



Ooze News



Society of Wetland Scientists – *Pacific Northwest Chapter* – www.sws.org/regional/pacificnw
Spring 2008

2007 – 2008 Board of Directors

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President's Corner

By Scott Luchessa, PNW Chapter President

Well, the weather continues to be quite interesting. Snow in Seattle on April 18 appears to be a new record. If all the science has not convinced you of a need for action to address global warming, perhaps the unusual weather has caught your attention. Having only been a resident of the Pacific Northwest now for 17 years, I cannot conclusively claim that the recent weather patterns are out of the normal range of variation. However, it certainly has my attention.

As much as I like snow, I am ready to embrace a return to the lovely spring-like weather we enjoyed such a fleeting glance of this past Saturday. I am also hoping that the climatic fluctuations we have been observing has all of you thinking about submitting abstracts for the exciting annual meeting we are planning Portland this September with the Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) that will focus on among other things the role wetland scientists can play in reducing potential impacts from climate change.

One area that really excites me is biosequestration. There seems to be growing evidence that estuarine and forested wetlands are a net sink for carbon, despite being sources of methane emissions. It is exciting that we are now in a position to promote wetland conservation, restoration, and creation in a new light.

For those of you that may have visited the PNW Chapter website recently, have no fear. The deadline for abstract submittals has not expired.

As you can see by visiting the ASWM website at http://www.aswm.org/calendar/wetlands2008/cfp_2008.htm, the call for papers has been extended to Thursday, May 15. Please submit your abstracts and contribute to an exciting meeting in Portland.

2008 Chapter Conference!

By Jim Wiggins, PNW Program Vice President

Pacific Northwest Chapter is helping to host Wetlands 2008 in Portland, Oregon - Volunteers to help organize this meeting are needed!!!

Plans are well underway for Wetlands 2008 to be held in Portland, Oregon on **September 15-19** at the Double Tree Hotel located at the Lloyd Center. Global climate change will be the primary topic at this annual national conference to be co-hosted by the Association of State Wetland Managers and the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists. **The call for papers has been extended to May 15th, so get yours in today!**

Climate change needs to be addressed in the context of existing wetland management and conservation challenges. Discussion of current issues in wetland science, policy and management in combination with the more speculative dialogue on how to respond to climate change will help participants develop strategies to anticipate and adapt to regional changes in climate.

At Wetlands 2008 there will be sessions on climate changes as well as the science, program and policy topics that continue to engage wetland managers and scientists. These include Clean Water Act jurisdiction, state and tribal wetland programs, Carabell/Rapanos guidance, mitigation, invasive species, wetland assessment, wetland restoration and other important topics. Speakers and sessions will feature a number of issues relevant to the Pacific Northwest as well as the rest of the U.S.

Over 300 participants are expected to attend this national meeting and for many participants, this maybe their first visit out to the Pacific Northwest. So our Chapter would like to do a good job in hosting this national meeting. But to do that we still need volunteers to help organize a number of important conference activities such as: planning or leading field trips, workshops, or organizing special sessions. We also need help in contacting potential local sponsors for this event.

At the Chapter level, the current organizing committee members include: Jim Wiggins (atsi@fidalgo.net), Leandra Cleveland (Leandra.Cleveland@hdrinc.com), Janet Morlan (Janet.Morlan@state.or.us) and Yvonne Vallette (vallette.yvonne@epa.gov). Please contact one of us via email to indicate your willingness to help out in hosting this meeting. Most of the organizing activities and coordination be are done via regularly scheduled conference calls. If you have ever helped to organize a technical meeting and can pitch in or if you are interested in learning how to organize a meeting, this is

your chance to contribute. Email one of us today to join in the fun!!!!

Member Services

By Scott Luchessa, PNW Chapter President

Folks, you are the heart of the organization and its strength. I know it is obvious but without you, there is not a society. As such, your board wants to make sure your interests are represented and members are receiving the services they expect.

We have been learning that a few members have been dissatisfied with member services, such as receipt of newsletters, notices, and notification of abstract acceptance or rejection. Please do not hesitate to contact any board member with any issues associated with membership.

There has been some confusion among members regarding membership renewal. Membership is based on the calendar year, regardless of when you renew. So, if you renew in June, your membership still lapses on December 31st.

If you have trouble renewing your membership online, are not receiving electronic and paper renewal notices, or are experiencing poor service for whatever reason, please let us know. As we move more to paperless management of the society's business, it is critical that you keep the Secretariat (Burk & Associates) apprised of your current contact information, **especially your email address.**

You can manage your member profile (contact information) online at <http://www.sws.org/membership/addresschange.mgi>. You will need your member number and last name to log on.

**Current and Past Issues of Ooze New are Available at our website:
www.sws.org/regional/pacificnw**

Wetlands on the Eastside

By Leslie Gecy, EcoWest Consulting

It has seemed lately that professional wetland activities on the eastside have followed the local drought

hydrology-intermittent at best! However, along with the increased snowpack, we have now been able to establish ongoing professional activities in the far eastern reaches of Oregon. The Native Plant Society of Oregon, William Cusick chapter had been re-activated. The local group has an affinity towards wetlands. The April 24 meeting of the NPSO will be in Baker at the County library, 2400 Resort Street and will focus on the local role of beavers in riparian wetlands, based on data collected from the Burnt River. There will be several wetland-related field trips this summer with the details posted on the NPSO website. <http://williamcusick.npsoregon.org>.

We have also started a local Women in Wetlands group that meets the second Thursday of each month. Locations vary and men are welcome. For more information about either group, feel free to contact Leslie Gecy at 541-523-5572 or at lesliegecy@aol.com.

Western Climate Initiative

By Scott Luchessa, PNW Chapter President

Hey, it's a hot topic. Sorry, that was a bad pun. In case you missed it, the WCI continues to rapidly evolve thanks to the leadership of the various western states and Canadian provinces that are participating. The comment period on the draft design documents for allocations, electricity, offsets, reporting and scope ended on April 16.

I strongly encourage you all to participate in this process. There is a strong possibility that wetland restoration, creation, and enhancement could be treated as "offsets" under the developing regional cap-and-trade program. Details for documenting baseline conditions, developing protocols for calculating carbon sequestration and carbon credits, and monitoring and verifying them remain to be worked out. Check out the WCI website at http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org/WCI_Document_s.cfm for more details.

For you Washingtonians, check out the final report of the Climate Advisory Team *Leading the Way: A Comprehensive Approach to Reducing Greenhouse Gases in Washington State*. By following the Washington State link accessed by clicking on the Provincial/State Action tab. Oregonians will find a host of documents through the Oregon link. Idahoans, you will have to be content looking at information provided through other states or inform the WCI site webmaster of emerging policies or efforts under consideration in Idaho.

SWS Funds Available for Wetlands Workshops

By Jeff Walker, PNW Secretary

The PNW Chapter Board is encouraging applications for SWS support to conduct workshops on relevant topics. The application for can be found on the chapter website: <http://www.sws.org/regional/pacificNW/workshop.html>.

2009 Chapter Meeting with CERF

By Scott Luchessa, PNW Chapter President

For those of you that weighed in on the request for feedback on whether to join the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) in a joint meeting in November 2009, thank you very much for your thoughts. About two thirds of the respondents were in favor of a joint meeting with CERF and your board concurs and is in the process of making arrangements for a joint meeting.

The CERF component of the meeting will certainly focus on coastal and estuarine research, which is fantastic for those Pacific Northwest Chapter members with an interest in estuarine wetlands. However, the meeting will also include sessions on freshwater wetlands.

For those of you that expressed a concern about a narrow focus, do not dismay and please plan on attending. The success of our meetings is in part our diversity. Please help continue to bring this diversity and help organize concurrent sessions on topics that are of interest to you.

Lastly, several members were clear and the board shares your concern for maintaining the unique identity of our Pacific Northwest Chapter. We can consider having a Chapter only meeting in 2010. However, this also means that people need to come forward and contribute their energy to organizing such a meeting.

Have you moved? To ensure you receive each issue of Ooze News, please change your address at the national Society of Wetland Scientists website: www.sws.org

Calendar of Wetland Classes and Workshops

By Leandra Cleveland, PNW Executive Vice President

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 wetland related classes please forward the weblink to leandra.cleveland@hdrinc.com.

Portland State University Environmental Professional Program.

Contact: <http://epp.esr.pdx.edu/>

- Basic Wetland Delineation: April 21-25, 2008. Portland, OR
- Wetland Plants of the Pacific Northwest: May 5-9, 2008. Portland, OR
- NW Willow Identification and Revegetation: May 14, 2008. Portland, OR
- Advanced Wetland Soils and Hydrology for Delineators: May 27-29, 2008. Portland, OR
- Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Biomonitoring: June 18-19, 2008. Portland, OR
- Grasses, Sedges and Rushes of the Pacific NW: July 9-11, 2008. Portland, OR

Wetland Training Institute, Inc.

Contact: <http://www.wetlandtraining.com/>

- Advanced Geographical JDs post Rapanos and SWANCC: April 21-22, 2008. Seattle, WA
- Basic Wetland Delineation: May 12-18, 2008. Arlington, WA
- Regional Supplement Seminar: May 20, 2008. Arlington, WA
- Hydric Soil Indicators and Problem Soils: June 30-July 2, 2008. Arlington, WA
- Tidal Wetlands of the West Coast: Rapid Methods for Assessing Functions and Health: July 23-25, 2008. Anacortes, WA
- Planning Hydrology for Constructed Wetlands: August 19-22, 2008. Seattle, WA
- Basic Wetland Delineation: September 15-19, 2008. Arlington, WA
- Invasive Plants and Destructive Herbivores in Constructed Wetlands: Sept 15-Dec 19, 2008 (internet)
- Assessment and Banking of Ecosystem Services: November 12-15, 2008. Corvallis, OR

Richard Chinn Environmental Training, Inc.

Final Compensatory Mitigation Rule

By Scott Luchessa, PNW Chapter President

As many of you probably are aware, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and U.S. Environmental

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

- Wetland Delineation Training: June 9-12, 2008. Seattle, WA
- Wetland Delineation and Management Training: June 16-19, 2008. Seattle, WA
- Wetland Delineation Training: December 1-4, 2008. Portland, OR

Western Washington University.

Contact elizabeth.binney@wwu.edu and <http://www.acadweb.wwu.edu/eesp/summer/sshome.asp>

- Wetland Characterization and Assessment: Tools and Tricks of the Trade: July 7-11, 2008. Bellingham, WA.
- Wetland Identification and Delineation: July 21-25, 2008. Bellingham, WA.

Coastal Training Program.

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

- Using the Revised WA State Wetland Rating System in Western WA: May 7-8, 2008. Olympia, WA
- Using the Revised WA State Wetland Rating System in Western WA: June 17-18, 2008. Olympia, WA

The Seminar Group

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

- 2008 Oregon Wetlands: May 1-2, 2008. Portland, OR.

SWS PNW Chapter Sponsored Workshops

Contact: Patricia McQueary,
McQueaP@WSDOT.WA.GOV

- Hydric Soils Workshop, April 25-26, 2008. Lacey, WA.
- Hydric Soils Workshop, May 8-9, 2008. Mt Vernon, WA.

If you would like to be removed from our paper newsletter mailing list and receive them electronically, please contact Jeff or Amy with your request

Protection Agency (EPA) recently published a final rule pertaining to compensatory wetland mitigation.

The final rule entitled "Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources" was published in the Federal Register on April 10, 2008. For those of you that are sticklers for citations, the complete citation is

“Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources; Final Rule,” 73 Federal Register 70 (10 April 2008), pp. 19594-19705. A copy of the final rule can be obtained from the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/wetlandsmitigation/#regs>.

This rule effects the Corps and EPA’s administration of the 404 program through modification of the Corps regulations at 33 CFR Parts 325 and 332 and EPA’s regulations at 40 CFR Part 230. Much of the document is a lengthy discussion of comments received and the agencies position (agree or disagree) and action (modification of the regulations). The new regulations adopt many of the recommendations made by the National Research Council in their 2001 critique of the Corps 404 permit program. New regulations begin on p. 19671 and end on p. 19705.

The intent of the regulations is, of course, to improve the planning, implementation, and management and effective outcome of compensatory wetland mitigation projects to better achieve the national goal of no net loss of wetland acreage and functions. The new regulations aim to improve the success of compensatory wetland mitigation through:

- promoting a watershed approach to selecting compensatory mitigation sites;
- requiring measurable and enforceable ecological performance standards;
- requiring regular monitoring;
- specifying the 12 components of a complete compensatory mitigation plan: objectives; site selection criteria; site protection instruments (e.g., conservation easements); baseline information (impact and compensation sites); credit determination methodology; mitigation work plan; maintenance plan; ecological performance standards; monitoring requirements; long-term management plan; adaptive management plan; and financial assurances.

In some cases, the use of third party mitigation (mitigation banks, and in-lieu fee programs) rather than permittee-responsible mitigation is expected to remain the most practicable means of mitigating wetland impacts. The intent of the new regulations is reportedly Society of Wetland Scientists, PNW Chapter
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to treat permittee-responsible and third-party mitigation equivalently.

The revised regulations includes the need to incorporate best available science into ecological performance standards but also contain the caveat “that can be measured or assessed in a practicable manner.” I expect that this will likely mean that what is viewed as practicable will be commensurate with both the nature of the functions of the impacted wetlands, cost of the proposed project, and probability of successfully replacing the functions at the compensatory mitigation site.

It is clear that the discretion to implement these regulations will remain with the district engineer and the level of effort required to obtain permits will likely continue to vary from district to district. For those of us within the domains of the Corps districts governing compensatory wetland mitigation here in the Pacific Northwest, it does not appear that the new regulations represent much of a change from the way we are doing business now. **The new regulations take effect June 9, 2008.**

Want to be Included in the Consultant Directory?

By Jeff Walker, PNW Secretary

The PNW SWS chapter website contains a consultant list of SWS members and their contact information on the chapter website. We update this list quarterly. If you want to be included on the list, please email the contact information you like included to Jeff at: tranger0@yahoo.com.

Summer Newsletter Deadline is July 15, 2008! Send your articles and announcements to Amy or Jeff