



PROFESSIONAL WETLAND SCIENTISTS

Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program

June 17, 2008

Greetings to all Professional Members:

As the new President of our Professional Certification Program, one of my first but less joyous duties is to notify members of our Program's need to increase our fees and annual dues. Projecting our budget for the next few years, our Board has concluded that we are in immediate need of additional income to sustain our member services and to follow through on a number of very important initiatives intended to strengthen the credibility our professional certification program. These increases are largely necessary to catch up with our current costs of managing the program. We also now have a better understanding of the management costs for the Certification Renewal application processing which has been underway for the last year.

We will be providing details on work necessary to sustain SWSPCP National Accreditation through the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards beyond 2010... and planned improvements to the "Search for Scientists" function on our webpage. Improvements to the PCP Scientists listing will soon allow all professional members to include consultation services that they are qualified in and willing to provide in a variety of Wetland and Aquatic Resources venues. When members have completed (hopefully on-line) updates to their Professional listings, we intend that this improved product will be distributed widely to State and Federal Agencies and to Conservation/Environmental Groups throughout the United States.

It should be noted that this is the first increase in maintenance dues since the inception of the program in 1994, over 14 years ago.

Thanks in advance for your understanding and your continued financial support.

Respectfully,

Mal Gilbert, PWS
SWSPCP President