



INITIATIVE NEWS

This packed newsletter just goes to show that 2024 is already shaping up to be a busy year! We're seeing several major funding proposals coming due this month, new educational resources spotlighting salt marsh, and several upcoming events and learning opportunities. We are also excited to see that the recently established Lowcountry Sentinel Landscape is seeking a Coordinator, who we look forward to working with as part of SASMI's ongoing collaboration with the [Sentinel Landscapes Partnership](#).



Victoria Bock, Lowcountry Land Trust

SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

[**Battleship North Carolina Living with Water**](#). Battleship North Carolina is at the forefront of climate change. Berthed on the Cape Fear River, the Battleship is threatened by rising seas. Living with Water is a climate adaptation and resilience project that aims to preserve access to the National Historic Landmark and restore the local estuarine ecosystem. Learn more about the issue and what's being done to address it this interactive Story Map.

[**Advocates in Georgia call for better protections for salt marshes, a key carbon sink**](#).

Coastal Georgia regulators want to change a rule designed to protect the state's marshes, which serve as a buffer against storms and rising sea levels and a vital part of the coastal ecosystem. But advocates say the seemingly small change points to a need for a broader review of marsh protections.

[**Conservationists warn against bill to grant ownership of Georgia's coastal salt marshes**](#).

Coastal Georgia lawmakers are backing legislation that would make it easier for owners of marshland property under grants that date back to the 1700s to permanently establish that ownership. But opponents argue the bill would make the process so easy it would encourage false claimants to step forward and take advantage of state tax credits at the expense of the rightful owners of the environmentally fragile salt marshes — the public.

[**Expansion of Federal Land-Use Program Would Benefit Military, Nature, and Communities**](#).

Sentinel landscapes are voluntary partnerships that coordinate federal and state resources to empower landowners and managers to advance sustainable land use practices, support resilience efforts, increase public access to recreational opportunities, and foster collaboration among stakeholders. A coalition of military installations, federal and state agencies, counties, land trusts, and nongovernmental organizations recently submitted a proposal to establish a new sentinel landscape in a region that is home to multiple military bases, some of the most productive agricultural soils in the state, and more than 100 miles of coastline stretching across three estuary systems. If approved, the Northeast Florida Sentinel Landscape would be the third such site in the state.

[Coastal Kingdom: Life in the Salt Marsh](#). Coastal Kingdom is a local public television program presented by SCETV, and this episode is all about salt marsh! Venture into the salt marsh, a habitat teeming with diversity. Tony Mills takes viewers on a journey through marshes, creeks and rivers, encountering crabs, shrimp, sharks, Redfish and the resilient Spartina grass. Watch the full episode at the link above.

FUNDING REMINDERS

[NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge](#)

The deadline for this opportunity is fast approaching for those who were previously invited to submit a full proposal. The focus of this grant program is on collaborative approaches to achieving resilience in coastal regions. Proposed projects should address risk reduction, regional collaboration, and equity, and build enduring capacity for adaptation. Full proposals are due **February 13, 2024**.

[NOAA Climate Ready Workforce Initiative](#)

Sea Grant and the NOAA Climate Program Office, with support from the NOAA Office of Coastal Management, have opened the Climate Ready Workforce for Coastal States, Tribes, and Territories Initiative funding opportunity. NOAA envisions making between 10-20 awards under this competition, at amounts ranging from \$500,000-\$10 million each, to establish programs aimed at training people for and connecting them with good jobs related to climate resilience and assisting employers in developing a 21st century workforce that is climate literate, informed by climate resilience, and skilled at addressing consequent challenges. Applications are due **February 13, 2024**.

[Job Opportunity: Lowcountry Sentinel Landscape Coordinator](#)

The leadership of the South Carolina Lowcountry Sentinel Landscape Partnership seeks a highly motivated and qualified individual to become the Coordinator for this newly designated landscape. The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is a coalition of federal agencies, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations that work with willing landowners and land managers to advance sustainable land use practices around military installations and ranges. The Coordinator will have the opportunity to work with a broad array of partners to advance diverse natural resource conservation

goals, promote climate resilience, and foster the strong military-community partnerships within the project's geographic boundaries. Applications are due **February 29, 2024**.

[FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program](#)

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law appropriates billions of dollars to FEMA to promote resilient infrastructure, respond to the impacts of climate change, and equip our nation with the resources to combat its most pressing threats. It is a once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure, which will grow a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable economy by enhancing U.S. competitiveness and ensuring stronger access to economic and environmental benefits for disadvantaged communities. The funding priorities for this application cycle are: (1) Capacity and Capability Building (C&CB) Activities, (2) Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects, and (3) Individual Flood Mitigation Projects. Deadline is **February 29, 2024**.

[EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants](#)

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program provides \$5 billion in grants to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement ambitious plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. Authorized under Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act, this two-phase program provides \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants, and approximately \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants. Applications are due **April 1, 2024**.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

[REPI Program 2024 Webinar Series | Multiple dates Feb – Apr | Virtual](#)

The REPI Program and Sentinel Landscapes Partnership recently announced the 2024 Webinar Series! The REPI Program webinars will bring together installations and partners throughout the year to discuss efforts that support military missions, advance landscape conservation, and enhance military installation resilience to climate change. The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership webinars are designed to educate stakeholders and the public on projects or initiatives occurring within the sentinel landscapes community. The webinars will include topics that are useful for prospective or current

REPI projects whether the installation is involved in a sentinel landscape or not. All webinars will be from 1:00 – 2:00 PM Eastern Time, and recordings will be posted to the REPI website afterward. To view the series or for detailed webinar descriptions and connection instructions, please visit the link above.

[FEMA Hazard Mitigation Partners Workshop | February 5-8, 2024 | Virtual](#)

The Hazard Mitigation Partners Virtual Workshop will bring together over 800 federal, states, local communities, tribes and territories, as well as private sector entities, private non-profit organizations, and individuals who work in emergency management, floodplain management and hazard mitigation positions. Workshops run from Monday, February 5th through Thursday, February 8th with a different theme being covered each day.

[Forested Wetlands of the Upper Estuary: Science and Management Advances | March 5-7, 2024 | Charleston SC](#)

Registration and abstract acceptance are now open for the Forested Wetlands of the Upper Estuary conference scheduled for March 5-6, 2024 in Charleston, S.C. and an optional management workshop on March 7th. Participants will convene to discuss the state of knowledge regarding tidally-influenced forested wetlands in the Southeast and to build an understanding of information needs, including ecological services, cultural identities related to this resource, cross-system management comparisons, and decision-making frameworks. The conference is co-hosted by S.C. Sea Grant, College of Charleston, Clemson University, USGS, and the U.S. Forest Service with support from National Sea Grant and the South Carolina Aquarium. For more information, contact Brita Jessen, Interdisciplinary Research and Partnerships lead, at (339) 223-2346.

[Join the OCB mCDR Southeast Regional Node | Date TBD | Inaugural event to be virtual](#)

The Ocean Carbon Biogeochemistry Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal working group seeks those in the Southeast who would like to connect with the Southeast regional node. Building upon the [Ocean Carbon Biogeochemistry Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal September 2022 Workshop](#), the new OCB mCDR working group is gearing up and has organized into six different place-based regional nodes. These nodes will

leverage the strengths of OCB in building communities with diverse stakeholders centered around the common objective of marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) in the Southeast.

The Southeast regional node would like to connect a diverse set of stakeholders - in science, government, industry, local communities, nonprofits, and more - to discuss how mCDR affects our region, and identify priorities for developing the community, infrastructure, and science we will need to understand and implement responsible mCDR in the Southeast. If you would like to be a part of this conversation, please fill out the interest form linked above, or contact Adrienne Hoarfrost of University of Georgia at adrienne.hoarfrost@uga.edu

