



# 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 Lizbeth Seebacher, PNW Chapter President*

The PNW SWS Chapter offered a mini-conference this past October where the President's baton was passed from Yvonne Vallette to me. I've been involved with this Chapter of the SWS and on the board since 2010 after meeting with Scott Luchessa in 2009, the President at that time. I can't believe it's been that long!

In addition to a new President of our PNW Chapter, we have a new Executive Vice President and Treasurer. Josh Wozniak from Parametrix will be filling my position that was just vacated at our fall mini-conference. Erin Page currently working for Whatcom County will serve as our new Treasurer, replacing Karla Gallina. Nate Hough-Snee will move from our Immediate Past President position into the Program Vice President position replacing Fiona McNair. And Yvonne Vallette will be moving into the Immediate Vice President position after serving as the President. We would like to thank Karla and Fiona for all of their hard work, knowledge and assistance with keeping our board and Chapter in line for the past couple of years. We enthusiastically welcome our new board members and thank those who have volunteered to stay on in the same position, Katrina Poppe and Maki Dalzell, thank you! We appreciate all of you for offering your time and expertise to our board and our Chapter. We would like all of our SWS members to consider serving on the board the next time there is an opening.

Don't forget the National SWS meeting for 2018 is coming up on May 29 through June 1<sup>st</sup> in Denver. <https://www.swsannualmeeting.org/>. The Preliminary Schedule and Symposia are available on the website and it looks like it's going to be an excellent conference!

Closer to home, the Society for Ecology Restoration Northwest and our Chapter will be offering a joint conference this fall, October 15 – 19 in Spokane entitled Restoring Resilient Communities in Changing Landscapes. <https://restoration2018.org/>. We are currently inviting symposia and workshop proposals for this conference. If you would like to see a session at the conference on a particular topic, please go to this website and offer your

proposal <https://restoration2018.org/program/symposia>. Additionally, if you are interested in assisting with the 2018 conference, please let me know. The conference committee would love to hear from you!

### ***Invasive Species Corner: African Clawed Frog***

*By Lizbeth Seebacher*

*WA Dept of Ecology*

*Washington Invasive Species Council Member*

*Xenopus laevis*

**Common names:** African clawed frog, African clawed toad, Clawed frog, Common flawed frog

**Family:** Pipidae

**More information:**

[https://wdfw.wa.gov/ais/xenopus\\_laevis/](https://wdfw.wa.gov/ais/xenopus_laevis/)

[https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/priorities/invasive\\_frogs.shtml](https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/priorities/invasive_frogs.shtml)

Unfortunately, Washington State has a new invader. With the common name African clawed frog (ACF), this species is native to the cooler regions of sub-Saharan Africa and is a Prohibited Species per the Department of Fish and Wildlife in Washington (WDFW) and Oregon. Furthermore, In Washington, the frog is assigned a status of Prohibited Level 3. Prohibited Level 3 species pose a moderate to high invasive risk and may be appropriate for prevention, rapid response or other prohibited species management and they may not be possessed, introduced or trafficked. The Risk Assessment for the African Clawed Frog from the Vertebrate Pest Committee in Australia was considered in a Threat Category of Extreme.



Juvenile African Clawed Frog. (Photo: WDFW)

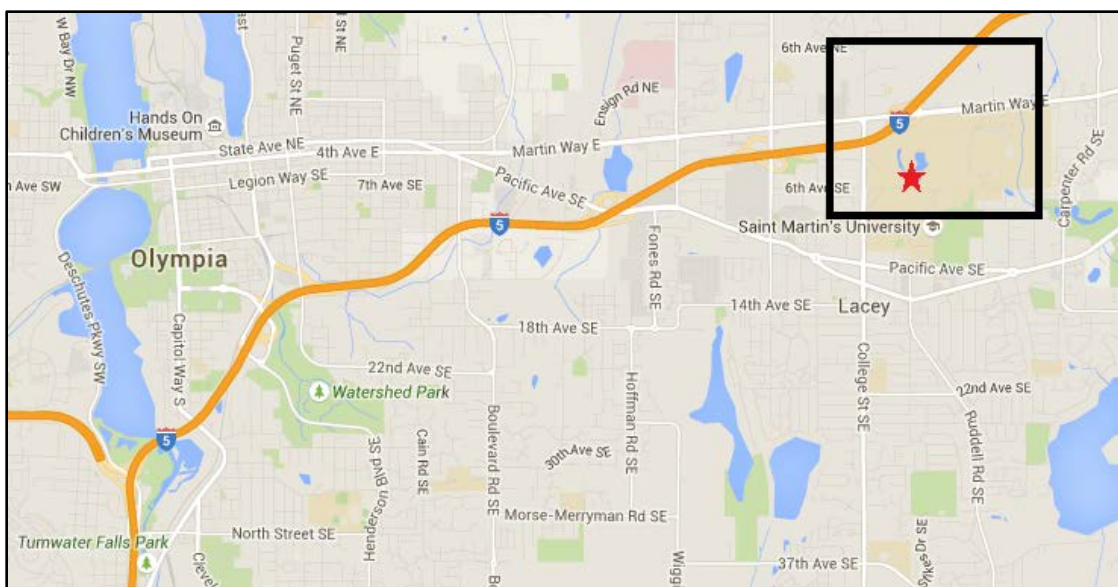
These insatiable predators will eat anything and everything in the aquatic environment, including: invertebrates, crustaceans, other amphibians and fish, even baby ducklings and practice cannibalism of larvae. They can shred prey that is even larger than themselves with their rear feet and have been known to attack prey in groups using their claws.

As with many invasive animals, this amphibian is able to tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions including high salinity levels, pH range, temperatures and poor water quality situations such as high sewage levels.

Adults can live up to 12 years and have a high fecundity rate of 27,000 eggs and in warm climates can reproduce year round producing multiple clutches in a season in favorable conditions.

They have invaded other states in the US, such as California, Florida, Texas and Arizona, and other countries, such as France, Italy, Portugal, Japan, Mexico and Chile where they were found to be dispersing at a rate of almost four km per year. They survive droughts and draw-downs by burrowing into the sediment, can survive starvation conditions for at least eight months, and avoid many predators due to a toxin on their skin. Additionally, it was found that the invasive frogs are carriers of the chytrid fungus and rana virus ([https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/priorities/infectious\\_amphibian\\_diseases.shtml](https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/priorities/infectious_amphibian_diseases.shtml)). Testing by WDFW's Molecular Genetics Lab for the highly virulent amphibian pathogens confirmed that ACF from infested ponds in Lacey are positive for ranavirus.

The first known detection in Washington was in stormwater ponds in Lacey behind St. Martin College and behind the Department of Ecology buildings in July of 2015 by an Ecology employee. A large established population (adults and tadpoles) in the three main ponds was discovered during subsequent surveys by WDFW staff.



The WDFW, the City of Lacey, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Washington Department of Ecology, the Washington Invasive Species Council, and Saint Martin’s University worked on a plan to remove the invasive frogs from the stormwater ponds in August of 2015. Total ACF captured including the initial sampling was 2,270 with very low numbers of native species. A total of 66 concerned individuals, including myself, participated in the initial phase of capturing and removing the frogs from the ponds with traps, seines and dewatering. A total of 397 ACF, 551 Bullfrogs (all tadpoles), and 97 native newts (mostly larval stage) were captured. The other ponds were treated shortly thereafter. The large pond, pond 1 was treated with a salt treatment in the fall of 2017. Over 3,500 ACF were caught in this one pond along with 203 bullfrogs and almost 11,000 goldfish!



Seining for the African Clawed Frog. (Photo: Lizbeth Seebacher)



Captured African Clawed Frogs, male on the left, female on the right. (Photo: Lizbeth Seebacher)

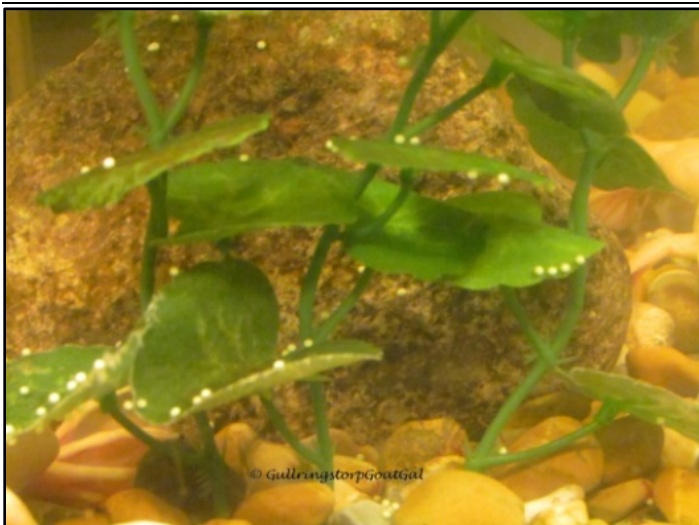
I know that I don’t have to tell SWS members this, but please, don’t ever release a pet into the wild! The findings from this control work on ACF proves that this is still a huge problem. If you would like more information on the Washington Invasive Species Council’s Don’t Let It Loose Campaign, please check out their website here ([https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/council\\_projects/dontletitloose.shtml](https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/council_projects/dontletitloose.shtml)).

Whether you are out in the field working on your respective aquatic and wetland mitigation and restoration projects or out on a hike, or a boat or kayak ride, please keep an eye out for this amphibian. If you see something that concerns you, please take a picture and if you are sure that it is an ACF, please try to capture it so that the identity can be verified. Report your discovery to the Washington Invasive Species Council by visiting <https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml>. This is a very serious invader and we want to promote Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR) methods to keep this species from thriving here and spreading.



African Clawed Frog tadpole. Top scale is inches. (Photo: WDFW)

The Lacey population is not the only population of ACF found, sadly. A population was also found in North Creek on the border of King and Snohomish Counties. This population will be much more difficult to manage as it is in a more natural setting that is connected to wetlands and creeks in the Bothell area. The Washington Invasive Species Council, WDFW, the USFWS and King and Snohomish County are forming a partnership to develop a management strategy for this population in the near future. Stay tuned!



African Clawed Frog – different life stages. (Photo: WDFW)

**Federal Beaver Program in Oregon Suspended**

*From: The Columbia Basin Bulletin*  
<http://www.cbbulletin.com/>

A federal program aimed at killing beavers and other aquatic mammals that cause damage on private properties in Oregon has been suspended to allow for an assessment of how the program might impact endangered salmon and steelhead. Wildlife Services, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, suspended the program this week in response to a notice of intent to sue by two environmental groups, the Center for Biological Diversity and Northwest Environmental Advocates.

"The feds' commitment to stop killing Oregon beavers is good news for beavers, salmon and all of us who care about these animals," said Collette Adkins, an attorney and biologist with the Center for Biological Diversity. "We'll keep the pressure on Wildlife Services and make sure that beavers are protected, not persecuted."

The groups cite "numerous studies" showing beavers benefit endangered salmon and steelhead by creating ponds that provide fish with food and habitat. "Despite these well-established ecological benefits, Wildlife Services killed hundreds of beavers annually with traps, snares and firearms," the groups state in a Jan. 10 press release. In 2016, Wildlife Services killed more than 400 beavers - the official state animal and the mascot for Oregon State University.

Wildlife Services intends to prepare a biological assessment by Feb. 28 through a consultation process with the National Marine Fisheries Service, which is charged with recovery of endangered salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin. "It's way past time for Wildlife Services to recognize the unique and essential role that beavers play in building habitat upon which so many other animals depend," said Nina Bell, director of Northwest Environmental Advocates. "We are pleased that Wildlife Services is moving toward compliance with federal law and paying attention to well-established science."

"It is well established that beavers are critically important to healthy ecosystems, so it makes little sense for Wildlife Services to kill them without understanding the consequences of its actions," said Andrew Hawley of the Western Environmental Law Center. "We will continue to pursue the steps necessary to ensure Wildlife Services ends the taxpayer-funded open season on beavers in Oregon." The groups charged, in part, that the government has failed to ensure that its aquatic mammal damage management activities in Oregon are "not likely to

jeopardize the continued existence of endangered fish and wildlife," and that the program has not initiated required consultation with other agencies to determine if endangered salmonids are hindered by those management activities. The groups say Wildlife Services should be obliged to carry out consultation in order to present "reasonable and prudent" alternatives to lethal control of aquatic mammals so that harm to endangered fish and wildlife is minimized.



Photo: Daniel Rose

In its response to a notice of intent to sue, Wildlife Services pointed out that it did engage in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services regarding potential impacts to bull trout, a species of sucker fish, the Lahontan cutthroat trout and the Oregon Spotted Frog. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with the lethal management activities in regard to impacts on those species. But the groups allege that no such consultation was conducted regarding impacts on 11 salmonid species.

Wildlife Services acknowledged that in its response, including a recent request for consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service to assess potential impacts on the salmonid species. The response goes on to say that it "has ceased all aquatic mammal damage management activities in Oregon related to damage caused by beaver, river otter, muskrat and mink out of an abundance of caution to ensure compliance" with the ESA.

The program, however, will have exceptions for control of aquatic mammals under certain circumstances involving Nutria, a non-native, invasive beaver-like mammal that is present in parts of Oregon. The conservation groups also contend the Oregon aquatic mammal management program was developed in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act, but Wildlife Services says the pending consultation will be in compliance with NEPA and the ESA.

### **Share Your Wetland Videos!**

*By Maki Dalzell, Co-Secretary*

The SWS New Media Team recently launched the SWS YouTube channel to share our mission with a wider audience. Featured videos showcase various wetland topics that help to further our mission.

To help us with this initiative, we ask for members and non-members to share their work and experiences by submitting a video to be featured on our YouTube channel! Please check our website (<http://sws.org/About-SWS/new-media-initiative.html>) to make sure you follow our guidelines for video submission. Once submitted, your video will be reviewed by the SWS Media Team before being posted to the SWS YouTube channel. The editors will contact you via email to provide feedback on your video and to notify you when your video has been approved.

### **Upcoming Webinars**

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

#### **Society of Wetland Scientists:**

Register online at <https://www.sws.org/About-SWS/upcoming-webinars-for-nonmembers.html>

- The Enigmatic Okavango Delta – A Large Wetland in a Dryland: February 15, 2018, 10:00 – 11:00 AM PDT.
- Livestock Grazing Affects Microbial Activity at Different Soil Depths via the Groundwater Level with Potential Implications for Carbon Sequestration: March 15, 2018, 10:00 – 11:00 AM PDT.
- Colorado Natural Heritage Program: April 19, 2018, 10:00 – 11:00 AM PDT.

#### **Association of State Wetland Managers:**

Register online at <http://www.aswm.org/aswm/aswm-webinarscalls>

No webinars scheduled at this time.

#### **Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation:**

Register online at <http://www.erf.org/webinars>

No webinars scheduled at this time.

### **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 [katrina@nwecological.com](mailto:katrina@nwecological.com).

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

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

- How to Administer Development Permits in Western Washington Shorelines: February 15, 2018. Mt. Vernon, WA.
- Grass, Sedge, and Rush Identification for Western WA Puget Sound Lowland Habitats: February 28, 2018. Mt. Vernon, WA.
- How to Explain Science, Share Data and Build Trust: Presentation Skills for Scientists and Public Officials: March 8, 2018. Lacey, WA.

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

<https://nwetc.org/>

- Tribal Environmental Regulation and Jurisdiction: February 20 – 21, 2018. Issaquah, WA.
- Introduction to Environmental Applications with ArcGIS PRO: March 20-22, 2018. Seattle, WA.
- Planning and Preparing an Ecological Risk Assessment: April 30 – May 1, 2018. Issaquah, WA.
- Wetlands: Science and Regulatory Management: May 2 – 3, 2018. Issaquah, WA.

#### **Portland State University Environmental**

##### **Professional Program:**

<https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-professional-program/>

- River Restoration, Part I: Physical Processes: March 13-15, 2018. Portland, OR.
- Basic Wetland Delineation: March 20-22, 2018. Portland, OR.
- River Restoration, Part II: Ecological Processes: April 10-12, 2018. Portland, OR
- Wetland Hydrology Indicators and Problem Situations: May 21-22, 2018. Portland, OR

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

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

- Wetland Delineation: March 5-8, 2018. Seattle, WA.
- Regional Supplement Wetland Delineation: March 7-8, 2018. Seattle, WA.

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

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

No wetland related courses at this time.

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

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

No wetland related courses at this time.

#### **University of Washington Symposium**

- 2018 Washington Botanical Symposium: March 21, 2018. UW Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture – NHS Hall. Seattle, WA.  
<https://botanicgardens.uw.edu/education/adults/conferences-symposia/wa-botanical-symposium/>
- 2018 Symposium, Restoration in a Changing Climate: Adapting Practices to Meet Long-term Goals: April 10, 2018. UW Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture – NHS Hall. Seattle, WA  
<https://botanicgardens.uw.edu/education/adults/conferences-symposia/ecological-restoration-symposium/>

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

<https://ee.wvu.edu/>

No wetland related courses at this time.

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

No wetland related courses at this time.

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

Articles and announcements are welcomed and appreciated for the spring edition of the Chapter newsletter, Volume 28 Number 2, no later than April 15, 2017. Please send associated documentation to co-secretaries Katrina Poppe at [katrina@nwecological.com](mailto:katrina@nwecological.com) or Maki Dalzell at [maki.dalzell@hdrinc.com](mailto:maki.dalzell@hdrinc.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 Lizbeth Seebacher, 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 September 5, 2017 at 12:00 pm, and our next meeting is scheduled on March 6 at 1:00 pm. If you are interested, please contact Lizbeth at [lsee461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:lsee461@ecy.wa.gov) to receive conference call information.

### **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/Pacific-Northwest-Chapter/pacific-northwest-resources.html>. The only requirement to be on this list is current SWS PNW membership. Updates to your SWS member profile do not automatically carryover to the consultant list. If you would like to be added to the list or have your information updated, contact Maki Dalzell at [maki.dalzell@hdrinc.com](mailto: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?Site=SWS&WebCode=LoginRequired>

### **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!