



SWS South Atlantic Chapter
Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia,
Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands

--PROPOSED--

**Bylaws of the South Atlantic Chapter
of the Society of Wetland Scientists**

ARTICLE 1. NAME AND PURPOSE

The official name of this chapter shall be the SOUTH ATLANTIC CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS. The objectives of the Chapter shall be to encourage communication of wetlands issues and research activities in the South Atlantic region (Virginia, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands), and to sponsor meetings and other activities which foster interaction of wetland scientists and managers in the region. The Chapter shall be governed in all of its operation by the constitution and bylaws of the SWS.

The Chapter shall have the power, either directly or indirectly, either alone or in conjunction with others, to do any and all lawful activities for the fostering, advancing, or accomplishing of Chapter affairs and objectives, and to aid and assist other organizations whose objectives may further foster, advance or accomplish Chapter objectives.

The Chapter shall not have nor exercise any power, nor directly or indirectly engage in any activity, that would cause the SWS to lose its exempt status from Federal income taxation as a corporation as described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and its regulations, as the same now exist or as they may be amended in the future.

ARTICLE 2. MEMBERSHIP

Any member of the SWS who resides within the Chapter's region is considered an active member of the Chapter. Herein, a "member in good standing" means a member whose dues are paid.

ARTICLE 3. GOVERNANCE

The elected officers of the Chapter shall be a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary-Treasurer. These officers, plus the immediate Past-Chair, constitute the Executive Committee, and they are authorized to act on behalf of the Chapter during intervals between annual meetings. The terms of office shall be two

years for the Vice-Chair and the Chair, who are elected concurrently, and three years for the Secretary-Treasurer, who is elected every third year. The Past-Chair shall serve for two years. Terms of office will commence and terminate immediately following the SWS annual business meeting.

Nominations for office shall be solicited by the Past-Chair, and new officers shall be elected by a majority vote of members in good standing, conducted prior to the SWS business meeting. Only active members in good standing shall be eligible for nomination for an elected office. Election shall be by ballot.

Ballots may be submitted via surface mail, electronic mail, or Internet polling, as determined to be fair and appropriate by the Executive Committee. The Secretary-Treasurer shall certify the voting status of members and the results of the elections.

No member of the Chapter will represent the Chapter without prior approval of the Executive Committee, nor represent the SWS without prior approval of the Society's Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 4. MEETINGS

The Chapter shall hold its business meeting at the annual meeting of the SWS, and the members present shall constitute a quorum for transaction of official business. The Chapter shall also organize Chapter meetings at other times and places as appropriate.

ARTICLE 5. STANDING RULES

The Executive Committee is authorized to adopt and amend Standing Rules for conduct of Chapter business, as necessary, by majority vote. Standing rules shall include, but not be limited to, matters pertaining to Chapter finances, duties of Chapter officers, provisions for establishment of standing committees or special committees, and authorization of Chapter publications.

ARTICLE 6. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

The Chapter bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing attending any annual business meeting of the Chapter, provided that notice of the proposed amendment has been provided to the members at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting.