

## Barbara L. Bedford

### Biographical Sketch for Wisconsin Wetlands Association's 2008 Annual Meeting October 3, 2007

I have been obsessed with all aspects of wetland ecosystems since the early 1970's when a wonderful old-fashioned naturalist, Jim Zimmerman, first turned my senses to their beauty and biological diversity. After more than 30 years, I still am drawn to that diversity, intellectually and personally. I teach students about it, do research on it, and work with agencies and groups involved with issues related to wetland diversity locally, nationally, and internationally. My graduate students and I currently work on: (a) the relationship of groundwater hydrology and chemistry to nutrient availability, plant productivity, and species diversity; and (b) effects of nutrient enrichment on wetland soils, mycorrhizal associations, and plant communities. I have been at Cornell University since 1980 when I came to serve as Associate Director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Center of Excellence in Ecosystem Science at Cornell, which I did until 1990. I am currently a Senior Research Associate in Cornell's Department of Natural Resources, which I joined in 1989. I teach Wetland Ecology and Management, and Landscape Impact Analysis. This coming spring I will be developing a new graduate course on scientific synthesis for policy applications.

Bringing sound science to bear on wetland policy decisions seems to be my primary professional *raison d'être*. My first publication, with Jim and Libby Zimmerman, was a classification and management plan for the wetlands of Dane County, and I worked with the Zimmermans and others to start the Wisconsin Wetlands Association. While still a graduate student, I worked with the Wisconsin State Legislature and Wisconsin's Office of the Public Intervener on several wetland issues. Since coming to Cornell, I have continued that behavior pattern which the Zimmermans, Orié Loucks, my graduate advisor, and John Steinhart, a key member of my graduate committee, set in motion. I served on the National Research Council's (NRC) Committee on Wetland Characterization, which addressed the wetland delineation issue in the early 1990's, and since then have served on three of the NRC's committees on restoration of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem. I received the National Award for Excellence in Wetland Science Applications and Public Policy from the National Association of State Wetland Managers in 1996. In 2001, the Society of Wetland Scientists gave me their National Merit Award for Outstanding Achievements in Wetland Science and Its Application. From 2004-07, I was Vice-President, then President, and Past President of the Society of Wetland Scientists. In 2005-06, I worked with New York's Office of the Attorney General and with the Society of Wetland Scientists in preparing briefs to the Supreme Court on the Rapanos/Carabell cases. Currently I am part of a scientific team evaluating recovery plans for endangered birds in the Everglades. I hold an M.S. (1977) and Ph.D. (1980) from the Institute of Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin - Madison, and an A.B. in Theology and Philosophy (1968) from Marquette University.