

# LEWIS OCEAN BAY Heritage Preserve

Protecting South Carolina's Natural and Cultural Heritage for over 25 years

## DIRECTIONS

To reach the preserve from Conway, go approximately 7 miles north on SC Highway 90 from its junction with US Highway 501 business, then turn east on International Road (dirt road) directly across from the Wildhorse Subdivision. Travel 1.5 miles down International Road and take a left at the first fork, which is Old Kingston Road. The preserve lies on both sides of the road.



*Yellow Fringed Orchid*

## Heritage Trust Regulations

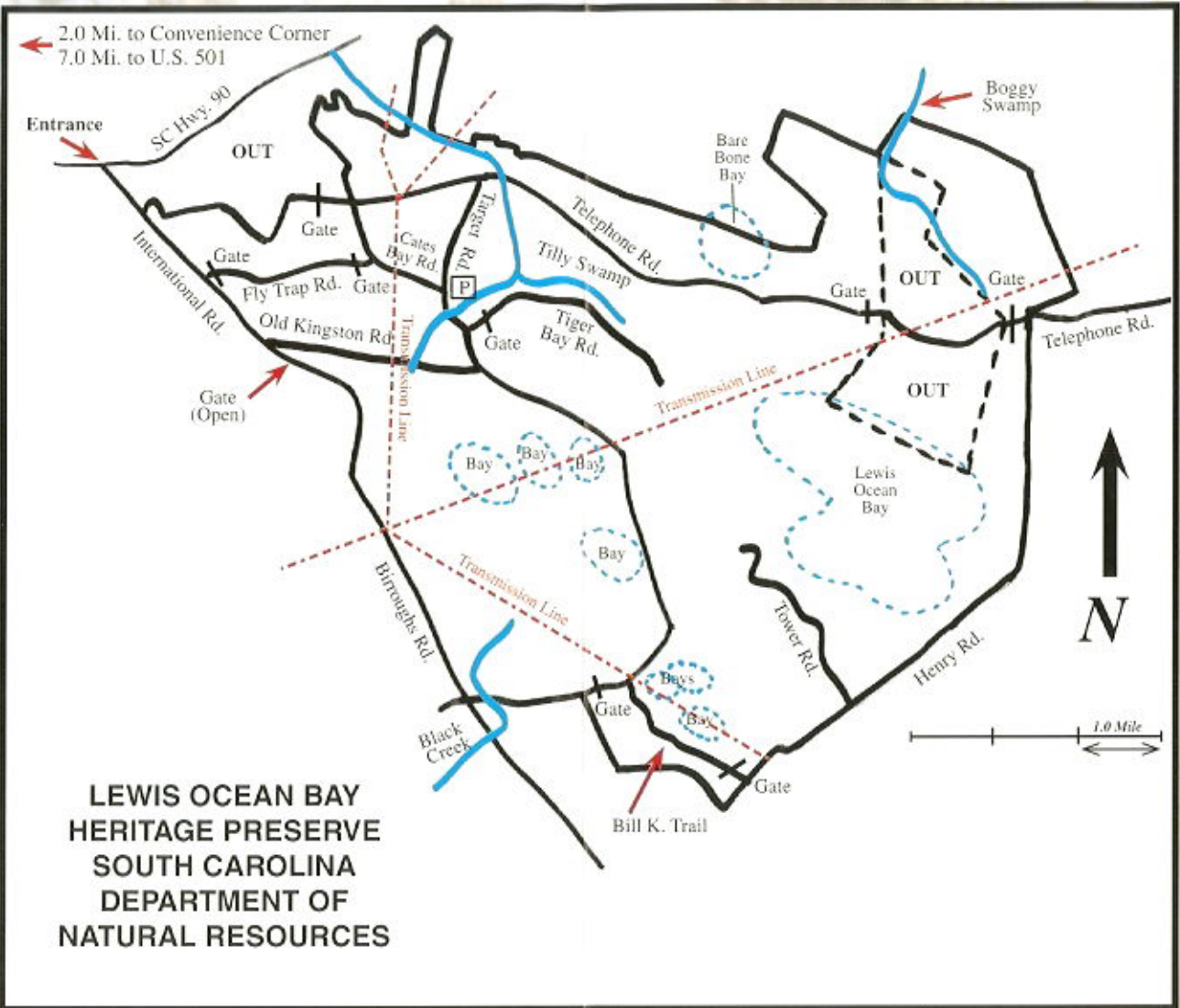
1. No person shall disturb, destroy, or take any nongame animal, plant, natural feature or archaeological, cultural, or historical material without written permission.
2. No motorized vehicles are allowed off main roads.
3. No fires, littering, or alcoholic beverages are allowed.
4. Open hours are from daylight to dusk.
5. Hunting is allowed only in designated areas in accordance with WMA rules.
6. No person shall disturb, deface or destroy any structure, sign or improvement on the property.
7. Other regulations apply. Contact the Department of Natural Resources for information.



The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender, race, color, national origin, disability, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202.

DNR

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**LEWIS OCEAN BAY  
HERITAGE PRESERVE  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

For additional information on Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve contact SCDNR at:

**SC Department of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Section  
420 Dirleton Road  
Georgetown, SC 29440  
843-546-3226**



*Pitcher plant*



S.C. Department of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Section

**Heritage Trust Program**





**L**ewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve (HP) is 9,343 acres and is located only minutes from Myrtle Beach. The preserve's Carolina bays and longleaf pine communities represent remnants of once common ecosystems in the Southeast. The preserve sustains habitat for Venus' fly traps, pitcher plants, native orchids, black bear, southern fox squirrels, red-cockaded woodpeckers, and bald eagles.

#### HISTORY

Prior to the 1900's, the land that currently comprises Lewis Ocean Bay HP was used primarily for turpentine production and low intensity logging operations. Many pine stumps on the preserve still show the remnants of boxes cut into the wood for turpentine production.



*Lewis Ocean Bay HP*

In 1937, George Buist of Charleston sold Socostee Plantation (Lewis Ocean Bay HP) to Southern Kraft Company. The company managed the tract for timber production for their Georgetown Mill. In 1951, Southern Kraft Company merged with International Paper (IP) and the land became part of IP's Woodlands Division's holdings.

During World War II, the Buist tract was used as a bombing and gunnery range for the United States Air Force based out of Myrtle Beach Air Force Base. The Target Road section was used for aerial bombing, while the land adjacent to Telephone Road was used for aerial strafing practice. Thousands of bombs were exploded on the tract and many more thousands of .50 caliber machine gun cartridges were expended in training exercises.

The Heritage Trust Program purchased Lewis Ocean Bay HP from IP in 1989 to protect over 20 Carolina Bays.

#### TRAIL SYSTEM

The preserve has several miles of trails/roads that can be used for hiking and horseback riding. Horseback riding is limited to main roads, but foot traffic is welcome on secondary roads and firebreaks.

#### NO ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES ARE ALLOWED ON HERITAGE PRESERVES.

#### Highlights of the preserve include:

##### CAROLINA BAYS

Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve contains one of the most significant group of Carolina bays in South Carolina. Carolina bays are elliptical depressions, oriented northwest/southeast along their axes. They are found in the Coastal Plain of the southern Atlantic states and range in size from a few acres to several square miles. The preserve's Carolina bays are covered with dense, almost-impenetrable thickets of fetterbush, gallberry, sweet bay and red bay.

##### LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM

The preserve contains examples of the once vast longleaf pine ecosystem. This habitat type once covered 90 million acres in the southeast, but only about 2.5 million acres remain. Former owners converted the majority of historic longleaf pine stands on Lewis Ocean Bay HP to pine plantations. Sites were cleared and often intensively site-prepared by root-raking and bedding. After site-preparation, plantations of loblolly and slash pine were established. Canopy closure has occurred on many of the plantations, making them



*Longleaf pines*

unsuitable for herbaceous plants. Prescribed and wildfires have opened the canopy in some areas and native herbaceous species such as wiregrass have begun to appear.

##### RARE SPECIES

Lewis Ocean Bay HP contains numerous rare plant and animal species of state or regional concern. Most of the species are associated with the Carolina bay community or the ecotones surrounding the bays. Rare plant species include small-flowered buckeye, one-flowered balduina, bearded grass pink, Venus' fly trap, Piedmont pinweed, Piedmont cowbane, and spoon-flower. Rare animal species found on the preserve include black bear, bald eagle, southern fox squirrel, and red-cockaded woodpecker.



*Venus' fly trap*

#### WHAT IS THE HERITAGE TRUST PROGRAM?

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' Heritage Trust Program was established in 1976 to preserve those natural features and cultural remains that are quickly disappearing as the state's population increases and land is being destroyed by development.



*Dwarf iris*

The program's purpose is to inventory, evaluate, and protect the elements considered to be the most outstanding representation of our state heritage.

The Heritage Trust Program is funded by revenue collected from the real estate documentary stamp tax. The income is deposited in the Heritage Land Trust and used to purchase and manage significant natural and cultural sites.



*Black bear*