Wetland Techniques

James T. Anderson • Craig A. Davis
Editors

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Volume 3: Applications and Management

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Preface

Wetlands are generically defined as lentic systems that take on characteristics of both terrestrial and aquatic systems where vegetation capable of growing in shallow water proliferates. However, there are many definitions of wetlands in use around the world, including a number that have ecological and legal significance. Even among these definitions, there are numerous subtle nuances that blur the lines between wetlands and either terrestrial or aquatic systems. Despite the confusion and oftentimes contradictory nature of wetland definitions, wetlands are increasingly being recognized as critical ecosystems throughout the world. In particular, we are seeing an increased awareness about the values and benefits derived from the world's wetlands. As this awareness has grown, we have also seen a greater focus on efforts to better manage, conserve, and protect wetlands. Wetland-related research has been and will continue to be critically important in providing guidance to all the efforts to better manage, conserve, and protect wetlands. In fact, there is a plethora of wetland-related literature available to wetland scientists, regulators, and managers, many of which can be found in at least two journals that are dedicated exclusively to wetlands. However, for most wetland professionals, it may be a daunting task to access much of this literature. Additionally, wetland professionals have not had a book available that covers techniques associated with wetland research, management, and regulation.

The lack of such a book has been a major void in the wetland field. In fact, wetland professionals have discussed for some time the need for a book that focused on wetland research and management techniques. We believe the development of a techniques book for a profession is a sign that the profession, in this case wetland science, is maturing. Scientific progress in a field is often advanced by the development of a techniques book because almost all studies and management actions boil down to choosing appropriate techniques, and a book focused on the topic of wetland techniques will provide fledgling scientists and managers a solid foundation for initiating research and management efforts. We have designed this

three volume set for students and professionals interested in wetlands ecology, management, and creation. We are pleased to be a part of the development and progression of our discipline through our involvement with the development of *Wetland Techniques Volume 1: Foundations*, *Volume 2: Organisms*, and *Volume 3: Applications and Management*.

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Acknowledgments

Wetland Techniques is our first attempt at a major book project and it was a wonderful learning opportunity as well as an eye-opening experience in regards to all the effort that goes into creating a series of books of this magnitude. We have new-found admiration for all those before us that have successfully tackled book projects for the benefit of science.

We thank the chapter authors for providing freely of their time and expertise. It has been a pleasure working with the authors and we have learned a lot more about wetlands because of them. We thank all of the chapter referees for giving their time and expertise to improve the quality of this three volume *Wetland Techniques* set through constructive reviews that greatly improved the chapters. We especially thank Rachel Hager, undergraduate student in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources at West Virginia University, for all of her help in formatting and verifying literature citations and performing numerous other tasks to improve the book. We also thank Roseanne Kuzmic, research associate in the Natural Resource Ecology and Management Department at Oklahoma State University, for assistance with verifying literature citations.

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