



Dig back into your memories and picture a wetland that is special to you. Is it deep in the forest, surrounded by Douglas-Firs, entrenched with Cattails and other high grasses that you came across on a hike one Sunday afternoon? Or have you driven past it on the highway, a big lonely puddle that caught your sympathetic eye?

Wetlands are diverse across the world and are meaningful to people for different reasons. Wetlands play a very important role in our ecosystems to clean our drinking water, reduce risks and impacts of floods and are a crucial habitat for many plant and wildlife species. Most aspects of the natural environment that we enjoy for recreation and for everyday life and dependent on healthy wetlands!

As pressures on wetlands increase daily for development and agricultural needs, conservation and restoration are becoming hot topics in the media and among the general public. Involvement in worthwhile wetlands projects that conserve and rehabilitate our wetlands for future generations is easy thanks to the BC Wildlife Federation!

For over 50 years, the BC Wildlife Federation has maintained a strong commitment to conservation through member clubs and programs in many BC communities. With the foundation of these dedicated clubs and members, the Federation has developed several programs for community members across British Columbia to learn technical skills to rehabilitate and steward wetlands.

The Wetlandkeepers Workshop: The Wetlandkeepers workshop is a hands-on weekend course that instructs participants how to steward a wetland! Using the Wetlandkeepers Handbook as a reference guide, participants will visit an area wetland to map its boundary, conduct plant, bird and amphibian inventories, take water quality measurements and sample soils. Although activities may vary slightly depending on the nature of the wetland visited, participants will have quality time with experienced instructors and guest speakers. Upon workshop completion, participants will have contributed to a wetland's health and will receive a Wetlandkeepers Certificate.

Upcoming workshops for 2009 and 2010 will be held in the Sea to Sky Corridor, the Kootenays and Vancouver Island.

The Wetlands Institute: The Institute is a 6-day field course held in a different community every two years. The 2009 Institute will be held in Kamloops, BC, June 21-27th. Participants from all backgrounds are welcome to apply and will return home to steward a wetland in their own community. Activities during the week will set the foundation and project plan for participants to steward a wetland upon returning home. Several wetland sites will be visited during the week, accompanied by renowned wetland ecologists. These instructors will teach wetland mapping and monitoring as well as

landowner relationship building skills. The focus of the 2009 Institute will be *Change: exploring natural and man-made changes to wetlands and how humans should-if at all-get involved in mitigation tactics.*

The Wild Kidz Camp: The Wild Kidz Camp is a weeklong day camp for children aged 9-12. During the week's activities, kids will spend time in nature to learn about the wonders of ecosystems! Activities include: tour of a conservation center, outdoor classrooms about amphibians, insects and wildlife, fishing lessons, and more! *This summer's camps will be in Vancouver's Inner-City and Vancouver Island.*

To become involved in any of BC Wildlife Federation's Wetlands Programs, please contact:

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