



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

Thus far, late 2014 and early 2015 have been extremely productive for the Pacific Northwest Chapter. Last fall the Chapter held elections and shortly thereafter, a new executive board was sworn in. Maki Denzell (HDR Engineering) and Katrina Poppe (Northwest Ecological Services LLC) were elected co-secretaries general and will be promoting chapter events and news to our membership. Longtime SWS-PNW treasurer and SWS-PNW lifetime achievement award winner, Yvonne Vallette (EPA Region 10), is working with treasurer-elect, Karla Van Leaven (Aqua-Terr Systems Inc.) to keep our Chapter's books in order and charitable giving (scholarships, grants, etc) up and running.

Dr. Lizbeth Seebacher (Washington State Department of Ecology) will be serving as the Chapter's program vice president and is chairing the 2015 Chapter meeting committee (see below for more meeting news!). Tom Kohl (Washington State Department of Transportation) has been elected Chapter executive vice president, and will be taking an active role in numerous SWS-PNW programs.

Lastly, I have been dealt a pair of large shoes to fill, as Colin MacLaren (Interfluve) moves from Chapter president into the immediate past president role and I assume the duties of president. I wish a hearty welcome to the new board, and look forward to working together to maintain a strong, productive Chapter.

Since election season, the board and numerous volunteers have been busy preparing for the Chapter's biannual meeting. "From a Watershed Perspective: Integrating Science into Policy" will take place October 6-8, 2015 at the Red Lion Hotel and Conference Center in sunny, Olympia, Washington. A call for organized symposia and panel discussions and a call for contributed abstracts will circulate in early 2015.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Joy Zedler, Professor of Botany at the University of Wisconsin, and recently-elected Fellow of the Society of Wetland Scientists (2013), will serve as our keynote speaker. In addition to the usual

great talks, posters and field trips, the Chapter will also sponsor numerous student scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students attending school or working in the Pacific Northwest.

Information on the 2015 SWS-PNW meeting will be updated regularly on the Pacific Northwest Chapter's website, the Chapter's newsletter, *Ooze News*, and through updates in upcoming issues of *WSP*. I also encourage you all to use the hashtag #SWSPNW on Twitter as we promote conference events via social media.

In addition to chapter business, the public comment period for Washington State's Wetland Program Plan recently closed in late 2014. The new plan spans a six-year period, and sets priorities for the future of wetland management across Washington State.

While the public comment period passed between issues of *WSP*, the Washington State Department of Ecology will be finalizing the plan by late March 2015. More information on the Washington State Wetland Program Plan can be found at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/ProgramPlan.html>

Additionally, this serves to remind SWS-PNW members that Oregon's wetland program plan, approved by EPA in 2012, can be found at:

http://www.oregon.gov/DSL/WETLAND/Pages/wetland_plan_approved_2012.aspx

The full list of approved state and tribal wetland program plans are available through the EPA:

<http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/wpp.cfm>

Lastly, as the SWS-PNW continues to grow and evolve, we will be changing how we keep the membership informed of events, opportunities, and wetland news in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. In addition to our quarterly newsletter, *Ooze News*, keep an eye out for more emails from our co-secretaries, Katrina Poppe and Make Dalzell, improved communication through the chapter website, the Society's Twitter feed, @SWS_Org, and a regular Pacific Northwest Chapter section in the Society's magazine/technical journal, *Wetland Science and Practice*. I apologize in advance if this President's Corner looks an awful lot like next month's Chapter update in *WSP*.

While it's still early, 2015 is shaping up to be fantastic for the Society and our Pacific Northwest Chapter. If you have any questions or comments, or a desire to get more involved in PNW-Chapter happenings, please have

a look at our website and get in touch. Don't hesitate to drop me a line via email or on Twitter @NHoughSnee or have a look at my riparian and wetland-themed research blog: <http://natehough-snee.org>.

Yours amid the sedge and willow,
Nate Hough-Snee

The Leadership Award Presented to Jim Wiggins

By: Karla Van Leaven, Treasurer-Elect



The Leadership Award is bestowed by the SWS PNW honors individuals and groups that have performed outstanding service and dedication in leading and promoting the functions and activities of the Chapter. It is the highest honor awarded by the Chapter and since its inception in 2002, four individuals have been so honored.

This past year, it was the privilege of the Chapter Board to present the Leadership Award to Jim Wiggins in recognition of his extensive list of achievements in the field of wetland science and policy within our Chapter and the greater wetland community. Jim has been involved in the wetlands profession for over 26 years with contributions including, but not limited to:

- Past SWS PCP Certification and Certification Renewal Panel Member
- 2010 SWS PNW Bellingham, WA Conference Program Vice President
- 2006 SWS Conference Technical Sessions Committee Member
- Past SWS PNW Ethics Committee Co-Chair
- 2004 SWS Seattle, WA Conference Steering Committee Member
- Past Whatcom County Technical Advisory Committee Chair and Member

- Past Skagit County Shoreline Advisory Committee Member
- Past Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Wetland Science Advisory Group (WetSAG) Member
- On the ground supporter of State Certification of wetland scientists within the legislature
- Co-founder of the Bellingham, WA Wetland Professional Group (WPG)

Jim was surprised as recipient of the award at his home in Sedro-Woolley, WA by Aqua-Terr Systems, Inc. staff (Karla Van Leaven (and her fiancé, Anthony Gallina) and Janet Cray (and her unable to attend, but there in spirit husband, Garth) and his wife (Abbe). During a slideshow of a recent trip to Africa, our Chapter President Colin called in to announce the award at which point in time he was presented with an acceptance letter and a piece of artwork by Al Currier, a local artist to the Skagit Valley and a beloved friend of Jim's.

Due to Jim's diagnosis with Multiple Myeloma cancer and subsequent registration withdrawal, Karla and Janet accepted the award on his behalf during the SWS Conference in Portland, OR. In his words:

“Being a biologist is who I am, and the fact that I get paid to do what I love is a bonus.

I have been encouraged to mentor, to share the wealth by working and learning with colleagues, to understand as the world changes...

When I notice issues in our industry that are complex and need attention, I jump in without hesitation, unconcerned that I may make mistakes. The mistakes keep me alert and aware.



I have learned much by volunteering on committees, working on a bill in the legislature, and I encourage others to do the same. Finding consensus, understanding

the framework of our industry only enhances my dedication. Being involved connects work with fun and brings me closer to my colleagues.

Thank you to the chapter, the board, and to Janet and Karla for this award. I am very grateful and humbled by the company I share.

I am taking a short pause now, but just so you know, I'm not done yet because there is still so much to do.”

Congratulations Jim! Thank you for your dedication and service and we wish you a speedy return to the wetlands!

2014 Updates to the WA Wetland Rating Systems

By Department of Ecology Staff

Clarification: Effective Date of the 2014 Updates to the Wetland Rating Systems

On June 30, 2014, Ecology published the updates to the 2014 wetland rating systems for eastern and western Washington. At that time, we stated that the 2014 rating systems were effective upon publication. Therefore, local governments whose Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) required the use of the most recent version of the rating system(s) would in effect have been requiring use of the 2014 updates immediately. We have since learned that this approach has caused difficulties for many local governments, because some jurisdictions need to update their code language on wetland buffers in order to incorporate the updated habitat scores associated with the 2014 rating systems. In addition, we discovered that several corrections to the 2014 rating systems are necessary.

As a result, *the effective date of the 2014 rating systems was changed to January 1, 2015.*

The corrected rating systems were more recently posted in early November (with a new published date and publication numbers). Users now have a chance to get familiar with the final updates and to attend trainings. Local governments must now determine how the updates may affect parts of their CAO. To help with this, we have posted on our web page conversion tables for point scores to assist local governments who are evaluating what changes may be necessary for their CAOs. See: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/rating_systems/2014updates.html#tables.

The January 1, 2015, effective date means that if you rate a wetland on or after that date, you will be required to use the 2014 updates for projects needing Ecology authorization. An applicant applying for a local permit

will need to consult with that specific local government if its CAO requires the use of the rating system. If a CAO contains the language “2004 rating system or as revised,” it is likely that an applicant will need to use the 2014 updates as of January 1, 2015, to address local government requirements.

Some local jurisdictions may have language in their CAO that requires the use of the 2004 rating systems regardless of whether updates exist. The 2004 versions will, therefore, also remain available on the rating systems web page at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/ratingsystems/index.html>.

Thank you again to those of you have provided feedback during this update process.

Please continue to send your comments and questions regarding the 2014 updates to the wetland rating systems to Amy Yahnke at amy.yahnke@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-6527. Thank you.

EPA Report on Stream and Wetland Connectivity

By Katrina Poppe, Co-Secretary

On January 15, the EPA’s Office of Research and Development released the final connectivity report, *Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review and Synthesis of the Scientific Evidence*, which has been revised to reflect the Scientific Advisory Board’s peer review of over 1,200 publications. The report is available at: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=296414>

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 Board Meetings

By Katrina Poppe, Co-Secretary

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 December 16, 2014, at 4pm, and our next meeting date is TBD. If you

are interested, please contact Nate Hough-Snee at nate@natehough-snee.org or Tom Kohl at kohl@wsdot.wa.gov to receive conference call information.

Upcoming Events

By Maki Dalzell/Katrina Poppe, Co-Secretaries

2015 AEG Professional Forum on Landslides

A conference will be held February 26-28, 2015, on landslide hazards and the risks they pose to people, property, and the environment. The conference is planned by the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists. It will be hosted by the University of Washington in Seattle, WA. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.aegweb.org/about-aeg/aeg-meetings-events/2015-landslide-forum>.

SWS-PNW 2015 Chapter Meeting

From a Watershed Perspective: Integrating Science into Policy

The PNW Chapter is pleased to announce that our 2015 PNW Chapter Meeting will take place October 6-8 at the Red Lion Hotel in “sunny” Olympia, Washington. Please save the date and spread the word (flier on page 6)!

SWS members, wetland professionals, and students of all backgrounds should keep an eye out for future announcements regarding call for abstracts, student scholarships, field trips and workshops, and other conference-related information. Details will be updated on our PNW Chapter website: <http://www.sws.org/Pacific-Northwest-Chapter/pacific-northwest-chapter-events.html>.



SWS 2015 Annual Meeting

Changing Climate. Changing Wetlands

This May 31-June 4, the Society of Wetland Scientists will convene their annual meeting, "Changing Climate, Changing Wetlands" in Providence, Rhode Island. The call for abstracts is currently open, and **closes February 11, 2015**. For full details on the SWS annual meeting, visit: <http://swsannualmeeting.org/>

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

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

- Tree and Shrub Identification for Western WA Puget Lowland Habitats: February 5, 2015, Lacey, WA.
- Grass, Sedge, and Rush Identification for Western WA Puget Lowland Habitats: February 18, 2015, Padilla Bay Reserve, WA (This class has been filled).
- What's New in the Updated Version (2014) of the Washington State Wetland Rating System for Western Washington: March 12, 2015, Lacey, WA. (This class has been filled)
- Using the Revised Washington State Wetland Rating System (2014) in Western Washington: March 18-19, 2015, Lacey, WA. (This class has been filled)
- Coastal Inundation Mapping: March 26, 2015, Green River Community College, Auburn, WA. (This class has been filled)
- Using the Revised Washington State Wetland Rating System (2014) in Western Washington: March 31-April 1, 2015, Lacey, WA (This class has been filled).

Northwest Environmental Training Center:

Contact: <http://nwetc.org/>

- ArcGIS 10: An Introduction to Environmental Applications: January 27-29, 2015. Kirkland, WA.
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): Writing the Perfect EA/FON SI, or EIS: February 18-19, 2015, Portland, OR.

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

- NEPA: Overview and Refresher: February 11, 2015, Portland, OR.
- Basic Wetland Delineation: March 23-27, 2015, Portland, OR.
- Hydric Soil Indicators for Regional Supplements: April 28-29, 2015, Portland, OR.
- Wetland Hydrology: June 2-3, 2015, Portland, OR.
- Wetland Plants of the Pacific Northwest: June 15-19, 2015, Portland, OR.
- Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes of the PNW: October 6-7, 2015, Portland, OR.

Richard Chinn Environmental Training, Inc.: <http://www.richardchinn.com/>

- Wetland Delineation Training: March 9-12, 2015, Seattle, WA.
- Regional Supplement: March 12, 2015, Seattle, WA.

The Seminar Group

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

- Floodplain Development: Regulation under FEMA and ESA: March 27, 2015, Portland, OR.
- Shoreline: May 1, 2015, Seattle, WA.

University of Washington – Professional Development Program

<http://www.engr.washington.edu/epp>

No wetland related courses at this time.

Western Washington University:

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

Wetland Identification and Delineation: June 22-26, 2015, Bellingham, WA. (For info contact Elizabeth Binney at elizabeth.binney@wwu.edu).

Wetland Training Institute: <http://wetlandtraining.com/>

- Basic Wetland Delineation: August 17-21, 2015, Arlington, WA.
- Wetland Delineation Field Session: August 13-14, 2015, Arlington, WA.
- Advanced Hydric Soils: August 24-25, 2015, 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>

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/2014-12-12.ConsultantList.pdf>

The only requirement to be on this list is current SWS 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?](https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=SWS&WebCode=LoginRequired)

[Site=SWS&WebCode=LoginRequired](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 25 Number 2, no later than April 15, 2015. 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!




Save the Date

**SOCIETY OF
WETLAND SCIENTISTS
PNW CHAPTER**

2015 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

**FROM A WATERSHED PERSPECTIVE:
INTEGRATING SCIENCE INTO POLICY**

Policies governing wetlands have fallen behind current wetland science over the past few years. Come hear the latest research on wetland restoration, successful mitigation, hydrology, soils, invasive species, amphibians and invertebrates, and participate in discussions on policy, regulation, and industry standards. Conference presentations will be invited and contributed.

October 6th, 7th & 8th 2015
Red Lion Conference Center, Olympia, WA



Beaver Creek, ID, USA, Photo: Nate Hough-Snee