

Safeguarding Europe's Wetlands

Wetland loss and degradation in Europe has been extreme and is on-going.

★ In Italy over 90% of all wetlands have been lost since Roman times.

★ Over 40% of all coastal wetlands in Brittany, France, have been lost since 1960.

★ At least two-thirds of all shallow lakes, bogs and wet meadows have been lost in Denmark since 1784.

The challenge for wetland scientists in Europe is to arrest and reverse wetland loss. By working together, through organisations such as the Society of Wetland Scientists, academics, site managers, regulators and any individual with a passion for wetlands can play their part in securing a future for Europe's precious wetland resource.

To achieve this, the European Chapter of SWS will:

Act as a **CLEARING HOUSE** and source of information and contacts at the European level on the conservation, management and scientific understanding of our wetland resources

Provide a **MEETING POINT** for wetland scientists across Europe.

Explore the demand for a European-wide **ACCREDITATION** System for Wetland Scientists, develop proposals for such accreditation, identify gaps in Training and Professional Development Provision and support and encourage members in seeking out or developing appropriate opportunities.



SWS mission

to promote understanding, conservation, scientifically based management, and sustainable use of wetlands



Photos:
WWT
Matthew Simpson
Paul Marshall

Society of Wetland Scientists



European Chapter



<http://www.sws.org>

Purpose

The Society of Wetland Scientists is a non-profit organization founded in 1980 to promote wetland science and the exchange of information related to wetlands. The objectives of the Society are:

- to operate solely and exclusively as a charitable and educational organization to foster conservation and understanding of wetlands,
- to advance public education and enlightenment concerning wetland resources,
- to provide an independent forum for an interchange of ideas and data developed within wetland science,
- to develop and encourage wetland science as a distinct discipline by supporting student education, curriculum development, and research,
- to encourage and evaluate the educational, scientific, and technological development and advancement of all branches of wetland science and practice, and
- to encourage the knowledgeable management of wetland resources.

The Society continues to grow and has over 4000 members. In Europe, the Society draws members from over 20 European countries.



Member Benefits

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- a) the top journal in our field, *Wetlands*, published four times a year;
- b) outstanding annual Society meetings and additional chapter activities including an annual European meeting held in the Spring of each year;
- c) a quarterly Society *Bulletin* with news of the Society and views of its members;
- d) a forum for exchange of information between managers and scientists;
- e) access to a web site that provides a jobs board, information about training courses and workshops, news about the Society, information about college wetland programs, and a forum for members to reach out to others who need our knowledge and assistance;
- f) a lively and engaged network within which to mentor the next generation of wetland professionals;
- g) an active grants program for wetland students and another program to help scientists in developing countries be members of SWS;
- h) a reduced rate on subscriptions to the journal *Wetlands Ecology and Management*;
- i) an active awards program that recognizes outstanding wetland scientists, outstanding service to the profession, and outstanding student papers at our annual meeting;
- j) a network of student members from Europe and beyond who can come together through the society to exchange views and experiences;
- k) an open invitation to 'non-scientists' such as site managers, government regulators and keen practitioners to become involved in the Society; and
- j) a means of formal and informal outreach to wetland colleagues around the world.

How to become a member

Go online at www.sws.org/membership/ to review current dues, to join electronically, or download the PDF application form from the SWS website, print it, fill it out and mail it with your dues to the secretariat at:

SWS Secretariat
1313 Dolley Madison Boulevard
Suite 402 McLean, VA 22101
USA

Tel: 703-790-1745

Fax: 703-790-2672

E-mail: SWS@BurkInc.com

www: www.sws.org/membership/