

Keeping Lakes/Wetlands in the Family: Sharing the Magic Through Stories

Compiled by Lynn Markham, Center for Land Use Education

In each of the last 4 years, Lake Tides has offered a fall edition that includes a section featuring reviews of some great lake books. You can peruse these at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/laketides. This year, we branched out to include wetland books. By protecting wetlands we protect the water quality of our lakes and the animals that depend on them. Remember, giving the gift of a book to your local library or school allows many folks to enjoy the magic of water.

Courtesy of amazon.com



Who lives here? Wetland Animals

Written by Deborah Hodge
Illustrated by Pat Stephens

Wetlands are home to amazing animals whose bodies are built for living in or near the water. This book showcases wetlands to bring kids closer to animals that live there - a perspective seldom seen by human eyes. It explains that moose, bullfrogs, and hippos all have special ways of finding food, staying safe, and raising their young in a watery habitat. Detailed illustrations appeal to younger children while maintaining scientific accuracy.

Ages 4+

“I like that this book talked about wetlands all over the world.” ~ Tate, Age 7

Were you a wild duck, where would you go?

Written by George Mendoza
Illustrated by Jane Osborn-Smith

A wild duck narrator looks at the past when the environment was bountiful, searches through today’s polluted environment for a home, and encourages saving and restoring the environment for the future.

Ages 6+

“It’s good to tell people to protect wetlands for animals and to protect them for people.”

~ Tate, Age 7

Wetlands

Written by Hollie Endres

Clear, simple text with great photos that explain the plants, animals and basic functions of wetlands.

A Good Day for Ducks

Written by Doug Truax
Illustrated by Jack Smith

It’s fall in the suburbs, and as Justin gazes out passively at his cold, rainy, gray neighborhood, he bemoans the fact that the weather’s bad and there’s nothing to do. All that changes when Grandpa shows up the next weekend and takes Justin to his duck cabin in the Northwoods. There the boy discovers the joys of being an active participant in the natural world. When Justin finally returns home, he takes back with him life lessons that he will never forget. Justin learns how ducks migrate and about the need to conserve wet places - the lakes, ponds, and marshes - where ducks are found. And most importantly, he has begun to see the world in a whole new way.

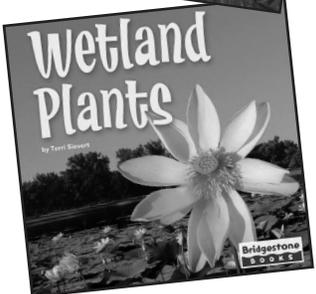
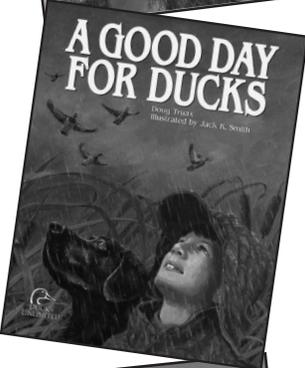
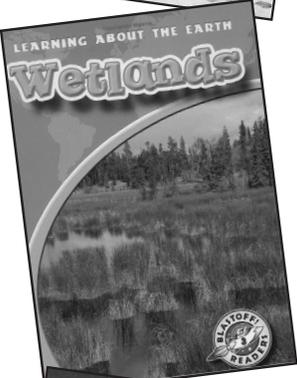
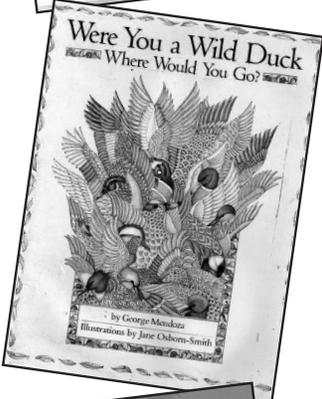
Wetland Plants

Written by Terri Sievert

This book brings wetland plants to life for children – not an easy task. Wetland plants that can be eaten as food include seeds, rice, and eelgrass for birds and wild rice, cranberries, and arrowhead roots for humans. Also provides an engaging example of how wetland animals depend on the plants. Since half the wetlands in the U.S. and Wisconsin have been destroyed, the author stresses the dangers to the ecology caused by building and draining wetlands. Wraps up with a section about what is being done to protect wetlands.



Cait Epping Overholt



Wetlands: Soggy Habitat

Written by Laura Purdie Salas

Illustrated by Jeff Yesh

What lives in a wetland besides flamingos, ducks, and other birds? How do plants survive in the soggy soil? This book answers these questions and more. People drain wetlands to build houses or farms, but we should be protecting the wetland ecosystems because each of them makes this planet an amazing place to live. The attractive pictures do a good job of expanding the information in the text. Ages 5+

A Place for Frogs

Written by Melissa Stewart

Illustrated by Higgins Bond

This colorful picture book is focused, obviously, on frogs and why they are important in our world. A simple text runs along the top of each illustrated spread, describing a human threat to frogs (“Some tadpoles have trouble surviving when people add fish to lakes and ponds”) and then suggesting a solution (“When

people take out the fish, frogs can live and grow”). Realistic acrylic paintings depict frogs in their natural habitat. The sidebars provide real examples of what people are doing to help frogs. The text is very easy to read and understand; the sidebar information is a resource for parents or teachers working to help the young readers understand the connections between ecosystem and humankind.

Ages 6-9

The Big Belching Bog

Written by Phyllis Root

Illustrated by Betsy Bowen

Phyllis Root does a bang-up job of conveying pond-loads of information in short stanzas, walking readers comfortably through the flora, fauna, and science of bogs. The illustrations by Betsy Bowen reflect the tone and mystique of these oft-overlooked portions of our Northwoods. More detailed descriptions of plants, animals, and bugs make this a wonderful teaching tool plus give older readers even more to sink their teeth into...A great book to have on a Northwoods shelf.

Courtesy of amazon.com



Wisconsin Lakes Trivia!

Raining outside and you've already read every book in the cabin? Looking for an interesting addition to “game night?” Test your knowledge and have some fun playing “Wisconsin Lakes Trivia.” The categories of history, fish, wildlife, and sports & recreation will have you scratching your head, yelling out answers, and hopefully, learning something new about our lakes.

Order through UW-Extension Lakes today at www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/publications

Only \$17.95 (includes shipping)

Fish of the Northern Lakes 2013 Calendar!

Take a trip below the surface to view these amazing underwater photographs by Eric Engbretson. See the fish that roam your local lakes and rivers in their natural habitat. Order at <http://underwaterfishphotos.com/calendar.shtml>



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