



Ooze News



Society of Wetland Scientists – Pacific Northwest Chapter – www.sws.org/regional/pacificnw
Spring 2009

2008 – 2009 Board of Directors

President

Scott Luchessa
Ecological Solutions, Inc.
4013 32nd Ave W
Seattle, WA 98199
(206) 285-3015
sluchessa@environcorp.com

Executive Vice President

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

Immediate Past President

Ralph Garono
Earth Design Consultants Inc.
230 SW Third, Suite 212
Corvallis, OR 97333
(541) 757-7896
rgarono@earthdesign.com

Program Vice President

Jim Wiggins
ATSI
21993 Grip Road
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
(360) 856-2139
atsi@fidalgo.net

Treasurer

Yvonne Vallette
USEPA, Region 10, OOO
811 SW 6th Ave. Portland, OR 97204
(503) 326-2716
vallette.yvonne@epa.gov

Secretary/Newsletter Editors

Jeff Walker
URS Corporation
1501 4th Avenue, Suite 1400
Seattle, WA 98101-1662
(206) 438-2351
tranger0@yahoo.com

Amy Dearborn
Fourth Corner Nursery
PO Box 1311
Bellingham, WA 98227
(206) 612-8283
doeadearborn@hotmail.com

President's Corner

By Scott Luchessa, PNW Chapter President

So, the first 100 days of the new administration have passed. Clearly our political system remains a challenge even to a President who appears to have an ability to reach across the aisle and bring together otherwise divergent parties. Nonetheless, if anything is clear from the beginning of the Obama's term, it is that change will not come easy and we will continue to have to be vigilant. This is particularly true because of the focus on the economy. Lest we forget, healthy natural resources still drive our economy and without them....well, you know the rest of the story.

In our busy lives, it is sometimes difficult to take time to reflect on what is really important. I know that this is true of my life and suspect that many of you are no different. Heck, it is easy to get wrapped up in our jobs and routines but more difficult to stray into new and potentially unknown or uncomfortable territory. Not only that but it takes precious time. Now more than ever perhaps, we must let our local, state, and federal legislators know what is important to us, their constituents and how our hard earned tax dollars should be responsibly spent. Millions of dollars are being spent on economic stimulus projects and decisions are being made very rapidly. Climate change remains an extremely important consideration and our time for action and making meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to stem potentially devastating impacts from climate change appears to be rapidly closing. Fortunately, not all the news has been negative. In fact, it is quite the contrary. Here in the Pacific Northwest, many large scale, apparently sustainable clean energy projects are rapidly moving forward, including wind farms both on land and possibly offshore. Harnessing the energy of the oceans also appears to be gaining traction as do biofuels that appear to have the potential to make positive and significant net lifecycle reductions in greenhouse gas emissions when compared to business as usual. The Obama Administration has certainly contributed to the stimulation of research and development in these areas.

Federal and regional cap-and-trade programs remain under consideration. The Pew Center remains my favorite link to useful information on introduced legislation, policy briefs, and much more. The Pew Center link to activities within the U.S. federal government can be found online at <http://www.pewclimate.org/federal>.

Of particular interest is the discussion draft of The American Clean Energy and Security Act, which calls for a cap-and-trade system. This document was written by House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Energy and Environment Subcommittee Chair Edward Markey (D-MA). This document was released on March 31, 2009. At 648 pages, it is not exactly a quick read. The four main titles within this bill are: Clean Energy; Energy Efficiency; Reducing Global Warming Pollution (the cap-and-trade program part); and Transitioning to a Clean Energy Economy. For those of you that have read proposed bills before, it is not as long as you might think. I would strongly encourage you to take a look at this and consider contacting your legislators to support a strong bill. At the very least, stay informed by reading the one-page summary that has been prepared by the Pew Center staff. As it stands now, the scope of coverage is limited to seven greenhouse gases (GHGs): carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydro-fluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and nitrogen trifluoride. Regulated entities would include large stationary sources emitting more than 25,000 tons per year of GHGs, producers (i.e., refineries) and importers of all petroleum fuels, residential and commercial sellers of natural gas (i.e., local distribution companies), producers of “F-gases” and other specified sources. It also calls for regulations to limit emissions of black carbon. Emission reduction caps for the identified GHGs for all covered entities are 3% below 2005 levels by 2012; 20% below 2005 levels by 2020; 42% below 2005 levels by 2030; and 83% below 2005 levels by 2050. These are consistent with the targets identified by the Obama administration as you might recall. According to the Pew Center analysis, the draft does not contain clear language whether allowances in this cap-and-trade program would be auctioned or free. Up to 2 billion equivalent tons of offsets (1 billion domestic and 1 billion international) would be allowed. The President would have the authority to recommend that Congress alter this total up or down. The EPA would determine project offset eligibility based on recommendations from an Offsets Integrity Advisory Board. Banking and borrowing would be allowed but be limited. This version of the bill reportedly does contain at least some cost containment measures as well in the form of a strategic reserve auction with initial minimum prices being set at two times the EPA’s price forecast for year 2012 allowances and stepping up in future years. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission would regulate the cash market in allowances and offsets. As with the Clean Air Act, states could enact more stringent climate

regulations except for cap-and-trade programs. Current provisions would require state and presumably regional programs to be put on hold from 2012 to 2017 to give the federal program a chance to get started. If the federal system proved inadequate, the Pew analysis indicates states would be allowed to restart their trading programs.

Closer to home, the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) cap-and-trade program is quietly moving forward. On February 19, a 2009-2010 work plan was published. Rather than go into detail on the contents of this, suffice it to say that the details for the WCI program are being addressed through various committees. Please visit the WCI website <http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org/> to download a copy of the new work plan.

Thanks for your attention and please look through the rest of this issue for more information on upcoming workshops, updates on student awards, annual meeting planning and news, the latest on the soil and wetland scientist title act in Washington and more. For those of you that support the soil and wetland scientist title act in Washington, please send letters of support to Lisa Palazzi, Jim Wiggins, or myself. Please see the update article by Jim Wiggins for more details on the status of the legislation.

PNW Chapter Conference - Wetlands 2008: Wetlands and Global Climate Change

Mark your calendars for this year’s chapter conference in Portland, Oregon on September 15-19th, 2008. This year’s chapter conference will be a joint conference between the Society of Wetland Scientists PNW Chapter and the Association of State Wetland Managers. Global climate change will be the primary topic with symposia to describe challenges, identify opportunities, and share cooperative strategies for protecting, restoring, and conserving wetlands in response to climate change. Watch the website for updates in the coming months!! <http://aswm.org/calendar/index.htm#symp>

SWS PNW on Facebook

The PNW Chapter of SWS is now on FACEBOOK. What is facebook you ask ? Well, it is a social networking web site that is free to use. Why do you ask? Because the organizers of the 2009 CERF/ PNW SWS meeting in November 2009 are planning to use facebook to link students with other students, and students with

mentors. Don't be left out! Point your browser to www.facebook.com and get signed up. Then look for the PNW SWS Group. It is easy and it is free.

Calendar of Classes and Workshops

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 weblink to leandra.cleveland@hdrinc.com.

WSPSS Workshops

Contact:

http://www.ieway.com/wspss/wspss_news.html

- Field Identification of Hydric Soils: July 23-25, 2009. Lacey, WA

SWS-PNW Chapter Sponsored Workshops

Contact: <http://pnw.sws.org/workshop.html>

- Field Identification of Hydric Soils: May 9, 2009. Puyallup, WA

Portland State University Environmental Professional Program.

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

- Wetland Plants of the Pacific Northwest: June 1-5, 2009. Portland, OR
- Basic Wetland Delineation: June 8-12, 2009. Portland, OR
- Grasses, Sedges and Rushes of the Pacific NW: July 7-9, 2009. Portland, OR

Wetland Training Institute, Inc.

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

- Assessing Wetland Function and Health: May 13-15, 2009. Portland, OR
- Basic Wetland Delineation Field Practicum : May 16-17, 2009. Arlington, WA
- Regional Supplement Seminar: May 18-19, 2009. Arlington, WA
- Planning Hydrology for Constructed Wetlands: August 25-28, 2009. Seattle, WA
- Basic Wetland Delineation Training: September 21-25, 2009. Arlington, WA

Richard Chinn Environmental Training, Inc.

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

- Wetland Delineation and Management Training: June 22-25, 2009. Boise, ID
- Regional Supplement Wetland Delineation Training: June 25, 2009. Boise, ID
- Wetland Delineation and Management Training: July 6-9, 2009. Anchorage, AK

- Regional Supplement Wetland Delineation Training: July 9, 2009. Anchorage, AK
- Wetland Delineation and Management Training: December 1-4, 2009. Portland, OR
- Regional Supplement Wetland Delineation Training: December 4, 2009. Portland, OR

Coastal Training Program.

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

- How to Determine the Ordinary High Water Mark: May 6-7, 2009. Lacey, WA
- Planning for Protection and Restoration of Eelgrass Habitats: May 21, 2009. Lacey, WA
- Puget Sound Coastal Processes and Shoreline Stabilization Measures: June 4 & 10, 2009. Lacey, WA
- Using the Interagency Mitigation Guidance to Review Mitigation Plans: June 23, 2009. Lacey, WA

University of Washington – Professional Development Program

Contact: <http://www.engr.washington.edu/epp>

- Wetland Delineation: May 11-15, 2009. Bothell, WA

The Seminar Group

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

- Permitting Strategies: May 22, 2009. Seattle, WA
- 18th Annual Oregon Water Law: November 5-6, 2009. Portland, OR

Want to be Included in the Consultant Directory?

The SWS PNW chapter just posted a consultant list containing SWS members, their contact information, and their PWS or WPIT status on the chapter website. It is expected that some state and county governments who currently host a listing of consultants would instead, or in addition, post a link over to our SWS PNW website list. SWS cannot make any endorsement, nor are we currently able to do any policing of qualifications. We will be updating the list quarterly. If you want to be included on the list, please email the contact information you'd like included to Jeff at: tranger0@yahoo.com.

Summer Newsletter Deadline is July 15, 2009! Send your articles and announcements to Amy or Jeff.

Isolated Wetlands ... Discovering Connections



SWS 2010 Conference - Bellingham, WA

Save the date!

The 2010 PNW SWS conference will be held on the **28th, 29th, and 30th of April 2010** at the Best Western Lakeway Inn and Convention Center in Bellingham, WA

The theme is: **Isolated wetlands, discovering connections**

A call for papers and symposia will be advertised late summer. Some ideas for sessions are: Isolated wetlands, corridors, aquatic macroinvertebrates, bioindicators, adaptive management, best available science, regulatory updates, FEMA, ESA, Ordinary High Water Mark, hydric soils, wetland hydrology, watershed management plans, avoidance and its applicability, mitigation, climate change, carbon sequestration, thinking outside the box

THE COMMITTEE REQUESTS YOUR ASSISTANCE

Conference organizing committee meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the David Evans Assoc. office, 119 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, WA. Contact Jim Wiggins at atsi@fidalgo.net for information. Did someone mention **fashion show**?

CERF 2009 Conference in Portland, Oregon 1-5 November 2009

In partnership with the
Society of Wetland Scientists, Pacific Northwest Chapter

Sponsored by EPA, OWOW, Coastal Management Branch, NOAA Fisheries, Office of Habitat Conservation, Western Association for Marine Laboratories, and the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership.

Important Dates

Abstract submittal service online:	21 February 2009
Abstract submission and fee deadline:	15 May 2009
Early Registration Ends:	1 October 2009
Meeting Commences:	1 November 2009

Conference registration is now open. Participants may now pay their abstract fee and register using one form. www.sgmeet.com/cerf2009/

Certification of Wetland and Soil Scientists in Washington

As it now stands, Senate Substitute Bill (SSB 5698) was passed through the Senate during this 2009 session. The Bill was modified by the Senate during this review. The modifications included the removal of grandfathering, the inclusion of using national organizations for certification, and the removal of an advisory board at the Department of Licensing.

The Bill then went to the House Commerce and Labor Committee for a hearing on March 24, 2009. New opposition, primarily related to wetland science certification issues, resulted in revising some bill language. The Bill will now need to return during the 2010 session with language that would solve these new concerns.

A meeting on May 19, 2010 will occur at the Department of Licensing in Olympia to discuss those concerns with the stakeholders. For a full review of the history and most current updates check into this website <http://www.soilscientistlicensing.com/>. In the meantime, you can find the bill at: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/default.aspx> by typing in 5698 to the 'search by bill number's box.

Please contact the above referenced website, or for questions, contact Jim Wiggins at atsi@fidalgo.net; Lisa Palazzi at pacificrim@tss.net, and/or Scott Luchessa at luchessa@environcorp.com.

Call for Candidates

This year is the year to elect a new group of officers to the Board of Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists. Thank you for your responses. Last Call for folks willing to toss their hats into the ring! We have had several inquires. It is not too late to nominate yourself or have a friend nominate you.

The job of our Chapter's Board is to make sure that our membership is being served by both our regional chapter, and by SWS International.

Board responsibilities include answering questions and concerns from our members and attending quarterly chapter board meetings where the business of our chapter gets done. The Secretary is in charge of meeting minutes, the Ooze News Chapter Newsletter, and developing membership lists. The Vice-President steps into the Presidency, and the Treasurer handles all of the chapter's finances. In addition to the responsibilities

outlined above, the Chapter President attends two additional meetings with other chapter presidents and the International SWS Executive Board. Recently, the International SWS board meets via phone. Roles and responsibilities are outlined in our bylaws --- available on our website (pnw.sws.org).

Board meetings generally take place where it is most convenient for the members: in the past, we have taken turns meeting at our homes or have picked a centrally located spot.

Any member in good standing can be nominated. The next board will be determined by a vote of the general membership.

So, I urge you to nominate yourself or another member for one of the following positions: President; Executive Vice-President; Program Vice-President; Secretary; and Treasurer.

Send your nomination to me by the end of June 2009 (rgarono@earthdesign.com or 230 SW 3rd, Ste. 212, Corvallis, OR 97333) and I'll forward them to the board. Voting will occur before our next annual meeting in November 2009. Do it now while you are thinking of it!

SWS PNW Scholarships!

The PNW Scholarship Committee recommended Andrew Lutz for the \$1,000 scholarship to attend the International SWS meeting in Madison in June. Andrew is a sophomore in the Environmental Sciences program at the Oregon Institute of Technology. He plans to present his research, Patterns of Vegetation Development at the Wood River Wetland, Oregon, at the meeting. We still have Chapter funds available to support undergraduate and graduate student participation in the Chapter Meeting (\$500 each) in November 2009.

To apply: students must submit proof of student status (photo copy of ID or letter from advisor), a short paragraph describing their career goals and an abstract describing their wetland research. Applicants will be selected by the PNW SWS education committee on the basis of their student status, academic and career goals and their ability to present their work at our meetings.

Deadline for applying for the Fall Chapter Meeting is **15 September 2009**.

To Apply: send your application to:

Dr. Ralph J. Garono
Earth Design Consultants, Inc.
230 SW Third St., Ste 212

Corvallis, OR 97333

or via email: rgarono@earthdesign.com

Society of Wetland Scientists, PNW Chapter
PO BOX 1311
Bellingham, Washington 98227

If you would like to be removed from our paper newsletter mailing list, please contact Jeff or Amy with your request. Current and past issues of this newsletter are available on our website www.sws.org/regional/pacificnw.

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. The PNW Chapter of SWS has a new website: www.sws.org/regional/pacificnw. Update your address books!