

How Can You Help?

Contact Us

Support the Alabama Natural Heritage Program:

We need your financial support. Your tax-deductible donation to the Alabama Natural Heritage Program will help us continue and expand our efforts to protect Alabama's rich natural heritage.

Gift information:

Enclosed is a gift for the Alabama Natural Heritage Program at Auburn University in the amount of:

\$25___ \$50___ \$100___ \$250___
\$500___ \$1000___ \$_____

My gift is being paid by: _____

Check No. _____

(Make checks payable to Auburn University Foundation for Alabama Natural Heritage Fund)

Credit or Debit Card _____ Visa _____ Mastercard

Name (as it appears on card): _____

Billing Address: _____

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Alabama Natural Heritage Program

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*Red Hills Salamander (Phacognathus hubrichti);
Photo by James C. Godwin*



*Wherry's Pink (Silene caroliniana ssp. wherryi);
Photo by Alfred R. Schotz*

the Alabama Natural Heritage Program

Protecting Alabama's biodiversity,
wildlife habitats, endangered
species, and natural areas.

Alabama's Biological Diversity

Our Concern

The Alabama Natural Heritage Program (ALNHP) is an ongoing, computer-assisted ecological inventory administered through the Auburn University Environmental Institute.

ALNHP is part of an international network of programs established in all 50 states, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean collectively known as the Natural Heritage Network (NHN), a centralized repository of information about imperiled species and their habitats. NHN programs build on a standardized data collection methodology, and the NHN has become the recognized source for the most complete and detailed information on rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems, relied upon by government agencies, corporations, and the conservation community alike.

About ALNHP

The ALNHP program began in January of 1989 and exists to clearly identify significant natural "elements" (rare and endangered species and communities of species) and to help establish conservation priorities in Alabama.

ALNHP staff have expertise in a range of fields, including botany, zoology, ecology, environmental planning, GIS, and database management. ALNHP provides the following services: biodiversity data management, inventory, biological monitoring, site prioritization, conservation planning, Geographic Information System services, and land management expertise.



Green Pitcher-Plant (*Sarracenia oreophila*);
Photo by Alfred R. Schotz

Alabama is one of the most biologically diverse states in America. There are almost 3,000 species of native vascular plants found in the state, more than 850 species of vertebrate animals, and over 350 species of freshwater mussels and snails.

Alabama ranks fifth (behind California, Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico) in overall biodiversity. With nearly 3,000 native species, Alabama is ninth in the nation for diversity of vascular plants, including 20 species currently protected under the Endangered Species Act. Twenty species are found only in Alabama, eight of which are restricted to a single county. Alabama has more species of fishes, turtles, mussels, snails, crayfish, and caddisflies than any other state.



Alabama Red-Bellied Turtle (*Pseudemys alabamaensis*);
Photo by James C. Godwin



Eastern Indigo Snake
(*Drymarchon couperi*);
Photo by James C. Godwin

Its waters contain:

- ♦ 64% of the nation's mussels (7 are found only in Alabama)
- ♦ 52% of the nation's turtles (1 is found only in Alabama)
- ♦ 35% of the nation's fresh water fishes (11 are found only in Alabama)
- ♦ 30% of the nation's aquatic snails (106 are found only in Alabama)

Although Alabama has a rich natural heritage, it is also one of the most extinction-prone states in the country (second only to Hawaii).

More than 94 species once found in Alabama are now presumed or possibly extinct. Another 85 have been extirpated (completely removed) from the state (but still exist in other locations).

Alabama ranks third in the nation (behind only Hawaii and California) for the number of species (115) federally listed as threatened or endangered. Almost 15% of our species are considered "at risk" of becoming extinct or extirpated.

Our natural communities that provide habitat for so many species are severely impacted by agricultural clearing, urban and suburban sprawl, and water quality degradation.

We must all work together to protect our precious natural heritage.