

MARCH 2021.VOLUME 21 SPRING

# SWSPCP SPRING NEWSLETTER

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY KIMBERLI J. PONZIO, M.SC.,  
SENIOR PROFESSIONAL WETLAND  
SCIENTIST

Springtime greetings, everyone !

It was an interesting and challenging year in 2020 and my hope is that 2021 has better things in store for us all. Despite the global pandemic we have responded with resilience and creativity in how we interact and connect with our family, friends, colleagues, and clients.



Virtual meetings have become the norm and SWSPCP has embraced this new way to connect to our members and the wetland community at large. We sponsored the December virtual meeting of SWS and held several SWSPCP Connect sessions in Sept 2020, Nov 2020, and Feb 2021. Starting in Nov 2020, our Connect sessions have not only been a way for us to share our experiences, solutions, and challenges to working in wetlands during a pandemic, but we also, at the request of attendees, have invited speakers and panelists to address topics such as the Biodiversity Crash and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and how we are poised to address those issues as wetland professionals. These sessions are recorded and available on our COVID-19 Resources page at ([https://www.wetlandcert.org/covid\\_resources.html](https://www.wetlandcert.org/covid_resources.html)), along with links to an Annual Maintenance Fee Waiver and a 5-year Certification Renewal Extension to assist members that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 and find it difficult either to pay their maintenance / renewal fees or have been unable to attain their renewal certification points through lost/reduced employment, canceled training, workshops, and conferences, etc. Please don't hesitate to make use of these resources.

During the last several months, our Board of Directors (BOD) and the SWSPCP Office have been hard at work on a number of important initiatives. First among them was to add two new members: Marla (pictured left )ASWM Executive Director, as our Board Member at Large, and Kyle Runion (pictured right ), University of Texas, in the new position of Student Representative.

A sincere welcome and thank you to Marla and Kyle for volunteering!!



Together we tackled succinctly defining our SWSPCP Mission and Vision as stated below:

**Mission** - The SWSPCP

mission is to certify wetland professionals who meet the highest standards for education, experience, and ethics in the practice of wetland science.

**Vision** - The SWSPCP vision is to

be THE globally recognized authority on certification of wetland professionals, requiring adherence to the highest standards in education, experience, and ethics in protecting and managing wetland resources and elevating the profession of wetland science.

In fall 2020, we formed an ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee, led by Scott Jecker and an internationally diverse team of individuals, to develop our first-ever SWSPCP Strategic Plan.

We hope to have this completed in the coming months to help direct our activities and energies towards meeting our overarching SWSPCP goals. In early March, you should see an election ballot for new officer(s) that will lead SWSPCP into the future, growing the recognition of SWSPCP and continuing the charges of Strategic Plan.

Our membership continues to grow and, interestingly, we had more PWS and WPIT applications in 2020 than ever before! This has kept our Certification Review Panel quite busy and as we continue to expand our global reach by finding “Champions” that are promoting the Program in countries outside the U.S., we have more individuals becoming certified as PWS’s themselves; our latest was Muhammad Afzal from Pakistan. We also continue to build our partnership with the South African Wetland Society to provide greater collaboration and enhanced opportunities for the members of both organizations. Additionally, Matt Simpson has been working diligently with leaders of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, to gain support for SWSPCP’s formal recognition as a professional standard for wetland scientists at the next Convention of the Parties. However, this meeting, originally scheduled for fall 2021, may be delayed until Spring 2022 due to the pandemic. Gillian Davies and I look forward to participating in other virtual events that will build awareness of SWSPCP in Columbia this spring and fall.

We also will continue to work on updating our website and promotional materials to be inclusive of other cultures and languages. Please take a look at our informational flyers in English, Spanish, and Chinese.

[https:// www.wetlandcert.org/docs/WPIT-PWS\\_Flyer\\_English.pdf](https://www.wetlandcert.org/docs/WPIT-PWS_Flyer_English.pdf)

[https://www.wetlandcert.org/docs/WPIT-PWS\\_Flyer\\_Espanol.pdf](https://www.wetlandcert.org/docs/WPIT-PWS_Flyer_Espanol.pdf)

[https://www.wetlandcert.org/docs/WPIT\\_PWS\\_Flyer\\_Chinese.pdf](https://www.wetlandcert.org/docs/WPIT_PWS_Flyer_Chinese.pdf)

In the coming months, we will be readying ourselves to support the SWS Annual Virtual Meeting and to hold a SWSPCP symposium, entitled “Exhibiting Ethics in Wetland Restoration and Creation: Case Studies and Lessons Learned” that will be followed by an Ethics Training session. Keep that on your radar for June 2021.



Finally, I encourage you all to get excited about and engaged in the happenings of the SWSPCP this spring and help us move all these initiatives forward. Recently, I was awed by this sunrise captured from my car window in one of my favorite spots to “watch a wetland” over the last three decades on my way to work – the Ordway Preserve in Putnam Hall, Florida. I hope you can let your love for wetlands and the sense of place these beautiful and essential ecosystems provide, inspire you to carry on through the pandemic.

It's a new day!

Kimberli Ponzio

SWSPCP President



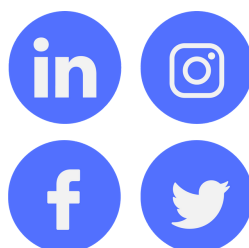
**Linked** in



**Follow us on social media !**

**Connect, follow and have a conversation with us.**

Here at SWSPCP we love getting social. Which is why you'll find us on all of the main social media channels, including Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram. We think it's a great way to build an online community where we can all share news and ideas.



# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT MARCH 31ST, 2021**

## **The R. Harold Jones Lifetime Achievement Award**

The Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program (SWSPCP) celebrates the accomplishments of individuals for outstanding and sustained contributions to wetland science and practice and for exhibiting exemplary values and standards of the profession. Honorees are presented the award at the annual SWS conference.

### **CRITERIA**

Criteria for selection can include, though is not limited to, the following:

- Sustained contributions and accomplishments in the field of wetland science
- Outstanding contributions to and/or promoting the profession of wetland science
- Contributions of lasting impact to the profession of wetland science
- Exemplary values and standards as a wetland science professional
- Be a PWS in good standing

### **NOMINATION PROCEDURE**

Nominations should be submitted to the Management Office ([info@wetlandcert.org](mailto:info@wetlandcert.org)) who will verify membership status, by March 31st, 2021. Please ensure your nomination is clearly marked "The Harold Jones Lifetime Achievement Award"

Nomination packages should include the following:

- A cover letter from the primary nominator that describes the rationale for the nomination;
- A minimum of two other letters of support;
- An up-to-date curriculum vitae/resumé; and
- Three (3) endorsements; two (2) shall be PWS in good standing.

### **SELECTION**

The Awards Committee of the Society will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors who will make the final selection.

# COVID-19 Resources



Current Senior Professional Wetland Scientists (SPWS), Professional Wetland Scientists (PWS), and Wetland Professionals in Training (WPIT) may be granted a full or partial waiver of their annual SPWS/PWS/WPIT maintenance fees, due to financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Fee Waiver Due To COVID-19 Financial Hardship**
- **Certification Renewal Extension Due To COVID-19 Hardship**

## What is 'SWSPCP Connect'?

An opportunity for all PWS's and WPIT's to come together, in an interactive setting, to share their experiences, challenges, and solutions to working in wetlands during the pandemic.

From our website you may download free recordings from the past sessions that occurred on:

1. May 15, 2020
2. July 23, 2020
3. September 15, 2020
4. November 17, 2020
5. February 16, 2021

Please join us for our next SWSPCP Connect Zoom Session which will be scheduled soon. Once you register for this FREE session, you will receive the link to join the session via email from Zoom.





# Huntington Beach wetlands continue to expand, following decades of degradation

Recently announced grants will improve two coastal wetlands in the city.

The coastal wetlands of Orange and Los Angeles counties, once scorned for the obstacles they posed to the construction of roads and buildings, have been squeezed by development to less than 10% of their 19th-century size.

Read more :

<https://www.ocregister.com/2020/10/16/huntington-beach-wetlands-continue-to-expand-following-decades-of-degradation/>



## *SWSPCP & SWS Wetland Restoration Section Sponsored Symposium at the SWS Annual Meeting*

### **Symposium Title:**

Exhibiting ethics in wetland restoration and creation: Case studies and lessons learned -

### **Confirmed Speakers**

- Ben LePage - The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- Matthew Simpson – 35percent, Stroud GL6 8NZ UK
- Gillian Davies – BSC Group, Worcester, MA, USA
- Leandra Cleveland – HDR, Inc., Cincinnati, OH, USA
- Andy Herb – AlpineEco, Denver, CO, USA
- Tom Slowinski - V3 Companies, Woodridge, IL, USA
- Kevin Erwin – Kevin L. Erwin Consulting Ecologist, Inc., Ft. Myers, FL, USA
- Swapan Paul – Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Sydney, Australia

### **Ethics Training**

- Robbyn R. Myers - BGE Environmental LLC, Bremerton, WA, USA
- Yvonne M. Vallette - U.S. EPA-Region 10, Oregon Operations Office, USA
- Matthew Schweisberg - Wetlands Strategies and Solutions, LLC, Merrimac, MA, USA

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

## TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT-ELECT AND SECRETARY-GENERAL-ELECT AS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT MARCH 5TH 2021**

SWSPCP is accepting nominations for individuals to serve as President-elect and Secretary-General-elect as Executive Officers on the Board of Directors.

The duties of President-Elect are:

- To assist the President and to perform the duties of the President when that officer is absent or unable to act for one year.
- After one year, serve as the President and be responsible for the business of the Certification Program, establish special committees required for the business of the Certification Program, and exercise other responsibilities as necessary to operate the Certification Program.
- After one year as President then serve for one year as Past-President.

The duties of the Secretary-General-Elect:

- Work closely with the Secretary-General on Certification Program affairs in order to be prepared to occupy the position at the end of the Secretary-General's term in office.
- Fulfill the term of Secretary-General should that individual not be able to continue in office.
- After one year, serve as the Secretary-General, for three years, and be responsible for:
  1. Obtaining quarterly updates from the business office of certified or pending applicants. Upon request from the Board of Directors, provide digital copies of such updates.
  2. Maintaining and updating the Certification Program Bylaws and Standing Rules.
  3. Recording and reading minutes of the annual meeting and the mid-year meeting of the Certification Program and all called meetings of the Board of Directors. Distribute minutes to Board members.
  4. Oversee development, procurement, brochures, postage, photocopying, stationery, and other items as needed or directed.

Only Active Members in good standing shall be eligible for nomination for an elected office. Submit your intention to stand to Matt Simpson, Chair of the nomination committee, [matthew@35percent.co.uk](mailto:matthew@35percent.co.uk) no later than Friday, March 5, 2021.





## GLOBAL CHAMPIONS

The SWS Professional Certification program has an expanding membership in many countries across the globe. We are grateful for our regional champions that help to promote the program and support wetland scientists in their regions.

These include:

Shuqing An, Prof. – China  
Swapn Paul, PhD - Australia  
Wei-ta Fang, Prof. – Taiwan  
Matt Simpson, PhD – UK  
Muhammed Afzal, PhD – Pakistan  
Ian Bredin, MSc - South Africa  
Héctor Aponte, PhD – Peru  
Tatiana Lobato de Magalhães, PhD - Mexico

## SWS ANNUAL MEETING 2021 - VIRTUAL

SWS looks forward to offering you vibrant programming, impactful networking, and opportunities to reflect and connect over the emerging and important topics in our field. Centered around the theme ***Wetland Sciences 2021: Adaptation Drives Innovation***, this virtual meeting will include opportunities for engagement, including symposia, contributed sessions, workshops, plenary sessions, and space to connect with other attendees from across the globe.

The meeting program will be spread out over the first two weeks of June, on Tuesdays and Thursdays: June 1, 3, 8, and 10, with optional workshops on Wednesday, June 9.

