Hello and greetings from the Corner. Like the changing season, so has the PNW Chapter board turned over and now begins anew. I want to thank the outgoing board members for their dedication and tremendous work. They are Scott Luchessa, Greta Murdoff, C. Mirth Walker, and Andrew Ray. Continuing in her invaluable capacity as Treasurer is Yvonne Vallette. Also continuing on the board, but in new and exciting ways are Lizbeth Seebacher and Leandra Cleveland as Program Vice President and Immediate Past President, respectively. And of course, big welcomes to new board members Nate Hough-Snee (Executive VP), Karla Van Leaven (Co-Secretary), and James Guzman (Co-Secretary).

With the 2012 Chapter meeting done and dusted, the new board is now focusing on other business matters. We are reviewing our current social media with the intent of updating and upgrading the web page. We are also examining not only how we operate and maintain our Facebook and LinkedIn sites, but how those sites may best serve the society. Also on our list is a look at cloud storage options for our archival records.

The next Chapter meeting, scheduled for May 18-23, 2014 will be a first-ever International Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting, held in conjunction with The Association of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), Phycological Society of American (PSA), and The Society of Freshwater Sciences (SFS). Because 2014 is a long stretch between meetings, the board is discussing the potential for less formal, regional PNW Chapter gatherings. These gatherings could be anything from a keynote speaker luncheon to a bowling party or even a flash-mob event. What it will take, however, is local creativity, organization, and support. If you would like to organize an event, please contact either me or Lizbeth Seebacher (Lsee461@ecy.wa.gov). I look forward to seeing your great ideas.

Cheers
Colin MacLaren, President
Successful SWS PNW Chapter Meeting in Boise
By Leandra Cleveland, Past President

This year’s chapter meeting in Boise in September was very successful. It was a great opportunity to meet and network with our Idaho members and explore the varied landscape on the “eastside”. To start off the conference, our plenary speaker Robert B. Tiedemann, Ecological Design, Inc., spoke about the differing views of politics and people toward the environment. Jon Shellenberger, Yakama Nation, spoke on Thursday about tradition and the part it can play in restoring entire ecosystems.

We had 105 participants attend this year’s meeting, of which 15 were students and 50 were current SWS members. The conference included nearly 50 speakers presenting technical sessions on a variety of topics ranging from riparian fringe, climate change, regulatory updates, wetland delineations, restoration/mitigation, invasive species, and other interesting topics. Our workshops and fieldtrips were also a hit. At our evening social, we had another installment of the popular fashion show that did not disappoint. Thanks to all those who participated in the event. The band, The Billy Goats, was a great local addition to the evening with their bluegrass tunes.

This conference would not have been a success without the hard work of the conference organizing committee and the generosity of our conference sponsors. Committee members included (members listed in alphabetical order): Elisabeth Brackney, Chris Coslon, Larry Devroy, Syd Fredrickson, Shelly Gilmore, James Guzman, Jeff Kee, Matt Kuziensky, Scott Luchessa, Colin McLaren, Janet Morlan, Greta Murdoff, Chris Murphy, Nancy Olmsted, Justin Peterson, Katrina Poppe, Andy Ray, Lizbeth Seebacher, Nate Hough-Snee, Yvonne Vallette, Karla Van Leaven, and Mirth Walker.

Election Results: Welcome to the new Board of Directors for the PNW Chapter of the SWS
By Past Secretary, C. Mirth Walker

Welcome to the new board of directors of the PNW Chapter of the SWS! Thank you for stepping up to serve your society and your chapter. For my part, it has been a pleasure to serve the chapter for the past three years, and I am happy to witness what comes next! Here are the biographies of your current board:

Colin MacLaren, President

Colin is a wetland ecologist now with Parametrix. He began his career in the early 1990s. Colin has both worked as a consultant in the northwest and for the Department of State Lands in Oregon. Through those lenses and over the course of several years he has come to appreciate the unique setting and culture in which Pacific Northwest Chapter members, academics, and professionals work. He has gained a deep respect for the foundation established by the talented individuals that served on the SWS board in past years, and by all those that have and continue to contribute their time and energy to help shape the Pacific Northwest Chapter. This work, however, must continue in order for the Chapter to effectively serve its members and the community. Colin will use the opportunity to build on earlier successes and to help the chapter evolve, to encourage new membership and broader participation, and to respond to changing member interests and requirements.

Nate Hough-Snee, Executive Vice President

Nate is an ecologist at the USDA Forest Service where he is a part of the PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinion (PIBO) effectiveness monitoring program, assessing riparian condition across the interior Columbia River basin. Before accepting his position at the Forest Service, Nate received his B.A. in Environmental Studies and his M.S. in Ecosystem Analysis, both from the University of Washington in Seattle, where he focused on restoration ecology, riparia and wetlands, and plant ecology. In addition to his current post, Nate has worked for tribal, local government, and academic organizations as well as private consultancies across Washington, New Zealand and Alaska, providing expertise in restoration ecology, wetland science, and ecosystem assessment and monitoring. Nate has a strong interest in merging applied research and ecological design to improve wetland restoration and mitigation outcomes and is a proponent of using adaptive monitoring to detect biological thresholds in wetlands and riparia. Additionally, Nate is also interested in citizen science, community-based ecological restoration and environmental education as they pertain to urban and agricultural ecosystems.

Nate will work with the executive board to continue the chapter’s professional training opportunities and popular student programs including the regional and annual meeting conference scholarships. He will also work to increase membership within the chapter, especially among students and recent graduates, by increasing the chapter’s visibility. He believes that by using social media, forming partnerships with new professional organizations (Society for Ecological Restoration Great Basin, etc.), and by capitalizing on existing organizational relationships (Society for Ecological Restoration Northwest, Northwest Scientific Association, etc.), we can highlight our chapter’s training opportunities, conferences and scholarships to recruit new SWS-PNW members and energize our existing membership. Nate looks forward to working with the
board to continue to offer a high-quality chapter program that serves the professional development needs of our diversifying membership across the many realms of wetland science.

**Lizbeth Seebacher, Program Vice President**

Lizbeth is a wetland and aquatic biologist with a focus on invasive species and restoration. She holds a master’s of science and doctoral degree from the University of Washington. Her research concentrated on estuarine and freshwater wetland restoration and invasive plant biology and control. Ms. Seebacher has over 10 years of experience restoring palustrine and estuarine wetlands in the Pacific Northwest. She has worked with the Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council as the Executive Director, the Corps of Engineers as a Biologist focusing on wetland mitigation compliance and is now with the Washington State Department of Ecology managing the Aquatic Invasive Plant and Algae programs and lake restoration. She has taught at Bellevue College and has developed and taught at numerous workshops. She has been involved with the Society of Wetland Scientists for over two years and has recently served as co-secretary and newsletter editor and article contributor for the past 18 months.

**Yvonne Vallette, Treasurer**

Yvonne Vallette is an Aquatic Ecologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For the last fifteen years she has worked in EPA’s Oregon Operations Office in Portland as the Oregon Wetland and Watershed coordinator and the Lower Columbia River Estuary Program Manager for EPA Region 10. Yvonne has been an SWS member since 1987, and a Professional Wetland Scientist since 1994. She has served on the Pacific Northwest Chapter’s Board of SWS since 2001, first as Secretary/Newsletter Editor and then as its Treasurer.

**Karla Van Leaven, Secretary**

Karla has been an active member of SWS since 2008 and has volunteered with the chapter for about the same. She was an audio/visual (AV) volunteer at the 2008 meeting in Portland, Oregon, the AV sub-committee chair for the 2010 meeting in Bellingham, Washington, and was the sponsor/exhibitor sub-committee chair for the 2012 meeting in Boise, Idaho. She also assisted with organizing the 1st Annual Chapter Photo Contest this year. Karla received her Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources with an Environmental Science concentration and cum laude recognition from Paul Smith’s College in New York. Karla is active in continuing biological education by participating in wetland related classes, workshops, and events. She has been working in the wetlands profession for approximately 5 years with Aqua-Terr Systems, Inc., a biological consulting firm. As an associate biologist she assists with wetland delineations, ordinary high water mark determinations, mitigation, monitoring, permitting, and Endangered Species Act consultations, mainly in northwest Washington and also in Alaska. Karla was certified as an SWS Wetlands Professional in Training (WPIT) in 2009 and will be obtaining her Professional Wetland Scientist certification in 2013. Her interest in being Secretary is to quarterly assist with updating the chapter consultant list, producing a quality Ooze News with cutting edge articles, and documenting board meetings by taking notes and reading minutes.

**James Guzman, Secretary**

Five years of being knee deep in the muck and James is excited to be Secretary! James has been working in the field of wetland science since 2006 and has been an active member of SWS since 2007. He has worked as the sponsor/exhibitor sub-committee chair for the 2010 meeting in Bellingham, Washington and the 2012 meeting in Boise, Idaho. James received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Huxley College (Western Washington University) in Environmental Studies, graduating magna cum laude and as Huxley Collage graduate of the year (2005). James has attended three SWS conferences since joining, and has taken approximately 40 hours of continuing education course work per year since 2006 in the field of wetland and related sciences. He has been working in the wetlands profession for approximately 6 years with Earthworks Environmental, Inc., a biological consulting firm, and is actively working on receiving Professional Wetland Scientist certification. James is currently conducting wetland delineations, ordinary high water mark determinations, preparing biological assessments, mitigation plans, and monitoring restoration projects. Of special note, James has previous journalism experience, taking journalism classes in college and working on the Whatcom Community College newspaper for a year in 2002. He looks forward to continuing work with SWS as Secretary conducting his duties appropriately and in a timely fashion. He particularly looks forward to brushing up his journalism skills and bringing fresh ideas to the newsletter.

**Immediate Past President, Leandra Cleveland**

Leandra Cleveland has been an active member of the Society of Wetland Scientists since 2000. She is currently a committee member of the SWS Diversity Program and has served as an undergraduate student mentor for the last few years. At the Chapter level of SWS, she is the Immediate Past President and has enjoyed the time serving the society and chapter as a board member. Leandra works as a wetland scientist for HDR Engineering, Inc. in Portland, Oregon.
New Wetland Restoration Section Proposed
By Nate Hough-Snee, Executive Vice President

Andy Herb, current president of the SWS Rocky Mountain Chapter, has set the gears in motion to create a new section on wetland restoration within the larger Society. Like all SWS sections, the Wetland Restoration Section looks to unite the Society’s interested membership around a common theme. Specifically, the new section’s objectives are:

1. To encourage the sharing of scientific and other technical data regarding wetland restoration between the applied, academic, and regulatory sectors of the wetland science arena.

2. To create a discussion forum for issues related to wetland restoration (including projects driven by local issues, such as regulation in the United States through the Clean Water Act permitting process, or national/international perspectives, such as the delivery of the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Aichi Biodiversity Targets) via symposia organized at the annual meetings of the Society of Wetland Scientists, internet discussion, and/or other informal networking.

3. To provide opportunities and support for students working on issues related to wetland restoration through granting of research awards and educational outreach at special symposia and poster sessions at the biennial meetings of the Society of Wetland Scientists.

These objectives are quoted directly from the proposal for the section, and may change slightly as the section develops. In addition to 2012-13 being a formative time for the Wetland Restoration Section, there is currently an organized symposium on wetland restoration planned for SWS 2013 in Duluth, Minnesota. Interested SWS members should get in touch with Andy Herb directly to express interest in either the section or the organized session: andyherb@alpine-eco.com

The following is Mr. Lemein’s write up on the experiment he is conducting on the Oregon coast.

Wetland Vegetation Reestablishment Following Large Sedimentation (Burial) Events
By Todd J. Lemein, Environmental Science Program, Oregon State University, Introduction by James Guzman, Co-Secretary

Todd J. Lemein, a Ph.D. student (John Harrison, advisor) in the environmental science program at Oregon State University, received the Pacific Northwest Chapter’s Society of Wetland Science International Conference Student Scholarship Award this summer to attend the INTECOL/SWS meeting in Orlando, Florida.

The rate and amount of vegetation reestablishment in estuaries following a large sedimentation event (such as a tsunami) will influence if and how an estuary returns to a pre-disturbance state. Vegetation has been shown to attenuate wave energy as it approaches shore, influencing sediment accretion and erosion feedbacks and its reestablishment may aid in estuary resilience following a disturbance. Threesquare bulrush (*Schoenoplectus pungens*), a common estuary species in the high energy portion of Oregon estuaries, was grown under 0cm (control), 10cm, 20cm, 40cm and 80cm of sediment to simulate sediment deposition by a large sedimentation event. In the first year results that were presented at INTECOL/SWS meeting in June 2012, we found that at sediment depths up to 20cm there was no difference between the treatment and the control. 40cm of sediment resulted in significantly reduced biomass production of below (root and rhizome) and above (stem) ground plant material. None of the replicates produced above ground biomass within the 80cm treatment and below ground biomass production was highly reduced. Although the amount of biomass produced significantly varied by treatment, the mean stem heights above ground were relatively similar despite growing at a slower rate and emerging at different periods during the growing season.

Early results of second year growth indicate that the 80cm treatment did not result in mortality and above ground plant material has been produced in all replicates although at relatively decreased amounts compared to the control treatments. Stem, root and rhizome biomass within the sediment column appears to have greatly increased in the second year of growth relative to the first year. Differences between the control and the 10cm, 20cm, and 40cm treatments are less apparent than the first growing season. This indicates a long-term survivability of threesquare bulrush that may aid in stabilizing sediment in estuaries. Parallel and ongoing research seeks to quantify the amount of wave attenuation by threesquare bulrush and how this
effects sediment accretion and erosion compared to more studied species such as cordgrass (*Spartina* spp.) in a field study being conducted within Tillamook Bay, Oregon.

**Search and Destroy: Mapping the Invasive Phragmites australis in Great Salt Lake Wetlands**

*By Lexine Long, Department of Watershed Sciences, Utah State University, Introduction by Nate Hough-Snee, Executive Vice President*

Lexine Long is a Master’s student in the Department of Watershed Sciences at Utah State University in Logan, UT where she is evaluating the drivers of biological invasions in wetland ecosystems (Karin Kettenring, advisor). Lexine was the Chapter’s Regional Conference Student Scholarship Award recipient, and was supported to attend the PNW Chapter conference in Boise, Idaho this past September.

Wetlands in the arid west are rare landscape features that provide numerous ecosystem services. In Utah, the Great Salt Lake (GSL) contains over half of the state’s wetlands and is an important stopover point for migratory waterfowl on the Pacific and Central flyways. One of the most problematic invasive plants in North America and within Great Salt Lake (GSL) wetlands is *Phragmites australis* (common reed). While significant resources are spent attempting to control *Phragmites* in GSL wetlands each year, the full extent of *Phragmites* invasion has not been well documented. *Phragmites* dominated marshes are dense and difficult to walk through, making field surveys of *Phragmites* difficult and time consuming. For this reason remote sensing was used to survey wetland vegetation around the GSL. High resolution, multispectral aerial imagery was acquired in May and June of 2011 and shortly thereafter vegetation surveys were conducted around GSL wetlands and collected GPS points for training and validating the remote sensing data. Vegetation was classified into nine groups to determine the distribution of wetland plant species of interest - *Phragmites australis* (common reed), *Typha* spp. (cattails), *Distichlis spicata* (saltgrass), *Salicornia europaea* var. rubra (pickleweed), *Schoenoplectus acutus* (hardstem bulrush), playa wetlands, native emergent wetlands, uplands, and open water. One of the aims of this project is to make this information accessible and useful for land managers working around the GSL. Over the past several months an interactive website to host the data has been created. Throughout the website development phase feedback was sought from the land managers and citizens who will be using this website for wetland management and planning. Updates and changes to the site are still being made, but you can look at the progress here: [http://maps.gis.usu.edu/gslw/index.html](http://maps.gis.usu.edu/gslw/index.html)

Proof of concept and initial vegetation maps are found online for the larger wetland community.

These initial wetland vegetation distributions around the GSL will provide the foundation for the rest of the research examining what environmental factors determine *Phragmites* presence around the GSL and identifying wetlands that are susceptible to future *Phragmites* invasion. Stay tuned for the rest of the results! In the meantime you can check in with Lexine at [http://lexinelong.wordpress.com](http://lexinelong.wordpress.com)
Photo Contest Winners and Calendar

By Karla Van Leaven and James Guzman, Co-Secretaries

The Chapter thanks all who contributed photos (and those who voted too!) to the first annual photo contest. Contest winners include: Analiese Burns, Erik Stockdale, Stephanie Smith, Sheryl Purnell-Albritton, Jared Kinnear, Clover Muters and Nick Coffey. Photographs can be found on the website: http://www.sws.org/regional/pacificNW/index.html.

Calendars that feature the contest winners’ photographs are available for purchase. Desk size calendars are available for only $5.00 (size is 8 ½” X 4”), and wall size calendars are available for only $7.00 (size is 8 ½” X 17”). Special deal if you order a desk and wall calendar before January—only $10 for both. These 12 month calendars start with January 2013. Please contact Yvonne Vallette to place your order: Vallette.Yvonne@epamail.epa.gov.

Feedback pertaining to the photo contest and/or calendar would be greatly appreciated. Those interested in providing feedback can email Karla Van Leaven at KarlaVanLeaven@gmail.com.

Wetlands Scientists Practicing as Unlicensed Hydrogeologists?

By Scott Luchessa, Chair Ethics and Policy Committee

Some of you may remember reading a similar article in the spring edition of the Ooze News. For a refresher, please visit that edition of the newsletter and the article which begins at page seven: http://www.sws.org/regional/pacificNW/OozeNewsSpring2012.pdf. Just when you thought it was safe to keep on delineating, do not be fooled into complacency. There are still outside forces working to try and prevent you from performing your usual and accustomed duties as a wetland scientist. This is not the force young Skywalker. Don’t be fooled. A few licensed geologists continue to contest that wetlands scientists are practicing hydrogeology without a license in Washington. The dark side you say. Though most geologists and hydrogeologists do not appear to share this position, a few individuals continue to exert pressure on the Washington Geologist Licensing Board (GLB). So, if you are concerned about your profession, my suggestion is to keep reading and decide if perhaps some action may be required on your part to protect your profession.

Check out the GLB website at http://www.dol.wa.gov/business/geologist/geoboardinfo.html and look at the policies link for activities not considered the practice of geology. It is abundantly clear that collection of groundwater data for the sole purpose of wetland delineation is exempt from the practice act that governs this profession. Perhaps this policy is unclear as it pertains to the practice of wetland delineation as wetland scientists must practice it in Washington or could be modified to make it clearer.

I suppose a Jedi knight might consult Yoda and perhaps meditate on this. Personally, I would attend the next meeting of the GLB on December 19 in Olympia and let my voice be heard. Testify must I? No, if you cannot attend, it is possible to submit written testimony to the GLB. The GLB is not like the Emperor.
90.58.380 and WAC 173-22-035) and also used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to delineate wetlands, which are Waters of the United States as defined by the federal Clean Water Act and the relevant corresponding section of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). As you all know, 33 CFR Part 328 is where you will find the definition of Waters of the U.S.

If you are really a wetland scientist rebel, listen to some of the testimony available on the GLB website http://www.dol.wa.gov/business/geologist/geoboardmtg.html by those suggesting we need a geology license to practice wetland science and conduct delineations. Yes! Yes! Listen to the October 9, 2012 meeting audio you must. Here are a few of the many misstatements made in previously recorded testimony to pique your interest:

- Wetland scientists should be subservient to licensed professionals and working under a licensed hydrogeologist.
- Wetland scientists practice voodoo science.
- PWS certification does not mean anything.
- Hydrology is the only indicator that matters.

Is this threat real or imagined? You decide. I prefer to control my own destiny and plan on attending the next meeting on December 19 in Olympia at 9 a.m. at South Puget Sound Community College, Hawks Prairie Center, 1401 Marvin Road NE. May the force be with you! Also consider joining the Chapter’s Ethics and Policy Committee to ensure that our members act in an ethical manner as required by our code of practice. Feel free to call me (206) 336-1654 or email me sluchessa@environcorp.com if you want to know more information. Of course, I am attending and representing only myself at the GLB meeting on December 19. And yes, by the way, I’d love to carpool. Hope to see more wetland scientists at this meeting interested in dispelling myths about our profession espoused by others that clearly don’t understand it.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Publishes the Most Recent Version of The National Wetland Plant List.

By James Guzman, Co-Secretary

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have published the 2012 version of The National Wetland Plant List (NWPL), in October, 2012.

The 2012 NWPL is the result of an approximately four year effort by USACE, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Functioning as it has in the past, the publication provides wetland scientists throughout the country with a comprehensive list of plants and those plants’ wetland ratings.

This latest version of the NWPL includes some changes in which the list functions. These changes include

- Aligning the NWPL with the 10 USACE wetland delineation boundaries
- Updates to the nomenclature and taxonomy
- The utilization of new methods to determine wetland plant ratings
- The simplification of the rating system by removing the +/- factors from the indicator status groups (OBL, FAC, etc.)
- And the removal of the symbols NA (no agreement), NO (no occurrence), and NI (no indicator), through making determinations for all plants that previously had those indicators

The NWPL was largely coordinated and then compiled by Robert W. Lichvar, of the USACE Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, Hew Hampshire. Mr. Lichvar is the Director of the Corps National Wetland Plant List and chairman of the Interagency Wetland Plant List panel.

“We went out of our way to make sure every plant had a rating, i.e., all former NI, NL, etc.,” stated Mr. Lichvar. “I wanted there to be no loopholes that left people arguing about what the plant rating might be…We updated 300 names nomenclaturally, and added 70 new species based on the Federal Register comments. The latter had to be vetted and get ratings.”

The 2012 NWPL was published with citation in October, 2012, and is now available at the NWPL website: http://rsgisias.crrel.usace.army.mil/apex/f?p=703:1. According to Mr. Lichvar, the online list will be an ever evolving list.
“We are currently looking at 58 newly proposed species. These will be resolved soon with ratings unless they are determined to be UPL. We at the NWPL plan to update once a year about the March time frame prior to the new field season. So we will make an announcement on the web page and new lists with new citations will be posted. That way, when people are using lists, they can tell if they are current or not.”

**Fall: The Season and the Action**

**By James Guzman, Co-Secretary**

Despite my attempts to the contrary, I don’t always make the best decisions. I’m not saying that I don’t call a wetland a wetland, a frog a frog, and a peat soil Pete, but I don’t always pay attention to some clear safety indicators that have less than desirable results. Thus, may I present you with a cautionary tale for the season we refer to as autumn, or in this case, fall.

While autumn often conjures up images of pumpkins, colored leaves, and holidays that include ghouls and turkeys, I tend to think of one of Mother Nature’s more nefarious incantations: wind.

Most people this time of year can find ways to avoid wind. Sure, such folk have to venture out of their car and suffer the insurmountable challenge of getting to an office or some other indoor work environment with climate control, artificial lighting, and for those more unfortunate folks, the pleasant sounds of Muzak. I feel for such individuals. I really do, because I’d still rather have a job where wandering outside in the woods is actually an option, and eight hours of Muzak isn’t good for anyone. Nonetheless, having the good fortune of being able to work either inside or outside depending on work load, deadlines, and any personally defined reason I would work in one environment over the other is certainly something to smile about.

Since I do have job location flexibility and continuously updated resources that provide weather information via the internet, radio, and my smart phone, you’d think I’d utilize that information once in a while to determine my work location decisions. Alas, this takes some forethought; the ability to actually think ahead and find out what weather conditions I am to endure.

I pull off the side of the road on Whidbey Island, Washington, to do a delineation job. Sure my car was being pushed around by an overly aggressive movement of air coming off the Pacific Ocean, but what does that matter? I’ll be under the protective cover of the forest canopy. I checked the aerial photography of the site I’m going to. This will be a piece of cake.

At this point, I think a little background information is in order. We’ll do this in the form of a bulleted list.

- Fall, 2007: branch falls within a few feet of me in a wind storm, followed by two trees that come down on the same day. After the second tree came down, I went home.
- 2008: A branch falls on my head during a wind storm followed by a small tree falling on my head within about ten minutes of each other. I was almost done with the job and was able to skip a soil pit and just go home.
- 2009: A squirrel, disgusted by my intrusion in its clearly marked domain, throws a pinecone at my head. This has nothing to do with wind, but I’m watching you, squirrels. I know your kind.
- 2015: This year has not happened yet. Just seeing if you are still reading this. Congrats.

As you can see, I really should have learned my lesson by now. Walking through a forest made up primarily of the dependably friable red alder (*Alnus rubra*), I hear the creaking of branches all around me. Leaves are floating by like hurried commuters off to some nook to lodge in for decomposition duty. Occasionally I hear snaps, cracks, and sometimes a distant crash. Meanwhile my brain is functioning as such: “hmmm, this soil is interesting. Oooh, I see some remaining annual and perennial plant fragments I think I can ID. Hmmm, I’m kind of hungry. I bet the slice of pizza I packed would be really nice right now.”

Paying no attention to the chaos that is going on around me I continue to conduct my work. The shrill of wind can hardly penetrate my concentration on where I’m going to place my next wetland boundary flag when I hear a really
loud cracking sound. I’m hunched over taking a look at some soil when next thing I know I’m on the forest floor. The smell of rotting leaves, soil, and mycelium work as a kind of smelling salt.

“Why am I on the ground and why does my head hurt?”

I get up. Now I’m actually kind of scared. I quickly grab my phone and call my employer. One bar of service, please don’t fail me now. Of course, I get his voice mail. I imagine him getting a foot massage, sipping a martini, and having someone read to him his emails while I slave and toil on a distant island far from civilization. I tell him I just got smacked on the head by a large branch and that he should call me a few times in the next couple hours and if I don’t answer, he might want to send for help.

Yeah, I stayed out there and finished the job. Probably not the smartest thing I ever did. However, on windy days I now stay in the office. I find myself checking predicted wind speeds, and with a touch of paranoia I actually kind of know what those speeds mean for the conditions I’ll face.

Fall is that time of year when we get nasty wind storms in the northwest. Don’t learn things the hard way. Take advantage of the army of meteorologists working hard every day to try and predict with some level of accuracy the kind of weather we are likely to encounter. Really, I’m lucky. Head injuries aren’t funny, even when there aren’t any lasting impacts... What was I typing? Oh, look! Pizza! Oh, yes. Protect your head. Don’t get hit by falling trees and branches.

### 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 October 24, 2012 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm, and our next meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2012. If you are interested, please contact Colin MacLaren at cmaclaren@parametrix.com or Nate Hough-Snee at nate@natehough-snee.org to receive the agenda and conference call information.

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### SWS PNW Chapter Bylaws

**By Karla Van Leaven, Co-Secretary**

As is required by the current bylaws, the revisions and changes of the PNW Chapter’s bylaws were voted on and approved at the Boise business meeting. Revisions included allowance of electronic voting while changes included updating the meeting schedule from annual to biennial (once every two years), changing the bylaws to mirror the text from the Society’s bylaws regarding membership, and removing outdated references. A copy of the bylaws can be found on the website: [http://www.sws.org/regional/pacificNW/PNW_Bylaws.pdf](http://www.sws.org/regional/pacificNW/PNW_Bylaws.pdf)

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### The First Ever Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting to be held in Portland, Oregon, May 18-23, 2014

**By SWS Staff**

“Bridging Genes to Ecosystems: Aquatic Science at a Time of Rapid Change” is the theme for an historic joint meeting of four of the leading aquatic scientific societies: Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), Phycological Society of America (PSA), Society for Freshwater Science (SFS), and Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS).

For one week in May of 2014, these four societies will build a bridge across the disciplines within the field of aquatic science and will explore many exciting opportunities for collaboration among scientists.

**ASLO** is a society whose purpose is to foster a diverse, international scientific community that creates, integrates and communicates knowledge across the full spectrum of aquatic sciences, advances public awareness and education about aquatic resources and research, and promotes scientific stewardship of aquatic resources for the public interest. Its products and activities are directed toward these ends.

**PSA** is a society to promote the advancement of phycology and to foster phycological research.

**SFS** is an international scientific organization whose purpose is to promote further understanding of aquatic ecosystems, with particular interest in the stream benthic biological community and its relationship to aquatic ecosystem structure and function.

**SWS** is an international organization dedicated to the conservation, management and scientific understanding of the world’s wetland resources.
The Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting (JASM) will be held in the Portland Convention Center with an expected attendance of 3,000 professionals and students. The conference website will be available in early 2013 with the call for sessions announced by the end of March 2013. For additional information please contact The Schneider Group at 254-776-3550 or by email at LacyKC@sgmeet.com.

**Non-Regional Conference Calendar**

*By James Guzman, Co-Secretary*

Conferences occur all over both in and outside the United States that are associated to wetland or related sciences. Provided here is a list of conferences and associated important dates. If you know of other conferences that should be included in this section in future editions please forward the web link to iguzman@earthworksenv.com.

**International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)**


February 15, 2013: Deadline to Register at the EARLY Discounted Registration Fee

March 21, 2013: Deadline to make hotel reservations at the Reitz Union Hotel.

March 31, 2013: Deadline to make hotel reservations at the host hotel Holiday University Center

Website: [http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gq13/](http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gq13/)

**Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting, June 2-6, 2013 in Duluth, Minnesota.**

Stay tuned for more 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 iguzman@earthworksenv.com.

**Coastal Training Program**

**Contact:** [http://www.coastaltraining-wa.org/](http://www.coastaltraining-wa.org/)

- Project Design and Evaluation: December 11-12, 2012. Padilla Bay, WA
- Tree and Shrub Identification for Western Washington Puget Lowland Habitats: February 6, 2013. Padilla Bay, WA

**Northwest Environmental Training Center:**

**Contact:** [http://nwetc.org/](http://nwetc.org/)

- Effective Communication and Presentation of Environmental Projects: December 5-6, 2012. Portland, OR.
- Conflict Resolution Skills for Environmental Professionals: January 11, 2013. Portland, OR

**Portland State University Environmental Professional Program:** [http://epp.esr.pdx.edu/]

- Restoration Project Management: December 4-6, 2012. Portland, OR
- Environmental Planning, Permitting, and Project Management: February 21, 2013. Portland, OR

**Richard Chinn Environmental Training, Inc.**

**Contact:** [http://www.richardchinn.com/](http://www.richardchinn.com/)

- Wetland Delineation Training: February 18-21, 2013. Seattle, WA

**The Seminar Group:** [http://www.theseminargroup.net/](http://www.theseminargroup.net/)

- 20th Annual Endangered Species Act: January 24-25. Seattle, WA
- Floodplains: March 14, 2013. Portland, OR

**University of Washington – Professional Development Program**

[http://www.engr.washington.edu/epp](http://www.engr.washington.edu/epp)

No wetland specific classes currently offered; other courses available.

**Western Washington University**


No wetland-specific classes currently offered; other courses available.

**Wetland Training Institute**


No classes are offered in the northwest region until spring of 2013. Be sure to check the next issue of Ooze News for updates.

**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 for can be found on the chapter website: [http://www.sws.org/regional/pacificNW/workshop.html](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:


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 and James Guzman at jguzman@earthworksenv.com.

Thank you!

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**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/

**Ooze News Deadlines for Articles**

Articles and announcements are welcomed and appreciated for the winter edition of the Chapter newsletter, Volume 23 Number 1, no later than January 15, 2013. Please send associated documentation to co-secretary's Karla Van Leaven at KarlaVanLeaven@gmail.com and James Guzman at jguzman@earthworksenv.com. We will review your information for submission to the Ooze News.

Thank you!
SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS
PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER
BYLAWS

ARTICLE I
Names and Objectives

1. The name of the group shall be the PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS, hereinafter referred to as the PNW Chapter or simply Chapter. The SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS in general will be referred to as the SOCIETY.

2. The principal office for the transaction of the business of the PNW Chapter is hereby located at the address of the current chapter Secretary/Newsletter Editor. The PNW Chapter by resolution of its Board of Directors, may change the location of its principal office to any other place within the states of Washington, Oregon or Idaho.

3. The objectives are as follows:

   a. The general purposes of the Chapter are to operate solely and exclusively as a charitable and educational organization to foster conservation and understanding of wetlands.

   b. Advance public education and enlightenment concerning wetland resources.

   c. Provide an independent forum for an interchange of ideas and data developed within wetland science.

   d. Develop and encourage wetland science as a distinct discipline by supporting student education, curriculum development, and research.

   e. Encourage and evaluate the educational, scientific, and technological development and advancement of all branches of wetland science and practice.

   f. Encourage the knowledgeable management of wetland resources.

4. For the administration of the affairs and the attainment of its objectives, the PNW Chapter shall have the power, either directly or indirectly, either alone or in conjunction or cooperation with others, to do any and all lawful activities that may be necessary, useful, suitable, desirable, or proper for the furtherance, accomplishment, fostering, or attainment of any or all of the objectives for which the PNW Chapter is organized, and to aid and assist other organizations whose objectives are such as to further accomplish, foster, or attain any of such objectives.
5. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the PNW Chapter shall neither have nor exercise any power, nor shall it directly or indirectly engage in any activity that would: (1) prevent the SOCIETY from obtaining exemption from Federal income taxation as a corporation as described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and its regulations as the same now exist or as they may hereafter be amended from time to time, or (2) cause it to lose such exempt status.

ARTICLE II
Membership

1. Membership in the PNW Chapter will be the same as for the SOCIETY as follows:

a. Individual: Any individual with interest in the Society and furtherance of its objectives shall be eligible to join the Society. Individual members shall receive Society publications and all other membership benefits and are eligible to vote. There are five classes of individual membership: (1) Active Members: Persons involved in the study, management, or regulation of wetlands and in any other appropriate wetland activity including research and educational endeavors. (2) Student Members: Persons involved in full-time academic training toward any appropriate wetland endeavor. (3) Family Members: Two members of a family may be Society members with full, active member privileges, but shall receive a limited set of publications (usually only one copy per issue of the Society's journal, Wetlands). (4) Lifetime Members: Members joining for the rest of their lives will receive full active member's privileges. (5) Emeritus members: Individuals who have retired and who are at least 60 years old with 15 years membership or retired and 65 years old with 10 years membership in the Society may become emeritus members.

b. Library: Any institutional library such as those at colleges, universities, and agencies shall be eligible to join the Society and receive the Society’s publications but shall not be eligible to vote.

c. Institutional/Corporate: Any institution, government agency, or corporate organization with interest in the Society and furtherance of its objectives shall be eligible to join the Society. Institutional/Corporate members receive the Society’s publications and other membership benefits but shall not be eligible to vote.

2. As used in the Bylaws and Standing Rules, the term "member in good standing" means a member whose dues are paid.

ARTICLE III
Officers and Board of Directors

1. The Officers of the PNW Chapter shall be President, Executive Vice President, Program Vice President, Secretary/Newsletter Editor, and Treasurer who are elected by the members; and the Immediate Past President. These six officers (or seven officers if
the Secretary/Newsletter Editor position is held by two people) constitute the Executive Board of the PNW Chapter who shall have the authority to meet in closed session.

2. Only Active Members in good standing who have attended at least one of the last three PNW Chapter meetings preceding their nomination shall be eligible for nomination for an elected office.

3. (a) The President shall serve up to two (2) years or until the next biennial meeting, and upon the termination of that office shall become Immediate Past President.

(b) The Executive Vice President, Program Vice President, and Secretary/Newsletter Editor shall serve for a period of up to two (2) years or until the next biennial meeting. The Executive Vice President shall automatically be nominated for President for the year following his or her term as Executive Vice President. Other nominations may also be made.

(c) The Treasurer shall serve for a period of up to three (3) years, or until the next biennial meeting.

(d) If an officer cannot fulfill or complete the term of office, the Board of Directors is authorized to appoint a replacement until the next election. Except for the President, Board members may be re-elected for multiple terms. The President may be re-elected once, for a total of two (2) terms.

4. The Board of Directors, also known as Administrative Board, shall consist of the Executive Board and the Immediate Past President. A minimum of three (3) members of the Board of Directors attending a called meeting of the Board of Directors constitutes a quorum. The Board of Directors is authorized to conduct business and hold meetings at its discretion.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Meeting and Voting**

1. The PNW Chapter shall meet once every two years (biennially) at a place to be determined by the Board of Directors.

2. In the event of an emergency, the Board of Directors may cancel a biennial meeting or change the place of a biennial meeting or order a Special Meeting. If a meeting is canceled, the Board of Directors shall schedule the next biennial meeting.

3. A quorum for the transaction of official business at a PNW Chapter meeting shall consist of at least three (3) members of the Board of Directors.

4. Members in good standing may vote on official Chapter business. Voting may take place at the biennial meeting or by mail, email, or by other formats. The Secretary shall
be responsible for conducting the vote and shall record the vote in the minutes of the next Board of Directors meeting.

5. The Secretary shall certify the voting eligibility of members and shall announce the results of the vote to the members.

ARTICLE V
Adoption of Standing Rules

1. The Board of Directors is authorized to adopt and amend Standing Rules necessary for conduct of PNW Chapter business by a majority vote.

2. The Standing Rules must include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

(a) Matters pertaining to Chapter finances.

(b) Prescribed duties of Chapter officers.

(c) Provisions for the establishment, duties, and method of selection of standing committees and other committees necessary to conduct the business of the PNW Chapter.

(d) Authorization for the specified publications of the PNW Chapter for the furtherance of its objectives.

ARTICLE VI
Amendment of Bylaws

1. The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing who vote on the amendment. Proposals for amendments may be generated in the following ways:

(a) Recommendation of a majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors.

(b) Petitions signed by not fewer than twenty members in good standing or 10% of the PNW Chapter membership eligible to vote, whichever is fewer, and presented to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII
Society Representation

1. Members of the PNW Chapter will not represent the PNW Chapter without the prior approval of the Board of Directors.
Section 1. Duties of the President

The President shall be responsible for the business of the Chapter, make appointments authorized in the Standing Rules, establish special committees required for the business of the Chapter and exercise such other responsibilities determined from time to time by action of the Chapter or its Board of Directors.

Section 2: Duties of the Executive Vice President

Duties of the Executive Vice President are to assist the President and to perform the duties of the President when that officer is absent or unable to act, and to assist the Treasurer in drafting an annual budget.

Section 3. Duties of the Secretary/Newsletter Editor

(a) Prepare the Chapter's quarterly newsletter.

(b) Serve as membership database manager.

(c) Certify eligibility of members prior to any vote.

(d) Prepare and mail or email correspondence at the direction of Board of Directors.

(e) Prepare and disburse information pertinent to increasing membership.

(f) Maintain a file of correspondence and records of Chapter business.

(g) Maintain and update copies of the Bylaws and Standing Rules.

(h) Record the minutes of the biennial meeting of the Chapter and all called meetings of the Board of Directors. Distribute minutes to Board members.

Section 4. Duties of the Treasurer

(a) Administer the financial resources of the Society.

(b) Pay all bills of the Chapter as authorized by the President or the Board of Directors.

(c) Serve as Chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee.

(d) Prepare an annual budget in cooperation with the Executive Vice President and present it at the biennial meeting of the Society.
Section 5: Duties of the Program Vice President

The Program Vice President shall oversee meetings, workshops, and field trips sponsored by the Chapter; and has the authority to nominate other Chapter members to provide assistance in organizing Chapter sponsored events.

Section 6. Duties of the Immediate Past President

The Immediate Past President chairs the Nominating Committee and Bylaws Committee and serves as Parliamentarian at meetings.

Section 7. Salaries and Expenses

(a) Officers of the Society shall not receive any salary or clerical or other expenses unless approved by the Board of Directors in advance.

(b) Travel expenses to attend board meetings may be authorized by the Board of Directors as requested on a case by case basis.

Section 8. Dues and Fees

The Chapter will not assess any dues and fees in addition to those assessed by the Society.

Section 9. Standing Committees

Standing Committees, composed of Chapter members in good standing, shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Board of Directors. Standing committees shall assist the President and Board of Directors in the conduct of the affairs of the Chapter. The Chairperson of each standing committee shall report at the biennial meeting of the Chapter. The term of duty for members of standing committees shall extend from their appointment to the end of the following biennial meeting, unless otherwise specified.

(a) Ways and Means Committee

The committee shall be responsible for preparing an annual budget for the Chapter. The Committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer and will also include the Executive Vice President and Program Vice President.

(b) Conference Committee

The Committee shall be responsible for making arrangements for the biennial meeting, including but not limited to:

(1) the content of the program
(2) meeting and lodging site(s),

(3) banquet and refreshments, and

(4) field trips.

The committee shall consist of a minimum of three Chapter members and will be chaired by the Program Vice President. Committee members will be approved by the President.

(c) Nomination Committee

The Committee shall be responsible for recommending the names of candidates for elected offices. The Immediate Past President shall serve as Chairperson. Nominations for officers are to be solicited from the membership through the Secretary/Newsletter Editor and sent to the Immediate Past President.

(d) Archives Committee

This committee shall be responsible for developing criteria for determining what types of Chapter materials and records will be archived, how and where they will be stored and accessed, and the longevity of various materials in the archives. The committee is composed of the Board of Directors and will be chaired by the Treasurer.

(e) Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee

This committee shall consist of the Board of Directors and will be chaired by the Immediate Past President and serves as the Society's official authority regarding all matters pertaining to the organization's bylaws and standing rules. This committee is responsible for ensuring that the bylaws and standing rules are accurately maintained and updated.

(f) Scholarship and Awards Committee

This committee shall be responsible for obtaining, evaluating, and ranking wetland-related scholarships and awards. The committee will be chaired by the Executive Vice President and will recommend scholarships and awards to the Board of Directors for decision.

Section 10: Special Committees

Special Committees are appointed to assist the President and the Board of Directors with developing information, services, or programs which are generally short term and of a non-recurring nature. The Special Committee(s) shall report to the Board of Directors and the membership at the Biennial Business Meeting. Special Committees, composed of members in good standing, shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the
Board of Directors at any time for a period of two (2) calendar years from the date of appointment unless reauthorized by the vote of the Board.

**Section 11. Order of Business**

The agenda for a business session for a biennial meeting of the Society shall include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, the following items:

(a) Call to order by the President

(b) Remarks by the President

(c) Determination of a quorum

(d) Introduction of guests and visitors

(e) Secretary's report

(f) Treasurer's report

(g) Reports of Standing Committees

(h) Reports of Special Committees

(i) Other old business

(j) Installation of newly elected officers

(k) New business

(l) Adjournment

**Section 12: Chapter Boundaries**

The Chapter boundaries consist of the states of Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

**Section 13. Rules of Order**

The Society will adopt Robert's Rules of Order. The Immediate Past President will serve as Parliamentarian at meetings.

Last revised September 19, 2012.