

Connecticut Envirothon Soils Workshop

March 2021

This month..... a materials release!!! For students to view at their own convenience.

1. **Fabulous Wetlands with Bill Nye The Science Guy (1989)** 6:50 minutes

<https://youtu.be/BeUPbGWg2KU>

[Key Point 4: Soil Conservation and Land Use Management]

A fun cheesy video tackling the big question: What is a wetland? Plus, explores wetland functions and values and some history of human use (and misuse) of wetlands.

2. **USDA-NRCS Connecticut: Glaciolacustrine soils and Redoximorphic Features:**5:15 minutes

<https://youtu.be/YfPZOPTGzBc>

[Key Point 3: Chemical Properties of Soil and Soil Fertility]

Video shot in a former glacial lakebed in East Windsor CT. Starts with Donald discussing some unique soil properties of *glaciolacustrine* soils.

Then, Donald and Jacob tackle *redoximorphic features*, which are color patterns in a soil that are caused by loss (depletion) or gain (concentration) of pigment compared to the matrix color, formed by oxidation/reduction of iron and/or manganese.

Next month, we cover *soil texturing by feel*. The soil texturing kits we are distributing will contain sample from glaciolacustrine soils that contain redoximorphic features. We can see these features with our own eyes and discuss. We'll also evaluate the soil texture of these high-clay- and high-silt-content soils.

3. **BONUS Claymation Soil Biology Videos!**

View any/all that interest you. Playlist here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCj5hu6BGWfKRSiDZBUGa8A?view_as=subscriber

[Key Point 2: Soil Ecosystems]

Maxwell Helmberger has made some *amazing* Claymation videos covering last month's soil workshop topic, Soil Ecosystems.

Be dazzled by the magic of stop-start animation as you learn about [The Soil Food Web](#), the [Millipede's Mischief](#), and the [Life Cycle of Entomopathogenic Nematodes!!](#)

We hope to see you all **live** next month for the hands-on soil texturing webinar! Have a great month!!

-Jacob