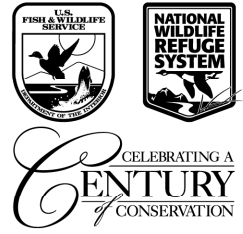


Public Information Bulletin

National Wildlife Refuge System



Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 12, 2024
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Celebrate the Refuge’s 85th Anniversary with Guided Hike

McBee, SC - Join us on March 16, 2024 as Three Sisters Essentials, SC Master Naturalists, lead a guided hike of Doe Hill Trail at the Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge. Sponsored by the SC Wildlife Federation and the Friends of Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, this guided hike commemorates 85 years of habitat restoration, wildlife management, and outdoor activities on the refuge.

Three Sisters Essentials, led by Camden, SC sisters April Rodgers, Tara Boone, and Heather Bock, is a local grassroots market and cooperative with an educational component. As Master Naturalists, April, Tara, and Heather seek to share knowledge about the natural world in a relatable way that leads to sustainable living and increased engagement with nature and the outdoors. The Three Sisters regularly lead hikes of Forty Acre Rock. We are excited to have them lead the inaugural hike of Doe Hill Trail and share their observations and insights with participants.

The Doe Hill Trail Celebrates the 85th Anniversary of the refuge’s establishment by highlighting longleaf pine restoration, endangered species recovery, and natural resources conservation. The trail is blazed in blue and has interpretive signage so the public can enjoy this unique assemblage of habitats and natural features, including wetlands such as *pocosins*, Atlantic White Cedar bogs, and canebrakes; upland longleaf pine forest and grasslands; and unique geologic formations of rock outcroppings peeking out of the hillsides. One can expect to see an array of spring wildflowers such as trailing arbutus, pixie moss, birdfoot violets, and dwarf iris, just to name a few. A highlight of the excursion will be learning about the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, which has made a remarkable recovery on the refuge, as we hike alongside towering longleaf pines where the birds nest and forage. If we are lucky, this curious bird may make an appearance so we can observe their feverish pecking that maintains resin wells around their cavities or hear their call, which sounds like a child’s squeaky toy!

Who: Free, open to the public, preregistration required.

When: Saturday, March 16, 2024 from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm

Where: Meet at the dam at the Lake Bee Recreation Area of Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge located on SC Highway 145. From McBee, travel east on US Highway 1 for two miles and head north for six miles on SC Hwy 145.

What: Be prepared for a four-mile hike on uneven terrain; there is only one hill to climb on the hike. Bring water, bug spray, sunscreen, and wear clothing appropriate for weather conditions. Feel free to bring binoculars, field guide, a hiking stick, or anything you may need to make the trek more enjoyable.

Registration Link: <https://DoeHillTrailGuidedHike.eventbrite.com>

End of Release