Join the Fayetteville Public Library for the **Virtual American Wetland Series!** May is American Wetlands Month,a time when the EPA and their partner federal, state, tribal, local, non-profit and private sector organizations celebrate the vital importance of wetlands to our Nation’s ecological, economic, and social health. Wetlands help improve water quality and supply, reduce flooding and provide critical habitat for plants, fish and wildlife.

**Wetlands As Community Assets**

Tuesday, May 4**,**6:00pm - 7:00pm

**Synopsis:**This presentation by Eric Fuselier will focus on ecosystem services provided by wetlands.

**Detailed Description:**Once thought of as wastelands with no practical use or benefit to society, our understanding of the importance and value of wetlands has made significant advances in recent decades. Previously drained for farming or urban development, many municipalities are now seeing the benefits of leaving wetlands undisturbed, and even in constructing new wetlands in and around their metropolitan areas. From flood and erosion control, to improving water quality and providing habitat for wildlife, Eric Fuselier, PWS, will discuss the ecosystem services provided by wetlands, and why their preservation and restoration are important goals to consider as our region continues to grow and develop.

**Speaker Bio:**Eric Fuselier, PWS, has had a deep appreciation for wetland ecosystems since he was child when his father would take him to the Bell Slough Wildlife Management Area outside of Little Rock each year to cruise around in their jon boat. As an adult, Eric works with engineers, architects, and urban planners as a certified Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) to minimize the impacts to wetlands from the projects they design. Eric is also a Certified Wetland Botanist, and volunteers his time assisting researchers from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) with collecting field data for their research on the effects of climate change on the wetlands of the Mississippi River Alluvial Valley. Eric also serves on the Executive Board for the Society of Wetland Scientists’ South Central Chapter, a professional organization whose mission is “to promote the understanding, conservation, protection, restoration, science-based management, and sustainability of wetlands.”

**Registration:**[https://www.faylib.org/event/5040184](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/Jt8qCQWOzxT6lG6pUxqvKr?domain=faylib.org)

**Wetland Regulations & The Clean Water Act**

Tuesday, May 11, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

**Synopsis:**Jodie Murray Burns, from Cattails Environmental, will review environmental regulations, the Clean Water Act, and current "Waters of the U.S." policy.

**Detailed Description:**A brief historical review of the federal Clean Water Act, development and promulgation of the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule and its relationship to the Clean Water Act, along with a comparison of the current administration’s proposal to redefine "Waters of the U.S.", a.k.a. WOTUS. Information will be shared showing the relevancy of this topic to civil engineers, developers, landowners, and the general public. This presentation will be from the perspective of a private environmental consultant who works in the arena of the Clean Water Act, assisting clients with federal permits and associated environmental regulations.

**Speaker Bio:**Jodie Murray Burns is the owner of Cattails Environmental, LLC - an environmental consulting firm that assists clients in meeting federal and state environmental laws by performing wetland delineations, CWA 401/404 permitting activities, mitigation services, endangered species surveys, and stream-related work. She is an Arkansas native who has 12+ years of environmental consulting experience and two Master’s degrees who works primarily in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, and Kansas with occasional forays into Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Mrs. Burns enjoys giving presentations on the complexities of the Clean Water Act, implementation of any current definitions of Waters of the U.S. and convoluted court cases that influence those issues. She is an active member of the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), currently serving as the President-Elect of an eight-state regional chapter (South Central Chapter) and co-chair of the SWS Webinar Series Committee who plans and provides monthly webinars to an international audience. Residing in Bentonville, AR, with her husband of nearly 28 years, along with four sons, two cats, and a dog, Mrs. Burns’ top two hobbies are gardening and quilting.

**Registration:** [https://www.faylib.org/event/5040208](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/eIHeCR6LAyTr09r1cN_gkM?domain=faylib.org)

**Wetlands and Climate Change**

**Tuesday, May 18, 6:00pm - 7:00pm**

**Synopsis:**A presentation exploring the role wetlands play in the global carbon cycle, how humans have influenced the wetland landscape, and how we might harness wetlands for natural climate solutions.

**Detailed Description:**What do you see when you look at a wetland? You probably notice water puddled in spots on the surface, a wide variety of plant and animal life, and a clear cycle of decay and regrowth. What you might miss is the years of plant litter submerged amongst layers of sediment and the incredible processes happening right below your mud boots. What if I told you that part of the climate change battle was happening in those murky layers? This presentation will explore the roll that wetland soils play in the global carbon cycle, how humans have influenced the wetland landscape, and how we might harness the power of wetlands for natural climate solutions.

**Speaker Bio:**Faye Smith is an environmental scientist currently working with the USDA-ARS. Her interests include microbial ecology, soil sustainability, carbon and nutrient cycling, and trace gas emissions. Faye recently completed her PhD as a Distinguished Doctoral Fellow at the University of Arkansas, in the department of Environmental Dynamics. Her dissertation research explored how wetland restoration impacts soil microbial ecology and soil carbon cycling within a restored wetland in NW Arkansas. She also received a Master's of Science degree from the University of Arkansas, during which time Faye researched and published on the effects of alternative agricultural management practices on soil carbon cycling and soil stability.

**Registration:** [https://www.faylib.org/event/5040216](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/YHETCVONGDflkrl6fyxnaW?domain=faylib.org)

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