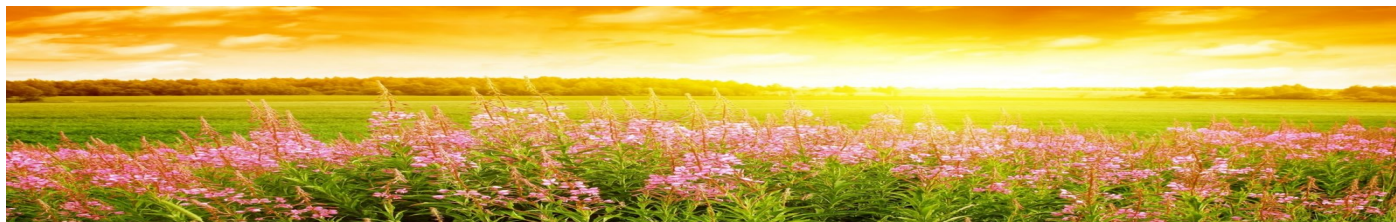


# Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program



## PROFESSIONAL WETLAND SCIENTIST E-LETTER

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Volume 10 Issue 2, 2017  
Summer 2017



Hello to all you PWSers. It has been a busy year. We have been on a record setting pace approving 51 PWS applications, 29 WPIT applications and 82 PWS renewals.

The business office and our certification and renewals committees have been off the chart busy. Kudos to them.

We are also working actively with our international Society of Wetland Scientists chapters to assist them in increasing PWS certification numbers within those chapters and hope to see results of the effort soon.

We developed a Professional Wetland Scientist patch which can be utilized on all forms of clothing or anything else you wish to decorate with the PWS logo. They are available for order through the SWSPCP website. We have noticed throughout the industry that requirements for PWS certification is increasing in job announcements and wetland related employment positions. Thanks to all of you for demonstrating to your employers and clients the extreme level of technical ability and professionalism of your efforts.

Additionally, the home office has taken on the overwhelming task of reaching back to PWS certification holders with lapsed or expired certifications to encourage them back into the mix and the effort has been hugely successful. Kudos to the home office.

Lastly, it also seems that with each passing year, there are more tick borne vectors to be aware of when conducting field work, I wish you all a safe and successful field season. Hope to see to in San Juan!

Thanks for your support,  
John Lowenthal, PWS

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Presidents Corner	1
Why Become Certified	2
Overview of the Program	3
Pre Approved Courses APPLICATION	3
Note From Certification Panel Chair	5
Pre Approved Courses	5
Annual Meeting News	6
Newly Certified PWS /WPIT	7,8
Seal Order Form	9
Maintenance Fee Notice	10
New Certification Corner	11

The Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program, serving the public's need to identify qualified individuals to assess and manage the nation's resources. This program is intended to meet the needs of professional ecologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, educators, agency professionals, consultants, and others who practice wetland science. [www.wetlandcert.org](http://www.wetlandcert.org)

## WHY BECOME CERTIFIED ?

### Why Professional Wetland Scientist Certification Matters to Public Sector Employees

As certified Professional Wetland Scientists (PWS) employed by public agencies, we are often asked by colleagues why we bother to seek and pay the cost of professional certification. After all, there is no requirement to be certified, and there's certainly no financial incentive for us or our employers. Perhaps it all boils down to a strong desire to support the profession we have chosen, and the professionalism of all of us who work with wetlands programs or regulations.

Unlike some professions that have well-established curricula and degree programs, wetland scientists come from a wide variety of educational programs and backgrounds. We may have a degree in botany or soil science, in geography or geology, in wildlife management or even education. We often cobble together relevant course work and obtain wetland-specific training where we can find it or on the job. A certification program provides a framework for educational standards, necessary skill sets and ethical standards for the profession.

The Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program (SWSPCP) is the only widely available wetland scientist certification program. SWSPCP works to meet the needs of professional ecologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, educators, agency professionals, consultants, and others who practice wetland science. The program also is aimed at serving the public's need to identify qualified individuals to assess and manage the Nation's wetland resources.

As agency staff, we are confronted regularly by landowners or developers who assume that whomever they hired to conduct a wetland delineation or assessment for their property or develop a wetland mitigation plan not only has the specific skill set, but must be licensed or certified. They are sometimes shocked to discover otherwise, which is usually when something goes awry. The public may or may not have that same expectation of natural resource agency staff, but professional certification encourages continued skill development and can lend credibility to agency decisions.

*Signed by: Roger Borine, CPSS, CPSC, PWS, Natural Resources Conservation Service (retired) David L. Davis, CPWD, PWS, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Patrick Frost, PWS, SWSPCP Certification Renewal Committee Chair, Trinity County (CA) Resource Conservation District William Kirchner, PWS, Member of SWSPCP Certification Renewal Committee, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1 Janet C. Morlan, PWS, SWSPCP President, Oregon Department of State Lands (retired) Elizabeth M. Pelloso, PWS, Member of SWSPCP Certification Review Panel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 Lynda A. Saul, PWS, Montana Department of Environmental Quality Ralph Tiner, PWS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Region Yvonne Vallette, PWS, SWSPCP Treasurer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 The view of the authors is provided in her or his personal capacity only and does not necessarily represent the view of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service or the United States, nor does it represent the*

## OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

The **Society of Wetland Scientists** was formed to further non-profit scientific and educational objectives related to wetland science. Encouraging and strengthening professional standards in all activities related to wetland science is consistent with these objectives.

**Wetland Professional in Training (WPIT)** is considered a preliminary step for persons who meet the basic educational requirements but not the experience requirements.

**Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS)** certification is awarded for those meeting both educational and experience requirements. Minimum degree requirements for WPIT and PWS are the BA or BS degrees, with course distribution of 15 semester hours each in biological and physical sciences and 6 hours in quantitative areas. For certification as a PWS, an additional 15 semester hours in wetland-related courses are required. In addition to comprehensive training in wetland science, a PWS is expected to have professional experience of at least 5 years as a wetland scientist, demonstrating the application of current technical knowledge dealing with wetland resources and activities.

The Application process is done **EXCLUSIVELY** online

## SWSPCP PRE-APPROVED COURSES: APPLICATION

The online process is broken into two parts:

**First** the prospective Professional Short Course provider must register and complete the payment process.  
Professional Short Course Provider Registration

**Second** after the provider's registration is approved and they receive their unique **Provider Code**, the provider then completes an application for each Professional Short Course that they want to get approved.

### Professional Short Course Application

Title:

**I: SWS – Webinar Course Provider**

When you were approved as a provider, you were assigned a unique Provider Code to be used here.

**II: Program Code**

**III: COURSE CONTACT**

**IV: INSTRUCTION**

List the instructional personnel involved in planning and conducting the program or activity and indicate the approximate proportion of instruction time for each.

**V: WEBINAR SYNOPSIS**

**VI: DATE OF INITIAL WEBINAR OFFERING**

**VII: LENGTH OF WEBINAR**

Provide the length of the webinar in minutes or hours & minutes

**VIII: OBJECTIVES OR LEARNING OUTCOMES**

State the knowledge skill or educational advancement objective or outcome of the webinar.

**IX: PARTICIPANT DOCUMENTATION**

**XVI: AGREEMENT**

**XVII: Submitted By**



**QUICK NOTE FROM CERTIFICATION REVIEW PANEL CHAIR :**

Greetings from the SWS Professional Certification Panel. As chair of the panel, I have the distinct pleasure of working with a group of nine, hard-working PWS volunteer panelists to review all WPIT and PWS applications. This group is committed to providing timely review of all applications, as is the staff in our business office, and I'm pleased to report that the average turn-around time on applications is well under 40 days.

Calendar year 2016 was another record year for the number of applicants receiving WPIT and PWS certification. Approximately 128 applicants were approved for PWS certification, and 60 were approved for WPIT. Applicant numbers have broken records in each of the past three years, which speaks to the recognition the certification program is receiving, and 2017 is shaping up to be another record-breaking year. Of particular note is the large number of WPIT applicants – clearly young professionals and scholars are viewing certification as an added value to their professional development. Lastly, the panel is always looking for dedicated PWS volunteers to serve a three year term; if you believe that you could be of service to the certification review panel, don't hesitate to contact me or one of the SWSPCP board members.

Continued from pg.3

## APPROVED PROFESSIONAL SHORT COURSES

The Companies/Individuals listed here have submitted one or more courses that have been pre-approved for training credits points by the SWSPCP.

These companies are authorized to designate/advertise the pre-approved course(s) they offer.



Wetland Delineation Short Course



Wetland Delineation & Regional Supplement Training



Wetland Delineation & Corps Permitting Training



Monitoring and Assessment of Wetland and Riparian Ecosystems



Nationwide and State Program General Permit Seminar



Fundamental Hydric Soils



Wetland Delineation  
Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands (ORAM)  
Vegetation Index of Biotic Integrity (VIBI)  
Identification of Common Wetland Plants  
Primary Headwater Habitat (PHWH)

## Institute for Wetland & Environmental Education & Research

Plant ID: Wetlands & Their Borders Basic Wetland Delineator Training



Southern Vegetation Identification for Wetland Delineation / Vegetation Identification for Wetland Delineation / Introduction to Wetland Identification / Methodology for Delineating Wetlands / Wetland Construction Design

## RICHARD CHINN ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING, INC.

ACOE Wetland Delineation, Waters of the US and Regional Supplement Training  
Wetland Permitting Training

## SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING!



The Society of Wetland Scientists' **2017 Annual Meeting will be held at the Puerto Rico Convention Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 5-8, 2017.** This unique meeting is themed *Celebrating Wetland Diversity Across the Landscape: Mountains to Mangroves*. The program will highlight the interdisciplinary nature of wetland science and practice, how wetlands function, and how protection and restoration play a significant role in the health of our ecosystems and society. The importance of using sound science to inform management strategies and enhance environmental values to society will also be emphasized. This meeting will also be a prime opportunity to engage the public and private wetland professionals with field trips and workshops that will focus on current wetland topics and issues.

San Juan was strategically selected as the host destination for this event in order to further underline the theme of diversity as there are significant connections between protecting and restoring wetlands in Puerto Rico, providing ecosystem services, and the resulting economic returns in the U.S. and abroad, including in Mexico, the Caribbean, and in Central and South America.

**Section 26 (G) of the Standing Rules highlights and clarifies requirements for Section G of the renewal application.**

*Attending a wetland-related conference shall earn renewal points at the rate of 0.5 points per conference lasting a minimum of 8.0 hours per conference. Conferences lasting 16 hours shall earn 1.0 renewal point and conferences lasting more than 16 hours shall earn 1.5 points. No more than 4.0 points for attendance of wetland conferences shall be applied to certification renewal per five-year period. PWS seeking renewal points must submit evidence of participation. Application for points from conferences sponsored by SWSPCP, Inc. need only submit evidence of participation and the length of the conference. Applicants seeking points for other conferences must include a description of the conference, including technical content for approval.*



## NEW PWS CERTIFICATIONS

Congratulations to the following individuals who received their PWS certification:

2715 Marc	Auten
2716 Michael	Takacs
2717 Jeanne	DiFranco
2718 Emily	Foster
2719 Trisha	Stone
2720 Brian	Bury
2721 Paula	Gill
2722 Brady	Trahan
2723 Clay	Fischer
2724 Richard	Gundlach
2725 Kolten	Kosters
2726 Jeffrey	Allen
2727 John	Foster
2728 Winthrop	Taylor
2729 Mathew	DeCoursey
2730 Tracy	Sharkey
2731 Christopher	McGinness
2732 Steven	Ball
2733 Jason	Teschler
2734 Victoria	Luiting
2735 Liam	Bevan
2736 Jillian	Arnold
2738 Kazimierz	Wieski
2739 Philip	London
2740 Glenn	Martin
2741 Cory	Darnell
2742 Matthew	Waldrip
2743 Bradley	Luckey
2744 Matthew	Paroulek
2745 Ryan	Mountain

2746 Edward	Avizinis
2747 Kevin	Webb
2748 Joshua	Glance
2749 Kaitlyn	Kiehart
2750 John	Finley
2751 Jason	Hartshorn
2752 Claire	Hoffman
2753 Kristian	Holmberg
2754 Erin	Gora
2755 Liliana	Hansen
2756 Daniel	Cardoza
2757 G. Alan	Wood
2758 Rebecca	Beduhn
2759 Michael	Rabalais
2760 Carla	Fenner
2761 Benjamin	Furr
2762 Thomas	Slowinski
2763 Lindsay	Merkle
2764 Jocelyn	Wardrup
2765 Cliff	Sunda
2766 Lauren	Shaffer
2767 Casey	Tompkins
2768 Alan	Moore
2769 Dale	Knapp
2770 Alicia	Douglass
2771 Tanner	Harris
2772 Christopher	Gurney
2773 Alexander	Bonazzoli
2774 Dylan	Lueth
2775 Mark	Eldridge

## NEW PWS CERTIFICATIONS

Congratulations to the following individuals who received their PWS certification:

2776 Christopher	Weber
2777 Timothy	Walters
2778 Emily	Choudhry
2779 Sarah	Miloski
2780 Patrick	Ritchie
2781 Elise	Leduc
2782 Amanda	Little
2783 Corey	Novak
2784 Christopher	Berger
2785 Christina	Merten
2786 Larissa	Herrera
2787 Ian	Eckardt
2788 Jessica	Ackerman
2789 Robert	Roos
2790 Michele	Bodtke
2791 Alexander	Levy
2792 Richard	Howard
2793 Matthew	Simpson
2794 Roscoe	Sullivan
2795 Karl	Hoffman
2796 Marshall	Willis
2797 Keith	Carr
2798 Susan	Lindstrom
2799 Michael	Richard
2800 Teagan	Loew
2801 Cesar	Donayre
2802 Debra	White
2803 Nikki	Pisula
2804 Amy	Jones
2805 Kimberly	Bartos

2806 Frank	Henning
2807 Jillian	Olsen
2808 Terry	Burhans
2809 Jeremy	Degler
2810 Brad	Smyth
2811 Nicole	Thomson
2812 Stephen	Dockery
2813 Joseph	Carlo
2814 Kevin	Shelton
2815 Scott	Walters
2816 Tyler	Beemer
2817 Cody	Brounce
2818 Kim	Dixon
2819 Jacob	Bannister
2820 Scott	Martin
2821 Sondra	Collins
2822 Keith	Tollenaere
2823 Daniel	Cox
2824 Jeffrey	Stone
2825 Laura	Meyer



## 2017 MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENT

Annual Maintenance Notices are generally sent out via email every last week of December of the current year for fees applicable to the upcoming year. Please be reminded that in order to keep your certification status active, you have to pay your annual maintenance fees.

We have made this process really easy for you. Anytime of the year, you may click on the **maintenance portal** of the SWSPCP site and enter your last name and your six digit member/application number.

[http://www.wetlandcert.org/login.html?r=ann\\_ren](http://www.wetlandcert.org/login.html?r=ann_ren)

You forgot your six digit member/application number? No worries... on this same link, you can enter your email address associated with your certification account and the system will automatically send via email your member/application number.

## PWS SEAL ORDER FORM

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address (1): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address (2): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

PWS #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Cost of Seal + Shipping: \$45.00**

*Effective February 1, 2010*

Please specify how you want your name on your seal (Middle Name, Ph.D., M.S., etc):

\_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method: Check  
Please make checks payable to  
SWSPCP. Checks made out to  
SWS will be returned.

Credit Card (Visa or MasterCard Only)

Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form, along with payment, to the SWSPCP Business Office at 2800 W. Higgins Rd • Suite 440 • Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

## MAINTENANCE FEE NOTICE

### Annual Professional Wetland Scientist/Wetland Professional in Training Certification Maintenance Fee for 2017

SWSPCP has amended the annual PWS maintenance fee, the five year PWS renewal fee, and the one time Emeritus fee by a minimal \$25 increase on January 1, 2015. The SWSPCP Board unanimously voted to increase these fees after thorough review and due diligence reviewing the current financial and budget demands. The fees have remained the same for the past five years and will be effective for years to come. The remaining fee structure will remain intact.

**PWS - \$75.00**

**WPIT - \$50.00**

Only annual certification maintenance fees can be made with this notice.  
**DO NOT** send SWS annual membership fees with this notice.

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

PWS Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Application/Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

For back dues, kindly indicate the years that you would want your payment to be applied to:

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Payment

- ☐ Check Enclosed (*Checks must be made in US dollars and drawn upon a US bank*).  
**Checks and money orders MUST be made payable to: SWSPCP. Checks made payable to SWS will be returned.**
- ☐ Credit Card Payment - VISA OR MASTERCARD ONLY.

Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Billing Address of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Remit payment to: SWS/PCP, 2800 W. Higgins Rd. Suite 440 Hoffman Estates IL 60169  
or fax this form to 847.885.8393.

***Thank you for your payment.***

## NEW CERTIFICATION CORNER

*When I joined Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. in 2015 as a Regulatory Technician, I applied for the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) **Wetland Professional in Training (WPIT)** certification. My undergraduate courses from Cornell University transferred easily into the required fields for the certification application, giving me confidence I could translate my classroom skills to the professional world. Now as a Regulatory Specialist and WPIT, my educational background, work experience, and the credibility of the SWSPCP program assures clients I have the specific skill sets to assess wetland impacts, prepare wetland permit applications, and coordinate with the regulatory agencies and project team to ensure timely permit issuance of the least environmentally damaging plan. In addition, this certification program provides a framework for future education, providing me direction to grow and progress in my profession.*

*SWSPCP is well recognized in the environmental community. Through newsletters, website postings, and new professional courses, SWSPCP allows me to keep in touch with the latest industry and scientific news.*

**-Annie Colturi**, Regulatory Specialist

### Board of Directors

#### President

John Lowenthal, PWS

#### Secretary General

Robbyn Myers, PWS

#### Treasurer

Yvonne M. Vallette, PWS

#### Immediate Past President

Robbyn Myers, PWS

### Executive Office

#### Executive Director

Robert O. Patterson, JD

#### Executive Administrator

Donn Lesko

#### Program Manager

Adrianna Borczyk

2800 W. Higgins Road,  
Suite 440  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

TF: 877-226-9902

F: 847-885-8393

E: [info@wetlandcert.org](mailto:info@wetlandcert.org)

URL: [www.wetlandcert.org](http://www.wetlandcert.org)