



## Society of Wetland Scientists Oceania Chapter

### May 2021 Newsletter

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#### Fire and Wetlands Forum

SWS-O are very excited to be organising a forum exploring management, research and restoration issues related to fire (planned burns and wildfire), and all types of wetlands. The forum will bring together scientists, wetland managers and fire managers, from across Australia to share knowledge of impacts, mitigation and management, and identify future directions. This is a free on-line event held over two days (short sessions) on the 8th and 9th of September. More information on Forum topics and how to register will be circulated shortly.

#### Upcoming SWS webinars

SWS-O will continue our webinar partnership with the Sydney Wetland Institute. The next free webinar is happening on 18 May. Join us to hear from Philippe Gerbeaux on “Integrating traditional knowledge into ecological frameworks”.

<https://www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au/Education/Sydney-Wetland-Institute/Events>

The following webinar will be held on 6 July, on “The wise decision of citizens in Suncheon Bay Wetland Conservation”, presented by Mr Suh Seung Oh. For more details and to register visit

[https://dpi.e.adobeconnect.com/suncheonbaywetland/event/event\\_info.html](https://dpi.e.adobeconnect.com/suncheonbaywetland/event/event_info.html)

#### Register now for INTECOL Hybrid Conference 2021!

Registrations are now open for the INTECOL International Wetlands Hybrid Conference, taking place 10-15 October 2021 in New Zealand. Some 300 delegates are expected to attend the event in-person at the brand-new Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre, with registration also open to attend virtually for either the full event or individual days.

More than 500 abstracts have been submitted to date, with the conference promising a strong focus on traditional ecological knowledge as an essential component of wetland management, including sessions and an exhibition exploring indigenous New Zealand knowledge, or mātauranga Māori. Other topics of interest include climate change,

biodiversity loss, the place of wetlands in agricultural and urban landscapes, and community involvement in wetland restoration.

Registrations are now open at [www.intecol2021.com/attend](http://www.intecol2021.com/attend)

### **Wetlands of Distinction**

The Oceania region currently has just one 'Wetland of Distinction', Winton Wetlands (<https://www.wetlandsofdistinction.org/wetlands/winton-wetlands/>). This does not do justice to the countless significant wetlands which can be found here. The nomination process is easy, and we are happy to help! If you know a wetland you think deserves recognition, visit <https://www.wetlandsofdistinction.org/criteria-for-qualifying-for-a-wetland-of-distinction/> to find out how you can nominate it, or contact our SWS-O president and Wetlands of Distinction Oceania representative, Phil Papas, for more information.

### **Indigenous Travel Grants**

The Ecological Society of Australia will be holding their annual meeting in Darwin at the end of this year. They have recently announced travel grants for indigenous students. If you are or know an indigenous student working in wetlands, please pass on this opportunity to them: <https://www.ecolsoc.org.au/awards/conference-grants/indigenous-travel-grants/>

### **Wetland Professional Certification Program**

The Professional Wetland Scientist program is an international initiative with more than 2000 Professional Wetland Scientists (PWS) and Wetland Professionals In Training (WPIT). Membership indicates qualified wetland professionals, educators, consultants and others who uphold the highest level of professional and ethical standards. If you are interested in applying or would like further information visit <https://www.wetlandcert.org> and have a look at the information flyer below.



## Society of Wetland Scientists - Professional Certification Program

An International Organization with over 2,000 Professional Wetland Scientists certified since 1994



The **Society of Wetland Scientists** was formed to promote understanding, conservation, protection, restoration, science-based management and sustainability of wetlands. The Society developed a program in 1994 for certification of wetland science training and experience to meet the needs of professional ecologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, educators, agency professionals, consultants, and others who practice wetland science. The **Professional Certification Program (PCP)** is aimed at serving the public and governments' need to identify qualified individuals to assess and manage wetland resources.

### What is a PWS or WPIT?

#### Professional Wetland Scientist or PWS

- ✓ Meets stringent academic and work experience standards
- ✓ Adheres to high level of professional ethical standards
- ✓ Conducts & practices wetland science in multi-disciplinary work environments
- ✓ Holds special international designation that is comparable to other professions, such as a Professional Engineer or Landscape Architect

#### WPIT (Wetland Professional in Training)

- ✓ Meets stringent academic standards
- ✓ Works on gaining qualifying employment experience and/or some types of volunteer experience in wetlands
- ✓ Adheres to professional ethical standards

### What are the requirements?

#### Academic Requirements – PWS / WPIT\*

- ✓ 15 credits in Biological Sciences, such as biology, botany, zoology, ecology, etc.
- ✓ 15 credits in Physical Sciences, such as chemistry, soils, hydrology, geology, etc.
- ✓ 6 credits in Quantitative Sciences, such as math, computer science, statistics, etc.
- ✓ 15 credits in Specialized Wetland Course Work (PWS only), such as wetland plant taxonomy, wetland hydrology, soil morphology, wetland mapping, wetland restoration / creation / mitigation, wetland delineation, wetland ecology & management, etc.

\* Before applying, applicants must have earned a Baccalaureate degree or higher.

#### Qualifying Work Experience – PWS

After earning a Baccalaureate degree or higher, required experience is:

- ✓ 5 years of full-time professional experience while working in consulting, industry, non-profit, public or academic sectors.
- ✓ Experience calculated on percentage of time devoted specifically to professional wetland activities which can be pro-rated
- ✓ Statement of Expertise essay
- ✓ 5 references attesting to your qualifications

Fees (USD)	Developed Countries		Developing Countries	
	SWS Member	SWS Non-Member	SWS Member	SWS Non-Member
PWS	\$300	\$400	\$100	\$140
WPIT	\$100	\$200	\$30	\$60

### How do you apply? Visit <https://www.wetlandcert.org/>

For questions or help with submitting your application, contact:  
 Adrianna Borczyk., Program Coord. [ABorczyk@association-resources.com](mailto:ABorczyk@association-resources.com)  
 Toll Free: 877.226.9902 | Fax: 847.885.8393

John Lowenthal, Certification Standards [John.Lowenthal@cardno-gs.com](mailto:John.Lowenthal@cardno-gs.com)  
 Rob Shannon, Certification Review [rds13@psu.edu](mailto:rds13@psu.edu)  
 Robbyn Myers, Outreach [bgerobbyn@comcast.net](mailto:bgerobbyn@comcast.net)

### Bring a friend!

Do you have a friend with a watery-bent? Do you have colleagues in the wetlands space? Please share this newsletter with them! We'd love to bring more people together who are working, studying or just interested in the wonderful world of wetlands. If they'd like to know more about the benefits of being an SWS member, visit [www.sws.org](http://www.sws.org)

**Questions? Comments? Reply to this email, we'd love to hear from you!**

