



# Ooze News



Society of Wetland Scientists Pacific Northwest Chapter

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

## 2019-2020 Board of Directors

### President

Josh Wozniak  
Parametrix  
719 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite 200  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 394-3700  
[jwozniak@parametrix.com](mailto:jwozniak@parametrix.com)

### Executive Vice President

Vacant

### Immediate Past President

Lizabeth Seebacher  
Department of Ecology  
Water Quality Program, PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 407-6938  
[lsee461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:lsee461@ecy.wa.gov)

### Program Vice President

Nate Hough-Snee  
Four Peaks Environmental Science & Data Solutions  
5 S. Wenatchee Ave., Suite 210  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
(435) 535-5085  
[nate@natehough-snee.org](mailto:nate@natehough-snee.org)

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Erin Page  
Whatcom County  
Planning & Development Services  
5280 Northwest Drive, Suite C  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
(360) 778-5953  
[epage@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:epage@co.whatcom.wa.us)

### Secretaries/Newsletter Editors

Maki Dalzell  
HNTB  
600 108<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Suite 900  
Bellevue, WA 98004  
(425) 456-8661  
[mdalzell@hntb.com](mailto:mdalzell@hntb.com)

Katrina Poppe  
Western Washington University  
516 High Street, MS 9181  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
(360) 303-7806  
[poppek@wwu.edu](mailto:poppek@wwu.edu)

## President's Corner

*By Josh Wozniak, PNW Chapter President*

Happy Fall!

2020 has been an interesting year. I looked at my President's Corner message from January and it read like correspondence from another time and place, which indeed it was. I am sure you and yours have been disrupted or upended by the effects of the pandemic and my heart goes out to all who suffer through the repercussions.

The work of the SWS PNW chapter has been modified and challenged this year. We charged into 2020 planning a very fun Leavenworth mini meeting in May, looking forward to an international meeting in Quebec in June, and coordinating technical trainings. It became apparent by March, that the immediate future would be very different, and we've all been seriously re-calibrated to what that truly means several times since then. The board delayed, then made the very difficult decision to cancel our mini meeting.

Not satisfied to just turn off the lights and leave the building, we (well, mostly Nate) worked diligently to connect to the speakers and re-create a technical information sharing event, in an online format. We worked with the international SWS board and made this presentation series part of an exciting event that will be hosted by SWS on Dec 1-3, 2020 (<http://www.sws.org/Sample-Content/annual-meeting.html>). We have a prominent role and the opportunity to showcase our regions and expertise to the world of wetland science. Please join us!

Our chapter board and many, many members have also stepped up in a huge way to plan an international meeting next June!! Thank you all. It took very little arm twisting! If we can meet in person, it will be held in Spokane, a really great town for any of you that

haven't visited. Although I hope to be able to walk the riverfront and enjoy happy hour at El Borracho with you, we are heading into this planning effort with eyes open: planning an online contingency and some hybrids. The program and technical information will be fantastic, no matter the format.

We are also working hard to plan events that allow one thing we miss about in-person events: the wonderfully random meetings of old friends and new ones. If you have participated in other virtual events that met this goal, please contact us with ideas. We'd love your help reestablishing these threads of collaboration.

For those of you that haven't already been spammed enough on the topic: I was asked by the Salish Journal to write a description of the importance of wetlands, to be read by a broad audience. You can read this article here

(<https://salishmagazine.org/the-importance-of-wetlands/>). I hope I represented you all well (and sorry sloped, lacustrine fringe, and flats HGM types! Editors had to cut and you didn't make the team [but I still like you!]. They cover estuarine wetlands in many facets in other article).

In Seattle the fall rains have arrived, which is a welcome sound for me to hear on my windows. It's time to get the groundwater wells installed and let the water year flex its muscles. So far 2020 has had so much uncertainty. It is reassuring to me to know that the larger patterns of the natural world continue to move on their age-old cycles, unaffected by the challenge we humans face. Stay strong. We are all in this together and you are not alone.

### **2020 Virtual Meeting (December 1-3, 2020)**

*By Maki Dalzell, Co-Secretary*

SWS is hosting a virtual meeting on **December 1-3, 2020**, to celebrate the SWS 40th anniversary and to showcase the SWS members' outstanding work in wetlands. SWS is offering this abbreviated virtual meeting to connect, to share research, and to continue expanding the SWS's global network. Registration will open soon. Visit the [meeting website](#) for more details.

### **2021 SWS International Meeting in Spokane, Washington (June 1 – 4, 2021)**

**- SAVE THE DATE -**

*By Maki Dalzell, Co-Secretary*



SWS will be hosting the 2021 Annual Meeting in Spokane, WA. Our PNW chapter will be the primary host for this meeting. The theme for this meeting is “*Wetland Science 2021: Adaption Drives Innovation.*” The meeting format (in person vs. virtual) has not been determined at this point, but planning is now underway and we aim to make the event exciting and engaging regardless of the format. Abstract submission will open October 28, 2020, and registration will open in December. We hope you can join us!

### **Public Comment Period for Draft Update to WA Wetland Mitigation Guidance**

*By Katrina Poppe, Co-Secretary*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Washington Dept of Ecology (Ecology) are soliciting comments on a [draft update to the 2006 interagency guidance](#), Wetland Mitigation in Washington, Part 1. This guidance applies to activities affecting wetlands in the State of Washington. The update incorporates and provides consistency with rules, guidance documents, and tools that have been developed since the original guidance was published in 2006. Comments will be accepted through **November 30, 2020** through [Ecology's public comment webpage](#).

Instead of in-person public events, this year Ecology will host a 1-hour online question and answer session on **October 19, 2020 at 1:30 pm**. Please RSVP to [Dana Mock](#) and [Patricia Johnson](#) to receive the WebEx link for this event.

### ***Public Comment Period for Corps Proposal to Reissue and Modify Nationwide Permits***

*By Katrina Poppe, Co-Secretary*  
from the Federal Register

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is proposing to reissue its existing Nationwide Permits (NWP) and associated general conditions and definitions, with some modifications. They are also proposing to issue five new NWPs, two of which would authorize certain categories of mariculture activities (i.e., seaweed and finfish mariculture) that are not authorized by NWP 48. They are proposing to divide the current NWP that authorizes utility line activities (NWP 12) into three separate NWPs that address the differences in how different linear projects are constructed, the substances they convey, and the different standards and BMPs that help ensure those NWPs authorize only those activities that have no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. Specifically, the Corps is proposing to modify the current utility line NWP 12 to authorize only oil and natural gas pipeline activities.

Two proposed new NWPs would authorize activities associated with the construction, maintenance, repair, and removal of electric utility lines/telecommunication lines and utility lines that convey water, sewage, and other substances. The fifth proposed new NWP would authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into jurisdictional waters for the construction, expansion, and maintenance of water reuse and reclamation facilities. These modifications are proposed to simplify and clarify the NWPs, reduce burdens on the regulated public, and continue to comply with the statutory requirement that these NWPs authorize only activities with no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.

The Corps is requesting comment on all aspects of these proposed NWPs. Comments are due by **November 16, 2020**. Instructions for submitting comments are available on the [Federal Register page](#). Comments can be identified by docket number COE-2020-0002 and/or RIN 0710-AA84.

### ***New Blue Carbon Methodology for Tidal Wetland Conservation and Restoration***

*By Katrina Poppe, Co-Secretary*  
From [verra.org](#)



This September, Verra released the first blue carbon methodology approved under any major greenhouse gas program. Restore America's Estuaries and Silvestrum Climate Associates led on this revision to the [VCS REDD+ Methodology Framework \(VM0007\)](#) to expand its applicability to tidal wetland conservation and restoration activities, including activities in mangroves, seagrasses, and tidal marshes.

These types of coastal wetlands sequester significant amounts of carbon, and despite covering less than 2% of total ocean area, they account for nearly 50% of the total carbon stored in ocean sediments. Conserving and restoring blue carbon ecosystems provides a Natural Climate Solution with the potential to deliver a third of the emissions reductions needed by 2030 to keep global warming below 2 degrees, yet they receive only 3% of total climate investment globally. This methodology update will enable these activities to access additional sources of finance through the sale of carbon credits in voluntary or compliance markets and help scale up tidal wetland conservation and restoration.

### ***Water of the United States (WOTUS) Update***

*By Maki Dalzell, Co-Secretary*

In April 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) published the Navigable Waters Protection Rule in the Federal Register to finalize a revised definition of “waters of the United States” under the Clean Water Act. This final rule became effective on June 22, 2020. You can read the final rule at the link below.

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-01/documents/navigable\\_waters\\_protection\\_rule\\_pre\\_publication.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-01/documents/navigable_waters_protection_rule_pre_publication.pdf)

### Social Media Update

By Maki Dalzell, Co-Secretary

Did you know we have official Facebook and Twitter accounts for our chapter? Find us on Facebook as “Pacific Northwest Chapter of Society of Wetland Scientists”

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/50185811318/> and Twitter as [@SWS PNW](https://twitter.com/SWS_PNW). We will post events, trainings, and articles on our social media, and you can also share with us by joining the Facebook group or following our Twitter account!

### Consultant List Updates

By Maki Dalzell, Co-Secretary

The PNW Chapter hosts a quarterly updated consultant list on the website: <http://www.sws.org/Pacific-Northwest-Chapter/pacific-northwest-resources.html>. The only requirement to be on this list is current SWS PNW membership. **Please note that updates to your SWS member profile through SWS business office do not automatically carryover to the consultant list.** The PNW Chapter does not get member profile information from the SWS business office, and we need you to keep us informed for updates on the consultant list. If you would like to be added to the list or have your information updated, contact Maki Dalzell at [mdalzell@hntb.com](mailto:mdalzell@hntb.com).

### Calendar of Wetland Classes and Workshops

By Maki Dalzell/Katrina Poppe, Co-Secretaries

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 [poppek@wwu.edu](mailto:poppek@wwu.edu).

#### Coastal Training Program:

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

- Using the Revised WA State Wetland Rating System (2014) in Western Washington: November 12-20, 2020. Virtual with solo field visit.
- How to Administer Development Permits in Western Washington's Shorelines: December 2-3, 2020. Virtual.

#### Northwest Environmental Training Center:

<https://nwetc.org/>

- Pacific Salmonids Ecology: October 19 - 20, 2020. Virtual.
- Pacific Salmonids Spawning Habitat Restoration: October 21 – 23, 2020. Virtual
- Habitat Site Restoration: November 5-6, 2020. Virtual
- Tribal Environmental Regulation and Jurisdiction: November 17 – 18, 2020. Virtual
- Wetlands: Science and Regulatory Management: December 1-2. Virtual

#### Portland State University Environmental Professional Program: <https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-professional-program/>

- River Restoration Design: October 2-23, 2020. Online
- Basic Wetland Delineation: March 15-18, 2021. Hybrid online and in-field
- Wetland Hydrology Indicators and Problem Situations: May 25-26, 2021. Hybrid online and in-field
- Hydric Soil Indicators for Regional Supplements: May 27-28, 2021. Hybrid online and in-field

#### Richard Chinn Environmental Training, Inc.:

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

- Virtual Wetland and Waters of the US Training

#### The Seminar Group:

No wetland related courses listed at this time

#### University of Washington – Professional Development Program:

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

- Wetland Science and Management Certificate Program. 8-month program starting October 2021. Seattle, WA.

#### Western Washington University:

No wetland related courses listed at this time.

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

- Advanced Hydrology for Jurisdictional Determinations. Online
- Demystifying Wetland and In-water Permitting in Washington State: November 5, 2020. Online
- Federal Wetland/Waters Regulatory Policy. Online

### ***Ooze News Deadlines for Articles***

Articles and announcements are welcomed and appreciated for the winter edition of the Chapter newsletter, Volume 31 Number 1 no later than **January 15, 2021**. Please send associated documentation to co-secretaries Katrina Poppe at [poppek@wwu.edu](mailto:poppek@wwu.edu) or Maki Dalzell at [mdalzell@hntb.com](mailto:mdalzell@hntb.com). We will review your information for submission to the Ooze News.

### ***SWS Funds Available for Wetlands Workshops***

*By Maki Dalzell/Katrina Poppe, Co-Secretaries*

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>

### ***Chapter Board Meetings***

*By Josh Wozniak, 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 October 2, 2020 at 3:00 pm, and our next meeting date is **November 19** at 12:00 pm. If you are interested, please contact Josh at [jwozniak@parametrix.com](mailto:jwozniak@parametrix.com) to receive conference call information.

### ***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!



Northern red-legged frog with log camouflage. Photo: Maki Dalzell