

Ecology of Freshwater Wetlands PREFACE

We developed this second edition with two main goals in mind. First, of course, was to update chapters to cover the wealth of new information published in the past several years. Second was to make the text more accessible to those students using it for wetland science courses. To this end we have conducted significant reorganization. In Chapter 1, we now describe up-front the general aspects of different wetland types, to ground students for the more complex material to come. We also reorganized, refocused, and in some cases completely revamped the subject-specific chapters (2–10). This was accomplished by consolidating some chapters, focusing more on the central themes of wetland ecology, and paring more tangential ideas. Some particularly complex, but important, ideas have now been placed into “boxes” where readers specifically interested in the particular topic can review the material without breaking up the flow of the main themes for more general readers. We have increased the number of figures and photos in this new edition with the aim of making the work more interesting. The text of this second edition is actually somewhat shorter than the first. Despite the focus on students, this book still synthesizes the most recent themes in wetland science, making it a useful reference for all.

Since the first edition, regrettably two of our authors—Robert Wetzel and Mark Brinson—have passed away. We dedicate this second edition to their memories. Fortunately new authors stepped up to cover the material previously in Bob’s and Mark’s chapters. Some of the material formerly covered in Bob’s chapter is now dealt with in the chapter by Paul Boon and co-authors, and some in a completely new chapter by Scott Bridgman. Robert Twilley, a former student of Mark Brinson’s, revised and updated Mark’s climate change chapter, retaining Mark as co-author. Other new lead authors include Sue Galatowitsch, who joined Joy Zedler to revise and update the restoration chapter; and Andy Cole, who joined Eric Somerville to update the new regulations and assessment chapter. Several new co-authors were added to increase the breadth of specific chapters. Overall, we feel that in this second edition we have assembled some of the finest wetland scientists available as authors, and they provide an authoritative look into their areas of wetland expertise.

*Darold P. Batzer and
Rebecca R. Sharitz*