ASWM’s Christmas List

Twelve Christmas presents for the Wetland Enthusiasts of All Ages including unique items that are probably not on your list – but could be!

by Jeanne Christie

Christmas is approaching and it’s time to go shopping for your favorite wetland devotee. Or maybe your loved ones are asking you what you want for Christmas. The wetland elves have combed the country in search of 12 special gifts sure to please. There is something here for every pocketbook and wetland lovers of all ages.

12 The Drunken Botanist – $9.18 - $30.42

You may not be able to wait for Christmas to purchase this one. Planning to participate in some Christmas festivities? Need some inspiration to spice up your small talk? You need look no further than “The Drunken Botanist” by Amy Stuart. Did you know Peruvians made corn beer by chewing corn and mixing it with water? That sorghum may be the most common ingredient in alcohol? Or that sundew was once commonly used in making a cordial called rosolio? This book is a joy for botanists and you can even begin planning a garden to try out some of the recipes with the purchase of ‘The Drunken Botanist Seed’ collection from a number of nurseries! To order, visit drunkenbotanist.com.

11 “Wild Nutria dog treats” – $8.50

Invasive species are a threat to many wetlands and one highly invasive mammal is the nutria. Nutria were brought to Louisiana from South America in the 1930’s to support the fur farming industry. They escaped or were let go when the fur industry collapsed after WW II. Since then they have thrived and spread throughout much of the Gulf and Atlantic coasts where they have eaten their way through thousands of acres of wetland vegetation often destroying and degrading wetlands in the process. In South America nutria are considered a delicacy, but an expensive campaign to promote human consumption in the U.S. failed. However, dogs were a different story and we understand Wild Nutria Dog treats are popular with dogs everywhere. To order, visit marshdog.com.
10 **Chocolate Frog – $2.75**

ASWM’s national headquarter’s is in Maine and we couldn’t resist adding a couple selections from the Vacationland state. No wetland loving chocolate lover could possibly resist a handpainted frog from Haven’s chocolates. Better yet how about a whole army or chorus or colony of them? Yes these terms are all used to describe a group of frogs. To order, visit shophavenscandies.com.

9 **Natures Camo from Mainesscent – $6.99**

If you have more than one avid deer hunter in your life, you’ve no doubt listened to exhaustive discussions about how they can mask their smell when out hunting for deer. Some turn vegetarian three months before deer season. Others purchase special detergent designed to make clothes scent free. Some mask their scents with raccoon, fox or skunk urine. A more aromatically pleasing alternative is Mainesscent which comes in three different scents: Maine forest blend, balsam fir thicket, and cedar mist. Of course, in order for it to work, the hunter needs to be hunting in a place that smells like the forest he or she is wearing. To order, visit mainesscent.com.

8 **Virtual Walks - Wetlands & Lakes for indoor walking, treadmill and cycling workouts (2013) – $19.93**

It’s winter. It’s cold outside. Treadmills are ok, but where’s the scenery? The ambience? Wetland and Lakes Virtual Walks takes you to one of the largest wetland areas in Europe, The National Park of Ebro, Spain. Next stop, the National Park of the Carmargue, France. Exercise and enjoy a trip abroad. To order, visit amazon.com/virtual-Walks.

7 **Earrings from the Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond – $8.00**

While Henry David Thoreau is best known for “Walden” and “Civil Disobedience”, he also wrote “The Maine Woods” in 1864. He took three trips to Maine and it is possible to retrace his steps on the 200 mile Thoreau-Wabanaki Canoe and Hiking Trail. Much of the trail traverses parts of the state that are remote even today including waterways, mountains, and extensive wetlands. Thoreau found cattails fascinating and described them more than once in his writings. Pewter cattail earrings from the Thoreau Society are a pretty memento. I’m assuming that these are the wetland-friendly broad-leaved cattail and not their invasive cousin the narrow-leaved cattail. To order, visit shopatwaldenpond.org.
6 **Wetlands Plants and Animals Coloring Book – $4.49**

Coloring is a soothing pastime and a quiet alternative to the frenetic pace of the holidays. Young naturalists will delight in these artistic line drawings of wetland plants and wildlife. Eels, herons, raccoons, crabs and other inhabitants of wetlands are placed in their natural environments in the 40 pictures that are included. The drawings are detailed so this coloring book is probably most suitable for the middle school student who enjoys coloring. To order, visit amazon.com/wetlands.

5 **Life in the Wetlands Giant Floor Puzzle-50 Piece – $16.95**

Who can resist a 2 by 3 foot floor puzzle of wetlands suitable for ages 4-8? The life in wetlands puzzle includes over a dozen common inhabitants of wetlands. This item appears to be in short supply, so order right away if you want one. To order, visit amazon.com/wetlands.

4 **Wetland Reserve Program Property for Sale – $96,000 to $1,245,750**

If price is no object, then what better gift could there be for a wetland lover than a wetland? Give the gift that keeps on giving by purchasing a property enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program. The Wetland Reserve Program covers wetland restoration costs and enrolls land in 30 year and permanent easements to ensure there will be wetlands on these lands in perpetuity. Properties currently listed are located in Missouri, Kentucky, Nebraska and Iowa. To order, visit whitetailproperties.com.

3 **LED Cap Light – $2.96**

Cap lights are attached to the bill of a baseball cap and they provide instant hands-free light for all after dark activities. We use them for night walks and camping. They are also essential for hikers like me, who tend to dawdle too long on a hike taking ‘one more picture’ and find themselves with miles to go when it gets dark. Small and inexpensive, they are perfect stocking stuffers. To order, visit tmart.com.
2 Official Association of State Wetland Managers hat – $15.00

Now that you have an LED cap light, all that is needed is a cap to go with it. Wetland fashion gurus (you know who you are!) know that no field visit to a wetland is complete without the official Association of State Wetland Managers hat. Made of 100% cotton with the ASWM logo, this hat is the perfect complement to your waders/binocular/field pack dress combo. It even provides protection against sun, light rain and regurgitating waterfowl (although if you are planning to visit a cormorant rookery you are going to need a lot more protection).

Purchase with PayPal: $15.00
Purchase with Check/Credit Card: $15.00

1 ASWM Membership – ($60.00 individual, $150-$500 organization)

If you haven’t renewed your membership, please celebrate the holidays with us by doing so. We are very grateful to you for your past support. We hope that you value your membership and are looking forward to more interesting newsletter articles, reports, webinars, and weekly updates in 2014. Your membership dues support our work to educate and support wetland conservation, protection and management. Please help us and join ASWM for another year.

Renew ASWM Membership

On behalf of all of us here at ASWM we wish you a wonderful holiday season. Stay safe. Stay warm. And keep doing the wonderful work you do to protect and conserve wetlands!

Please note: This article was written for your enjoyment and in celebration of the holiday season. ASWM is not affiliated with nor does the organization benefit from the sale of any of the items listed above except for the hat and membership which are purchased directly from ASWM.
Recently Recorded ASWM Webinars
The Association of State Wetland Managers hosts and records 3-5 webinars each month. Below are some recent presentations. For more information on future and past webinars, click here.

Natural Floodplain Function Alliance Webinars Series
This recording will be available soon.

Reforming Federal Support for Risky Development, David Conrad, Consultant, Water Resources Policy, and Edward A. Thomas, Esq. President, Natural Hazard Mitigation Association
View recordings here: Part 1 Part 2 Part 3 Part 4

Wetland Mapping Consortium Webinars Series
NWI+ Data – What It Is and How It’s Being Used, Ralph Tiner, Regional NWI Coordinator, Northeast Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
This recording will be available soon.

Members’ Wetland Webinars Series
Inspection and Maintenance of Wetlands, Tom Biebighauser; Wetland Restoration and Training
View recordings here. (login required)

Going, Going, Gone Millions of Acres of Wetlands and Fragile Land Go Under the Plow, Craig Cox, Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources and Soren Rundquist, Landscape and Remote Sensing Analyst Environmental Working Group
View recordings here. (login required)

Other Webinars
Koontz v. St. Johns River Water Management District: What Happened and Where Do We Go From Here, Royal C. Gardner, Stetson University College of Law, Jan Goldman-Carter, National Wildlife Federation, Jon Kusler; Association of State Wetland Managers, and Dan Siegel, Attorney General’s Office, California
View recordings here: Part 1 Part 2

Wetland Link International North American Webinar: From education and engagement at wetland centers to positive conservation action for wetlands. This webinar features presenters and participants from Canada, United States and United Kingdom, including educators, state wetland program staff, consultants, non-profit organizations and government agencies.
As an ASWM member, you are invited to ASWM’s Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting which will be held March 4-6 at the National Conservation Training Center near Shepherdstown, WV. The purpose of this annual meeting is to support state and tribal wetland program managers, federal agency staff and other wetland professionals as they respond to challenges in the coming year. Presentations and discussions during the three day workshop will integrate wetland science, law, and policy to convey proven and effective approaches for wetland managers. The topic of this year’s workshop is “Connectivity, Collaboration and the Application of Sound Science.” We are currently in the process of confirming speakers for many of the talks and are actively searching out individuals with the background and expertise to present on some very specific topics. We have posted an agenda here. We expect to continue to revise the agenda including adding speakers who have or are being confirmed over the next few weeks. If, after looking at the agenda, you are interested in speaking on a topic you find there, please let us know.

For more information about the workshop including registration and hotel reservation information click here.

If you have any questions or thoughts, please contact Laura Burchill or me at (207) 892-3399.

We hope you will join us!
Wishing you joy this holiday season and hoping you are able to enjoy time with family and friends. Merry Christmas!

- Laura Burchill

Happy holidays from snowy Maine to my new, extended ASWM family! It has been such a treat to work with you over the last six months. It is clear there is much to do and like busy elves we are working hard to get it all done! From this Wetland Wanderer to you, may you always find a way to get out and enjoy the wetlands around you and find a way to protect and share them with others. Give yourself a big pat on the back for all the things you do that no one else would have done for wetlands, or even thought of doing. Cheers and here’s to a great New Year spent working together!

- Brenda Zollitsch

I’ve just completed a course in International Relations. It brought home how fortunate we are to have such an active environmental community. I feel honored to work alongside so many people who care for our wetlands and wetland “citizens”. Merry Christmas to All!

- Dawn Smith

I love the holiday season because it’s time to run on wetlands. We can explore swamps, wander behind beaver dams and generally get to places hard to reach during the warm months of the year. Navia and I hope you enjoy the winter holidays and we encourage you to find an excuse to wander through wetlands. We certainly will, early and often!

- Jeanne Christie
Reminder – Public Meeting of the Science Advisory Board Panel for the Review of the EPA Water Body Connectivity Report


Dates: The public meeting will be held on Monday December 16, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday December 17, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Wednesday December 18, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Addresses: The public meeting will be held at the Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Webcast: This meeting will be streamed live via webcast. A link to the live webcast will be provided here shortly prior to the start of the meeting.

For Further Information Contact: Any member of the public who wants further information concerning the public meeting may contact Dr. Thomas Armitage, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office (1400R), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460; via telephone at (202) 564–2155 or via email at armitage.thomas@epa.gov. General information concerning the SAB can be found on the EPA website here.

Many Thanks to Our Members & Donors

Thank you for renewing your membership and for your continued support of ASWM.

To renew your membership for 2014, please click here.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible end-of-year donation, please click here.

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