

**SWS SOUTH ATLANTIC CHAPTER LUNCHEON MEETING
APRIL 10, 2003
AT ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN BIOLOGISTS
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA**

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was attended by Beverly Collins, Frank Day, Sherry Holmes, Cliff Hupp, Ann Jennings, Daniel Kroes, Greg Noe, Paul Schmalzer, and Gary Wein.

The South Atlantic Chapter's student travel award was presented to Sherry Holmes during the meeting. Ms. Holmes's talk was entitled "The status of the populations of the flattened musk turtle (*Sternotherus depressus*) in the Bankhead National Forest, and the effects of silvicultural practices within the National Forest: preliminary results."

Frank Day, President of the Society of Wetland Scientists, provided an overview of the February mid-year meeting of the Society's Board of Directors in Williamsburg, Virginia. The Chapter's mid-year report presented at the Board of Directors meeting was provided. Frank announced that the Society created a Human Diversity Committee, which will initially focus on outreach to minority students. The Society recently received a grant from the National Science Foundation to bring minority students to the national meeting. Additionally, the Society submitted formal comments on the advanced notice for proposed rulemaking on isolated waters to the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Society's letter will be printed in an upcoming Bulletin. Management of the Society transitioned to Burke and Associates over the last year. In his upcoming position as Past President, Frank plans to work on a long-range plan for the Society.

Frank announced that the Board of Directors voted to accept the Chapter's annual meeting proposal and hold the 2005 Society meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. Frank also explained the Board's analysis of the NAACP boycott of South Carolina and their decision to move forward with the meeting. The 2005 meeting committee will be chaired by William Conner with assistance from Ann Jennings and Carl Trettin. Ann urged those present at the meeting to consider working on one of the multiple committees necessary to organize an annual meeting and to contact William Conner to volunteer.

A draft proposal (attached) to offer an annual Chapter travel award to the Society meeting for a graduate student attending a southeastern public or private university received a positive response from those present. There was a strong consensus to move forward with one \$500 award and consider expanding to additional awards in the future if successful. This proposal will be presented to the Chapter for a formal vote at the business meeting in New Orleans in June. This award is viewed as an opportunity to increase awareness of the Chapter as well as of the Society. Consideration will be given to sending out a mass Chapter email to announce the award. It was suggested the Chapter consider increasing the award for travel outside North America, such as for the upcoming meeting to Australia.

Ann announced the Chapter's pending election for Chair and called for nominations. The Chair is a two-year position and its duties include presiding at the business meetings of the Chapter, authorizing Chapter expenditures, and promoting the interest of the Chapter in every reasonable way. The Chair also represents the Chapter on the SWS Board of Directors, appoints

standing or special committees, and serves as the Program Chair to plan and arrange Chapter programs and activities.

Topics, timing, and a location for the next Chapter annual workshop were discussed. A one-day workshop in November on the issue of “isolated” wetlands was considered by the Chapter members as both timely and an important matter, particularly in the southeast. A possible location for the workshop is the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah.

DRAFT
SWS SOUTH ATLANTIC CHAPTER
Draft Guidelines for Graduate Student Travel Award to SWS Annual Meeting

- 1) The award should be announced in the SWS Annual Meeting call for papers in the Bulletin. This requires that the Awards Committee obtain from the SWS annual meeting chair deadlines for the announcement.
- 2) The award should also be announced in the fall and spring Chapter newsletter and in the September and December editions of the SWS Bulletin. Award winners should also be announced in the summer Chapter newsletter and in the June issue of the SWS Bulletin.
- 3) The announcement must include the following:
 - a. One \$500 travel award will be provided for graduate student research pertaining to wetland science or management.
 - b. The student must be enrolled in a public or private university located within the South Atlantic Chapter's region.
 - c. Applicants must send a copy of their abstract to the chair (physical and email addresses should be included in announcement) of the award committee at the time of submission to the SWS Program.
 - d. The announcement should inform the awardees that they are encouraged to attend the chapter annual business meeting (the student will be able to pick up the travel award check at this meeting).
 - e. A sample announcement is provided below.
- 4) The Awards Committee will rank applications for the student travel award and provide its recommendation to the Chapter Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will make final approval of the winning application.
- 5) Oral papers given by awardees during the SWS annual meeting should acknowledge the support provided by the South Atlantic Chapter of SWS, either verbally or written.
- 6) The Awards Committee shall consist of three Chapter members who will rank the abstracts and recommend winning applications to the Executive Committee for final approval. The committee members will serve staggered terms. The Executive Committee will appoint one committee member to act as chair. The Awards Committee will also be responsible to advertising the availability of the award to universities within the South Atlantic Chapter's region.
- 7) Students may receive support in multiple years and may receive support if they are also receiving support from other sources. However, the Awards Committee and the Executive Committee will retain the ability to eliminate a student from consideration if the student has received multiple Chapter awards in previous years or if receiving support from other awards.

SAMPLE ANNOUNCEMENT

SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS
SOUTH ATLANTIC CHAPTER
STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

The South Atlantic Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) offers a student travel award to support graduate students presenting wetland research at the SWS annual meeting. The student must be enrolled in a public or private university located within the South Atlantic Chapter's region. We will award \$500 to one student. The Chapter's Awards and Executive Committees will judge the applicants based on the scientific quality and importance of their research as described in the abstract. All students presenting research on a wetland topic are eligible; membership in SWS is not required. Please check the appropriate box on the SWS registration form and submit your abstract as instructed in the SWS call for papers. Further, applicants must also submit their abstract, by electronic mail, to THE COMMITTEE CHAIR. The award winner will receive their check at the Chapter's business meeting held during the SWS annual meeting.