



May 28, 2014

Mitsch, Pittenger-Slear, Hahn, and Tiner named Officers of U.S. Ramsar Committee

Professor **Bill Mitsch**, Eminent Scholar and Director of the Everglades Wetland Research Park, Florida Gulf Coast University, Naples, Florida, was approved as Chair of the **United States National Ramsar Committee** at a meeting of the Committee held at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Arlington Virginia on May 8, 2014. **Suzanne Pittenger-Slear**, President of Environmental Concern, St. Michaels, Maryland, was chosen as Vice-Chair and **Ralph Tiner**, Association of State Wetland Managers, was chosen as Treasurer. **Deborah Hahn** of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Washington DC, was renewed as Secretary of the Committee.

Members of the United States National Ramsar Committee include representatives of United States nongovernmental organizations NGOs, both nonprofit and for-profit, and local and state governmental organizations that have an interest in supporting the objectives of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Committee has as its mission to support the mission of the Ramsar Convention in the USA and to encourage and facilitate the development of wetlands of international importance in the USA and encourage their proper management.

The Convention on Wetlands, formally called the "Ramsar Convention" is an intergovernmental treaty that embodies the commitments of its member countries to maintain the ecological character of their Wetlands of International Importance and to plan for the "wise use", or sustainable use, of all of the wetlands in their territories. Unlike the other global environmental conventions, Ramsar is not affiliated with the United Nations system of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, but it works very closely with the other MEAs and is a full partner among the "biodiversity-related cluster" of treaties and agreements. It has its international headquarters in Gland, Switzerland.



Newly chosen officers of the United States National Ramsar Committee at the meeting of the committee in Arlington, Virginia on May 8, 2014. Left to right, **Suzanne Pittenger-Slear**, Environmental Concern, St. Michaels, MD, Vice-Chair, **Deborah Hahn**, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Secretary, and **Bill Mitsch**, Florida Gulf Coast University, Chair. Unavailable for the picture was **Ralph Tiner**, Association of State Wetland Managers, Treasurer.