



# SWSPCP

## ◆◆◆ Spring Newsletter ◆◆◆

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Nancy Lin, President,  
Senior Professional Wetland Scientist*

**Dear Colleagues and Friends,**

**Happy American Wetlands Month!** I believe that the image and message shown here is timeless and universal even after the many years since I developed this poster. Not only does it celebrate our wetlands but also you, who share the common bond of stewardship and fellowship in our SWS Professional Certification Program (PCP) community.

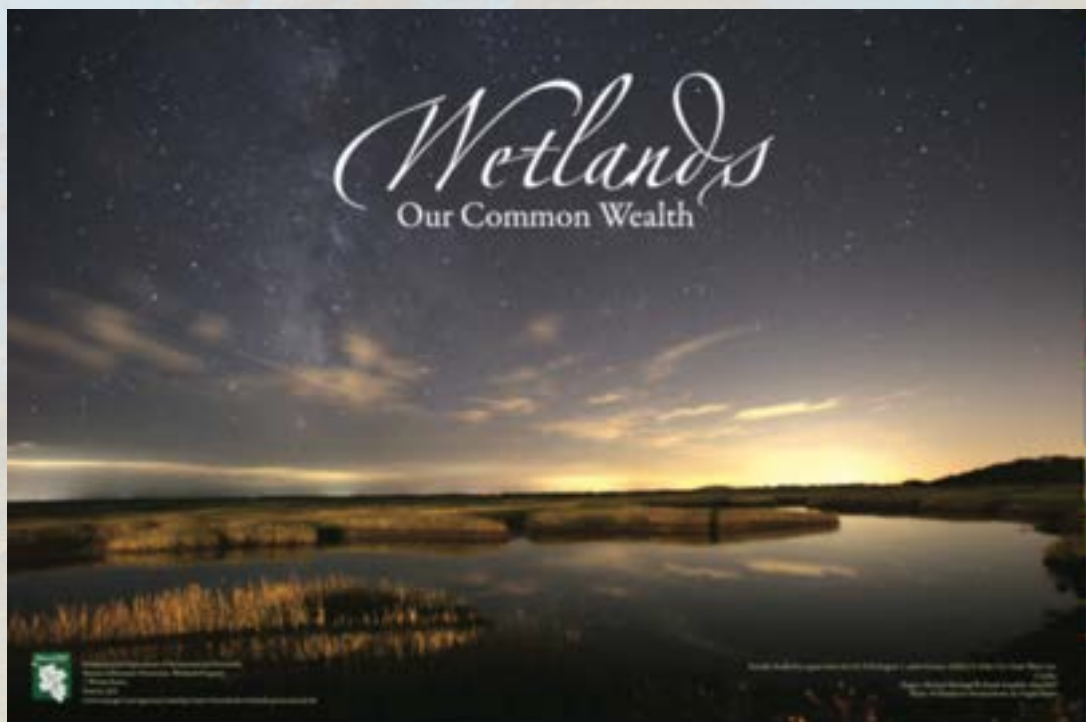
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As our wetlands continue to need our support on all levels—locally, nationally, and internationally—so may some of our valued colleagues who may be navigating through challenging times. If you know of any PCP members/colleagues who could use encouragement, helpful information or simply to connect – I encourage you reach out if you can. Also, if you need encouragement and help – please reach out as well. I strongly believe, as with wetlands, that our community is truly our “Common Wealth” and each of us is an integral part of it.



*Pleiades* by Angela Russo. Salt marsh in Cape Cod, Massachusetts

A good resource for both PCP and SWS members is the SWS website: <https://www.sws.org>, that has useful information as well as links to partner organizations with job boards, webinars and other great resources. While some resources in the SWS site requires membership, others, like the job board and free educational modules, are available to everyone. If you are not a current SWS member, I encourage you to consider joining if you are able.

## Updates

The past few months have been very busy for PCP.



Here are several projects and initiatives that we've been working on since the last newsletter.

### **Coordination with SWS and PCP Executive Boards**

Since January, Eric Stein, SWS's President and I have initiated meetings that has included our organization's Executive Board members to strategize and foster greater coordination and cooperation where our goals and mission align and to build on shared benefits for our membership.

Some of you may not be aware that SWS and SWS PCP are two separate organizations with different Board members and missions, although our shared commitment to wetland science, preservation, restoration, wise use and management of wetlands and protection are common to both groups. SWS created the Professional Certification Program in 1990's as a separate entity whose mission was to certify wetland professionals who meet the highest standards for education, experience, and ethics in the practice of wetland science.

SWS is currently in the process of updating their Strategic Plan so revisiting collaborative opportunities is timely and this may help PCP determine if we need to update our Strategic Plan as well.

Two areas that we have discussed potential cooperation in which you as members may want to contribute to are:

**Wetland Science and Practice (WSP)**– WSP is the SWS quarterly publication aimed at providing information on select SWS activities (technical committee summaries, chapter and section workshop overview/abstracts, and SWS-funded student activities); summary articles on current or recently completed wetland research, restoration, or management projects; information on the general ecology and natural history of wetlands; and highlights of current events. It is distributed digitally. <https://members.sws.org/wetland-science-and-practice>



**Webinars** – PCP members are invited to propose a webinar to present or recommend a speaker and relevant wetland topic. There are two types of webinars SWS offers. One for non-members at no cost that is issued each quarter: **Society of Wetland Scientists YouTube channel**. and another for SWS members only: the recording is uploaded three (3) months after the live webinar. If you are interested in proposing a webinar contact [info@sws.org](mailto:info@sws.org).

**Note:** PCP is in the process of developing shorter “Ted-like” talks focused on our certification program that will be available for free on our new YouTube channel with a link that will be shared with you soon. If you have any talks that you would like to share, please contact our Executive Administrator, Adrianna Borczyk at [aborczyk@association-resources.com](mailto:aborczyk@association-resources.com)

### **SWS Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island – July 15 to 18**

Come join us at the upcoming SWS Conference this July and if you are not a certified wetland professional and want to find out how to get certified, PCP will be offering a **free** hands-on workshop: *How to become a Wetland Professional in Training or Professional Wetland Scientist*.

### **New York State Recognizes PWS Certification under the NYS Agricultural Environmental Management Framework**

The New York State Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) framework, led by the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee, promotes healthier water, soil, and climate conditions by working closely with farmers. This initiative helps farmers evaluate their stewardship practices, address environmental concerns, and create conservation plans tailored to their goals. County Soil and Water Conservation Districts play a key role in putting AEM into action through a five-step process of inventorying, assessing, planning, implementing, and reviewing their efforts. Just recently, our Program was notified that the NYS districts with staff who have Professional Wetland Scientists (PWS) certifications can now apply for additional funding, giving them new opportunities to bolster their conservation



work. We are appreciative of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee for recognizing the value of our certification program.

For more information: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/about-soil-water-conservation-committee>

### **SWS PCP is co-sponsoring the SWS Europe Chapter and INTECOL Conference in Tartu, Estonia, June 29 – July 4.**

SWS PCP Board members Matt Simpson (also the SWS Europe Chapter President) and Kimberli Ponzio will be participating in the upcoming 12th INTECOL Wetlands Conference together with the 20th Annual Meeting of SWS Europe in Tartu, Estonia.

We will report on the conference in our next newsletter.

### **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands: Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15), Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, July 23- 31.**

I will be joining my colleagues from SWS and SWS PCP for the upcoming Ramsar COP15. This year, representatives from 173 countries (Contracting Parties) and others will convene in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Representing SWS PCP with me will include Hector Aponte (SWS PCP President-Elect), Ellen Kracauer Hartig (SWS PCP Immediate Past President), Matthew Simpson (SWS PCP Globalization Committee Chair, Ramsar Convention of Wetlands Scientific and Technical Review Panel) and Adrianna Borczyk (SWS PCP Executive Administrator). Gillian Davies, former SWS and SWS PCP President and Rob McInnes, former SWS PCP President will also be attending.

I want to express my deepest thanks to Matt Simpson, who has ably taken the lead for our program's attendance and participation at this critical international wetland conference. We'll provide you with further details in the next newsletter.

In closing, I want to thank you all for your engagement and support to the Program, to our wetlands, and just as importantly, to each other. That is what keeps our community resilient, vibrant and strong.



## PCP's Recent Demographic Survey

Last month, the DEI Committee of PCP conducted a follow-up Demographic Survey with our certificants. The main purpose was to compare it to the responses of the first survey conducted in 2022. An amazing 512 certificants participated in this Survey, which is much higher than the 2022 survey (305 respondents). The Committee is analyzing the responses, and the full results will be published once the analyses are complete. Nonetheless, early results show that a large proportion of certificants are familiar with PCP's Code of Conduct; a binding agreement which lays the ground rules to perform our daily tasks as professionals and in a manner that is respectful, reasonable, ethical and honest.

One positive trend that we've seen is that fewer certificants are experiencing discrimination in their workplace as professional wetland scientists. We look forward to sharing the full results in the next Issue of the Newsletter and in incorporating some of your suggestions in the future.

*Swapan Paul, PWS and Kimberli Ponzio, SPWS  
DEI Committee Co-Chairs*



## MACC Annual Environmental Conference 2025



On March 1, 2025, SWSPCP exhibited at the MA Association of Conservation Commissioners (MACC) 2025 Annual Environmental Conference with nearly 700 conservation commissioners and agents, environmental officials, consultants, attorneys, students, activists. <https://www.maccweb.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1920896>

The table was staffed the SWSPCP Outreach Chair (Sara Kreisel PWS), Treasurer, Mary Grover, PWS, and President, Nancy Lin. We gave out PWS pins, patches, and notepads to those already certified, and information on how to become certified to those interested!

We made sure to advertise for the Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting coming up this July in Providence while we were at it! ([swsannualmeeting.com](https://swsannualmeeting.com)). Hope to see you there too!

*Sara Kreisel, M.S., PWS (she/her)  
Outreach Committee Chair*



## Highlights from the IV Peruvian Wetlands Congress



On March 7th and 8th, the IV Peruvian Wetlands Congress was held at Ricardo Palma University. The event featured keynote lectures, symposia, oral presentations, and poster sessions, with over 60 research works presented.

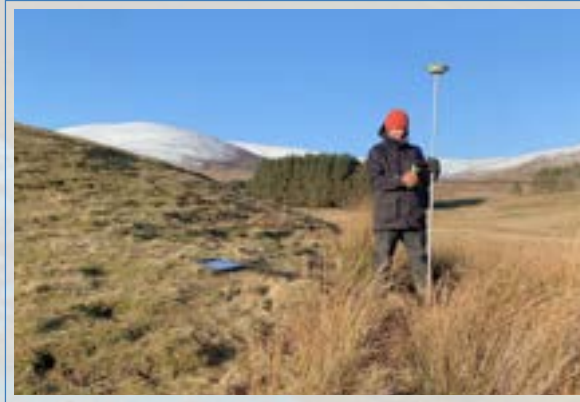
The Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program (SWS-PCP) had a significant presence with a dedicated stand, providing continuous information about the program to over 100 participants. SWS-PCP also played a key role in encouraging the participation of Peruvian students by sponsoring the registration fees for Joaquin Gabriel Aranibar Torres, Diego Fernando Carlos Acosta, Mario Edgardo Alaluna Agüero, Fabiana Leyva Gonzales, and Fernando Enrique Cardozo Julca.

Héctor Aponte, the president-elect of the program, actively participated in the congress, presenting his research and sharing insights about the certification program.

Looking ahead, we anticipate more events in the region, where we hope to continue attracting the interest of scientists in our certification programs.



## What Do You Do If You Don't Have the Educational Qualifications to Become a PWS?



There are many individuals around the world that are working as wetland professionals but currently do not qualify for Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) certification because they do not have the requisite physical or biological sciences education requirements you need to apply to be a PWS.

For several years SWSPCP have been consulting with wetland professionals to develop a solution for people that have a social science academic background or with an arts or other academic background and have switched to a career in wetland science. Later this year we will be launching a parallel certification program for Wetland Professional (WP) certification. It will look very similar to a PWS application but is designed to support different disciplines in wetland science. This will allow wetland professionals with different career paths and different academic backgrounds to apply. The parallel program will still have the highest standards of qualification and ethics but it will open up certification to a wider group of wetland professionals. We'll be sending out more information on this new program in July.

*Matthew Simpson, PWS  
Globalization Committee Chair*



## 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.

**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



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

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

## Approved WPIT Certifications:

- Nicole Y. Castro - 2/16/25
- Caleb A. Gourley - 2/16/25
- Morgan E. Harvey - 2/16/25
- Lewis J. Frady - 2/16/25
- Madison A. Stockman - 2/16/25
- Kristina I. Priotto - 3/4/25
- Bradley J. Bouton - 3/4/25
- Lee W. Toomey - 3/4/25
- Britney M. Watson - 3/4/25
- Jason M. Kicinski - 3/4/25
- Samuel W. Lamport - 3/4/25
- Shawn M. Fassl - 3/4/25
- Daniel P. Le Kites - 3/4/25
- Issac White - 3/4/25
- Emma K. Verville - 3/4/25
- Brynn A. Putnam - 3/20/25
- Ha M. Mang - 3/27/25
- Bradley T. Kohlrus - 3/27/25
- Travis H. Biskup - 3/27/25
- John W. Aldinger - 3/27/25
- Natalie Griffin Rothman - 3/27/25
- Malia P. Stone - 3/27/25
- Alex B. Bailey - 3/27/25
- William E. Broberg - 3/27/25
- Lauren Polaski - 3/28/25
- Logan Green - 3/28/25
- Emily R. Rudasill - 4/1/25
- Katherine Haines - 4/1/25
- Virginia C. Waters - 4/5/25
- John D. Sheridan - 4/5/25
- Robert A. Sullivan - 4/5/25
- Kara E. Crawford - 4/5/25
- Taylor A. Falo - 4/5/25
- Joshua T. Dresen - 4/5/25
- Thomas C. O'Neal - 4/5/25
- Jaelynn P. Stetson - 4/5/25
- Melinda A. Spence - 4/5/25
- Shane P. Jennings - 4/5/25
- Candace C. Cunningham - 4/12/25
- Ariana Montes - 4/12/25
- Anna M. Pletch - 4/12/25
- Rylee Collins - 4/12/25
- Rachel J. Owruksy - 4/12/25
- Julianne D. Matthews - 4/12/25
- Lucia Isobel Arthen-Long - 4/12/25
- Andrew T. Manley - 4/12/25
- Christine J. Pardo Dewald - 4/12/25
- Matthew A. Sarver - 4/16/25
- Adam A. Stevens - 4/16/25
- James M. Finch - 4/16/25
- Danielle C. Smith - 4/16/25





# Welcome



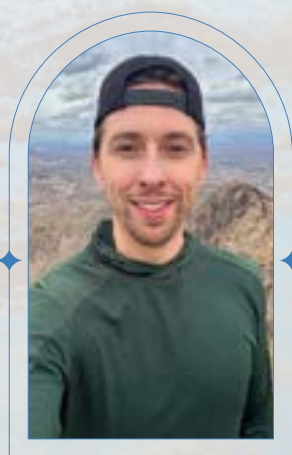
## Approved PWS Certifications:

- Taylor N. Blackman - 2/7/25
- Alanna Burket - 2/7/25
- Justin Apfel - 2/16/25
- Michaela C. Heffernan - 2/16/25
- Katherine M. Ratcliffe - 3/3/25
- Ashley Kneram - 3/3/25
- Meghan K. Flounlacker - 3/4/25
- Kate'Lyn E. Wills - 3/4/25
- Reece K. O'Donnell - 3/20/25
- Anthony J. Vingiello - 3/20/25
- Kelly H. Mandello - 3/26/25
- Jody C. Shugart - 3/27/25
- Evan G. Fox - 3/27/25
- Elizabeth A. Kelly - 3/27/25
- Dana M. Spontak - 3/27/25
- William Frederick Wollman - 3/28/25
- Robert F. Helsel - 3/28/25
- Brandon Stimac - 3/28/25
- James M. Molloy - 3/28/25
- Jodi R. Forgione - 3/28/25
- Kaitlyn A. Ball - 4/1/25
- Natalie A. Dietsch - 4/1/25
- Erin E. Binkley - 4/1/25
- Nusrat Jannah Snigha - 4/1/25
- Breanne N. Cline - 4/1/25
- Ryan C. Ward - 4/1/25
- Jeremy D Hummel - 4/1/25
- Weston F. Strubert - 4/5/25
- Carlynn R. Walker - 4/5/25
- Kristin N. Adams - 4/5/25
- Christian P. Casey - 4/5/25
- Stephen F. Langdon - 4/5/25
- Jessalynn R. Spears - 4/5/25
- Jefferson Hemphill - 4/5/25
- Kimberly Sanderford - 4/5/25
- Alexander J. Simon - 4/5/25
- Megan Mae P. Ancheta - 4/10/25
- Eric S. Goddard - 4/12/25
- Wyatt A. Jackson - 4/12/25
- Amy D. Parker - 4/12/25
- Ryan S. Morrison - 4/12/25
- Jason Tome - 4/12/25
- Martha B. Gruber - 4/12/25
- Craig J. Adams - 4/12/25
- Simon L. King - 4/12/25
- Graham A. Shell - 4/12/25
- Matthew M. Feters - 4/12/25
- Wyatt A. Jackson - 4/12/25
- Kincade R. Stirek - 4/16/25
- Beau B. Marshall - 4/16/25
- Faith C. Doty - 4/16/25



## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEWLY CERTIFIED PROFESSIONALS

We're excited to celebrate the commitment and hard work of our newest certified PWSs and WPITs! These individuals have taken an important step in their careers and are eager to share why they decided to pursue a certification.



*Craig J. Adams, PWS*

Certified on 4/12/2025

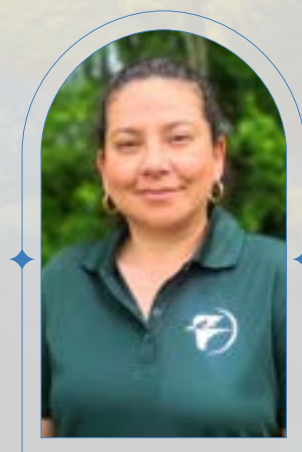
I went for the PWS certification to help highlight the professional experience and technical background I've built in wetland science. A lot of my work involves delineations and assessments in some pretty complex landscapes, so it felt like a great way to recognize both the academic side and the fieldwork I've done over the years. I'm excited to be part of a community that values strong standards and continued growth in this field!

[View Craig's LinkedIn](#)

*Martha B. Gruber, PWS*

Certified on 4/12/2025

My name is Martha Gruber, and I work for Artemis Consulting Collective based in the Tampa Bay Area. I decided to apply for PWS certification as a natural next step in my career. With two decades of experience in wetland science, I see this certification as a meaningful way to formally recognize the expertise I've developed through fieldwork, regulatory compliance, and ecosystem assessment, while reinforcing my commitment to responsible, science-based wetland stewardship.



[View Martha's LinkedIn](#)



## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEWLY CERTIFIED PROFESSIONALS



### *Ryan Morrison, PWS*

Certified on 4/12/2025

Hello, my name is Ryan Morrison, and I am an Associate Coastal Ecologist with Great Ecology. I work in the environmental industry, focusing on developing innovative ecological solutions to complex environmental challenges.

I decided to apply to become a Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) because, throughout my career, I've observed that many of the senior leaders I admire in this field hold this designation. It's clear that being recognized by the Society of Wetland Scientists not only reflects a high standard of professional achievement but also provides opportunities to connect with others who are addressing critical environmental issues that help advance our communities while preserving the ecological systems essential to our wetlands.

Earning the PWS designation represents an important step in my professional growth. It's an opportunity to be recognized by the peers and mentors I respect as an emerging leader in the environmental industry.

[View Ryan's LinkedIn](#)

### *Rachel J. Owrutsky, WPIT*

Certified on 4/12/2025

I applied for the WPIT because I'm committed to my professional development in wetland science. At Century Engineering, LLC, it's important for me to be able to easily relay my creditability to both clients and colleagues. The WPIT (and eventually PWS) allows me to do that.

[View Rachel's LinkedIn](#)