

# Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program

## PROFESSIONAL WETLAND SCIENTIST E—LETTER

Volume 3, Issue 1, 2010

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### President's Corner

Since assuming the role of the presidency in June 2009, it has become quite apparent that SWSPCP is well positioned for a bright future. Our recent re-evaluation process has sharpened our goals, strengthened our services, and enhanced our well-constructed foundation for continued growth. We will continue to advance our vision to achieve our principal objectives, increase the value and recognition of WPIT and PWS for you, our members, and position SWSPCP for growth long into the future. Thank you for all your continued support!

*Elizabeth Binney, Ph.D., PWS*

### Renewal Notice

In order to preserve the high standards endowed by certification with SWSPCP, Inc., certification renewal is required (Section 26 of Standing Rules). Beginning June 1, 2001, all PWS are required to renew certification at five year intervals from the original certification date.

When you receive your renewal notice please take some time and promptly respond to ensure your recognition as a professional in the field of wetland sciences continues. We believe that through this process we can all work together to maintain the highest standards for our profession and continue to increase the value of our certification. Please consult the webpage (<http://www.wetlandcert.org/rules.html>) and/or contact our business office if questions arise. Special thanks to those of you who have followed through thus far.

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](http://www.Wetlandcert.org)

## Perspective: Why become a certified Professional Wetland Scientist?

Recently, a group of distinguished certified Professional Wetland Scientists gathered to produce a provocative summary of exactly why it is critical for those of us in the academic arena to become certified. While we certainly encourage you to read the summary in its entirety at [www.wetlandcert.org](http://www.wetlandcert.org), a few excerpts are included here.

*“A vast number, and probably the majority, of professions around the world have certification bodies responsible for ensuring that its representatives have the most current skill sets, legal knowledge, and ethical standards in the fast-paced and ever changing day to day professional world. Professions are responsible for setting the limits of its standards and reputation of its practitioners. **Wetland scientists are no exception.** And, as teachers and mentors of future wetland scientists, academicians are obligated not only to convey information and knowledge, but also should **empower students with a sense of professionalism, morals, standards, and ethics** they can carry on with throughout their careers.”*

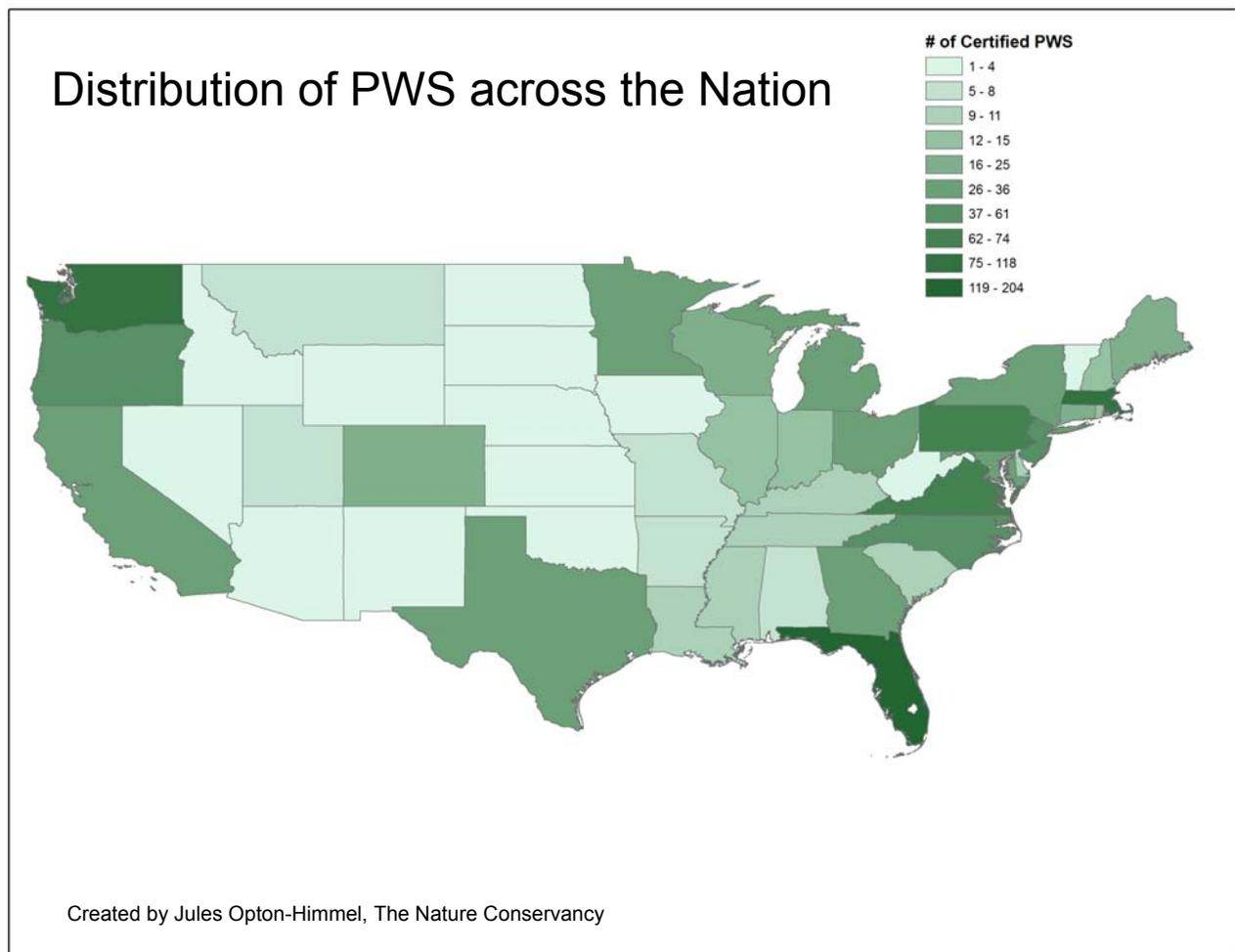
The authors continue by providing three direct reasons why those of us entrusted with the education of others should support certification as guided by the obligation to students and the young scientists that will follow us all.

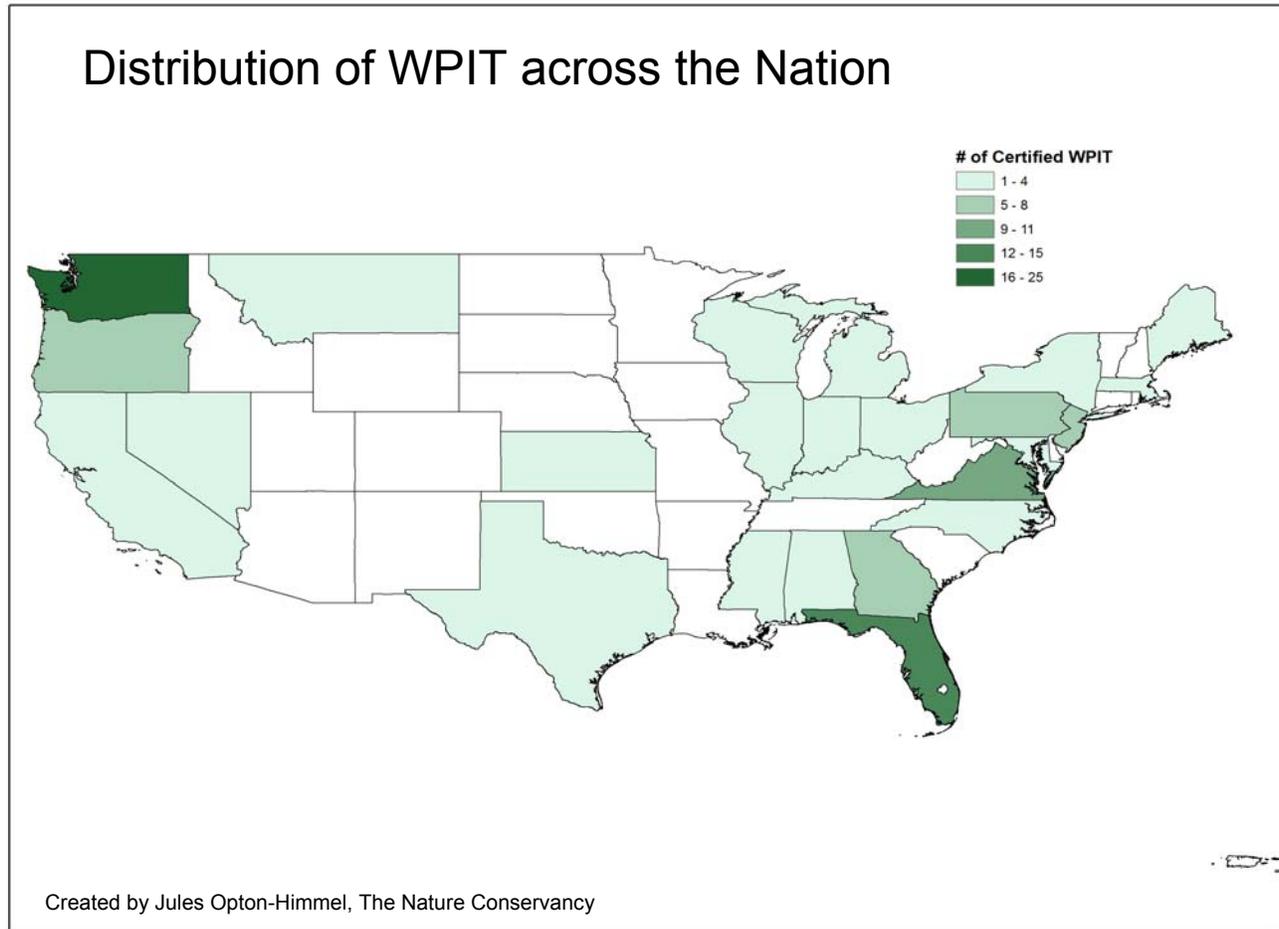
- *“First and foremost, being a **PWS sets a positive example.** If our students see that we, their advisors and mentors, have taken the time to obtain the PWS, they will see early on the value of PWS certification and **becoming a recognized member** of a group of wetland professionals.*
- *Second, since PWS or WPIT status is determined by showing that one has obtained a high level of wetland education and work experience, it gives our students something to point to as an **achievement to be presented to the working world.** This is something both the **student and advisor can be proud of.***
- *Finally, obtaining PWS or WPIT certification sets the stage for our non-academic-bound students to **remain active and progressing in the field** of wetlands science and management.”*

*“So the real question shouldn’t be “What will having PWS after my name do for ME?”, but **“What will having PWS after my name do for my students and the young scientists that follow me?”** We need to show our students the way by becoming an active member of a group of academicians, consultants, managers, and regulators that care about the future of wetland ecology and management. We invite you to become a SWS-Professional Wetland Scientist.”*

## National Representation

In an ongoing effort to better understand, service, and recognize the breadth of representation by PWS and WPITs across the United States, we recently conducted a spatial exploration. The results are quite interesting. Overall, the highest representation is in states bordering our larger coastal and fresh water bodies. For PWS, the highest concentrations are aggregated in just two states; Florida and Washington. Stand out regions include the West Coast, Great Lakes and the Atlantic Seaboard. Along the Gulf Coast, the state of Texas had the largest concentration of PWSs. The story is similar for WPITs with the highest representation in Florida, Washington, and Virginia.





As presented in the Perspectives section above and amplified by this map of WPIT, we all need to identify those who will fill our ranks in the future. The white states on this map speak to this urgent need.

#### Merchandise Available on the Website!

Last summer we introduced an exciting new addition to the website – Merchandise!  
Please shop online at: <http://www.wetlandcert.org/store.html>

**Don't wait! Shop today for all those PWS and WPITs on your list!**

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## Testimonials: Capturing the Value of Certification

As a way of recognizing the value that you derive from your certification we have initiated a new feature to the newsletter – your testimonials. Please let us know how your certification has added value to your professional careers and those of your colleagues, staff, students, and friends.

*“I earned PWS certification in 1995. I find that this still carries considerable weight both in the academic realm and in the consulting field. When teaching and mentoring graduate students in wetlands science, I encourage them to consider membership in SWS as a first step toward eventual certification. I am thrilled that my daughter, Emily Brooks, recently earned her WPIT. Working as a consultant, she has seen the value of this form of professional recognition.”*

**Robert Brooks, Ph.D, PWS**

Director Riparia, Department of Geography, Pennsylvania State University

## Volunteers Needed...

As always, the SWSPCP is looking for individuals to volunteer time to help your organization be all that it can be. Please forward your interest to the address/email below. Thank you so much!

*For questions or comments, please contact  
SWSPCP Program Administrator  
1901 North Roselle Road, Suite 920  
Schaumburg, IL 60195*

*P: (888) 705-1434 • F: (847) 885-8393 • Email: [info@wetlandcert.org](mailto:info@wetlandcert.org)*