



The North Central Chapter

# Society of Wetland Scientists

## **NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER Autumn 2017**

### **A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Fall is upon us with myriad colors of leaves and sky, chillier temperatures, species migrations, and winding down of many a field season. Our annual Chapter meeting is behind us. A big thank you to all who volunteered time and efforts to make it such a success. For those who couldn't make it, check out the write-up and photos in this newsletter. We will also be sending out a survey inquiring about details from those who attended as well as thoughts from our members in general about potential ideas for upcoming meetings.

A reminder to renew your membership. All who renew before January 31, 2018 will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card. See more information in this newsletter. The money for this was given to our Chapter through a Chapter Development Grant from SWS. Thanks to Dave Mushet who initiated this on behalf of our Chapter. We also received money from this grant to increase student membership in our Chapter.

A look ahead: World Wetlands Day is coming up February 2, 2018. The Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands approved "Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future" as the theme for World Wetlands Day 2018. There are many ways to educate others about wetlands not just on the particular day, but in the month leading to and afterwards, as a sign of supporting the occasion. Closer to the date, RAMSAR will have a page to advertise these wetland events. Last year there were many events highlighted around the world, but very few going on in the United States. A challenge: Let's have ten events in our ten state region. I know we are all extremely busy, but trust me, the feeling that you get from doing something different, from contributing to wetlands and connecting with others is worth it! Please consider leading a hike through a local wetland, giving a talk, or some other creative adventure celebrating wetlands. Post your event on our North Central Chapter Facebook page as well.

For Wetlands!

Julie Nieset  
[jenieset@illinois.edu](mailto:jenieset@illinois.edu)



### **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP EARLY FOR CHANCE TO WIN A \$50 GIFT CARD**

Renew your membership by January 31, 2018 and you will be entered to win a \$50 gift card from your choice of Amazon, Cabela's, REI, or Bass Pro Shop. Current board members are not eligible. Lifetime Members will be automatically entered. Renew today!

## **CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS-2018 WETLAND SCIENCE CONFERENCE, PRESENTED BY WISCONSIN WETLANDS ASSOCIATION**

Deadline: November 15, 2017

Contact: Katie Belifuse at (608) 250-9971 or [programs@wisconsinwetlands.org](mailto:programs@wisconsinwetlands.org)

Please scroll past the end of the newsletter to see the attached notice for more information on how to submit.

Conference information: [conference.wisconsinwetlands.org](http://conference.wisconsinwetlands.org)

## **SIXTY-ONE ATTEND SWS-NCC ANNUAL MEETING IN FARGO BY DAVE MUSHET**

Well, our 2017 annual meeting is over, and by all accounts it was a great success. We had sixty-one participants this year who came from six of the 10 states covered by our Chapter (ND, SD, MN, IA, OH, and IN). In addition to those from the States, we had a contingent from Ducks Unlimited – Canada who joined in on the fun, making this an international event. The meeting opened with a well-attended workshop on Thursday, Oct. 12, with sessions on wetland law, wetland identification, wetland delineation, and Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) certification being led by Patricia McQueary and Drs. Donna Jacob, Christina Hargiss, and Edward (Shawn) DeKeyser. Following the workshop, we had a buffet dinner and were treated to featured presentations by Dr. Arnold van der Valk and Patricia McQueary. We started Friday morning off with the NCC's annual business meeting with our Chapter president (Julie Nieset) and several board members participating by phone. After adjournment of the business meeting, the rest of the day was spent learning about research being conducted by others within the Chapter through a series of twelve oral and eight poster presentations. We have some fascinating work being conducted by the scientists and students throughout the region. Everyone was on their own for dinner Friday night, but not before many of us attended the opening of the Native American Art exhibit at the Red Raven Espresso Parlor. At the Red Raven, we had the opportunity to view the works of several Native American artists inspired by "Water and Wetlands." Thanks again to Marinus Otte for organizing this very special event. Marinus also provided an informative talk on publishing in the Society's journal *Wetlands* during our lunch earlier that same day. We ended the meeting on Saturday with a grand tour through the fall colors of Minnesota. We left the Radisson at 8:00am and traveled into Minnesota where we visited the beach ridges left behind by Glacial Lake Agassiz, made a brief stop at Hamden Slough, saw diverse wetlands, bald eagles and trumpeter swans at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, had lunch at the Good Life Cafe in Park Rapids, and finished the day by walking across the Mississippi River at its headwaters in Itasca State Park, before heading back to Fargo to bring our 2017 meeting to a close. Once again, a gigantic THANK YOU!!! to everyone who worked to make this meeting a success, and also to those who made the trip to Fargo to attend; these meetings cannot succeed without your support. And now, it is time to start thinking about a location for next year's meeting. Any ideas???



**Patricia McQueary, North Dakota State Program Manager of the US Army Corps of Engineers, providing a federal perspective on Wetland Law during a workshop at the NCC Annual Meeting in Fargo.**



**Society of Wetland Scientists President, Dr. Arnold van der Valk speaking during the Welcome Dinner at the SWS-NCC Annual Meeting in Fargo.**



**A group photo of the 2017 NCC Annual Meeting fieldtrip participants at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge.**

A special thanks to Loretta Battaglia, Keith Carr, David Mushet, Marinus Otte, and Eric Plankell for their generous donations in support of the North Central Chapter's Native American Arts Initiative. These donations, as well as allocated money from our Chapter provided stipends to Laura Youngbird, Cheyenne Durant, Cherokee Durant, and Liselotte Erdrich for their participation in the art exhibit celebrating "Native American Art Inspired by Water and Wetlands" as part of the program of the Annual NCC meeting in Fargo



**Artwork by Native American artist Cheyenne Durant inspired by "Water and Wetlands."**

### **“Best Presentation” Award Winners**

We had twelve oral presenters and eight poster presenters enlighten us with presentations of their work at this year’s Annual Meeting in Fargo. While all of the presenters did an outstanding job, the meeting attendees were tasked with the job of selecting three to receive special recognition. After the votes were counted, the attendees had done their job and three winners had been identified. The “Best Student Poster Presentation” award went to North Dakota State University student Jessie Riley for his poster titled “Ecosystem Services of Wetlands Applied to Improve Urban Infrastructure in the Fargo Project.” The “Best Student Oral Presentation” award went to Buena Vista University student Rosalind (Rosie) Russell for her presentation “An approach to valuing urban wetlands using economic, social, environmental, and political factors.” And the “Best Professional Presentation” award went to Dr. Dale Wrubleski from Ducks Unlimited–Canada. Dr. Wrubleski spoke about “Restoring a Large, Freshwater, Coastal Wetland on the Prairies: Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) Exclusion at Delta Marsh, Canada.” Congratulations to each of this year’s award winners and an equally big thank you to all who presented at the meeting in Fargo!!!



**Winners of “Best Presentation” awards at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the SWS-NCC. Left to right: Dale Wrubleski (Best Professional Presentation), Rosie Russell (Best Student Oral Presentation), Jessie Riley (Best Student Poster Presentation)**

**HIGHLIGHTED STUDENT**  
**BY BREE RICHARDSON**

This quarter we caught up with Nate Stott, a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Masters student at Bowling Green State University. He was the recipient of the North Central Chapter SWS, the National SWS \$1000 research award, and the Garden Club of America Costal Wetlands Research Scholarship. Congratulations Nate! In the past Nate was the president of the Bemidji State student sub-unit of the American Fisheries Society. Currently he is investigating how fish utilize wetlands in order to provide information to wetland managers to promote management techniques that benefit multiple taxa. After defending his thesis at Bowling Green State University, he hopes to continue his education in a PhD program with the goal of becoming a research biologist with either a state or federal agency.



**Why did you become interested in Wetland Science?**

As a kid growing up in Minnesota, it was common to spend time in wetlands whether it be fishing, hunting, or even just going out for a walk in the woods. Having grown up near water, I always knew I wanted to study fisheries when I finally “grew up”. However, it was not until I had started taking wetland ecology classes during my undergrad program at Bemidji State that I knew I wanted to integrate wetlands into fisheries research. It seemed like an obvious path to study wetland obligate fish species.

**Do you have a fun or memorable field story that you would like to share?**

One day this past summer, one of the undergrad students who works in my lab and I ventured out to collect fish for the DIDSON identification portion of my research. We loaded up the electrofishing boat and headed out for the hour drive to the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, on the shores of Lake Erie. The drive itself was not eventful. So naturally, we backed the boat down the ramp and into the water. Once the boat was off the trailer, I went to pull the trailer out of the water and noticed the wheel itself was kittywampus. Whoops! We got the trailer out of the water and I inspected the damage. The bearing had blown out. The dreaded call to break the news of broken equipment to my advisor came shortly thereafter. He told me he was going to grab one of my lab mates and borrow a truck; then; he would grab a trailer from one of our other boats and be up to meet us as soon as he could. A few hours passed and then we saw my advisor and lab mate coming down the road. There was one issue however, no trailer (too much excitement for them I guess!). So naturally they had to go back and get the trailer.

Before they departed back to Bowling Green, the broken trailer was loaded up into the bed of the first truck. That way I could drive it to a shop while they were in transit. A few hours later they returned with the trailer. We all breathed a sigh of relief because at last the long day of problems was likely coming to an end. We spoke to soon. The trailer was backed into the water and the boat was landed. However, just as relief had come, disbelief began to set in. As the weight of the heavy shock boat was placed on the trailer when it was being pulled up the ramp the tires began to flatten. One tire lost the seal! Just grab the spare would be the logical remedy for the flat tire. However, the spare was an hour away in Bowling Green. Here we go again. Another round trip to Bowling Green and back to get the spare in our lab truck for my lab mate and our undergrad while my advisor took the other truck back. When my lab mate returned we quickly changed the tire and went to hook up the trailer and lights. That's when we found the trailer lights hookup did not reach the terminal of the truck. Murphy's law came into full effect that day. The joy of field work!

It sounds like you have had some fun experiences and thank you for presenting out the NCC conference in Fargo, ND! We loved hearing about your research.

## NOTES FROM AROUND THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION

**MICHIGAN:** (State Contact, Kurt Kowalski, [kkowalski@usgs.gov](mailto:kkowalski@usgs.gov))

Were you aware of this great source of teaching material collated by the Michigan DEQ on their Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support web page (<http://bit.ly/2nvCWui>)? You will find inquiry oriented, data-based lessons, workshops to train the trainers, classroom kits, and a plethora of online materials to help you engage students.

**ILLINOIS:** (State Contact, Jessie Ackerman, [jracker@illinois.edu](mailto:jracker@illinois.edu))

<http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/2017/07/11/farmers-consider-floodplain-easements-wetland-reserves-for-flooded-ground/pic/56259/>

Farmers in Alexander County have been considering turning their fields into wetland reserves or floodplain easements after spring floods on the Mississippi River caused major damage to surrounding fields.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-forest/news/ct-lfr-chicago-bears-build-tl-0831-20170825-story.html>

The Chicago Bears organization is applying to convert two small wetlands into practice fields in Lake Forest.

<http://www.pjstar.com/news/20171007/new-gates-at-emiquon-further-science-of-floodplain-restoration>

Levee gates at the Emiquon Preserve were installed last year between the preserve and the Illinois River. The gates were opened recently to allow water from the preserve to go into the Illinois River, so that wetland plants, and the animals that rely on them, could become better established.

**WISCONSIN:** (State Contact, Laura A.B. Giese, [lgiese@trcsolutions.com](mailto:lgiese@trcsolutions.com))

Wisconsin Wetland Association Annual Wetland Science Conference “Wetland Resilience for a Changing World, Oconomowoc, WI, Feb 20-22, 2018.

<http://conference.wisconsinwetlands.org/>

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** (State Contact, Carol Johnston, [Carol.Johnston@sdstate.edu](mailto:Carol.Johnston@sdstate.edu))

**OHIO:** (State Contact, Hugh Crowell, [hcrowell@hullinc.com](mailto:hcrowell@hullinc.com))

The Ohio Wetland Association (OWA) recently had the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Wetlands Science Summit “H2-OH! Ohio Wetlands Work for Water Quality” held in Westerville, Ohio, on October 14th. Speaker presentations and field trips highlighted research and projects on wetlands and water quality. Keynote speaker was Dr. William Mitsch. <https://www.ohwetlands.org/>

OWA presented three 2017 Wetland Leader Awards:

Leader in Wetland Restoration – Black Swamp Conservancy

Leader in Wetland Education – New Albany High School Ecolab

Leader in Wetland Protection – Western Reserve Land Conservancy

More details about the inspiring work of these organizations can be found:

<https://www.ohwetlands.org/ohio-wetland-leader-awards.html>

**NEBRASKA:** (State Contact, Ted LaGrange, [ted.lagrange@nebraska.gov](mailto:ted.lagrange@nebraska.gov))

**INDIANA:** (State Contact, Liz Pelloso, [pelloso.elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:pelloso.elizabeth@epa.gov))

**IOWA:** (State Contact, Melinda Coogan, [coogan@bvu.edu](mailto:coogan@bvu.edu))

**MINNESOTA:** (State Contact, Elizabeth Markhart, [bmarkhart@comcast.net](mailto:bmarkhart@comcast.net))

**NORTH DAKOTA:** (State Contact, Marinus Otte, [marinus.otte@ndsu.edu](mailto:marinus.otte@ndsu.edu))

If you have an item for a future issue of the NCC newsletter or correction, please send an email with *newsletter* in the subject line to the Editor: Jennifer Boyer ([jen.boyer@dupageco.org](mailto:jen.boyer@dupageco.org))

#### **NCC-SWS OFFICERS**

**Julie Nieset, President**

**Christina Hargiss, President-Elect**

**David Mushet, Immediate Past President**

**Jessica Ackerman, Secretary**

**Eric Plankell, Treasurer**

**Liz Pelloso, At-Large Board Member**

**Joy Marburger, At-Large Board Member**

**Bree Richardson, Student Representative**

#### **NCC-SWS COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Christina Hargiss, Program Committee**

**David Mushet, Nominations Committee**

**Jessica Ackerman, Membership Committee**

**Karen Mangan, Grants and Awards Committee**

**WEBSITE** <http://www.sws.org/North-Central-Chapter>



# Wetland Science Conference

2018

Wisconsin Wetlands  
ASSOCIATION

## CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Conference website: [conference.wisconsinwetlands.org](http://conference.wisconsinwetlands.org)

Abstract submission deadline: [November 15, 2017](#)

**Wisconsin Wetlands Association invites you to submit an abstract for presentation at our 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Wetland Science Conference.** We seek proposals for oral presentations or posters on wetland research, restoration, and management projects. We welcome presentations on work done in all wetland community types and from the Midwest region, as long as the content of the presentation applies to wetlands of Wisconsin. **We especially encourage submissions on topics related to the theme, *Wetland Resilience for a Changing World*.**

This 2-day conference will include a keynote address, organized symposia, topical oral sessions, a poster session, working groups, a banquet, and wetland field trips.

We ask that authors submitting abstracts for oral presentations select up to three topical areas from the list below that best fit the presentation's focus. This will help conference planners to assign accepted abstracts to the most appropriate session. We reserve the right to change session titles to best accommodate accepted abstracts into the conference schedule.

- Wetland resilience (wetlands as resilient systems, how wetlands help build resilience)
- Wetlands in a changing climate
- Long-term restoration and management projects (what worked, what didn't, what we learned)
- Applications of wetland science in policy and regulation
- Hydrology & geomorphology
- Native wetland flora / plant communities
- Watershed approaches to wetland conservation (watershed-scale assessment & planning)
- Wetland assessment (site-specific, e.g., quality, function, type, management planning, etc.)
- Wetland invasive species
- Wetland mitigation (science, approaches, practices, standards)
- Wetland restoration & management case studies
- Wetland wildlife (including mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, invertebrates, fish)
- Wetlands and groundwater
- Wetlands and people (including history, culture education, outreach, public health, recreation)
- Wetlands in a landscape context (e.g., riparian, agricultural, forestry, and urban landscapes)

If you would like guidance on how to write your abstract such that the theme of *Wetland Resilience* is clear, please contact us. If you feel that your work is timely and of interest to the wetland community, but are unsure about its relevance to the 2018 theme, please contact us to discuss options for inclusion of

*Continued...*



your work at the conference. **All abstract-related inquiries should be directed to Katie Beilfuss at (608) 250-9971 or [programs@wisconsinwetlands.org](mailto:programs@wisconsinwetlands.org).**

**Guidelines for oral presentations:**

Speakers are allowed 15 minutes for presentations and 5 minutes for questions, and are expected to present analyzed results and conclusions.

**Guidelines for poster presentations:**

Posters are encouraged as they allow extended informal discussions and active participation by authors and co-authors. Posters are displayed for a full day, and interested persons can view the poster even when the author is not in attendance.

**Formal Session:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018, from 5:00 - 6:30 pm

**Content:** Anything that would be appropriate for the oral sessions as well as preliminary research or project where data have yet to be collected and/or analyzed or describes a project that did not result in new information or techniques for wetland restoration and management.

**Size:** We expect poster display space to be 4'H x 6'W per poster. We will confirm poster display dimensions after posters are accepted.

**Student presentation competition**

As part of our ongoing efforts to encourage and support the next generation of wetland scientists and practitioners, Wisconsin Wetlands Association will host a student presentation competition again this year, awarding cash prizes to the best oral presentation and best poster presentation by a student. Current students and recent graduates who are presenting their student research at the conference are eligible to participate. Those interested in participating should indicate this when submitting their abstracts.

**Instructions for Submitting Abstracts for Oral Presentations or Posters**

**Deadline: November 15, 2017**

**Abstract Submission Forms available online:** [conference.wisconsinwetlands.org/call-for-presentations/](http://conference.wisconsinwetlands.org/call-for-presentations/)

The deadline for submitting abstracts is **November 15, 2017**. To have your wetlands work considered for inclusion in this conference, please see the following website for more information: [conference.wisconsinwetlands.org/call-for-presentations/](http://conference.wisconsinwetlands.org/call-for-presentations/). Presenters will be notified of acceptance by December 22, 2017.

*Note: We ask that presenters register and pay registration fees in order to help cover conference costs. We encourage presenters to register by January 19, 2018, in order to receive the early bird registration rate. Scholarships may be available for student presenters. Registration information (fees etc.) available at [conference.wisconsinwetlands.org/registration](http://conference.wisconsinwetlands.org/registration); online registration will open in December, 2017.*

**For more information, contact:**

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608-250-9971  
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