



Ooze News



Society of Wetland Scientists Pacific Northwest Chapter

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<http://www.sws.org/pacific-northwest-chapter>

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President's Corner

By Nate Hough-Snee, PNW Chapter President

I write you all with what is, sadly, my last President's Corner for the SWS-PNW newsletter. Over the last few years I have had a great time interacting with the executive board, our loyal membership, partner organizations, and legion of committed volunteers as vice-president and president. The guard will change as our chapter election (see more this issue) confirms a shuffling of the board leadership.

As I step aside to the immediate past president role, I thank many of you for your time, your energy, and your cold, hard cash. First, our volunteer team at the Olympia meeting was remarkable. With so many moving pieces, and timing that pushed right up against many folks' field seasons, it was fantastic to see so the chapter mobilize and get things done (see article below). Thanks to everyone for their effort in making the meeting a success.

Thanks as well to our executive board members, past, present and future. The Chapter is based entirely on volunteer efforts, and we have had some very loyal individuals serve the chapter over the years. As I move into a less active role, I thank board members Yvonne Vallette, Maki Dalzell, Katrina Poppe, Lizbeth Seebacher, Colin MacLaren, Karla Gallina, and Tom Kohl for their service.

I thank our many past board members (you know who you are), and encourage you all to stay engaged with the chapter. I was warned of the burnout that can come from serving the chapter, and after a big couple years, I understand why. The consistency of our chapter in holding events, including the 2014 Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting in Portland, and our most recent Chapter meetings in Olympia and Boise adds a lot to folks' calendars when they already have busy professional schedules and family obligations. Thank you SWS-Pacific Northwest for putting SWS and the Chapter at the top of your professional service lists.

While I look forward to staying involved with the Chapter in the future, I've relocated (further) out of the Pacific Northwest ecoregion and will start a new opportunity

shortly. Please contact me with any SWS concerns you might have as we transition leadership:

nate@natehough-snee.org;

Twitter: @NHoughSnee;

<http://www.natehough-snee.org>

Yours amid the sedge and willow,

Nate

Proposed Wetland Definition Change in WA State

By Maki Dalzell, Co-Secretary

Below is a list of new bills that are introduced to the current legislative session and are related to wetlands and water bodies. These bills were passed along by our chapter members (Thanks to Scott Luchessa, Lisa Palazzi, and Jonathan Kemp!). If you want to express your opinions about any of these bills, please contact your local representatives.

House Bill 2747: An act relating to wetlands; and amending RCW 36.70A.030 and 90.58.030.

(<http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/2747.pdf>)

Note: Although this house bill has been introduced, there is no companion bill in the senate, so it is unlikely to pass the legislature.

Senate Bill 5380: An act relating to clarifying the definition of ordinary high water mark

(<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2003-04/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/Senate/5380.SBR.pdf>).

Senate Bill 6168: An act relating to removing drainage ditches from the definition of fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas in chapter 36.70A RCW.

(<http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/Senate/6168%20SBA%20GOS%2016.pdf>)

SWS-PNW Chapter Executive Board Elections

The SWS-PNW chapter election is currently open through **22 February 2016**. Please click the link below to read candidate biographies and submit your vote.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3LNN9YR>

2015 PNW Chapter Meeting a Success

By Nate Hough-Snee, Chapter President

The SWS-PNW 2015 meeting was a smashing success. Thanks to all who attended, especially our fantastic keynote, Dr. Joy Zedler, our state wetland panelists, Lauren Driscoll, Howard Haemmerle, Bill Ryan, and Chris Murphy, and our many volunteers, poster presenters, and speakers. The chapter is especially indebted to Dr. Lizbeth Seebacher, Susan Buis, Jeanne Kinney, Elyse Denkers, Jim Shannon, Karla Gallina Susan Meyer, Vikki Jackson, and Yvonne Vallette for their roles in planning and bringing the conference to fruition.

Additionally, thanks to our field trip and workshop leaders: Jesse Barham, Cathy Sampse, Brian Combs, Rick Mraz, Rebecca Rothwell, David Wilderman, Carlos Abbruzzese, Lisa Palazzi, Dan Ufnar, Tony Bush, Allison Warner, Analiese Burns, Marc Hayes, Deanna Lynch, Lisa Hallock, Kelly McAllister, Christopher Pearl, Penny Becker, Teal Waterstrat, Blake Murden, Marty Chaney, Amy Yahnke, Jennifer Pramuk, Ralph Garono, Bill Kirchner, and Becky Hill-Clark.

The meeting was made possible by our sponsors: Aqua-Terr Systems, HDR Engineering, Washington State Department of Ecology, GeoEngineers, Northwest Ecological Services, SERNW, Environmental Science Associates, Parametrix, Puget Sound Bird Observatory, AECOM, and Hart Crowser.



Oregon Spotted Frog workshop at SWS-PNW meeting. Photo: Maki Dalzell

2015 SWS-PNW Student Scholarship Award Recipients

By Katrina Poppe, Co-Secretary

Our chapter awarded scholarships to six students to attend the SWS-PNW chapter meeting in October, 2015. They all gave fantastic presentations of their work, and we had a great time getting to know them. If you weren't able to meet them at the October meeting, don't fret. We have compiled profiles for each of them here:

Name: Esther Akinola
Hometown: Ondo State, Nigeria
Current town: Carbondale, IL
Current University: Southern Illinois University – Carbondale.
Degree: Undergraduate in Biological Sciences



Favorite wetland(s)? The Gulf of Mexico ecosystem

Why did you choose to work on wetlands and/or water-dependent ecosystems (riparian, aquatic)?

I chose to work in wetland ecosystems because I believe it is very important and makes up significant amount of our planet. Growing up, I always had appreciation for nature. Working on wetlands gives me the opportunity to take part in ways to understand and protect our environment while doing something that I enjoy.

What type of career would you like to pursue following the completion of your degree?

When I finish my undergrad, I will like work as a field or lab technician to gain more knowledge and hands on

experience about the field. I also wish to get a Masters degree.

Pancakes, waffles or bacon? I love Waffles!!

Name: Ben Dittbrenner
Hometown: West Bend, Wisconsin
Current town: Seattle



Ben Dittbrenner with a 38-lb female beaver trapped from a detention pond, to be paired with a male and relocated to a Skykomish River basin restoration site.

Current university and degree being pursued

I am a PhD Student in the School of Environmental and Forestry Sciences, at the University of Washington. I am focusing on how beavers can be used to reduce the impacts of climate change on hydrology and riparian ecosystems.

Favorite wetland(s)?

I'm not sure that it is possible to have just one favorite wetland. However, if I were forced to choose, I would pick the Cedarburg Bog Natural Area, near my home town in Wisconsin. This bog is a typical of northern string bogs, but is located much farther south than normal and may be the southernmost example. It contains many wetland types, both in terms of dominant vegetation and hydrogeomorphology. Additionally, it has a healthy population of pitcher plants, which have to be some of the coolest plants ever. This the wetland that I cut my teeth on as a young ecologist.

Why did you choose to work on wetlands and/or water-dependent ecosystems (riparia, aquatic)?

Water is life. The breadth and diversity of life that wetlands house is astonishing. I also believe that wetlands provide ecological resilience to ecosystems and they will play a very important role as climate change continues to alter ecosystem dynamics.

What type of career would you like to pursue following the completion of your degree?

Following the completion of my PhD, I would like to teach and do research on wetland and riparian ecosystems at a college or university. I take great satisfaction from working with young ecologists; their energy is contagious.

Pancakes, waffles or bacon?

Waffles, of course!

Name: Alexis Kleinbeck

Hometown: Angels Camp, CA

Current town: Brooklyn, NY

Current university and degree being pursued

Rutgers University, Master of Science in Ecology & Evolution



Favorite wetland(s)?

The coniferous bogs in the Boundary Waters, MN, and the saltwater tidal marshes in Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, NJ. I have a suspicion I am going to discover my new favorite in Washington.

Why did you choose to work on wetlands and/or water-dependent ecosystems (riparia, aquatic)?

Wetlands are imperative to wildlife habitats and human-related ecosystem services. Threats to wetland ecosystems are intensifying with urbanization and climate-related impacts. These stressors fuel my interest to explore possible solutions to preserve and restore wetland functions. I feel empowered to be working in a field where my efforts benefit multiple species and interests, and I continuously look for opportunities to learn more about aquatic systems and wetland science to further my contributions.

What type of career would you like to pursue following the completion of your degree?

I would like to pursue a career in applied ecology in the Seattle/Olympia region after I graduate in May 2016. I am eager to find a position I can employ my skills in conducting restoration projects and habitat assessments to improve wetland ecosystem health. I hope to utilize my proficiency with statistical and geospatial tools to monitor projects and inform adaptive management planning. I would like a position that provides a balance of office and field work that gets me outside to enjoy the beautiful Pacific Northwest!

Pancakes, waffles or bacon?

Waffles.

Name: Matt MacDonald

Hometown: Boston

Current town: Seattle



Current university and degree being pursued
University of Washington, Masters of Landscape Architecture

Favorite wetland(s)? Union Bay Natural Area, Seattle, WA

Why did you choose to work on wetlands and/or water-dependent ecosystems (riparia, aquatic)?
Water is a basic element of life on Earth.

What type of career would you like to pursue following the completion of your degree?
Undecided

Pancakes, waffles or bacon?
Watercress

Name: Cody Thomas
Hometown: Powell, Wyoming
Current town: Spokane, WA

Current university and degree being pursued
I am currently pursuing a degree in Biology at Eastern Washington University

Favorite wetland(s)?
My favorite wetlands are the floodplains of the upper section of the Elwha River. It feels like the forest of fairy tales--richly green, shaded by huge, ancient trees, and eternally calm. At least until you trip over a rotting log and land in a patch of stinging nettle.

Why did you choose to work on wetlands and/or water-dependent ecosystems (riparia, aquatic)?
I've always loved rivers. Growing up between Wyoming and Idaho provided me with a lot of opportunities to be near amazing systems, like the Shoshone and Snake Rivers, and to see how they could be used wisely, as well as abused. I knew from a young age that these amazing and complex ecosystems needed protection and study, and I believe that passion helped bring me to where I am today.

What type of career would you like to pursue following the completion of your degree?
First I'd like to pursue a master's degree, and then I'd love a career in restoration ecology, helping to undo some of the damage we've done to our ecosystems.

Pancakes, waffles or bacon?
That's not even a fair question. Bacon.

Name: Sarah Verlinde
Hometown: Snohomish, WA



Current university and degree being pursued
University of Washington, B.S. in Biology

Favorite wetland(s)?
I love freshwater wetlands: quiet and still, yet full of animal life and swaying willows. My favorite wetland to visit though is North Creek Regional Park, in Mill Creek, WA. It is an area that is set aside to hold water and prevent urban flooding. There is a floating boardwalk that goes through the wetland, and it is very popular for people to use daily for running and walks. Because the boardwalk makes it so accessible, you can get up close to the sedges and spirea, salamander eggs, and water without any gear. This is where I take wetland-newbies, and give them a nice introductory stroll. From the boardwalk, you can see the edges of tree-lined hills, and explain the watershed concept. I think wetland admiration (education) is one the most important steps to healthy wetlands.

Why did you choose to work on wetlands and/or water-dependent ecosystems? Because of a waterborne illness I received in Central America, I became fascinated with

long-term, sustainable water solutions and decided it was time to get my degree. I have a background in floral design, so when my Wetland Ecology professor noticed I excelled in plant identification and ecology, she took me under her wing. I worked a summer with Snohomish County helping with restoration and mitigation wetlands, and each new plant I met was like making a new friend. I love the idea that just right around most corners, there are wetlands hosting a variety of plants and animals. Most humans would not bother visiting because it is too muddy, hard to get around, or even smelly! Fresh water wetlands are imperative for sustainable water management. Healthy wetlands result in healthier surrounding environments.

What type of career would you like to pursue following the completion of your degree? In the next two years, I want to do the Wetland Science and Management Certification Program at UW Seattle. My long term goal is to become a Certified Wetland Scientist. I hope to begin my career doing delineations and inventories, and in the future become a planner or manager.

Pancakes, waffles or bacon? Yes, please!!

SWS PNW Member List Serve

By Maki Dalzell/Katrina Poppe, Co-Secretaries

Of the many benefits of becoming a SWS-PNW member, members enjoy being on an exclusive list serve which provides up to date information regarding events, workshops, news, etc. If you're not a member already, please consider becoming one or encourage your colleagues, employees, or the like to join. Thank you!



Chapter meeting field trip in the Ohop Valley. Photo: Katrina Poppe

Chapter Board Meetings

By Nate Hough-Snee, Chapter President

The PNW Chapter Board conducts quarterly board meetings via conference call. These meetings are open to the general membership and you are encouraged to attend. If you have questions, concerns, want to get involved or are just curious please feel free to attend the meetings. Our last meeting was held on January 20th at 4:30 pm, and our next meeting date is TBD. If you are interested, please contact Nate Hough-Snee at nate@natehough-snee.org to receive conference call information.

Calendar of Wetland Classes and Workshops

By Katrina Poppe, Co-Secretary

To better serve our members we have included a list of wetland related classes and workshops occurring in the Pacific Northwest. If you know of other organizations that offer classes please forward the web link to katrina@nwecological.com.

Coastal Training Program:

<http://www.coastaltraining-wa.org/>

- Grass, Sedge, and Rush Identification for Western WA Puget Lowland Habitats: February 3. Mt Vernon, WA.
- How to Administer Development Permits in Western Washington's Shorelines: February 18. Mt Vernon, WA.
- Using the Revised Washington State Wetland Rating System (2014) in Western Washington: March 30. Lacey, WA.

Northwest Environmental Training Center:

<https://nwetc.org/>

- Wetlands Permitting: August 11. Kirkland, WA.
- Wetlands Delineation: August 9-10. Kirkland, WA.
- ArcGIS 10: An Introduction to Environmental Applications: March 22-24. Bellingham, WA.
- ArcGIS 10: An Introduction to Environmental Applications: June 14-16. Olympia, WA.

Portland State University Environmental Professional Program: <http://epp.esr.pdx.edu/>

- Basic Wetland Delineation: March 14-18. Portland, OR.
- Hydric Soil Indicators for Regional Supplements: May 3-4. Portland, OR.
- Wetland Hydrology Indicators and Problem Situations: June 8-9. Portland, OR.
- Wetland Plants of the Pacific Northwest: June 20-24. Portland, OR.
- NEPA Overview and Refresher: February 11. Portland, OR.

- Environmental Planning, Permitting, and Project Management: February 16-17. Portland, OR.

Richard Chinn Environmental Training, Inc.:

<http://www.richardchinn.com/>

- Wetland Delineation: March 7-10. Seattle, WA.
- Wetland Permitting: March 11-12. Seattle, WA.
- Regional Supplement Wetland Delineation: March 9-10. Seattle, WA.

The Seminar Group:

<http://www.theseminargroup.net/>

No wetland related courses at this time.

University of Washington – Professional Development Program:

<http://www.pce.uw.edu/>

- Wetland Law & Policy: January 5 – March 8. Seattle, WA.

Washington Native Plant Society:

<http://www.wnps.org>

- Grass Identification Workshop: June 2016, exact date TBD, Seattle, WA.

Western Washington University – Extended Education:

<http://www.acadweb.wvu.edu/eesp/default.shtml>

- Wetland Identification and Delineation (BIOL 402): June 20-24. Bellingham, WA.
http://www.pacificecologic.com/pacific_wvu%20w%20del.htm

Wetland Training Institute:

<http://wetlandtraining.com/>

- Basic Wetland Delineation: August 15-19, 2016, Arlington, WA.
- Wetland Delineation Field Session: August 22-23, 2016, Arlington, WA.

SWS Funds Available for Wetlands Workshops

By Jeff Walker, Past Secretary/Newsletter Editor

The PNW Chapter Board is encouraging applications for SWS support to conduct workshops on relevant topics.

The application can be found on the chapter website:

<http://www.sws.org/Pacific-Northwest-Chapter/pacific-northwest-chapter-events.html>



Nisqually River Delta restoration site. Photo: Katrina Poppe

SWS PNW Consultant Directory

By Maki Dalzell, Co-Secretary

The PNW Chapter hosts a quarterly updated consultant list on the website:

http://www.sws.org/images/chapters/pacific_northwest/docs/Consultant_List.pdf

The only requirement to be on this list is current SWS PNW membership. If you would like to be added to the list or have your information updated, contact Maki Dalzell at maki.dalzell@hdrinc.com.

Update your contact information

The Chapter uses the current SWS membership list to email newsletters. Make sure your information is current to receive a copy:

<http://sws.org/>

<https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=SWS&WebCode=LoginRequired>

Ooze News Deadlines for Articles

Articles and announcements are welcomed and appreciated for the spring edition of the Chapter newsletter, Volume 26 Number 2, no later than April 15, 2016. Please send associated documentation to incoming co-secretaries Katrina Poppe at katrina@nwecological.com or Maki Dalzell at maki.dalzell@hdrinc.com. We will review your information for submission to the Ooze News.

Thank you.

