



February 2, 2005 is World Wetlands Day!

February 2, 1971, marks the date of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands, in the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the shores of the Caspian Sea. World Wetlands Day was celebrated for the first time in 1997 and made an encouraging beginning.

Wetlands are valued for their natural functions and features. A wetland has the capacity to hold a tremendous amount of spring runoff or peak rainfall water. Water is retained in the basin, and released into downstream channels over a period of time. This storage characteristic helps prevent flooding and also contributes to the recharge of the water table. It is important that wetlands are protected for this natural function.

To learn more about the functions and features of wetlands and their protection, check out the following links!

<http://www.ducks.ca>

http://www.otonabee.com/protection_fees4.htm

To learn more about World Wetland Day, visit

http://www.ramsar.org/wwd2005_index.htm