

The Southeastern Wildlife Exposition (SEWE) celebrated 43 years in February of 2025. The mission of SEWE is to create awareness and positively influence wildlife conservation through art and specialized programming; and to continue to impact the local and statewide economies.

As the largest event of its kind in the nation, SEWE incorporates all things related to nature and wildlife to be displayed and discovered by an average of 35-40,000 attendees at venues throughout downtown Charleston. With its wide array of offerings, including world class art, lectures, wildlife viewing and demonstrations, SEWE is unique to Charleston and the region with its size, scope, and access granted to attendees of all income levels.

The 2025 event, February 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, took over downtown Charleston with presentations by numerous wildlife sanctuaries, serpentariums, raptor centers, and scores of conservation groups while entertaining and educating attendees. World renowned wildlife artists brought paintings, sculptures, and carvings to Charleston and many instructed beginners of all ages on-site and at local schools.

SEWE kicked off the tourist season in Charleston and utilized five major venues downtown and scores of event-specific sites throughout the region. The economic benefits of the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition are staggering. While the region feels the effects of a \$35+ million impact, the local and state governments have a net tax impact of nearly \$2.8 million. The ability to generate this type of spending and impact on the regional economy while simultaneously promoting arts and nature education is one of the reasons why this event is so unique.

SEWE has grown as a brand and while focused on the event each February, marketing and PR is a year-round endeavor. With public and private support, SEWE markets the event, Charleston, and the State of South Carolina in a manner that highlights the extraordinary wildlife art and the inviting nature of SC.

With an estimated 40,000 attendees in 2025, SEWE crowds stretch the width of peninsula Charleston and must utilize outdoor venues along with indoor offerings. As such, the event is still susceptible to weather events that could have catastrophic consequences as seen with other festivals in the past and during a small window of our 2025 event. SEWE is proud to be the kickoff to tourism season, and relies on the support of many Corporate Partners, as well as City and State funding to continue its mission.

The Southeastern Wildlife Exposition is a critical part of the South Carolina and Charleston calendar. Run with the utmost professionalism and pride, an effort that began as a small winter diversion in 1983 has now become one of the largest annual events to take place in South Carolina and one of the most popular and successful in the country.