



Ooze News



Society of Wetland Scientists Pacific Northwest Chapter

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<http://www.sws.org/regional/pacificNW/>

2012-2014 Board of Directors

President

Colin MacLaren
Inter-Fluve, Inc.
501 Portway Avenue, Suite 101
Hood River, OR 97031
(541) 399-7455
cmacalaren@interfluve.com

Executive Vice President

Nate Hough-Snee
c/o Utah State University
Dept. Of Watershed Sciences
5210 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-5210
(435) 535-5085
nate@natehough-snee.org

Immediate Past President

Leandra Cleveland
HDR Engineering, Inc.
1001 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 1800
Portland, OR 97294
(503) 423-3769
leandra.cleveland@hdrinc.com

Program Vice President

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

Treasurer

Yvonne Vallette
USEPA, Region 10
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 326-2716
Vallette.Yvonne@epa.gov

Secretary/Newsletter Editors

Karla Van Leaven
Aqua-Terr Systems, Inc.
21993 Grip Road
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
(360) 856-2139
KarlaVanLeaven@gmail.com

James Guzman
Earthworks Environmental, Inc.
2102 Young Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 738-6600
glaciertreader@gmail.com

President's Corner

By Colin MacLaren, PNW Chapter President

Greetings,

This past week I had the opportunity to attend a permits workshop sponsored by the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board. The event featured several Washington agency representatives presenting brief overviews of permitting issues affecting fish and fish enhancement projects. The day-long event was structured as a forum for stakeholders and regulators to discuss and share ideas to expedite application processes (video of the event will soon be accessible via the LCFRB web page - link given below).

The meeting left me pondering two issues. The first touches on discussions with past SWS-PNW Chapter presidents on the importance of constructive interactions between private practitioners and regulators. I would toss environmental societies, conservancies, and academicians into that mix. Where I think we could all improve is holding more open and free discussion on issues affecting our profession, and simple discussions about our common interests and passions in wetlands. I understand and agree with the reasons our Chapter moved from annual to biennial chapter meetings, but I miss that extra opportunity to interact. Aggravating the situation (in my own view) is a growing lack of employer willingness to support employee participation in forums and training. My argument in favor of participation in our Chapter is simple: the function and well-being of agencies, consultants, and ecological societies revolve around the people. The 'capitol' in our business is knowledge, not manufacturing equipment, patents, or raw material. So, take a stand. Go tell your boss that you're not some flaxseed oil expeller and that your attendance at JASM 2014 is imperative to continuing in your chosen profession.

Coincidentally, registration for the meeting just opened:
<https://www.sgmeet.com/jasm2014/reginfo.asp>

The second notion spawned that day was during a discussion on level-of-detail-in-an-application, wherein I started to daydream about restoration goals and approaches, remembering a quote from Aldo Leopold.

When asked how long it would take a prairie restoration project to reestablish natural functions, he responded “about 1,000 years.” “Or more” I thought, which led me to consider the way we design projects and measure habitat mitigation goals. Given a landscape in constant flux over the long-term, how often is our interpretation of restoration measures appropriate? Should we design meticulously or should we assume a light touch? Do we tend to design to regulations, or are regulations responsive to prudent design? I suppose both and neither, at times.

Whether we and our politicians know it, nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do. –Wendell Berry

LCFRB web site:

<http://www.lcfrb.gen.wa.us/default1.htm>

Cheers,
Colin MacLaren

2014 Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting in Portland, Oregon

By SWS Staff

The 2014 Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting will take place May 18-23 in Portland, OR. Online [registration](#) is now available and the **early registration deadline has been extended** to March 7!

The **abstract submission deadline** is February 7. An abstract submission fee of \$50 USD for professionals or \$30 USD for students applies for each submission. Complete information is available online, including the [session list](#). Note registration is not required to submit an abstract; however, the registration fee must be paid in order to present at the meeting.

If you have already submitted an abstract and would like to register, please [login to your account](#) and choose the "Conference Registration" option. This is the easiest and most accurate way to attach your registration to your abstract.

Travel awards will be awarded by each of the sponsoring societies. You must be a society member in order to apply. The travel award applications will only be open for registered users who have submitted an abstract. Users can apply for a travel award via their control panel after registration if they have selected the appropriate member fee category.

All requests for **auxiliary meetings, town halls, and workshops** must be submitted via the online form. Requests received after the February 7 deadline may be able to be accommodated on an as-available basis.

Please contact JASM 2014 Project Manager, [Lynda West](#) with any questions about the meeting.

2014 Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting Student Travel Awards

By SWS Staff

To encourage student participation the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists is sponsoring a student travel award for the 2014 Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting in Portland, OR, May 18-23. Funds are currently available to assist students with the costs associated with traveling to and from the meeting to present their research.

The Award: The PNW Chapter will make one award for the upcoming Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting in Portland, OR. The award includes meeting registration fee and a cash stipend of up to \$1,000 to help offset travel and lodging expenses.

Eligibility: This competition is open to all currently registered graduate and undergraduate students regardless of location. However, preference will be given to students living, researching or attending a university within the Pacific Northwest chapter region (Washington, Oregon, and Idaho). Students need to submit their conference abstract with their application.

To apply, email the following to Nate Hough-Snee: nate@natehough-snee.org by April 7, 2014:

- Current student status (photo copy of a university ID or letter from academic advisor)
- A copy of your submitted SWS abstract
- A one-page resume
- A short (< 1500 word) letter describing your background, research and education, career goals, and how an award from the SWS-PNW chapter would help you to meet these goals
- An estimated budget for travel, conference registration, etc.
- Emails should have the following title: “SWS-PNW 2014 JAS Meeting Scholarship.”
- The deadline to receive student scholarship applications for the International meeting is 11:59pm (PST) Monday April 7, 2013.

- If an award is made, students are expected to provide a brief biosketch for the SWS-PNW newsletter and website. The conference talk and any publications resulting from the work presented at the conference should acknowledge support from SWS-PNW.

Final Assessment of Potential Mining Impacts on Salmon Ecosystems of Bristol Bay, Alaska

By SWS Staff

The Final Assessment of Potential Mining Impacts on Salmon Ecosystems of Bristol Bay, Alaska was released today by EPA. The report concludes that large-scale mining in the Bristol Bay watershed poses risks to salmon, wildlife, and Native Alaska cultures. Bristol Bay supports the largest sockeye salmon fishery in the world, producing nearly 50 percent of the world's wild sockeye with runs averaging 37.5 million fish each year.

You can read the Bristol Bay Assessment Report, the Executive Summary, and the Fact Sheet online at www.epa.gov/bristolbay

Public input, expert peer review, and tribal consultation and coordination strengthened the document by providing local information, adding scientific and traditional knowledge, correcting errors, making clarifications, and ensuring that the analysis was complete and accurate. You can view the EPA Response to Peer Review Comments on the EPA website. The EPA Response to Public Comments will be posted online in the near future.

Sea Level Rise Data Available for Use in Hazard Mitigation Assistance Applications

By SWS Staff

On December 23, 2013, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued guidance through our Regional offices to state, local, tribal, and territorial partners on the ability to incorporate sea level rise estimates in Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) project grant applications. In accordance with the objectives outlined in the President's Executive Order – Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change, FEMA continues to support the initiative by integrating climate change adaptations into programs, policies, and operations to strengthen the nation's resilience by planning for future risk.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have recently released sea level rise estimates for various coastal areas. This available data will allow applicants to determine the

projected sea level rise at a specific site. The data can be included in FEMA's Benefit-Cost Analysis Tool that is used to validate the cost benefit of potential projects that protect against future risk.

FEMA does not require applicants and sub-applicants to incorporate sea level rise estimates into HMA projects. However, detailed information is being provided on how to incorporate sea level rise considerations when performing a Benefit-Cost Analysis for project applications using these federal data sources. Communities that use this information will have the benefit of more accurately planning for and taking steps to mitigate against this vulnerability.

For more information:

Hazard Mitigation Assistance and Sea Level Rise Frequently Asked Questions document can be found in the FEMA library at:

<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/89659>

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs:

<http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance>

Benefit Cost Analysis:

<http://www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis>

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Policy:

<http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance-policy>

Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Coastal Watersheds of the Conterminous United States, 2004 to 2009

By SWS Staff

The United States is losing wetlands in coastal watersheds at a significant rate according to a new report released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The report, *Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Coastal Watersheds of the Conterminous United States 2004 to 2009*, tracked wetland loss on the Pacific, Atlantic, Gulf, and Great Lakes coasts. It concludes that more than 80,000 acres of coastal wetlands are being lost on average each year, an increase from the previous study.

EPA initiated a federal Interagency Coastal Wetlands Workgroup in response to the losses in the previous report. Federal agencies are collaborating to better understand how wetland trends are affected by land use practices and other factors, and how federal, state, and local programs can better address threats to coastal wetlands.

More than 70 percent of the estimated loss came in the Gulf of Mexico; nationwide, most of the loss was resulted from development occurring in freshwater wetlands. The total losses occurred at a rate of approximately 25 percent greater than the rate estimated for the previous six years.

Researchers for the project examined 2,614 plots that were chosen at random, with each plot representing 4 square miles.

U.S. coastal wetlands are concentrated in four areas — the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic coast, the Great Lakes, and the Pacific coast.

The total acres of wetland loss from 2004-2009 are broken into the main regions below:

- Gulf of Mexico: Net loss of 257,150 acres
- Atlantic Coast: Net loss of 111,960 acres
- Pacific Coast: Net loss of 5,220 acres
- Great Lakes: Net gain of 13,610 acres

The report wasn't all bad news, as some gains were made in wetland acreage was seen in the coastal watersheds of South Carolina, Georgia, and parts of central Florida.

Most of the loss to coastal wetland areas occurred in freshwater wetlands, which accounted for approximately 34.6 million acres, according to the report. Whereas approximately 6.4 million acres of saltwater wetlands were lost.

View the report at:

<http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Documents/Status-and-Trends-of-Wetlands-In-the-Coastal-Watersheds-of-the-Conterminous-US-2004-to-2009.pdf>

Information on coastal wetlands and the federal Workgroup can be found at the EPA Coastal Wetlands webpage at <http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/cwt.cfm>

SWS PNW Member List Serve

By Karla Van Leaven, Co-Secretary

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, employment opportunities, 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 James Guzman, 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 January 16, 2014 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm, and our next meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2014 during JASM. If you are interested, please contact Colin MacLaren at cmaclaren@interfluve.com or Nate Hough-Snee at nate@natehough-snee.org to receive the agenda and conference call information.

Calendar of Wetland Classes and Workshops

By James Guzman, 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 glaciertreader@gmail.com.

Coastal Training Program

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

- How to Determine the Ordinary High Water Mark: April 15-16, 2014, Lacey, WA.
- Using the Credit-Debit Method for Estimating Mitigation Needs in Eastern WA: May 9, 2014, Ecology Eastern Regional Office, Spokane, WA.
- Sea Level Rise Adaptation: Opportunities for Planning in Washington State: May 22, 2014, Lacey, WA.
- Puget Sound Coastal Processes, Shoreline Modifications, and Beach Restoration: June 4, 2014, Padilla Bay, WA.

Northwest Environmental Training Center:

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

- Wetland Delineation: March 18-19, 2014, Portland, OR.
- Wetlands Permitting: March 20, 2014, Portland, OR.
- ArcGIS 10: An Introduction to Environmental Applications: March 25, 26, and 27, 2014, Olympia, WA.
- ArcGIS 10: An Introduction to Environmental Applications: June 16-18, 2014, Bellingham, WA.
- ArcGIS 10: Geoprocessing-Advanced Techniques for Environmental Applications: August 5-7, Olympia, WA.

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

- River Restoration, Part I: Physical Processes: March 11-13, 2014, Portland, OR.
- Basic Wetland Delineation: March 24-28, 2014, Portland, OR.
- River Restoration, Part II: Ecological Processes: April 15-17, 2014, Portland, OR.
- Hydric Soil Indicators for Regional Supplements: April 22-23, Portland, OR.
- Wetland Hydrology Indicators and Problem Situations: May 28-29, 2014, Portland, OR.
- Wetland Plants of the Pacific Northwest: June 16-20, 2014, Portland, OR.
- Freshwater Mussels: August 26-27, 2014, Portland, OR.

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

- Wetland Delineation and Permitting: March 18-21, 2014, Seattle, WA.

The Seminar Group

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

- Floodplains: March 28, 2014, Portland, OR.
- Floodplains: August 21, 2014, Portland, OR.

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>

No wetland related courses at this time.

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

- Basic Wetland Delineation: August 18-22, Arlington, WA.
- Wetland Delineation Field Session: August 14-15, Arlington, WA.
- Advanced Hydric Soils: August 25-26, Arlington, WA.

SWS Funds Available for Wetlands Workshops

By Jeff Walker, Past Newsletter Editor/Secretary

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/regional/pacificNW/workshop.html>

SWS PNW Consultant Directory

By Karla Van Leaven, Co-Secretary

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

<http://www.sws.org/regional/pacificNW/SWSConsultantList.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 Karla Van Leaven at KarlaVanLeaven@gmail.com.

Thank you!

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 24 Number 2, no later than April 15, 2013. Please send associated documentation to co-secretary's Karla Van Leaven at KarlaVanLeaven@gmail.com and James Guzman at glaciertreader@gmail.com. We will review your information for submission to the Ooze News.

Thank you!