President’s Corner

By Ralph Garono, PNW Chapter President

We had a large dose of sunshine and warm weather here in Corvallis during the past week or so. The bees are buzzing and the flowers are doing their thing; the caddisflies can’t be far behind! It’s during this time of transition that I now write to let you know what is happening within our Society. I’ve just returned from the mid-year Board Meeting held in San Francisco: it was a grueling two day meeting for me, and longer for some of the other board members serving on various committees. National is taking action to mitigate some of the financial stress that SWS is currently facing. I have listed several of the key points below.

- Membership dues have increased to provide a short-term solution to our deficit. Projections indicate that the dues increase will balance income with expenses for about a 3-4 year period. Clearly, a long term fix is needed. The long-term strategy relies heavily on endowments and grant writing.
- The National Board is working to restructure itself. Efforts to reduce the membership of the governing board are underway. Our chapter may soon share a regional board representative with other chapters.
- Chapters are being ‘tucked firmly’ under the wing of National. We are being asked to get approval for all expenses greater than $200. It sounds like National will be forming a committee to review/revise chapter spending guidance.
- The budget has been released. I noticed some disconnects between the goals and objectives of SWS (and Strategic Plan) and how we are spending our money. I encourage all members to review these two important documents.
- Chapters are being asked to develop action items for the existing Strategic Plan.
- Chapter Members are being asked to help increase membership in general and increase participation by minority students.

How can you help, you ask? First, please feel free to contact me or other chapter board members to express your views on some of these important issues. Our chapter’s Listserv is a perfect mechanism to discuss some of these issues with fellow SWS members. Second, consider serving on a chapter committee. Third, use our Chapter’s current representation on the National Board to let your voices be heard. Forth, review the Strategic Plan and get your comments to one of your chapter board members. Fifth, plan on attending the International and Chapter Meetings…. rather than developing a full 12-step plan here, I urge you to participate in your society! Please consider signing up for the Chapter Listserv, or better yet, plan to come to our Chapter Board Meeting & Campout on April 9th at Beacon Rock State Park. Check the web site for details.

Your Chapter Board is currently formulating a strategy to get our chapter members on the National Board and on key committees. We can use your help and input. Many issues will be brought before the board and general membership during this summer’s International Meeting in Charleston, SC. I look forward to hearing from you. Have a great spring – Ralph.
Update from the Washington State Department of Ecology

Final versions of the synthesis of the science on wetlands (Volume 1) and guidance for protecting and managing wetlands in Washington (Volume 2) are almost ready for distribution. In February you will be able to obtain copies of the final documents and responses to the comments generated during public review.

You can obtain both volumes and their respective responsiveness summaries in one of three ways: 1) downloading them from the internet (http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/has_wetlands/index.html), 2) requesting a CD which will contain PDF files of both volumes and responses to comments, and 3) asking for hard copies of any of these publications.

We encourage you to download the document from our web page when it is posted to save on postage and other resources. We will be notifying those on our mailing list when the publications are available on the web site. If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive the notification and future Wetlands Updates from Ecology, send your email and postal address to Dana L. Mock at dmoc461@ecy.wa.gov.

If you want to receive a CD or hard copy of the documents please contact the Ecology Publications Distributions Office after we have announced their availability. The document will be available on the web site prior to the distribution of CDs or paper copies. When requesting publications from our distribution office, please use the contact information below and indicate the publication # of the document(s) you are requesting. Jean Witt, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600, (360)407-7472, jewi461@ecy.wa.gov.

- Wetlands in Washington State: Volume 1 - A Synthesis of the Science (Publication # 05-06-006)
- Responses to Comments on Volume 1 (Publication # 05-06-007)
- Wetlands in Washington State: Volume 2 – Guidance for Protecting and Managing Wetlands (Publication #05-06-008)
- Responses to Comments on Volume 2 (Publication # 05-06-009)

And now that the best available science project is wrapping up, we will be focusing on finalizing the detailed guidance for wetland compensatory mitigation as soon as possible.

Regionalizing the Corps ’87 Wetland Delineation Manual

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is developing regional supplements to the Corps’ 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual, used in the Clean Water Act Section 404 program. Currently, two supplements are being drafted; one for Alaska and one for the Arid West (dry lands west of the Continental Divide, Idaho and eastern Washington south to the U.S.-Mexico border).

The National Review Team manual regionalization effort, consisting of representatives from the Corps, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, is seeking qualified individuals to form peer-review committees. Those committees would be responsible for evaluating the reliability and scientific validity of the draft supplements for Alaska and the Arid West.

The National Team in accordance with Office of Management and Budget information quality guidelines will make committee member selections. Selections will be based expertise, independence (from federal agencies represented on the National Team), and the absence of conflicts of interest. No Corps of Engineers employees or individuals involved in developing or reviewing earlier drafts of the documents can serve on the peer-review committee. The peer-review committee would be expected to draft a single consensus report, although minority opinions would be welcome and may be included in the report. The peer-review committee would have 60 days to submit their report(s) to Corps headquarters (Washington, DC) following receipt of the draft supplement.

This peer-review process must be transparent. The final peer-review report(s) and any Corps response will be made available to the public and would become part of the administrative record for any related actions by the Corps.

Resumes should be submitted to Ms. Katherine Trott at Corps headquarters at katherine.l.trott@usace.army.mil no later than Friday, March 4, 2005. There is no funding available to committee members for this effort.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Trott at (202) 761-5542.
The challenge in Oregon was how to replace or repair hundreds of aging state highway bridges within a decade while keeping faith with the state’s environmental goals. The answer: an ingenious new one-process approach to environmental compliance.

The Oregon Department of Transportation Department and 11 state and federal regulatory agencies have developed a single set of environmental performance standards for over three hundred state highway bridges scheduled for work in the agency’s $1.3 billion Bridge Delivery Program. The alternative would have been a project-by-project permitting process that would have taken years.

The Oregon standards, based on extensive environmental data collected by field teams for each bridge, meet the requirements of 14 different state and federal environmental laws including the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. The focus is on positive environmental outcomes. How to meet the standards is left up to the bridge designers, but a rigorous ODOT inspection program makes sure the standards are met.

The Oregon Department of Transportation has collaborated with the Army Corps of Engineers, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The one-stop process represents a win for everyone. Streamlined environmental permitting will enable ODOT to complete the bridge program--authorized by the state Legislature in the Oregon Transportation Investment Act of 2003--on budget and within the timeframe mandated by the Legislature. The bottom line result: better environmental stewardship and a substantial savings in time and money. Without streamlined permitting, Oregon’s ambitious bridge program would have moved at a much slower pace. Because more and more of the state’s aging bridges, particularly on key freight routes through Oregon, face possible weight restrictions as time passes, the bridge program carries a pressing sense of urgency.

The streamlined process does not avoid any regulations. It simply coordinates the requirements of multiple agencies, removes confusion and duplication while ensuring comprehensive environmental protection.

This process is expected to yield considerable savings for the state’s taxpayers. Heather Catron, manager of ODOT’s Bridge Delivery Unit, anticipates direct savings, of $55 million. After netting out $10.3 million in implementation costs, that includes $3.5 million from the use of blanket programmatic permits, $3.1 million from documented categorical exclusions, $37.7 million from the use of a mitigation and conservation approach that relies on a broad ecosystem strategy, and $21 million in design costs.

The payoff in Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski’s words: “Our transportation network will be made safer sooner, and the environment will be protected and enhanced.”

**Proposed Soil Scientist Licensing**

The state of Washington enacted legislation four years ago to license professional geologists. This follows a nationwide trend of licensing scientists that study the earth’s natural resources and systems -- information is critical to management of systems that affect public health and well-being.

Soil scientists in the state of Washington recently met with the Department of Licensing (geologists licensing board) to discuss licensing of soil scientists. The geologists’ board has agreed to administer soil scientists under their licensing program, assuming the soil science program is self-supporting, and that the legislature agrees to this expansion (Senate Bill 5446). The Department of Licensing is also in support of this effort.

Soil scientists study surface and near-surface resource systems. This work is parallel to and sometimes slightly overlapping with work done by geologists. Soil science deals with the study of soil formation, classification, conservation and mapping as well as the study of soil physical, chemical and biological properties that have great impacts on surface and subsurface water quality. Soil scientists’ work involves mapping soil hydrologic impacts (wetlands, infiltration, flooding potential…), erosion control, hazardous waste assessment, soil treatment and/or infiltration of stormwater and septic system effluent, land application of wastewater, and other work that involves using soil to treat or dispose of waste products.

In order to be licensed as a soil scientist, the applicants will meet requirements equivalent to what is currently defined in the geologists licensing bill – they must provide character references, must document their years
of education and curriculum, must document 5 years of professional experience, and must pass a professionally created, administered and maintained certification examination. That exam would be the same as is already professionally developed and maintained by the Council of Soil Science Examiners at the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA).

A one-year grandfathering period is proposed that would license any soil scientist that is currently certified and in good standing with the SSSA. The SSSA requirements for certification are the same as those required for licensing with the state. After the one year grandfathering period, any applicant would be required to apply for licensing through the standard channels, including taking the required exam.

This licensing program would be accomplished by a new chapter in Title 18 RCW (provided) that creates a permanent Advisory Board of five soil scientists who are conversant with and experienced in the soil science profession, and who are otherwise eligible for licensure. There is an existing template of this relationship in existence in state law – that of the Licensed Septic System Designers who are licensed under the Engineer’s Board at the Department of Licensing. We used that existing RCW as a template for this proposed legislation.

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**Wetland Scientist Ethics**

The first meeting of the ethics committee was held during the PNW Chapter Board meeting in Portland on the 8th of January, 2005. The committee, co-chaired by Scott Luchessa and Jim Wiggins, is looking for committee members, ideas, input, and comments on our direction. The two goals of the committee are: 1) create discourse within our organization on how to ensure professional, credible and consistent work by wetland scientists, especially those that are certified and provide consulting services; 2) identify and implement an objective process to make certain this happens.

The committee was formed because of our concern that professional standards are not being met consistently by all wetland biologists in the identification and delineation of wetlands. This may be contributing to the loss of wetlands as well as regulation of uplands as wetlands. We are initially considering that members of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Society of Wetlands Scientists sign a code of ethics to reaffirm their acceptance of the mission of the Society of Wetland Scientists. We envision developing an objective process to enforce this code, including rewarding those that adhere to SWS ethics and standards; and potentially retracting membership from those that do not. These actions will promote better wetland protection and improve the credibility, accountability, and consistency of wetland delineators that are members of the chapter. The question is how do we get there?

At this time, we have a few thoughts and suggestions. First is to create a list of professional standards (drawn from SWS’s mission and Bylaws) as a code of ethics that we members of the PNW, SWS Chapter must abide by. These include but are not limited to the following. [These have been adapted from the Professional Wetlands Scientist Code of Ethics, which is available online on the national website at http://www.wetlandcert.org/].

All PNW Chapter members shall...
1. Express opinions on wetland matters for which he or she is knowledgeable or familiar with the facts.
2. Accurately and adequately represent the facts and results of research and do not base decisions on theological or religious beliefs, political beliefs, political pressure, and client or supervisor pressure.
3. Reveal any conflicts of interest to their clients or the public that may interfere with full representation of the scientific facts as they can be reasonably be interpreted.
4. Refrain from attempting to injure the reputation of other scientists through the use of false, biased, or otherwise undocumented claims.
5. Avoid the use of membership in SWS as a vehicle for personal or private gain.
6. Accurately convey that SWS membership does not imply certification of qualification to conduct wetland delineations, investigations, or related professional studies.
7. Maintain the confidentiality of information produced for a client, as required by appropriate federal and state laws.
8. Maintain original records of research, methods, results, and analyses for a minimum of three years beyond the termination of the project.
9. Keep informed of advances in the field of expertise of the member, including literature, methods of measurement and analysis, and skills for the interpretation of data.

One thing we can do with this is to notify the State of Washington, counties, and cities that the PNW chapter of the SWS is interested in working with the state and local jurisdictions to maintain high standards within the professional wetland biologist’s community.
Some questions we have are: Should we maintain a list of consultants that have the necessary credentials? Should we create incentives for those that do good work and disincentives for those that do poor work, if so how?

The committee is exploring options and ideas. If you would like to become involved, contact Scott [ecologicalsolutions@seanet.com / (206) 285-3015] or Jim [atsi@fidalgo.net / (360) 856-2139].

**Bringing Wood Back to Estuaries**

Historically, large woody debris was a prominent component of Pacific Northwest aquatic systems, and estuaries were no exception. Wood entered aquatic systems throughout the watershed, and debris slides and floods carried the wood seaward through tidal wetlands. Aggregations of the remains of giant trees from lush coastal forests were common in the mucky, sinuous channels of estuaries. Land use changes in the last century have reduced woody debris transport throughout watersheds and today wood is nearly absent from most estuaries. Upper watershed activities such as logging and agriculture reduce the amount of wood available and therefore fewer pieces reach the estuary. In the estuary, channelization and diking smooth the edges of formerly winding channels, reducing the chance that large pieces of wood will get trapped in the mire. Without restoration, large-scale processes remain altered and coastal estuaries are unlikely to ever be filled with wood again.

While researchers suspect that wood plays a critical role in estuarine ecology, the relationship between wood and biological and physical factors in estuaries is still poorly understood. It is often assumed that wood in estuaries has the same functions as it does in freshwater systems: to provide fish habitat and refugia, support macroinvertebrate and algal communities, and create channel complexity. Many estuarine restoration projects have been undertaken with these assumptions in mind.

The South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (SSNERR), Charleston, OR, has a history of experimental restoration and estuarine research, ranging from the use of different enhancement techniques to investigations of salmonid life history, water quality and bacteria in South Slough. Since 1996, thirty hectares of estuarine habitat have been restored on the reserve. On September 29, 2004, SSNERR furthered restoration efforts by placing 37 conifers in estuarine tidal channels as an experimental enhancement technique. The mature Sitka spruce trees were transported from a nearby road widening project and carefully placed in the Slough via helicopter. The goals of the restoration are to increase habitat complexity and to provide better rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids in the system, especially coho.

All of these efforts also aim to further understanding of the role of wood in estuaries.

SSNERR is about to embark in effectiveness monitoring to see if the goals of this habitat restoration are achieved. They will begin monitoring the sites in April. The monitoring will include investigations of fish use and behavior, invertebrate abundance and composition, channel geomorphology, temperature, and flow in enhanced channels. Fish use and behavior will be studied using an underwater videography technique developed by Stan Van de Wetering, fisheries biologist for the Siletz Tribe. The technique employs using underwater video cameras to record fish activity near wood aggregations in estuaries. The cameras record onsite fish activities from the end of low slack through the flood tide; in the video lab, frames are randomly selected for analysis of fish presence and behavior. This technique circumvents issues other sampling types had due to the murky, brackish water of estuaries.

SSNERR researchers will be measuring fish use by using block fyke nets to catch fish as they leave channels enhanced by wood placement. This is to determine the density of fish using the restored channels and make comparisons in use between the channels. Another goal of the restoration monitoring is to evaluate physical changes in the channels, such as depth profile and sinuosity, with the placement of wood. This will be achieved through channel mapping and thalweg profiling. Monitoring is planned for 2005 and 2006, with the hope that activities will be continued in the future. This work may provide a critical linkage between estuarine ecology and large wood, one that has so far proved elusive to biologists.

For more information or to visit the restoration sites, contact SSNERR at P.O. Box 5417, Charleston, OR, 97420, 541-888-5558. You can obtain maps to the area by visiting their website at [http://www.southsloughestuary.org/](http://www.southsloughestuary.org/).

**Exploring Local Ecology: Community-based Monitoring in Nehalem, Oregon**

Fifteen people walked quietly along Alder Creek, following herpetologist Chris Rombough through the newly-planted cedars and spruce. Suddenly, Chris paused, reached into the grass, and came back up with a...
small frog in his hand. The group stopped short and stared, fascinated. “This is a red-legged frog,” Chris told the group. “The stream and ditches on this farm are excellent feeding habitat. But I’m not seeing any breeding areas.”

This Saturday morning amphibian walk is a part of Exploring Local Ecology, a community-based wetland monitoring project sponsored jointly by the Lower Nehalem Community Trust and the Oregon State University Extension Service. The project has two goals: 1) to collect reliable information that will help the Community Trust design a wetland and salt marsh restoration plan; and 2) to get community members outside learning about and exploring wetlands.

Exploring Local Ecology takes place at the 55-acre Alder Creek Farm near Nehalem, Oregon, where the Trust plans to restore salt marsh and freshwater wetland habitat.

Exploring Local Ecology brings together wetland scientists and citizens from Oregon’s north coast to develop wetland monitoring questions and methods. A common challenge with volunteer monitoring is to find ways to guide volunteers’ enthusiasm so that the information collected truly meets the needs of the restoration project. Volunteers are often excited to collect information but need help refining their questions of interest. Exploring Local Ecology brings volunteers and scientists together in the field. Volunteers brainstorm their questions with the scientists as they explore Alder Creek Farm. Together they develop a data collection strategy.

During 2004, Exploring Local Ecology introduced community members to wetland hydrology, birds, wildlife, plants, amphibians, fish, and insects. For each topic, a scientist made an evening presentation that was open to the public and pitched at a general interest level. Then he or she led a Saturday hands-on field study / training at the Alder Creek Farm. Presenters included staff from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife, the National Park Service, Oregon State University Extension Service, Earth Design Consultants, and the Oregon State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Trainings, presentations, publicity, and program registration were coordinated by OSU Extension Service.

Exploring Local Ecology has proven popular with the community. More than 50 volunteers were trained to collect information on hydrology, birds, amphibians, wildlife, and native plants. Attendance at the workshops and field days totaled close to 200. Around 20 people became consistent volunteer monitors. Volunteers accomplished the following tasks:

- Ten volunteers constructed and installed 17 shallow groundwater monitoring tubes and three staff / crest gages on the property; three volunteers now monitor water levels twice a month.
- Between five and ten people monitor birds weekly during migration periods and monthly at six key locations.
- Three volunteers conducted an amphibian survey.
- Five people learned to identify and map salt marsh plant communities.
- In total, volunteers have contributed more than 500 hours in training and monitoring conditions at Alder Creek Farm.

How did we fund this project? On a shoe-string. Lower Nehalem Community Trust Board members dedicated hours to learning about wetlands and exploring monitoring questions. Each scientist volunteered his or her time. Watershed Management Extension Educator Beth Lambert dedicated 20% of her time to coordinate the project and provide technical oversight. Without the support of the public agencies and private consultants, this project could not happen.

Now the Lower Nehalem Community Trust is using the volunteers’ information to design its wetland restoration plan. In September 2004, the Trust received a $15,900 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Technical Assistance Grant to develop plans for restoring and creating wetlands at Alder Creek Farm. During the next few months, Ducks Unlimited will conduct a detailed survey of the land. The Trust will provide data on subsurface water levels, bird use of the property, plant community maps, and current and desired amphibian habitat, all collected by volunteers. Ducks Unlimited will design several restoration alternatives, each of which will be reviewed by the public and a Wetlands Technical Advisory Committee. Once the final design is approved, the monitoring will be altered so that it tracks the effectiveness of the project. Project implementation will begin in 2006. The Trust and OSU Extension submitted a small grant to OWEB that will fund additional training and volunteer coordination for the monitoring for the next two years.

Meanwhile, back at Alder Creek Farm, the enthralled but tired volunteers are taking off their boots and soggy socks. Together they’d crept along the wet riparian area and squelched through the muddy ditches. Two volunteers have offered to continue the amphibian survey periodically throughout the spring and summer.
And the Trust decides that its wetland restoration plan must include breeding habitat for amphibians.

Undergrad Mentoring in Wetland Science: Focus on Underrepresented Groups

A grant received by the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) from the Undergraduate Mentoring program in the NSF Division of Environmental Biology is intended to support the participation of 40 undergraduate students from underrepresented groups in annual meetings of the Society of Wetland Scientists over a period of four years. Students who are selected will be paired with graduate student or faculty mentors. SWS recognizes that attendance at a scientific meeting often can provide the intellectual spark, along with the opportunities to make contacts for the future, that encourages undergraduate students to continue their professional education beyond the bachelor's degree level.

Frank Day (Old Dominion University) is the PI for the program this year and will oversee the arrangements. Jacoby Carter (USGS National Wetlands Research Center) chairs the SWS Human Diversity Committee, which will be responsible for implementing the program. Announcements will be displayed on the website and in the Bulletin, and letters will be sent to appropriate administrators in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) throughout the country as well as other institutions with strong minority programs.

SWS chapters are asked to assist recruiting students in the following ways:

- notifying chapter members about the program,
- displaying posters in appropriate places,
- contacting science department chairs at HBCUs in their region personally to establish liaisons,
- soliciting volunteer members to visit those departments to discuss opportunities in wetland science with students, and
- encouraging students from underrepresented groups to present oral papers and abstracts at regional meetings.

Applications from students will be due on April 1. Priority will be given to any student who can present a poster at the annual meeting. Otherwise, students who have made a clear and firm commitment to a career in wetland science or policy will be favored, and a letter of recommendation from the student's advisor will be an important factor in the selection process also.

Volunteers to be mentors to these students during the SWS meeting at Charleston are also being sought. Mentors should have at least two years of graduate experience and should have attended at least two prior SWS annual meetings. They should plan to attend the entire meeting. Please contact Jacoby Carter (jacoby_carter@usgs.gov) if you are interested.

Annual Chapter Meeting in Vancouver!

The 2005 Pacific Northwest Chapter's annual meeting will be October 5, 6 and 7th at the Red Lion Inn on the waterfront in Vancouver, Washington. The theme of the meeting will be the Restoration and Ecology of the Lower Columbia River Wetlands. The planning committee has held their first meeting, but we are still looking for volunteers. Our next meeting will be February 17, 2005 at 5:30 at the EPA office in Portland. If you would like to help out please contact Nancy Rorick at 503-668-8660 or email her at nrorick@verizon.net

The meeting planning committee's plans for technical sessions include wetland mitigation banking, conservation programs, historic vegetation mapping, functional assessments in Washington and Oregon, wildlife connectivity, transportation issues, and estuaries. Possible field trips include Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Mirror Lake, Astoria Estuarine Mitigation Bank, the Willapa Bay wetlands and kayaking on Smith and Bybee Lakes. Please contact Nancy to share your ideas for sessions and field trips.

News from The Society for Ecological Restoration

The Society for Ecological Restoration Northwest (SER) and People for Puget Sound invite you to join renowned writer and thinker Terry Tempest Williams in a spirited discussion with environmental philosophers and luminaries Andrew Light, Stuart Cowan, David Conrad, and Alex Steffen. Katherine Baril will moderate the event. Tickets are $15 through Brown Paper Tickets. Call 1 (800) 838-3006 or visit www.sernw.org. This event is in conjunction with the “SERNW Regional Conference on Restoration and Sustainability: A practical partnership for the 21st Century." Be there April 6 from 7:30 - 9:30 pm at Town Hall, 1119 8th Avenue in Seattle. The SER’s regional conference is taking place April 4-8, 2005 at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle. Visit the SERNW website; www.sernw.org for more information and to register on-line.
**News (or Wet) Shorts – just kidding!**

**SWS Listserve Update: We Have A Winner!**
Ilon Logan is the proud new owner of a genuine SWS Fleece Vest. She won the vest in our drawing of those signed up for the SWS listserve. We will have another drawing during our April Board Meeting – to enter, simply sign up for the listserve. See our website for details: www.pnw.sws.org. Stay in touch with your society.

**$ Available to Help Students Attend the Oct. Meeting**
Several $500 scholarships are available to encourage students to participate in the October Chapter meeting to be held in Vancouver, WA. See the web site for details.

**Student Scholarship Awarded**
Christine Weilhoefer, Portland State University, was selected by our Research, Scholarship, and Awards Committee to receive a $1,000 scholarship to enable her to attend the International SWS Meeting in South Carolina this summer. She will be presenting her paper, “Using sediment algal assemblages as indicators of wetland condition in Willamette Valley, OR wetlands.”

**First Call for Abstracts**
Our chapter will be meeting from 5-7 October 2005 in Vancouver, WA. Please check out the website for more information: www.pnw.sws.org.

**April Chapter Board Meeting & Campout**
The PNW Chapter Board will hold their spring meeting on April 9th at Beacon Rock State Park. All members are welcome to attend the board meeting which will begin at 10am. The state park is located on the Washington side of the Columbia River Gorge. Directions can be found on the website: www.pnw.sws.org.

**Next Newsletter Deadline**
Do you have a burning issue or announcement to share with the SWS PNW Chapter? Please submit articles for the Spring issue of Ooze News to Amy Dearborn and/or Jeff Walker by April 31st.

Jeff Walker
455 North 44th Street #204
Seattle, Washington 98103

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**Have you Moved?:** To ensure you receive each issue of Ooze News, please change your address at the national SWS website: www.sws.org.