

# Earth Day Nature Trail Information Packet

## PLEASE REMEMBER:

- \*\* Nature Trail tours are SELF-GUIDED and must be scheduled through the Coastal Resources Division.
- \*\* Nature Trail & Pavilion are open during daylight hours.  
Public restrooms available M-F 8 am - 4:30 pm only.

This Trail Information Packet has been prepared to help you make the most of your Nature Trail experience and self-guided tour. For additional copies of information contained in the packet please check with the receptionist in the building lobby. **All Nature Trail tours and pavilion uses must be scheduled through the DNR/Coastal Resources Division.** Enclosed you will find the following (certain info listed below is only available in the mailed version and will be designated by \*\*):

### General Info Sheet

This info sheet gives an overview of the Earth Day Nature Trail and offerings and contains recommendations for an educational and fun experience.

### Earth Day Nature Trail Brochure \*\*

**This brochure provides information and recommendations to help prepare the teacher to serve as the trail guide.** The brochure contains Nature Trail rules, a map of the trail, a written self-guided tour and information about Georgia's salt marshes. We encourage you to become familiar with this information before your adventure begins to ensure the most of your environmental experience. **These brochures are for adults in your group.**

### Georgia Salt Marsh Info Sheet \*\*

This blue info sheet provides a diagram of the salt marsh and illustration of the creatures which inhabit it. It also provides a "check list" of plants and animals for students to complete as they tour the Nature Trail. Info sheets are available for all Nature Trail explorers.

### Coloring Sheet \*\*

Coloring sheets depicting various marine and marsh inhabitants are available for younger children.

### Pavilion Movie Listing

A listing of environmental movies available for viewing at the Nature Trail Pavilion. Just ask the receptionist for movies and equipment box key.

### Wetlands Info Packet \*\*

A more extensive look into the world of Wetlands. Please make copies of this packet if you need additional information pieces.

### Restroom Rules

Please follow the Restroom Rules when visiting CRD and the Nature Trail.

# Earth Day Nature Trail

## DNR Coastal Resources Division Headquarters

A wonderful coastal treasure waits to be discovered at the DNR Coastal Resources Division Headquarters.....the Earth Day Nature Trail! Take a journey through the Nature Trail and Marsh Walk and discover the wonders of our natural surroundings.

**The Earth Day Nature Trail was designed to serve as a self-guided educational activity.**

An Earth Day Nature Trail Brochure has been developed by the DNR to familiarize coastal educators with the facilities and activities offered at the Trail and is available from the Coastal Resources Division Headquarters. This brochure provides information and recommendations to help prepare the teacher to serve as the trail guide.

An orientation pavilion located adjacent to the Earth Day Nature Trail entrance features benches and TV monitors for viewing videos. The center, a 28 x 44 foot open sided shelter, was designed as an outdoor classroom for students to learn about the Nature Trail and coastal Georgia. Benches may be moved to the side to provide an open area for crafts, demonstrations, or other educational activities. Use of the pavilion must be scheduled in advance by contacting the Coastal Resources Division. Video films may be checked out by the group leader for student use.

### Recommendations

To increase the number of qualified trail guides, teachers should allow each field trip assistant (i.e. teacher aids, parents, etc.) to study the Earth Day Nature Trail brochure so that the class may be divided into smaller groups. Small groups typically increase the attention span for individual students and increase the opportunity for the guide to teach or communicate with the students. Although a predesignated movement pattern may be established, it is recommended to allow small groups to go in different directions and move about as independent groups with their guide. For example, several small groups may view a video while others visit the trail. Typically allow 15-30 minutes for the nature walk and 15-30 minutes for the marsh walk. Picnic tables are available along the trail for students having lunch. Also, restrooms and drinking water are available on the second floor of the main office building and are open Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. **When visiting the restrooms, please keep in mind this is a working environment and attempt to keep noise and activity to a minimum.**

# **DNR RESTROOM RULES**

- 1. Adult supervision is requested, during ALL student restroom visits.**
- 2. Only 2 students allowed in a restroom at one time.**
- 3. Form two restroom lines (one boy, one girl) outside the front doors and continuing down the steps.**
- 4. As one student exits the restroom and building, another student may enter.**
- 5. A school official must visually check each restroom and report condition to the receptionist BEFORE leaving the facility.**
- 6. Remember this is a place of business – quiet should be maintained inside the building.**

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR  
COOPERATION IN KEEPING  
OUR RESTROOMS CLEAN.**

# Nature Trail Pavilion

## Movie Listing

The following movies are currently available for view at the DNR Earth Day Nature Trail Pavilion. Please see the receptionist for movies and equipment box key.

### The Edge of Extinction

53 Minutes

Today, many of our wild things are threatened as never before. One of the major threats facing them is ignorance -- ignorance of their basic requirements for survival, and of the effects our actions have on them. The Edge of Extinction explores the plight of endangered species in Georgia and helps us understand our role in saving them. Dramatic footage of the rarest large whale in the world, black-and-white film of the extinct ivory-billed woodpecker, fascinating pictures of sea turtles nesting at night, and spectacular underwater pictures of manatees highlight the stories of these species. They, along with brown pelicans, alligators, wood storks, and many other rare and unusual creatures, remind us that as we move into the 21st century, we are losing too many of our wild things. The Edge of Extinction offers fascinating insights into the lives of these creatures we share the earth with.

### Estuary!

15 Minutes

Estuaries are places in-between.....places where fresh water meets salt water, where tides creep in and out, and places that amazingly adaptable plants and animals call home. Come and visit and discover the surprising, secret life of the estuary. Misunderstood and long overlooked, estuaries are now regarded as being among the most productive of all wildlife resources. They are vital strands in an intricate web of life that includes eagles, thousands of migrating birds, seals, salmon, and even mankind. Yet, estuaries are at risk! Their fragile ecology is a barometer of the health of our planet. Slide underwater and soar through the skies as this award-winning film brings the life of the estuary to the screen.

### The Fate of the Right Whale -- It's Up to You

Delve into the watery world of the endangered northern right whale and learn about this beautiful creature and what we can do to help save the species.

### From Whaling to Watching -- The Northern Right Whale

20 Minutes

Of all the large whales in the world, the most endangered are the northern right whales. For millions of years, these magnificent creatures roamed the oceans. Today, fewer than 300 survive. Until the 1980's, scientists knew very little about northern right whales. From Whaling to Watching explores what has been learned since then, and looks at many of the threats facing right whales today. Right whales migrate along the east coast of the United States. They travel south from their breeding grounds in Nova Scotia, ending their journey off the Georgia/Florida coast, where the females give birth. Dramatic footage shot along their migratory route shows whales mating, feeding and swimming.

## Give Wildlife a Chance

20 Minutes

From ordinary backyard wildlife to exotic endangered species, Georgia is home to more than 900 kinds of animals and more than 3,000 kinds of plants. Through interviews with some of the country's leading naturalists, this video looks at a group of animals and plants known as nongame. Nongame makes up more than 90% of all our wildlife, and includes all animals not hunted, trapped or fished for, along with most species of plants. Through its outstanding wildlife photography, [Give Wildlife a Chance](#) explores the fate of many of these species. From fascinating pictures of eagles as they feed, nest, and raise their young, to rare footage of some of the state's most remote natural areas, [Give Wildlife a Chance](#) reminds us that the future of Georgia's wildlife is our responsibility.

## Stream of Conscience

15 Minutes

Dark clouds gather...lightning flashes...thunder cracks...the skies open, heavy rain pours, and life is nurtured. As the stormwater rushes across the land, fertilizer and pesticides from farms, dirt from construction sites, and toxic contaminants from city streets are carried to rivers and streams, polluting Georgia's waterways. Although Georgia has made great strides in cleaning up the pollution from municipal sewers and industrial discharges and controlling diffuse, non-point source pollution still remains a challenge. One way to approach this problem is to preserve our natural streambanks so trees and plants can filter out the stormwater's pollutants before they reach the streams. [Stream of Conscience](#) explores the many causes of non-point source pollution and offers natural solutions to keeping our waterways clean.

## The Struggle for Survival -- Georgia's Giant Sea Turtles

13 Minutes

[The Struggle for Survival: Georgia's Giant Sea Turtles](#) looks at some of the problems that have pushed the huge loggerhead sea turtles toward extinction. Every summer, these giant creatures leave the security of their home in the sea to come ashore to lay their eggs. As more and more coastal areas are being developed, the turtles are finding fewer places to make their nests. This program explores the conflict between people and turtles. It also documents ways scientists are searching for solutions to these problems. And, it offers concrete suggestions for individuals who want to help protect sea turtles. This video also includes rare footage of nest construction and egg laying. It also shows tiny hatchlings scrambling out of the nest and across the beach, heading for the ocean. These and other dramatic pictures help tell the story of a species in trouble.

## Underwater Oases -- Georgia's Artificial Reefs

28 Minutes

In the undersea world off the coast of Georgia, the warm waters of the Atlantic nourish an astonishing variety of life. In the crannies and crevices of offshore reefs, a complex community of marine species finds food and shelter among the sponges, featherworms, and corals that grow here. But off Georgia, natural reefs cover only about 5% of the entire ocean floor. Most of the bottom is a vast, empty expanse of sand that offers little natural habitat for fish. Since 1972, a system of manmade reefs has increased the habitat -- and improved the fishing -- off Georgia's coast by providing food and cover for many different kinds of fish. Like oases in an underwater desert, artificial reefs offer a stark contrast to the barren ocean floor that surrounds them. Through outstanding underwater photography, [Underwater Oases: Georgia's Artificial Reefs](#) looks at both manmade and natural reefs.

## Wetlands: Georgia's Vanishing Treasure

29 Minutes

At one time, 200 million acres of wetlands stretched across this country. Today, more than half of them have disappeared. In Georgia alone, we lose thousands of acres of wetlands each year. This video explores the important role wetlands play in the environment. From vast coastal salt marshes to small inland bogs, wetlands serve as buffers between developed areas and our most critical natural resource -- water. Wetlands provide a home for wildlife... serve as spawning and nursery grounds for most of the nation's \$3 billion commercial fishing industry ... filter pollutants from our water supply... and offer shelter to more than a third of our endangered species. Wetland: Georgia's Vanishing Treasure reminds us that the future of Georgia's wetlands is our responsibility.