



**Merry Lea**

*Environmental Learning Center  
of Goshen College*

# Wonderful Wetlands

## 9th - 12th

### Program Description

Immerse students in a wetland ecosystem by putting on waders to dip for small animals, identifying these critters and hiking around the wetland. Throughout each activity and game, students recognize physical and biological components of each wetland type and the important functions of wetlands.

### Program Objectives

Students will:

- Explore a marsh ecosystem and discover the plants and animals living there
- Sample for aquatic macroinvertebrates, learn to identify them and utilize this data as an indicator of water quality

### Program Outline

Students rotate in groups through four different activity stations:

1. **Wetland Dipping:** Students use waders and nets to dip for aquatic macroinvertebrates in a wetland ecosystem.
2. **Wetland Lab:** Students use microscopes and field guides to identify aquatic macroinvertebrates. Then students explore how this data can be used to determine the water quality of the wetland at the time of the program.
3. **Hike:** Students hike around the wetland participating in various age-appropriate activities.
4. **Game:** Students play a tag game to understand how water quality impacts macroinvertebrate populations.

### Vocabulary

- Wetland
- Invasive Species
- Macroinvertebrate
- Pollution Tolerance Index

### Quick Facts

	Fall: September - November
<b>Season</b>	Spring: April - May Summer: June
<b>Grades</b>	9th - 12th
<b>Program Length</b>	4 hours
<b>Maximum # of Students</b>	80 Students

### Standards Correlation

**ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems:**  
The sustainability of human societies and the biodiversity that supports them requires responsible management of natural resources. (HS-ESS3-3)