
News for the South Atlantic Chapter of SWS

February 15, 2001

ALSO AVAILABLE IN [PDF FORMAT](#) ON THE CHAPTER WEB SITE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chapter Meeting at ASB in New Orleans

date: Thursday April 5th

time: noon - 1:30

room: Fleur du lis 1

Early ASB Registration Ends February 16th!!

Look for check box to apply for the SWS Student Travel Award or email your request to Pat Megonigal until 15 March: <megonigal.serc.si.edu>

Web Master Needed: We are looking for volunteers to serve the Chapter as Web Master. The duties are to post the newsletters and other information, and to seek ways to make our web site a useful resource for members. Email Pat Megonigal at <megonigal.serc.si.edu> to nominate yourself or someone else.

FEATURES

New Student Travel Award

The South Atlantic Chapter of the Society of Wetlands Scientists has funds available to support travel by graduate students presenting a paper on a wetlands topic. The Chapter will award at least \$100 to a maximum of five students. Officers of the Chapter will judge the applications based on the scientific quality and importance of their research as described in the abstract. All graduate students presenting research on a wetland topic are eligible; membership in SWS is not required. If you wish to apply for these funds, you need to indicate the title, authors of paper and check a box on the registration form that you send to the meeting registration site (see form in the January Program issue of Southeastern Biology or website link). You may contact Dr. Patrick Megonigal of George Mason University at jmegonig@gmu.edu or 703-993-1045, for more information.

Quebec Chapter Meeting

Thirteen people attended the luncheon meeting of the Chapter held in Quebec, Canada during the Millennium Event. This was largely a different group than those who attended the Association of Southeastern Biologists meeting. We spent most of the time discussing a proposal to link the ASB student travel award more clearly to SWS by limiting eligibility to wetland-related projects. The outlines of this were voted upon, and after follow up conversations among Chapter officers, we settled on a written description of the award. Cliff Hupp generously served as a liaison with the Association of Southeastern Biologists on questions about how to administer the new award. An announcement about the award appeared in the December issue of the ASB Bulletin and appears prominently on the on-line registration form. Students can

apply simply by checking a box on the meeting registration form. Time did not allow much discussion on two other topics on the agenda -- an annual meeting and a switch to on-line voting.

Meeting Attendees:

Marianne Burke US Forest Service
William Conner Clemson University
Frank Day Old Dominion University
Diane DeSteven US Forest Service
Bruce Edinger Salem-Teikyo University
Ron Fortney West Virginia University
Tiffany Gann Florida International University
Cliff Hupp US Geologic Survey
Pat Megonigal Smithsonian Institution
Masato Miwa International Paper
Rich Morgensen Marsh Resources, Inc.
Jim Perry Virginia Institute of Marine
Rebecca Sharitz Science
University of Georgia/SREL

Preliminary Agenda For Chapter Meeting in New Orleans

The Chapter will meet over lunch in New Orleans with the Association of Southeastern Biologists. Preliminary items for the agenda include:

- Amending the By-Laws to allow on-line voting ([See the Alaska Chapter example!](#))
 - Detailed proposal for a Chapter-sponsored fall symposium
 - Sponsorship of the a forested wetlands workshop in China
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Fall Symposium Ad Hoc Committee Appointed

Chapter Chair, Pat Megonigal, appointed an ad hoc committee to plan a symposium to be held next fall in cooperation with the Virginia Association of Wetland Professionals. Robin Bedenbaugh of KCI, Incorporated will chair the committee and represent the consultant community. Jennifer McCarthy of the USACE will represent the regulatory community and Pat Megonigal will represent the academic community. The committee welcomes any suggestions on the theme, venue and format of the meeting.

Call for Nominations

We welcome nominations of colleagues for Chapter Chair. The term becomes effective at the annual business meeting in July and lasts two years. It is a great way to learn more about the Societies' many and varied activities. Self nominations are great too!

Wetlands, Bottomland Hardwood, and Riparian Areas

Report on a Chapter-Sponsored Workshop Organized by the Southern Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service

Prepared by Dr. Marianne Burke

On April 7, 2000, the workshop 'Research on wetlands, bottomland hardwoods, and riparian areas in the Southern United States: Status and Frontiers' was held in conjunction with the Association for Southeastern Biologists in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The workshop was sponsored by the South Atlantic Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists. The desired outcome of the workshop was to contribute to the Southern

Research Station's (SRS) planning process by providing expert guidance for future collaborative research and development in bottomland hardwoods, forested wetlands, and riparian areas through identification of (1) priority research focus areas, and (2) collaboration opportunities.

A [summary](#) of each speaker's remarks and the subsequent discussion is available on the Chapter's web site in PDF format. Below is a list of the speakers, their topics, and the summary list by the moderator, Dr. Pete Roussopoulos.

Speakers&Topics:

Dr. Curtis Richardson of Duke University - 'Status of research on wetlands in the Southern United States'

Dr. John Hodges, retired - 'Silviculture Issues in Wetlands, Bottomland Hardwoods and Riparian Zones'

Ms. Jane Lareau of the SC Coastal Conservation League - 'Managing for Biodiversity in Wetlands, Bottomland Hardwoods and Riparian Zones':

Dr. Ronnie Haynes of the US Fish and Wildlife Service - 'Restoration Issues in Wetlands, Bottomland Hardwoods and Riparian Zones'

Dr. Wendell Gillium of North Carolina State University - 'Riparian Area Management issues in Wetlands, Bottomland Hardwoods, and Riparian Zones':

Dr. Jim Shepard of the National Council of Air and Stream Improvement - 'Water Quality Issues in Wetlands, Bottomland Hardwoods, and Riparian Zones'

Mr. Robert Abernethy of the Wild Turkey Federation - 'Non-commodity Issues in Wetlands, Bottomland Hardwoods, and Riparian Zones'

To conclude the meeting, Pete Roussopoulos captured the main points made during the meeting. His summary included:

1. There is a need to identify long-term research opportunities (LTER's) and include multiple reference sites;
2. There is a need for ecophysiological approaches - - especially for understanding stress effects -- including below ground processes;
3. There is a need for a better understanding of disturbance regimes - - and how to evaluate them. We need to match hydrologic events data with wetlands responses;
4. We need to guard against focus on narrowly focusing on "glamour" species;
5. There is a need for models of wetland function so we can better understand potential influences of global climate change on wetland sites;
6. We need to have multi-agency collaborations on program and budget development, e.g., Los Angeles watershed restoration project;
7. We should initiate transfers of technology with DOT and improve links with DOT for wetlands restoration opportunities;
8. We need to embrace a broader range of disciplines and accept responsibility for educating the public;
9. We must train loggers;
10. We must balance basic/applied research and technology development/ transfer efforts;
11. We need to be proactive in generating data that may be useful in the debate about forest management, and;
12. We must become aggressive on restoration of forested wetlands.