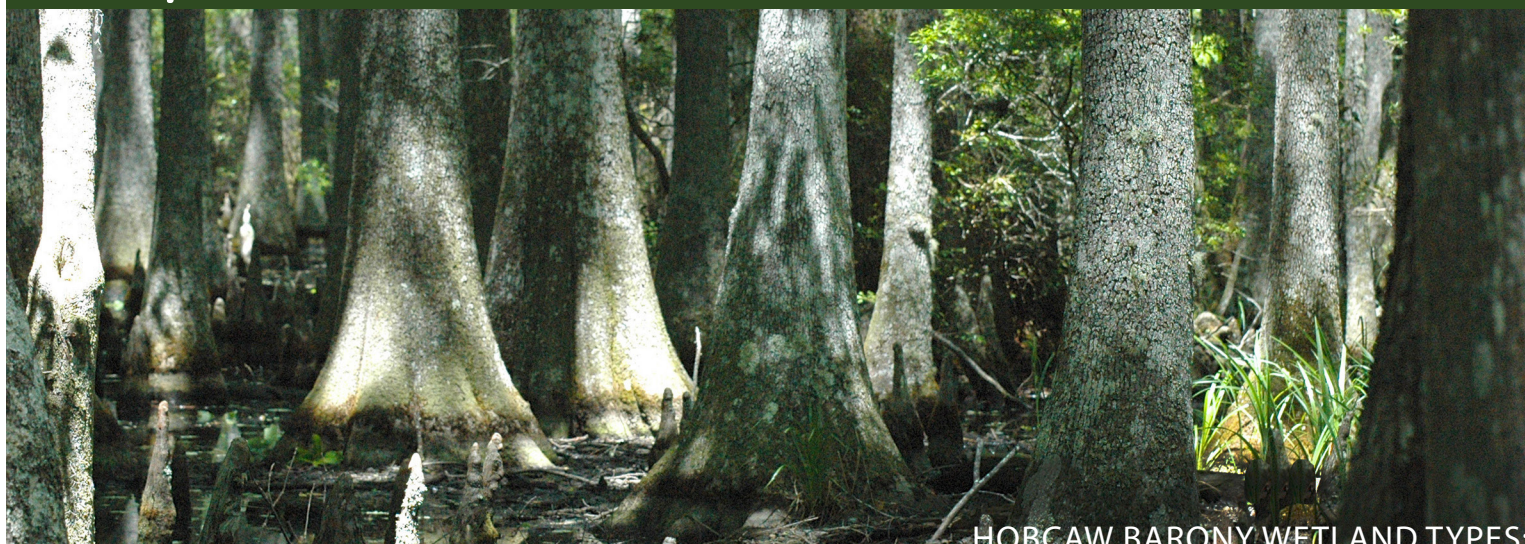


2017 WETLAND TREASURES OF THE CAROLINAS



HOBCAW BARONY WETLAND TYPES:

Salt/brackish marsh, tidal freshwater marsh, basin wetlands

Photo by William Conner

ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

This historic 16,000-acre privately protected land tract and research reserve is located near Georgetown, SC and nestled between the freshwater tidal estuary of upper Winyah Bay and the tidal salt marsh of North Inlet, with isolated basins of cypress-tupelo swamp scattered across the property. The Hobcaw Barony land tract preserves natural history and provides habitat for ecologically significant floral and faunal species in a region of coastal South Carolina highly desired for residential and commercial development.

FLORA & FAUNA

Upland longleaf pine forests are home to the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, as well as other important permanent and migratory bird species. White-tailed deer, turkeys, fox squirrels and other fascinating fauna populate mixed pine and live oak forests. Wetlands dominate the outer edges of Hobcaw Barony. The property is bordered to the south by tidal freshwater systems that hold remnants of rice culture and support waterfowl, wading bird, and fish species, including the endangered shortnose sturgeon in Winyah Bay. Hobcaw Barony is bordered to the east by tidal salt marshes and creeks inhabited by a bounty of shellfish, finfish, and bird species, along with the

occasional loggerhead sea turtle, bottlenose dolphin, bonnethead or blacktip shark, or spotted eagle ray. Isolated cypress-tupelo swamp basins can be found on the property, supporting flora such as bald cypress and pond cypress trees, several orchid species, blue flag iris, lizard's tail, pickerelweed, and fauna such as nesting bald eagles, wading birds, turkeys, bobcats, deer, snakes, and the American alligator.

THREATS

Invasive species such as Phragmites, Chinese tallow tree, and wild hogs threaten native species. Sea level rise and associated saltwater intrusion are affecting the ecology of these wetlands, and surrounding coastal development can also create impacts.

ACCESS

The property is gated, but access can be granted through regularly scheduled guided tours (see www.hobcawbarony.org) or by permission from the Baruch Foundation for special events or research and education programs. Some wetland areas have boardwalk access.

SOURCES

Belle W. Baruch Foundation–Hobcaw Barony
Clemson's Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science
USC Baruch Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences
North Inlet–Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve



American alligator—photo by William Conner



HOBCAW BARONY WETLANDS

Property Owner: Belle W. Baruch Foundation
Recognitions & Designations: Important Bird Area (National Audubon Society), National Estuarine Research Reserve (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration)

carolinawetlands.org

Carolina
Wetlands
Association