



SWSPCP Underway with Certification Renewal

The SWSPCP certification renewal process is underway. Certification Renewal letters have been sent to individuals who were certified in 1995-2002. As a result of this process, a number of questions have arisen regarding the certification renewal process and how it is different from payment of the annual certification maintenance fees.

Annual Certification Maintenance fees are maintained 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. Annual certification maintenance fee notices sent in December 2006 were to be paid, and if so, you are in good standing for 2007. Notices will soon be sent in December 2007, payment at which will keep you in good standing for 2008.

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 annual certification maintenance fee bill, or if your name is not found within the “on-line directory,” and you think it should be, please contact our business office (see the inside cover of this newsletter).

If you are also a member of SWS, please remember that SWS and SWSPCP are separate organizations, with separate annual certification renewal/membership fees. We are working to offer combined payment for both organizations, 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, SWSPCP, Inc. requires certification renewal at five-year intervals for individuals being certified after June 1, 2002. That means that for all individuals originally certified prior to June 1, 2002, a certification renewal process was originally intended to begin in 2007. However, because of various issues, 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 renew their certification. 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.



MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

Since assuming the role of the presidency in June 2006, I have watched SWSPCP reassess and reflect upon its goals and its services. While this reflection was brought on by different circumstances than we wished for, the experience has led us to be a stronger, more focused organization with a well-constructed foundation for growth. We are ready to move forward, to think bigger than we have had the luxury of doing in quite a while, and to refine our vision - focusing on three areas.

- To what extent are we meeting our stated objectives (the basics)
- How are we increasing the value of certification for our members
- How do we envision our future

Objectives of SWSPCP: While the program has multiple objectives, the primary one is to establish and administer a program for evaluating the credentials of individuals for conformation with established standards and criteria for the practice of wetland science, and for granting official certification to individual applicants meeting those requirements. Are we meeting our objective(s) to the fullest extent possible? In many cases we are. While some fine-tuning is necessary, we are in a position to do our existing job within the structures and institutions that we have established. The program is much farther towards running on “auto-pilot” than it has ever been. However, the program recognizes the need to address the following details:

- A process for review and revision of certification standards
- A plan for website services, since it is the primary vehicle by which we meet many of our objectives.

We have been pursuing each of these this year, especially the latter. Significant updating of the website has occurred including linkage between our website and SWS. We are planning the addition of features, such as online tracking and payment. If you have any comments or suggestions, please forward them to a board member or our management office.

Increasing the Value of Certification: Accreditation by an external body has been a primary goal for this year. Due to the efforts of Mike Josselyn, R. Harold Jones and Elizabeth Binney, we are now listed as a member Board by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Board (CESB), and **on November 14, 2007 SWSPCP was accredited by CESB.** This accreditation allows us to pursue such opportunities as a MOU with the ACOE and/or other agencies. Thus, it represents an outstanding opportunity to increase the value of certification for our members. If there is any issue for which we need your input, this is it. We serve our members, and nothing could be more important than your comments and thoughts on how to do that.

Envisioning our Future: It is time for SWSPCP to proceed through the maturation steps of an organization, and to develop a clear vision of where we want to go. A number of opportunities have arisen, including changes in the structure of SWS, international interest in extending our program, and potential growth in the value of certification (detailed above). We are in the midst of strategic planning, and will let you know how things are moving forward in future newsletters.

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WHAT COUNTS FOR CERTIFICATION?

Applications for PWS requires documentation of “15 semester hours (or equivalent in short courses or continuing education courses) of wetland related coursework” under the Additional Educational Requirements section. Most colleges and universities that offer continuing education courses provide CEU’s commensurate with the number of classroom hours provided. However, each institution is free to establish the value of a CEU, since a single national standard has not been well established. This has resulted in a wide range of CEU values for similar courses where an equal number of classroom hours are provided. Similarly, professional short courses offered outside the collegiate setting may be endorsed by one or more certifying bodies which provide independent CEU accreditations. Each certifying body establishes its own value of a CEU. The range of CEU values experienced generally runs from one classroom hour of instruction equals one CEU to 16 hours of classroom instruction equals one CEU.

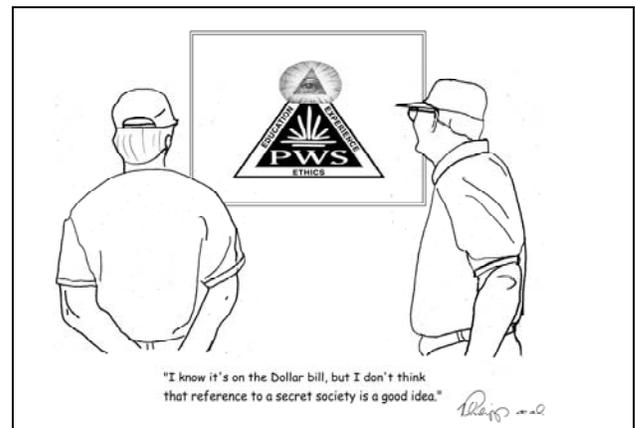
This wide range in CEU values was taken into consideration during the formation and establishment of the Certification Program. To provide an equitable standard to measure the value of the broad range of continuing education and professional short courses offered, the basic formula for the academic semester credit hour was established, i.e. 15 hours of instruction equals one semester hour of credit. Utilization of this formula provides parity between academic and non-academic courses. For example, a 36 hour course in wetland delineation would equal 2.4 equivalent semester hours of credit.

To obtain the appropriate amount of credit for continuing education and professional short courses, it is incumbent upon the applicant to provide the number of classroom and laboratory hours provided for each class completed. In addition, applicants must also provide the name, date, location and sponsor of the course. Copies of any course certificates issued to the applicant will assist the Certification Review Panel in awarding appropriate credit. Only those courses which are directly related to wetland science will be given credit. Examples include, but are not limited to, Wetland Hydrology, Wetland Ecology, Wetland Plant Taxonomy, Hydric Soil Identification, Soil Morphology, Wetland Restoration/ Creation/Delineation/Assessment, Wetland Law and Regulation and Wetland Management. Courses such as Sedimentation and Erosion & Control, E & S Inspector, Stormwater Engineering and Management, HAZWOPR, Sanitation Inspector, Oceanography, Structural Geology, Landscape Design, Range Science and Turf Management are not wetland science based courses and will not receive wetland course credit. In addition, since the closure of the “Grandfathering” period in July 1995, work experience may NOT be used to supplement educational shortcomings to meet the established standards in any educational category.

If you have any questions regarding certification requirements, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. R. Harold Jones at rharoldjones@aol.com.

FEES UPDATE

The SWSPCP now has the ability receive application and maintenance fees via credit card payments over the phone. The Business Office



will accept MasterCard or Visa. If you are interested in utilizing this feature, please contact Jeff Hudson at (847) 885-7400.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT: PWS PRESIDENT –ELECT

The Nominations Committee of the Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program (SWSPCP) is seeking nominations for the office of President-Elect for the term 2007-2008. The President-Elect will automatically be appointed President of the SWSPCP for the 2008-2009 term. The President-Elect is a member of the Executive Board and attends two Board meetings a year and participates in email and conference calls during this year. The President-Elect provides support to the President of the Board and leadership in the development, growth, and member services offered by the SWSPCP to its members. Please submit nominations to Denice H. Wardrop, SWSPCP Immediate Past President by December 30, 2007.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM

In June 2006, the Center for Association Resources, Inc. was hired as the new management team for SWSPCP. The firm is providing membership and certification renewal services to SWSPCP. The Center provides management services to a wide range of clients including the American Academy of Craniofacial Pain, the American College of Medical Toxicology, the Appellate Lawyers Association, the Aquarium & Zoo Facilities Association, the Seventh Circuit Bar Association, the Association of Philanthropic Counsel, and National Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Administrators.

The main face at the Center to SWSPCP members would be **Jeff Hudson**, who will be responsible for both the members' services and the certification program. Please contact him directly via email at Jhudson@association-resources.com or via phone at 847-885-7400 if you have any questions regarding your membership or certification (or certification renewal) status.

TOP TEN REASONS TO MAINTAIN PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

1. PWS is the only certification of its type for wetland science.
 2. The certification is nationally and internationally recognized.
 3. The certification is on-going, so it forces you to maintain your skills through continuing education, attendance at conferences, and being active in local and national wetland organizations.
 4. Ethics Review is important for professional recognition in industry/government/academic communities.
 5. Having a Statement of Ethics is important for personal value and integrity. Given the daily pressures/stress of work in wetland projects, this is can be a strong reference of personal goals.
 6. As a framed certificate, a PWS certificate is a good place for Post-it notes.
 7. A PWS reference has been a precursor for applications to the first phase of state specific wetland delineation certification in Virginia and is also being considered for proposed certification programs in other states.
 8. The US Navy requires scientists working on wetland delineations to be PWS Certified.
 9. Some counties in Washington State require certification for wetland delineations.
 10. The logo can be used on business cards.
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