

Virtual Wetland Poetry Readings How-To

WWA is looking to help bring some hope and positivity into the world (and keep talking about wetlands, too!) in the coming weeks or months by offering some virtual visual wetland programming to our members and supporters. One of these offerings is wetland poetry: poems that provide hope, speak to the healing and inspiring power of nature, and celebrate the rebirth of spring.

We hope you will share your favorite wetland poems with WWA's audience by helping us create audiovisual pieces for us to share on our social media platforms and with our members via our Wetland News emails and other outreach. Here are the steps you can take to participate:

1. Choose a poem (or a few poems!) that provide you with hope, help you cope, provide you solace, etc. These can be poems you have written yourself or poems by others. It's best for each poem to be relatively short (say, not more than a minute or two to read out loud).
2. Make a recording (indoors) of yourself reading each poem (make a separate recording for each poem). If you have a smartphone, it should have an audio-recording app (or you can download one) that will make this easy.
 - Make sure to read the name and author of each poem, and perhaps cite the name of the book in which the poem is included. We want to give due credit to the poets, of course.
3. Provide visuals:
 - Take your phone or other video recording device out in a wetland and shoot video of the wetland, including any wildlife you see or hear while you are out there. These can be short clips; in fact, that can be preferable to one long video.
 - Choose and send us photos (using Google Drive—see below) that we can splice into a rolling montage that runs behind the audio of your poem.
 - Tell us you want us to choose photos from our collection that we can splice into a rolling montage that runs behind the audio of your poem.

Once you have a recording (and, if you choose, video footage or photos), upload the file(s) to the Google Drive that WWA has set up for this purpose at <https://tinyurl.com/wetlandpoetry>. Please be sure to send an email to Emily at Emily.Buck@wisconsinwetlands.org to let her know when you've uploaded things. Also be sure to include the text of the poem in this email so that we know the proper line breaks, punctuation, capitalization, etc. for the captions we will create for the video.

Once she has all your stuff, Emily will do some editing and share the final product with you (also via that Google Drive) before we send it out into the world.

If you need technical assistance with any of this, reach out to Katie (Katie.beilfuss@wisconsinwetlands.org) or Emily (Emily.buck@wisconsinwetlands.org) and we will do our best to support you.

Once we have the piece finished, we'll post it to social media. We will also create a blog on our website where we'll post all of the pieces created for this project. Some of the poems (and images) may find their way into our print newsletter too, with your permission.

We are making this up as we go along so if you have other ideas/suggestions about how we could do this (a live Zoom chat where others also share poems?), please let us know.