



Greetings Mid-Atlantic SWS Chapter Members,

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SWS has a variety of activities for our members this winter and spring to learn about wetlands and new delineation methods as well as meet and reconnect with other wetland professionals.

Ellen Kracauer Hartig has put together an exciting day in D.C. starting with a tour of Dig It! The Secrets of Soil by Lead Curator Pat Megonigal (SWS Past President) on February 20— please register now to join us! Sharon Yates has also been planning for a field training for the new regional delineation manual and we will be joining the New York State Wetlands Forum for their spring meeting this year in Poughkeepsie, NY. I hope that you will join us at some of these events throughout the region (see the Upcoming Events section below). Our activities will also be a great lead into the SWS International meeting in Madison, WI, this year! Remember abstracts are due February 27th!

We are also seeking nominations for the office of President-Elect to serve on the board of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter. I would encourage everyone to considering this opportunity to be involved in SWS. It has been a rewarding experience for me to meet new people and learn new aspects of our profession. Please send nomination to me at amy.jacobs@state.de.us.

Special thanks to Frank Reilley for agreeing to post information temporarily on our chapter website. To visit please go to:

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

As our network of wetland professionals in the Mid-Atlantic continues to grow I believe that the use and function of the Chapter website can be expanded to provide additional services and information to members. To do this we are in need of someone with web skills to be our webmaster for the site. The current site is very basic and would require minimal time to maintain/update. If you are interested please let me know.

As always if you have other ideas or opportunities for our chapter I'd love to hear from you – amy.jacobs@state.de.us.

Enjoy the cold that winter had brought this year and take a walk through a frozen wetland for new perspective of these wonderful places.

Amy

Chapter Officers: Amy Deller Jacobs, President; Sharon Yates, President-elect; Ron Prann, Treasurer; Ellen Kracauer Hartig, Past President

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

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

Fall Mid-Year Meeting a Great Learning Opportunity

The 2008 Wetlands and Watershed Conference in Ocean City, MD, was an outstanding meeting packed with information and training sessions. The new format focused on providing mini-training sessions that covered many topics from the Rapano's decision, federal compensatory mitigation rule, Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Regional Supplement for the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual, plant identification, and wetland restoration techniques. We received many compliments on the regional delineation training as well as comments on the need for field training on the manual. Our Chapter has quickly responded with a field training that will be held in April (see below). In conjunction with the workshop we held our mid-year Chapter meeting on October 29th.

Mid-Year Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SWS Meeting Summary

Chapter Budget

Current chapter funds are approximately \$10,483. The chapter contributed \$20,000 towards the 2008 annual meeting in Washington DC and expects to get \$2,000 back from the proceeds of the meeting. The chapter also provided a \$1,000 sponsorship of the Wetlands & Watersheds meeting. At this time the only source of funds for the chapter are dues from members, estimated at \$2,000 annually.

Upcoming Events

February 20, 2009 – The chapter will be hosting a trip to the **Dig It! The Secrets of Soil** exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC. SE Chapter members, ASWM, family members and other interested parties are also invited to attend. See <http://www.sws.org/regional/midatlantic/flyer.pdf> for details.

April 7 and 8, 2009 – Our chapter will sponsor a social or part of the program at the **New York State Wetlands Forum in Poughkeepsie NY**. We hope to see members from the northern range of the chapter at this event.

June 22-26, 2009 – The **SWS Annual meeting** will be in Madison WI in 2009. This will be a joint meeting with the International Symposium on Wetland Biogeochemistry. Abstract submissions are due by February 27, 2009.

Chapter Website

Our chapter is in need of a volunteer to update the website. The website can be accessed remotely and the effort required is only a few hours each month. Frank Reilly offered to post content to the website if needed. It was suggested that the chapter budget be posted on the website. Amy Jacobs has been sending a quarterly newsletter to all chapter members by email. If you have information to share with other chapter members please forward to Amy.

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The Coalition of Public Understanding of Science is looking for interesting and effective programs that provide scientific information to the public. Contact Amy Jacobs or Dennis Whigham for more information.

Suggestions for activities or training

Field training for the manual supplements was suggested as a future event. Ralph Spagnolo and Lenore Vasilas have provided this training for federal agency staff and agreed to help organize a training session for the chapter. The following offered to form a committee to organize this training for May 2009: Amy Jacobs, Ralph Spagnolo, Lenore Vasilas, Ann Reardon, Sharon Yates.

The location for the Wetlands & Watersheds conference for 2009 and possibility of the MidAtlantic chapter meeting were discussed. The location has not yet been determined.

There was some discussion of changing the chapter bylaws to change the terms of the officers. The chapter will select a president-elect at the Annual meeting in June 2009. If anyone is interested in being nominated contact Amy, Sharon or Ellen.

Upcoming SWS Events

February 20th - Wetlands Winter Event, Guided Museum Tour and Book Program, Washington DC. Please join us for a day in the nation's capitol packed with exciting tours and speakers including Dig It! The Secrets of Soil Tour by Pat Megonigal at the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH); Tour of the gardens and indigenous landscapes by Christine Price-Abelow at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) and lunch inside at the Mitsitam Native Foods Café; Book program by Jeffrey K. Stine presenting *America's Forested Wetlands, From Wasteland to Valued Resource*. Book signing and refreshments to follow program. For book details see: <http://www.foresthistory.org/Publications/new.html> **Registration Deadline is February 6th.** Registration fee: \$35 (regular), \$10 (student) or fee waived. For more information see <http://www.sws.org/regional/midatlantic/flyer.pdf>.

April 7-8th New York State Wetlands Forum spring meeting "Linking Wetlands and Watersheds: 400 Years After the Hudson/Champlain Voyages", Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel, Poughkeepsie, New York - The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SWS will be joining the New York State Wetlands Forum this year to support a great event in our region. The 15th annual Spring Conference and Business Meeting of the New York State Wetlands Forum will once again examine an interesting variety of wetland-related issues and developments. Presenters are sought for breakout session topics and other topics of interest to you. **Deadline for abstracts in January 27th.** For Conference and Meeting Updates please visit <http://www.wetlandsforum.org/>

April 23 -24th Field Training for the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Regional Supplement
The Mid Atlantic chapter will be hosting a wetland delineation training session as a follow up to the training offered at the October, 2008, Watersheds & Wetlands Workshop. Lenore Vaslis of NRCS and Ralph Spagnolo of EPA Region 3, will demonstrate field applications of hydric soil, hydrophytic vegetation and hydrology indicators described in the supplement. This training is designed for wetland delineators already trained and experienced in the 1987 Manual who want to learn how to apply the indicators in the new supplement. Location and more details on the agenda coming soon.

Other Upcoming Events

March 7th - Schuylkill Watershed Congress, Montgomery County Community College, West Campus Pottstown, Pennsylvania

The 2009 Schuylkill Watershed Congress will feature concurrent and poster sessions covering a broad range of watershed topics and exhibits by watershed organizations, environmental consulting firms and government agencies. The keynote speaker will be Andrew Pitz, Vice President, Strategic Policy & Planning, Natural Lands Trust, who will be presenting a talk titled Climate Change in the Watershed. For information, call 215-369-1188, ext. 109.

March 13-14 - Joint conference presented by Mid-Atlantic Chapters of The Society for Ecological Restoration International and The Ecological Society of America. Bridging the Gap: Connecting Ecological Research and Restoration Practice.

<http://www.esa.org/midatlantic/conferences/announcementMAESA09.pdf>

April 27th - River & Stream Restoration: Geomorphic & Ecological Processes

The NJ section of the American Water Resources Association is presenting a course on river and stream restoration. The course will be presented in a 2-day and 5-day format and both sections begin on April 27, 2009 at Duke Farms, Somerset County, NJ. More information at <http://streamrestorationnj.com/> or email inquiries to njawra_stream@yahoo.