



Multimedia Library Collection: Environmental Film Profiles (videos)

The Marion Lake Story: Defeating the Mighty Phragmite

Schiller, Greta. *The Marion Lake Story: Defeating the Mighty Phragmite*. New York: Jezebel Productions, 2014. HD, 28 min. <https://vimeo.com/102478131>.

This is a compelling tale of ecological crisis and renewal. An 18-acre lake on the east end of Long Island, New York, is being decimated—choked to death by an invasive reed (*Australis phragmite*). Marion Lake provides crucial habitat for migrating birds, rare turtles and other flora and fauna, and is cherished by locals who remember the beautiful lake of their childhood. One local resident, Lori Luscher, takes it upon herself to write a grant request to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to clean up the lake, but the grant requires matching funds of \$100,000. So begins the empowered grassroots fundraising campaign led by local residents and environmental groups. The film chronicles the seven-year long process of individual sacrifice, activism, and ecological renewal of a cherished local resource. The result is an inspirational grassroots model for environmental restoration in action at the local level. (Source: [Jezebel Productions](#))

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This film is available at the [Rachel Carson Center Library](#) (RCC, 4th floor, Leopoldstrasse 11a, 80802 Munich) for on-site viewing only. For more information, please contact library@rcc.lmu.de.

[About the Environmental Film Profiles collection](#)

Further readings:

- Beinart, William. "Bio-invasions, Biodiversity, and Biocultural Diversity: Some Problems with These Concepts for Historians." In: "The Edges of Environmental History: Honouring Jane Carruthers," edited by Christof Mauch and Libby Robin. Special issue, *RCC Perspectives*1 (2014): 75–80.
- Gurevitch, Jessica. "Are Invasive Species a Major Cause of Extinctions?" *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 19, no. 9 (2004): 470–4.
- Iqbal, Iftekhhar. "Fighting With a Weed: Water Hyacinth and the State in Colonial Bengal, c. 1910-1947." *Environment and History* 15, no. 1 (2009): 35–59. doi:10.3197/096734009X404653.

- Morrison, Doug, et al. "Update on the Environmental and Economic Costs Associated With Alien-Invasive Species in the United States." *Ecological Economics* 52, no. 3 (2005): 273–88.
- Peretti, Jonah H. "Nativism and Nature: Rethinking Biological Invasion." *Environmental Values* 7, no. 2 (1998): 183–92. doi:10.3197/096327198129341537.

Related links:

- The Marion Lake Project (Community Blog)
<http://marionlakeproject.blogspot.de/>
- iMapInvasives (Citizen Science Tool for Reporting Invasive Species)
<http://www.imapinvasives.org/>

Websites linked in this text:

- <https://jezebelproductions.org/the-marion-lake-story-store/>
- <http://www.carsoncenter.uni-muenchen.de/index.html>
- <https://www.environmentandsociety.org/multimedia/collection/environmental-films-project>