Greetings All –
I am just back from the International SWS meeting in Sacramento. It was good to visit with friends and colleagues in HOT, hot Sacramento. There were about 400-450 folks attending the meeting and I was happy to see a few new faces at our PNW Chapter meeting. Highlights of the meeting included a mixer at the California Museum of History and support of several students including a graduate student from our Chapter!

As always, meetings provide time to conduct the business of our Society. There are a few issues of which I want to make you aware.

First, a proposal to create Special Interest Sections received board approval. Sections will be similar to Chapters in that they provide a mechanism to group SWS members according to members’ interests. The idea is that members can organize and join Sections (for a small fee ~$5) in order to interact with other SWS members who share similar interests (e.g., biogeochemistry, wetland regulation, restoration, etc.). Membership of Sections will not be bound by geography, like Chapter membership, and Sections will be expected to contribute to the Annual Meeting by organizing symposia or contributed sessions.

Second, discussions of reorganizing the SWS International Board were initiated. While no specific action has yet been recommended by the committee – this would be a good time for you, as members, to familiarize yourself with the issue and voice your concerns/suggestions to me or to our new President, Pat Megonigal. It may also be a good time to have discussions on our Chapter Listserve (check old issues of Ooze News for instructions on how to join our listserv). Under the current board structure each Chapter President is a voting member on the board. Ideally, Chapter Presidents represent the interests of their chapter. One of the ideas being suggested would
remove the Chapter President from the Board. Instead, multiple chapters would be represented through a regional representative. I agree that the current board structure does not allow for efficient meetings (last Sunday’s meeting ran from 10 am to 6 pm); however, I think that there may be more creative solutions. I am very interested in hearing what you think.

Finally, the financial condition of SWS seems to be much better than it was two years ago. Many of the programs and initiatives are now being reinstated. I encourage you to pay attention to the programs that are coming back online and to voice your opinion and concerns to Pat Megonigal or myself. After all, SWS is a Society of Members.

I have posted the meeting minutes from the International Board meeting to our Chapter Listserve.

As the International meeting wound down, my attention shifted from Sacramento to Yakima. During the Sacramento meeting, Dr. Elizabeth Binney and I met to finalize (well, we were close!) the reviews of ~175 abstracts for our Chapter meeting in Yakima. What is particularly interesting to me is that the size of our chapter meeting may actually approach the size of the International SWS meeting! Kudos to those of you on the meeting organizing committee – I am truly impressed that SWS/SER volunteers can plan such a large meeting in such a cost effective manner. Hope to see you all in Yakima!

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Best,

Ralph

Certification for Wetland Delineators in Washington State

By Scott Luchessa, PNW Executive Vice President

The Ethics Committee, which was established in October 2005 to promote a code of ethics for our chapter has also been investigating certification or licensing of wetland scientists to delineate wetlands (and carry out associated tasks, such as rating and mitigation planning) in the state of Washington.

Scott Luchessa and Jim Wiggins (Co-chairs of the Ethics Committee and Pacific Northwest Chapter Board) were approached by the Washington Society of Professional Soil Scientists (WSPSS) to join with them in their ongoing (three+ years) pursuit of licensing or certification of soil scientists in Washington state. SWS is now working with the WSPSS and Representative Sam Hunt to introduce Title Act legislation for a joint soil and wetland scientists certification. The first step in this process is a Sunrise Review, a process carried out by the State Department of Licensing (DOL) which determines whether there is a need for certification as defined by state law. A very gross summary of what determines a need is whether it is likely that there could be detrimental impacts to public health, safety, or welfare if such legislation is not established. In a nutshell, it boils down to whether any Tom, Dick, or Jane should be allowed to delineate wetlands or whether there be some specific credentials required to be a wetland delineator. The DOL would be the agency responsible for reviewing certification application materials, evaluating whether individuals meet specified credentials, and issuing the certification (i.e., administering the Title Act). WSPSS believes that our combined effort will provide the critical mass to successfully push through the enabling legislation.

The Ethics Committee has determined that the public health, safety, and welfare has been adversely affected by the loss of wetlands and wetland functions from inaccurate wetland delineation and that certification is therefore necessary to ensure that only those with proper education and training perform wetland delineations. We are proceeding with providing materials to the state legislature to support an affirmative determination on the Sunrise Review. We need your help and are requesting your input.

An Ethics Committee meeting will be held in July (date and location to be determined) dealing with this issue. If you are interested in attending, please contact us at wetlands@fidalgo.net. We need to assist WSPSS, write a Sunrise Review and attend meetings, and draft legislation.

A little history:
Over the past 3 years, WSPSS has some progress toward obtaining certification, but it has been slow. However, any certification or license process is typically slow. Most licensing/certification processes take years of effort and all are subject to a great deal of highly critical scrutiny. Frankly, more fail than not; but none succeed without the support of their peer group.

This past session, their Title Act did pass through the House Labor and Commerce Committee and into Appropriations Committee. No more progress is possible until the 2008 session. They did have a favorable initial Sunrise Review (which will be carried out again this summer); they established important
connections within the legislature, and drafted legislation. Thus far, however, they have been unable to get that legislation through all the required committees and on to the main House or Senate floor.

State law requires that all individuals should be permitted to enter into a business profession unless there is an overwhelming need for the state to protect the interests of the public by restricting entry. The Sunrise Act (RCW 18.118.01), through the DOL, administers the Sunrise Review which is required to provide justification to protect the “health, safety, and welfare” of the citizens of the state.

This Sunrise Review that was used for the past WSPSS legislation is now set to expire, and a new one is therefore required. The new Sunrise Review will be conducted next month and therefore we are under a tight schedule. We encourage you to visit the WSPSS website for additional information at http://www.soilscientistslicensing.com.

SWS Funds Available for Wetlands Workshops

By Dana Field, PNW Immediate Past President

The PNW Chapter mission includes wetland education and outreach, and we recognize that our ‘annual’ conferences don’t meet all the needs, especially for members who live in non-urban areas. Therefore, the Board will entertain applications for SWS support to conduct workshops on relevant topics. Please include all the information below, and limit the application to 4 pages, in a legible font size, of course!

- Applicant contact information
- Workshop title
- Workshop location and tentative dates
- Tentative outline of the desired content for the workshop
- Target audience – describe who and total attendance expected
- Budget estimates, including costs for instructor compensation, teaching materials / handouts, classroom rental, vehicle rental for fieldtrips if any, and potential cost-sharing or revenues from any co-sponsors and fees for tuition, if any.

Decisions can be made at quarterly Board meetings. Please submit your application to any Board member at least 2 weeks prior to the Board meetings, to allow time for any refinements and to get copies distributed.

Calendar of Wetland Classes and Workshops

By Leandra Cleveland, HDR Inc.

We are trying something new! To better serve our members we have included a list of wetland related classes and workshops occurring in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. If you think this calendar is helpful or you know of other organizations that offer classes please forward the weblink to leandra.cleveland@hdrinc.com.

- July 9-13 (Bellingham) – Western Washington University: Wetland Delineation
- July 10-12 (Portland) – Portland State University EPP: Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes of the PNW
- July 30-August 1 (Anchorage) – Wetland Training Institute: Advanced Jurisdictional Hydrology including consideration of “Significant Nexus”
- July 30-August 2 (Anchorage) – Wetland Training Institute: Federal Wetland / Waters Regulatory Policy
- July 30-August 2 (Seattle area) – Wetland Training Institute: HGM: Selecting Reference Sites and Selecting Wetland Function
- August 1-2 (Anchorage) – Wetland Training Institute: Nationwide Permits
- August 28-29 (Portland) – Portland State University EPP: HGM: Selecting Reference Sites and Selecting Wetland Function
- September 14 (Boise) – Wetland Training Institute: Arid West Supplement
- September 17-21 (Seattle area) – Wetland Training Institute: Basic Wetland Delineation

Student Scholarships!

By Ralph Garono, PNW Chapter President

The PNW Chapter of the SWS has three $500 scholarships available to support students to participate in our Chapter’s meeting in Yakima in September 2007. These scholarships, cash awards, are available to both undergraduate and graduate students (have been students
within the last calendar year) from the Pacific Northwest.

**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.

**The deadline** for applying are for the September Chapter Meeting the deadline is **August 1, 2007**. 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

Janet Cray janet_cray@yahoo.com

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<tr>
<th><strong>Want to be Included in the Consultant Directory?</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>By Jeff Walker, PNW Secretary</strong></td>
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<td>The PNW SWS just posted a consultant list containing SWS members, their contact information, and their PWS or WPIT status on the chapter website.</td>
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<td>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 PNW SWS website list. SWS can not make any endorsement either, nor are we currently able to do any policing of qualifications. We will be updating the list quarterly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>If you want to be included on the list, please email the contact information you like included to Jeff at: <a href="mailto:tranger0@yahoo.com">tranger0@yahoo.com</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Fall Newsletter Deadline is September 15, 2007! Send your articles and announcements to Amy or Jeff.</strong></th>
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<td>Society of Wetland Scientists, PNW Chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>PO BOX 1311</td>
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<td>Bellingham, Washington 98227</td>
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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,
2007-2008 Board Candidates
for the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the
Society of Wetland Scientists

All members who have paid their dues for the year are eligible to vote in the PNW Chapter election. Please mark your ballot below and mail to the current past president:

Dana Field  Deadline to return ballots is Aug. 15, 1190 21st St. NE  postmark OK.
Salem OR 97301  Results announced at the Sept. Conference

This year we have one new candidate running for the Board; all the others are incumbents who are willing to serve additional terms. As is our custom, here is a brief biography of our new candidate:

Leandra Cleveland was raised near Vancouver, Washington. Since graduating from Washington State University with a B.S. in Environmental Science and Regional Planning she has been working as a wetland biologist in the Portland-Vancouver area for the last 8 years. Leandra began volunteering with the PNW chapter of SWS in 2006, to assist with the planning and organizing of the 2007 SER/SWS Regional Conference in Yakima, for which she is enthusiastically coordinating the workshops. Her goals for SWS PNW are to promote wetland science and education among students and practitioners, continue organizing productive and informative regional conferences, and provide a venue for members to become aware of upcoming events, educational opportunities, and changes to wetland policies and laws.

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<th>POSITION</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Scott Luchessa</td>
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<td>Executive Vice President</td>
<td>Leandra Cleveland</td>
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<td>Program Vice President</td>
<td>Jim Wiggins</td>
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<td>Co-Secretaries</td>
<td>Amy Dearborn &amp; Jeff Walker</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Yvonne Vallette</td>
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<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Ralph Garono*</td>
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