

How to use the **Calling all Wetlands** Website

The 'How to...' provides step-by-step information for educators to navigate through the site. Educators have the option to read the information and share with students as appropriate or they can follow the scripted text and ask the students the participation questions in sequence.

Scripted explanations: Teacher information is text. Student participation (teacher poses questions; ask for a response) is italics.

Part 1: Understanding the Home Page:

1. Calling all Wetlands has nine clickable buttons at the top and bottom of the page. The first button, **Home**, is the page that you are now viewing.
2. The map of is a GoogleEarth interactive map with zoom capabilities.
Explore zooming in and out to view locations. Note that several sites are in Europe.
3. The colored markers represent wetland categories and are specific locations of a wetland area with pictures.
Why are there different colored markers on the map?
4. The left column has a quick search window to easily find wetlands by state, country, wetland category, and location. Type the indicator that you are interested in viewing. If you know the state, wetland category or location, click on 'Submit' to see the all available images. (Not all states are represented on this site.)
*Click on the submit button. What categories do you see?
Click "To View" to see what happens.*

Depending upon student responses, continue with the next step or expand to others areas of the site.

5. The left column also has a *Featured Site* that rotates through the images each time you access the home page.

Part 2: Explanation of the Buttons:

- **About:** Explains Calling All Wetlands, lists ten basic wetland categories, and introduces the use of a Wetland Benchmark. Read explanation to become familiar with the key concepts of the site.
- **Gallery:** A collection of photographs taken by citizen scientists. Click on the drop down menu on the 'Sort by' window to see the various categories available for review.
What does the gallery show you?

*Within the gallery is 'Sort by.' Click on the arrow and see the categories that can be sorted.
What are the different items that you can 'Sort by' in the Gallery?*
- **Search:** The ability to look for a wetland by category, country, state or providence, date, and key words.
Click on the search button and explore the available categories. If you know the category, choose the listed category.

- **Submit a wetland:** Directions for collection and submitting of a wetland image and related information.

Note: Student Wetlanders will not be able to submit an image to the gallery unless the required information is completed. The question marks provide helpful hints for adding information.

If you have a GPS unit you can enter the latitude and longitude of where the image was taken. If you do not have access to a GPS unit or do not know the latitude or longitude, on the submit page is a tool using GoogleMaps that can help you locate the wetland.

Click on the small globe icon next to either the latitude or longitude. This will bring up the GoogleEarth map. Go to the location of your wetland. Zoom-in as much as needed to identify the accurate location.

Click on the wetland and a marker will appear at that location. You will notice that to the right of the map the coordinates for latitude and longitude appear for the marker (the coordinates are for the bottom point of the marker). When you are finished locating your wetland, click the submit button under the coordinates to populate your form.

- **Wetland Types:** A listing and description of 10 dominant wetlands. This button also has the definition of a wetland.

Think of a wetland near your home or school. What category is your wetland?

- **Contacts:** Specific questions? Need Help? Ask us!!

Students can send an email asking the wetland expert questions.

- **Wetland Benchmark:** Detailed explanation of how to establish a wetland benchmark. Use the benchmark concept as an interactive continuing class activity. Take a photo at the same location monthly, seasonally, or yearly.

What is a benchmark? Why is a benchmark important?

- **Activities:** Classroom activities and suggestions for teachers.