



# Ooze News



Society of Wetland Scientists Pacific Northwest Chapter

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

## 2002-2021 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)

### Treasurer

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 Early- to Mid-Growing Season 2021!

The emergence of spring flowers and other signs of progress and optimism are a welcome reminder of the potential for renewal and rebirth. Coming amid such a long and challenging global struggle, it has extra potency for me this year. I'm even (a little) happy about the watery eyes and sneezing that says "spring".

The SWS PNW Chapter and Board have been hard at work on several important efforts over the last year, and intensively in the last few months. We are very close to putting the final touches on the program for the extremely awesome conference in June. Many of our members at large joined the board in leading planning committees including vetting hundreds of abstracts, recruiting compelling speakers, finding sponsors, and many, many other tasks. Some long weekends and late nights went into the successful execution of this huge task. We are very excited to see you there. Conference website information can be found [here](#). Although I can't wait to see you all in person, the on-line conference eliminates travel costs and visas and thereby expands access, which is a silver lining. Please mark your calendar and register.

Through the conference planning process, it became apparent that the pandemic's acute impact on many people's lives had greatly expanded the need to provide financial aid to those wishing to attend the conference. The board reviewed our chapter finances (which are very strong) and opted to redirect our chapter's portion of the conference proceeds to a fund that provides free attendance for those that request assistance. If you or someone you know is hesitating on attending due to cost, please register and let us host you.

We also are happy to announce the merging of the Alaska and Pacific Northwest Chapters! We've been coordinating with each other for years and decided last year to explore a merger, to simplify the organizations with a combined board. The Alaska chapter brings a legacy of support for technical trainings and informative dialogs with local regulators that we aspire to mirror in the lower PNW.

To that end, the board has supported two programs this year led by UW: the Botanical Symposium in March and the [Restoration Symposium](#). We are actively looking at supporting other learning and training efforts. Please contact us if you have ideas.

Best wishes to you all.  
Josh Wozniak, PWS

### 2021 SWS Virtual International Meeting (June 1, 3, 8, and 10, 2021)

By Katrina Poppe, Co-Secretary



SWS will be hosting the 2021 Annual Meeting online this June. Our PNW chapter will be the primary host for this meeting since it was originally planned to be held in Spokane, WA. The theme for this meeting is “*Wetland Sciences 2021: Adaption Drives Innovation.*” Though online, the virtual conference program still plans to provide vibrant programming, networking, and other opportunities to connect. Each session will include a live Q&A, and attendees will have access to on-demand recordings following the live event, so there is no worry about missing a talk.

The meeting program will be spread out over the first two weeks in June, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so you need not leave work for an entire week.

The [program](#) is now available and [registration is open](#). Registration rates increase after May 15 so don't delay! We look forward to seeing you in June.

### How to Eat a Horsetail

By Abe Lloyd, Western Washington University

Adapted by Maki Dalzell from Abe's [Wild Harvests Blog](#)

Spring has arrived, and now is a good time to look for horsetail shoots. In the Pacific Northwest we have several species of horsetail; two are edible, three are useful as sandpaper, and the remaining are neither useful to humans, nor common. Giant horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*) and common horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) are the edible species.

Giant Horsetail is an herbaceous clonal species. New shoots emerge from an underground network of rhizomes beginning in early to mid-March. There are two types of shoots, the fertile (spore-bearing) shoots appearing a week ahead of the vegetative shoots.



Unprocessed vegetative shoots (left) and fertile shoots (right). Photo: Abe Lloyd

The fertile shoots of Giant Horsetails are best picked between March 15th and April 15th. At this time they are 4-8” (5-10 cm) tall and the cones are still whitish. Before this time they are hard to see and too small to be worth the effort, and after this time they become stringy. Palatability plummets after the cones brown. Pluck shoots at ground level and carefully peel off the coarse bract that surrounds each node. These bracts are filled with silicates that will sand away at your teeth, an anti-herbivory adaptation that usually keeps the deer from eating them unless they are really hungry. Once you have peeled the shoots, discard the strobilus, rinse off any dirt, and enjoy them fresh. Their mild flavor and juiciness is similar to celery, but they lack the annoying fibers.



Perfect stage of the fertile shoot of Giant Horsetail. Photo: Abe Lloyd

The vegetative shoots of Giant Horsetail are also edible, but much more work for a product that is not as tasty. You must pick them before the needle-like leaves have started to extend horizontally. Remove both the bracts (as above) and the leaves, since the leaves contain the same silicate grazing defense as the bracts.

Common Horsetails are widespread throughout North America. From a distance, they can be distinguished from Giant Horsetail by their smaller size, more kinked needles, and longer primary (inner most) leaf segments on each branch. The fastidious will also find that Giant Horsetails have 20-40 ridges around the stem, while the Common variety have 10-15. At harvest time, the shoot thickness and wall to central void ratio are the most discernible differences.



Perfectly ripe and peeled Giant Horsetail. Photo: Abe Lloyd

**Update on Asian Giant Hornets**

*By Cassie Cichorz, WSDA Plant Protection-Pest Program*

Asian giant hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*) is the world's largest species of hornet. In December 2019, WSDA received and verified two reports of Asian giant hornet near Blaine. These are the first-ever sighting in the United States. Canada had also discovered Asian giant hornet in two locations in British Columbia in the fall of 2019.



*E. telmateia* x-section

*E. arvense* x-section





Asian Giant Hornet trapped in Washington. Photo: WSDA

In 2020, both Washington and Canada have had new [confirmed sightings](#) of Asian giant hornet and in October of 2020, WSDA conducted the [first-ever eradication](#) of an Asian giant hornet nest in the U.S.

Asian giant hornets attack and destroy honey bee hives. A few hornets can destroy a hive in a matter of hours. The hornets enter a "slaughter phase" where they kill bees by decapitating them. They then defend the hive as their own, taking the brood to feed their own young. They also attack other insects but are not known to destroy entire populations of those insects.

While they do not generally attack people or pets, they can attack when threatened. Their stinger is longer than that of a honey bee and [their venom is more toxic](#). They can also sting repeatedly.

If it becomes established, this hornet will have negative impacts on the environment, economy, and public health of Washington State. Residents of Washington State can help detect this invasive species by reporting potential sightings. If you see an Asian giant hornet or have seen evidence of a hive attack, please report it! There are several ways to report suspected sightings in Washington State:

- Report using the [Hornet Watch Report Form](#)
- Email [hornets@agr.wa.gov](mailto:hornets@agr.wa.gov)
- Call 1-800-443-6684

### Your Help Wanted!

Residents of Washington are encouraged to become citizen scientists and help trap for Asian giant hornets in July. WSDA suggests only trapping July through November, when Asian giant hornet workers are more likely to be active. Trapping at other times are

unlikely to catch Asian giant hornets based on their life cycle and will unnecessarily kill local insects.

Although WSDA invites anyone in Washington to participate in trapping, they are particularly interested in trapping information from Whatcom, Skagit, Island, San Juan, Jefferson and Clallam counties. Visit [agr.wa.gov/hornets](http://agr.wa.gov/hornets) for more information about trapping.



Checking a live trap for hornets. Photo: WSDA

### Treasurer's Report

*By Erin Page, Treasurer*

Our chapter continues to have a healthy budget overall. In 2020 and 2021 so far, we are working on some changes internally that will reflect our finances in a positive way so that we can continue to support our members and the greater wetland community! Our chapter recently made the following decisions:

- Voted to approve a \$500 sponsorship of the virtual 2021 Ecological Restoration Symposium
- Voted to sponsor the 2021 UW Botanical Symposium and donate our "free" virtual ticket that came with the donation to a student in need
- Voted to apply any proceeds to our Chapter earned from the SWS virtual meeting in June to offset cost for those who request support.

With the upcoming merger with the Alaska Chapter, we hope to be able to use our funds to support a broader community of wetland scientists and educators! If you would like SWS to support a workshop, training, or a conference, please reach out to Josh at [jwozniak@parametrix.com](mailto:jwozniak@parametrix.com).

### ***May is American Wetlands Month!***

It was back in 2019 when the PNW Chapter organized field trips in Washington and Oregon to celebrate American Wetlands Month in May. This year, we are encouraging our members to share your photos of wetlands and locations in our [Facebook group page](#) or in Twitter (@SWS\_PNW) again, so we can take a virtual field trip with you.



Riverine wetlands and beaver impoundments on the Puyallup River. Photo: Josh Wozniak

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

#### **Coastal Training Program:**

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

- How to Administer Development Permits in Western Washington's Shorelines: May 5-6, 2021. Online.
- Introduction to the National Flood Insurance Program: May 18-26, 2021. Online.
- Planning Effective Projects for Coastal Communities: June 15-17, 2021. Online.
- How to Determine the Ordinary High Water Mark in Western WA: June 29 – July 1, 2021. Online with field option.
- How to Determine the Ordinary High Water Mark in Eastern WA: June 29 – July 1, 2021. Online with field option.

#### **Northwest Environmental Training Center:**

<https://nwetc.org/>

- Basic Statistics for Environmental Professionals: April 27, 29, and May 4, 2021. Online.
- Wetlands: Science and Regulatory Management: May 10-11, 2021. Online. Later sessions also available.
- Comprehensive Environmental Sampling: Methodology, Practice, and Analysis: May 12-13, 2021. Online. Later sessions also available.
- Visualizing and Analyzing Environmental Data with R: May 18, 20, and 25, 2021. Online. Later sessions also available.
- Habitat Site Restoration: June 10-11, 2021. Online.

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

- 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.
- Two-Part Partnering with Beaver Course. Part 1 is May 17-28, 2021. Online. Part 2 is in the fall in the Portland, OR area. Register through River Restoration NW.

- Introduction to Common Plants for Wetland Delineation: June 22-24, 2021. Online and in-class (Portland, OR).

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

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

- Wetland and Waters of the US Training; Online on your own schedule, with live on-site class later.
- Wetland Permitting Training: Online on your own schedule.

#### **The Seminar Group:**

<http://www.theseminargroup.net>

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.

#### **WA Native Plant Society:**

<https://www.wnps.org/events/>

- Know Your Grasses – Virtual Edition: July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021: Online.  
(<https://www.wnps.org/events/1122>)

#### **Western Washington University:**

<https://summer.wwu.edu/>

- Wetland Identification and Delineation: June 21-25, 2021. Online. (Contact instructor Elizabeth Binney for registration override: [binneye@wwu.edu](mailto:binneye@wwu.edu))
- Wetland Plant Identification: Meets MWF from June 21 – July 9 (no July 4). In-person field trips. Bellingham, WA. Contact instructor T. Abe Lloyd for registration override: [lloyd@wwu.edu](mailto:lloyd@wwu.edu))

#### **Wetland Training Institute:**

<http://wetlandtraining.com/>

- Basic Wetland Delineation: June 17-18, 2021. Fairbanks, AK. Hybrid online and in-field.
- Advanced Hydric Soils: June 14-15, 2021. Fairbanks, AK. Hybrid online and in-field.
- Federal Wetland/Waters Regulatory Policy: Online and on your own time.
- Nationwide Permits: Online and on your own time.
- Advanced Hydrology for Jurisdictional Determinations: Online and on your own time.

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

Articles and announcements are welcomed and appreciated for the summer edition of the Chapter newsletter, Volume 31 Number 2 no later than **July 1, 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 monthly board meetings via video 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 April 15, 2021, and our next meeting date is TBD. If you are interested, please contact Josh at [jwozniak@parametrix.com](mailto:jwozniak@parametrix.com) to receive meeting 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!

