



NATURE AT HOME

We hope to inspire kids of all ages to learn about the natural world and discover new connections to nature.



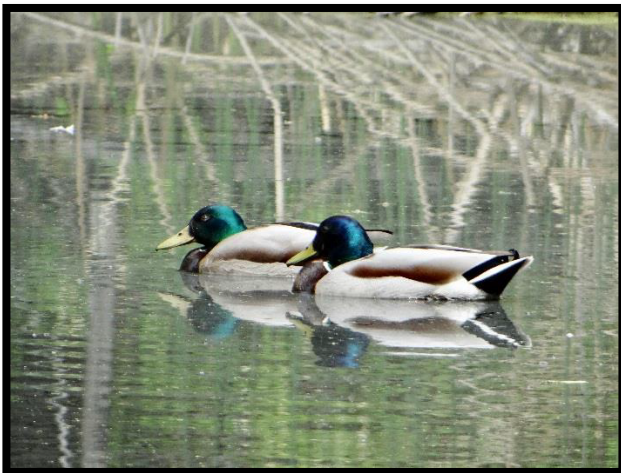
Exploring the Pond Habitat

View the video at DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home

There are more aspen trees in North America than any other tree. They have roots that are lateral under the ground. Lateral means that they don't grow down but sideways (parallel) with the ground and can start other aspen trees. Aspen trees grow from seeds or directly from the roots of trees. This is an example of an **adaptation**. An adaptation is a "feature" (or trait) which helps an animal, plant, or other living organism survive.



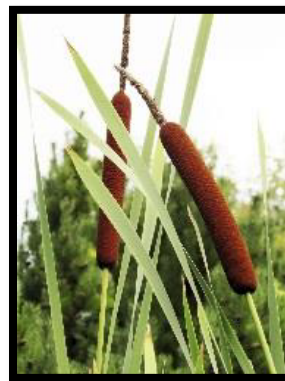
There are Mallard ducks on this pond. What is an adaptation a duck has to live in the water? Their feet have webbing between the bones so they can paddle easier. They are called "dabblers". When Mallards find food, they put their head under the water and their bottoms up in the air. How the Mallard eats is an example of a "**behavioral adaptation.**"



Behavioral adaptations are what living creatures do to survive; like this turtle sunning itself on the log.



Pond habitats can vary in what you find living there. This pond has many cattails. The cattail has its roots down in the mud. The stalk is similar to a straw that pulls the air down to the roots. The head of a cattail has many, many seeds (over 250,000!) Cattails are well adapted to wet environments.



Many different birds and animals are attracted to pond environments. Use your journal to record your outdoor adventures.

Share your discoveries or questions at Education@DishmanHills.org