

Protect the Hellbender Salamander and the streams in which they live



The giant salamander is called the Hellbender, America's largest salamander, which makes its home among the rocks of clean, swift-running rivers in the eastern U.S. They can grow up to two feet long and weigh up to five pounds. Hellbenders are a protected species in Georgia and should not be disturbed. Multiple State laws/regulations prohibit moving rocks in streams with protected wildlife like Hellbenders (OCGA § 27-1-30; OCGA § 27-3-130; Rule 391-4-10-.06). They have experienced widespread decline due to loss and degradation of the streams in which they live. Removing rocks from streambeds contributes to their decline because they use the rocks as nesting and resting sites. We ask people not to move or stack rocks in streams where hellbenders may be present. It is rare to see hellbenders in the wild but you can see the in the great video produced by Freshwaters Illustrated, [The Last Dragons](#) or read the [Nature Conservancy Article](#).

Protect Swamp Pink and the bogs where it lives



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Swamp pink is a threatened species at both the state and federal level.

It lives in shady seepage swamps and sphagnum bogs with continually saturated, though not flooded, soils; often occurs with red maple, purple pitcherplant, mountain laurel, rosebay rhododendron, and tag alder. **Alterations in the hydrology that stem from increased runoff and poor wetland buffering can cause entire populations to die off.**

Swamp Pink is a perennial herb often forming dense patches of large basal rosettes connected by underground stems. Leaves 3½ - 12 inches (9 - 30 cm) long and up to 1½ inches (4 cm) wide, glossy, evergreen, widest above the middle with pointed tips and tapering bases. Stem 1 - 2 feet (30 - 60 cm) tall

while flowering, taller during fruiting, rising from the center of each rosette, stout, hollow. Flowers about 1 inch (1 cm) wide, with 6 pink tepals (3 sepals + 3 petals) and six blue stamens, in a dense spike of 30 - 50 fragrant flowers at the top of the stem. Fruit is 1 inch long, 3-lobed, heart-shaped, papery, with many winged seeds.