

## SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

To all PWS's and WPIT's



Greetings. It is truly an honor to represent SWSPCP and share my vision of the organization. But first, I want to thank those that have served (and continue to serve) on the Executive

Board, Board of Directors, and committees. Without your hard work and dedication, this organization simply would not exist. Second, I need to thank John, Robbyn, and Yvonne. They've made the transition into this leadership role easy.

We recently had our mid-year Board of Directors meeting and I'm happy to say that our organization is financially healthy. We had (36%) growth in our equity funds from August 2017 to August 2018. The organization continues to grow and so far in 2018 we've had 98 PWS approvals (83 new applications and 15 WPIT upgrades), 32 WPITs approvals, and 21 applications (14 PWS, 7 WPIT) are pending review.

The five-year renewal process can often seem overwhelming and in my case despite my best efforts, keeping track of the paper and records needed for renewal is not my strongest attribute. We asked the Business Office to see if they could create a real-time repository where individuals

could upload documents needed for renewal at any time. I'm happy to say that this has been done and is ready to use ([http://www.wetlandcert.org/login.html?r=file\\_store](http://www.wetlandcert.org/login.html?r=file_store)).

I was curious about demographics, interactions between SWS and PCP, and what the applied branch of SWS was interested in, so we recently conducted a survey. Thanks to everyone who participated. Here's what we found. Approximately (75%) of our certified PWSs are mid- to late-career and generally satisfied with the PCP program. Many (84%) are SWS members and most (73%) have not attended a SWS meeting in the last 2 years and only (18%) have attended a meeting in the last year; whereas (80%) have attended other professional meetings. (71%) of the respondents indicated fall (29%) or winter (42%) meetings would be more

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# SWSPCP Survey Results

## *PCP Survey Results (227 responses as of 9/21/18)*

Approximately (75%) PWS are mid- to late-career and generally satisfied with the PCP program. Many (84%) are SWS members and most (73%) have not attended a SWS meeting in the last 2 years and only 18% have attended a meeting in the last year; whereas (80%) have attended other professional meetings. (71%) of the respondents indicated fall (29%) or winter (42%) meetings would be more convenient than the current spring meeting schedule and most (75%) prefer to stay in the US. Most prefer networking (59%) and learning (74%) opportunities at the meetings. Of those that attended annual meetings, (56%) would like to see more applied activities such as applied workshops (57%), training opportunities (58%), and applied presentations (52%).



Review of the 2018 SWS Membership Survey results (388 respondents) indicated SWS members are not obtaining PWS certification because employers are not requiring it (30%), resources that are required and cost (39%), and do not see the value in certification (32%). The importance (sum of very important and important responses) of the following goals were identified as being important to the SWS Board of Directors in developing their Strategic Plan: Increase cross-disciplinary interactions (89%), building partnerships between applied and academic sectors (92%), actively participate in public policy (87%), provide broad educational opportunities (86%). Importance of the PWS program (76%).

- (73%) of PWS have not attended an SWS meeting in the last 2 years.
- Only (18%) have attended 1 meeting in the last 5 years
- Primary reasons for not attending:
  - I want to attend, but it never works out (37%)
  - Too difficult to get time off from my job (35%)
  - Every year it has been a different reason (15%)
- Changes that would lead to people attending more meetings

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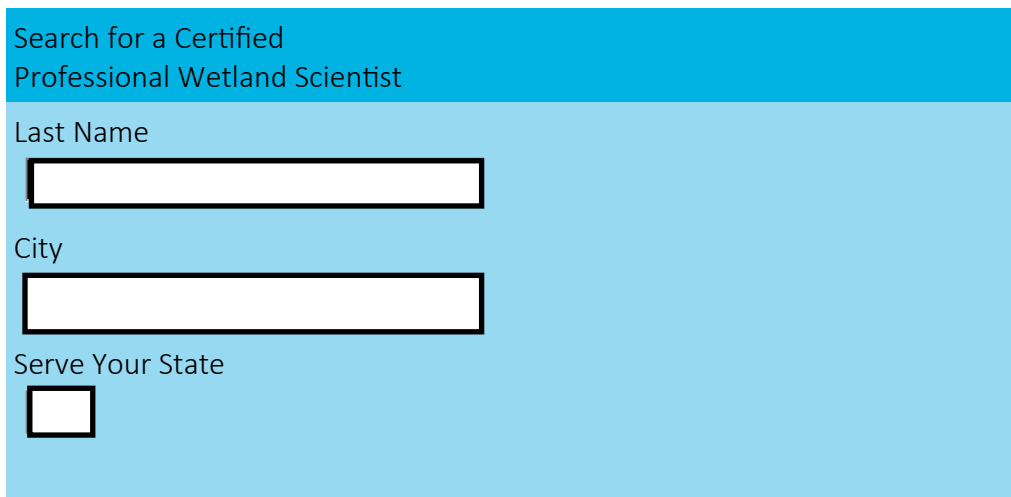
## Search on the Website

All certified PWS's are represented on website with their contact details.

A Keyword Search is available online. <http://www.wetlandcert.org/>

Our proven directory search engine allows you to search by either last name, city or state. The search will display results of all active PWS profiles.

Certified PWS's span a wide geographic area. Our website visitors can search by location and distance to quickly focus in on a local area.



The screenshot shows a search form titled "Search for a Certified Professional Wetland Scientist". It includes three input fields: "Last Name", "City", and "Serve Your State". The "Last Name" and "City" fields are text boxes, while the "Serve Your State" field is a dropdown menu.

## Application, Maintenance and Renewal Fees

All fees are non-refundable and are sent to the SWSPCP business office.

Application Fees: Application fees are submitted with the completed application.

Application Fees	Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS)	Wetland Professional In Training (WPIT)
SWS Member*	\$300.00 US	\$100.00 US
Non-Member	\$400.00 US	\$200.00 US

Annual Maintenance Fee: Maintenance of certification as a PWS or WPIT requires an annual fee of \$75.00.

Five Year Certification Renewal Fee: A fee of \$100 is required upon application for certification renewal. Applicants for emeritus status pay a one-time certification renewal fee of \$150.00

Upgrade Fee: A fee of \$200 is required upon application to upgrade from a WPIT to a PWS.

## Program Overview

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.

The Society of Wetland Scientists developed a professional program for certification of wetland science training and experience as a separate not-for-profit corporation. The Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program, Inc., was created to meet the needs of professional ecologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, educators, agency professionals, consultants, and others who practice wetland science. This program is aimed at serving the public's need to identify qualified individuals to assess and manage the nation's wetland resources.

Although the **Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program** includes among its members representatives of many local, state, provincial, and federal agencies, certification is not required by any agency and has no official or legal standing.

Certification signifies that the academic and work experience of a **Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS)** meets the standards expected by his or her peers of a practicing wetland professional and provides acknowledgment to his or her peers of adherence to standards of professional ethics with regard to the conduct and practice of wetland science.

Certification will enhance recognition of wetland science within other disciplines, especially in multi-disciplinary work environments.

## Past Presidents of SWSPCP: A Heartfelt Thank You

On behalf of all SWSPCP, we wish to extend a huge and heartfelt thank you to all of our Past Presidents, for leading SWSPCP through numerous changes and challenges these past sixteen years. All of these presidents unveiled vision and passion throughout their presidency. Besides all of these presidents, each of our Board members has been tremendously supportive of SWSPCP, has a vested interest in all that we do on a daily basis, and has a passion for our organization. We could not successfully carry out the certification program if we did not have the leadership of our Board of Directors.

### Past Presidents

Year	President
2002-2003	R. Harold Jones
2003-2004	Rhodes Robinson
2004-2005	Mike Josselyn
2005-2006	Allan Hale
2006-2007	Denice Wardrop
2007-2008	Kurt Philipp
2008-2009	Mal Gilbert
2009-2010	Elizabeth Binney
2010-2011	Scott Jecker
2011-2012	Janet Morlan
2012-2013	Ingeborg Hegemann
2013-2014	Leandra Cleveland
2014-2015	Rob Shannon
2015-2016	Robbyn Myers
2016-2017	John Lowenthal
2017-2018	James Perry



## Save the Date!



### Annual Meeting In Maryland

The Society of Wetland Scientists' 2019 Annual Meeting will be held at the Hilton Baltimore in Baltimore, Maryland, May 28-31.

This unique meeting is themed "The Role of Wetlands in Meeting Global Environmental Challenges: Linking Wetland Science, Policy, and Society."

Check out the [Annual Meeting website](#) for full details!

### FAQ

*Are continuing education credits available?*

If you maintain a professional license issued by the Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program or another association, occupational licensing Board or a department of professional regulation, you may be eligible to earn continuing education credits for your participation in the SWS 2019 Annual Meeting.

Attendees are responsible for verifying licensing requirements, as well as managing and submitting all necessary paperwork.

If you have any questions regarding continuing education credit requirements as they pertain to your professional certification or license, please contact the appropriate licensing board directly.

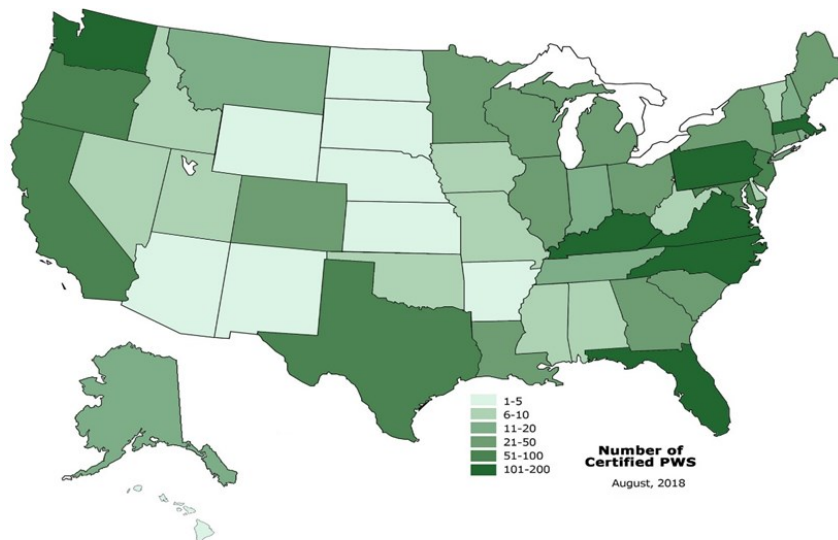
## SWSPCP Data

The highest representation is in states bordering our larger coastal and fresh water bodies. For PWS, the highest concentrations are aggregated in just two states; Florida and Washington. Other regions that stand out include the West Coast, Great Lakes and the Atlantic Seaboard.

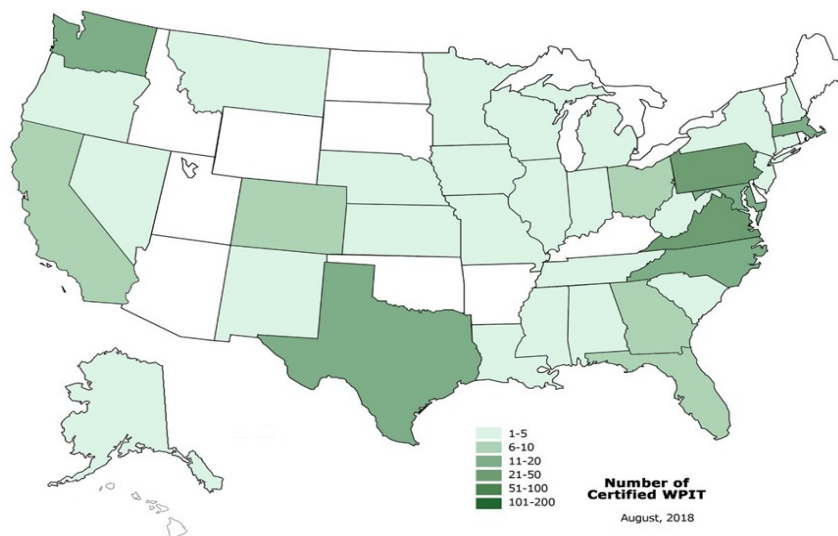
Along the Gulf Coast, the state of Texas had the largest concentration of PWS.


The story is similar for WPITs with the highest representation in Pennsylvania, Florida, Washington, and Virginia.

### PWS MAP



### WPIT MAP





*(President's Corner continued from page 1)*

convenient than the current spring meeting schedule and most (75%) prefer to stay in the US. Most prefer networking (59%) and learning (74%) opportunities at the meetings. Of those that attended annual meetings, (56%) would like to see more applied activities such as applied workshops (57%), training opportunities (58%), and applied presentations (52%). We hear you and I will do my best to make meaningful changes that benefit PWSs and WPITs.

### ***Internationalization***

The SWSPCP leadership has recognized that the growth and future of this organization requires us to grow internationally. That being said, we recognize the important contributions and vast bench strength in our senior PWS and the mentorship roles that they could provide. As part of our certification drive, retention of retiring PWS as Emeritus/Emerita and those who are not renewing their credentials will be a priority. The international certification committee continues to work hard to develop the certification requirements and this fall Robbyn, John, and I will be attending a series of wetland meetings in Taiwan to espouse the values of our program and build a cadre of Taiwanese PWS/WPIT that will ultimately serve as a foundation of the program in Taiwan and Asia.

### ***Vision***

Wetlands are probably the single most important ecosystem on the planet. Without wetlands, human evolution and the development of a wide diversity of cultures we see on the planet today would probably not have occurred. Yet, our wetlands are in trouble through continued anthropogenic impacts and global

change. Thankfully there are wetland groups all over the planet that serve as local/regional ambassadors for wetlands, but there is no single entity with a unified voice that carry's the message globally that wetlands are important and need to be cared for. The SWS membership and the SWSPCP certified PWS/WPIT are comprised of a wide variety of wetland scientists, some of which are the brightest in the world. Yet, neither SWS, nor SWSPCP are recognized as being the "go to place" where wetland issues and questions can be addressed at local to global scales. Given our vast and collective experience resolving wetland problems and our massive network of expertise, the SWS and SWSPCP are well positioned to take a leadership role in this space while expanding the influence of our PWS and WPIT globally.

Together with the support of the Executive Board and Board of Directors, my goal is to continue the process of internationalization by targeting key regions of the world that will contribute substantially and significantly to the growth of SWSPCP. We will begin this effort this fall in Taiwan, with a plan to extend growth into China and Europe. I realize that this will bring change to the organization and I'd like to ask the Board for their patience and support, but more importantly, given their experience and leadership in SWSPCP, if we are to grow at the right pace I ask that they share their opinions and points of view to help grow this organization into the recognized global wetland organization that we all know it can be. Similarly, I extend the opportunity for the PWS/WPIT to share and contribute to the process.

Respectfully,

Ben A. LePage, PWS

## New Certified PWS's

2952	Michael	Wood
2953	Molly	Hacker
2954	Sara	Kreisel
2955	Ashley	Bentz
2956	Lauren	Greenfield
2957	Nicholas	Gressick
2958	Valerie	Watkins
2959	Lindsey	Postaski
2960	Adam	Finkle
2961	Madeline	Sigrist
2962	Leslie	Wood Mummert
2963	Laura	Cooper
2964	Megan	Myers
2965	Nathan	Knowles
2966	David	Carraway
2967	David	Kennedy
2968	Michael	Rehman
2969	Dangelei	Fox
2970	Daniel	Roberts
2971	Rebecca	Wilk
2972	Siona	Patisteas
2973	Katharine	Remus
2974	Scott	McBurney
2975	Bryce	Aiken
2976	Patrick	Garnett
2977	Troy	Shelton

2978	Jason	Peters
2979	Jared	Bechtol
2980	Brian	Colleran
2981	Christina	Keim
2982	Jessica	Redman
2983	Margaret	Forbes
2984	Julianne	Epplin
2985	Michelle	Washebek Hackett
2986	Brian	Bates
2987	Matt	Michel
2988	Erin	Davis
2989	Craig S.	Smith
2990	Albert	Gagne
2991	Emily	Drahos
2992	Tiffany	Anders
2993	Julien	Melchers
2994	Mark	Wigal
2995	William	Rosenzweig
2996	Daniel	Angelo
2997	Andrew	Baldwin
2998	Brad	Kovach
2999	Stephanie	Freed
3000	Maria	Bazemore
3001	Aaron	Speaks
3002	Drew	Walterhouse
3003	Kevin	Derby
3004	Coy	LeBlanc



(SWSPCP Survey Results continued from page 2)

- ☐ If meetings were closer to where I lived (62%)
  - ☐ If there were no registration fee (i.e., included with membership) (19%)
- Types of sessions PWSs/WPITs would like to see at meetings
  - ☐ Applied workshops (57%)
  - ☐ Training opportunities (58%)
  - ☐ Applied presentations (52%)
- What time of year is most convenient to come to a meeting
  - ☐ Winter (42%)
  - ☐ Fall (29%)
- 75% of respondents preferred a society meeting in the US rather than abroad
- 79% of respondents have attended other professional meetings in the last 5 years
- Main reasons to attend professional meetings
  - ☐ Networking (59%)
  - ☐ Learning (74%)
- Percentage of folks that attended in applied symposia the last few years
  - ☐ (24%)
- Would like to see more applied activities at annual meeting
  - ☐ Yes (55%)
  - ☐ OK, but not that important (20%)
- How satisfied are you with PCP program?
  - ☐ Very satisfied (19%)
  - ☐ Satisfied (48%)
  - ☐ Neutral (26%)
- 84% of respondents are SWS members
- Years as SWS member
  - ☐ >10 (56%)
  - ☐ 5-10 (20%)
  - ☐ 3-5 (9%)



## Board of Directors

### President

Ben LePage, PWS

### Secretary General

Robbyn Myers, PWS

### Treasurer

Yvonne M. Vallette, PWS

### Immediate Past President

James Perry, PWS

## Executive Office

### Executive Director

Robert O. Patterson, JD

### Executive Administrator

Donn Lesko

### Program Coordinator

Adrianna Borczyk

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