

Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program

PROFESSIONAL WETLAND SCIENTIST E-LETTER

Volume 5, Issue 1, 2012

The President's Corner

The red maple leaves are beginning to turn in New England—this facultative tree is always an early indicator of fall, as well as the type of summer we've had: droughty, wet, or normal. I think the leaves are not quite as brilliant after a dry summer, but I'll be watching.

The SWSPCP Board had an interesting Board of Directors meeting in Orlando, Florida on June 3 during the Joint Conference of the 9th Annual Intecol International Wetlands Conference, the Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Conference, and the Greater Everglades Restoration Conference. Typical of Florida, the weather was hot and humid, but inside it was so cold that we all wore sweaters! We would go outside during breaks just to thaw out. Also, I should note that the reason I am wearing a tiara in this picture is because we were in Orlando—the Land of Disney. My fellow Board members thought this was very funny, especially since this is so not my style!

We had a long agenda, meeting from about 9am until 4pm. We amended the bylaws to include a reference to the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB), since the SWS Professional Certification Program is now accredited by CESB. We also amended our Standing Rules to clarify some provisions and to add two additions: Section 29, to address the duties of the CESB representative and Section 30, to include the duties of a public member. Both the bylaws and the Standing Rules are available on our web page.

We discussed the certification process and progress. As any recent member knows, applicants must now prepare a 250 to 500 word statement of expertise that best describes an applicant's expertise area from the General Knowledge Areas (a.k.a. the Body of Knowledge). When I became president, my three-year term on the Certification Review Committee ended, but I enjoyed reading the essays. Some of them were very interesting. It provides the review committee with a sense of each applicant, beyond their courses, grades, and work experience. In accordance with CESB requirements, the SWSPCP Board will be reviewing the Body of Knowledge over the next year. Overall, the number of applications continues to increase, with 2010-2011 at the highest level yet. The Certification Renewal Committee saw a 41% increase in applications compared to the same period one year ago. Clearly, our membership is growing!

As many of you recall, the SWSPCP Board sent out a questionnaire last year regarding insurance needs for wetland scientists. We received a large number of responses with a large interest in life, accident, and health insurance, and less interest in property and casualty insurance, including professional liability insurance. After extensive research by our association management

(continued on page 2)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>The President's Corner</i> | 1 |
| <i>Committee Appointments</i> | 2 |
| <i>Past President's Report</i> | 3 |
| <i>Raffle Winners</i> | 4 |
| <i>Board Election Results</i> | 5 |
| <i>New PWS Certifications</i> | 6 |
| <i>About Fees</i> | 7 |
| <i>2012 Sponsors & Donors</i> | 8 |
| <i>Member News</i> | 9 |

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.

Please visit us at www.wetlandcert.org

The President's Corner

(continued from page 1)

firm, The Center for Association Resources, it was determined that our membership was too small to obtain reduced cost insurance, and the Board decided to eliminate the Insurance Committee. However, The Center will continue seeking insurance brokers and agencies that are willing to conduct research in order to provide PWSs with resources to investigate independently.

Two initiatives for the upcoming year (2012-2013) include expanding international membership and continuing education for PWSs. The Board discussed expanding international certification, a topic also being discussed by the Joint SWS/SWSPCP Committee on Continuing Education and Requirements. Stay tuned as the Board continues to explore this, along with SWS. If you have any ideas, please send me an email.

Finally, the Board discussed how wetlands courses can be presented to members and others, outside of the university setting including, for example, instruction on how to present technical expert testimony as a wetland scientist. A joint SWS/SWSPCP committee is working on this task.

SWSPCP conducted an ethics course at the Annual Meeting. SWSPCP supports a strong ethical standard. Anyone who has renewed or recently received their certifications also receives a Code of Ethics, signed by the president and to be cosigned by you. The Code of Ethics is also on our web page.

The Board, along with off-Board members, is organized into several committees. We are always looking for volunteers and looking forward to hearing comments and suggestions. Please send me an email with your thoughts and interests. There is a good deal of information on the website, as well.

- Ingeborg Hegemann, PWS

SWSPCP 2012 Committee Appointments

The Board of Directors and Committee Chairs are pleased to announce these committee appointments. For a full list of committee members and terms of appointment, please visit the SWSPCP website.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Certification Standards: | <i>Patrick Frost; Janet Morlan; Kurt Philipp, PhD; Robert Shannon, PhD</i> |
| Certification Review Panel: | <i>Robert Shannon, PhD (Chair); David Davis; James Thomas</i> |
| Certification Renewal: | <i>Patrick Frost (Chair); Vikki Jackson; David Purkerson; DJ Silverberg; Amy Rollins</i> |
| Ethics: | <i>Patrick Frost; Janet Morlan; Amy Rollins; Robert Shannon, PhD</i> |
| Nominations: | <i>William Kirchner (Chair); Janet Morlan</i> |
| Public Member: | <i>Jon Kusler, Esq.</i> |



Start Your Holiday Shopping Early

SWSPCP has a number of PWS logo items readily available and now on sale, just in time for the holidays! Check out our Online Store for a complete list of all the available items. The sale is on until **December 31, 2012**.

Immediate Past President's Report

I very much enjoyed serving as the 2011-2012 SWSPCP President and greatly appreciate all of the effort put forth by our officers, committee chairs, and committee members. They all work hard on your behalf. It has also been very nice working with Michele Anderson and others from our management firm, The Center for Association Resources ("The Center"). I thank them for keeping on top of things and providing prompt and courteous service members.



fication.

In addition to our core function of keeping the certification and certification renewal processes running smoothly, I had two main goals as president: (1) promote the importance of wetland scientist certification to public employees and employers; and (2) enhance the value of certification to members (certified PWS and WPIT) through marketing efforts and development of/provision of wetland course work for certification.

As part of this first effort, we developed a white paper titled *Why Professional Wetland Scientist Certification Matters to Public Sector Employees*. The white paper explains why public sector employees should care about certification and includes suggestions for promoting, hiring, and contracting with PWS; it was signed by nine PWS representing state, federal, and local governments. *Wetland Science And Practice* published the paper in its June 2012 edition, we provided copies at the SWSPCP booth at the INTECOL/SWS meeting in Orlando, Florida, and it is posted on our website. Please help circulate it.



As part of the second effort, The Center developed a SWSPCP Marketing Plan containing numerous approaches and options. At the Annual Meeting in June, the Board selected several actions for implementation during the coming year(s). One new effort that will generate some income to help support the Program is making it easy for advertisers to reach our members through our website and our newsletters. See information about this

on page 5 and, if appropriate, encourage your employer to advertise on our site!

Also, related to the second goal, we created and appointed a joint ad hoc committee with SWS to address how we might provide wetland courses for members and others, pre-approve credit for certain courses, and better address certification requirements (Body of Knowledge; wetland course work) that are pertinent outside the United States. The joint committee will be looking at ways to provide courses (e.g., via webcasts) that SWSPCP can "certify" will qualify for certification credits or certification renewal points.

Related to this effort, we provided a longer-than-usual ethics session at the INTECOL/SWS meeting in Orlando in June 2012 as a pilot project for offering credit for attendance, in addition to the credit allowed for conference attendance for certification renewal. Credit for conference attendance and the session received high visibility on the conference web site. Attendees signed in for the session and were issued a certificate of attendance.

Some of our other activities and accomplishments over the past year included:

- Implemented electronic application and certification renewal processing; (*continued on page 4*)

Immediate Past President's Report

(continued from page 3)

- Implemented the Body of Knowledge essay requirement for new applications and WPIT to PWS upgrades, effective January 1, 2012;
- Implemented a procedure to ensure that members who fail to maintain or renew their certification are not listed on the PWS registry, thus protecting the interests of PWS who maintain their certification;
- Initiated collaboration with the Association of State Wetland Managers. They have included information about the importance of hiring a PWS on their web site.
- Booth Buzz—As a marketing effort, made the SWSPCP booth at the Orlando meeting a fun place to visit, mainly through the daily raffle of donated prizes. Thanks to all who donated wonderful raffle items; see the list of some of the winners on our web site!

Each PWS is an ambassador for the program! As the Board and The Center work to add value to PWS certification, it's important for members to think about what they can do, too. Our program is strong and growing, but we cannot be satisfied with the status quo if we are to remain relevant, provide value to members and the public, and meet our goals. The marketing plan developed by The Center and other ideas for making the PWS "brand" more visible and more valuable to members is critical to sustaining and strengthening our program. Several efforts, notably the potential for providing online wetland courses to members and other professionals, have the potential for providing important services to members while raising program visibility and possibly income. Let us hear from you!

- Janet Morlan, PWS

And the Winners Are...

SWSPCP sincerely thanks our generous donors for the wide array of valuable raffle prizes that were made available at our exhibit booth in Orlando. It is through the continued support of our sponsors and donors that we are able to maintain a strong and vibrant outreach effort to current and prospective Professional Wetland Scientists.

Munsell Soil Color Books were won by Suzanne Kennedy, John Thomas, and Erin Page. The William Mitsch books *Wetlands, 4th Edition* were won by Christopher J. Cooley and Barry Rosen. The William Mitsch books *Wetlands Ecology* were won by Jeffrey Trulick and Steve D. Eggers. Association of State Wetlands Managers memberships were won by Eva Bailey and Amy Keyworth. Rite in the Rain® prize packs were won by Mon-Shieh Yang and Craig Crumpel. A beautiful framed nature photograph was won by Janine Harris. And the winner of the Apple® iPad was Sara Kreisel, WPIT, of Allston, MA.

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING - ORLANDO 2012

Congratulations to the newly-elected SWSPCP Board members, who were sworn into office at the Annual SWSPCP Board meeting on June 3.

2012-2013 President-Elect

Leandra L. Cleveland, PWS
Portland, OR

2012-2015 Treasurer

Yvonne M. Vallette, PWS
Portland, OR

2012-2013 Secretary General-Elect

Robbyn R. Myers, PWS
Bremerton, WA



President-Elect Leandra Cleveland



Immediate Past President **Janet Morlan** (second from right) is joined at the SWSPCP exhibit booth by Certifications Standards Committee Chair **Barry Warner** (left), Secretary General-Elect **Robbyn Myers** (second from left), and Treasurer **Yvonne Vallette** (right).

New PWS Certifications

Congratulations to the following individuals who received their PWS certification between January 1 and September 15, 2012:

Stephanie S. Andreescu PWS #2263
Kevin Douglas Atkins PWS #2243
Alexander E. Baldwin PWS #2221
Michael R. Banaitis PWS #2235
Rebecca W. Berzinis PWS #2193
Donald W. Brickner PWS #2191
Lorna J. Campbell PWS #2201
Kody X. Cario PWS #2253
Jessica Christianson PWS #2247
Samantha R. Clark PWS #2218
Daniel S. Coggin PWS #2229
Dennis N. Corelli PWS #2261
Michelle C. Dachsteiner PWS #2198
Nasrin M. Dahlgren PWS #2233
Karina Elizabeth Dailey PWS #2207
Billy W. DeLany, Jr. PWS #2251
Bryan K. Delius PWS #2252
Michael J. DeRosa PWS #2250
Jeffrey T. Duke PWS #2245
Marla B. Duley PWS #2205
Erin K. Ericson PWS #2214
Mary Beth Falsey PWS #2187
Melissa M. Fontenot PWS #2202
Steven W. Fox PWS #2196
Christopher S. Frazier PWS #2190
Matthew Genotte PWS #2222
Frank E. Gibbs PWS #2200
Gunda B. Griffin PWS #2195
Cynthia W. Grizzle PWS #2242
Daniel R. Gunderson PWS #2262
Laurie M. Hamilton PWS #2227
Jill B. Hankins PWS #2246
Ray L. Kagel, Jr. PWS #2234
Steve E. Knapp PWS #2231
Sarah T. Koser PWS #2259
William F. Macholdt PWS #2268
Jeffrey A. Mason PWS #2217
William S. McCloy PWS #2225
Joshua D. McDaniel PWS #2209
Thaddeus B. McDonald PWS #2255
Scott E. McDonnell PWS #2266
David E. Mergen PWS #2186
Roy C. Messaros PWS #2228
William J. Metcalfe PWS #2248
James T. Michel PWS #2211
Derek E. Morningstar PWS #2210
Christopher P. Newhall PWS #2215
Brandon L. Owens PWS #2199
Erin L. Page PWS #2236
Summer L. Pardo PWS #2188
Jason E. Poulsen PWS #2192
Patti M. Reilly PWS #2256
Brian E. Remlinger PWS #2237
Claudia E. Rocca PWS #2258
Aimee N. Rutledge PWS #2238
Brock L. Rylander PWS #2220
Ben Salter PWS #2244
Brian C. Sandefur PWS #2216
John D. Shady PWS #2232
Christopher M. Sheats PWS #2265
Wesley M. Tallyn PWS #2226
Pam Tennison-Rindt PWS #2223
Bryan P. Tolcser PWS #2213
Christopher B. Tomberg PWS #2239
Jessie M. Wheeler PWS #2264
Elizabeth Williams PWS #2267
Stephen L. Yarbrough PWS #2224

Fees for Certification Maintenance and Renewal

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 paid annually, and are submitted upon receipt of an annual bill. The bills are sent from the SWSPCP Program Office at the end of the calendar year, allowing you to be “in good standing” for the following year. Annual certification maintenance fees for 2012 were sent out at the end of 2011 and, if paid, you are in good standing for 2012. Notices will be sent in the next few weeks that, when paid, will keep you in good standing for 2013.

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 a bill for the annual maintenance fee, or if your name does not appear in the directory, please contact the Program Office.

If you are also a member of SWS, please remember that SWS and SWSPCP are separate organizations with separate annual membership fees. Please do not combine payments.

Certification Renewal, in contrast, happens only once every five years. In accordance with Section 26 of the Standing Rules, certification renewal is required at five-year intervals to promote the maintenance of high technical standards of the PWS designation. To remain recognized as a professional in the field of wetland science, please renew your certification with the premier organization for wetland science, which itself maintains accreditation through the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB).

*Catching up
in Orlando...*



*...with Friends
and Colleagues*

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors



M.N. GILBERT ENVIRONMENTAL



And to Our Generous Raffle Prize Donors

THE CENTER for Association Resources



Janet Morlan



New WPIT Certifications

Congratulations to the following individuals who received their WPIT certification between January 1 and September 15, 2012:

Catherine J. Anderson
 Krystal A. Bealing
 Jonathan Carr
 Jason A. Cook
 Chad M. Copeland
 Paul J. Fisher
 Christopher J. Gajeski
 Joseph M. Greene III
 Rusty K. Griffin
 James R. Haney
 Jason H. Hunt
 Matthew A. Jennette
 Douglas J. Kapusinski

Travis D. Kessler
 Dennis G. Medved
 Benjamin Moorhead
 Ryan J. Nelson
 Nina E. O'Malley
 Andrew Pawlisz
 Daniel B. Ramsay
 Coral K. Richline
 Cori M. Rose
 Stephen M. Stringer
 John E. Thomas, Jr.
 Tyler Vas
 Zachary D. Wicks

Save the Date for Summer 2013

"Benefits of Wetlands. Value to Society."

The Society of Wetland Scientists has announced that the 2013 Annual SWS Conference will be held on June 2-6 at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center, Duluth, Minnesota. We look forward to seeing you there!

Notice of PWS On-line Directory Enhancement

Thank you for letting us know how we can improve important services to our members. As a result of member feedback, we have added website functionality that now allows each PWS to specify a service area in their on-line profile.

If, as a PWS, you provide services regionally to multiple States or Provinces, you are now able to indicate this within your profile so that the "Search for a Scientist" feature provides more comprehensive search results. Please visit your profile to take advantage of this new feature.

Advertise With Us!

We are frequently asked whether the SWSPCP member list is for sale, but it is presently not provided at any cost. Those wishing to reach the PWS community are invited to advertise on our website and in our newsletters. A [2012 Media Kit](#) is now available on the website.

Contact Information

President

Ingeborg E. Hegemann, PWS

President-Elect

Leandra L. Cleveland, PWS

Secretary General

James E. Perry, PhD, PWS

Secretary General-Elect

Robbyn R. Myers, PWS

Treasurer

Yvonne M. Vallette, PWS

Immediate Past

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