

SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS SOUTH ATLANTIC CHAPTER
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
CHICAGO, IL
Tuesday, May 29, 2001

The South Atlantic Chapter of SWS held its annual business meeting in the Shelby Room of the Congress Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, in Chicago, IL, on May 29, 2001. Officers in attendance were Pat Megonigal (out-going Chair), and Diane De Steven (Vice-Chair).

Treasurer's Report: Secretary-Treasurer William Conner reports that the Chapter currently has 850 members. As of 5/29/01, the Chapter has \$3605.01 in expendable funds and \$18,000 in a CD which will roll over on 6/23/01 unless a change is specified.

Announcements:

1. Election results were announced. Ann Jennings will be the new Chair after the 2001 SWS business meeting. The Chapter thanks Ann and Jana Majer Newman for agreeing to run.
2. Shanin Speas, FL Dept. of Environmental Protection, is the Chapter's new Web Master.
3. Travel awards of \$100 each were made to five students who presented papers or posters on wetland topics at the 2001 ASB Annual Meeting.
4. Chair Pat Megonigal briefly summarized a proposal by Dr. Joerg Lotze of the Humboldt Field Station, Maine, for a new natural history journal, *The Southeastern Naturalist*. The Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB) is considering whether to sponsor the journal, and Dr. Lotze has also inquired as to whether a local SWS chapter is interested in being involved as well. Pat indicated that the Chapter and ASB are soliciting input.

Old business:

1. It was moved and seconded to amend the Chapter by-laws to include electronic voting as an option for conducting Chapter elections. In discussion, it was noted that the national SWS has successfully implemented Web-based voting, and that prior concerns about anonymity and duplicate voting have been addressed successfully. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Chair Pat Megonigal reported on progress in organizing a Fall 2001 sub-regional workshop on the topic of "The uses and functions of soil carbon in created wetlands". The workshop planning committee consists of Robin Bedenbaugh, Chair (consulting), Pat Megonigal (academia), and Jennifer McCarthy (regulatory), and the VA Association of Wetland Professionals will be a partner. A one-day workshop of primarily invited papers is tentatively planned, to be held in a major city in the sub-region (e.g. Washington, DC or Norfolk VA). Pat introduced a proposal for the Chapter to provide funds to support the workshop. After discussion, it was moved and seconded that the chapter provide up to \$2500 from its budget to support the expenses of speakers at the workshop. The motion passed unanimously.

New business:

Vice-Chair Diane De Steven presented the background and rationale for the new proposed bylaws and standing rules, which were published in draft form in the Chapter's Spring newsletter. Following discussion, minor amendments in wording were seconded and approved, and the amended bylaws and standing rules were adopted by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane De Steven
(for Secretary William Conner)