

**May is American Wetlands Month: Explore the Wetlands Near You!**



Photos, N. Lin and L. Rhodes, MassDEP  
C. Eisenhardt, Winchester Trails

**In the end, we will protect only what we love.**

**We will love only what we understand.**

**We will understand only what we are taught.**

- Baba Dioum, Senegalese poet and environmentalist



**WETLANDS AND WATERWAYS PROGRAM**

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Funded in part by a  
Federal Clean Water Act  
Wetland Program Development Grant  
(WPDG) 104(b)(3) from U.S. EPA.

The MassDEP's Wetlands and Waterways Program provides technical and regulatory support as well as effective, practical guidance to our municipal partners in our shared goal to protect our natural resources—our **Common Wealth**.



**Learn About Wetlands and Be Inspired!**



Photo: Lisa Rhodes

**Did you know that wetlands cover only about 9% of the earth's surface but are estimated to contain approximately 35% of global terrestrial carbon?<sup>1</sup>**

**The Living Planet Index shows the global decline in biodiversity to be greatest for freshwater ecosystems.<sup>2</sup>**

1. The Role of Wetlands in the Carbon Cycle, July 2012  
Australian Government Dept. of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

2. WWF. 2012. *Living Planet Report 2012*.  
WWF International, Gland, Switzerland.

## Learn About Wetlands and Be Inspired!



Image: Angela Russo

There are some great resources available both on-line and in print for wetland enthusiasts of all ages. This is a great time to better understand what a wetland is, where they can be found, and the importance of wetlands. Some of the great scientists, writers and artists of all time have been inspired by wetlands and water including Rachel Carson, Aldo Leopold, Henry David Thoreau, Robert Frost and Claude Monet to name just a few. Activities may include reading, studying, drawing, photographing, and identifying/observing native plants and animals that depend on wetlands. Here are few great sites to get you started:

There are many actions we can take to help conserve wetlands. Support and promote wetlands by joining your local watershed association, conservation commission or land trust. Volunteer for local wetland monitoring, restoration, or cleanup projects.

## LINKS FOR LEARNING

**MassDEP: Wetlands Protection Outreach:**

[www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/watersheds/wetlands-protection.html#1](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/watersheds/wetlands-protection.html#1)

**MA. Office of Coastal Zone Management:** Coastal and Ocean Education Guide Teachers:

[www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/czm/program-areas/communications/education-guide/](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/czm/program-areas/communications/education-guide/)

**U.S. EPA Wetlands:** May is American Wetlands Month: Learn! Explore! Take Action!

<http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/outreach/index.cfm>

**MA. Assn. of Conservation Commissions:** Conservation, Education, Advocacy

[www.maccweb.org/](http://www.maccweb.org/)

**Assn. of State Wetlands Managers:** Wetland Books For Kids [www.aswm.org/wetlands/wetland-bookshelf/1343-wetland-books-for-kids](http://www.aswm.org/wetlands/wetland-bookshelf/1343-wetland-books-for-kids)

**Vernal Pool Assn.:** Treefrog Educational:

[www.vernalpool.org/treefrog.htm](http://www.vernalpool.org/treefrog.htm)

**MA. Dept of Conservation and Recreation:** Education, Interpretation & Visitor Services [www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/programs-and-events/education-interpretation-and-visitor-services.html](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/programs-and-events/education-interpretation-and-visitor-services.html)

**MA Department of Fish and Game:** Coloring Pages [www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dmf/education/coloring-pages.html](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dmf/education/coloring-pages.html)

**Wetland Plants & Animals Coloring Book** [store.doverpublications.com/0486277496.html](http://store.doverpublications.com/0486277496.html)

**Center for Coastal Resources Management:** Plants of the Fresh Water Marsh [http://ccrm.vims.edu/wetlands/teaching\\_marsh/Photos%20&%20Posters/TeachingMarshPosters.pdf](http://ccrm.vims.edu/wetlands/teaching_marsh/Photos%20&%20Posters/TeachingMarshPosters.pdf)

## EXPLORE A WETLAND NEAR YOU!

Massachusetts abounds with beautiful wetland areas from the Berkshires to Cape Cod; from quaking bogs to dunes as tall as five story buildings. Find a place near you and find out one of the reasons Massachusetts truly is a Common Wealth. The following gives you a sampling of places to discover.

**MA. State Parks:** Places to Go

[www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/places-to-go/](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/places-to-go/)

**MA. Coastal Zone Management:** Massachusetts Coast Guide to Boston and the North Shore:

[www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/czm/program-areas/public-access-and-coast-guide/coast-guide/coast-guide-bos-ns.html](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/czm/program-areas/public-access-and-coast-guide/coast-guide/coast-guide-bos-ns.html)

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:** Wildlife Refuges in Massachusetts: [www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/ByState.cfm?state=MA](http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/ByState.cfm?state=MA)

**National Park Service:** Park Sites in Massachusetts: <http://home.nps.gov/state/ma/index.htm?program=all>

**Trustees of Reservations:** [Places to Visit](#)

**Mass Audubon:** [Wildlife Sanctuaries](#)

**National Geographic:** [Wetland Education:](#) [http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/wetland/?ar\\_a=1](http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/wetland/?ar_a=1)



Photo by George Zote