

# The Wealth and Worth of Delaware's Wetlands

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

## What is Adopt-A-Wetland?

Delaware Adopt-A-Wetland is a grass-roots, community-based environmental stewardship program. It was developed to enhance public awareness of the many benefits of wetlands and for enlisting volunteers in monitoring and protecting these vital resources for the future.



## How did Adopt-A-Wetland begin?

DE-AAW offers a wonderful example of the difference one person can make! Back in the late 1980's, Dot White, a retired chemist and farmer, was searching for ways to reduce her land use impacts on the local watershed. She determined that wetlands played a key role, and began working to create a program to promote that message. Since then, from the idea and inspiration of one person, DE-AAW has grown to encompass thousands of people caring for over 100 wetland sites statewide.

## Why Wetlands?

Wetlands are dynamic environments, vital to the sustainability of the Chesapeake and Delaware estuaries. Wetlands provide us with a myriad of benefits, including:

- ◆ Water Quality — trap sediments and filter pollutants for improved water quality.
- ◆ Flood Control — protect property from the full effects of storms, floods and erosion.
- ◆ Recharge — hold water in times of drought, helping to sustain drinking water aquifers.
- ◆ Habitat — provide homes for many rare or threatened plants and animals.
- ◆ Nurseries — for a high percentage of our commercially-important fish and shellfish.
- ◆ Recreation — great areas to hunt, fish, canoe, kayak, hike and watch wildlife.
- ◆ Relaxation — offer beautiful and quiet places to relax, refresh and reflect.



## What kinds of wetlands are found here?

Delaware is blessed with a great variety of wetland types, from expansive coastal tidal marshes to small freshwater woodland pools. The northernmost Bald Cypress swamps on the continent occur here, as do hundreds of biodiversity-critical Delmarva Bay wetlands.

## What types of activities can be accomplished in wetlands?

- ◆ Cleanups
- ◆ Nature study
- ◆ Birdwatching
- ◆ Plant/animal surveys
- ◆ Biological Monitoring
- ◆ Frog watching
- ◆ Environmental education
- ◆ Water quality monitoring
- ◆ Habitat enhancement projects
- ◆ Invasives species removal
- ◆ Wetland replanting & restoration



## Who may Adopt a wetland?

Adopt-a-Wetland is open to Delawareans of all ages, and diverse interests, including: school groups, youth groups, community organizations, businesses, civic associations, families and individuals. Either select a wetland near and dear to you or let us help match your interests with one of our priority sites for adoption in your area. For more information call (302) 653-2882 x109 or email [marlene.mervine@state.de.us](mailto:marlene.mervine@state.de.us)

DELAWARE ADOPT-A-WETLAND PROGRAM  
AQUATIC RESOURCES EDUCATION CENTER  
4876 HAY POINT LANDING RD  
SMRYNA, DE 19977

Please send an Adopt-A-Wetland application packet to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please call to schedule a wetlands presentation for your group/organization.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send information on upcoming workshops/training sessions.

### What resources does AAW offer for wetland education and monitoring ?

- ◆ The DE-AAW Guidebook — a comprehensive, user-friendly guide to activities and approaches adopters can use to enhance their wetland stewardship work. 
- ◆ Workshops and trainings — are offered each year, providing a mix of seminar, lab, and in-the-field sessions, designed to expand the repertoire of projects volunteers can do in care and monitoring of their adopted sites. 
- ◆ Video programs — two-part informative aids that explore the values and varieties of Delaware wetlands and showcase efforts underway by various agencies and groups “working for wetlands” in the First State.
- ◆ Wetland Monitoring Kits — custom-designed loan available to adopters for monitoring key wetland components in the field. Includes kits for: wildlife watching, water quality, macroinvertebrates, helping with herps, and plants/invasive species. 
- ◆ DE-AAW Wetland Restoration Guidebook — a hands-on resource for landowners on benefits of, approaches to, and resources for, restoring, enhancing and maintaining the quality of wetland habitats in their care.

- ◆ Delaware Adopt-A-Wetland Sign — provides on-site community awareness of adopter’s activities.



- ◆ Working for Wetlands newsletter — a source for up-to-date information on special events, group activities and other program highlights.
- ◆ A staff of dedicated professionals — ready to answer questions and provide assistance in your efforts to care for your own special piece of Delaware’s wetland heritage.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

#### ADOPT-A-WETLAND PROGRAM

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4876 HAY POINT LANDING RD  
SMYRNA, DE 19977



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*The Future of  
Delaware's Wetlands  
is in Your Hands*