20 February 2002

Happy New Year from the Executive Committee: Ann Jennings (Chair), Diane De Steven (Vice-Chair), William Conner (Secretary-Treasurer), and Pat Megonigal (Past Chair)! The Chapter had an active and productive year in 2001, and we hope for an even better 2002.

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From the Chair Desk:

Dear Colleagues,

Again, I’m sending greetings from the northern most state in our Chapter! I hope this Newsletter finds you all doing well, enjoying life, and having at least some fun (and not all work) with wetlands. Recently, I represented the Chapter at the mid-year SWS Board meeting in Cambridge, Ontario, Canada. I was truly astounded at the intensity of activities of the SWS Board, Committees, and the various Chapters -- of course, all on a volunteer basis. Reports from the Chapters presented a number of interesting Chapter events and programs that I hope to share with you at our next meeting. We may find some we wish to undertake in the South Atlantic.

At the mid-year meeting, the Board asked that Chapter Chairs carry back to their Chapters two proposals for consideration: 1) whether SWS should have Student Chapters, similar to The Wildlife Society; and 2) whether SWS should reorganize Chapters on an ecoregion basis, rather than the current structure. Please give some consideration to these ideas so that we can discuss them at our luncheon meeting at ASB. If you won’t be at ASB, please feel free to contact me with your thoughts at (804) 780-1392 or ajennings@savethebay.cbf.org.

Here’s hoping to see you at the Chapter meetings at ASB and/or SWS!

Best regards,
Ann Jennings
Virginia Staff Scientist, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Announcements:

**Upcoming Elections:** In May 2002, Chapter elections will be held via electronic ballot for the offices of Vice-Chair (2-yr term) and Secretary-Treasurer (3-yr term). The Vice-Chair is responsible for the Chapter newsletter (published 3 times annually), and for duties of the Chair when the Chair is not available. The Secretary-Treasurer maintains Chapter files, records, financial ledgers, and accounts, and processes payment requests. Past-Chair Pat Megonigal will chair a Nominations Committee to develop a slate of candidates. The Executive Committee is issuing this call for:

1. A Chapter member willing to serve on the Nominations Committee. Please consider helping the Chapter with this important task, and contact Pat Megonigal at megonigal@serc.si.edu.

2. Nominations or suggestions for potential candidates for office; self-nominations are encouraged! Contact or send any suggestions to Pat Megonigal by April 5, 2002.

**Chapter Mid-year Meeting at ASB:** The Chapter’s mid-year luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11 (12:00-1:30pm), at the ASB (Association of Southeastern Biologists) Meeting at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, April 10-13, 2002. If you plan to be at ASB this year but haven’t yet registered, please do so at www.asb.appstate.edu/asb2002.htm. Cost for the Chapter luncheon is $15. Please join us.

**Student Travel Awards for ASB:** This is a reminder that the South Atlantic Chapter sponsors travel awards of at least $100 each to graduate students presenting wetland-related research at the ASB Meeting. To be considered for an award, the graduate student applicant must be senior author of the paper or poster and must present it at the meeting. A student who has submitted an eligible abstract to ASB can apply for the award when registering for the meeting (there is a check-box on the registration form). To apply, see the January 2002 issue of Southeastern Biology, or go to the meeting web site at www.asb.appstate.edu/asb2002.htm. Or, contact Pat Megonigal at megonigal@serc.si.edu.

*Please help.* At the ASB Meeting, we will discuss establishing a standing Awards Committee to conduct the Student Travel Awards process in the future. Please consider volunteering to serve on this committee, or suggest someone who might be interested in serving. It’s a small time commitment, and it will help the Chapter to encourage meeting participation by students in wetlands research.

**Chapter Business Meeting at SWS:** The Chapter’s annual business meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 4 (5:00-6:00pm), at the SWS Annual Conference in Lake Placid, New York, June 2-7, 2002. For more information, visit the SWS Web site at www.sws.org/.

**About Chapter meetings**....We encourage members who are attending the hosting conferences to come to the Chapter meetings. It’s easy - they are scheduled so as not to conflict with paper sessions or other events. Any SWS member who resides in one of the South Atlantic states is automatically a Chapter member. Come and meet fellow members!
Report from the Chapter's 2001 Sub-Regional Workshop

The South Atlantic Chapter held a highly successful sub-regional symposium in partnership with the Virginia Association of Wetland Professionals (VAWP) on November 30, 2001 in Norfolk, Virginia. "The Dirt on Wetlands: Does Soil Organic Matter Enhance Ecosystem Function in Natural, Created, and Restored Wetlands?" drew over 100 wetland scientists and provided a wealth of knowledge and research experience from across the country on a timely and complex topic. The symposium successfully integrated wetland research and applied wetland science to help increase our understanding of how organic amendments affect the development of wetland communities. It also provided the opportunity for Chapter members to network with fellow wetland scientists. Pat Megonigal, Robin Bedenbaugh, and Jennifer McCarthy were instrumental in assembling the program. Pat is now working with some of the presenters to publish a Special Section in Wetlands, with a short introduction on the symposium objectives and an overview of the articles.

Other News: Workshops, Conferences

Wetland Hardwoods Restoration Workshop

The South Atlantic Chapter has provided $500 in assistance to the North Carolina State University Forestry Educational Outreach Program for a workshop on "Hardwood Reforestation for Wetland Mitigation," scheduled for March 26-27, 2002, at the NCSU McKimmon Center in Raleigh, NC. The workshop will address hardwood stand establishment in wet sites - including site assessment, site preparation, planting, and maintenance. Technical presentations will be followed by case studies highlighting real-world examples of successful mitigation projects across a variety of sites. Additional information is available at www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest/feop/Agenda2002/mitigation.html.

As a sponsor, the Chapter will be provided a display table at the workshop site. If you plan to attend the workshop and would be willing to help set up the SWS display (it does not need to be manned), please contact Chair Ann Jennings at (804) 780-1392 or ajennings@savethebay.cbf.org.

EPA Shallow Water Conference and Hydrophytic Vegetation Workshop

EPA will hold their 6th Marine and Estuarine Shallow Water Science and Management Conference on March 18-20, 2002, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The EPA’s Hydrophytic Vegetation Workshop is also being held in the same location on March 20-22, 2002. For more information or to register, contact The Reilly Group at (540) 286-0072.