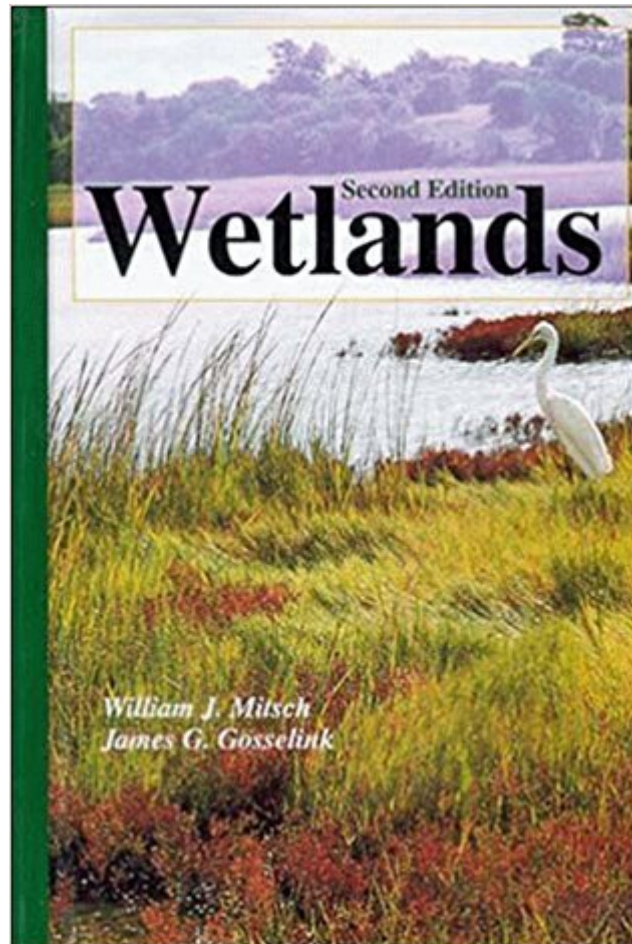


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Wetlands, 2nd Edition



Synopsis

So definitive that the first edition was quoted in Congressional testimony on wetland protection, *Wetlands* provides an extensive overview of virtually every type of saline and freshwater wetland in North America. The authors cover chemistry, biology, geology, hydrology, geography, management, and preservation of tidal salt marshes and mangrove wetlands; northern peatlands and bogs; freshwater marshes, southern deepwater swamps, and riparian wetlands. New coverage includes the latest principles, approaches, techniques, and design aspects for constructing or restoring wetlands for habitat replacement.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (31 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

"Wetlands" by William J. Mitsch and James G. Gosselink seems to be the standard textbook in wetland science, bringing together all aspects of wetlands studies and applications in one text: definitions, components of the wetland environment, studies of different types of wetland ecosystems, wetland management, creation and restoration, ecosystem services provided by wetlands, and waste water treatment wetlands. This fifth edition re-incorporates "Wetlands" and "Wetland Ecosystems", which were separated into two texts in 2007, into one book. The descriptions of wetland ecosystems constitute Part 3 of this book, chapters 8-12. Most chapters have been updated, new chapters added to some sections, and the section on "Ecosystem Services" heavily revised. Co-author James Gosselink died in 2015 and was unable to work on this edition due to illness, but his name remains in recognition of his work on the first four editions that

have been published since 1986. The authors explain that "because wetlands have properties that are not adequately covered by current terrestrial and aquatic ecology paradigms, a case can be made for wetland science as a unique discipline encompassing many fields, including terrestrial and aquatic ecology, chemistry, hydrology, and engineering." Hence the need for a textbook dedicated to all aspects of wetland science. Though this text is very technical in places, it is intended for a relatively broad audience: scientists, engineers, lawyers, and regulators who need wetland expertise to deal with the current regulatory environment and the increasing desire to preserve and reconstruct wetlands, as well as "for those who would like to know more about the structure and function of these unique ecosystems.

...and the rain forests were "jungles." And that "once upon a time" was when I was in university. Much besides the labels has changed since my school days in those days of yore; in particular, our understanding of these topographical features, and their importance. The authors essentially say the same thing in the first paragraph of their introduction: "Although many cultures have lived among and even depended on wetlands for centuries, the modern history of wetlands until the 1970s is fraught with misunderstanding and fear, as described in much of our Western literature. Wetlands have been destroyed at alarming rates throughout the developed and developing world. Now, as their many benefits are being recognized, wetland conservation has become the norm. In many parts of the world, wetlands are now revered, protected, and restored; in other parts, they are still being drained for human development." So when the Vine program offered me this textbook to review I did have to think about it (do I REALLY want to read a textbook?), but ultimately decided what better way of filling in some gaping lacuna in my knowledge. The publisher is a venerable one in the textbook field, Wiley, whose history pre-dates my own "days of yore" in university. The first edition was published in 1986. They have been updating the text at what I would consider appropriate intervals: every seven years. In this edition one of the authors, William Mitsch, is dedicating it to the other, James Gooselink, who recently died in January, 2015, at the age of 83.

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