



PROFESSIONAL WETLAND SCIENTISTS

Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program

Dear Professional Wetland Scientist,

You have recently been notified of the need to renew your certification (certification renewal) as a Professional Wetland Scientist. There have been a number of questions regarding the certification renewal process, and the Program would like to take this opportunity to clarify the reasons for certification renewal and the overall process and timeline.

First of all, many PWSs confuse maintenance fees with certification renewal. The confusion is understandable, because the term "renewal", regrettably, has been used for both maintenance fees and certification renewal. **Maintenance fees** are paid annually, and are submitted upon receipt of an annual bill. These annual bills are normally sent out at the end of the calendar year, allowing you to be "in good standing" for the following year. For example, maintenance fee notices were sent out in December 2006; if paid, members are considered in good standing for 2007. What does it mean to be "in good standing"? Your name is maintained in the "Search for a Scientist" on-line Directory, and your fees are considered paid up-to-date. If, for some reason, you did not receive your 2007 maintenance fee bill, please contact our business office at our letterhead address. If you are also a member of SWS, please remember that SWS and SWSPCP are separate organizations, with separate maintenance/membership fees. We are working to offer combined payment for both organizations by the end of this year, but the service is, unfortunately, not available at this time.

Certification renewal, in contrast, happens only once every five years. Section 26 of the Standing Rules (<http://www.wetlandcert.org/rules.html>) states that in order to promote the maintenance of high technical standards of PWS, SWS PCP, Inc. requires certification renewal at five-year intervals for individuals being certified after June 1, 2001. That means that for all individuals originally certified prior to June 1, 2001, a certification renewal process was originally intended to begin in 2006. However, there were serious service problems associated with our management firm at the time, and we are unsure

that complete notification of those requiring certification renewal occurred. Therefore, we have extended the deadline for receipt of certification renewal applications to 31 December 2007 for ALL certifications received prior to 31 December 2002. Our new management company has begun the process of notifying those who need to certification renewal. They have broken the process into four groups by certification number so as not to overload our Certification Renewal Committee. If your number is between 101 and 600, you should have already received a notification letter and package. The second, third, and fourth groups can expect their notice within the next 6 to 9 months. After this initial certification renewal, the five-year renewal cycle will begin again, and your next certification renewal will take place in 2012.

Why renew your certification? Quite simply, to remain recognized as a professional in the field of wetland science. Why require certification renewal for our members? Quite simply to exhibit our commitment to the maintenance of high standards for those practicing in our profession. In addition, the program continues to increase the value of professional certification, as well as to provide new services to our members. Please contact our business office if you have any additional questions about annual maintenance fees, certification renewal, or other matters, and check the website for a new list of Frequently Asked Questions. We are honored to serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise H. Wardrop". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Denise H. Wardrop, Ph.D.
SWSPCP President