



Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program

PROFESSIONAL WETLAND SCIENTIST E-LETTER

Volume 6, Issue 1, 2013

The President's Corner

Ingeborg Hegemann, PWS

SWSPCP has been pretty busy this year! We have had several Board meetings and there are several committees hard at work. The committees you are most likely to be familiar with include the Certification Panel and the Certification Renewal Committee. These committees work very hard reviewing and approving applications for Professional Wetland Scientists (PWS), Wetland Professionals in Training (WPIT), and renewing certifications for existing PWSs. Applications for PWS and WPIT continue to grow. For example, since January 1, 2013, we have received 77 applications for PWS and WPIT compared to 60 applications for the same time last year. This past year has also been a banner year for certification renewals (including mine). At present there are 1,394 Professional Wetland Scientists.

A new and very active committee has been the Professional Short Course Review Panel. This panel has been working on developing a Professional Short Course Pre-approval Program wherein SWSPCP will pre-approve continuing education programs. See the related article in this newsletter.

The SWSPCP became accredited by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB) a few years ago. We attended their annual conference in March and SWSPCP will continue to evolve to maintain certification, including revising our Body of Knowledge and working on defining our continuing education credits. In addition, we are looking into establishing a Legislative Tracking Committee so that we can assist our members in tracking legislation that affects us in various states.

We are also getting ready for the SWS Annual Meeting in Duluth and we hope you'll be able to attend. We will have a booth where you can come by and meet Board members and the wonderful staff from our management company, The Center for Association Resources. As we did last year, there will be SWSPCP logo items for sale and we'll have daily raffle items, so come by and introduce yourself.

During the Annual Meeting, we'll be holding an Ethics Session, which is split into two sessions: Monday June 3 and Wednesday June 5 during the lunch block. You will need to attend both sessions to obtain credit, but feel free to attend just one if your schedule is full. And come by for our PWS Information Session and SWSPCP Mixer on Monday evening, June 3. It's always a lot of fun, and we officially pass the torch to the next president at the mixer. I have enjoyed assisting the program as president this year and want to thank the whole Board for working with me. I look forward to welcoming Leandra Cleveland as your next president and Rob Shannon as your next president-elect. And if you are at all interested in volunteering on our committees (see our webpage for a list: www.wetlandcert.org), please let us know. See you in Duluth!

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The Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program serves 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.

SWSPCP Announces Rob Shannon as 2013-2014 President-Elect

Ingeborg Hegemann, PWS, SWSPCP President
Bill Kirchner, PWS, SWSPCP Nominations Chair



Your votes have been cast and tallied for the SWS Professional Certification Program (SWSPCP) 2013-2014 President-Elect. Please join us in welcoming **Rob Shannon** as the newly-elected SWSPCP President-Elect. Rob is no stranger to our organization, having been certified as a Professional Wetland Scientist in 1998 and soon after joining the Certification Review Panel until he was appointed as Chair of the Review Panel in 2009. He is currently serving a second three-year term as Chair of the Review Panel and, in that capacity, also serves as a member of the SWSPCP Board of Directors as well as the SWSPCP Certification Standards and Ethics Committees.

Rob has been involved in wetland science for over 25 years, and is currently the faculty coordinator of the Environmental Resource Management program at the Pennsylvania State University. His wetland research coming to Penn State has focused on the biogeochemistry of trace gas emissions from natural and constructed wetlands, as well as on the effectiveness of nutrient removal in natural and constructed wetlands. As an experienced member of the SWSPCP Board of Directors, Rob is uniquely qualified in contributing to the mission of SWSPCP and in serving wetland scientists across the world. We look forward to working with Rob on many of the emerging issues for a young professional organization and to make sure the certification program continues to be accessible to aspiring wetland scientists in the private, non-profit, and public sectors, as well as to international applicants. Congratulations, Rob!

Happenings at the SWS 2013 Annual Conference

SWSPCP has various events planned in conjunction with the SWS Annual Conference in Duluth, MN. More details and exact locations will be announced in the SWS conference brochure.

◇	Monday June 3	11:30a - 1:00p	Ethics Course Part 1
◇	Monday June 3	4:30p - 5:30p	PWS Information Session
◇	Monday June 3	5:30p - 7:30p	PWS Social Mixer (Harbor Side)
◇	Wednesday June 5	11:30a - 1:00p	Ethics Course Part 2
◇	Monday—Thursday	5:00p	SWSPCP Raffle Prize Drawings



Visit Our Booth In Duluth!

Please stop by **Booth #1** at the Annual Conference exhibit hall. We will have daily raffle prizes, new logo items for sale, and lots of information about the Professional Wetland Scientist certification program. The Board and staff look forward to seeing you!

Announcing the Professional Short Course Pre-Approval Program

R. Harold Jones, PWS, *Emeritus*
Chair, PSCR

In 1994, the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) formally established the Professional Certification Program (PCP) to certify individuals meeting the requirements as a Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) or Wetland Professional in Training (WPIT). An individual seeking certification as a PWS must document a minimum of at least fifteen credits hours, or equivalent (US academic standard), of additional education in specialized wetland course work (SWCW). SWCW credit may be obtained through successful completion of graduate or undergraduate course work, collegiate extension courses, or more frequently through professional short courses. In addition, PWSs seeking certification renewal are also required to document additional specialized wetland training.

While the SWSPCP standing rules provide general standards on the types of courses which may be acceptable in meeting the SWCW and renewal requirements, many potential PWS applicants, WPITs seeking to upgrade to PWS, and renewal applicants, are uncertain whether a particular short course will receive the appropriate credit or points. The content of such courses varies widely and in many cases may have little applicability to wetland science. Many potential applicants have felt great uncertainty about expending resources to take a professional short course without having a reasonable expectation that the course would be acceptable to one or both review panels. To address this concern, the Presidents of SWS and SWSPCP established the first ever joint committee to investigate this concern and develop a strategy to provide pre-approval of professional short courses.

The joint Ad Hoc SWS/SWSPCP Wetland Coursework Committee was formally established in the early spring of 2012. The committee consisted of four members from each organization (SWS & SWSPCP) and included representatives from the United States, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom. The committee met at the SWS/SWSPCP annual meeting in Orlando, Florida in 2012 to establish refined goals, minimum potential course and trainer criteria, and projected dates for program development and implementation. In November 2012, the SWSPCP Board approved the recommendations of the joint Ad Hoc SWS/SWSPCP committee and established the Professional Short Course Pre-Approval Program Requirements and Standards, and established the Professional Short Course Review Panel (PSCR) as set forth in Sections 31 and 32 in the Standing Rules, respectively.

At the January 2013 SWSPCP Board Meeting, initial members of the PSCR were nominated and approved by the Board. The committee is currently developing the administrative process to implement the program. It is anticipated that the PSCR will begin accepting applications on or about June 1, 2013.

SWS and SWSPCP believes that implementation of the Professional Short Course Pre-approval Program constitutes an important step forward in providing absolute predictability that a PSCR-approved professional short course will receive the appropriate credit when an applicant seeks PWS certification or points for certification renewal. Similarly, course proponents, sponsors and instructors can advance their course offerings with a pre-approved underwriting by the SWSPCP.

We Need *OUR* Help: Engineering Credentials

Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB)
William C. Anderson, P.E., DEE, Executive Director

We, the engineering profession and allied technical community, needs **Our**, the engineering and technical organizations, help to educate engineers, allied technical professionals, and the public regarding engineering credentials – licenses and certifications.

Licensing of engineers has existed for over 100 years (since 1907) and certification of engineers and allied technical specialists for more than 50 years (since 1955). Yet, studies by many organizations have conclusively established that very few of the millions of engineers and allied technical specialists practicing in the United States correctly understand the definitions of the few terms associated with engineering credentials, the appropriate uses of credentials and their benefits to practitioners, employers, and the public.

A task force of individuals representing the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) and the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB) developed a concise educational document to address this problem. The draft document was thoroughly vetted over four years to ensure accuracy. Click [here](#) to view the Engineering Credentials consensus document, and click [here](#) to view a video summary introducing the document on YouTube.

It is time, after 100 years, to ensure that all properly understand engineering credentials. This can be accomplished if engineering and technical organizations distribute the *Engineering Credentials* document to their members, students, and the public on a continuum. The power of the Internet enables this task to be easily accomplished.

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ANNUAL BOARD MEETING - DULUTH 2013

Congratulations to the SWSPCP Board members who will assume their new positions at the Annual Board Meeting on June 3, 2013.



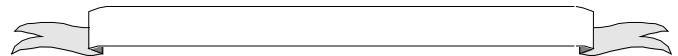
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Portland, OR



Secretary General
Robbyn R. Myers, PWS
Bremerton, WA



President-Elect
Robert D. Shannon, PhD, PWS
University Park, PA

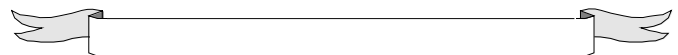


With Sincere Appreciation

The Board of Directors and staff wish to thank James E. Perry III, PhD, PWS for putting in lots of long hours during many years of dedicated Board service as SWSPCP's Secretary General. Jim is Professor of Marine Science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the College of William and Mary. Thank you, Jim, for your wisdom and many contributions to the Program's success!



James E. Perry III, PhD, PWS



New PWS Certifications

Congratulations to the following individuals who received their PWS certification
since September 2012

William	Macholdt	2268	David	Jackson	2304
Matthew	Creighton	2269	Christopher	Wagner	2305
Michael	Dalsis	2270	Jeremy	Paris	2306
Susan	Wall	2271	Lara	Thoreson	2307
John	Steele	2272	Steven	Long	2308
Laura	Vrabel	2273	Chad	Copeland	2309
Tina	Mohn	2274	Michelle	Ford	2310
Natalie	Paver	2275	Jennifer	Sloan	2311
Joy	Ryan	2276	Christopher	Einstein	2312
Mark	Biddle	2277	Allison	Warner	2313
Reed	Hentze	2278	John	Collum	2314
Julie	Wirth	2279	Patrick	Hickey	2315
Jason	Mercer	2280	Matthew	Hubbard	2316
Matthew	Chastain	2281	Zachary	Bush	2317
Wesley	Salter	2282	Jason	Walker	2318
Caroline	Hanes	2283	Jason	Morrell	2319
Sagan	Simko	2284	Michael	Denother	2320
Kevin	Clark	2285	Matthew	Knox	2321
Travis	Kessler	2286	Joseph	Greene III	2322
Cori	Rose	2287	Anthony	DeMars	2323
Brendan	Brown	2288	Dennis	Medved	2324
Matthew	DeWitt	2289	Christopher	Flowers	2325
Christopher	Johnson	2290	Jason	Voight	2326
James	Quinn	2291	Melissa	Green	2327
Jedd	Anderson	2292	Frederick	Zarate	2328
Britton	Burnworth	2293	Thomas	Kohl	2329
Steve	Butler	2294	Harold	Thompson	2330
Lee	Hughes	2295	Mark	Matthies	2331
Laura	Lapierre	2296	Ralph Anthony	Miller	2332
Tyler	Thigpen	2297	Christopher	Thomas	2333
Tony	Greco	2298	Randall	Phillips	2334
Angela	Dalsis	2299	Jonathan	Farrell	2335
Michael	Batcher	2300	Joseph	Smith	2336
Anthony	Bush	2301	Kristin	Murray	2337
Matthew	Davison	2302	Karen	Kase	2338
Michael	Reyes	2303	John-Thomas	Graupensperger	2339
			Karla	Van Leaven	2340

Suggested Changes to the 2014 Professional Wetland Scientist Survey

Kurt Philipp, PhD, PWS, CESB Representative

The Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program (SWSPCP) is accredited by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB). CESB accreditation requires that the SWSPCP create and maintain a Body of Knowledge (document) that outlines specific skills, knowledge, and abilities that a Professional Wetland Scientist should possess.

The Body of Knowledge (BoK) must be solicited from all who are certified by the program and be updated every five years. The BoK is a living guidance document for knowledge and skill requirements to be used by the SWCPCP Certification Review Panel in assessing an applicant's experience towards certification as a Professional Wetland Scientist.

The Body of Knowledge Survey will be sent to all Professional Wetland Scientists again in 2014. The survey consist of a list of skills, abilities, and knowledge all PWSs could potentially possess in order to be certified as a Professional.

Please visit the SWSPCP website at www.wetlandcert.org and review the current Body of Knowledge shown on the left under Professional Wetland Scientist. Please submit suggested changes or additions to Executive Administrator Michele Anderson by email at manderson@association-resources.com.

Thank You to Our 2013 Sponsors and Donors

Gold Sponsor



Bronze Sponsor



There is still time to support the upcoming PWS Mixer as a Gold, Silver, or Bronze sponsor. Click [here](#) for a sponsorship form.

Raffle Prize Donors



THE CENTER for Association Resources



New WPIT Certifications

Congratulations to the following individuals who received their WPIT certification since September 2012

Mark	Navarro	Farshad	Shafiei
James	Savitski	Marshall	Willis
Kirsten	Williams	Jessica	Campo
Lauren	Shaffer	Nathan	Cristofori
Stephanie	Conner	Michael	Warrick
Molly	Notestine	Elizabeth	Colket
Magdalena	Eshleman	Melissa	Kalb
Marisa	Oriente	Alexander	Simon
Robert	Roos	Kimberly	Mohney
Daniel	Ford	Frank	Parisio
Jason	Palonis	Sarah	Miloski
Eric	Sweeney	Sarah	Kraszewski
Joshua	Buckmaster	James	Young

Protecting the PWS “Brand”

The Board of Directors of the Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program is actively pursuing greater protection for the SWSPCP logo and the Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) title through the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Elements of the Society’s brand have already passed important tests regarding the “likelihood of confusion”. We will update our members with new developments as they become available.

2013 Maintenance Fee Reminder

Annual certification maintenance fees are due annually and are sent by the executive office at the end of the calendar year for the coming year. 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 2013 if you have not already done so.

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

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 2013 Media Kit is available on the SWSPCP website.

www.wetlandcert.org

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