**Monthly Newsletter-March 2017**

**Wetlands Conservation Society**

**Topic-Wetlands**

**Where Are Wetlands?**

Wetlands are in every county of every state. If you live close to an ocean or gulf, there's probably a coastal wetland nearby. Here, seawater joins with fresh water to form ecosystems where plants and wildlife have adapted to salty water and soils. If you don't live near an ocean or gulf, you probably live near an inland wetland. You'll find inland wetlands near rivers and streams, in depressions surrounded by dry land, and along marshes and ponds.

**Types of Wetlands**

Some wetlands, like tidal and freshwater marshes, have ponds that become deeper and shallower with the seasons. Others, like coastal marine wetlands, may be flooded all year. Prairie pothole wetlands may be dry for most of the year. Fifty percent of North America's waterfowl use them for breeding grounds.

If you live in the Southeast, there's probably a swamp or floodplain forest near you. These are known for trees, shrubs, and other woody plants that have adapted to floods, ponds, and water-saturated soils. They offer habitat for wildlife and store floodwater and trap sediment.

If your home is in the Northeast or the Appalachian Mountains, you've probably heard about bogs. Glaciers formed bogs thousands of years ago. Today, they are havens for evergreen trees, shrubs, and sphagnum moss.

In California's Central Valley, the Gulf Coast, East Coast, and along Midwestern streams not all wetlands are natural. Some, like the green tree reservoirs, are artificial. These are often intentionally flooded to give waterfowl a winter home. Water levels are lowered when the waterfowl are gone.

**Wetlands are Busy Places**

Many of the things that wetlands do benefit you. Wetlands filter out pollutants to help make your water safer. Wetlands help prevent floods, control erosion, and protect shorelines from being damaged by waves. Peat from wetlands is an energy source. Livestock use wetlands for grazing. Wetlands give you places for educational and scientific research. Wetlands can be fun lands, too. They offer you places to fish, hike, and boat.

**Wetlands and Animal Life**

If you love plants and wildlife, you'll love wetlands. America's wetlands are alive with nearly 5,000 species of plant life. One third of all species of birds, 190 species of amphibians, and all of America's wild ducks and geese need wetlands to live. Even endangered species like the whooping crane, bald eagle, red wolf, fatmucket mussel, and the swamp rose have habitats in wetlands.