



## PROFESSIONAL WETLAND SCIENTIST E-LETTER

Volume 9 Issue 2, 2017  
Winter 2017

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Goodday to all you PWS's. SWSPCP continues to thrive. 2016 has proven to be another record year of approvals, upgrades and renewals with over a 100 new PWS's, over 50 WPIT's. We continue to tweak the online application process and have received many complementary comments about the process continue to work on going "paperless", one of the goals intuited by a past president.

A truly exciting thing to note is the amount of job announcements that state: "PWS required" or "PWS preferred". The program is actively achieving one of its many goals as a recognized industry certification program. We want to keep the momentum going and if any of you have any suggestions on outreach, please submit them to the business office to directly to me. I also encourage all of you to support your human resources departments when developing job announcements to include the above references.

Additionally, there have been some preliminary discussions of how to better serve our European and international members, whether through helping them develop parallel programs or through evolution of this program. It's good to note that international certifications are sought after and receive recognition in the international workplace.

We held a mixer jointly with SWS at the Corpus Christie, TX meeting that was well attended and will be having a similar event at the upcoming meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2017.

Also, networking with other PWS's is one of the benefits of certification, and there's no better way to network than to volunteer to serve on a committee. If you might be interested, just let any board member or the business office know and we will get you involved.

Thanks for your support,  
John Lowenthal, PWS

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Presidents Corner	1
Why Become Certified	2
Overview of the Program	3
SWSPCPC Pre Approved Courses	3
Pre Approved Courses APPLICATION	4
Annual Meeting	5
New PWS Certifications	6
Certification Corner	7
Maintenance / Seal Orders	8
Maintenance Fee Notice	9
Note from the Executive Director	10

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 view of any state or local agency*

## 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. The Society developed a program for certification of wetland science training and experience as a separate not-for-profit corporation, The SWS Professional Certification Program, Inc., 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.

## WETLAND PROFESSIONAL IN TRAINING VS PWS

**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.

## SWSPCP PRE-APPROVED COURSES:

The Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification team has created a way for the future certified wetland scientists to know that a short course will qualify as part of the requirements. Applicants seeking certification as a Professional Wetland Scientist or seeking certification renewal are required to document specialized wetland course work. Such training may consist of professional short courses or continuing education courses. The content of such courses varies widely and in many cases may have little applicability to wetland science. To help applicants ensure that professional short courses will be accepted by the Certification Review Panel and the Certification Renewal Committee, proponents of said courses may apply to the Professional Short Course Pre-Approval Program to have their courses evaluated and pre-approved. Such approval provides certain predictability that the course offered will receive credit or points, as appropriate, by applicants seeking PWS certification or certification renewal. This program is not intended for regular semester or quarter hour courses offered by accredited colleges or universities.

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



*Continued on pg. 4*

Continued from pg.3



**RUTGERS** Office of Continuing Professional Education

**Institute for Wetland & Environmental Education & Research**

**RICHARD CHINN ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING, INC.**

### SWSPCP PRE-APPROVED COURSES: APPLICATION

This program is not intended for regular semester or quarter hour courses offered by accredited colleges or universities.

1. Appropriate course content.
2. Qualified instructor(s).
3. Potential reasons for denial or withdrawal of course or instructor approval, at SWSPCP discretion
4. Examples of approvable professional short courses, continuing education, and/or training may include, but are not limited to, the following: Wetland Hydrology; General Hydrology; Soil Morphology, Classification, and Mapping; Hydric Soil Identification; Wetland Restoration
5. Course sponsors and instructors seeking pre-approval of professional wetland short courses must provide the following information to assist the Professional Short Course Review Panel in assessing the applicability of the course to wetland science and determining course valuation in equivalent semester hours
6. A professional short course evaluation form is provided on the SWSPCP website. At the beginning and the end of each short course the instructor(s) are required to inform the students of the existence of the short course evaluation form and encourage them to complete and submit the form to the SWSPCP business office. Course sponsors and instructors may also download the form and utilize the form for their own feedback
7. Appeal Process.  
Any applicant (course sponsor or instructor) aggrieved by a decision of the Professional Short Course Review Panel has the right to request a review of the decision. The review shall be conducted by SWSPCP Appeals Board

All applicants must pay a non-refundable fee of which must accompany the application.

<b>Individual Courses per year*</b>	1-5	6-10	11-15	>15
Course and Instructor Approval fee	\$650	\$1,200	\$1,700	\$2,500
Initial 2-Year Renewal Fee	\$300	\$600	\$900	\$1,200
Thereafter 5-Year Renewal Fee	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000



## 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:

2692	Emily	Alcott	2761	Benjamin	Furr
2726	Jeffrey	Allen	2707	Adam	Gailey
2736	Jillian	Arnold	2721	Paula	Gill
2715	Marc	Auten	2748	Joshua	Glance
2746	Edward	Avizinis	2754	Erin	Gora
2682	Justin	Baker	2724	Richard	Gundlach
2732	Steven	Ball	2772	Christopher	Gurney
2713	Jeff	Barna	2755	Liliana	Hansen
2758	Rebecca	Beduhn	2771	Tanner	Harris
2683	Charles	Benton	2751	Jason	Hartshorn
2735	Liam	Bevan	2699	Karl	Hellmann
2773	Alexander	Bonazzoli	2698	Maureen	Herald
2720	Brian	Bury	2752	Claire	Hoffman
2756	Daniel	Cardoza	2753	Kristian	Holmberg
2680	Lisa	Clementoni	2706	Bonnie	Irving
2686	Brian	Colabella	2712	Corrine	Jansing
2690	James	Cook	2675	Scott	Kelly
2688	Tyler	Crumbley	2749	Kaitlyn	Kiehart
2710	Matthew	Cusack	2769	Dale	Knapp
2741	Cory	Darnell	2679	Michael	Kopansky
2729	Mathew	DeCoursey	2676	David	Kordiyak
2717	Jeanne	DiFranco	2725	Kolten	Kosters
2770	Alicia	Douglass	2696	Sarah	Kraszewski
2711	Megan	Dusing	2739	Philip	London
2760	Carla	Fenner	2743	Bradley	Luckey
2750	John	Finley	2734	Victoria	Luiting
2723	Clay	Fischer	2702	Taya	MacLean
2685	Catherine	Fitzgerald	2687	Erin	Markel
2718	Emily	Foster	2740	Glenn	Martin
2727	John	Foster	2697	Alexander	Mathes

## NEW PWS CERTIFICATIONS

Congratulations to the following individuals who received their PWS certification:

2731	Christopher	McGinness
2763	Lindsay	Merkle
2768	Jeffrey	Moore
2745	Ryan	Mountain
2708	Katelin	Nickerson
2693	James	Novak
2744	Matthew	Paroulek
2759	Michael	Rabalais
2695	Megan	Raymond
2684	Susan	Romano
2691	Susan	Rowley
2709	Benjamin	Schuplin
2766	Lauren	Shaffer
2730	Tracy	Sharkey
2678	Ben	Shepherd
2694	Samantha	Simpson
2762	Thomas	Slowinski
2677	Gregory	Snowden
2705	Reid	Stamer
2719	Trisha	Stone

2765	Cliff	Sunda
2689	Justin	Sweitzer
2716	Michael	Takacs
2701	Michelle	Talal
2728	Winthrop	Taylor
2700	James	Teague
2733	Jason	Teschler
2767	Casey	Tompkins
2722	Brady	Trahan
2681	Katey	Traut
2742	Matthew	Waldrip
2764	Jocelyn	Wardrup
2747	Kevin	Webb
2738	Kazimierz	Wieski
2703	Richard	Wilson
2757	G. Alan	Wood
2704	Nicole	Wright
2714	James	Young

## CERTIFICATION CORNER

After receiving my Master's degree, I was eager to continue my career in the field of wetland sciences. I found myself searching for jobs, submitting resumes, and scheduling interviews. I felt confident in my abilities, but as someone relatively new to the field, I was certainly seeking to have them validated. After attending a Society of Wetland Scientists annual meeting and hearing more about the Professional Certification Program, I began compiling the materials necessary to apply to the program. Although I did not initially meet the criteria to become a Professional Wetland Scientist, I met the criteria to be certified as a Wetland Professional in Training. This was extremely valuable as it demonstrated I was on a clear track to a PWS certification once I met the necessary years of experience. The PWS accreditation has demonstrated to employers, clients, and peers that I have a minimum 5 years qualifying experience in the field of wetland sciences along with the necessary coursework, degrees, and references all valued in this profession.

-JohnRyan Polascik, PWS (#2644)

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



## 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.***

## NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2017 is now here and SWSPCP is in full swing ! We continue to be encouraged by the growth of the program and the numbers of employers requiring the PWS credential is steadily increasing.

From the upcoming Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico in June to the continued expansion internationally to the increased options for online training, SWSPCP is blazing the trail.

We always enjoy the opportunity to talk with many of you on a regular basis and to also converse via email.

Robert O. Patterson, JD  
Executive Director

### Board of Directors

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John Lowenthal, PWS

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Robbyn Myers, PWS

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