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# SWSPCP SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY ELLEN KRACAUER HARTIG,  
SENIOR PROFESSIONAL  
WETLAND SCIENTIST

To all,

As my tenure as President of the SWSPCP ends and I embrace my new role as Past President, I cannot help but look back at some of the differences between the time when I first got the call to run for office and now. That call was from then Past President Kimberli J. Ponzio when I was at a bus stop on 110th and Malcolm X Boulevard in Manhattan on the way home from my office at City of New York Parks & Recreation.

It was January 2022. I was holding my paper mask, ready to use it on the bus. We were no longer routinely masking up outside but on buses and subways masking was still very much encouraged through public awareness ads, posters, and announcements. Outbreaks of Covid19 were occurring following the winter holidays, with friends, colleagues, and family members falling ill.

By June 2022, when travelling by airplane or attending meetings, masking had become mainly optional. At the Europe Chapter meeting, in Arles, France, it was two of the Americans (with me being one of them) and a few others who kept their masks on indoors. Likewise, in November 2022 at the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Conference of Parties (COP14) few participants were wearing masks. This international wetland meeting had been postponed for a year due to the pandemic. The original meeting had been scheduled for Wuhan, China; instead, a hybrid conference was held in Wuhan and Geneva, Switzerland. Of special meaning to me was the Wetland City Accreditation initiative. Since its start in 2018, 43 cities have been recognized (map available at <https://www.ramsar.org/our-work/activities/wetland-city-accreditation>).

At the SWS Annual Meeting in Spokane, Washington, June 2023, the meeting highlighted the “aim to provide a safe in-person event for scientists, policymakers, and practitioners to share their knowledge and gather ideas for the future of wetlands.” Tours, mixers and talks proceeded with masks optional.

I will add that even though in-person attendance has returned, the ability to participate via Zoom or through Webinars is now routine and will continue to enable engagement that might not be possible otherwise. In November 2023, the International Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists (Latin America and the Caribbean) met in Medellín, Colombia. I was invited to be among the panelists promoting PWS certification and was able to be there virtually.

As I think back generally on the period when the pandemic was peaking, I find that among the work-related shifts in which I found myself more heavily invested was my increased involvement with the outdoor volunteer events offered by the NYC Parks Stewardship team. Early in the pandemic the agency limited the number of volunteers, thus making early registration essential to increasing the chance of participating. I was grateful to learn how much park users wanted to be there, in the heat, in the cold, using grabbers to pick up trash, willingly planting at restoration sites, conducting citizen science monitoring, all at a mix of locations including long-neglected sites along the city's shoreline. The pandemic allowed people of all ages to seek respite out-of-doors and to seek activities that were less commonplace. Often, we would have sign-ups quickly fill to the maximum. It was a relief when we could return to the pre-pandemic allowable numbers of 25 volunteers at a Stewardship event.

Among the more popular events were the counting, tagging and at one site rescue of horseshoe crabs coming to shore to spawn each May and June (see figures). But also, clean-ups have been very popular where the focus is marine debris removal. I am in awe of volunteers who start to specialize in particular types of items. Some specialize in what some have come to call 'the tinies' (bottle caps, straws, cigarette butts) and these volunteers figure out how to do so with skill and efficiency. Others lean toward removal of bulky items, such as tires, car seats and crates. These volunteers often worked in clusters to conduct their removals most efficiently.

This Spring COVID19 remains among several respiratory health risks to be mindful of, and safety guidelines continue to be updated. And as we have done since March 2020, when closures began, we will adjust our protocols accordingly.

As you may know, the next international SWS annual meeting will be held in Taiwan, November 11-16, 2024 (<https://www.sws.org/annual-meetings/>). Also, regional SWS Chapter meetings continue to be a great way to meet up with professional wetland scientists, so please click to Chapter events to learn more.

My hope is that as you continue your work dedicated to the resilience of wetlands, whether you work in consulting, academia, at non-governmental organizations or government agencies, you will find inspiration from your involvement with these important habitats and their stewards.

Sincerely,  
Ellen Kracauer Hartig, SPWS  
SWSPCP President



Hartig with binoculars ready to scan the sandy shoreline for stranded horseshoe crabs, July 7, 2023. Photo by Theodore Massiah.



Hartig offering a training session for the rescue of horseshoe crabs entangled in nylon mesh at World's Fair Marina, Flushing, Queens, NY



Triage completed; the horseshoe crab is ready to be released back into Flushing Creek.

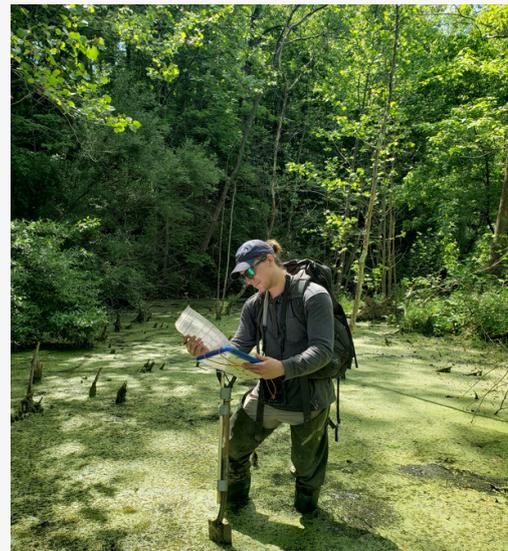
# SHARE THE NEWS

## WHY THE INTEREST ?

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Caleb Green, WPIT

As a Wetland Biologist I applied for my WPIT to better grow my foundation as a professional in protecting wetlands and other aquatic resources. I think it is important to seek growth in knowledge and accountability in this field of work which my WPIT and further goal of attaining my PWS certification will provide. I also wanted this certification to bring me closer to like minded wetland professionals for tips, tricks, and words of advice.



Stephen Stone, PWS

Throughout my academic and professional careers many of the folks I have respected most have been Professional Wetland Scientists.

It is an accolade I have long aspired to obtain. I am honored to be amongst those recognized by this organization as a Professional.

# INTRODUCING OUR NEW DEI COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Marcus D. Hope



Scott Zengel



Edward J. Avizinis



Jason Lancaster



Amy L. Noel

# WELCOME



# 19TH CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS



## WETLANDS ACROSS TIMESCALES

JUNE 24TH - 26TH 2024, GONIĄDZ, POLAND

Organised by the Society of Wetland Scientists - Europe Chapter, Wetlands Conservation Centre (PL), University of Warsaw, Białystok University of Technology, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Society for the Protection of Habitats "ProHabitat" & The Biebrza National Park.

### Scope:

Time is one of the most important aspects of any ecosystem and is crucial in wetland science. Wetlands develop, fluctuate, degrade and are restored over time. They change from day to day, from season to season and from one geological epoch to another. Time also changes our relationship with wetlands and our approach to their use and conservation. Wetlands, through their ability to store organic matter, are also our window through time and the chronicle of past events. Most of the issues we study in wetlands are time-related. Descriptions of palaeoenvironments, observations of temporal trends and variations of their biotic components, geochemical processes, hydrology or projections of wetland development after restoration or under changing climate are all related to time. We invite scientists and practitioners from all fields of wetland science and encourage you, if possible, to look at your research through this chrono-perspective.

Welcome to the Europe Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists. The Europe Chapter was founded to bring together wetland scientists and other European professionals who share common interests in wetland science and management

<https://swseurope2024.bagna.pl/>



# 2024 SWS ANNUAL MEETING | NOVEMBER 11-16, 2024 | TAIPEI, TAIWAN



**SWS 2024 ANNUAL MEETING**  
NOVEMBER 11-16, 2024  
Taipei, Taiwan



## Important Dates

- SWS 2024 Annual Meeting
- NOV 11-16, 2024

## Venue

- Taipei International Convention Center
- Locate in the Xinyi District of Taiwan's capital, Taipei City. Take Red Line(Tamsui-Xinyi Line) to Taipei 101/World Trade Center Metro Station(exit 1).

REGISTER NOW : Registration for the SWS 2024 Annual Meeting will be opened on March 1, 2024 and the deadline is on October 15, 2024.

Abstract submitters could wait until receiving the abstract acceptance notification to make payment.

2024國際濕地科學家學會(SWS)臺北年會將於 2024 年 3 月 1 日開放報名，報名截止日為 2024年10月15日。

論文投稿者，可待論文審稿確認後再行繳費。

Registration Here  
年會註冊報名處

# Informational Flyer



## Society of Wetland Scientists - Professional Certification Program

We are *THE* international organization that has been certifying Professional Wetland Scientists since 1994



The **Society of Wetland Scientists** was formed to promote understanding, conservation, protection, restoration, science-based management and sustainability of wetlands. The Society developed the **Professional Certification Program (PCP)** in 1994 for certification of wetland science training and experience, with the aim of serving the public and governments' need to identify qualified individuals to assess and manage wetland resources.

### What is a PWS or WPIT?

#### Professional Wetland Scientist or PWS

- ✓ Meets stringent academic and work experience standards
- ✓ Adheres to high level of professional ethical standards
- ✓ Conducts & practices wetland science in multi-disciplinary work environments
- ✓ Holds special international designation similar to Professional Engineer or Landscape Architect

#### WPIT (Wetland Professional in Training)

- ✓ Meets stringent academic standards
- ✓ Works on gaining qualifying employment experience and/or some types of volunteer experience in wetlands
- ✓ Adheres to professional ethical standards

### What are the requirements?

#### Academic Requirements – PWS / WPIT\*

- ✓ 15 credits in Biological Sciences, such as biology, botany, zoology, ecology, etc.
  - ✓ 15 credits in Physical Sciences, such as chemistry, soils, hydrology, geology, etc.
  - ✓ 6 credits in Quantitative Sciences, such as math, computer science, statistics, etc.
  - ✓ 15 credits in Specialized Wetland Course Work (PWS *only*), such as wetland plant taxonomy, wetland hydrology, soil morphology, wetland mapping, wetland restoration & wetland delineation, etc.
- \* Before applying, applicants must have earned a Baccalaureate degree or higher.

#### Qualifying Work Experience – PWS

After earning a Baccalaureate degree or higher, required experience is:

- ✓ 5 years of full-time professional experience while working in consulting, industry, non-profit, public or academic sectors.
- ✓ Experience calculated on percentage of time devoted specifically to professional wetland activities which can be pro-rated
- ✓ Statement of Expertise essay
- ✓ 5 references attesting to your qualifications

Fees (USD)	Developed Countries		Upper Middle-Income Countries & Territories		Lower Middle-Income Countries & Territories		Low-Income Countries & Territories	
	SWS Member	SWS Non-Member	SWS Member	SWS Non-Member	SWS Member	SWS Non-Member	SWS Member	SWS Non-Member
PWS	\$300	\$400	\$102	\$136	\$36	\$48	\$12	\$16
WPIT	\$100	\$200	\$34	\$68	\$12	\$24	\$4	\$8

Informational Flyers about SWSPCP are available in the following languages: 中国人 - Chinese, English, Français - French, 日本 - Japanese, Espanol - Spanish, Português - Portuguese, Русский - Russian

Be sure to add the URL for downloading these: [https://www.wetlandcert.org/informational\\_flyers.html](https://www.wetlandcert.org/informational_flyers.html)

# Welcome!

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

Heidi Gerstung as a Professional Wetland Scientist.

Alicia Schulz as a Professional Wetland Scientist.

Jordan Burbage as a Wetland Professional In Training.

Landon Little as a Professional Wetland Scientist.

Michaela Heffernan as a Wetland Professional In Training.

Jessica Salgado as a Professional Wetland Scientist.

Emma Radford as a Upgrade from WPIT to PWS.

Emmerald Irvin as a Upgrade from WPIT to PWS.

Alexander Linton as a Professional Wetland Scientist.

Kaitlin Nation as a Wetland Professional In Training.

Morgan Colacone as a Professional Wetland Scientist.

Matthew Jay as a Professional Wetland Scientist.

Amy Atkinson as a Professional Wetland Scientist.

Scott Batiuk as a Professional Wetland Scientist.

Brooke Runnion as a Wetland Professional In Training.

Summer Slama as a Wetland Professional In Training.

Callie Hathorn as a Wetland Professional In Training.

Lei Yang as a Professional Wetland Scientist.

Kayla Theilig as a Upgrade from WPIT to PWS.

