

Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program

PROFESSIONAL WETLAND SCIENTIST E-LETTER

Volume 7, Issue 1, 2014



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from the SWS Professional Certification Program! As your new President, I'm pleased to report that SWSPCP is in great shape, thanks to the deft leadership of our Immediate Past President Leandra Cleveland, commitment from the hard-working volunteers serving on our board, panels and committees, and the responsiveness of our business office staff at The Center for Association Resources. I can't imagine working with better people! The number of applicants receiving WPIT and PWS certification has broken records in each of the past three years, which speaks to the recognition the certification program is receiving. 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.

The Board of SWSPCP had a productive meeting at the JASM conference in Portland. Looking to the next year, we will be surveying the membership to determine the areas of wetland science (our "Body of Knowledge") that are critical to the education, development, and professional practice of wetland science professionals. This survey is part of our accreditation through the Council of Engineering and Science Specialty Boards (CESB), and is conducted every five years to ensure that our Body of Knowledge is up-to-date with the current practice of wetland science. Look for this survey within the next few months – we encourage you to take a few minutes and participate!

Also discussed at our May Board meeting was the continued importance of ethics and continuing professional development in the certification and renewal process. To that end, the Board is considering opportunities to weave ethics training into the application and renewal process, potentially as an on-line module. This module would provide mandatory ethics training for those unable to attend our successful ethics workshops held at the annual conferences over the past several years. Equally important, our Professional Short Course Review Committee is working hard to pre-certify professional short courses so that applicants for Professional Wetland Scientist, or those renewing their certification, are assured of the quality of their professional development activities and get appropriate credit for them.

The Board, in conjunction with our business office, will also be developing a more prominent social media presence. Robbyn Myers, the Secretary General, will be leading this effort – while we have a LinkedIn site, developing a Facebook presence will allow our more socially-media savvy WPITs and PWSs to connect and learn more about our accreditation program.

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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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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As I mentioned earlier, our number of certified WPITs and PWS members are growing, and yet the Board has noticed the large number of PWS and WPIT that have dropped off the roles because of lapsed annual maintenance fees and failing to renew certification every five years. While a certain amount of attrition is to be expected, the Board is concerned that many aren't aware of the annual PWS/WPIT maintenance fee requirement, or of the need to renew their certification every five years. If you don't know if you've paid your annual maintenance fee, or have lost track of when you need to renew your certification, don't hesitate to email our business office at info@wetlandcert.org.

Last, we are already planning our activities for the 2015 SWS conference in Providence, Rhode Island May 31 – June 4, 2015, and hope to see you there. If you have questions or concerns related to the Professional Certification Program, don't hesitate to contact me (rs Shannon@psu.edu) or the business office at the email address above.

Robert D. Shannon, PhD, PWS

Catching up in Portland...



...with Friends and Colleagues

PROFESSIONAL WETLAND SCIENTIST E-LETTER Summer Issue 2014

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It feels like it was just yesterday that we were getting together in Duluth, but how time flies when you are doing something you love. The time between the 2013 Duluth and 2014 Portland Annual Meeting has been a very productive period for SWSPCP.

My term as President was a successful one due to the dedication and efforts of the Board, committee members and staff from The Center for Association Resources. Nothing I did this year would have been possible without all of their assistance. They are vital to the continued growth of our organization. I cannot thank them enough for all of their hard work. I am especially happy that the 2014 Meeting was held in my hometown of Portland. We were able to show all of the attendees our local culture and I hope that everyone who attended had a great time!

One of SWSPCP's greatest assets is the number of PWS and WPITs the organization retains. Each year the business office receives a large number of new PWS and WPIT applications and this year was no different. In 2013, we certified approximately 123 Professional Wetland Scientists and 44 WPITs, noting an increase of 8 PWS certification and 11 WPITs from the previous year. Since the beginning of the year, the business office already approved 62 Professional Wetland Scientists and twenty three WPITs. It appears that we are well on our way to breaking another record for 2014!

As you may recall from my previous article, one of my initiatives during my term as President was to go paperless. I can gladly say that this initiative was an enormous success. We created the PWS Online Renewal Site, and more and more renewals are being submitted through this portal.

We are making further advancements that will help reduce our environmentally conscious organization's carbon footprint. SWSPCP's annual certification fees can now be paid online and we have eliminated any additional paper storage. Currently any new paperwork that is being received is being stored digitally on an online server.

My vision of SWSPCP taking strides into becoming part of a greener environment was a tremendous accomplishment. I appreciate you allowing me to serve as your President. The opportunity to serve SWSPCP is a distinct privilege and one that I would encourage others to pursue.

Leandra L. Cleveland, PWS

SWS PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As many members of SWS-PCP already know, I am a firm supporter of the concept of certifying professional wetland scientists and have been heavily involved with the development of the PWS and WPIT certification process. I served as one of the original members of the SWS Certification Panel, Chair of the SWS Professional Certification Program (PCP) Ethics Committee, and for over 10 years as the Secretary General for the SWS-PCP.

I see SWS and SWS-PCP as sister organizations that are professionally inseparable. I wrote in my bio that “My vision for SWS is to move forward with the recognition that SWS is comprised not only of hydrologists, soil scientists, and botanists, but also of a tripartite group of members including applied practitioners (consultants, lawyers, and members of NGO’s), regulators, and academicians. I strongly believe that the integrity of our profession depends on a *strong link in communications and the development of trust between these three groups.*” We can only achieve those links and each other’s trust by working together on common goals.

When writing my bio to run for President of SWS I thought of an editorial I had written for our journal *Wetlands* in 2008 and how much it still means to me. In the article I, and 12 other academicians, supported the PWS certification process. Titled “Why Become a Certified SWS-Professional Wetland Scientist: A Perspective from the Academic World”, we argued that:

“A vast number, and probably the majority, of professions around the world have certification bodies responsible for ensuring that its representatives have the most current skill sets, legal knowledge, and ethical standards in the fast-paced and ever changing day to day professional world. Professions are responsible for setting the limits of its standards and reputation of its practitioners. Wetland scientists are no exception. [We] are obligated not only to convey information and knowledge, but also should empower ... a sense of professionalism, morals, standards, and ethics [that others] can carry on with throughout their careers.”

We further stated that:

“First and foremost, being a PWS sets a positive example. If our students see that we, their advisors and mentors, have taken the time to obtain their PWS, they will see early on the value of PWS certification and becoming a recognized member of a group of wetland professionals.

“Second, since PWS or WPIT status is determined by showing that one has obtained a high level of wetland education and work experience, it gives our students something to point to as an achievement to be presented to the working world. This is something both the student and advisor can be proud of.

“Finally, obtaining PWS or WPIT certification sets the stage for our non-academic-bound students to remain active and progressing in the field of wetlands science and management. Continuous certification requires remaining up-to-date on wetland issues; the re-certification process actually outlines how a student may do so.”

James E. Perry III, PhD, PWS

SWS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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I firmly believe that these criteria apply not only to academics, but to regulators, consultants, and other wetland practitioners alike. It is critical to our profession that SWS and SWS-PCP work together on such issues as development of continuing education classes, course certification, and ethics training designed to help keep our members up to date on the most recent wetland regulations, scientific findings and applied methods for wetlands protection and compensation/mitigation techniques.

By working together, SWS and SWS-PCP will become stronger, more visible, and more capable of completing our joint missions: to illuminate the importance of wetlands as a valuable natural resource to our nation, and to the world. Together we can strengthen the role that we, as wetland scientist and managers, play in defining and protecting those resources.

Congratulations to SWSPCP's 2014 Raffle Prize Winners

Christine Daly	Kindle
Jerry "River" Kaster, Ph.D	Wetlands Book
Amanda Azous	Wetlands Book
Valerie A. Schoepfer	Wetlands Book
Nicole Wisniewski	Wetlands Book
Robert Knable	ASWM hat and 1-year membership
Todd Sformo, Ph.D	ASWM hat and 1-year membership

ADVERTISE WITH US!

Those wishing to reach the PWS community in a very cost-effective way are invited to advertise on our website and in our newsletters. A Media Kit is available on the SWSPCP website (www.wetlandcert.org). For more information please contact the SWSPCP office at (877) 226-9902 or email us at info@wetlandcert.org.



SWS & SWSPCP 2014 ANNUAL MEETING - PORTLAND, OREGON



This year the Joint Aquatic Scientific Meeting (JASM) that took place in Portland, OR and was a great success. There was a total of 2,926 registrations that were received representing 50 countries around the globe. For those of you who attended the turn out at the meeting was phenomenal. The meeting was in conjunction with four of the leading aquatic scientific societies: Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) which had 750 registrants, Phycological Society of America (PSA) which had 180 registrations, Society of Freshwater Science (SFS) which had 1,059 registrations, and Society of Wetland Scientists

(SWS) which had 434 registrations.

SWSPCP Sessions

The SWSPCP meetings that were held at this year's conference were well attended and very informative. The SWSPCP Information session that was held on Monday May 19 and moderated by Robert Shannon (SWSPCP, President) provided information regarding the benefits of receiving a PWS or WPIT certification. The SWSPCP Ethics Workshops that were conducted on Tuesday May 20 and Wednesday May 21 and moderated by Robbyn Meyers and Yvonne Vallette were very educational and enlightening. The information that was shared at these sessions was extremely helpful



to the attendees. Many of the attendees came to the SWSPCP booth and shared their opinions and asked additional questions to the presenters.



SWSPCP Booth

Thank you to all of the Board Members that volunteered their time and helped staff the booth. Many attendees stopped by and visited the SWSPCP booth during the meeting. They had questions related to both the information and the ethics sessions. Fortunately the presenters from both sessions were at the

booth and were able to answer their questions. Informational materials were provided to the individuals who visited the booth.

SWSPCP & PNW-SWS Social

On Thursday May 22 the SWSPCP and the Pacific Northwest Society of Wetland Scientists (PNW-SWS) co-sponsored a social at the Widmer Gasthaus Pub. The event was a great success. There were approximately 75 attendees at the social all of whom enjoyed the ambiance, networking, food and drinks with their fellow colleagues and friends.



Thank You to Our 2014 Sponsors and Donors



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THE CENTER for Association Resources



SWS & SWSPCP 2014 ANNUAL MEETING - PORTLAND, OREGON

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Sponsors/Donors

We would like to thank our sponsors and donors for their generous contributions. The items that were raffled off were all donated by Munsell Color, Wiley Publishing, The Center for Association Resources and the Association of State Wetland Managers. We would especially like to thank our two Board members Mal Gilbert (M.N. Gilbert Environmental) and Scott Jecker (Whitenton Group) for their generous sponsorships.

NEW WPIT CERTIFICATIONS

Congratulations to the following individuals who received their WPIT certification since November 2013:

Benjamin Snyder
William Kratz
Neil Boitnott
Lisa Ferrisi
Tess Radke
Carla DeMasters
Hannah Griego
Marijke Noens
Kaitlin De'Aeth
Emily Drahos
Todd Armbruster
Jason Mease
Kasie Collins
Julia Munger
Laura Cooper

Magda Molnar
Kristen Rigney
Javier Aguilu
Kathryn Crandall
Neil Gutherman
Erin Gallagher
John Jordan Jr.
Megan Myers
Anna Puchkoff
Drew Fowler
Joshua Chestney
Sara Kuhn
Richard Woody II
Amber Amelingmeier
Nathan Renaudin

NEW PWS CERTIFICATIONS

Congratulations to the following individuals who received their PWS certification since November 2013:

Thomas King	2411	Forrest Parsons	2451
Ryan Nelson	2412	Gregory O'Hare	2452
Kristen Brodeur	2413	Melanie Pelegrinelli	2453
Karyn Allman	2414	David Brame	2454
Jennifer Smith	2415	Jody Schaap	2455
Adam Tatone	2416	Amanda Crouch-Smith	2456
Jason Beeler	2417	Richard Gatewood	2457
David O'Loughlin	2418	William Taylor	2458
Allison Austin	2419	Sean Castro	2459
James Arndt	2420	Erik Nyquist	2460
Jeanette Blank	2421	Michele Simoneaux	2461
Christopher Glowacki	2422	Andrea Bachman	2462
Zachary Baer	2423	Amanda Jones	2463
Russell Smith	2424	Kristen Weidner	2464
Neal Bennett	2425	Jason Earley	2465
Wendee Smith	2426	Angelique Bochnak	2466
Andrew Poyant	2427	Bryan Bayer	2467
Diane De Steven	2428	Henry Schumacher	2468
Timothy Jackson	2429	Audrey Stuller	2469
Travis Stuck	2430	Meaghan Shaffer	2470
Cara Hardesty	2431	David Teesdale	2471
William Spires	2432	James Sallee	2472
Alicia Dixon	2433	Max Birdsell	2473
Ryan Conchilla	2434	Eric Ford	2474
Stephanie Voris	2435	John Soden	2475
Ronald Londre	2436	Linda Hansen	2476
Jason Olczak	2437	Katie Kinsella	2477
Diane Kryzystof	2438	Jeffrey Mengler	2478
Kevin Jamieson	2439	Daniel Johnson	2479
Aaron Moore	2440	David Cowell	2480
Brock Freyer	2441	Stephanie Klein	2481
Timothy Nichols	2442	Jason Hales	2482
Robert Peterson	2443	Robbie Sliwinski	2483
Keith Maurice	2444	Renee Wilde	2484
Elisabeth Brackney	2445		
Timothy Fobes	2446		
Thomas Holliday	2447		
Jeremy Webb	2448		
Sarah Sandstrom	2449		
Elizabeth Carner	2450		

SWS & SWSPCP 2015 ANNUAL MEETING PROVIDENCE, RI

The 2015 SWS & SWSPCP Annual Meeting will be taking place in Providence, Rhode Island. The dates of the conference are May 31 to June 4, 2015.



Providence, Rhode Island

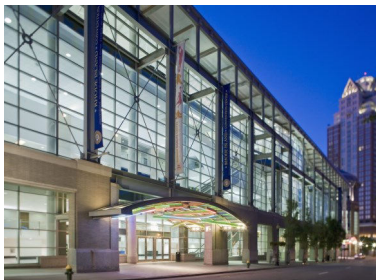
Providence combines the accessibility and friendliness of a small town with the culture and sophistication of a big city. Providence has so much to offer, from its 39 miles of coastline, its vibrant and diverse neighborhood's, while the scenic beauty and rich history of Rhode Island's other regions are a quick drive away. Providence is the perfect place to visit whether that be for a meeting or pleasure. The cities compact size and convenient location make it easy to get to and hard to forget. Providence packs the best of New England into one convenient and colorful package.

Host Hotel

The venue for the meeting will be the [Omni Providence Hotel](#) located at 1 West Exchange Street; Providence, RI 02903. The conference room rates are \$159 per night. To make a reservation please call (401) 598-8000.



This landmark hotel in Providence is connected to the Rhode Island Convention Center, [Dunkin Donuts Center](#) and the [Providence Place Mall](#). For those of you in search of the spirit of the city, the Omni Providence Hotel, with its stunning views of downtown, places you within reach of all the best that Providence has to offer. The hotel satisfies the needs of both the active and serene traveler with endless options for relaxation and exercise.



Rhode Island Convention Center

The Rhode Island Convention Center (RICC) is located in the heart of downtown Providence and is a multi-purpose facility. The Convention Center is attached via a sky-bridge to the Omni Hotel (Host Hotel), the Providence Place Mall and the Dunkin Donuts Center. The RICC is located at 1 Sabin Street; Providence, RI 02903. Their phone number is (401) 458-6000.



Things to do in Rhode Island

Are you planning on coming to Rhode Island prior to the meeting or leaving after the conclusion of the meeting? If the answer to that question is yes then you may be in search of something exciting, amusing, exhilarating, entertaining, or just something to do to pass the time. If that is the case then please visit the [Rhode Island Convention and Visitors Bureau](#) for a plethora of events, tours, restaurants and planning tools that are at your disposal for free.



SWS & SWSPCP 2015 ANNUAL MEETING **PROVIDENCE, RI**

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2015 Annual Meeting Sponsorship & Donations

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a sponsor/donor for the 2015 annual meeting please contact the SWSPCP office at (877) 226-9902 or email us at info@wetlandcert.org. Additional details regarding sponsorship/donations will be posted on the [SWSPCP website](#) in the following months.

Your sponsorship/donation contributions help defray event costs and are greatly appreciated. The sponsors/donors will be recognized for their generosity throughout the event and in all SWSPCP marketing materials. Consider becoming a sponsor or encourage your company to become a sponsor. Sponsorships are available at the \$100, \$250, \$500 or other levels.

If you are interested in advertising your company's products or services with SWSPCP you can download the [Media Kit](#).

PWS ONLINE RENEWAL SITE

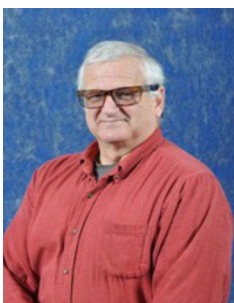
The days of submitting multiple copies of renewal applications are now over. SWSPCP is highly encouraging renewal applicants to apply for certification renewal online. SWSPCP values this newly embraced paperless practice to ensure an even more increasing technology-based efficiency while improving the integrity and security of files.

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING - PORTLAND 2014

Congratulations to the SWSPCP Board members who assumed their new positions at the Annual Board Meeting on May 17, 2014.



SWSPCP President
Robert D. Shannon, PhD, PWS



SWS President
James E. Perry III, PhD, PWS

The SWSPCP Board and staff would like to congratulate James E. Perry III, PhD, PWS as the incoming President of SWS. Jim has been a dedicated supporter of SWSPCP for many years. He has shared his wisdom and contributed to the program's success.

2014 Maintenance Fee Reminder

Annual certification maintenance fees are due annually and notices are sent by the executive office at the end of the calendar year for the coming year. An integration of a newly installed payment gateway on the website ensures ease of payment and a hassle free transaction. To maintain good standing status with SWSPCP and to continue to appear in the "Search for a Scientist" on-line directory, please remit your payment for 2014 if you have not already done so.

Please note that SWSPCP and SWS are separate organizations, so please do not combine payments.

Is Your Information Current in the Online Directory?

Updating your contact information is fast and easy! Please take a few minutes to verify that we have your correct information. To verify and/or update your information, ["Click Here"](#) and log on with your last name and application number.

Your application number is the six digit number associated with your initial application. For assistance with your application number and other log in issues please contact info@wetlandcert.org or call 877.226.9902

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