



SWPBA Newsletter

February 2010 - Florida



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Message from the President

Greetings from the Sunshine State! Actually, we haven't seen much of the sun lately, but we have seen plenty of precipitation, but unlike your States, ours has been mostly in liquid form! All the rain has made sampling a challenge, but we've been so busy with numeric nutrient criteria development, we've hardly noticed! More on that later...

I'd like to say "Thanks" to Paulette Akers and Jessica Bevins of Kentucky Division of Water for hosting a fine meeting in Frankfort, Kentucky last year and for their continued support as we embark on our preparations for this year's meeting.

An item of business that was briefly discussed at last year's meeting was pursuing non-profit status for SWPBA. I have made some initial inquiries and will continue to pursue this as time allows. I should have an update in a future newsletter.

We have decided to host the meeting in the Tallahassee area to ensure maximum participation from members States as well as our own. We will have further details about the meeting in the near future. In



–2010–

State Highlight Submission Schedule

The membership voted during the 2008 Annual SWPBA Meeting to change the format of the newsletter. Each state is responsible for submitting their highlights of the year only once during a designated month.

Please send your state's highlights for 2010 by the 18th of your respective month to:

Joy Jackson

Joy.Jackson@dep.state.fl.us

or

Cheryl Swanson

Cheryl.Swanson@dep.state.fl.us

February – FL

March – TN

April – AL

May – MS

June – GA

July – SC

August – NC

September – KY

the meantime, I'd like to issue an informal call for papers. If you have ideas or suggestions for topics or activities, please let us know.

We look forward to seeing everyone this fall!

Cheers,

Joy Jackson

SWPBA President 2010

Joy.Jackson@dep.state.fl.us

Message from the Secretary

Hello SWPBA members and interested parties! I am excited to be involved in SWPBA this year. First, a reminder that since 2008, each state is responsible for submitting their highlights of the year only once during a designated month (see *2010 State Highlight Submission Schedule*). Second, please review your contact information on the website and send any updates to me at the e-mail below. Having the correct contact information will ensure that current information about SWPBA activities reaches those who wish to receive it. Thank you all for this opportunity to serve.

Cheryl Swanson

SWPBA Secretary 2010

Cheryl.Swanson@dep.state.fl.us



St Marks River near Tallahassee



Nutrient Criteria Development

Freshwater

In August 2009, USEPA entered into a Consent Decree with the Florida Wildlife Federation to settle the 2008 litigation, committing to propose numeric nutrient standards for lakes and flowing waters in Florida by January 14, 2010 and for Florida's estuarine and coastal waters by January 2011, with final standards to be established by October of those years.

FDEP has since worked closely with EPA, providing data in hopes of achieving scientifically defensible numbers. In June 2009, FDEP proposed numeric criteria for lakes and streams: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wqssp/nutrients/index.htm>

The following January, EPA proposed nutrient criteria for Florida's lakes, and flowing waters, including canals: <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/rules/florida/>.

The following document compares FDEP's In-stream Protection Values with EPA's Downstream Protection Values: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wqssp/nutrients/docs/eval_epa_proposed_criteria_020210.pdf

EPA is holding three public hearings in Florida during the public comment period for the proposed rule. The public hearings will afford an opportunity for the public to provide comments on EPA's proposed rule.

Estuaries

FDEP is currently holding a series of public meetings around the State to gather information and data on various estuarine systems throughout Florida. The Department is seeking to gather information on individual marine systems that will serve to support statewide criteria development and provide a solid foundation to establish nutrient criteria appropriate for each specific area. The initial effort consists of identifying currently available data and soliciting local area expertise, including

members of the Numeric Nutrient Criteria Technical Advisory Committee (Nutrients TAC). The purpose of these meetings is to solicit and discuss information regarding nutrients and documented associations between nutrients and ecological conditions within the estuaries." So far, meetings have been held in St. Petersburg, Pensacola, and Apalachicola with additional meetings being held in Crystal River, Naples Miami, and Jacksonville, Florida.

Taxonomic Workshop

The Florida Association of Benthologists 2010 taxonomic workshop will be held on May 5th – 7th. The workshop will feature Mr. Paul Moler and Mr. Richard Franz, presenting lecture and hands-on laboratory sessions on crayfish identification, distribution, and genetics. Mr. Moler and Mr. Franz are currently conducting a genetic and taxonomic survey of all the crayfish in Florida. There are at least 55 resident species, 15 of which are cave dwellers and 3 of which are state listed.

Location of this workshop will be at UF Dept. of Entomology and Nematology-Building 970, Natural Area Drive, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 32611. The workshop has a maximum of 30 seats, first come first serve basis. Please register on-line (\$70.00 for current members-\$85.00 for non members-\$45.00 for students). This includes membership fees for the 2010 calendar year (of \$30.00). Contact: benthos@flbenthos.org for more information.

2010 SWPBA Annual Meeting

Florida is making plans for the 2010 SWPBA event to be held in Tallahassee in late September or early October. With budget constraints and travel restrictions across Region 4, we hope this location is somewhat centrally located and accessible by car for all SWPBA states. We will update the website www.swpba.org as additional information becomes available. We are soliciting ideas for topics or activities that interest you and your state. Please share your ideas with us!



**2009 Southeastern Water Pollution Biologists Association
General Business Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2009**

1102 Meeting called to order by President Paulette Akers (KY).

1103 Secretary Jessica Bevins (KY) read the minutes of the 2008 SWPBA business meeting.

1106 President Paulette Akers (KY) conducted a roll call of the states present. States in attendance were: Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Florida, South Carolina, Mississippi, and Alabama. No members were present from Georgia. Mike Beiser (MS) made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Debbie Arnwine (TN) seconded the motion. Minutes were passed on voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

1107 SWPBA Website - President Paulette Akers (KY) said that since Brandon Moody (GA) was not present we couldn't continue this discussion. Mike Beiser (MS) made a motion to table the discussion. Eric Eisiminger (KY) seconded the motion. Website discussion was tabled until the next business meeting.

1108 Newsletter – President Paulette Akers (KY) asked how the membership felt about the change in newsletter (i.e. each state being assigned a month to produce the newsletter versus the previous practice of each state reporting to the secretary 3 times each year). Many voiced their opinion that the new method was favored. The discussion continued and Emily Hollingsworth (SC) made a motion that we should continue on with the newsletter in this manner. Susan Cohn (KY) seconded the motion. Motion carried on voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

1109 President Paulette Akers (KY) asked if Florida was ready to host the 2010 SWPBA meeting. Joy Jackson (FL) said they were. Debbie Arnwine (TN) was asked if Tennessee was ready to host in 2011. She said yes.

1110 President Paulette Akers (KY) asked for nominations for next year's officers. Lisa Hicks (KY) nominated Joy Jackson (FL) for SWPBA President. Mike Beiser (MS) seconded the nomination. Mike Beiser (MS) moved that the nominations for SWBPA President be closed. Eric Eisiminger seconded the motion. Joy Jackson (FL) nominated Cheryl Swanson (FL) for SWPBA Secretary. Susan Cohn (KY) seconded the motion. Mike Beiser (MS) moved to close nominations. Susan Cohn (KY) seconded. Acceptance of new SWPBA officers passed on voice vote.

1111 Joy Jackson (FL) accepted "The Worm" on behalf of Florida. Joy Jackson (FL) noted that Florida had discussed that the 2010 SWPBA meeting would be in Northern Florida near the coast, possibly Jacksonville or St. Augustine.

1112 President Paulette Akers (KY) noted that 2009 was a "wild year" but expressed her gratitude to those who helped make SWPBA successful because it wasn't something someone could do alone. She thanked everyone for participating.



1113 President Paulette Akers (KY) brought up modifying Article 8 of the SWPBA bylaws. President Paulette Akers read Article 8. President Paulette Akers (KY) suggested that we add language to the article including electronic notification. Favorable discussion ensued. President Paulette Akers (KY) said that the executive committee would put forth a suggestion to be voted on at the next business meeting.

1114 President Paulette Akers (KY) asked that the membership discuss the refining of the membership definition. She asked if we should expand the definition to include those whose current job title is not “biologist”. Discussion followed that resulted in President Paulette Akers (KY) suggesting the executive committee submit possible additional language at the next business meeting.

1119 President Paulette Akers (KY) brought up the fact that many agencies attending SWPBA in 2009 had asked if they could pay for registration through some form of credit. She asked that, in light of increasing technology, should SWBPA incorporate or set up a non-profit organization. Discussion followed where many members suggested ways of accepting credit for payment. After discussion both for and against finding a way to accept credit as payment, Mike Beiser (MS) made a motion to table the discussion. President Paulette Akers (KY) closed discussion.

1126 Mike Beiser (MS) made a motion to close the meeting. Mark Vogel (KY) and Kim Sparks (TN) seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.



SWPBA Members enjoying an outing at the Keeneland Racetrack.

From left to right: Lara Panayotoff - KY, Lisa Hicks - KY, Paulette Akers – KY (2009 President), Joy Jackson – FL (2010 President), Mike Beiser – MS (1997 & 2005 President).

