

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles



BEANPATCH SAVANNA

STRINGBEAN SAVANNA

SHOESTRING SAVANNA

CENTRAL ISLAND

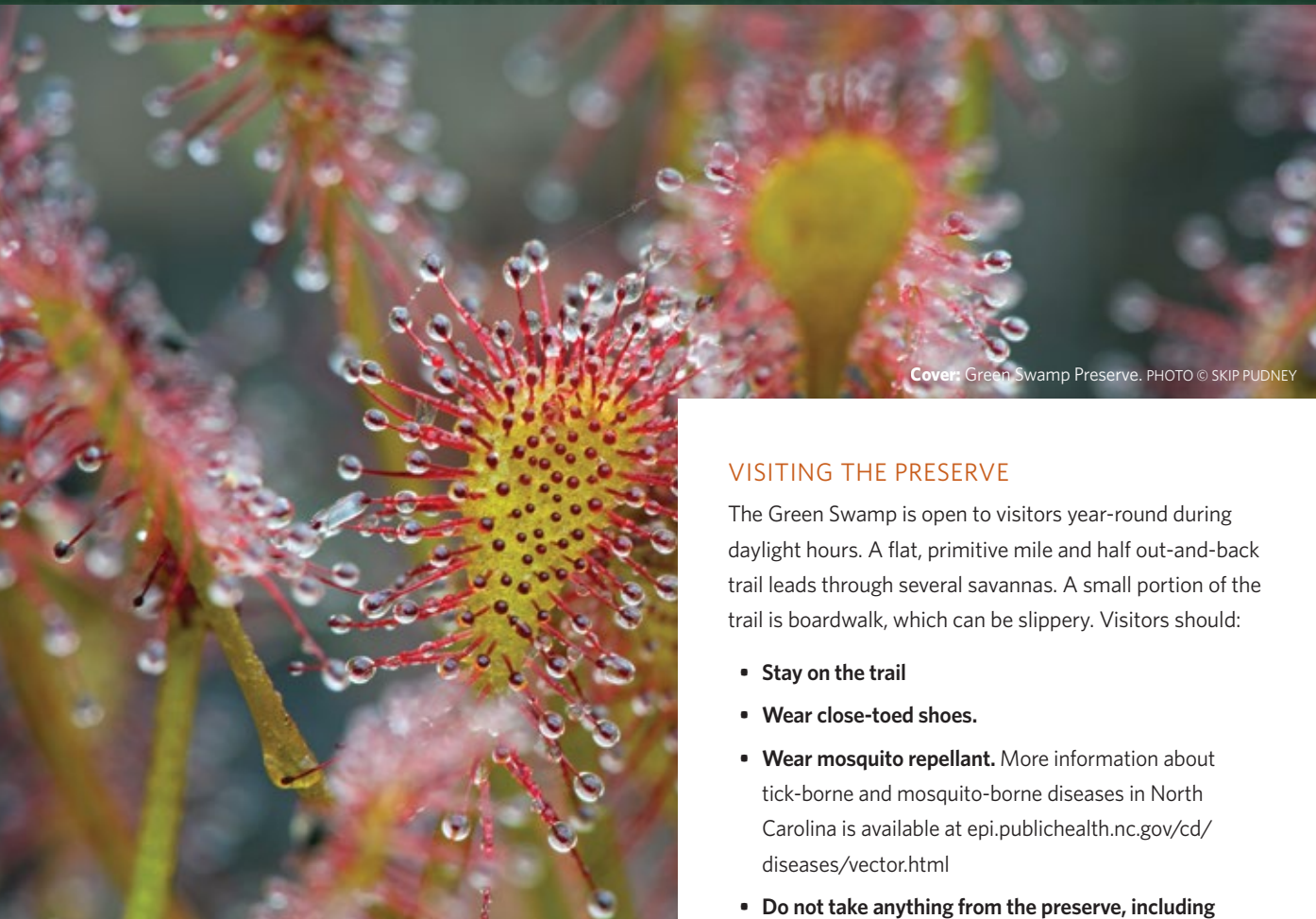
POND

boardwalk

trailhead/parking lot

211

The Green Swamp Preserve Trail is 1.3 miles one-way. The trail is flat – leading through three longleaf pine savannas – Shoestring Savanna, Stringbean Savanna and Beanpatch Savanna. Some people refer to these savannas as “islands” because you must walk through the “sea” of pocosin to get to them. Pocosin accounts for the majority of the preserve. Pocosin is a Native American word that means “swamp on a hill.” In this case, the hill is very small – just a few inches separate pocosin from the longleaf savannas. Pocosin are sometimes called shrub bogs. They are found on the coastal plain from Southeast Virginia to South Carolina with the majority of them occurring in North Carolina. These shrubby thickets are home to a number of cool species including fire-dependent pond pine.



Cover: Green Swamp Preserve. PHOTO © SKIP PUDNEY

**NORTH CAROLINA'S COASTAL PLAIN** was once covered in longleaf pine, dappled with sunlit savannas nourishing a host of amazing plants. Today you can venture back in time. A visit to The Nature Conservancy's Green Swamp Preserve gives you an idea of what the entire Coastal Plain was like hundreds of years ago.

Sundews are one of the 14 species of carnivorous plants that call the Green Swamp home. PHOTO © SKIP PUDNEY

## JOURNEY BACK IN TIME The Nature Conservancy's Green Swamp Preserve

### VISITING THE PRESERVE

The Green Swamp is open to visitors year-round during daylight hours. A flat, primitive mile and half out-and-back trail leads through several savannas. A small portion of the trail is boardwalk, which can be slippery. Visitors should:

- **Stay on the trail**
- **Wear close-toed shoes.**
- **Wear mosquito repellent.** More information about tick-borne and mosquito-borne diseases in North Carolina is available at [epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/diseases/vector.html](http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/diseases/vector.html)
- **Do not take anything from the preserve, including plants.** Poaching Venus flytraps is a felony, punishable by up to 29 months in prison and \$50 a plant. Report suspicious activity to 1-800-662-7137.
- **Consult the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission for hunting schedules.** [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org)

### GETTING THERE

From Wilmington follow US 17 south to Supply, NC. At the HWY 211 intersection turn right and follow NC 211 north for 5 miles. The parking area for the trail head will be on the right. There is also a pond and a kiosk at the trail head.

Longitude: -78.29925218290 / Latitude: 34.09321823280

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
[nature.org/greenswamp](http://nature.org/greenswamp)



The Nature Conservancy   
Protecting nature. Preserving life.



## Fire on the Land

Without fire, there would be no longleaf forest. Some plants require fire as part of their life cycle; wiregrass will only produce seed after it burns. Venus flytraps are fire adapted. Burning removes shrubs that shade the forest floor; flytraps flourish in that sunlight. Animals such as the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker are also adapted to fire.

Fire was once a regular visitor to the coastal plain. A century ago, that changed. In 1929, the American Forest Association's "Dixie Crusaders" toured the South – spreading the message that all fire was bad and natural fires should be suppressed at all cost. Fire loving plants and animals suffered. Some of them, such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, almost disappeared. The Nature Conservancy is restoring nature's balance - conducting controlled burns year round. The professionals in charge of this important task have years of experience. No fire is lit unless conditions are just right.

## A Plant Lover's Delight

The preserve is home to at least 14 different carnivorous plants, 16 species of native orchids, and lots of other wildflowers including some that are rare and endangered. Its most famous resident is the Venus flytrap, which no less an expert than Charles Darwin described as "one of the most wonderful plants in the world."

**Top:** Controlled burn in the Green Swamp. PHOTO © JEFF MARCUS/TNC

**Right:** The preserve is home to one of the largest populations of Venus flytraps – a plant that only occurs within a tiny corner of the universe roughly 75 miles around Wilmington, NC. PHOTO © SKIP PUDNEY

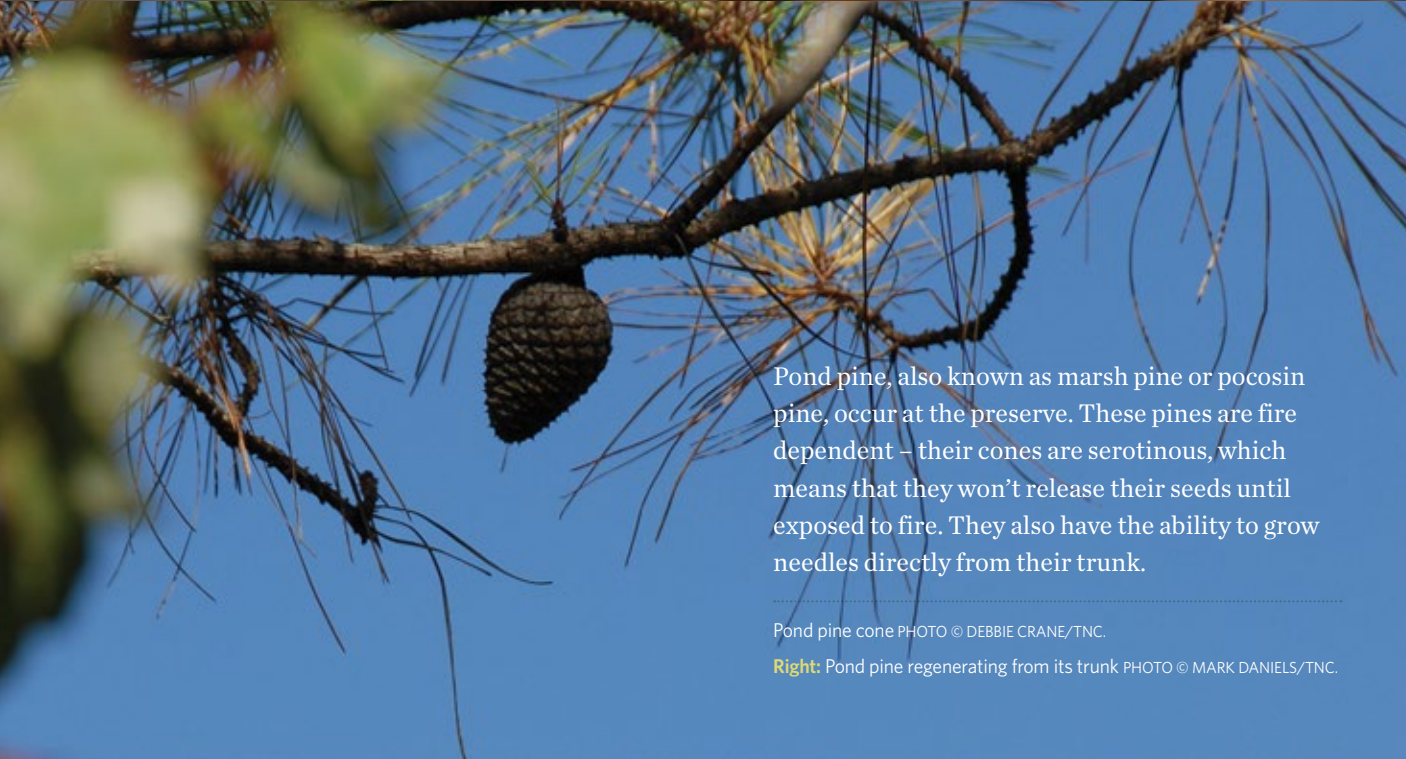


**From left:** Rose Pogonia is one of 30 species of native orchid living in the preserve.

Autumn Gentian is one of the many flowers that bloom on the preserve – providing a show from early spring through late fall.

Carolina grass-of-Parnassus is one of the rare plants found at the preserve.

PHOTOS © SKIP PUDNEY



Pond pine, also known as marsh pine or pocosin pine, occur at the preserve. These pines are fire dependent – their cones are serotinous, which means that they won't release their seeds until exposed to fire. They also have the ability to grow needles directly from their trunk.

Pond pine cone PHOTO © DEBBIE CRANE/TNC.

**Right:** Pond pine regenerating from its trunk PHOTO © MARK DANIELS/TNC.

