

SEPTEMBER, 2021. VOLUME 22

# SWSPCP FALL NEWSLETTER

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY GILLIAN DAVIES,  
PROFESSIONAL WETLAND  
SCIENTIST

Despite the too numerous and compounding calamities unfolding around the world, SWSPCP is thriving and growing, thanks to my predecessor Kim Ponzio's stellar leadership over the past year as President of SWSPCP, and the SWSPCP staff and the many dedicated Board members and committee chairs who have done the heavy lifting to move SWSPCP forward.



Of particular note, Kim led a team of leaders to revise the SWSPCP Mission and Vision (see box below) statements, and established the Strategic Plan Committee, chaired by Scott Jecker. Under Scott's highly competent and focused leadership, this committee developed SWSPCP's first-ever Strategic Plan, which has now been approved by the Board of Directors and is available for members to view here [https://wetlandcert.org/docs/SWSPCP\\_Strategic\\_Plan.pdf](https://wetlandcert.org/docs/SWSPCP_Strategic_Plan.pdf). The next step will be for this committee to work with the other SWSPCP committees on action plans for how each committee will implement the Strategic Plan with regard to their committee's responsibilities. This represents a major milestone for SWSPCP!

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### **SWSPCP MISSION**


**THE SWSPCP MISSION IS TO CERTIFY WETLAND PROFESSIONALS WHO MEET THE HIGHEST STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE, AND ETHICS IN THE PRACTICE OF WETLAND SCIENCE.**

### **SWSPCP VISION**

**TO BE THE GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY ON CERTIFICATION OF WETLAND PROFESSIONALS WHO ASSESS, PROTECT AND MANAGE THE WORLD'S WETLAND RESOURCES.**

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Matt Simpson continues to lead the Globalization Committee with skill and dedication, including establishing high level talks with the Ramsar Focal Point for South Africa in pursuit of a draft Resolution stating support for professional wetland scientist certification by Contracting Parties at the next Ramsar Conference of the Parties, which is most likely going to be held in late 2022.



The committee continues to make progress on identifying SWSPCP champions in more and more places around the world, and we are developing means to publicize SWSPCP at the upcoming INTECOL International Wetlands Conference, which will be held virtually from October 10 – 15, 2021. Kim Ponzio and I will be giving a presentation on SWSPCP and the PWS certification process at the upcoming III International Congress of Rivers and Wetlands, hosted by wetland scientists in Colombia.

I have established an ad hoc Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee, which Kim Ponzio and Swapan Paul are co-chairing. Stay tuned, as you will be hearing more from the committee. We are looking for SWSPCP members to join the committee to bring diversity and DEI ideas to the group. If you are interested, please contact Kim, Swapan or me.

As I contemplate the worsening condition of the world, with unprecedented wildfires and smoke in numerous hot spots around the globe, multi-year droughts, hurricanes and typhoons of greater strength and frequency than the norm, sea level rise, warming and acidification of the oceans, and the loss and degradation of wetlands and biodiversity, and, oh yeah, the pandemic and political and climate refugees fleeing for their lives, I become more fervently committed to the idea that what we do as wetland scientists is critical in addressing these synergistic challenges and emergencies. Likewise, the existence of organizations such as SWS and SWSPCP is critical. These organizations allow us to share knowledge, experiences, and concerns, and they support the professional development and well-being of all of us through our professional community, which seems absolutely essential these days.

An example of how SWSPCP is central to supporting professional wetland scientists is the Connect Session program, initiated and hosted by Matt Simpson and Kim Ponzio, to provide a discussion forum for SWSPCPers as we all navigate our way through the pandemic. In yesterday's Connect Session, we discussed how the latest phase of the pandemic is impacting us and our work (vaccines, more offices opening up, Delta variant, more offices delaying opening up, air travel...sort of, continued work-from-home challenges, etc.) and then heard a brief presentation from Dr. Wei Wu, Chair of the SWS Global Change Section, who shared her thoughts both on how the pandemic is impacting research and on her climate change work.

We then discussed how climate change is impacting our work in a variety of ways, such as the expectation on the part of our clients and employers that we will understand how climate change will be impacting wetlands at the site-specific level, and the associated need to stay current on wetlands and climate change science; how we as outdoor workers and our employers may need to implement new approaches to safety (more tornado alerts, reduced or altered work schedules due to high heat, flooded infrastructure as we travel, etc.); and how SWSPCP members can get involved in wetland policy, if desired.

I hope that the rest of this year brings you good health and good weather, and joy in our collective work to conserve, restore and protect wetlands, as SWSPCP celebrates the certification of 3,414 Professional Wetland Scientists and counting!

Gillian Davies , PWS President



**LinkedIn**



**Follow us on social media !**

**Connect, follow and have a conversation with us.**

Here at SWSPCP we love getting social. Which is why you'll find us on all of the main social media channels, including Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram. We think it's a great way to build an online community where we can all share news and ideas.



# SHARE THE NEWS

## WHY THE INTEREST ?

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My interest and experience in the field of wetlands science has evolved over the past 12 years. Much of my interest in environmental science, and more specifically wetland science and ecology, stemmed during my college academia as I was introduced to the wonders of wetlands. Growing up in southeast Virginia, wetlands and other waters have always been a part of my life, but my appreciation for these unique features drove me towards my career path of conserving and protecting such ecosystems. I am currently an environmental consultant for an engineering firm that serves both public and private clients along the east coast, as well as nationwide. It was my commitment to conservation and my role in the environmental and engineering realm that led me to applying for my certification of Professional Wetland Scientist. Paired with my Virginia Certified Professional Wetland Delineator license, obtaining my Professional Wetland Scientist certification has strengthened my knowledge and experience for both my professional and personal growth in the field of wetland science.

**Mrs. Taylor Hollingsworth, PWS, CPWD**



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*I set my sights on the PWS certification once I entered the field in 2015 as a private environmental consultant. The certificate embodies everything I wanted to achieve in my professional career: field assessment skills, permitting knowledge, and a high standard for environmental ethics. With my PWS certificate, I look forward to continued education and professional growth in a community with similar values.*

Kristen Numata, PWS



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## Lifetime Achievement Award

Congratulations to Dr. Kurt R. Philipp, SPWS who is the 2021 recipient of The R. Harold Jones Lifetime Achievement Award.

Kurt Serves on the SWSPCP Board of Directors as the CESB (Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards Representative.



# COVID-19 Resources



Current Senior Professional Wetland Scientists (SPWS), Professional Wetland Scientists (PWS), and Wetland Professionals in Training (WPIT) may be granted a full or partial waiver of their annual SPWS/PWS/WPIT maintenance fees, due to financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Fee Waiver Due To COVID-19 Financial Hardship**
- **Certification Renewal Extension Due To COVID-19 Hardship**

## What is 'SWSPCP Connect'?

An opportunity for all PWS's and WPIT's to come together, in an interactive setting, to share their experiences, challenges, and solutions to working in wetlands during the pandemic.

From our website you may download free recordings from the past sessions that occurred on:

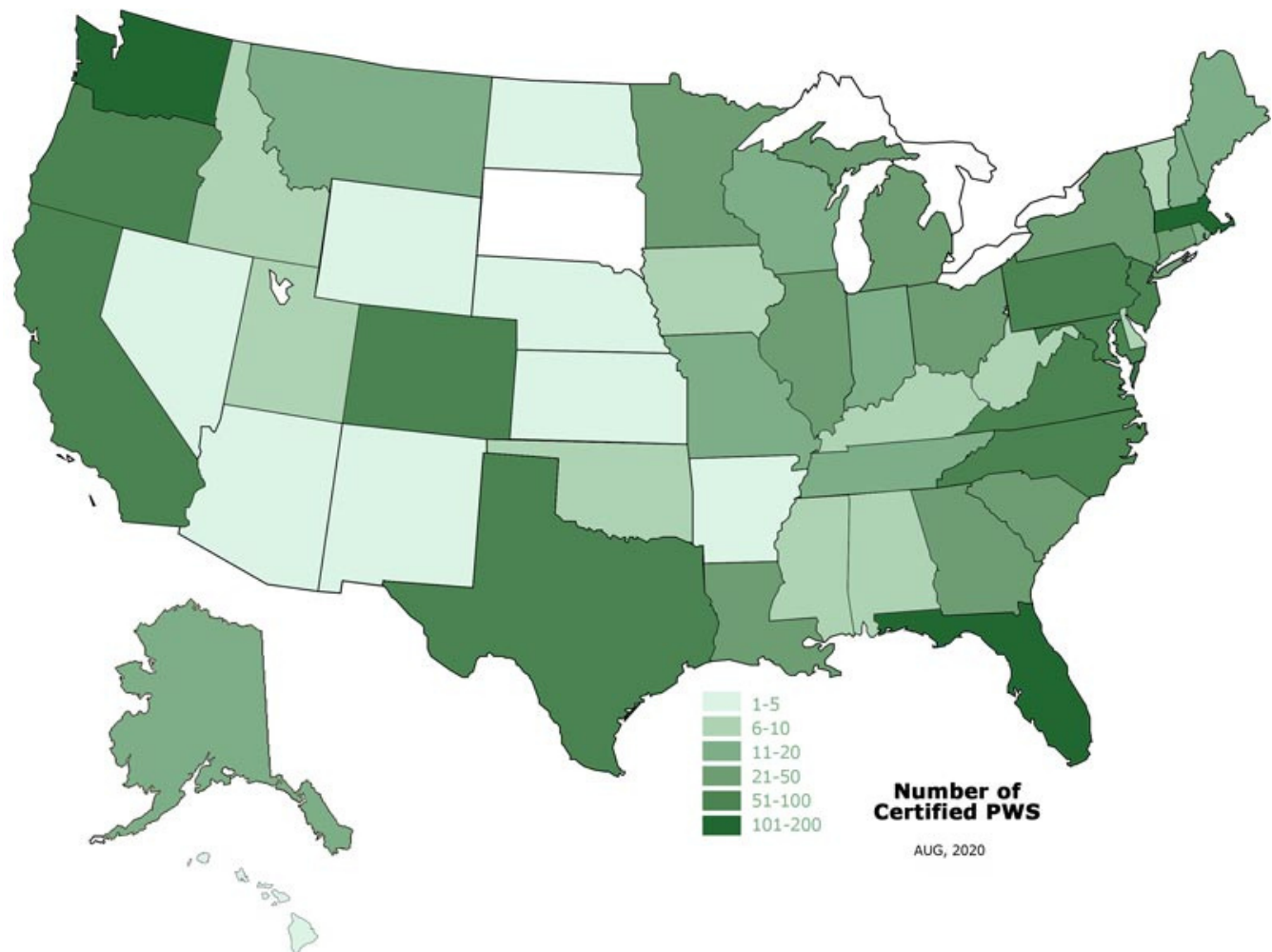
1. May 15, 2020
2. July 23, 2020
3. September 15, 2020
4. November 17, 2020
5. February 16, 2021
6. May 27, 2021

Please join us for our next SWSPCP Connect Zoom Session which will be scheduled soon. Once you register for this FREE session, you will receive the link to join the session via email from Zoom.



# Global Representation

The highest representation of members is currently in the United States, particularly bordering the larger coastal and fresh water bodies.





# WPIT SOCIAL MEDIA SCHOLARSHIP

The Society of Wetland Scientist Professional Certification Program is currently taking applications of interest for a Social Media Scholarship.

Eligible applicants must be an active Wetland Professional In Training (WPIT) who has a strong interest and flair for social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram. Scholarships awarded are available for up to three years of service participating in the Programs Outreach Committee.

Scholarship recipients are expected to participate in media creation and posting schedules to engage members on a regular basis. Anticipated time allocation is 1-2 hours a week minimum.

Scholarships are distributed as a waiver for annual fees of up to \$200.

Interested WPITs should send a letter of interest and resume to: [ABorczyk@association-resources.com](mailto:ABorczyk@association-resources.com)





## GLOBAL CHAMPIONS

The SWS Professional Certification program has an expanding membership in many countries across the globe. We are grateful for our regional champions that help to promote the program and support wetland scientists in their regions.

These include:

Shuqing An, Prof. – China  
Swapan Paul, PhD - Australia  
Wei-ta Fang, Prof. – Taiwan  
Matt Simpson, PhD – UK  
Muhammed Afzal, PhD – Pakistan  
Ian Bredin, MSc - South Africa  
Héctor Aponte, PhD – Peru  
Tatiana Lobato de Magalhães, PhD - Mexico  
Sylvina Casco, PhD - Argentina

## NEW MEMBERS

**SWSPCP proudly welcomes the following people who have become members in the last 30 days.**

Alexandra Balzer as a Wetland Professional In Training.  
Elizabeth Donadio as a Wetland Professional In Training.  
Daniel Buczek as a Wetland Professional In Training.  
Lydia Baldwin as a Upgrade from WPIT to PWS.  
Jean-Charles Weaver as a Professional Wetland Scientist.  
Kristen Walls as a Wetland Professional In Training.  
John Kemmey as a Wetland Professional In Training.  
Mackenzie Richards as a Professional Wetland Scientist.  
John Deslippe as a Professional Wetland Scientist.  
Andrew Dellas as a Upgrade from WPIT to PWS.  
Christina Powell as a Wetland Professional In Training.  
Christina Omran as a Upgrade from WPIT to PWS.  
Merci Clinton as a Wetland Professional In Training.  
Elyse Denkers as a Professional Wetland Scientist.  
Jeffrey Jackson as a Professional Wetland Scientist.  
Brandon Zebron as a Wetland Professional In Training.  
Matthew Ray as a Professional Wetland Scientist.  
Breena Riley as a Wetland Professional In Training.  
Jenny Potrikus as a Upgrade from WPIT to PWS.  
Sean Nussle as a Professional Wetland Scientist.  
John Hussain as a Professional Wetland Scientist.  
Schylar Healy as a Wetland Professional In Training.  
Joseph Kaminski as a Professional Wetland Scientist.  
Tara Sturgill as a Upgrade from WPIT to PWS.  
Emma Bales as a Wetland Professional In Training.