

NATURE

LOUISIANA

Summer 2026 • nature.org/Louisiana



Shorebirds congregate around the Gulf Coast in the southeastern United States © Mac Stone

Conservation Across Borders

We are greater than the sum of our parts in
Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi

The Nature Conservancy has been protecting the places that matter across Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama since the 1960s. Through the years, our work has always focused on the mission of conservation and has been guided by a spirit of collaboration that blends local expertise and stewardship with state, federal and global resources.

Our rivers flow from one state to the next, and our forests grow in a steady line from the banks of the Mississippi River to the mountains of Appalachia. Our Gulf waters ebb and flow from Florida's forgotten coast past the marshlands of Louisiana. We have long recognized this interconnectivity and have worked to build ties of mutual support and collaboration across this region. It is a driving force behind the region's conservation potential.



Mitch Reid, TNC Director for Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama
© Mike Dumas/TNC

More than 50 percent of all freshwater resources in North America flow through these three states, including both the work horses of the mighty Mississippi and North America's Amazon in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. We are protecting these waters. We are also expanding management across the longest remaining stretches of longleaf in the South to protect a true corridor of nature to sustain lives and livelihoods from the coast to the mountains.

Nature doesn't recognize state boundaries. At The Nature Conservancy, we believe that in order to be successful we must approach conservation in the same way. This is how we will ensure that the human and natural communities of the Deep South prosper and thrive. Thank you for your support and for joining us in our efforts.



Water surrounds a person standing on the bald cypress tree at TNC's Lake Cocodrie Preserve. © Will deGravelles/TNC; a long-lived bald cypress grows at TNC's Cypress Island Preserve. © Joe Baustian/TNC; TNC staff and supporters visit the champion bald cypress tree at Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge. © TNC

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470+

Age of the oldest known living longleaf pine tree.

Long Live Longleafs!



While longleaf pines have been known to live for more than 450 years, many of the oldest longleaf trees do not grow to be particularly large due to nutrient-poor soils. This longleaf pine, located at TNC's Lake Ramsay Preserve, is likely nearing 200 years old. © Latimore Smith

Respecting Our Elders

Some of the oldest trees in the nation can be found at The Nature Conservancy's Louisiana preserves

Last winter, some adventurous Nature Conservancy supporters traveled to Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge to view a 1,000-year-old champion tree known to be the biggest bald cypress in the United States and sixth-largest individual tree of any species east of the Rocky Mountains. The field trip's participants learned how, back in the year 2000, TNC moved quickly to acquire and protect 10,000 acres of rare old-growth forest and then sell it to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a new refuge. It is one of many examples of

“All of TNC's Louisiana preserves boast trees that are centuries old.”

Will deGravelles, TNC's director of protection in Louisiana

preserves. For example, through coring, TNC verified that a pond cypress at the Abita Creek Flatwoods Preserve is around 673 years old, says TNC Director of Land Protection Will deGravelles. “All of TNC's Louisiana preserves boast trees that are centuries old,” deGravelles adds, “from ancient white oaks at Summerfield Preserve and live oaks at Cypress Island Preserve to water tupelo at Lake Cocodrie Preserve and bald cypresses in the Atchafalaya.”

how TNC is protecting Louisiana's oldest trees, including tupelos, live oaks and white oaks that can live for centuries, and pond and bald cypress trees that can grow for more than 1,000 years.

TNC is proud to protect many of Louisiana's long-lived trees within our own system of nature

The Nature Conservancy's Persimmon Gully Preserve is home to longleaf pine trees that are more than 300 years old. The preserve is one of many places where TNC is working to carefully restore fire in the landscape to expand longleaf pine habitat around the state, allowing these amazing forests to once again grow to old age. Hundreds of years ago, longleaf pines blanketed much of the southeastern United States. However, timber operations that removed fire from the ecosystem for almost a century greatly diminished these forests. TNC's work at Persimmon Gully and at other Louisiana nature preserves is bringing them back so that longleaf can once again have a long life.