

It Pays to Save Wetlands



Celebrate American Wetlands Month in May – Join the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in celebrating American Wetlands Month in May. This year's theme, *It Pays to Save Wetlands*, focuses on the economic and environmental benefits of wetlands, including cleaner water, less flood damage and more seafood. EPA and its partners in government, private industry and public interest groups have planned events Nationwide highlighting the importance of protecting and preserving wetlands. To find out more about these entertaining and educational activities, see www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/awm/ or see Izaak Walton League of America's calendar of events at www.iwla.org/.

May is American Wetlands Month

During the month of May, the Nation will celebrate American Wetlands Month, focusing on the economic benefits that wetlands provide. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) joins with other federal, state and local agencies and private partners to recognize the wonderful ways that wetlands enrich the environment and society. Events are scheduled all across the country to educate and involve Americans in better understanding the importance of one of Earth's most valuable and fragile ecosystems.

Also known as marshes, swamps and bogs, wetlands are important for flood control, acting as buffers to absorb and reduce damage caused by flood waters. They also help to remove pollutants from water, cleaning streams and lakes, thereby reducing the cost of drinking water treatment. Wetlands are productive ecosystems, which support sometimes rare plant and animal habitat. They are important to the multi-billion dollar commercial fishing industry and provide a boost to recreational industry activities, such as fishing, birding, canoeing and hunting. While more than half of the nation's original wetlands have been lost or converted to other uses in the lower 48 states, EPA's goal is an over all increase in quality and quantity of wetlands nationwide. To learn more about activities for American Wetlands Month, please visit www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/awm/ and the Izaak Walton League of America's website at www.iwla.org. Information about wetlands is available at www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands.