issues are important, understand the laws and rules governing them, as well as understand how well-informed decision making can yield more efficient results that adequately protect our coastal resources while continuing to meet land use and development needs.

The seminar will feature experts from regulatory agencies and those versed in the legal issues that arise over wetlands. Our speakers work hand in hand with officials, staff, and professionals and are able to address the complex processes of local government decision-making and permitting for land development. They will provide an open forum for discussing solutions and actions that ensure more efficient and comprehensive planning for wetlands and development. Participants will also have the opportunity to experience some local innovative developments that are planned around wetlands during a field trip guided by wetland and planning specialists.

This event is brought to you by the North Inlet-Winyah Bay Coastal Training Program (CTP), in partnership with Coastal Carolina University's Waccamaw Watershed Academy and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.



A draft agenda is included with this flyer. Certificates will be available at the end of the day for CEU credits. For additional details, to register online, or to learn more about the event partners, please visit the CTP website at [www.northinlet.sc.edu/training/training\\_events.htm](http://www.northinlet.sc.edu/training/training_events.htm) or contact Nicole Saladin at [nicole@belle.baruch.sc.edu](mailto:nicole@belle.baruch.sc.edu) or at 843-546-6219 ext 241. This event is free of charge.

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## DRAFT AGENDA July 17, 2008

### 8:30 Intro and Opening Remarks

**Wetlands – What are they good for? Overview of Function and Importance**  
*Dave Fuss (Coastal Carolina Univ) & Nicole Saladin (North Inlet Winyah Bay NERR)*

### 9:00 Wetlands: Reservoirs of Biodiversity

*Billy McCord (DNR)*

### 9:30 Mapping Exercise: Property Assessment/Due Diligence/Wetlands in the Local Landscape

*Dave Fuss, Steve Strickland (The EARTHWORKS Group)*

### 10:00 Break

### 10:15 The Who, What, When, Why, Where, and How of Wetlands Regulation and Permitting

*Amy Armstrong (South Carolina Environmental Law Project) – Overview of State Regulations, Legal Issues, Local Tools for Wetland Management*

### 10:45 Regulation & Permitting Deficiencies in South Carolina

*Berry Edwards (Ward Edwards) – Discuss shortcomings in federal and state regulatory schemes, suggestions for improvement*

### 11:15 Panel Discussion/Q&A

*Tommy Fennel (US Army Corps Engineers), Berry Edwards (Ward Edwards), Amy Armstrong (SCELP), Jeff Thompson (OCRM)*

### 12:00 Lunch

### 12:45 Innovative Development Approaches for Wetlands Protection: Working Within Current Regulatory Scheme

*Steve Strickland (The EARTHWORKS Group)*

### 1:30 Planning Exercise: Development Approaches for Wetlands Protection

### 2:15 Presentation of Exercise Results

### 2:30 Concluding Remarks, Evaluations, Follow Up Opportunities

### 2:45 Depart for Optional Field Trip

*Visit developments in the Litchfield area to see successful developments practices first hand that have protected and preserved wetlands as natural amenities for property owners. Carpool or provide own transportation. Field trip guided by Steve Strickland and Billy McCord.*