



## Rare Water Lilies at Peak Bloom Right Now in South Carolina

Catawba, South Carolina (May 24, 2017) – Visitors to [Landsford Canal State Park](#) are always treated to the spectacular beauty of the Catawba River and some incredible canoeing and kayaking along the waterway. But for a few short weeks each year, the luckiest adventurers can partake in all these activities while surrounded by the rare **Rocky Shoals spider lily**.

This fragrant lily is only found in select Southern states – South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and perhaps North Carolina – and requires plenty of direct sunlight and a very swift but shallow watery surface upon which to grow. Blooming season is generally the months of May and June, but this week marks the flower's peak blooms in South Carolina for 2017.

It's largely believed that Landsford Canal State Park is home to the largest collection of this lily species, but sites along the Cahaba River in Alabama and the Flint River in Georgia would likely contest that claim. Regardless of which state has the largest collection, there's no argument that this is one of nature's greatest shows along the East Coast at this time of year.

Exposed bedrock and an impressive elevation change have created a set of rapids – or shoals – on the river, and it's extraordinary that anything can grow in this harsh environment.

Each lily blooms overnight and only lasts for a single day, but there are enough plants in the Catawba River that right now it appears as if someone has tossed a lace blanket across the water. The very best viewing is from a canoe or kayak, and visitors can bring their own vessel or participate in a tour offered by local outfitters. Those who prefer a softer adventure can take a 1.5-mile round-trip hike along the Canal Trail to an overlook that affords a prime land-based view of the lilies.

In addition to the water lilies – which are a guarantee at this time of year – there's also a chance of spotting the park's resident nesting pair of bald eagles, which are generally in the area from late February through early June.

For more information about this fascinating part of South Carolina, the [Olde English District](#), please visit [www.oldeenglishdistrict.com](http://www.oldeenglishdistrict.com). The region is full of stories like this, just waiting to be discovered and shared.