President’s Corner

By Leandra Cleveland, PNW Chapter President

Welcome to the New Year - Over the holidays I was reading the latest edition of *Wetland Science and Practice* and was struck by an article by Andy Cole, Editor. This article was on the last page of the bulletin,

“As I write this little essay, I am painfully aware that this issue of *Wetland Science and Practice* is a bit…thin. …I would like to again urge the membership to send in articles that fall into the areas of research and applications, policy, and education. Or anything else wetland-related for that matter. The success of this publication depends on the willingness of the membership to share their experiences, good and bad, with the rest of us. I would like to hear of case studies, of educational approaches, of policy changes…all of these things can do nothing but improve *Wetland Science and Practice* as well as the lives of wetland scientists everywhere.”

As a consultant I do not generally think in terms of publishing papers and I have generally not thought about submitting articles to *Wetland Science and Practice*. The reality is that *Wetland Science and Practice* is not a journal, it is the “formal voice of SWS.” Each of us has probably encountered, researched, and implemented some aspect of wetlands that is news worthy. I would encourage each of you as members to think about your role in the world of wetlands and to consider contributing to this important bulletin. It is through sharing our experiences with each other that we learn and our profession grows. If you are interested in submitting an article please visit the website for instructions at [http://www.sws.org/bulletin/index.mgi](http://www.sws.org/bulletin/index.mgi). I look forward to reading your articles in the future!

Board News

By Andrew Ray, PNW Chapter Executive Vice President

The PNW Chapter's Executive Vice President, Andrew Ray, has accepted a position with the U.S. Geological Survey’s Northern Rocky (NOROCK) Mountain Science Center in Bozeman, Montana. Andrew has been working as a Research Associate with the Oregon Institute of
Technology (OIT) since 2008 and plans to continue his collaborations with students and colleagues at OIT and with scientists at Crater Lake National Park. He began his new position with NOROCK in January 2011 and will assist in the development, testing, and evaluation of innovative conservation technologies to control and suppress aquatic invasive species. Andrew will continue to serve as the Executive VP of the PNW Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists until a suitable replacement has been identified or until elections are held at the next biannual meeting in the Fall of 2012.

Call for Nominations

By C. Mirth Walker, Secretary/Newsletter Editor

We are sad to learn that Andrew Ray is moving to Montana and hope that the Rocky Mountain Chapter realizes their gain is our loss. As you know, the Executive Vice President is usually elected with expectations of becoming the next Chapter President, so we need the memberships’ help in filling the void that will be created by Andy’s departure. Are you interested in helping shape the future of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists? Or do you know someone who may be interested? Please forward nominations for Executive Vice President in training to Scott Luchessa either by phone (206) 336-1654 or email sluchessa@environcorp.com by April 15, 2011.

Oregon Flora Project

By C. Mirth Walker, Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Linda K. Hardison, Ph.D., Director of the Oregon Flora Project (OFP) at the Oregon State University announces Oregon’s new checklist; representing the culmination of seventeen years of work, the OFP Vascular Plant Checklist is now available on their website, http://oregonflora.org/checklist.php.

More than just a list of the 4,500+ Oregon vascular plants that grow outside of cultivation, the Checklist provides for each taxon:

- accepted names and synonymy
- literature citations in each of eight standard references
- common names and origin (native or exotic)
- year of most recent collection among the 35 herbaria researched to select a voucher specimen

The Checklist supports the other online features of the Oregon Flora Project, notably the interactive Atlas mapping program and the Photo Gallery, by providing details of the OFP nomenclature. We encourage you to visit their website at http://oregonflora.org to explore the newly released Checklist and other resources.

Invasive Species Corner

By Lizbeth Seebacher, Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Glyceria maxima (C. Hartm.) Holmb. Common names: reed sweetgrass, tall mannagrass. Synonyms: Glyceria aquatica L., Molinia maxima C. Hartm., and Poa aquatica L. The G. maxima cultivar ‘Variegata’ is also found in North America.

Reed sweetgrass is a perennial, rhizomatous graminoid native to temperate Europe and Asia. This species has been found in Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Alaska and in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, Canada. It is also an invasive throughout Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania. Recently, as noted by the King County Noxious Weed Control program, several new populations of this invasive species were found in Lake Marcel and Renton. Until last summer, the only known population was on a private lake in Snohomish County. In Washington State, reed sweetgrass is considered to be a Class A Noxious Weed, a prohibited plant. It is illegal to buy or sell this plant and it must be eradicated when found. It is not listed in Oregon or Idaho. Unfortunately, this species is available on-line from several nurseries and is occasionally used as an ornamental, and may have been introduced as a forage crop.

Glyceria maxima is very tall, up to 2.5 meters (about 8 feet) high. The leaf sheaths and leaf blades have prominent midribs and the leaf margins have stiff hairs making the leaves rough to the touch. The inflorescence of this species is a panicle, either found open or symmetrical and the branches of the inflorescence also have short, stiff hairs. It flowers in mid-summer, from June to August.

Photo courtesy of IPANE (http://www.newenglandwild.org/protect/invasive-plants/ipane)

Assistance with identification can be found at: http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/reed-sweetgrass.aspx
Reproduction is mostly due to rhizomatous growth. As with one of our other favorite wetland invasives, reed canarygrass (Phalaris arundinacea), reed sweetgrass forms an extensive mat of rhizomes and dense stems and begins growth very early in the season, giving this species a competitive advantage over many of our native wetland species. Unlike Phalaris, the root system for sweetgrass can extend 3 feet below the surface. The seed viability in the Pacific Northwest is not known at this time. The plant can spread via root and rhizome fragments as well as potentially viable seed. Other countries where this plant is invading have found seeds which remain viable for at least five years, creating a formidable seed bank. Dispersal means are typically by water movement, and via mud on machinery, footwear, livestock and potentially water fowl.

The impacts of this aggressive invader include the creation of large monocultures and reduction of native species diversity and native seed-producing species which provide food sources for wildlife. Dense stands can restrict waterway access and water flow, causing flooding. The reduced flow can cause environments suitable for mosquito larvae as well as anaerobic conditions. A few studies have also found that this species has allelopathic properties, and cyanide poisoning of cattle eating young shoots has been reported.


For small infestations:
- All pieces of the roots and rhizomes must be removed if pulling by hand (or re-sprouting may occur)
- Black plastic used to smother the grass was 100% effective in Massachusetts; however, this method is not feasible for large areas.

For large infestations:
- A 3% solution of glyphosate has been effective and can be applied as a foliar spray and by wiping. Herbicides such as glyphosate that are translocated through all parts of the plant, including the deep rhizomes, are ideal for control. A complete coverage of all foliage is necessary; spraying should be stopped before it starts to run off. The best time for application for this plant is in late summer and early fall. The water level may need to be lowered (if possible) if one-third of the stems are below the surface. The water level should be lowered for at least 12 hours after application. Follow-up treatments the year after application are recommended. Removal of the dead material is advised to reduce anaerobic conditions due to decomposition of the dead plant material.
- Cutting may reduce populations of reed sweetgrass by allowing sunlight to reach other, competitive plants. Continued and frequent cutting is suggested, which will help reduce the amount of carbohydrates stored (the carbohydrate reserves are typically able to compensate for the cutting for several months).

Since several instances of cattle poisoning have occurred due to cyanide production in the young shoots, grazing is not recommended. Please report any infestations you may find to your county Noxious Weed Board.

Oregon Department of State Lands Rule Revision
By Leandra Cleveland, PNW Chapter President

The Oregon Department of State Lands has proposed revisions to the removal-fill rules to make it easier to obtain a permit for low-impact projects such as restoring wetlands, stabilizing stream banks, placing pilings, and transportation maintenance. These activities would qualify for a new series of "notice-based" general authorizations and permits (GAs and GPs). The public comment period closed on January 31, 2011 and the new rules are expected to be adopted by March 1, 2011. Visit the DSL website for more details:
http://oregonstatelands.us/DSL/rules_activity.shtml#div1

Mid-year International Board Meeting
By Leandra Cleveland, PNW Chapter President

A reminder that the SWS International mid-year board meeting is just around the corner. This twice yearly meeting allows your chapter president to bring issues and concerns to the forefront of the board. If you have concerns about International chapter issues, please call or email your chapter president about your concerns. I often feel as if there is a disconnect between the SWS International Board and the chapters, so here is your chance to be heard.

Call for Volunteers – Chapter Meeting Fall 2012
By Greta Murdoff, Program Vice President

Volunteers are needed to help organize the Fall 2012 Pacific Northwest Chapter SWS Conference in Boise, Idaho. We need volunteers to help with organizing the meeting, including planning and leading field trips, workshops, and special sessions. And we need local sponsors for this event. Please email Greta if you would like to help with the meeting at greta@murdoffcs.com.
Oregon Department of State Lands and NRCS Collaborate on Growing Season Study

By Janet Morlan, PWS, Oregon Department of State Lands

In January 2010, wetlands team members at DSL began making systematic observations of visible signs of spring plant growth. We chose sites in Portland, Salem and Corvallis for our phenology observations. Two DSL resource coordinators provided observations from Bend. We were interested in documenting “start of growing season” with respect to wetland delineation procedures, but mostly we were just interested in what we would learn by simply looking more closely.

For our 2010 observations, we experimented with a combination of transects and meander surveys. We tagged several plants or branches in order to make repeat measurements and recorded changes such as bud swell and bud burst, above-ground emergence, flowering and other readily observable changes. And, we took a lot of photos.

Our emerald green valley has a mild climate and “start” of growing season is not as clear-cut as we might have imagined, given that much herbaceous growth remains green throughout the winter. From previous wet soils studies conducted by students from Oregon State University, we also knew that soil temperatures (at 20 inches below ground surface) rarely dip below biological zero (41 degrees F).

This past fall we learned that our NRCS colleagues in Oregon were also interested in growing season measurements and had installed one set of HOBOs (at 12 inch and 20 inch depths) in a Dayton soil in Yamhill County. The 20 inch depth is the standard long used by soil science for recording soil temperatures; the 12 inch depth was adopted in the regional supplements to the Corps wetland delineation manual to correspond with the wetland hydrology criterion for depth to water table. HOBOs can be set to record the temperature at specific time intervals and can be dug up later to upload the data. So we teamed up this year to record plant phenology changes and soil temperatures (at both depths) at wetland sites in Portland, Salem, Corvallis, and Eugene—a good longitudinal transect of the Willamette Valley. DSL wetlands staff began their plant observations in late December 2010. NRCS also installed the HOBOs in late December and will retrieve them in the summer or fall of 2011. At that time, they will complete a soil profile description for each HOBO site.

Thus far, we have recorded plant growth in January of both years, including bud swell, bud burst, above-ground emergence and leaf elongation. This year, I noticed that new leaves were emerging on a red flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) even before all of last year’s leaves had dropped off. It’s been very interesting, and we look forward to sharing our data once we get it all collected and organized.
SWSPCP Develops Body of Knowledge for Wetland Scientists

By Janet Morlan, PWS (SWSPCP president-elect), Elizabeth Binney, PWS (SWSPCP past-president), and Yvonne Vallette, PWS (SWSPCP treasurer)

If you are a certified Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) or Wetland Professional in Training (WPIT), you may recall completing a survey several months ago aimed at identifying and ranking the relative importance of various areas of expertise—the “body of knowledge” (BOK) important for wetland scientists. More than 50% of certified individuals responded to the survey, and the results are posted on the Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program (SWSPCP) web site: http://www.wetlandcert.org/bok.html

Naturally, the BOK results closely correspond to the education and practicable work typically conducted by most of the respondents. Therefore, it leans toward U.S. laws and related knowledge and skills important to private consultants and agency staff, such as the Clean Water Act, plants, soils, compensatory mitigation design and construction, and so forth. But it is also broad-based, including general science, professional ethics, watershed processes and many other subject areas.

Development of the BOK for wetland scientists was necessary for maintaining national accreditation of the SWSPCP through the Council of Engineering and Science Specialty Boards. The benefit of national accreditation for the SWSPCP is the fostering of a generation of Professional Wetland Scientists of known and documented quality, through an inclusive and transparent process that is responsive to the needs of the community. Professional credentials, in addition to academic credentials, help to provide public assurance of the qualifications and ethical standards that a professional must attain and sustain in the performance of their duties. Not only must a certified professional demonstrate their technical and academic competency at the time of certification, they must also sustain their knowledge over time as well as uphold a code of professional conduct. By 2012, the BOK will be used by the SWSPCP to help evaluate applicants for certification. The plan is to update the BOK every five years.

Whether you are a student working on a degree or an experienced practitioner, whether you are interested in becoming a certified PWS or not, the BOK provides an excellent description of the knowledge and skills identified as important to a wetland scientist.

International SWS Meeting – Prague 2011

By Leandra Cleveland, PNW Chapter President

The next SWS International Conference is just around the corner and we hope you can join us in Prague, July 3-8, 2011. SWS will join scientists from WETPOL (Wetland Pollution and Control) and the Wetland Biogeochemistry Symposium for our annual conference, to be held along the banks of the Vltava River near the Charles Bridge and the historic Prague Castle, Czech Republic. This will be a great opportunity to meet many of the international members and see wetlands outside the continental US. Don’t miss out on this unique opportunity.

Abstracts submissions are due by February 28, 2011.

The annual meeting program will include plenary talks, symposia, contributed oral sessions and a poster session. Abstracts are expected to have science-based content; all abstracts will be peer reviewed by the Program Committee to assess their scientific merit and applicability to the meeting. Accepted abstracts will be published in the meeting program booklet. Presenters will be notified via email by March 31, 2011. Visit the abstract page for more details at http://www.sws2011.com/programme/call-for-abstracts/call-for-abstracts/

For more conference information visit the website at http://www.sws2011.com. As a word of advice, if you have problems using the online system, call or email the hotel/conference center. They are very helpful and will get you connected and registered in no time.

2011 Student Scholarships

By Leandra Cleveland, PNW Chapter President

The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists would like to encourage student participation at our regional and national meetings. The next regional meeting will be scheduled in fall 2012. Stay tuned for additional information. Currently, the chapter is sponsoring student participation at the International meeting in Prague on July 3-8, 2011.
At this time, we would like to announce the availability of funds to assist students with the costs associated with traveling to/from meetings to present results of their research.

**The Award:** The PNW Chapter will make one award for the upcoming International meeting.

- For the International meeting, the award includes the meeting registration fee and a $2,500 cash stipend to help offset travel and lodging expenses

**Eligibility:** This competition is open to all currently registered, graduate and undergraduate students within Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Students need to submit an abstract with their application (abstracts are due February 28).

- **Deadline to submit applications for the International meeting is April 1, 2011**

**To Apply:** Submit proof of current student status (photo copy of a university ID or letter from academic advisor), a copy of your submitted SWS abstract, and a short (1-2 page) letter describing your studies, your career goals and why you would like to receive this award. Applications can be mailed or emailed to:

  Dr. Ralph J. Garono (rgarono@earthdesign.com)
  c/o Lake Superior NERR
  University of Wisconsin Superior
  103 Old Main / PO Box 2000
  Superior, WI 54880
  (541.757.7896)

**Selection:** Awards will be made by the selection committee on the basis of the merit of each candidate and the quality of their SWS abstract. *Decisions of the selection committee are final. The committee reserves the right to withhold the award if suitable candidates are not found or if funds are not available.*

**Soil and Wetland Scientists Certification in Washington**

*By Scott Luchessa, Immediate Past President*

Title Act legislation for the voluntary certification of soil and wetland scientists was reintroduced in the current session of the Washington State legislature. SB 5225 was heard by the Senate Labor, Commerce, and Consumer Protection Committee chaired by Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles on Tuesday, January 25. HB 1313 was heard by the House Business and Financial Services Committee chaired by Representative Steve Kirby Friday, January 28. Both committees are expected to vote on the bill in executive sessions the week of January 31. Assuming passage through these committees, the respective bills then go to the Rules Committees. The proposed legislation language has been strengthened in response to suggestions made by stakeholders that have participated in the process. Complete language of the current bill is available on website at [http://www.soilandwetlandscientistscertification.net](http://www.soilandwetlandscientistscertification.net/).

Because the potential pool of soil and wetland scientists has been shown to be larger than previously estimated, the costs for becoming certified and maintaining certification have declined in the new fiscal note. Initial application during the grandfathering period would be $550. After the grandfathering period, application is $300 and annual renewal is $250. Because the program would be self-funded, it would neither increase the size of government nor cost taxpayers any additional money. Certification and renewal fees are expected to drop over time after the initial program set-up costs, including exam development, have been completed.

I would encourage you to contact your legislators in support of this program by either calling or emailing them. If you have not done this, it is unbelievably easy. Point your browser to [http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx) to find your legislator and then type in your address and click on the Find My District button. This will bring up your legislators and a link to their websites with their contact information. If you are more comfortable emailing, this process also is very simple and takes no more than five minutes. Please be informed that some hydrogeologists are testifying that they believe only licensed hydrogeologists should be able to delineate wetlands. How’s that for scary!? Get involved, contact your legislators. It may save your job.

**Podcast: Soil and Wetland Scientists Certification in Washington**

*By Scott Luchessa, Immediate Past President*

For those of you interested in answers to some commonly asked questions, please listen to the podcast on the PNW SWS Chapter website at [http://www.sws.org/regional/pacificNW/](http://www.sws.org/regional/pacificNW/). There is also a short summary above the link to the podcast on the Soil and Wetland Scientists Certification in Washington website titled “Handout” – see [http://www.soilandwetlandscientistscertification.net/](http://www.soilandwetlandscientistscertification.net/).

Thanks again to Per Johnson, our Volunteer Media Coordinator, for producing this and other podcasts.
**SWS Sections - Wildlife**

*By Leandra Cleveland, PNW Chapter President*

Over two years ago SWS embarked on a new venue – Sections – for collectively sharing and collaborating on important issues to wetland scientists. Sections allow SWS members to network and promote activities that address subject areas ranging from science to policy. To date, there are six active sections: Biogeochemistry, Global Change Ecology, Peatlands, Wildlife, Women in Wetlands, and Ramsar. To highlight the new Sections and gain greater exposure, the next several newsletters will provide an overview of each section. This edition will highlight the Wildlife Section.

The Wildlife Section goals include:

- Organize symposia on important developments in wetland Wildlife.
- Propose and fund initiatives that advance wetland Wildlife research and education.
- Encourage and support students engaged in wetland Wildlife research.
- Interact with other sections to enhance interdisciplinary research.

This section is still working on its website so check back for updates. As a SWS member you can join one or more sections. For more information visit the SWS Sections webpage at: [http://www.sws.org/sections/](http://www.sws.org/sections/)

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**SWS Funds Available for Wetlands Workshops**

*By Jeff Walker, Past PNW Chapter Newsletter Editor/Secretary*

The PNW Chapter Board is encouraging applications for SWS support to conduct workshops on relevant topics. The workshop request form can be found on the chapter website: [http://www.sws.org/regional/pacificNW/workshop.html](http://www.sws.org/regional/pacificNW/workshop.html)

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**Calendar of Wetland Classes and Workshops**

*By Leandra Cleveland, PNW Chapter President*

To better serve our members we have included a list of wetland related classes and workshops occurring in the Pacific Northwest. If you know of other organizations that offer classes please forward the weblink to leandra.cleveland@hdrinc.com.

**Portland State University Environmental Professional Program**

*Contact: [http://epp.esr.pdx.edu/](http://epp.esr.pdx.edu/)*

- Basic Wetland Delineation: March 14-18, 2012. Portland, OR
- Wetland Mitigation Part I: Site Assessment and Design: April 12-14, 2011. Portland, OR
- Hydric Soil Indicators for Regional Supplements: May 3-4, 2011. Portland, OR
- Delineation Regional Supplement Training: May 24-25, 2011. Portland, OR
- Wetland Plants of the PNW: June 6-10, 2011. Portland, OR
- Wetland Hydrology Indicators and Problem Situations: June 21-22, 2011. Portland, OR

**Wetland Training Institute**

*Contact: [http://wetlandtraining.com/](http://wetlandtraining.com/)*

- Regional Supplement Seminar and Field Practicum: May 3-4, 2011. Arlington, WA

**Richard Chinn Environmental Training, Inc.**

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

- Wetland Delineation and Management Training: February 8-11, 2011. Seattle, WA
- Wetland Delineation and Management Training: June 7-10, 2011. Boise, ID
- Regional Supplement Wetland Delineation Training: June 10, 2011. Boise, ID

**Coastal Training Program**

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

- Selecting Wetland Mitigation Sites Using a Watershed Approach: March16, 2011. Lacey, WA

**University of Washington – Professional Development Program**

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


**The Seminar Group**

*Contact: [http://www.theseminargroup.net/](http://www.theseminargroup.net/)*

- Oregon Wetlands: May 25, 2011. Portland, OR

**Western Washington University – Contact:**

*http://www.acadweb.wwu.edu/eesp/summer/index.shtml*

- Wetland Identification and Delineation: June 20-24, 2011. Bellingham, WA
National Wetland Plant List

By Yvonne Vallette, Treasurer

The federal register notice for updates to the draft National Wetland Plant List (NWPL) has now been published. The NWPL is used in delineating wetlands for purposes of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and the Wetland Conservation Provisions of the Food Security Act. The public can now comment and vote on the wetland indicator status ratings of the plants, species nomenclature changes, and the revisions of the definition of indicator status ratings contained in the NWPL. Written and online comments must be submitted on or before March 7, 2011. The public notice is available at: http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/documents/REG/SPN_NWPL.pdf

SWS PNW Consultant Directory

The Chapter has posted a consultant list on our website: http://www.sws.org/regional/pacificNW/SWSConsultantList.pdf
The only requirement to be on this list is current SWS membership. If you want to be added or need to update your information, contact C. Mirth Walker at cmwalker@swca.com with SWS Consultant List in the subject line. The list will be updated quarterly.

Please Renew Your Membership

By C. Mirth Walker, Newsletter Editor/Secretary

January is the time of year to renew your annual membership in SWS. If you have not done so yet, please do - we appreciate you!

Update Your Contact Information at the Society of Wetland Scientists Website

The Chapter receives an updated membership list prior to each newsletter mailing. To receive the PNW Chapter newsletter and other important information from SWS, we need you to maintain current contact information. Please visit the webpage to update your information today at http://www.sws.org/login.mgi?r=address.

Ooze News Deadlines for Articles

April 15, July 15, October 15, January 15

Please send articles and announcements to C. Mirth Walker at cmwalker@swca.com and to Lizbeth Seebacher at lizbetha@uw.edu.

Ooze Newsletters are available at:
http://www.sws.org/regional/pacificNW/