

# Society of Wetlands Scientists Oceania Chapter

## November 2019 Newsletter

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Following suggestions from the SWS-O membership, we have put together a 'mini-newsletter' to let everyone know about what is happening within SWS locally and internationally, upcoming events and interesting wetlands-related news. We hope this will become a regular feature of the re-invigorated SWS-O chapter, and would love to hear any suggestions you may have for content, or if you have exciting news you'd like to share via the newsletter.

### **SWS-O aims**

The Oceania Chapter of the society will support and facilitate communication and collaboration among wetland scientists, managers and policy makers in the region. We envisage coordinating or supporting workshops on pertinent wetland topics - for example climate change, wetland carbon, environmental water, invasive species and also interdisciplinary workshops that bring themes together. Last year the SWS-O coordinated and co-sponsored a wetland / blue carbon workshop held at the Arthur Rylah Institute in Melbourne. If you have a suggestion for a workshop or event, we would love to hear from you.

### **At home**

#### **Australian Freshwater Sciences Society (AFSS) joint conference with NZFSS**

This joint conference will be held 1-4 December 2019 at Waurin Ponds, Victoria. SWS-O are supporting a special symposium on wetland carbon, as well as an exciting fieldtrip to a Deakin University Blue Carbon field site and the amazing birdlife at Melbourne Water's Western Treatment Plant. If you will be attending the conference, please let us know! It would be fantastic to have an SWS-O meetup outside the conference, as well as holding our AGM (see details below).

<https://www.afssconference.org.au>

#### **SWS-O Annual General Meeting**

We will be holding our AGM during the AFSS/NZFSS conference, with a teleconference link for those unable to attend. Tuesday 3 December during the lunchbreak, 12:50-1:30pm (AEDT). In addition to the usual AGM items, during this meeting we will be discussing upcoming activities for 2020 and 2021. Everyone is welcome.

#### **SWS 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Next year SWS will be celebrating 40 years of the society. SWS-O is currently considering chapter celebrations to mark the event. Stay tuned!

#### **Wetlands of Distinction**

The Wetlands of Distinction program is now accepting international nominations. If you know of an outstanding wetland, please nominate it for recognition. SWS Wetlands of Distinction is an initiative to raise public awareness of wetlands and their many benefits to human health and the environment. To meet this goal, the SWS Wetlands of Distinction will create a one-stop-shop

for information on the biology, ecology, conservation status and access opportunities of high-functioning wetlands.

All applications will be reviewed by a team of regional experts to ensure that the criteria for SWS Wetlands of Distinction status are met. There is a team of wetland professionals waiting to assist you with your application questions. Please visit [www.wetlandsofdistinction.org](http://www.wetlandsofdistinction.org) or email the committee at [swswetlandsofdistinction@gmail.com](mailto:swswetlandsofdistinction@gmail.com) for more information.

SWS Wetlands of Distinction team is calling all government and non-government organizations with critical, special or rare wetland lists to submit an application. Visit [www.wetlandsofdistinction.org](http://www.wetlandsofdistinction.org) to learn more about the initiative, create a new account, and fill out an application for a wetland!

## **Online**

### **SWS webinars**

These are free for SWS members. Upcoming webinars are:

Nov 22: Coastal Wetlands and Climate Change. Presented by Dr. Ariana Sutton-Grier and Dr. Michael Osland.

Dec 13: Withering Wetlands – Global Trends in Wetland Loss and Degradation: Why, and What Can Be Done About It? Presented by Professor Nick Davidson (this is a quarterly webinar that is free and open to the public).

The only downside is they're at an eye-watering 3am AEST, so maybe better suited to those with young kids! You can also watch past webinars at your leisure through the SWS website.

<http://sws.org/About-SWS/upcoming-webinars-for-nonmembers.html>

## **Abroad**

### **Quebec RE<sup>3</sup> Conference**

The Québec RE<sup>3</sup> Conference, a joint conference between the Canadian Land Reclamation Association (CLRA), the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) and the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), will be held in Québec City from June 7-11, 2020. The conference theme is *From Reclaiming to Restoring and Rewilding*. Abstract submissions open 28 November.

There will also be celebrations to mark 40 years of SWS!

<http://www.re3-quebec2020.org>

### **INTECOL International Wetlands Conference**

The 11<sup>th</sup> INTECOL International Wetlands Conference is being held next year in Christchurch, 18-23 October 2020. The theme is *Traditional knowledge and innovation science in wetland research and management*. This conference is only held every 4 years, so it's exciting to have it in our region! There will be a strong SWS presence both from SWS-O and internationally. Abstract submissions are now open.

<http://clpinz.org.nz/intecol20>

### **SWS Membership Benefits**

Since its founding in 1980, the Society of Wetland Scientists has continued to grow, with more than 3,000 members from the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and many other countries around the world! We are committed to providing our members meaningful resources

that promote wetland education, conservation and restoration, globally. These resources include:

- Complimentary monthly webinars on wetland related science topics of interest
- Full access to all past webinars
- SWS monthly e-newsletter
- Full access to the *Wetlands Journal* <https://www.springer.com/journal/13157>
- Electronic access to quarterly issues of *Wetland Science and Practice* (WSP)
- Electronic access to *Wetlands Ecology and Management* and *Estuaries and Coasts*
- Access to members-only discussion forum sections of the SWS website
- Member rates for Wetland Professional in Training (WPIT) and Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) certification
- Participation in regional chapter and section activities and benefits
- Ability to apply or be nominated for SWS “members only” awards and grants
- Discounted registration at the SWS Annual Meeting

Become an SWS member today to receive these benefits and to join wetland scientists, researchers and students from around the world to further the SWS mission of promoting the understanding, scientifically based management and sustainable use of wetlands.

For further information on the Society of Wetlands Scientists, their publications and membership benefits, visit [www.sws.org](http://www.sws.org) or tweet us @SWS\_org

### **Who we are**

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SA Representative: Vacant

NZ Representative: Vacant