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