

Society of Wetland Scientists - Canada Chapter

Newsletter - Fall 2022

NEW LOGO SWS created a new logo for our Canada Chapter!



SWS Canada Fall Webinar Our next webinar, with peatland scientist Lorna Harris (Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada), will take place in January. We'll send out the details once we have the date set.

Wetlands of Distinction The board of SWS Canada continues to work on the application for **nominating the Hudson Bay Lowlands (HBL) for Wetland of Distinction status**. This designation is awarded by the Society of Wetland Scientists to raise awareness, appreciation and knowledge of critical wetlands across the world. The HBL is a vast and ecologically sensitive complex of boreal peatlands that spans Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba. We are currently in discussion with First Nations communities who are connected with the HBL; their participation as partners is essential to the application. For more information on the designation please visit: <https://www.wetlandsofdistinction.org/>. Contact a SWS Canada board member if you would like to nominate a Wetland of Distinction.

Seeking Treasurer: We are still looking for a SWS Canada treasurer. Participation counts towards Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) credits. Graduate students and post-graduate researchers are welcome! Send an email to glasauer@uoguelph.ca for more details.

Conferences and Courses

Reclaim, Restore, Rewild (RE3), Quebec City, June 11-15 Join us next year at this conference hosted by the Society for Ecological Restoration-Eastern Canada and the Canadian Land Reclamation Association. SWS Canada is a participating society, and there will be many sessions and symposia focused on wetlands. The SWS Canada chapter is hosting a symposium (The intent and implementation of wetland offsetting in the mitigation hierarchy) with invited speakers from Canada and the US confirmed:

Abstract submission opens on November 15, 2022. We will be holding a SWS Canada meeting at the conference and look forward to meeting all who can make it. SWS Canada will be offering two travel scholarships (\$500 each). We'll keep you updated with information on our activities at the conference.

SWS Annual Meeting: 27-30 June 2023 in Spokane, Washington. If you wish to be a part of the organizing committee, more details and a sign-up form can be found [here](#).

Wetlands 101: Introduction to Boreal Wetlands – Online training course (\$95 CAN) on boreal wetlands hosted by Ducks Unlimited. The course covers:

- Introduction to wetland definitions and the importance of boreal wetlands

- Basic wetland identification skills with a focus on the five major wetland classes according to the Canadian Wetland Classification System (CWCS)
- Information on wetland ecology, hydrology, and ecosystem goods and services
- Tools to identify wetlands in the field
- Challenges that wetlands may pose to your work as well as wetland avoidance strategies

Wetlands in the News

[100 million collected for wetland creation or restoration in Quebec over the last 5 years is mostly unused.](https://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/environnement/2022-10-07/compensations-pour-la-destruction-de-milieux-humides/pres-de-100-millions-dorment-a-quebec.php)
<https://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/environnement/2022-10-07/compensations-pour-la-destruction-de-milieux-humides/pres-de-100-millions-dorment-a-quebec.php>

[New threats for wetlands in Ontario from the More Homes Built Faster Act, Bill 23:](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/more-homes-built-faster-act-conservation-authorities-wetlands-1.6631634)
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/more-homes-built-faster-act-conservation-authorities-wetlands-1.6631634>

Swamp as sacred space: saving wetlands to save ourselves, from CBC news
<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/saving-wetlands-ecology-1.6617277>

Resources added to the SWS Canada [website](#)

Evaluating the Health of Wetlands: Wetland Management Routine Effectiveness Evaluation - [Protocol](#), [Technical Supplement](#), and [Field Data Sheet](#)

Policies and strategies for wetlands are now uploaded for Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Alberta, Ontario, and British Columbia.



Contact us if you have information to share for the next newsletter, including photos, news items, workshops and conferences. Please send to Mary Ann: mperr058@uottawa.ca

Photo left: SWS members Katie Hettinga and Jordan Thakar working at Cranberry Bog this fall (Guelph, Ontario)

Thanks for reading!

SWS Canada Board Members:
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