



## **GUIDANCE FOR WRITING AN ABSTRACT**

### **Wisconsin Wetlands Association's Wetland Science Forum**

Wisconsin Wetlands Association does not require presenters to submit papers for a conference proceedings publication, which means that your abstract is the only information about the content of your presentation that will be published. We will include your abstract in our printed program and will also post the program on our website. Conference participants will read abstracts to make decisions about which sessions and talks to attend. Also, many wetland enthusiasts who are unable to attend the conference download the program from our website and read abstracts to learn about current work in wetland research, restoration and management. In the past, abstract submissions for our conference have come in a variety of formats. Time invested in writing a clear, informative abstract that stands alone as a summary of your project is time well spent. We provide guidance below in order to standardize abstracts to facilitate reading by those who attend the conference and those who access the information on-line.

### **Components of an Informative Abstract**

In most cases, an abstract should include one or more sentences for each of the following:

1. **Introduction**: Begin your abstract by introducing the project and its purpose. What is the context and significance of the project? What is the importance of the wetland site(s) involved in your project? What problem (research question or restoration/management need) are you trying to solve?
2. **Approach**: How did you go about addressing the problem? Avoid giving the specifics of methods in the abstract – a general overview of the approach/methods is sufficient.
3. **Results**: What did you learn? Provide some specifics the results that are particularly interesting or significant.
4. **Conclusions**: What are the implications of your results? What do they mean within the context introduced at the beginning of the abstract? In some cases, abstracts conclude with recommendations and/or next steps (planned or needed) for work on the problem.

### **Other Considerations**

- Please meet the word count limitation of 250 words. WWA reserves the right to edit abstracts that are longer than the limit.
- Italicize all species names
- Please review your own abstract both for spelling/grammar and for content/meaning. WWA reserves the right to make spelling/grammar edits and to request that authors revise portions of abstracts to clarify the content/meaning.