



SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

PROFESSIONAL WETLAND SCIENTIST E-LETTER

Volume 8, Issue 2, 2015
Fall 2015

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dear PWS/WPIT colleagues,

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you and the SWSPCP Board as President for the 2015-2016 term. I'm excited for the upcoming year's events and on-going development of our services and membership. I am quite fortunate to be working alongside a knowledgeable and talented group of people dedicated to upholding the highest standards for professionals, like you, who study and manage the nation's wetland resources.

The SWSPCP Board and committees have been working diligently to expedite the application and renewal requirements to our certificants. Continued education opportunities are the key to maintaining the highest caliber of educated professionals in the industry. The short course pre-approval program is online for streamlined processing so that continued education is easily transferable to certification requirements. We will be implementing online ethics training as a requirement for certification beginning January of 2017.

We've added recorded ethics sessions and information videos to our website and social media sites. Find us on Facebook and Twitter to view these sessions. We are evolving towards a greater social media exposure in order to connect and communicate with the wetland professional community. Let us know if you "Like" it!

Certification is on the rise and the certification program growth has already exceeded the 2015 projections. Our asset growth is a reflection of the support of our certified PWS/WPITs provide through mentoring and promoting the benefits of Professional Wetland Scientist certification. On behalf of the SWSPCP Board, we welcome you to the certification program and thank you for leading the way with the highest professional standards.

(continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Presidents Corner	1 - 2
Informational & Ethics Session Videos	2
President-Elect 2015	3
Passing the Tiara	3
PWS/WPIT Interviews	4-5
Annual Meeting	6
New PWS/WPIT Certifications	7
Maintenance Requirement	8
Maintenance Fee Notice	9
Short Course Providers	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

The success of the certification program is driven by a committed, passionate, and intelligent group of people from all types of environmental industries. Their talent and expertise is continuously shared to balance and grow the services and opportunities provided to the certificants of this program. Our business office is the power source to our customer service and program management. It's an enormous task to effectively manage and grow a non-profit organization and I want to personally thank everyone at the business office for their hard work and commitment to this program.

As a wetland professional, you know that your job is both rewarding and difficult. You have talent and expertise to share. I want to encourage everyone to utilize our social media to connect and extend our building knowledge in wetland science. PWS and WPIT are much more than an acronyms, we are a community of like professionals.

Robbyn Myers, PWS
SWSPCP President

INFORMATIONAL & ETHICS SESSION VIDEOS

We are excited to announce the new informational and ethics session videos for you to view online. These videos were recorded during the 2015 SWSPCP Annual meeting in Rhode Island.

Please feel free to share them with your friends and colleagues. Click any of the images below to view the videos on the SWSPCP website.



SWSPCP WELCOMES PRESIDENT-ELECT JOHN LOWENTHAL



Please join us in thanking the candidates for their participation in this year's election and in extending congratulations to John Lowenthal who was elected to the President-Elect position.

Also a special thanks to the Nominating Committee Chair, Bill Kirchner, and the members of the Nominating Committee for their dedication and contribution to this important process.

SWSPCP welcomes John to the President-Elect Position. He currently resides on the Society of Wetland Scientist, PWS Certification Review Panel. He joined SWS in 1991 and was certified as a PWS in 1995.

John is a senior biologist with 30 years' experience managing environmental projects with complex wetland issues including hundreds of confirmed wetland delineations, over a hundred Section 404, Section 10, and Section 408 wetland permits, detailed mitigation studies including: site searches, feasibility studies, site designs including grading and planting, construction management, and post construction monitoring.

John also currently sits on the EPA's Board of Scientific Counselors Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Subcommittee. Mr Lowenthal has also conducted long term research following 5 case studies dating back to 1993 where wetlands were designed/used to treat stormwater runoff while also providing wetland mitigation.

John is very knowledgeable of the new EPA mandated Chesapeake Bay TMDL programs. He is assisting municipalities and federal facilities in developing stormwater programs to bring their areas into compliance.

ROB SHANNON-IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT PASSING THE TIARA TO ROBBYN MYERS-PRESIDENT



PWS/WPIT INTERVIEW Q&A

SWSPCP has randomly selected PWSs/WPITs to participate in the following interview and we have anonymously posted some of the responses to the interview questions below.

1. How has becoming certified benefited you in your career?

"I have been given more opportunities by my employer to carry out wetlands work as a leader or independently."

"Clients have requested that I exclusively write their reports, and people have called attention to my certification ."

"It provides greater recognition / credibility"

2. How long have you been certified?

"Less than 2 years "

"1 year"

3. Would you recommend PWS/WPIT Certification to fellow colleagues?

"Yes. When I attended the course for the wetland delineation certification, I recommended the PWS/WPIT certification to some of them who didn't already have it."

"Yes, as long as the requirements stay stringent"

4. Have you received RFPs requiring a PWS/WPIT credential?

"No, but we have included the credentials when applying for RFPs."

"Yes"

"Not yet, but one individual reached out to all PWS in MA for a potential project"

5. Do you display your PWS/WPIT credentials on websites, social media, or marketing materials?

"Always when submitting reports and in e-mail signature."

"Yes, mostly just in my title"

PWS/WPIT INTERVIEW Q&A

(Continued from page 4)

6. How did you hear about becoming a PWS/WPIT and SWSPCP?

"I researched online"

"Heard about PWS from a colleague who received his PWS certification."

"Supervisor at former employer "

"Have known about it for years – probably from other PWS"

7. Are you a SWS member?

"Yes, I became a member of SWS when I applied for my certification"

"No, but I plan on becoming a member"

"yes"

8 Tell us a little about what the PWS means to you along with what value?

"I consider the PWS to be comparable or somewhat equivalent to a continuing education program (Masters or PhD). I had originally intended on obtaining a masters degree in wetland science, but this allows me to have that projected plan while continuing my experience in the professional world." / "That all of the VERY challenging classes I took in school was required for certification. Value... I'd like to see articles for reading with questions following for CEUs."

"To me, it is a validation that I have enough knowledge in the field to be recognized by my peers."

"I appreciate the body of expertise represented by the body and the folks it represents. I look forward to more information disseminated by SWS to promote the special technical insight that is possessed by members and SWSPCP participants. "



SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING!

The Society of Wetland Scientists' 2016 Annual Meeting will be held at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi, Texas, May 31 – June 4, 2016. This unique meeting is themed *Protecting wetland ecosystem services. Promoting stronger economies.* The program will highlight the interdisciplinary nature of wetland science and practice, how wetland protection and restoration play a positive role in our economy, and the importance of using sound science to inform management strategies and enhance societal wetland benefits. Learn more about the meeting by visiting our newly launched [SWS 2016 Annual Meeting website!](#)

The SWS program committee is now accepting symposia proposals! Visit the [Symposia & Abstract Submissions webpage](#) for more information and to complete a symposia proposal form. Submission deadline is **Friday, Oct. 16, 2015.**

SWS 2017 Annual Meeting

San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 5 - 8, 2017

If you are planning on attending the full week of the conference, you may earn 1.5 renewal points towards the PWS renewal requirement. Other conference –related activities that may earn additional renewal points are:

- Field Trips
- Poster Presentation
- Oral Presentation
- Ethics Workshops

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:

Lance W. Fontenot	2565	Simon A. Hildt	2582
George L. Ritchotte	2566	Scott A. Morrison	2583
Tom M. Mahony	2567	Catherine A. Lavangnino	2584
Garrett M. Tunison	2568	Nicole R. Gough	2585
Brighton K. Heard	2569	Sarah M. Majerus	2586
Evan J. Markowitz	2571	Kristen K. Currens	2587
Joseph A. Kopajtic	2572	Tina T. Teed	2589
Ethan C. Virts	2573	Carl M. Peterson	2590
Richard C. Woody	2574	Julie Kaplan	2591
Amy E. James	2575	Todd B. Standlee	2592
Nicholas T. Domer	2576	Joseph D. Dabkowski	2593
Jeffrey K. Smith	2577	Jennifer L. Dadisman	2594
David J. Moore	2578	David W. Bell	2595
Jeffrey C. Peterson	2579	Theresa L. Pardington	2596
Joseph A. Buckley	2580	Michelle Savage-Measday	2597
Raina Huebner	2581		

NEW WPIT CERTIFICATIONS

Congratulations to the following individuals who received their WPIT certification:

Erin Bradshaw Settevende	Larissa Herrera	Trisha Qualio
James Cook	Torren Hoyord	Jeffrey Royer
Jeremy Degler	Andrew Jeffery	Evan Sheppard
Alex Effinger	Alyssa Martin	Tobin Story
Greg Eide	Jeffrey Pearson	Christine Van Zomerem
Edward Entsminger	John Ryan Polascik	

2016 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

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.

We have also made the 2016 downloadable form available on the website by clicking on the link below:

SWSPCP 2016 MAINTENANCE NOTICE

All inactive and lapsed WPITs/PWSs may settle maintenance back dues online as well.

SWSPCP 2017 RENEWAL REQUIREMENT NOTICE

All five (5) year PWS renewals will be required to participate in an online ethics training session as a requirement for renewing your certification. The online training will count towards the required points. The online ethics training course will be awarded .25 for completion of the course.



MAINTENANCE FEE NOTICE

Annual Professional Wetland Scientist/Wetland Professional in Training Certification Maintenance Fee for 2016

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.

Starting January 1st - \$75.00

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.

SWSPCP Pre-Approved Courses:**RUTGERS** Office of Continuing Professional Education

Title: Southern Vegetation Identification for Wetland Delineation
 Title: Vegetation Identification for Wetland Delineation
 Title: Introduction to Wetland Identification
 Title: Methodology for Delineating Wetlands
 Title: Wetland Construction Design

Contact: Bianca Sardina
 Address: 102 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 0890
 Phone: 732.932.1187
 Email: sardina@rutgers.edu
 URL: www.cpe.rutgers.edu



Title: Wetland Delineation Short Course

Contact: Philip J. Quarterman, PWS
 Address: 9755 SW Barnes Road, Suite 300 Portland, OR 97225
 Phone: (503) 626-0455
 Fax: (503) 526-0775
 URL: www.whpacific.com



Title: Wetland Delineation & Regional Supplement Training

Contact: Marc Seelinger
 Address: 621 Starburst Lane, Raleigh, NC 27603
 Phone: (877) 479-2673
 URL: www.swampschool.org



Title: Monitoring and Assessment of Wetland and Riparian Ecosystems
 Title: Wetland Regulations: Understanding Federal, State, and Local Regulations and the Permitting Process in Montana [More Info](#)

Contact: Stephanie McGinnis Education Outreach Coordinator
 Address: 335 Culbertson Hall, Bozeman, MT 59717
 Phone: (406) 994-6671
 Fax: (406) 994-6660
 Email: mcginnis@montana.edu
 URL: www.mtwatercourse.org

Board of Directors**President**

Robbyn Myers, PWS

President Elect

John Lowenthal, PWS

Secretary General

Robbyn Myers, PWS

Treasurer

Yvonne M. Vallette, PWS

Immediate Past President

Rob Shannon, PWS

Executive Office**Executive Director**

Robert O. Patterson JD

Executive Administrator

Donn Lesko

Program Administrator

Jocelyn Cordero

Asst. Program Administrator

Cristina Martinez

TF: 877-226-9902

F: 847-885-8393

E: info@wetlandcert.org

URL: www.wetlandcert.org

2800 W. Higgins Road,
 Suite 440
 Hoffman Estates, IL 60169