



Student Associations Update

1. Duke University Student Association Wetland Scientists (SAWS)

As the Student Association of Wetlands Scientists, we have planned and executed numerous events in the past year at Duke University. As the outgoing officers, we are proud of all we have been able to accomplish. Our events from the past year have been outlined below. We are looking forward to seeing what next year's officers will accomplish.

Best,

The 2015 SAWS Officers

Bethany Williams and Amanda Close, Co-presidents

Chandler Keenan, Treasurer

Anna Braswell, Events Planner

Brooke Giuliano, Communications Coordinator

Becca Cope, Beaufort Representative



Faculty Advisor: Dr. Curtis Richardson

March 2015: For the Ocean Policy Working Group's "Ocean Week," we had Dr. Curt Richardson do a presentation on the management of the Everglades, FL.

April 2015: Paddling trip on the Black River on the coast of North Carolina. It is an old growth cypress swamp.

April 2015: SAWS hosted an activities table on wetlands at the Nicholas School of the Environment's Earth Day celebration.

August 2015: SAWS Kickoff meeting. We recruited new members at the Nicholas School of the Environment, and took suggestions on activities they would like to do for the year.

October 2015: Danica Schaffer-Smith, a PhD student at Duke University presented on remote sensing for wetland shorebird habitat in California. This event was co-sponsored with the Student Association for Geospatial Analysis.

October 2015: Moonlight paddling trip on the Eno River, NC.

November 2015: Wetlands cleanup volunteering with the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association in Durham, NC. We picked up numerous bags of trash to clean the wetlands.

December 2015: We hosted an event where the first year students at Duke could ask the second year students about classes, internships, research, and Master's Project ideas within the scope of wetlands.

January 2016: We hosted an event in conjunction with the Duke Wetlands Center. Researchers from the Wetlands Center got to know students, and vice versa. Ideas for classes, internships, and projects were shared. Furthermore, we were able to share ideas about wetlands and learn more about what the researchers were studying.

February 2016: SAWS Meet and Greet with Dr. Chandra Giri, a USGS researcher who focuses on using remote sensing to map the extent and change of global mangrove resources.

February 2016: SAWS co-hosted a symposium for World Wetlands Day on Global Water and Climate Resiliency. This

was planned with the Duke Water Network and the Transboundary Working Group at Duke.

February 2016: New SAWS Officers Elections for the upcoming school year were held. Our new officers and their contact information are at the end of this document.

March 2016: SAWS has planned a symposium for March 4th entitled “Wetlands Resilience in North Carolina.” There will be several presentations, panels, and poster sessions all centered on the policy, science, and climate issues surrounding wetlands in the state of NC.

March 2016: Our tradition of passing the torch to the new SAWS officers is to watch Swamp Thing, the movie, and to have the opportunity for the club to say farewell to the outgoing officers, while meeting the new ones. This will be on March 7th.

New officers for March 2016 to March 2017:

Co-Presidents: Jerrett Fowler (jerrett.fowler@duke.edu) and Adam Blake (adam.blake@duke.edu)

Treasurer: Auston Smith (david.a.smith2@duke.edu)

Communications Coordinator: Breanna Crowell (breanna.crowell@duke.edu)

Special Events Coordinator: Vanessa Waller (vanessa.l.waller@duke.edu)

Beaufort Representatives: Walter Wright (walter.wright@duke.edu) and Sara Cleaver (sara.cleaver@duke.edu)

2. University of Florida Wetlands Club

President: Elis Morrison emorrison@ufl.edu

Vice President: Josh Papacek; jrpapacek@ufl.edu

Secretary: Lauren Trotta, lbtrotta@ufl.edu

Treasurer: Katherine Tran; thuyminh@gmail.com

Fundraising Chair: Haley Glaab, haley510@ufl.edu

SEEP manager: Sean Sharp, seanjsharp@gmail.com

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Mark Clark clarkmw@ufl.edu

Report April 2015 – February 2016

The club organized and participated in many events between April 2015 and February 2016. In this period, the club organized a tour of Louisiana wetlands (including wetland walks and airboat rides), participated in two cleanups, reached out to local elementary schools, exposed students to current research at the University of Florida, took students on trips to local wetlands of interest, and held monthly meetings that drew excellent speakers from academia, government agencies, and consulting firms. For more details, see below, or visit: <http://ufwetlandsclub.blogspot.com/>

2015

April 7th: Second annual student research symposium

Nine wetland club members presented their research in the form of lightning talks in the second annual student research symposium. This event allows students to practice giving scientific talks, and let club members to learn about each other’s research.

April 9th: Earth Day Festival

The wetlands club organized a table for the University of Florida’s Earth Day celebration to teach undergraduate students about environmental issues and to recruit new club members.



April 11th-12th: Suwannee Canoe Trip

Twenty club members took a canoe trip along the Suwannee river with Dr. Mark Clark, our club advisor. Students learned about ecosystems and vegetation along the river, and we discussed current issues in wetland science and water management in Florida.

April 24th: Wetlands Club Spring Potluck

Club members ended the semester with a club potluck. Students talked about past wetlands club events, and discussed upcoming events.

May 3rd-10th: Wetlands of Louisiana Summer Trip

The wetlands club took UF students on a trip showcasing the wetlands of Louisiana. Past president, Anna Normand, organized lectures from various agencies and researchers that have been involved with issues of Louisiana wetland loss and the Gulf oil spill.

September 11th: Wetlands Club meeting; D The Florida Manatee

The fall semester started with a talk about Florida manatees by Dr. Robert Bonde. Students were introduced to Florida biology and natural history, current and past threats to their populations, and what the future of the Florida manatee will be.

September 15th: CALS Kickoff Tabling

Wetlands club members introduced UF students to the wetlands club and recruited new members during the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences fall kickoff.

September 17th: Soil and Water Science Department Symposium

The wetlands club tabled at the Soil and Water Science Department's annual symposium to teach UF students and faculty about the activities of the Wetlands Club and how they can get involved.

September 19th: Butterfly Festival at the Florida Museum of Natural History

The wetlands club exhibited their enviroscape, a watershed teaching model, at the Florida Museum of Natural History's butterfly festival. We taught children and their parents about their local ecosystems and how their actions influence their local aquifer and water quality.

September 20th: Cypress Nursery Maintenance and BBQ

The wetlands club grows cypress trees as a fundraising program. Club members helped repot and weed our cypress trees and enjoyed a barbeque in the evening.

October 10th: Tumblin' Creek Cleanup

Five wetlands club members volunteered to help clean up a local floodplain. We cleaned up 100lb of recyclables and 220lb of garbage on a Saturday morning.

October 15th: ~~Splash~~ Science Night with Alachua County EPD

The wetlands club reached out to a local elementary school to teach students about the importance of water at the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department's Splash into Science night, in collaboration with St. Johns River Water management District.

October 17th-18th: Wekiva Canoe Trip

Club members took a canoe trip on the Wekiva river with our club advisor, Dr. Mark Clark, to learn about wetlands along the river. While exploring the river, students were exposed to the diversity of wetland systems within north Florida, and learned about regional wetland ecosystem services.

October 26th-27th: SWS South Atlantic Meeting

Club members traveled to Athens, GA to attend the SWS South Atlantic Meeting. Club members participated in presentations and student poster competitions, and also listened to talks about current wetland research.

October 6th:
hydrological history and looming water crisis

Wetland

Wetlands club members learned about Florida hydrology and the current and pending issues pertaining to Florida water quality and availability. Dr. Kaplan raised important questions about past and current water use in Florida, and how we can proceed in the future.

November 3rd: Wetlands Club meeting: Louisiana Wetlands Show

Students who participated in the summer Louisiana trip shared their experience to other club members by teaching them about current issues in Louisiana wetlands, including wetland loss, environmental engineering, and the effects of the Gulf oil spill.

November 13th: Oak Hall Tour of the Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Restoration Project

Wetlands Club members led a group of 50 third-grade students on a tour of a local restoration project. Students were introduced to concepts relating to the importance of wetlands in the environment, learned about vegetation and soils within wetlands, and issues of water management in Florida.

December 1st: Wetlands Club joint meeting with Air and Waste Management Association: Mercury: Regulations, Transport and Effects on Wildlife

The wetlands club organized a joint meeting with the AWMA to learn about both policy and ecological effects of mercury on a local and global scale.

2016

February 2nd: World Wetlands Day Celebration

The wetlands club celebrated world wetlands day by hosting a potluck and movie night.

February 6th:

Paynes Prairie Sheetflow restoration project tour

Dr. Clark, the club's advisor, took wetlands club members to explore a local restoration site. Students learned about wetland wildlife, vegetation, hydrology and soils, as well as how the restoration project was designed and engineered.

February 15th:

Tumblin' Creek Cleanup

Fourteen volunteers collected 243.5lb of recyclables, 273.7lb of garbage, and 100lb of old tires from a local floodplain. After the cleanup, Dr. Clark led students on a tour of the floodplain, and explained the history of the area.

3. Louisiana State University Student Association

President: Alex Christensen

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Vacant

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Andy Nyman jnyman@lsu.edu

SWS at LSU had a great fall 2015 semester. In addition to a few general meetings, we also went on a field trip to the Comite River to collect soil cores. Students learned about field sampling methods, differences in sediment type, and the influence of physical and biological factors on soil development. We also participated in Ocean Commotion, an education and outreach program at LSU. During this event, K-8 students learn about coastal science, from sea creatures to delta formation to problems of pollution. SWS hosted a booth on wetland soils where students got to feel sediment from different wetland habitats and learn about the importance of water in coastal ecosystems.



4. Michigan Technological University Student Association

President: Samantha Whitens. smwhiten@mtu.edu

Past President: Rose Schwartz roses@mtu.edu

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rod Chimner rchimner@mtu.edu

Earlier in the fall before the snow fell we worked on upkeep at our local restoration project, Husky Bay. Over the course of a few weekends, we worked with the local conservation district to remove all the invasive species and trash. We spread topsoil and planted native grasses.

Another event we did was mapping local invasive species. We used the MISIN app to determine coordinates and monitor the spread of invasives. These data were used by our adviser to obtain funding to help eliminate certain

species, specifically Giant and Japanese knotweed.

This week our club will be hosting a talk by a local wetlands expert on his work with restoration and conservation of local wetlands. Local high school students were invited to the event to help us gain more community interest.

We are also in the process of planning a snowshoe outing to check out some local (frozen!) wetlands.

5. Mid-Atlantic Student Association

Representatives: Liza McFarland liza.k.mcfarland@gmail.com
Shauna-Kay Rainford sur210@psu.edu
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Andy Baldwin baldwin@umd.edu

The representatives have been in touch with me and indicated that they are looking for ways to increase the activity of their association. They were not very active in 2015.

6. University of Rhode Island

Representative: Elizabeth Shadle eshadle@my.uri.edu
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Serena Moseman-Valtierra smoseman@uri.edu

(email report, Feb. 23, 2016)

Hello, we are the University of Rhode Island student chapter for the SWS. We were officially recognized last April 2015 and have been doing our best to get established.

Last spring we took a local high school biology class from Portsmouth, RI to a wetland to get the kids involved in hands-on learning about wetlands. We plan on doing the same outreach trip this spring 2016. This spring we also plan on doing a wetland/coastal clean-up in April once the weather warms up. On campus we are gathering more momentum and continually trying to engage our club members in wetland conservation ideas. Once a month we lead a journal meeting, where we go over relevant research articles about wetlands and discuss. Tonight we had our first successful journal meeting and discussed two articles about biodiversity loss in wetlands. Lastly, as a student club we have been looking into monitoring a wetland on URI's campus. In fall 2015 we set up a collar flux to use in the future for gas measurements in the wetland. Our hopes for this spring semester is to have the club grow as well as participating in one or two field trips to different wetlands (possibly with the New England SWS chapter?). We also are interested in outreach programs and workshops with the SWS.

7. Southern California Student Association

President: Anita Arenas arenas2085@gmail.com
Vice President: Ellie Wenger
Secretary: Morgan Brown
Treasurer: Molly Burdick-Whipp
Fundraising Chair: Eilleen Salas
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Christine Whitcraft christine.whitcraft@csulb.edu

This group's request to become an official SWS student association was approved at the annual SWS meeting in Providence in May 2015. The group will be holding its first meeting February 25, 2016.

8. Alabama Student Association

This student association remains inactive. There will be discussion at the mid-year meeting about the potential dissolution of the group.