

Introduction

1. Wetland – among most important ecosystems
 - a. Carboniferous swamps – fossil fuels
 - b. “kidneys of the landscape”
 - c. Flow through to stabilize; remove pollutants; protect shorelines; recharge aquifers; breeding, feeding areas for birds, fish and mammals
 - d. Human effects – about 50% gone in the US and globally
 - i. Cleared for ag, mosquito control, lumber, wildlife, shrimp farms
 - ii. Cartoon: Swamp Thing – Steve McQueen
2. Wetland Definitions – Lots of them
 - a. Water in root zone or at surface
 - b. Presence of hydrophytes – plant that grows in a wetland
 - c. “hydric soils”
3. Terms
 - a. Macrophyte
 - b. Emergent
 - c. Aquatic plant
 - d. Hydrophyte – water loving plants
 - i. Obligate – require aquatic habitats
 - ii. Facultative – can adapt to aquatic habitats, don’t require them
 - e. USFWS – US Fish and Wildlife Service