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Please send comments and news stories to news@aswm.org.

Thank you for your continued interest.



All photos by Jeanne Christie, ASWM

EDITOR'S NOTE

Greetings Friends and Colleagues,

It's been a long winter here in Maine, but there are signs of spring appearing that make me hopeful and eager for the warmer days ahead. Every morning I walk my dog Alice through our neighborhood and in the last two weeks the number of birds that are out and about and serenading us along our path has noticeably increased. We can actually see pavement again and, even more exciting for Alice, we are beginning to see some grass and dirt. This, of course, is terribly exciting for a creature with more than 220 million olfactory receptors in her big schnozzle - it's like finding buried treasure.

Of course with the melting of the snow, also comes the barrage of neighborhood Facebook postings complaining about all the "gifts" left behind by less responsible dog owners that are now appearing after being buried in snow throughout the winter season. It really is kind of gross, not to mention a terrible source of [water contamination](#) which can spread diseases like Giardia, Salmonella and Campylobacter to mention a few.

I've been thinking about putting up a sign like the Chicago Park District at both ends of our neighborhood to see if it has an effect.

But spring is a time of turmoil and change - always has been and likely always will be. For me it's also a time for clearing out old stuff - whether physical or emotional - and setting new goals. We recently made progress with clearing out unopened boxes of stuff from our move to our new house 7 years ago. Yes - 7 years ago. It's making our tiny house feel much bigger without all that old, unused, and certainly unnecessary stuff cluttering the corners, closets and basement.

So whatever new leaves you plan to turn over or whatever corners you plan to clear out, all of us at ASWM wish you the best as we spring into 2015!

Your fellow wetlander,

Marla J. Stelk, Editor
Wetland Breaking News





EDITOR'S CHOICE

BP Labors to Cast Doubt on Gulf Spill Study It Dislikes

By Bryan Gruley and Bradley Olson – Bloomberg Business – March 11, 2015

BP Plc has apologized again and again for the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Lately the company has been sounding less remorseful. Take a look at “The Whole Story.” It’s a web page operated by the London-based company that regularly addresses what BP calls “misinformation” about the region’s recovery and legal issues surrounding the 130 million-gallon (500 million-liter) spill, the largest in U.S. history. For full story, [click here](#).

Farmers Put Down the Plow for More Productive Soil

By Erica Goode – The New York Times – March 9, 2015

Gabe Brown is in such demand as a speaker that for every invitation he accepts, he turns down 10 more. At conferences, like the one held here at a Best Western hotel recently, people line up to seek his advice. “The greatest roadblock to

solving a problem is the human mind,” he tells audiences. Mr. Brown, a balding North Dakota farmer who favors baseball caps and red-striped polo shirts, is not talking about disruptive technology start-ups, political causes, or the latest self-help fad. He is talking about farming, specifically soil-conservation farming, a movement that promotes leaving fields untilled, “green manures” and other soil-enhancing methods with an almost evangelistic fervor. For full story, [click here](#).

Exxon Wants \$1 Million Fine for 2011 Yellowstone Oil Spill Reduced Again

By Elizabeth Douglass – Inside Climate News – March 6, 2015

More than three and a half years after an ExxonMobil pipeline spilled 63,000 gallons of oil into the Yellowstone River, the world’s second-most-valuable company is still fighting regulators over being assessed a \$1 million fine. Exxon last month attacked the legal underpinnings of the government’s case, which stems from the July 2011 rupture of the Silvertip Pipeline near Laurel, Mont. The oil giant argued that it complied with federal regulations and that pipeline regulators overstepped their authority in interpreting the legal requirements. It also said that all but one of the violations should be dropped and that the government should, at a minimum, “significantly reduce” the penalties. For full story, [click here](#).

EPA Awards 15 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grants Totaling Over \$8 Million to Combat Invasive Species

Contact: Anne Rowan – U.S.EPA – March 5, 2015

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced the award of 15 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants totaling more than \$8 million for projects to combat invasive species in the Great Lakes basin. “These Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants will be used to target aquatic and terrestrial invasive species in the Great Lakes basin,” said Region 5 Administrator/ Great Lakes National Program Manager Susan Hedman. “The projects will also help to prevent the introduction of new invasive species that pose significant risks to the Great Lakes ecosystem.” Since 2010, EPA has funded more than 80 GLRI projects totaling over \$50 million to combat invasive species. For full news release, [click here](#).

Keystone veto override fails

By Laura Barron-Lopez – The Hill – March 4, 2015 – Video

The Senate failed on Wednesday to override President Obama’s veto of legislation approving the Keystone XL oil sands pipeline, falling five votes short of the two-thirds majority needed in a 62-37 vote. It’s the first time Congress has voted on whether to override a veto from Obama and could be a sign of things to come, with Republicans in charge of the House and Senate. The eight Democrats also voted to approve the \$8 billion oil sands project in January. Sixty-seven votes are needed to override a presidential veto. Keystone proponents vowed to continue the fight for the pipeline despite the failure. For full story and to view video, [click here](#).

Wetland Mapping Consortium (WMC): ASWM Winter Meeting Workshop – March 25, 2015

WMC Workshop: “Accessing, Analyzing and Communicating Digital Wetland Data to Stakeholders for Decision-making”

1:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Wetlands Spatial Data 101: How to Access Data on NWI Mapper and Other Resources – Mitch Bergeson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Communicating Digital Wetland Data to Stakeholders: What to do With the Data Once You Have It – Andy Robertson, Saint Mary's University

2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Emerging Trends in Semi-Automated Wetland Mapping – Megan Lang, University of Maryland and Nate Herold, NOAA Coastal Services Center

For more information, [click here](#).

ASWM’s Wetland Restoration Webinar: Vernal Pool Restoration – How to Restore the Landscape – April 21, 2015

Wetland Restoration Webinar: Vernal Pool Restoration – How to Restore the Landscape will be held on April 21, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. ET. Presented by Mick Micacchion, Midwest Biodiversity Institute; Christina M. Schaefer, Schaefer Ecological Solutions; and Aram J.K. Calhoun, The University of Maine. For more information, [click here](#). To register, [click here](#).

ASWM’s Members’ Webinar: Assessment of Wetland Mitigation Success: Findings from a New Study on Massachusetts Wetland Replication Projects

Members’ Webinar: Assessment of Wetland Mitigation Success: Findings from a New Study on Massachusetts Wetland Replication Projects will be held on April 29, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. ET. Presented by Lisa Rhodes, Massachusetts Wetland Program, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Scott Jackson, University of Massachusetts at Amherst. For more information, [click here](#).



NATIONAL NEWS

House passes bill to ban EPA ‘secret science’

By Timothy Cama and Cristina Marcos – The Hill – March 18, 2015

The House passed a bill Wednesday that aims to increase public scrutiny of the scientific research behind Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. Passed 241-175, the GOP bill would prohibit the EPA from using so-called “secret science” to justify its rules. Instead, the EPA would have to make public the details of all the research upon which its rules rely. If a rule’s science isn’t made public, the EPA would not be allowed to write the rule. For full blog post, [click here](#).

Thompson's Agriculture Subcommittee Conducts Hearing on "Waters of the United States" Proposal

NorthcentralPA.com – March 17, 2015

Today, U.S. Representative Glenn 'GT' Thompson (PA-05), Chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, held a public hearing to review the definition of "waters of the United States" proposed rule and its impact on rural America. Enacted in 1972, the Clean Water Act (CWA) established a federal-state government partnership to better regulate and manage the nation's waters through a range of pollution and control programs. The CWA states that it is the "policy of the Congress to recognize, preserve, and protect the primary responsibilities and rights of State to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution, to plan the development and use (including restoration, preservation, and enhancement) of land and water resources, and to consult with the [EPA] Administrator in the exercise of his authority under this Act." Members of the House Committee on Agriculture today asserted that the Administration has acted on its own, without input from the states and stakeholders, to broaden the scope of the CWA, threatening the livelihood of farmers, ranchers and rural America. For full story, [click here](#).

Fischer Holds WOTUS Senate Hearing in Nebraska

By Megan Johnson – Nebraska.TV – March 14, 2015 – Video

Senator Deb Fischer says she can't recall the last time Nebraska hosted a field hearing such as Saturday's. The event held at Hardin Hall on the University of Nebraska Lincoln's East Campus gathered on-the-record comments about the EPA's proposed "Waters of the US" rule ([Click HERE to see a Q&A sheet from the EPA on the proposal](#)). It's a change to definitions about which waters get regulated, and Fischer believe it's overreaching. "There's a broad coalition of organizations and people in this state that have deep concerns about these proposed rules that are coming out of the Environmental Protection Agency, and I think that that needs to be expressed," says Fischer, talking about the group called Common Sense Nebraska. An Anselmo-area rancher and the president-elect of Nebraska Cattlemen, Barbara Cooksley's testimony against the rule echoes the stance of Common Sense Nebraska and many other ag groups, and she thinks this hearing will carry their voices farther. For full story and to view video, [click here](#).

FEMA to Review All Flood Damage Claims From Hurricane Sandy

By David W. Chen – The New York Times – March 12, 2015

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has agreed to review every flood insurance claim filed by homeowners affected by Hurricane Sandy, amid accusations that damage assessment reports were fraudulently altered to minimize claims. The agency's administrator, W. Craig Fugate, also revealed in a letter to members of the New York and New Jersey congressional delegations that David Miller, who was in charge of FEMA's embattled National Flood Insurance Program, has resigned and one of his top deputies has retired. For full story, [click here](#).

As the river runs dry: An ongoing battle between urban and rural water users

By Brandon Loomis and Mark Henle – AZCentral.com – February 27, 2015 – Video

Black sand gurgled like a mud volcano from the bottom of Clay Springs, pushed aside by crystalline water rising to the desert's surface. Rancher Tom Baker stood in the marshy pasture beside one of the few oases that have kept his family ranching cattle across the Utah-Nevada line just downhill from Great Basin National Park. Cows romped and chewed in the green island surrounded by a sea of brittle brown greasewood. Baker shook his head in disgust. "To think you're going to take all the water out of the ground (to build) a few more blocks in Las Vegas," he said, practically spitting out his words. The urban Southwest has a water problem, and residents of this barely populated valley fear they'll be among the first casualties. For full story and to view video, [click here](#).

Sen. Jim Inhofe denies climate change, tosses snow ball in Congress

CBS News – February 26, 2015

While the rest of Washington spent Thursday trying to avert a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security, Oklahoma Sen. Jim Inhofe brought a snowball to the Senate floor during a speech questioning the science behind climate change. "Do you know what this is? It's a snowball," Inhofe said, holding the snowball aloft. "It's just from outside here, so it's very, very cold out ... very unseasonable." "Mr. President, catch this," he said, tossing the snowball away. An Inhofe aide told National Journal the projectile was caught by a congressional page. Inhofe, the chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works

Committee, has long argued that climate change is a "hoax," and he's opposed the Obama administration's efforts to reduce carbon emissions. He brandished his snowball prop on Wednesday during a broader speech questioning global warming. For full story, [click here](#).

USDA Opens Public Comment Period for ACEP Interim Final Rule

Contact: Justin Fritscher – USDA – February 26, 2015

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting public comments on its interim final rule for the new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), designed to help producers protect working agricultural lands and wetlands. The 2014 Farm Bill consolidated three previous conservation easement programs into ACEP to make it easier for diverse agricultural landowners to fully benefit from conservation initiatives. "Since 2009, USDA has worked with producers and private landowners to enroll a record number of acres in conservation programs. This interim final rule takes into account recommendations from agricultural landowners and conservation stakeholders about how to better streamline and enhance conservation easement processes," Vilsack said. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers ACEP, a voluntary program created in the 2014 Farm bill to protect and restore critical wetlands on private and tribal lands through the wetland reserve easement component. ACEP also encourages farmers, ranchers and non-industrial private forest landowners to keep their private and tribal land in agricultural use through the agricultural land easement component. ACEP also conserves grasslands, including rangeland, pastureland and shrubland. For full news release, [click here](#).

EPA and NOAA Release Storm Surge Resources

Stormwater Report – February 25, 2015 – Video

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), storm surge is one of the most dangerous parts of a hurricane and one of the main causes of coastal inundation. It also can cause damage and flooding many miles inland. Approximately 22 million people in the U.S. are vulnerable to storm surge, and it is responsible for about half the deaths in the United States due to tropical cyclones. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, through its Climate Ready Water Utilities Initiative, has released a storm surge inundation and hurricane strike frequency map that illustrates worst-case coastal storm surge or inundation scenarios across the United States' Atlantic and Gulf coasts, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The map utilizes NOAA data on sea, lake, and overland surges; 100- and 500-year floodplain information from the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and hurricane strike datasets from the National Hurricane Center. For full story and to view video, [click here](#).

GOP battles with EPA over rules

By Timothy Cama – The Hill – February 25, 2015

House Republicans used a Wednesday hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) budget to attack various regulations being pursued by the agency. Most of the fights focused around the EPA's proposals to cut carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, but other regulations also got attention. "EPA seems intent on locking in a long list of new regulations that will bind future administrations," Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.), chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, said at the hearing of two subcommittees of the panel. "If this plan puts reliable base load energy from sources such as coal and nuclear in danger, communities may face higher costs and potentially suffer brownouts when most in need," said Rep. John Shimkus (R-Ill.), chairman of the environment subpanel. "We have to ask ourselves if this path leads to the energy future Americans expect." EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy defended her rulemaking agenda and the agency's funding request for fiscal 2016, asking for \$8.59 billion, a \$452 million increase over what it received in the most recent year. For full story, [click here](#).

House passes bill to fight toxic algae in the Great Lakes

By Sabrina Eaton – Cleveland.com – February 24, 2015 – Video

The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday approved legislation that orders the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to fight the toxic algal blooms that tainted drinking water from Lake Erie last summer. Congress decided to act after Toledo's water was rendered undrinkable for several days when lake algae produced dangerous levels of a toxin called microcystin. EPA doesn't yet have standards that say what levels of the toxins are unsafe. The bill sponsored by Bowling Green GOP Rep. Bob Latta was approved by a 375 to 37 vote margin. It gives EPA 90 days to develop and submit a "strategic plan" to Congress to assess and manage the risks from algal toxins in drinking water. For full story and to view video, [click here](#).



STATE NEWS

AK: Alaska environmental officials investigating oil line leak

By Steve Quinn – Reuters – March 2, 2015

Investigators are reviewing the cause of an oil production pipeline breach on Alaska's North Slope where upwards of 4,000 gallons (15,100 liters) of fluid spilled, state officials said on Monday. The production facility is jointly owned by Hilcorp and BP Alaska, but it is operated by Hilcorp, which took over operations from BP in November when that company sold off some of its Alaska assets. The ruptured line sprayed the fluid – made up of oil, natural gas and water – on Saturday over an area covering about 38,000 square feet (3,500 square meters), according to a Department of Environmental Conservation report on Monday. For full story, [click here](#).

CA: Agencies admit failing to protect water sources from fuel pollution

By Julie Cart – Los Angeles Times – March 10, 2015

The agencies charged with overseeing oil production and protecting California's ever-dwindling water sources from the industry's pollution all fell down on the job, one state official told a panel of peeved lawmakers Tuesday. During a testy two-hour oversight hearing, officials from the California Department of Conservation, the department's Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources and the state Water Resources Control Board promised senators a top-down overhaul of their regulation of the disposal of oil field wastewater. For full story, [click here](#).

CA: California orders 12 oil-field wells shut to protect groundwater

By Chris Megerian – Los Angeles Times – March 3, 2015

California officials, responding to concerns about groundwater contamination, are closing 12 wells in the Central Valley used to dispose of chemical-laden water from oil and gas production, regulators announced Tuesday. Steve Bohlen, who leads the state Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources, said the wells are being shut down "out of an abundance of caution for public health." Ten of the wells, including some owned by Chevron, have been closed voluntarily and the companies have surrendered their permits. Two more are being ordered to cease operations. For full story, [click here](#).

CA: Another Coastal Wetland to be Restored

By David W. Kay – Patch – March 1, 2015

While our state Department of Fish and Wildlife and other agencies continue to dither on Ballona, the University of California, San Diego is seeking a Coastal Development Permit to restore the Kendall-Frost Marsh Reserve (KFMR) in coastal San Diego County. The KFMR is one of four wildland reserves managed by UCSD, among thirty-four reserves managed by the UC system statewide. The KFMR is located along the northern shore of San Diego's Mission Bay, and presently consists of 20.5 acres of upland and salt marsh. For full story, [click here](#).

FL: Florida governor denies environmental agency banned term 'climate change'

By Patricia Mazzei – Miami Herald – March 9, 2015

Florida Gov. Rick Scott on Monday denied that administrators in his Department of Environmental Protection were banned from using the terms "global warming" or "climate change." "It's not true," Scott told reporters in Hialeah. The Miami Herald published a widely read story Sunday by the Florida Center for Investigative Reporting citing former DEP officials who said they had been told verbally to avoid the phrases. The department and Scott's office said no such policy existed. For full story, [click here](#).

LA: Carbon credits could generate \$1.6 billion for Louisiana coastal restoration, study says

By March Schleitstein –NOLA.com-The Times-Picayune – March 5, 2015

Louisiana could earn up to \$1.6 billion for coastal restoration projects over the next 50 years by selling credits for storing carbon in wetland plants and soils, according to a new study by New Orleans-based Tierra Resources, Entergy Corp. and the ClimateTrust. The credits could be sold by private landowners and businesses in Louisiana that create their own restoration projects or participate in publicly-financed projects. Buyers would include businesses that must reduce carbon emissions in California under the nation's first "cap and trade" program aimed at reducing greenhouse gases, said Tierra Resources president and chief executive Sarah Mack. For full story, [click here](#).

ME: Homeland Security, state partner on climate change study

By Eric Russell – Portland Press Herald –March 8, 2015

The Department of Homeland Security has partnered with the state of Maine for the first-ever study of the effects of climate change on energy, water, transportation and telecommunications systems. The Department of Homeland Security has partnered with the state of Maine for the first-ever study of the effects of climate change on energy, water, transportation and telecommunications systems. For full story, [click here](#).

ME: Ocean scientists report 'unprecedented' spike in sea level off Portland several years ago

By Eric Russell – Portland Press Herald – February 26, 2015

Sea levels off Portland rose by 5 inches during 2009 and 2010 as part of what researchers called an "unprecedented" two-year spike resulting from changes in ocean circulation that are tied to rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. They said extreme fluctuations in sea level are likely to occur more frequently, given the rate of climate change, which raises the threat of more frequent flooding, erosion and damage to homes and property along the coast. For full story, [click here](#).

MD: Federal report tallies toll on Bay of Shore farmers overuse of chicken manure on fields

By Timothy B. Wheeler – The Baltimore Sun – March 12, 2015

Eastern Shore rivers and the Chesapeake Bay are being degraded by spreading too much fertilizer and manure on the Delmarva Peninsula's farm fields, a new federal report concludes. The report, released Thursday by the U.S. Geological Survey, says the rural region's soils get nearly twice as much bay-fouling nitrogen and phosphorus per square mile as other parts of the six-state Chesapeake watershed. And it notes in particular that the majority of phosphorus comes from over fertilizing farm crops with animal manure, mainly from the nearly 600 million chickens raised there annually. For full story, [click here](#).

MA: Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Announces Federal Grant for Commonwealth's Largest Freshwater Wetlands Restoration Project

Mass.gov Energy and Environmental Affairs – February 27, 2015

Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Matthew Beaton today announced that the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) has received a \$790,290 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the restoration of 250 acres of coastal freshwater wetlands in Plymouth. This funding is the final amount needed for the Tidmarsh Restoration Project, the largest freshwater wetlands restoration effort to date in Massachusetts. For full story, [click here](#).

MI: Pollutants in snow can flow directly into waterways

By Bob Gross – The Times Herald – March 8, 2015

Fresh fallen snow is axiomatic for cleanliness: "Pure as the driven snow."

Give it a couple of days, however, and it turns an unappealing gray from atmospheric pollution, vehicle exhaust, dirt, road salt and petroleum byproducts including the tiny bits of rubber that tires shed. Other contaminants can include heavy metals, nutrients, organic debris, bacteria and pesticides, according to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. It's not the kind of stuff you want in a river or lake. For full story, [click here](#).

MI: Pipeline company intervenes in Sierra Club suit against Forest Service

By Logan Clark – Great Lakes Echo – February 27, 2015

Enbridge Inc. recently intervened in a federal lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service, one in which the Sierra Club claims the agency failed to review the company's oil pipeline that stretches below the Straits of Mackinac. The 1,000-mile pipeline, known as Line 5, runs from northern Wisconsin through Michigan's Upper Peninsula, south across the Straits of Mackinac and then into Canada via the Bay City area in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. It is part of the company's Lakehead System which brings petroleum from northwestern Canada to southern Ontario through the Great Lakes states. It also runs under the Huron-Manistee National Forest in Michigan. That is why the Sierra Club has sued, claiming that the Forest Service violated federal law by issuing a special permit to the company. For full story, [click here](#).

MN: Farm-water cleanup project falls short, critics say

By Josephine Marcotty – StarTribune – March 9, 2015

In January, Minnesota's top agriculture and environmental leaders gathered at a triumphant news conference to announce a \$9 million federal grant for a novel project to help farmers protect streams and rivers from the chemicals that come off their land. A one-year trial had been a resounding success, Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson announced. The federal money, combined with another \$11 million from the state, would finance a full-scale launch. It would make Minnesota a national leader in showing how farmers will step up to solve one of the country's most grievous environmental problems — agricultural water pollution. But a growing chorus of critics is saying not so fast. For full story, [click here](#).

MN: Standoff over a huge dairy opens a new chapter in Minnesota's battle over big feedlots

By Tony Kennedy – StarTribune – March 7, 2015

The Fehr family thinks big. Members have built their Riverview Farms LLP into the largest single milk producer in Minnesota, with five massive dairy operations that house more than 34,500 cows. But when they proposed a new \$55 million dairy feedlot last year, a panel of citizen regulators balked because of environmental concerns, and now their standoff has rural Minnesota asking: How big is too big? For full story, [click here](#).

NE: Supreme Court rules Neb. must pay Kan. in interstate river battle

Jeremy P. Jacobs – E&E Publishing LLC – February 24, 2015

The Supreme Court today ruled that Nebraska "recklessly gambled" in taking more water from the Republican River than it was allowed. A majority of the justices held that Nebraska knowingly violated an interstate compact governing the river, depriving Kansas of water that should have flowed over the states' border. The court's ruling, which is limited in scope, means Nebraska must pay Kansas \$3.7 million, the value of the 70,000 acre-feet it unlawfully deprived Kansas of, plus a \$1.8 million penalty. For full story, [click here](#).

NJ: Lawmakers move to halt New Jersey's \$225M Exxon settlement

By Geoff Mulvihill – WRAL.com – March 9, 2015

A New Jersey legislative committee advanced a resolution on Monday calling for the rejection of a deal Gov. Chris Christie's administration announced last week to settle a decade-old lawsuit against Exxon Mobil for \$225 million, a fraction of what the state previously sought for environmental damage from the oil company. The resolution that the state Senate's environmental committee sent to the full Senate was the first formal action that lawmakers have taken about the settlement. For full story, [click here](#).

NJ: LBI beach replenishment to start next month, feds say

By MaryAnn Spoto – NJ.com – March 6, 2015

Beach replenishment on Long Beach Island will start next month, four months ahead of schedule as state and local officials prepare to condemn the parcels they need for the storm protection work. With a dune construction project for Margate now on hold because of legal battles, equipment has become available for work to start in Long Beach Township on April 15, officials said. For full story, [click here](#).

NM: N.M. senator stands guard in debate over Interior, EPA riders

By Phil Taylor – E&E Publishing, LLC – March 4, 2015

In late January, Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) took to the Senate floor to defend a tiny, grayish-brown grouse. He was opposing a GOP amendment to a bill approving the Keystone XL pipeline that would have overturned the Fish and Wildlife Service's decision last May to list the lesser prairie chicken as a "threatened" species. For full story, [click here](#).

NC: NC fines Duke Energy \$25 million for Sutton ash

By Bruce Henderson – Charlotte Observer – March 11, 2015

The state-record \$25 million fine North Carolina's environmental agency filed Tuesday penalized Duke Energy for years of groundwater contamination. Ash elements found in test wells around the Sutton power plant in Wilmington had broken state standards for as many as five years, state documents say. For full story, [click here](#).

NC: Duke Energy's \$100 Million Proposed Settlement With Federal Government Just the Beginning of Legal Coal Ash Liabilities

By Maia Raposo – Waterkeeper Alliance – February 19, 2015

Waterkeeper Alliance responded today to an announcement that Duke Energy—the nation's largest private utility—expects to pay \$100 million to resolve a federal investigation into the company's suspected crimes surrounding its mismanagement of toxic coal ash basins in North Carolina. Federal prosecutors began the investigation last year, soon after a stormwater pipe collapsed beneath a 60-year-old coal ash impoundment at the Dan River Steam Station in Eden, North Carolina. The \$100-million deal would be the latest in a string of financial liabilities related to coal ash that have plagued the company since the Dan River spill. For full story, [click here](#).

VA: Virginia farmers eligible for \$3 million to reduce pollutant runoff

By Tamara Dietrich – Daily Press – March 2, 2015

Runoff from farmland has been called the largest source of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. Now Virginia farmers will be able to use about \$3 million in federal and state funds during the next four years to cover nearly all the cost of increased fencing and other buffers to keep livestock from fouling waterways that feed into the historic estuary. The money is part of a combined \$1.75 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service along with a matching amount from the state of Virginia. For full story, [click here](#).

WA: Environmental groups sue Port of Seattle over Shell oil fleet

Reuters – March 3, 2015

A coalition of environmental groups sued the Port of Seattle on Monday to stop the lease of a terminal to Royal Dutch Shell Plc's Arctic oil drilling fleet, arguing a proper environmental review was never conducted, court records showed. Earthjustice, along with other groups including the Sierra Club, filed the suit in a Washington state court, alleging the drilling operation was substantially different from the terminal's prior use, meaning an environmental review had to be done under state law. For full story, [click here](#).

WA: Up to 1,500 gallons of oil has permeated 24 miles of waterways

By Ross Courtney – Yakima Herald – March 3, 2015

Crews could spend weeks cleaning up as much as 1,500 gallons of used motor oil that has leaked into a series of irrigation drains emptying into the Yakima River and has created a sheen visible as far south as Prosser. "It's going to be awhile," said Jeff Lewis, spill response team supervisor for the state Department of Ecology's Yakima office. The leak started Sunday, and by midday Monday oil had traveled an estimated 24 miles, first through about 10 miles of irrigation canals and drainages, including Sulphur Creek, and then 14 miles of a slow, meandering stretch of the Yakima River full of backwaters and oxbows. The area is home to the Sunnyside Wildlife Refuge, a hunting and fishing area that provides habitat for birds, river otters, beavers and other animals and is managed by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife. For full story, [click here](#).



WETLAND SCIENCE

Cities Face Rising Flood, Drought Risk Even With No Climate Change

By Jesse Greenspan – Claims Journal – March 6, 2015

A heads-up to New York, Baltimore, Houston and Miami: a new study suggests that these metropolitan areas and others will increase their exposure to floods even in the absence of climate change, according to researchers from Texas A&M University. Published in *Global Environmental Change*, the study presents first-ever global forecasts of how the exposure of urban land to floods and droughts may change due to urban

expansion in the near future. In 2000, about 30 percent of the global urban land (over 75,000 square miles) was located in the high-frequency flood zones; by 2030, this will reach nearly 40 percent (280,000 square miles) as the global urban land grows from 250,000 square miles to 720,000 square miles, the authors say. The researchers also predict that by 2030 the urban extent in drylands will nearly double, reaching over 190,000 square miles, and that even without climate change, extent of urban areas exposed to both floods and droughts would more than triple by 2030, according to the study. For full article, [click here](#).

Gulf of Mexico Turns Deadly for Dolphins

By Rachel Nuwer – The New York Times – March 2, 2015

Dolphins are dying in great numbers in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Since February 2010, 1,308 dead or dying marine mammals — mostly bottlenose dolphins, including juveniles or aborted fetuses — have washed ashore on beaches and wetlands from Texas to Florida, or have been discovered floating in the Gulf's murky waters. In some months, the numbers of stranded dolphins in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama have exceeded past averages by three and a half to four times. In Louisiana, the 2010 and 2011 figures were the highest ever recorded. A scientific explanation has so far proved elusive. "The Gulf is not a controlled laboratory where you can have a perfectly pathogen-free animal and expose it to one agent and measure the effect," said Dr. Stephanie Venn-Watson, director of the translational medicine and research program at the National Marine Mammal Foundation. For full story, [click here](#).

Slick idea proposed to stretch water supplies

Matthew Walk – Nature – February 27, 2015

In the southwestern United States, where years of drought are leading water managers to consider drastic measures such as desalination and cloud seeding, entrepreneurs have proposed reviving a water-saving technique that was tried and abandoned half a century ago. They propose to stretch dwindling water supplies by slowing down evaporation from reservoirs with a surface barrier of cheap, non-toxic, biodegradable chemicals just one molecule thick — two-millionths of a millimetre. The technology is far from proven, but it showed some potential in field tests in Texas last year. For full story, [click here](#).

Smithsonian's Inspector General to Probe Willie Soon

By David Hasemyer – Inside Climate News – February 23, 2015

The Smithsonian has opened an investigation into the ethical conduct of Willie Soon, one of its part time scientists and a climate-change skeptic who is facing scrutiny for failing to properly disclose his work was funded by fossil fuel interests. The Smithsonian probe follows disclosures this weekend—through the release of public documents—that Soon failed to divulge industry funding for 11 studies that were published in nine scientific journals. "The Smithsonian is greatly concerned about the allegations surrounding Dr. Willie Soon's failure to disclose funding sources for his climate change research," according to a statement released by Smithsonian. "The Smithsonian is taking immediate action to address the issue." For full story, [click here](#).

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detected for the First Time in Wild Birds in North America

USGS – January 30, 2015

Scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are helping to track the movement of three strains of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses (HPAIV) in wild birds. HPAI viruses are a concern as they are very pathogenic to poultry and some species of wild birds such as raptors. Infection can result in significant mortality of poultry and impact international trade of poultry products. In addition, while there is no evidence that the HPAI viruses found in wild birds in North America can cause disease in humans, some strains are known to be zoonotic (transmissible between humans and animals). This is the first time that a HPAIV has been demonstrated to be circulating in populations of North American wild birds. The first influenza strain was isolated in mid-December 2014 from a northern pintail (*Anas acuta*) in Washington State and is the same strain as the HPAIV H5N2 recently detected in poultry in adjacent British Columbia, Canada. For full story, [click here](#).

Densovirus Calculated as Culprit Killing Sea Stars

USGS – January 16, 2015

A prime suspect has been identified as a probable cause of the "Sea Star Wasting Disease," a mysterious epidemic that has been killing these animals in droves along the U.S. and Canadian Pacific Coast. Researchers from Cornell University, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and other institutions published their findings on this "sea star associated densovirus (SSaDV)" in the December 2014 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS). The sea star mortality was so sudden and unprecedented that biologists were unprepared and short on resources, says coauthor Kevin Lafferty, a USGS parasite specialist who led the statistical analysis for the new study. "Lots of people were scrambling to learn what was going on. Ian Hewson at Cornell started having interesting findings with densovirus, so he and Drew Harvell [Cornell] helped pull together a team of interested scientists to contribute to the effort." For full story, [click here](#).



RESOURCES & PUBLICATIONS

An Extreme Event of Sea-level Rise along the Northeast Coast of North America in 2009-2010

Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory

Coastal sea levels along continental margins often show significant year-to-year upward and downward fluctuations. These fluctuations are superimposed on a longer term upward trend associated with the rise in global mean sea level, with global mean sea level rising at roughly 3 mm per year during the recent 20 years of accurate satellite measures. For society, it is the regional changes along any particular coastal zone that are most important. Our analysis of multi-decadal tide gauge records along the North American east coast identified an extreme sea-level rise event during 2009–2010. Within this relatively brief two-year period, coastal sea level north of New York City jumped by up to 128 mm. This magnitude of inter-annual sea level rise is unprecedented in the tide gauge records, with statistical methods suggesting that it was a 1-in-850 year event. For full story, [click here](#).



POTPOURRI

Why Do Many Reasonable People Doubt Science?

By Joel Achenbach – National Geographic – March 2015

There's a scene in Stanley Kubrick's comic masterpiece *Dr. Strangelove* in which Jack D. Ripper, an American general who's gone rogue and ordered a nuclear attack on the Soviet Union, unspools his paranoid worldview—and the explanation for why he drinks “only distilled water, or rainwater, and only pure grain alcohol”—to Lionel Mandrake, a dizzy-with-anxiety group captain in the Royal Air Force.

Ripper: Have you ever heard of a thing called fluoridation? Fluoridation of water?

Mandrake: Ah, yes, I have heard of that, Jack. Yes, yes.

Ripper: Well, do you know what it is?

Mandrake: No. No, I don't know what it is. No.

Ripper: Do you realize that fluoridation is the most monstrously conceived and dangerous communist plot we have ever had to face?

The movie came out in 1964, by which time the health benefits of fluoridation had been thoroughly established, and antifluoridation conspiracy theories could be the stuff of comedy. So you might be surprised to learn that, half a century later, fluoridation continues to incite fear and paranoia. In 2013 citizens in Portland, Oregon, one of only a few major American cities that don't fluoridate their water, blocked a plan by local officials to do so. Opponents didn't like the idea of the government adding “chemicals” to their water. They claimed that fluoride could be harmful to human health. For full article, [click here](#).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEBINARS, MEETINGS, TRAINING, SPECIAL EVENTS

WEBINAR	
<u>MARCH 2015</u>	
March 23 and March 25, 2015	Floodplain Management Association Webinar: Hydraulics for Non-Engineers
March 25, 2015	Wetland Mapping Consortium (WMC): ASWM Winter Meeting Workshop – WMC Workshop: “Accessing, Analyzing and Communicating Digital Wetland Data to Stakeholders for Decision-making”
<u>APRIL 2015</u>	
April 1, 2015 11 a.m. eastern	Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative webinar: Discussion on Integrated Water Management
April 2, 2015	Forester University webinar: Constant Flow: All You Need to Know

2:00 p.m. EDT	
April 15, 2015 11am eastern	Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative webinar: Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments and Green Infrastructure Initiatives to Enhance Stormwater Management and Watershed Planning
April 21, 2015 3:00 pm eastern	Association of State Wetland Managers Restoration webinar: Vernal Pool Restoration – How to Restore the Landscape presented by Mick Micacchion, Midwest Biodiversity Institute; Christina M. Schaefer, Schaefer Ecological Solutions; and Aram J.K. Calhoun, The University of Maine
April 28 and 30, 2015 2:00pm EDT	Forester University presents Surface Water Master Class Series webinar: Hydrology 101, Part II
April 28, 2015 1:00 PM EDT	American Water Resources Association webinar: The Oregon Model: Case Studies in Strategic Watershed Council Partnerships and Watershed Restoration Planning
April 30, 2015 3:00 p.m.	Association of State Wetland Managers Members' Wetland Webinar: Findings from a 2014 Study of Massachusetts Wetland Replication Projects (Replication Measures, Success and an Interesting Finding About Vegetation)
<u>MAY 2015</u>	
May 5, 2015 3:00 p.m. EDT	Association of State Wetland Managers will hold a NFFA Webinar: NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service: Biological Opinion on Practical Alternatives
May 19, 2015 3:00 pm eastern	Association of State Wetland Managers Restoration webinar: Prairie Pothole Restoration
May 20, 2015 3:00 pm eastern	Association of State Wetland Managers Wetland Mapping Consortium (WMC) Webinar: Mapping Forested Wetland Inundation using LiDAR Intensity Data
May 20, 2015 1 – 2:30 PM EDT	The Center for Watershed Protection webcast: Green Infrastructure & Green Jobs
<u>JUNE 2015</u>	
June 9, 2015 3:00 pm eastern	Association of State Wetland Managers Restoration webinar: Riverine/Riparian Wetland Restoration
June 17, 2015 1–2:30 pm EDT	The Center for Watershed Protection webcast: Multi-Sector & Industrial Stormwater Permits
MEETINGS	
<u>MARCH 2015</u>	
March 21, 2015 Worcester, Massachusetts	Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition 25th Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference: Gaining Ground: Conserving Our Common Wealth
March 24-26, 2015 Las Cruces, New Mexico	Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop: Climate and Drought Information for Food Resilience, Agriculture, and Water Resources
March 25, 2015	New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission

Chelmsford, Massachusetts	(NEIWPC): Stormwater Utility Workshop
March 25-27, 2015 Berkeley, California	UC Berkeley, in partnership with the National Park Service and National Geographic Society: Science for Parks, Parks for Science: The Next Century
March 26-28, 2015 University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware	Society for Ecological Restoration Mid-Atlantic Chapter Annual Conference: Working Together to Ecologically Restore the Mid-Atlantic Region
March 28, 2015 Delaware, Ohio	Ohio Wetlands Association: Vernal Pool Workshop
March 28-29, 2015 Indiana University Bloomington, Indiana	2015 Midwest Ecology and Evolution Conference
March 30-April 1, 2015 Los Angeles, California	2015 American Water Resources Association (AWRA) Spring Specialty Conference on Water for Urban Areas
March 30-April 2, 2015 North Charleston, South Carolina	Association of State Floodplain Managers: Coastal GeoTools Conference
March 31, 2015 Augusta, Maine	Maine Sustainability & Water Conference 2015
APRIL 2015	
April 1-3, 2015 Asheville, North Carolina	North Carolina State University Stream Restoration Program workshop: Stream Morphology Assessment
April 10-11, 2015 Vancouver, British Columbia	International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts and Responses
April 14-15, 2015 Syracuse, New York	New York State Wetlands Forum, Inc. Annual Conference and Meeting
April 16, 2015 Linthicum Heights, Maryland	Chesapeake Water Environment Association Stormwater Seminar: Lessons Learned in Restoration and Program Implementation: From Startup to BMPs in the Ground
April 23-30, 2015 Nairobi, Kenya	International Institute for Environment and Development: 9th annual International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation
April 26-30, 2015 Traverse City, Michigan	NatureServe network's annual conference: Biodiversity Without Boundaries 2015
April 27-29, 2015 Syracuse, New York	New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association: 15th Annual Meeting
April 28-29, 2015 Freeport, Maine	NEIWPC 26th Annual Nonpoint Source Pollution: The Watershed Approach: Addressing Today's Challenges with an Eye on the Future
MAY 2015	
May 1-4, 2015 Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico	River Network's River Rally 2015
May 3-5, 2015	American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE):

Chicago, Illinois	Climate Change Symposium - Adaptation and Mitigation
May 5-8, 2015 Orlando, Florida	National Mitigation & Ecosystem Banking Conference: Training & Education, Moderated Exchanges, Networking
May 6-7, 2015 Castlegar, BC, Canada	Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology: Regulated Rivers: Environment, Ecology, and Management Conference
May 6-8, 2015 Asheville, NC	North Carolina State University Stream Restoration Program workshop: Natural Channel Design Principles
May 6-8, 2015 Sandusky, Ohio	The Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners and the Ohio Stormwater Association: 2015 Ohio Stormwater Conference
May 12-14, 2015 Raleigh, North Carolina	North Carolina State University Stream Restoration Program workshop: Coastal Plain Restoration Tour and Evaluation
May 12-14, 2015 St. Louis, Missouri	EcoAdapt: National Adaptation Forum
May 20-22, 2015 Fort Collins, Colorado	North Central Climate Science Center 2015 Open Science Conference: Integrating research and management of change from mountains to plains
May 22-24, 2015 Saskatoon, Canada	10th Annual Meeting: Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution
May 25-29, 2015 Burlington, Vermont	International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR): 58th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research
May 30, 2015 New London, Ohio	Ohio Wetlands Association: Big Swamp Plant Identification Workshop
May 31-June 4, 2015 Providence, Rhode Island	2015 Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting: Changing climate. Changing wetlands
May 31 – June 5, 2015 Atlanta, Georgia	Association of State Floodplain Managers Annual Conference: Mitigation on my Mind
JUNE 2015	
June 1-5, 2015 Buffalo, New York	University at Buffalo's Summer Workshop Series in Stream Restoration
June 13-18, 2015 Charleston, South Carolina	21st International Symposium on Society and Resource Management: Understanding and Adapting to Change
June 15-17, 2015 New Orleans, Louisiana	American Water Resources Association (AWRA) Specialty Conference: Climate Change Adaptation . Abstracts due by February 13, 2015
June 15-19, 2015 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Applied Geology and Environmental Science: The Urban Stream Stabilization & Rehabilitation Workshop
June 17-19, 2015 Sarnia, Ontario	Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual Meeting and Conference
June 21-26, 2015 Queenstown, New Zealand	The Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Otago meeting: Statistics in Ecology and Environmental Monitoring (SEEM) 2015
June 22-24 2015	University of Massachusetts-Amherst: Fish Passage 2015

Groningen, The Netherlands	
<u>JULY 2015</u>	
July 5-10, 2015 Portland, Oregon	9th Annual IALE World Congress: Crossing Scales, Crossing Borders: Global Approaches to Complex Challenges . Call for presentations deadline: March 1, 2015
July 8-10, 2015 Raleigh, North Carolina	North Carolina State University Stream Restoration Program workshop: Hydraulic Modeling for Stream Restoration
July 21-23, 2015 Breckenridge, Colorado	Rocky Mountain Stream Restoration Conference
July 27-31, 2015 Boulder, Colorado	National Center for Atmospheric Research Second Annual Graduate Workshop: Environmental Data Analytics
July 27-August 2, 2015 Nagoya Japan	XIX INQUA Congress Quaternary Perspectives on Climate Change, Natural Hazards and Civilization
<u>AUGUST 2015</u>	
August 2-5, 2015 Windsor, Ontario, Canada	21st International Conference on Environmental Indicators
August 2-6, 2015 Austin, Texas	StormCon, the North American Surface Water Quality Conference and Expo
August 9-14, 2015 Baltimore, Maryland	The Ecological Society of America: Ecological Science at the Frontier: Celebrating ESA's Centennial
August 23-27, 2015 Manchester, England	Society of Ecological Restoration 6th World Conference on Ecological Restoration: Towards Resilient Ecosystems: Restoring the Urban, the Rural and the Wild
August 23-28, 2015 La Crosse, Wisconsin	4th Biennial Symposium of the International Society for River Science
August 23-28, 2015 Stockholm, Sweden	Stockholm International Water Institute: 2015 World Water Week
August 26-28, 2015 San Francisco, California	U.S. Water Alliance: One Water Leadership Summit
<u>SEPTEMBER 2015</u>	
September 13-18, 2015 York, UK	WETPOL 2015 - 6th International Symposium: Wetland Pollutant Dynamics and Control Annual Conference
September 23-25, 2015 Baltimore, Maryland	Resource Institute, Inc.: Mid-Atlantic Stream Restoration Conference
<u>OCTOBER 2015</u>	
October 7-9, 2015 New York, New York	6th annual Student Conference on Conservation Science Abstracts due by April 4, 2015
October 14-15, 2015 Villanova, Pennsylvania	Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership: 9th Stormwater Management Symposium

<u>NOVEMBER 2015</u>	
November 3-5, 2015 Little Rock, Arkansas	Natural Areas Association: 2015 Natural Areas Conference Abstracts due by April 27, 2015.
November 8-12, 2015 Portland, Oregon	Coastal Estuarine Research Federation Conference: Grand Challenges in Coastal & Estuarine Science; Securing Our Future
November 16-18, 2015 Greater Portland, Maine	Think Blue Maine Partner Maine Stormwater Conference . Abstract deadline is Friday, March 27, 2015.
November 16-19, 2015 Denver, Colorado	AWRA's 50th Annual Water Resources Conference Special session proposals due by May 15, 2015.
TRAINING	
<u>MARCH 2015</u>	
March 23-26, 2015 Nashville, Tennessee	Richard Chinn Environmental Training, Inc.: Wetland Delineation Training
March 26-27, 2015 Denver, Colorado	Urban Watersheds Research Institute class: Water Rights Engineering
March 30-31, 2015 San Diego, California	Wetland Training Institute, Inc.: San Diego County Vernal Pool Habitat Restoration and Flora
<u>APRIL 2015</u>	
April 9-10, 2015 Charleston, South Carolina	Duncan & Duncan course: Problem and Atypical Wetland Delineation (Coastal Plain or Piedmont) This course will also be held on December 3-4, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia.
April 9-10, 2015 Sacramento, California	Wetland Training Institute, Inc. : Wetland Delineation Field Practicum Refresher Course
April 10-11, 2015 Tiburon, California	San Francisco State University course: Seasonal Wetland/Vernal Pools
April 20-22, 2015 San Diego, California	Vernal Pool CRAM Training
April 21 - 24, 2015 Raleigh, North Carolina	Stream Identification Class
April 23, 2015 Sacramento, California	UC Davis Extension course: CEQA and Climate Change: An In-Depth Update
April 23, 2015 Denver, Colorado	Urban Watersheds Research Institute course: Urban Channel Design and Rehabilitation
April 27-30, 2015 Columbus, Ohio	Midwest Biodiversity Institute: Wetland Delineation Course
April 28-May 1, 2015 Dallas, Texas	Wetland Training Institute course: Federal Wetland / Waters Regulatory Policy This course will also be held on November 16-19, 2015 in San Diego, California.

<u>MAY 2015</u>	
May 5-6, 2015 Columbus, Ohio	Midwest Biodiversity Institute: Habitat Assessment Using the QHEI This course will also be held on June 1-2, 2015
May 7-8, 2015 Columbus, Ohio	Midwest Biodiversity Institute: Primary Headwater Habitat (PHWH)
May 11-July 17, 2015 University of Louisville- Speed School of Engineering	Wetland Design Online Course. For more information, contact: Ify Whitfill ihwhit02@louisville.edu ; go here or go directly here .
May 18-22, 2015 Richmond, Kentucky	Wetland Design and Restoration Techniques Field Course at Eastern Kentucky University. Undergraduate and Graduate Level, 2- Credits. Contact: stephen.richter@eku.edu or go here for more information.
May 20-21, 2015 Columbus, Ohio	Midwest Biodiversity Institute: Amphibian Index of Biotic Integrity (AmphIBI)
May 26-29, 2015 Basking Ridge, New Jersey	Rutgers Office of Continuing Education course: Methodology for Delineating Wetlands . Instructors: Ralph Tiner and Mallory N. Gilbert. Register by May 12, 2015 and save.
May 27-28, 2015 Columbus, OH	Midwest Biodiversity Institute: Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM)
<u>JUNE 2015</u>	
June 1-2, 2015 Banner Elk, North Carolina	North Carolina State University Stream Restoration Program course: Assessment and Identification of Riparian Vegetation
June 1-2, 2015 Columbus, Ohio	Midwest Biodiversity Institute: Habitat Assessment Using the QHEI This course will also be held on May 5-6, 2015 in Columbus, Ohio.
June 1-3, 2015 St. Louis, Missouri	Institute of Botanical Training, LLC course: Grasses, Sedges and Rushes
June 1-5, 2015 Columbus, Ohio	Midwest Biodiversity Institute: Level 3 Bioassessment: Fish
June 1-12, 2015 East Lansing, Michigan	Michigan State University Kellogg Biological Station course: Biomonitoring of Streams & Rivers
June 2-5, 2015 Raleigh, North Carolina	North Carolina Division of Water Resources (DWR) and NC State University (NC SU) course: Surface Water Identification Training and Certification
June 7-13, 2015 Steuben, Maine	Eagle Hill Institute Natural History Science Seminar: Bogs and Other Maine Peatlands
June 10, 2015 Sacramento, California	U.C. Davis course: Clean Water Act Section 404: Nationwide and Other Specialized Permits
June 15-16, 2015 Bordentown, New Jersey	Rutgers University course: Wetland Construction: Principles and Techniques

June 15-18, 2015 Hastings, Michigan	Institute of Botanical Training: Wetland Flora Workshop Other dates: June 29-July 2, 2015 in Des Moines, Iowa and July 13-16, 2015 in Indianapolis, Indiana
June 16-18, 2015 Columbus, Ohio	Midwest Biodiversity Institute course: Vegetation Index of Biotic Integrity
June 22-25, 2015 State College, Pennsylvania	Wetland Training Institute, Inc. course: Planning Hydrology, Vegetation, and Soils for Constructed Wetlands
June 23-25, 2015 Columbus, Ohio	Midwest Biodiversity Institute: Identification of Common Wetland Plants
JULY 2015	
July 6-August 14, 2015 SUNY-ESF	Wetland Restoration Techniques online course at SUNY-ESF. Undergraduate and Graduate level, 3-Credits. For more information, go here or go directly here .
July 13-16, 2015 Indianapolis, Indiana	Institute of Botanical Training, LLC course: Wetland Flora This workshop will also be held on June 29-July 2, 2015 in Des Moines, Iowa.
July 14-15, 2015 LaGrange, Ohio	Midwest Biodiversity Institute: Wetland Restoration
July 19-25, 2015 Steuben, Maine	Eagle Hill Institute course: Wetland Identification, Delineation, and Ecology
July 24-30, 2015 Ashland, Wisconsin	3 Sigma Institute course: Lake Ecosystem Ecology: Biological and Hydrologic Sustainability of Lake Ecosystem
July 28 & 29, 2015 Tully, New York	Wetland Restoration Techniques Practicum at SUNY-ESF. Undergraduate and Graduate Level, 1-Credit. For more information, contact banewman@esf.edu ; go here or go directly here .
July 31, 2015-August 6, 2015 Cable, Wisconsin	3 Sigma Institute in affiliation with Northland College and the USFS is offering a course on Assessment of Wetland Food Web Support – Patterns in Primary and Secondary Production
AUGUST 2015	
August 3-12, 2015 Ashland, Wisconsin	3 Sigma Institute course: Introduction to Environmental Modeling: Linking Social and Natural Sciences
August 9-15, 2015 Steuben, Maine	Eagle Hill Institute Natural History Science Seminar: Lakes and Rivers Understanding Their Ecology and Water Quality
SEPTEMBER 2015	
September 14-19, 2015 Whitefish, Montana	Wetland Training Institute course: Wetland Delineation with Emphasis on Soils and Hydrology
September 28-29, 2015 Bordentown, New Jersey	Rutgers University course: Wetland Construction: Planning and Functional Design
SPECIAL EVENTS	
April 7, 2015	Lake Huron Restoration Regional Meetings
April 11, 2015	Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay 12th annual Project Clean Stream

April 24-25, 2015 Great Bend, Kansas	The Kansas Wetlands Education Center , along with Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks & Tourism , The Nature Conservancy , and the Great Bend Convention and Visitors Bureau will host the Wings N Wetlands Birding Festival
May 21-24, 2015 Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin	13 th Annual Door County Festival of Nature

For more wetland events, meetings, conferences, and courses nationwide, visit the [ASWM calendar](#).

JOBS



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- Farmers Put Down the Plow for More Productive Soil
- Exxon Wants \$1 Million Fine for 2011 Yellowstone Oil Spill Reduced Again
- EPA Awards 15 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grants Totaling Over \$8 Million to Combat Invasive Species
- Keystone veto override fails
- Wetland Mapping Consortium (WMC): ASWM Winter Meeting Workshop – March 25, 2015
- ASWM's Wetland Restoration Webinar: Vernal Pool Restoration – How to Restore the Landscape – April 21, 2015
- ASWM's Members' Webinar: Assessment of Wetland Mitigation Success: Findings from a New Study on Massachusetts Wetland Replication Projects

NATIONAL NEWS

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- Fischer Holds WOTUS Senate Hearing in Nebraska
- FEMA to Review All Flood Damage Claims From Hurricane Sandy
- As the river runs dry: An ongoing battle between urban and rural water users
- Sen. Jim Inhofe denies climate change, tosses snow ball in Congress
- USDA Opens Public Comment Period for ACEP Interim Final Rule
- EPA and NOAA Release Storm Surge Resources
- GOP battles with EPA over rules
- **House passes bill to fight toxic algae in the Great Lakes**

STATES NEWS

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- CA: Agencies admit failing to protect water sources from fuel pollution
- CA: California orders 12 oil-field wells shut to protect groundwater
- CA: Another Coastal Wetland to be Restored
- FL: Florida governor denies environmental agency banned term 'climate change'
- LA: Carbon credits could generate \$1.6 billion for Louisiana coastal restoration, study says
- ME: Homeland Security, state partner on climate change study
- ME: Ocean scientists report 'unprecedented' spike in sea level off Portland several years ago
- MD: Federal report tallies toll on Bay of Shore farmers overuse of chicken manure on fields
- MA: Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Announces Federal Grant for Commonwealth's Largest Freshwater Wetlands Restoration Project
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- MI: Pipeline company intervenes in Sierra Club suit against Forest Service
- MN: Farm-water cleanup project falls short, critics say
- MN: Standoff over a huge dairy opens a new chapter in Minnesota's battle over big feedlots
- NE: Supreme Court rules Neb. must pay Kan. in interstate river battle
- NJ: Lawmakers move to halt New Jersey's \$225M Exxon settlement
- NJ: LBI beach replenishment to start next month, feds say
- NM: N.M. senator stands guard in debate over Interior, EPA riders
- NC: NC fines Duke Energy \$25 million for Sutton ash
- NC: Duke Energy's \$100 Million Proposed Settlement With Federal Government Just the Beginning of Legal Coal Ash Liabilities
- VA: Virginia farmers eligible for \$3 million to reduce pollutant runoff
- WA: Environmental groups sue Port of Seattle over Shell oil fleet
- WA: Up to 1,500 gallons of oil has permeated 24 miles of waterways

WETLAND SCIENCE

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- Gulf of Mexico Turns Deadly for Dolphins
- Slick idea proposed to stretch water supplies
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- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detected for the First Time in Wild Birds in North America
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- Why Do Many Reasonable People Doubt Science?

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Webinars

- Hydraulics for Non-Engineers
- Accessing, Analyzing and Communicating Digital Wetland Data to Stakeholders for Decision-making"
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- Vernal Pool Restoration – How to Restore the Landscape
- Forester University presents Surface Water Master Class Series webinar: Hydrology 101, Part II
- The Oregon Model: Case Studies in Strategic Watershed Council Partnerships and Watershed Restoration Planning
- Findings from a 2014 Study of Massachusetts Wetland Replication Projects

- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service: Biological Opinion on Practical Alternatives
- Association of State Wetland Managers Restoration webinar: Prairie Pothole Restoration
- Association of State Wetland Managers Wetland Mapping Consortium (WMC) Webinar: Mapping Forested Wetland Inundation using LiDAR Intensity Data
- The Center for Watershed Protection webcast: Green Infrastructure & Green Jobs
- Association of State Wetland Managers Restoration webinar: Riverine/Riparian Wetland Restoration
- The Center for Watershed Protection webcast: Multi-Sector & Industrial Stormwater Permits

Meetings

- Gaining Ground: Conserving Our Common Wealth
- Climate and Drought Information for Food Resilience, Agriculture, and Water Resources
- Stormwater Utility Workshop
- Science for Parks, Parks for Science: The Next Century
- Working Together to Ecologically Restore the Mid-Atlantic Region
- Ohio Wetlands Association: Vernal Pool Workshop
- 2015 Midwest Ecology and Evolution Conference
- Water for Urban Areas
- Coastal GeoTools Conference
- Maine Sustainability & Water Conference 2015
- Stream Morphology Assessment
- International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts and Responses
- New York State Wetlands Forum, Inc. Annual Conference and Meeting
- Lessons Learned in Restoration and Program Implementation: From Startup to BMPs in the Ground
- 9th Annual International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation
- Biodiversity Without Boundaries 2015
- New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association: 15th Annual Meeting
- The Watershed Approach: Addressing Today's Challenges with an Eye on the Future
- River Network's River Rally 2015
- Climate Change Symposium - Adaptation and Mitigation
- National Mitigation & Ecosystem Banking Conference: Training & Education, Moderated Exchanges, Networking
- Regulated Rivers: Environment, Ecology, and Management Conference
- Natural Channel Design Principles
- 2015 Ohio Stormwater Conference
- Coastal Plain Restoration Tour and Evaluation
- National Adaptation Forum
- Integrating research and management of change from mountains to plains
- 10th Annual Meeting: Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution
- 58th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research
- Big Swamp Plant Identification Workshop
- Changing climate. Changing wetlands
- Association of State Floodplain Managers Annual Conference: Mitigation on my Mind
- University at Buffalo's Summer Workshop Series in Stream Restoration
- 21st International Symposium on Society and Resource Management: Understanding and Adapting to Change
- Specialty Conference: Climate Change Adaptation
- Applied Geology and Environmental Science: The Urban Stream Stabilization & Rehabilitation Workshop
- Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual Meeting and Conference
- Statistics in Ecology and Environmental Monitoring
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- Crossing Scales, Crossing Borders; Global Approaches to Complex Challenges
- Hydraulic Modeling for Stream Restoration
- Rocky Mountain Stream Restoration Conference
- National Center for Atmospheric Research Second Annual Graduate Workshop: Environmental Data Analytics
- Quaternary Perspectives on Climate Change, Natural Hazards and Civilization

- 21st International Conference on Environmental Indicators
- StormCon, the North American Surface Water Quality Conference and Expo
- Ecological Science at the Frontier: Celebrating ESA's Centennial
- Towards Resilient Ecosystems: Restoring the Urban, the Rural and the Wild
- 4th Biennial Symposium of the International Society for River Science
- 2015 World Water Week
- One Water Leadership Summit
- WETPOL 2015 - 6th International Symposium: Wetland Pollutant Dynamics and Control Annual Conference
- Mid-Atlantic Stream Restoration Conference
- 6th annual Student Conference on Conservation Science
- 9th Stormwater Management Symposium
- 2015 Natural Areas Conference
- Grand Challenges in Coastal & Estuarine Science; Securing Our Future
- Think Blue Maine Partner Maine Stormwater Conference
- AWRA's 50th Annual Water Resources Conference

Training

- Richard Chinn Environmental Training, Inc.: Wetland Delineation Training
- Urban Watersheds Research Institute class: Water Rights Engineering
- San Diego County Vernal Pool Habitat Restoration and Flora
- Duncan & Duncan course: Problem and Atypical Wetland Delineation
- Wetland Training Institute, Inc. : Wetland Delineation Field Practicum Refresher Course
- Seasonal Wetland/Vernal Pools
- Vernal Pool CRAM Training
- Stream Identification Class
- CEQA and Climate Change: An In-Depth Update
- Urban Channel Design and Rehabilitation
- Midwest Biodiversity Institute: Wetland Delineation Course
- Federal Wetland / Waters Regulatory Policy
- Habitat Assessment Using the QHEI
- Primary Headwater Habitat (PHWH)
- Wetland Design Online Course
- Wetland Design and Restoration Techniques Field Course at Eastern Kentucky University
- Amphibian Index of Biotic Integrity (AmphIBI)
- Methodology for Delineating Wetlands
- Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM)
- Assessment and Identification of Riparian Vegetation
- Midwest Biodiversity Institute: Habitat Assessment Using the QHEI
- Grasses, Sedges and Rushes
- Midwest Biodiversity Institute: Level 3 Bioassessment: Fish
- Biomonitoring of Streams & Rivers
- Surface Water Identification Training and Certification
- Eagle Hill Institute Natural History Science Seminar: Bogs and Other Maine Peatlands
- Clean Water Act Section 404: Nationwide and Other Specialized Permits
- Wetland Construction: Principles and Techniques
- Wetland Flora Workshop
- Midwest Biodiversity Institute course: Vegetation Index of Biotic Integrity
- Planning Hydrology, Vegetation, and Soils for Constructed Wetlands
- Identification of Common Wetland Plants
- Wetland Restoration Techniques online course at SUNY-ESF
- Institute of Botanical Training, LLC course: Wetland Flora
- Midwest Biodiversity Institute: Wetland Restoration
- Wetland Identification, Delineation, and Ecology
- Biological and Hydrologic Sustainability of Lake Ecosystem
- Wetland Restoration Techniques Practicum at SUNY-ESF
- Assessment of Wetland Food Web Support – Patterns in Primary and Secondary Production
- Introduction to Environmental Modeling: Linking Social and Natural Sciences
- Lakes and Rivers Understanding Their Ecology and Water Quality

- Wetland Delineation with Emphasis on Soils and Hydrology
- Planning and Functional Design

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Lake Huron Restoration Regional Meetings
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay 12th annual Project Clean Stream
- Wings N Wetlands Birding Festival
- 13th Annual Door County Festival of Nature



The Association of State Wetland Managers' *Wetland Breaking News* is a monthly e-newsletter. *Wetland Breaking News* is an edited compilation of wetland-related stories and announcements submitted by readers and gleaned from listservs, press releases and news sources from throughout the United States. WBN chronicles the legislative, national and state news relevant to wetland science and policy, wetland regulations and legal analysis of Supreme court cases from the past month; it also links to new publications and resources available to wetland professionals as well as events and training opportunities for those working in water resources and related fields. *Wetland Breaking News* has been published for over ten years and ASWM has been a think-tank and source for wetland science and policy news and discussion for over 30 years.

The items presented in *Wetland Breaking News* do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or of the Association of State Wetland Managers. Send your news items, comments, corrections, or suggestions to news@aswm.org.

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All photos by Jeanne Christie, ASWM

