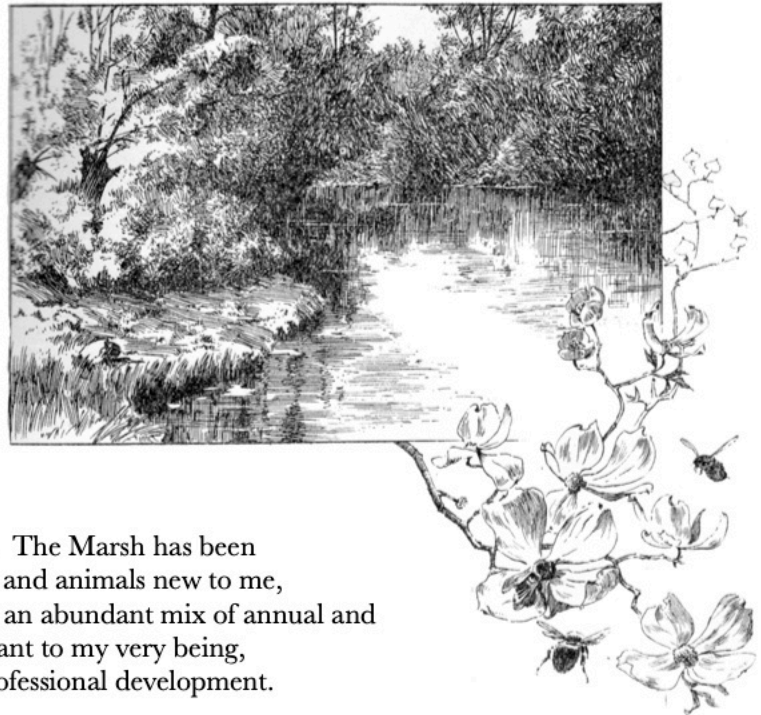


Why is the Abbott Marshlands such a special place and worth your support?

Where to start?

How long I ask Pat...

Just a few lines, she replied.

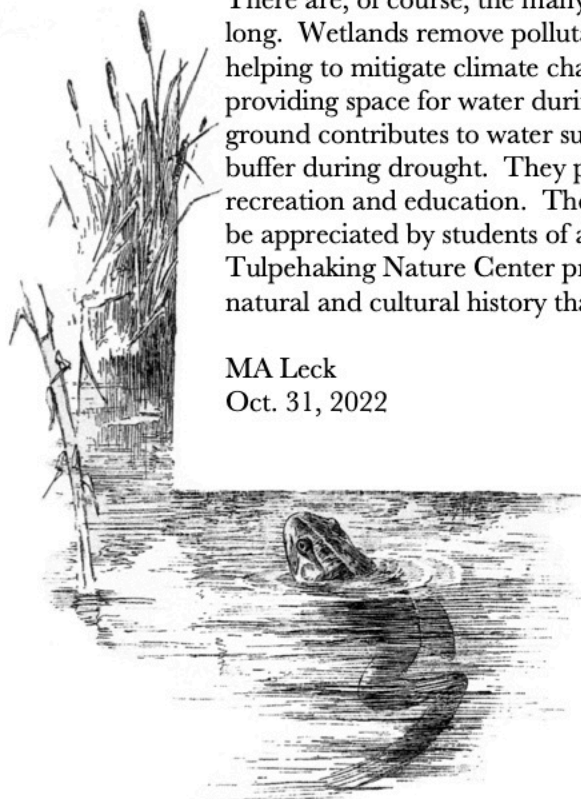


It's not simple, distilling decades to a few lines. The Marsh has been a place of discovery and connections; of plants and animals new to me, and of tidal freshwater wetlands dominated by an abundant mix of annual and perennial species. It continues to be as important to my very being, to my sense of adventure, as it's been to my professional development.

Here the water is pulled by the moon and sun – tides may exceed 10 feet, and as well as by gravity...it comes from the nearby northern portion of the Pinelands of New Jersey via Crosswicks Creek and from hundreds of miles away in New York by way of the Delaware River. It is important to both migrating and resident birds and fish. Regardless of season, it has much to offer. There are the calls of ducks, warblers, marsh wrens, and in autumn the raucous gatherings of red winged black birds feeding on wild rice. There is also a glorious palette of colors – many shades of spring greens, the pinks and whites of Marsh Mallows and purple-blues of Pickerelweed during summer and the grand finale in September of Bur Marigolds, Tear-thumbs, and others preparing for winter. If this isn't enough, there is much to wonder about the first people who visited here, 13,000 years ago as the glaciers retreated northward and then the European settlers who came.

There are, of course, the many services that wetlands provide. This is also not a few lines long. Wetlands remove pollutants from water and from air, including carbon dioxide helping to mitigate climate change. Significantly, they buffer against flooding by providing space for water during heavy rainfall and hurricanes. Water that seeps into the ground contributes to water supplies for municipalities and agriculture and provide a buffer during drought. They provide many economic benefits from opportunities for recreation and education. They need to be protected and preserved; for this they need to be appreciated by students of all ages. The Friends for the Abbott Marshlands and the Tulpehaking Nature Center provide many opportunities for learning about the abundant natural and cultural history that are part of the Abbott Marshlands.

MA Leck
Oct. 31, 2022



Drawings by Oliver Kemp as appearing in 1900 edition of "In Nature's Realm" by Charles Conrad Abbott.