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# SWSPCP WINTER NEWSLETTER

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*NANCY LIN, SENIOR  
PROFESSIONAL WETLAND  
SCIENTIST*

*HAPPY NEW YEAR, DEAR  
COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS!*

As I reflect on the last several months serving as your President and meeting some of you at the past SWS Spokane and Taiwan conferences, in 2023 and 2024, respectively, I've come to appreciate even more deeply the generosity of our community in sharing knowledge, experience and comradery.




I want to thank our recent past presidents, Ellen Kracauer Hartig and Rob McInnes, as well as the members of our Executive Board and Board of Directors (BoD), many of whom have been past presidents, who continue to give their time to the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS or the Society) Professional Certification Program (PCP) as volunteers. I also want to thank all of our various committee members and our business office, especially Adrianna Borczyk, who collectively keep our operations running smoothly. Finally, I wish to thank two BoD members who have made great contributions and have recently retired from the Board: Kurt Philipp, our CESB representative, for his 15 years of service, and Rob McInnes, recent Past President. We are truly fortunate for their dedication and efforts for our organization.

For months prior to this past November, many members of the BoD and I had been busily preparing for our participation at the 2024 SWS Annual Meeting in Taipei, Taiwan. This was the Society's first international conference in Asia in which the theme was, "Wetlands and Climate Change: Mitigation and Adaptation." Now, upon looking back, I am struck by the magnitude of our global community and the good work being done by our colleagues. With over 500 attendees from 30 countries, the conference provided an amazing experience to be in the company of such a diverse, talented, passionate, and inspired group of wetland professionals, traditional ecological knowledge practitioners, NGO and government representatives, and students convening to learn and share our collective experiences and knowledge. I wish to express our thanks to Wei-Ta Fang, and the 2024 SWS Secretariat for hosting this wonderful Annual Meeting!

Many of our current and past BoD members, including Matthew Simpson, Ellen Kracauer Hartig, Swapan Paul, Kimberli Ponzio, John Lowenthal, Rob McInnes, Gillian Davies, and I, to name a few, presented research at the poster session or served as judges at the student poster sessions, presented in symposiums, workshops, and led chapter/section meetings. PCP led a workshop at the conference about becoming a Wetland Professional in Training (WPIT) and Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) which was well-attended and has already proven fruitful.

A particular highlight of the Conference was that I was invited and honored to sign working agreements for PCP. At the opening ceremony, I signed the PCP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Taiwan National Park Service to assist Taiwanese wetland professionals and students receive training, advice, and guidance in applying for our international wetland professional certification program. We are especially grateful to Rob McInnes who helped us craft the final version of this MOU even though he had already retired from our Board.

Immediately prior to the conference, I signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between our organization, and the Ramsar Regional Center- East Asia (RRC-EA). Through the MOC, the RRC-EA and the PCP have pledged to support the management, conservation, and research of wetlands, through enhancing our two (2) organizations existing communication and cooperation. The RRC-EA and PCP will collaborate to promote and facilitate current wetland science, education, and management programs between our organizations. The RRC-EA includes its 18 member countries/states (contracting parties) in East, Southeast and South Asia as well as collaborating with non-Contracting Parties. This MOC affirms PCP's commitment to help and guide RRC-EA member countries' wetland professionals to apply for and, wherever appropriate, to obtain PCP's internationally recognized wetland professional certification.



This should further our mutual goal to restore, conserve, and sustain the wise use of our global wetlands to mitigate climate change and benefit the health of our planet. We appreciate the persistence of Executive Director, Mr. Seung Oh Suh, RRC-EA's Network Officer, Ms. Seong Bo Kim, and our Globalization Chair, Matt Simpson, for bringing this MOC to fruition and for already promoting the program at the recent 10th Asian Wetland Symposium held in the Philippines from November 25-28, that followed the SWS conference in Taiwan.

See the [YouTube video](#), and continue to keep an eye on our social media accounts on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter to get a taste of the SWS 2024 conference in Taiwan and for more PCP news and updates.


The Taiwan conference and trip was particularly significant for me both personally and professionally. Unbeknownst to the PCP nominating committee, Taiwan was my birthplace. I emigrated to the U.S. when I was 5 years old and due to life circumstances, I had not been able to return in almost 50 years. This past year, I recently retired from nearly four decades of public service as a state wetland regulator for the Massachusetts (USA) Department of Environmental Protection's Division Wetlands and Waterways and moved on soon after to serve as your PCP President. In many ways, this trip evoked many happy memories for me, a feeling of homecoming, and a life and career that has come full circle.

In closing, these are exciting times for PCP as we are growing both within the U.S. and internationally. We need YOU to join us as we expand and grow to serve and support our shared community. I am appealing to you as valued PWS's or WPIT's to engage with us, share your skills, talent and passion for conserving, restoring and protecting our global wetlands through our certification program.

Currently, there are opportunities to serve on our Board committees and one student position on the BoD that I hope you will consider. We are currently looking for more members to participate in our Outreach Committee, chaired by Sara Kreisel and for someone to serve as our BoD Student Representative (see more details below) to replace our outgoing representative, Kyle Runion. As our first student representative, we are especially grateful for his insights and contributions to us for the last three years! Thank you, Kyle!

The Outreach committee provides support to our other committees and our BoD in a variety of ways from the newsletter to short "TED-like" talks (coming soon!). If you are interested, please contact our Executive Administrator, Adrianna Borczyk, [aborczyk@association-resources.com](mailto:aborczyk@association-resources.com)

There will be future opportunities to engage with us that will be announced in upcoming newsletters. Stay tuned, connected and I hope to see you this July at the upcoming **2025 SWS Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island!**



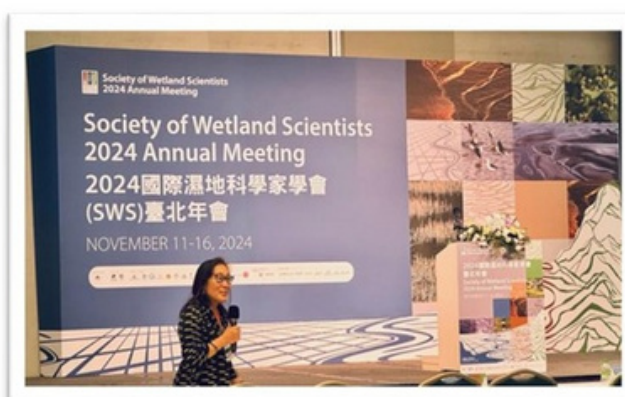




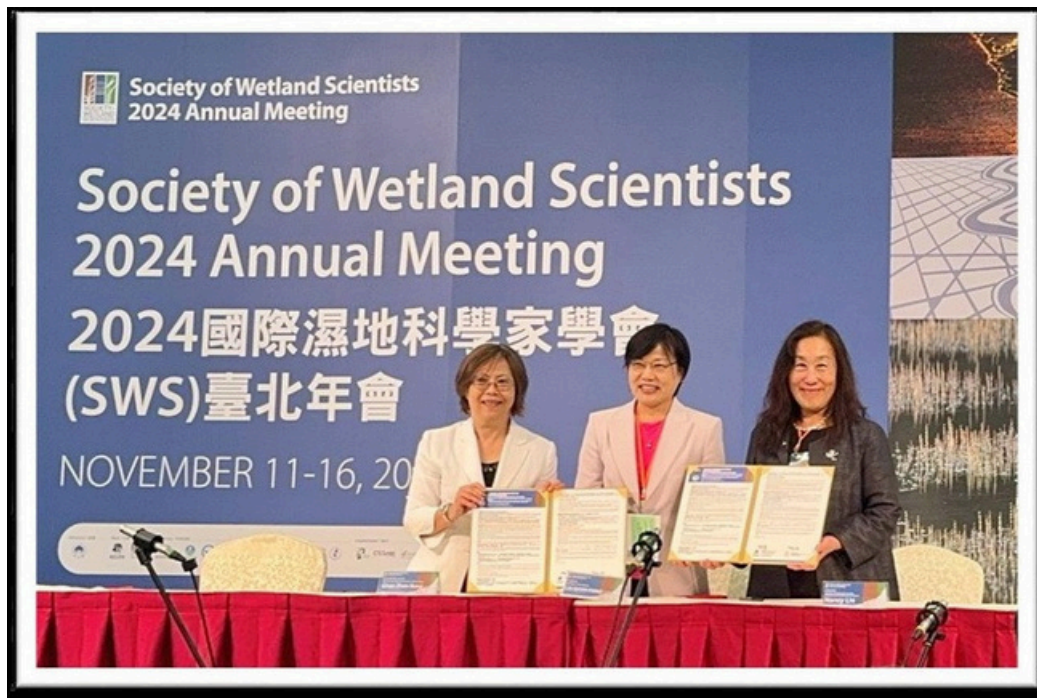
The 2024 SWS Annual Meeting Opening Ceremony included a spirited collective welcoming performance by representatives from thirteen indigenous tribes in Taiwan.



Marinus Otte, SWS Wetlands Journal Editor-in-Chief, Nancy Lin, PCP President, and Wei-Ta Fang, President, Taiwan Wetland Society and SWS Asia Chapter.



Nancy Lin, PCP President, presenting at the 2024 SWS Annual Meeting. The original illustration for the last slide shown was provided by an artist friend for the presentation theme, "Forging a Collaborative Path Forward to Climate Resiliency in the Year of the Green Wood Dragon." The slide depicts the Chinese New Year transition from 2024, the Year of the Green Wood Dragon, to the Year of the Green Wood Snake on January 29, 2025, and symbolizes the hope for the health of our global wetlands and the planet's future.



MOU signing with the Taiwan National Park Service

From left to right: Zhen-Rong Chen, Acting General Director of the Taiwan National Park Service, and Shyh-Fang Lui, Minister of the Ministry of Interior and Nancy Lin, PCP President.



MOC signing with RRC-EA's Executive Director, Mr. Seung Oh Suh and Nancy Lin, PCP President. In the back from left to right are the SWSPCP current and former Board members Swapan Paul, John Lowenthal, Ellen Kracauer Hartig, Sara Kreisel, Matt Simpson, Kimberli Ponzio, Gillian Davies, and Rob McInnes.





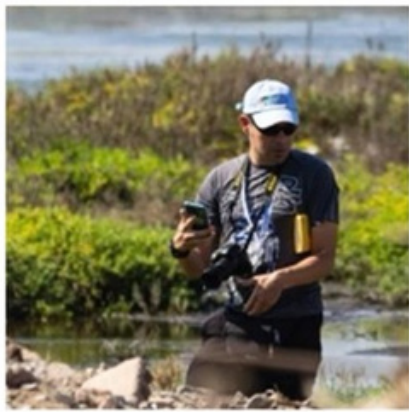
Taijiang National Park field trip near the city of Tainan, the first capital of Taiwan, to view an overwintering site of the globally endangered black-faced spoonbills. Considered the rarest of the spoonbills, there are approximately 6,000 individuals left worldwide and are a species under the IUCN's Red List.



BoD members from left to right Nancy Lin, Sara Kreisel\*, and Kimberli Ponzio. Post conference field trip to Chenglong Wetlands in Yulin County to film the introduction of the first PCP "Ted-like" talk (coming soon). The area was originally farmland that was flooded by Typhoon Wayne in 1975, and the site was then left to return to its natural state a species rich coastal wetland ecosystem. ***\*Special thanks to Sara Kreisel for serving as PCP's intrepid volunteer photographer.***

## **FROM PERU TO THE WORLD: A MESSAGE FROM OUR 2025-2026 PRESIDENT-ELECT, HECTOR ALONSO APONTE UBILLUS, PWS**


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On March 14, 2024, I received an email that filled me with immense joy. In that message, Rob McInnes, the past President of the Professional Certification Program (PCP), invited me to apply for the position of President-Elect. This moment marked a significant milestone in my career as a Peruvian professional wetland scientist.

Since I have not had the privilege of meeting all the members of the PCP and the SWS, I would like to share a bit about myself. I have been fortunate to dedicate the last 18 years to researching wetlands along the Peruvian coast. From the mangroves of Tumbes in the north to the coastal wetlands of Tacna in the south, I have come to understand these habitats' diversity and ecological importance. Additionally, I have led research groups studying the carbon cycle at the laboratory, community, and ecosystem levels. Throughout my career, I have published numerous scientific articles that have contributed to the knowledge and conservation of Peruvian wetlands. Moreover, I have supervised many theses from students at the Universidad Científica del Sur (Lima), whose research has significantly contributed to protecting these ecosystems. Participating in international wetland protection and conservation workshops has allowed me to share experiences and knowledge with colleagues from other countries, enriching my perspective and strengthening regional collaboration.

In 2018, I joined the SWS with the intention of learning about the work of colleagues worldwide and sharing new perspectives from Latin America. Today, these intentions have materialized as President-Elect of the PCP, a role I embrace enthusiastically. Serving as President of the PCP is a profound honor and responsibility, which I accept with satisfaction, as it represents recognition of my work and an opportunity to advance wetland science globally. My election made the program's globalization commitment for the benefit of our planet very clear to me, efforts that I applaud and will work on.



Peru is a hotspot for biodiversity that faces significant environmental challenges, and wetland protection is a priority. Recently, laws have been enacted in Peru that mandate the protection, management, and conservation of wetlands at local, regional, and national levels. These regulations are essential; their practical implementation requires specialized scientists who can advise and guide these conservation actions. Therefore, it is imperative to promote the recognition and training of scientists in this field to meet the state's requirements and ensure that conservation policies are based on the best available scientific knowledge. As the incoming President of the PCP, I will advocate for the certification of professionals in the study and management of wetlands. This will not only enhance the necessary recognition of our countries' technical capacity but also contribute to creating a network of experts who can collaborate in solving environmental problems at regional and global levels.

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## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE ON THE SWS PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM'S (PCP) BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*"My term as the Student Rep with SWSPCP was enlightening and fulfilling. I met an amazing group of mentors and colleagues who valued my input from the student perspective and contributed their time and energy to help me push forward student goals. I found that I learned from them at every interaction, from technical knowledge to organizational skills. Serving as the Student Representative provided me opportunities for networking, conference attendance, and for my voice to be heard in creating a more inclusive program. I highly recommend working with this fantastic group!"*

***Kyle Runion, Outgoing Student Representative in the PCP Board of Directors***







PCP is keenly interested in building the program to hear the needs and perspective of students and those soon launching into the professional world of wetlands. This individual will take the reins from our outgoing student representative and should apply here: [https://www.wetlandcert.org/student\\_board\\_rep\\_application.html](https://www.wetlandcert.org/student_board_rep_application.html).

**Why does the PCP have a Student Representative?** To gain insights from students on the application and certification process, and on the initiatives of the Program, the PCP Board of Directors established a position on the Board for a Student Representative (Rep), as a non-voting member.

**Who can apply?** The applicant for Student Rep should be a graduate student and an SWS member (1 year minimum) and should have attended an SWS Annual Meeting at least once in the past 3 years (this criterion may be flexible to include virtual conferences).

**How long is the appointment?** The Student Rep will be appointed for a 1-3-year term, depending on active, graduate student status.


**What are the responsibilities?** Attend quarterly Board meetings; provide reports on activities and initiatives that affect students who have been or those who desire to become certified as a WPIT or PWS; represent student members of SWS from around the globe; participate in discussions relating to the role of students in the Program; and promote interactions and common activities between PCP and student groups in SWS.

**What are the perks?** The Student Rep will be offered a stipend to cover their WPIT (Wetland Professional in Training) or PWS (Professional Wetland Scientist) application and/or annual maintenance fees during their term of service.

**The SWSPCP Student Rep must:**

1. Be an enrolled graduate student;
  2. Be a SWS member for a least one year;
  3. Have attended one SWS Meeting in the past 3 years (this could include a SWS Virtual Meeting); and
  4. Submit information on this short form at:  
[https://www.wetlandcert.org/student\\_board\\_rep\\_application.html](https://www.wetlandcert.org/student_board_rep_application.html).
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Sound intriguing? Please contact Adrianna Borczyk, Program Administrator, for more information and share this with other students that you think would be interested.





# Welcome!

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***Congratulations to All of our newly Certified PWSs and our WPITs who are taking a major step towards PWS certification! Welcometo our PCP Community!***

Please find below the list of newly certified WPIT and PWS professionals over the last three months:

**Approved WPIT Certifications:**

- Mary Strecker - 10/15/24
- Kersey W Walters - 10/23/24
- Carina L Christenbury - 10/23/24
- Jayden R. Messier - 10/23/24
- Tiffany M Baumann - 11/13/24
- Dashiell E Paulson - 11/21/24
- Jackson C Livingstone - 11/21/24
- Jeremy K Foote - 11/21/24
- Jonathan D Monderer - 11/21/24
- Tyler J. Correia - 11/21/24
- Kimberley Mary Peter - 11/21/24
- Andrew C Brantley - 11/21/24
- Valerie J Jones - 12/4/24
- Laura M Hinson Critendon - 12/4/24
- Wesley R Franco - 12/4/24
- Kathryn R Shrake - 12/4/24
- Christopher M Macke - 12/6/24
- Samantha R Carew - 12/6/24
- Linda Vate Brattstrom - 12/16/24
- Carel Abboud - 12/19/24
- Nicole D. DeFelice - 12/19/24
- Olivia Sena - 12/19/24
- Theodore S Hartinger - 12/19/24
- Carlene Eaton - 12/19/24



# Welcome!

## Approved PWS Certifications:

- Marianne G Risley - 10/3/24
- Jeanna Leclerc - 10/3/24
- Benjamin Simpson - 10/3/24
- Matthew S Marro - 10/3/24
- Zachary T Triplett - 10/12/24
- Emily M Powell - 10/15/24
- David H Kwasniewski - 10/15/24
- Erick Revuelta - 10/15/24
- Zachariah F Shely - 10/15/24
- Jonathan P Hopkins - 10/15/24
- Julia K McGuire - 10/23/24
- Victoria L Schaller - 10/23/24
- Lauren A Barber - 11/13/24
- Timothy M AldingerJr. - 11/13/24
- Matthew R Schubart - 11/13/24
- Laura C Mooney - 11/13/24
- Morgan G Reins - 11/21/24
- Ellen L Raimondi - 11/21/24
- Patrick E Hurley - 11/21/24
- Eric R Lance - 11/21/24
- Madison L Peters - 11/21/24
- Nicole A Stewart - 11/21/24
- Benjamin T Girgenti - 11/21/24
- Emily Hartdegen - 11/21/24
- Jason C Hales- 11/21/24
- Jacob W Yealy - 11/21/24
- Gregory D Davis - 11/21/24
- Jonathan Niro - 12/4/24
- Dan R Yeager - 12/4/24
- Timothy J Bishop Jr - 12/4/24
- Jeffrey S Turner - 12/4/24
- Sheryl L Creer - 12/6/24
- Candice A Trusty - 12/16/24
- Jonathan D Kuziel - 12/16/24
- Leigh Ann Liddell - 12/19/24
- Eric R. Hanson - 12/19/24
- Justin R Keil - 12/19/24
- Jared N Odell - 12/19/24
- Daniel Lambert - 12/30/24

