



Greetings Chapter Members,

First, thanks to all who participated in our recent chapter election. We were fortunate to have three enthusiastic nominees for our chapter board. We will be welcoming David Merkey as our next President elect following the SWS Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City.

I know many of you took advantage of the opportunities for professional development offered by the chapter this year by attending the tour we hosted in April of two non-tidal wetland mitigation and restoration sites in the Baltimore area or the field training session for the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Corps Manual supplement in Georgetown DE in May. We've received positive feedback on both programs and look forward to your ideas for future events.

Are you good with a camera? Consider submitting your favorite "wetland themed" photos for our photo contest. You could see your photos on display in the upcoming 2011 calendar. And last, look for great things in the coming year as Joe Berg transitions to President of the Chapter. As always, please contact any of the chapter officers if you would like to get involved or have ideas for SWS that you'd like to see implemented in our region.

Sharon Yates  
[syates@admarble.com](mailto:syates@admarble.com)

Please visit the chapter website for updates on chapter activities:

<http://www.sws.org/regional/midatlantic/>

**Chapter Officers:** Joe Berg, President; David Merkey, President-elect; Ron Prann, Treasurer; Sharon Yates, Past President

**Website:** <http://www.sws.org/regional/midatlantic/>

**Membership:** SWS members from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and District of Columbia

## Election Results

Please join me in welcoming David Merkey as the Chapter's next President Elect. David Merkey, PWS is a Senior Environmental Scientist with Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., Annapolis Junction, MD. David's academic career includes a B.S. in Biology (1993) from Grand Valley State University and a Master of Landscape Architecture (1997) and Ph.D. in Ecology (2005) from the University of Michigan. He has been a member of the SWS since 1999, served as the Secretary for the North Central Chapter in 2005, and achieved PWS status in 2006. David's interests in the Mid-Atlantic Chapter include increasing knowledge-sharing between private, academic, and public sector members and expanding local chapter participation. The President Elect position is a 2-year term, followed by automatically serving in the position of President and then Past President which are also 2-year terms.

## Wetland Photo Contest

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter is sponsoring a photo contest to compile wetland related photos for a 2011 calendar so remember your camera as you head to the field!

### ***Entry Requirements and Contest Rules***

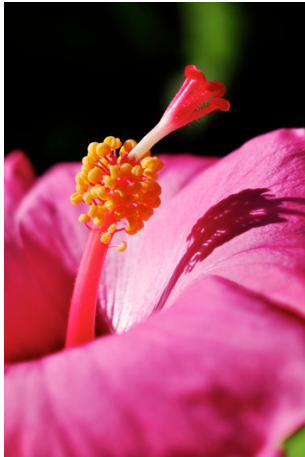
The Mid Atlantic Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists is seeking wetland-related photographs for the 2011 Mid Atlantic Wetland Calendar. SWS members and potential-SWS members may submit up to three (3) entries for judging. Photo entries will be accepted through August 1, 2010. You must be the original photographer of the photograph(s) you are entering. Twelve (12) winners will be selected by our Chapter judges and displayed, giving credit to the photographer, in a beautiful, full-color, high quality calendar that will be available for sale through our Chapter website at [www.sws.org/regional/midatlantic/](http://www.sws.org/regional/midatlantic/). Winners will receive a FREE calendar.

**The following guidelines will be considered by the judging panel when choosing photographs for inclusion in the calendar:**

- All entries must be a wetland related theme and, preferably located in the Mid Atlantic Region of the United States (e.g. New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia).
- All images must be at least 11.5x9" (approx. 1100X860 pixels) which will be resized and/or cropped to 11x8.5," as needed. Landscape (horizontal) orientation is preferred. Portrait orientation may require excessive cropping, and therefore may not be selected for the calendar. Resolution - 150-300 dpi. File size should not exceed 3MB.



- Images must be digital photos in jpeg format. Color and black-and-white (or sepia) photographs are acceptable. *We reserve the right to crop and color enhance photos as necessary.*



- Please, no digital enhancement or text added to image. We will add the text in a standard format after the winners are chosen.

**Release Information and Use of Photos:** By entering this contest, the contestant warrants that the image submitted is his or her original work and that he or she is the owner of the image. While contestants retain all rights to their images, contestant must grant permission for unrestricted use of the image to the Society of Wetland Scientists, or its designee, to utilize the image in future publications, exhibits and on its Internet site to promote the functions and values of wetlands. Release signatures of any recognizable persons in a photograph, other than the photographer, will also be required. Instructions for such will be emailed to you, if necessary.

**Submittal:** Submissions must be made on-line by midnight August 1, 2010. Please send an email to Sharon Yates at [syates@admarble.com](mailto:syates@admarble.com) to receive a confirmation and instructions to upload your photographs on-line. Please include the following information with your submittal: **Photographer's name, address, phone number, and e-mail address, along with the file name, appropriate title for each photograph, and location where each photo was taken.** As a tip, it is best to name the digital file the same title as given to your photograph, such as "reflections in a marsh.jpg" or "toad heaven.jpg," etc., to avoid any confusion.

**Judging:** Decisions of the judges are final. Notification will be sent by email to contest winners after judging is over and no later than September 30, 2010.

## Literature on Red Maple Swamps

Dr. Joan Ehrenfeld is writing a book chapter on red maple and black ash wetlands of the northeastern U.S., and is seeking publications, either in peer-reviewed journals or in the unpublished literature of reports of any kind, on any aspect of these wetlands (plant communities, animals, endangered species, hydrology, soils, etc.) There appears to be little published information, and she is seeking any other sources of information that can help in writing a comprehensive ecological description of these wetlands. Please respond to Dr. Joan Ehrenfeld, [ehrenfel@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:ehrenfel@rci.rutgers.edu).

## Recent Chapter Events

### Non-Tidal Wetland Mitigation/Restoration Site Tour



On Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup>, members of the Chapter participated in a visit to two wetland mitigation sites in the Baltimore area. The first site visited is a State Highway Administration (SHA) mitigation site. Bill Buettner of the SHA participated in the site visit. Approximately 15-ac of agricultural fields were converted to a similar area of vernal pool wetland.

An interesting feature of this site was the hydrology—the site has a perched shallow water table. About 5-ft below the surface of these shallow ponds, well drained sands occur. Another interesting feature of this site was that a typical planting effort was not implemented. Instead, an effort to evaluate the natural colonization of the restored area by the surrounding forested wetland plant community is underway. This restored resource is part of a 125-ac parcel, with the remaining 110 ac of forested wetland preserved in perpetuity by the SHA. After 2 hrs at this site, the participants traveled north into horse and wine country to look at two wetland mitigation bank sites.



Scott McGill of Ecotone, the contractor responsible for the projects was on hand to provide a tour and overview of the projects. These sites used a combination of groundwater, plugged ditches, and infrequent overbank stream flows as the basis for the hydrology. The planting effort for these mitigation bank projects included tree and shrub tube protection efforts. After a couple hours on these sites, the group had a nice lunch at a local deli and returned home, successful once

again at putting off a Saturday of lawn chores!

## Field Training Workshop

On May 27 and 28, the Chapter sponsored a two day training workshop on the Interim Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region. Thirty-one folks registered for the workshop held in Georgetown, Delaware, about 20 miles from Rehobeth. Ralph Spagnolo from the EPA and Lenore Vasilas from the USDA were the instructors with excellent help from Al Rizzo (U.S. FWS) and Phil King (USDA). The workshop was organized both days for morning classroom



lecture followed by afternoon field work reinforcing the classroom material. All feedback from the participants was very positive on the course content, utility of the field efforts, and the facilities and food. Anyone involved in wetland delineation is strongly advised to attend one or more of these sessions, and the sessions sponsored by the SWS Chapters or directly by the Corps are the best value.

## Upcoming Chapter Events

### Joint Mid Atlantic and South Atlantic Chapter Workshop

We will be hosting a joint meeting with the South Atlantic Chapter (including members from Virginia to Florida) at the USGS National Center in Reston VA on March 7 and 8, 2011. Look for more details, including a call for abstracts and posters, in upcoming newsletters and on the chapter website.

## Other Upcoming Events in Our Region

**The Ecological Society of America** will hold its 95<sup>th</sup> annual Meeting on **Sunday Aug 1 - Friday Aug 6, 2010** in Pittsburgh PA. The meeting theme is "Global Warming: The legacy of our past, the challenge for our future. For more information visit the conference website <http://www.esa.org/pittsburgh/>

**The Delaware and New Jersey State Sections of the American Water Resources Association** look forward to welcoming you to AWRA's 2010 Annual Water Resources Conference in Philadelphia, PA. The two sections are planning a great conference full of information on the latest water resources topics, along with four days of productive community building, conversation and connections while enjoying your stay in the City of Brotherly Love. **Nov 1 -4, 2010.** Abstracts are due May 14. For more information visit the website

<http://www.awra.org/meetings/Philadelphia2010/index.shtml>