



SOUTH CENTRAL CHAPTER



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A Word from the Editor...

Welcome to the first issue of the South Central Chapter's "The Wetland Messenger". As the editor, it is my hope that you will enjoy having a newsletter that brings you an array of updated information and news about the happenings in the South Central Chapter. Although this first issue is somewhat small, planned articles for future issues will target such subjects as "News from Around the Chapter States", "Changes in Wetland Regulations", "Student Research in Wetland Science", as well as SWS-SCC member awards, new publications or even a featured biography. Currently it is planned to produce this newsletter on a quarterly basis. Setting up and putting together a newsletter is no easy task and we are in the early stages of forming a Communication committee which hopefully will provide newsletter-worthy articles from each of the Chapter states. As members of this Chapter, I encourage you to become more involved with the SCC by submitting articles or news items that would be of interest to others. To obtain information on article/ news submittal, please contact me at the email address listed on this newsletter. – The Wetland Messenger editor



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Chapter meeting scheduled for Pensacola, FL. has been postponed

Pensacola Beach was hit hard by Hurricane Ivan. Unfortunately the conference site at which our Chapter meeting was to be held was severely damaged and the meeting will be postponed for the time being until a new facility is located. The meeting is shaping up to be a huge success with over 100 people having registered for the meeting along with numerous papers to be presented. The

Planning Committee will contact members as soon as possible when the meeting has been rescheduled at another location. The South Central Chapter extends our

deepest sympathies to all who have suffered losses due to Hurricane Ivan and wish them a speedy recovery. - Scott Jecker



Featured Wetland

As you travel across the United States, the first thing you notice are the changes in landscape and geology. The same is true for the various types of wetlands you come across. Grouping water bodies into general categories such as springs, creeks, rivers, floodplains, wetlands, bogs, marshes and/or swamps makes for easy identification or does it?

How many times have you been in the field with a co-worker, friend or spouse only to find yourself arguing over what type of wetland you might be looking at? Well this article won't help you there, but hopefully will give you insight as to the various types of wetlands which cover our Chapter's region regardless of what they are called.

We are asking members from our Chapter to consider submitting a small story and photo of a wetland so you, the reader, can enjoy these natural features on your travels.

The photo shown here is a small seep/ spring found at the back-end of a privately owned hollow near Rush Kentucky (Ashland). The water seeps out at the bottom of a 40-foot cliff face and catches in a 15 x 10 x 3-foot-deep basin.

The geology in this area features rock formations from the Pennsylvanian Period that are composed mostly of interbedded shale, sandstone, conglomerates, and coals with some thin limestone beds.

The Pennsylvanian Period, often called the Coal Age, was a time of

alternating land and sea. When the sea retreated, the low coastal plains were covered with forests of seed ferns, ferns, scale trees, and calamite trees.

During this period, the dominant plants were spore-bearing (they reproduced by spores, not seeds). Although large trees existed, they were not woody trees; they were composed of thick bark with a central, pithy core. Today's forests are dominated by seed-bearing woody trees, bushes and herbaceous plants.

This small seep pond has been known to attract various local wildlife such as deer, gray fox, raccoons and is home for several large snapping turtles.



Mountainside spring near Rush, KY

Chapter Announces Election Results

Election results for the South Central Chapter (SCC) for this year were announced during the Chapter meeting held at the SWS International Meeting in Seattle on July 24, 2004. Previous elected officials Paul DuBow (President) moves to the office of Past President and Scott Jecker (President Elect) takes over as President of the SCC. Jeff Raasch has been elected to serve as President Elect and Matt Stahman will continue to serve as Secretary/ Treasurer. Gary Ervin and Ed Buckner were elected to serve on the SCC Executive Board.

Education and Outreach

The SCC will have multiple training classes throughout the Chapter states. Topics include Plant Identification, Hydric Soils Processes and Identification, GPS Habitat Mapping, Wetland Hydrology, etc.. Information about these courses will be posted to the Chapter website as the schedule and location of the courses develops.

The SCC has been approved for our first Community Outreach project in Orange, Texas. This mitigation project includes design, creation, and monitoring of a small tidal wetland adjacent to

the Sabine River. We will complete the mitigation design (elevations/ contours, plant type/structure, hydrologic monitoring method, etc.) of the project within the next 12 weeks and start the ground work within 4 months. If you would like to participate in this project as a member of SWS or if you have leads on any other potential community outreach wetland projects that our Chapter could become involved with please contact Mike Souliere (msouliere@swca.com)

SOUTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas

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[http://sws.org/
regional/southcentral/](http://sws.org/regional/southcentral/)

The Society of Wetland Scientists is a nonprofit organization founded in 1980 to promote wetland science and the exchange of information related to wetlands.

Objectives :

- to operate solely and exclusively as a charitable and educational organization to foster conservation and understanding of wetlands.
- to advance public education and enlightenment concerning the Nation's wetland resources.
- to provide an independent forum for an interchange of ideas and data developed within wetland science.
- to develop and encourage wetland science as a distinct discipline by supporting student education, curriculum development, and research.
- to encourage and evaluate the educational, scientific, and technological development and advancement of all branches of wetland science and practice.
- to encourage the knowledgeable management of wetland resources.

The Society continues to grow and has over 4000 members from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and many other countries.

