

2017 WETLAND TREASURES OF THE CAROLINAS



KANUGA BOG WETLAND TYPES:

Bog

Photos by Kanuga Conferences / Jodi Casher



KANUGA BOG

Property Owner: Kanuga Conference & Retreat Center
Recognitions & Designations: State Natural Area (NC Natural Heritage Program),
Partner site through Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

carolinawetlands.org

ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

Kanuga Bog, located in Henderson County, is a relatively small but accessible example of a Southern Appalachian Bog, the rarest of wetland habitats in the southeastern U.S. Located in the Little Mud Creek valley, the bog is managed to be a mosaic of patches of shrubs, sedges and ferns, and open sphagnum mats, believed to be the natural structure of mountain bogs, and provides habitat for the diversity of species present. This mosaic approach helps slow the spread of invasive species through the variety of vegetative zones. The bog supports several rare and endangered species. A wide variety and large volume of people passing through Kanuga make this site an ideal venue for public education about these endangered species, mountain bogs, and general wetland education. Kanuga Bog is also an excellent example of a conservation partnership; bog stewardship and management has involved collaboration between Kanuga Conferences, Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, NC Natural Heritage Program, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and other organizations.

FLORA & FAUNA

Woody vegetation patches in the habitat mosaic of Kanuga Bog are dominated by tag alder and poison

sumac. Cinnamon fern and a variety of sedges provide a transition from woody areas into open mats of sphagnum peat moss that allow other plant species to access moisture and light. Birds sighted at Kanuga Bog include great blue heron, eastern screech owl, golden-winged warbler, ruffed grouse and many migratory species stopping over on their way. Mountain dusky salamanders are common and the bog also has American beaver activity. Rare animals here include the threatened bog turtle and potentially the southern bog lemming, which is listed as vulnerable in NC.

THREATS

Situated in the heart of the conference center, the Kanuga Bog has faced threats such as the introduction and spread of invasive species, altered hydrology, and sedimentation associated with surrounding land use. Poaching and heavy beaver activity have also impacted sensitive populations on the site.

ACCESS

Guests of Kanuga Conference Center can access the bog year-round. Other interested parties can contact Kanuga's Environmental Projects Manager at mkbrown@kanuga.org to schedule a tour/volunteer experience.

SOURCES

Kanuga Conferences, Inc.
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Bog turtle—photo by Jason Merritt

