



SWS travels to 10th INTECOL International Wetlands Conference

SWS was represented strongly at the 10th INTECOL (International Association of Ecology) International Wetlands Conference, held in Changshu, China, from September 19 – 24, 2016. SWS takes great pride in the many and substantial contributions of our members, who helped to make the conference in Changshu such a success. An outcome of the conference was the signing and passing of The Changshu Declaration on Wetlands. The conference brought together wetland scientists from around the globe, and offered all attendees the opportunity to observe the significant progress that China has made in protecting and restoring wetlands. The conference would not have been possible without the support and generosity of conference organizers, Nanjing University Ecological Research Institute of Changshu and the People's Government of Changshu, as well as the hosts: Nanjing University, China Compliance Office for International Wetland Convention, International Association for Ecology, Ecological Society of China and Wetlands International, along with numerous supporters, including SWS. The Chinese press followed the convention avidly, and interviewed many speakers, including SWS members, Gillian Davies, Kim Ponzio, Jos Verhoeven and Chris Craft.

SWS Fellow, Gene Turner served as Co-chair of INTECOL Wetlands Working Group and the Organizing Committee for the conference. Jos Verhoeven, Europe Chapter president, served as one of the Vice-chairs of the Organizing Committee and Jenny Davis, Oceania Chapter president, served as Secretary General of the Organizing Committee. A number of SWS members - including Gene Turner as Co-Chair, Kim Ponzio, SWS Immediate Past President, Jenny Davis, Steve Faulkner, Wei-Ta Fang, Asia Chapter President, Brij Gopal, Bill Mitsch, Jan Pokorny, Jorge Ramos and Jos Verhoeven - served on the International Scientific Committee for the conference. SWS members Max Finlayson, Bill Mitsch and Jos Verhoeven were plenary speakers. SWS members Gene Turner, Jos Verhoeven, Gillian Davies, SWS President and Jenny Davis served as moderators for plenary sessions.

SWS President Gillian Davies addressed the convention during the Opening Ceremonies, and many SWS members gave presentations at the conference, including SWS Executive Board Members, Gillian Davies, Arnold van der Valk and Kim Ponzio. A panel discussion, "Wetlands and Eco-Civilization Practices," with a theme of "Healthy Wetlands, Healthy Earth" was held during the conference. The Mayor of Changshu, Qindi Zhou awarded the panel with a letter of appointment as Senior Scientific Advisors to the People's Government of Changshu. The keynote speakers were Bill Mitsch of Florida Gulf Coast University and Ying Wang of Nanjing University, and the moderator was Shirong Liu of the Chinese Academy of Forestry and president of Ecological Society of China. The panelists were Kim Ponzio, Ania Grobicki, Deputy Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Gene Turner, Jenny Davis, Jos Verhoeven, Jun Chen, president of Nanjing University, and Guangren Ma, Director of China Compliance Office for International Wetland Convention.
