

NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER Summer 2017

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Summer is moving along. A warm welcome to the newly installed officers on our NCC Board of Directors. Christina Hargiss was elected President-Elect/Program Committee Chair, Jessica Ackerman continues as our Secretary/Membership Committee Chair, Eric Plankell was elected Treasurer, Liz Pelloso and Joy Marburger continue as At-Large Board Members, and Bree Richardson is our Student Representative. Karen Mangan continues as our Committee Chair for Awards given to students and Jen Boyer is our Newsletter Editor.

Thank you to everyone for your time, energy, contributions and skills toward our success.

After serving the past two years as President, Dave Mushet continues his 6-year commitment, now starting as Immediate Past President/Nominations Chair. Dave has provided innumerable insights, perceptive guidance, and strong leadership to our organization. Thank you Dave! Arnold van der Valk completed his term as Immediate Past President, and now serves the SWS on the Executive Board as President. Thank you Arnold for your dedication and leadership over these years and for your commitment to SWS. Casey Judge completed her term as Student Representative – Casey we wish you much success in your academic and future endeavors!

Preparations have begun for our NCC Annual Meeting to be held in Fargo, North Dakota this coming October. Dave Mushet and others have been working diligently on the planning. Information about our chapter meeting is in this newsletter, and there will be regular updates on our Facebook page and Chapter website. Chapter meetings are great ways to network with others, share ideas, gain more confidence and experience in communicating about your research, and to see unique wetlands in our region. Think about how you can attend this meeting in the fall.

The SWS Wetlands of Distinction Program was recently launched on-line (more details are given later in this newsletter). Special thanks to our regional team of experts reviewing applications in the initial phase of this program: Hugh Crowell, Mark Dilley, Beth Middleton, Geoff Pociask, and Mark Wiltermuth. The Wetlands of Distinction website also gives us greater opportunities for networking with other groups local to each Wetland of Distinction. If you know of a group that would be interested in partnering and/or are interested in educational outreach opportunities please connect with us.

As a rather large Chapter (10 states encompassing around 670,000 square miles) it can be very challenging to connect with fellow members. Along those lines we will be sending out a survey to our Chapter members to discern what your desires are for our Chapter and solicit feedback about what can be done to create stronger connections between members. We know we have much untapped talent and would appreciate your perspective toward designing the future of our Chapter.

Recently I had some fieldwork along the Mississippi River in Western Illinois, near Burlington, IA. Staying cool sure was a challenge in the heat! A highlight of the trip was seeing some (non-wetland) sand

prairies in the area. If you haven't seen an expanse of prickly pear in bloom, it's a real treat (*Opuntia humifusa*). We also saw a fair amount of giant bur-reed in wetlands in the area (*Sparganium eurycarpum*). Included below are some pictures. Feel free to post your field pictures on our Facebook page and/or send them to us to post in our newsletters. If you want to include information about the region you are in and share details about the species (or soils, hydrological features) or your fieldwork, we welcome the opportunity to hear about it.

As of this writing, some areas around here in Illinois are noted by the U.S. Drought Monitor as being abnormally dry. This appears to be the case through much of our Chapter region, except in North and South Dakotas which have areas of moderate to extreme drought. May needed rain come to these areas soon.

For Wetlands!

July Misset

Julie Nieset jenieset@illinois.edu



Giant Bur-reed (*Sparganium erycarpum*), IL, Photo by J. Nieset



Lizard's-tail (Saururus cernuus), IL, Photo by J. Nieset



Eastern Prickly Pear (*Optunia humifusa*), IL, Photo by J. Nieset

NCC-SWS ANNUAL MEETING 12–14 October 2017, Fargo, North Dakota

The Annual Meeting of the North Central Chapter – SWS will be held October 12–14, 2017 at the Radisson hotel (https://www.radisson.com/fargo-hotel-nd-58102/fargo) in downtown Fargo. The

Radisson provides easy access to all that downtown Fargo has to offer. The meeting will begin on Thursday with a half-day workshop. The workshop will focus on 1) wetland law and policy 2) basics of wetland determination and delineation, and 3) the Professional Wetland Scientists (PWS) certification program. This workshop will be a great opportunity to further your career as a wetlands scientist. Thursday will conclude with a catered dinner with two guest speakers at the Radisson, Dr. Arnold van der Valk (President of the Society of Wetland Scientists) and Patricia McQueary (ND State Program Manager of the US Army Corps of Engineers).



Day 2, Friday, will be a day filled with research presentations and a poster session. This is your chance to present the results of your work to both students and professionals from across the North Central Region. If you are interested in presenting a paper or poster, please see the "Call for Abstracts" found



elsewhere in this Newsletter. Food for lunch and breaks will be provided and, as with Thursday night's dinner, included in the cost of registration. However, Friday night we will all be on our own to explore the many eating opportunities available within an easy walk from the hotel.

On Saturday October 15th, we will conclude our annual meeting with an all-day field trip into Minnesota, where we will explore the <u>beach ridges of Glacial Lake</u>

<u>Agassiz</u>, visit the <u>headwaters of the Mississippi at</u>

<u>Itasca State Park</u>, and search for

<u>carnivorous wetland plants near Bemidji</u>, all at the perfect time of the year to experience the fall colors of Minnesota on full display. What more could one ask to see or do in a single day?

For more information and to register for this special event, please visit the "events" tab on the NCC webpage (http://www.sws.org/North-Central-Chapter). Having a good attendance at this meeting is key to its success, and also to our Chapter's plans to continue holding these meetings each year, thereby providing our members with unique opportunities to meet, explore new areas, and form new contacts with other SWS members throughout the ten-state region represented by the North Central Chapter.



http://www.sws.org/North-Central-Chapter/north-central-chapter-events.html

SWS President, Arnold van der Valk, Featured Speaker at the NCC-SWS Annual Meeting in Fargo, ND



Arnold van der Valk and his wife, Suzanne

Dr. Arnold van der Valk is the current
President of the Society of Wetland
Scientists. We are privileged to be having
Dr. van der Valk speaking Thursday
evening at our annual meeting in Fargo,
ND. The SWS was founded in 1980. By
1983, it was beginning to become a more
International society with the election of
Walter Glooschenko as its second
president. In 1993, the first SWS annual
meeting outside the US was held in
Canada. In short, to some extent SWS has
been an international society from the
very beginning. Eventually, an

International Chapter was established as well as chapters in Asia, Canada, China, Europe, Oceania, and South America. Nevertheless, based on its current membership, SWS remains primarily an American society. One of the goals of the current SWS strategic plan (2015-2020) is to "Foster the International Scope of Wetland Science and SWS." In the last year, SWS established an Internationalization Committee whose main goal was to identify ways to make SWS a more truly international scientific society. There were also two discussions at the 2017 annual meeting in San Juan to get input from SWS leaders and members on what should be done to internationalize SWS. Dr. van der Valk has stated that continuing the internationalization of the Society is his highest priority. In his presentation to our Chapter, he will outline the major action items that have been proposed to make SWS more truly International and how SWS has or is planning to implement these action items.

Patricia McQueary, Featured Speaker at the NCC-SWS Annual Meeting in Fargo, ND



Patricia McQueary (ND State Program Manager of the US Army Corps of Engineers) will be speaking Thursday evening October 12, 2017 at the NCC's annual meeting. For the past two years, Patricia has managed the North Dakota Regulatory office in Bismarck with six project managers and a permit assistant. Prior to coming to North Dakota, she was with the Corps seven years in Saint George, Utah (Sacramento District) as a Senior Regulatory Project Manager. A large percentage of her work was on jurisdictional determinations involving ephemeral washes in Southern Nevada and Utah. Prior to that Patricia spent nine years with the Washington State Department of Transportation as a Statewide ESA/Wetlands Specialist with an emphasis on the Arid West and Western Mountains, Valleys and Coast Supplements.

Patricia attended the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington where she earned a Bachelor of Arts and Science in Forest Ecology and Marine Biology and continued at Evergreen in the Masters of Environmental Studies program, finishing in 1998. When not working – She enjoys traveling, spending time with my husband (retired) and 9-year old daughter! Favorite hobbies/pastimes – genealogy, hiking, bird-watching (very amateur!) and everything to do with Disney Princesses.

Patricia will be one of two guest speakers at the Annual Meeting, the other being SWS President, Arnold van der Valk. Her talk, titled "Navigating through Muddy Waters," will focus on current wetland regulations and a little on future trends. She will also be providing an update on the new Clean Water Act Rule and will talk about job opportunities for students who may want to work for the Corps at some point in their careers.

We hope that you can join us at the Annual Meeting to hear Patricia's talk.

Wetlands Workshop will be a Part of NCC-SWS Meeting in Fargo, ND

We will be kicking off our 2017 Annual Meeting in Fargo, ND, on Thursday, October 12th, with a half day wetlands workshop. Workshop presenters will include: Patricia McQuery (ND State Program Manager of the US Army Corps of Engineers); Dr. Christina Hargiss (Assistant Professor at North Dakota State University and incoming NCC-SWS President); Dr. Shawn DeKeyser (Professor NDSU); and Dr. Donna Jacob (Consultant and Professional Wetland Scientist). This workshop is designed to provide you with an enhanced understanding of the many law, policy, and delineation/determination issues currently influencing the region's wetlands and wetland ecosystems. Additionally, you will learn about the Society's professional certification program, how you can become certified as a Professional Wetland Scientist, and the benefits this recognition bestows. While the workshop is still in its early organizing stages, a very general outline has been developed and is provided here:

- I. Wetland Law and Policy Federal, State, and Local laws and policies have been put into place to protect wetland systems in the United States.
 - a. Federal Laws How do the Clean Water Act, Swamp Buster, the Clean Water Rule, and other federal laws protect wetland systems?
 - b. State and Local Laws What state laws, if any, are in place for wetlands within our region?
- II. Wetland Determination and Delineation Three criteria are needed to designate an area as a wetland: Hydrology, Soils, and Plants. Basic information covering each one of these will be presented, and how they apply to wetland determination and delineation.
 - a. Hydrology.
 - b. Soils.
 - c. Plants.
- III. Professional Wetland Scientists The Society of Wetland Scientists has a professional certificate program which recognizes competent individuals in the field of wetland science who can assess and manage this valuable resource.

We hope that you will be joining us from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm CDT in Fargo, ND, for what is sure to be a very informative and educational workshop.

NCC-SWS ANNUAL MEETING CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The 2017 Annual Meeting of the North Central Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists will be held October 12-14, in Fargo, North Dakota. If you are interested in presenting either a paper or a poster at this event, please send a title, list of authors, and short abstract (maximum 250 words) to one of the members of the meeting's organizing committee by September 15th, 2017. Be sure to specify if you would prefer to give your presentation as an oral or a poster presentation. More information about the meeting and registration information can be found on the NCC webpage at http://www.sws.org/North-Central-Chapter/north-central-chapter-events.html. We especially encourage students to present, as awards will be made to the "best student oral presentation" and "best student poster." And not forget, students registering for the meeting receive a complimentary 2018 membership to SWS. We hope you will consider presenting either an oral or poster presentation so that we can learn more about your research during the meeting in Fargo!

NCC-SWS Annual Meeting Organizing Committee

Dave Mushet (chair) dmushet@usgs.gov
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ONLINE REGISTRIATION FOR THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING IS NOW OPEN

Thanks to help from our parent SWS organization, we are able to offer online registration for the NCC's 2017 Annual Meeting. To register for this event, simply go to http://www.sws.org/North-Central-Chapter/north-central-chapter-events.html and click on "Register for the NCC Annual Meeting" to start the process.

Registration is \$135 for members, \$165 for non-members, and \$45 for students. Student registration includes a complementary 2018 membership to SWS. Registration includes the half-day workshop on Thursday, the welcome dinner Thursday evening, lunch on Friday, and snacks at all breaks. Meeting attendees will be on their own Friday evening to explore the many eating opportunities available in Fargo, many within easy walking distance from the hotel. There is a separate \$30 fee for the field trip on Saturday (note, space on the field trip is limited, so early registration is suggested).

SWS-NCC NATIVE AMERICAN ARTS INITIATIVE

The SWS-NCC is starting an initiative to celebrate the interaction between Arts and Science and the intrinsic connections between Native American culture, water and wetlands. We recognize the traditional, cultural and spiritual importance of water and wetlands to people around the world, and wish to better celebrate those connections.

Native American artists are invited to contribute on the theme of WATER and WETLANDS at our annual meeting in Fargo, ND, Oct 12-14, 2017.

The preliminary plan is as follows:

- Call for contributions
- Exhibit prior, during and after the conference at the Red Raven coffee shop, Fargo, ND and possibly also at the Fargo library
- Art presentation during the opening ceremony of the conference, **press invited**.

We need financial support for this initiative, particularly in support of stipends for the artists. At the Annual Meeting held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the SWS-NCC committed \$500 in support of this initiative.

We are inviting donations for this initiative. If you wish to contribute, please donate through the NCC webpage at http://www.sws.org/North-Central-Chapter

There is a "Donate to the North Central Chapter" button toward the upper right corner of the page. You can then provide a donation using a credit card that goes directly into the chapters account. To help keep this separate from a regular donation, please send an email our NCC Treasurer (Eric Plankell mailto:eplankel@illinois.edu) stating that you "have made a donation of \$X amount to be used to support the NCC's Native American artists initiative", and also copy Marinus Otte, email given below. Donors will be recognized at our Chapter meeting in ND as well as in future Chapter newsletters. Thanks for your support of this program.

For more information about the initiative please contact, Marinus L. Otte, 701-231-8708, marinus.otte@ndsu.edu

SWS WETLANDS OF DISTINCTION - NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

The SWS Wetlands of Distinction (formerly known as the SWS Wetland Treasures program) was recently launched on the national level. This program gathers information on the biology, ecology, conservation status and other details about high-functioning wetlands within the United States. This data is then transformed into a public online, searchable database. In addition to increasing public awareness of these wetlands, a goal is to eventually increase the number of Ramsar nominations as wetlands of international importance. This is an ongoing program and you can volunteer your time toward this endeavor in many ways. We are also taking applications for the next phase – nominate your favorite wetland today!

Check out this database: http://www.wetlandsofdistinction.org/

Recently certified SWS Wetlands of Distinction within our region include:

- 1) Forrest Woods State Nature Preserve (OH)
- 2) Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve (OH)
- 3) Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park (OH)
- 4) Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve (IN)
- 5) Twin Swamps Nature Preserve (IN)
- 6) Cache River Wetlands (IL)
- 7) Volo Bog State Natural Area (IL)

- 8) Chiwaukee Prairie Illinois Beach Lake Plain (IL/WI)
- 9) Waubesa Wetlands (WI)
- 10) Cottonwood Lake Study Area (ND)
- 11) Red Lake Peatland (MN)

A big thanks to our regional team of experts reviewing applications for the initial phase of this program: Hugh Crowell, Mark Dilley, Beth Middleton, Geoff Pociask, and Mark Wiltermuth. Thanks too for the wetland managers and NCC members who nominated wetlands for this endeavor.

In subsequent newsletters we will feature one or more of the Wetlands of Distinction within our region. Here is a sneak preview of some pictures from a couple of the SWS Wetlands of Distinction (photos taken by Julie Nieset).



Pitcher Plant (Sarracenia purpurea) at Volo Bog (IL)



Cypress swamp, Cache River Wetlands (IL)

STUDENT GRANT AWARDS

RESEARCH

Three of the 2017 SWS Student Research Grant Award winners announced at the Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico included student members in our region. Congratulations!

William Sipek, Southern Illinois University

Mapping the Past and Present Invasion of Chinese Tallow in a Wet Pine Woodland

Nathan Stott, Bowling Green State University *Production of Northern Pike Larvae and Spawning Migrations in Reconnected Coastal Wetlands*

Austin Szubryt, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale Microbial Community Variation Between Typha x Glauca and Phragmites Australis and Implication on Wetland Methane Emissions

In addition Nathan Stott also received the \$1000 NCC Student Research Award.

Click the following link to see all of the 2017 award winners. http://sws.org/images/sws_documents/2017-award-winners.pdf

TRAVEL

Three students from our Chapter won NCC Student Travel Grant Awards to assist in travel expenses to attend the Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico.

Anna Maria Planas Clarke, Michigan Technical University

Peruvian Andean mountain peatlands: What do we know about them?

Gwendolyn Murphy, Southern Illinois University

Habitat and Seasonal Preferences of Fiddler Crabs Across Tidal Marsh Ecotones

Jhon del Aguila-Pasquel, Michigan Technical University

Soil methane and carbon dioxide emission in ombrotrophic and minerotrophic peatland complexes in the Pastaza-Marañon Basin of the Peruvian Amazon

Anna Marie received \$750, and Gwendolyn and Jhon each received a \$375 award. Congratulations!

A special thanks to Joy Marburger, NCC Board Member, for her generous donation of \$750 that funded the awards given to Gwen and Jhon.

HIGHLIGHTED STUDENT

BY CASEY JUDGE

I am pleased to introduce our NEW Student Representative, Bree Richardson, as this quarter's highlighted student! Bree will be taking over for the next year, so keep an eye out for the highlighted



student sections written by her in the next newsletters. Bree is a 2nd year Master's student in Ecology at Kent State University in Ohio. Her primary research interest includes investigating how wetlands will mitigate nutrient pollution as more frequent wetting and drying events occur as a result of climate change. In addition to writing this section of the newsletter, Bree is the new contact person for any ideas, concerns, or questions that impact student members of the North Central Chapter. You may contact her by email at: breelacey@gmail.com.

Why did you become interested in Wetland Science?

When I studied in Costa Rica I became enamored with the history behind the village of Monteverde, and how its citizens worked to preserve water quality in their region. By protecting nearby

rainforests, the small village had healthier ecosystems and cleaner drinking water compared to those around them. After learning of the beneficial impacts watershed preservation had for people and the environment, I was inspired to study how ecosystems filter and purify water.

Do you have any publications and awards?

One publication (so far):

Richardson, B.L., J. Cava, R. Thiel, and J. Riddle. 2017. Winter space partitioning between woodpeckers and nuthatches. Northeastern Naturalist 24: 32–41.

And several awards:

Outstanding Water Resources Student - UWSP CNR	2015
Best Undergraduate Presentation – Society for Freshwater Science	2015
Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation- Wisconsin AWRA Conference	2015
Highest Honors Oral Presentation- UWSP CNR research symposium	2015
Chancellor's Leadership Award –UWSP	2015
Silver Presidential Volunteer Service Award	2015
Gold Presidential Volunteer Service Award	2013
Bronze Presidential Volunteer Service Award	2012

What are your hobbies when you're not busy with your research?

Crocheting- I enjoy the challenge of making something knew. I have created all the Star Wars characters for my nephews, a dragon, zebra, dogs, rainbow darter, molecules, and more.

Wildlife research- Ever since I was 8, I wanted to be a wildlife biologist. When I switched to wetland science I still volunteered with wildlife research. I have banded peregrine falcons in Greenland, woodpecker in Wisconsin, soras in Ohio, and many more.

Do you have a funny or memorable field story to share?

My very first independent project was investigating the impacts Phragmites australis has on wetland soils. I was new to field sampling and plants, so I was unaware of the dense stands this plant creates. I had to jump on top of the dead plant stems with my entire body to create a 5-foot opening for me to get father in the stand to sample. I repeatedly did this to maneuver within my site to collect all of my samples. When I was in the middle of the stand (20 feet) I had Phragmites all around me and I couldn't see my way back out.

That sounds exhausting, Bree! Welcome, and congratulations on becoming the new Student Representative, I look forward to seeing what you accomplish!

SWS YOUTH ART CONTEST

Attendees at the SWS Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico voted for submissions entered into the SWS Youth Art Contest. The 2nd place award for the Grade 6-12 category was from our North Central Region region – Andrea Kowalski, Grade 8, from Chelsea, Michigan and daughter of our very own Kurt Kowalski. Congratulations Andrea!

NOTES FROM AROUND THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION

MICHIGAN: (State Contact, Kurt Kowalski, kkowalski@usgs.gov)

There is a lot of good wetlands work being funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Check out the projects in Michigan (http://bit.ly/2sV4kHB) and see what USGS (http://bit.ly/2sUHxvH) and NOAA (http://bit.ly/2sWJdEG) have been working on. There likely are projects near you!





The Michigan Wetlands Association (MWA) has a number of wetland training opportunities over the summer (Conservation and BMP's for Michigan Amphibian and Reptiles, Wetland Plants of the Upper Peninsula, and more) http://miwetlands.org/training/. The MWA 2017 Wetlands Conference will be held in Gaylord, Michigan September 27-29: http://miwetlands.org/event/2017-wetlands-conference/

ILLINOIS: (State Contact, Jessie Ackerman, irracker@illinois.edu)
A fen, currently on a junior college property in Joliet, IL, is under threat of development.
https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/illinois/articles/2017-06-25/students-pushing-to-save-rare-wetlands-on-school-property

WISCONSIN: (State Contact, Laura A.B. Giese, Igiese@trcsolutions.com)

Federal permits to impact wetlands require Section 7 consultation with the USFWS (Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act). A new organism, The Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*), was listed as endangered, effective March 21, 2017. The rusty patched bumble bee is likely to be present in scattered locations that cover only about 0.1% of the species' historical range. Within these limited areas it is recommended that federal agencies and others consider the need to consult with the USFWS on the potential effects of their actions or the potential need for an incidental take permit under section 10(a)(1)(B). For the remaining 99.9% of the historical range, USFWS advises agencies and others that this bumble bee is not likely to be present and that consultations or incidental take coverage is not necessary.

Additional information can be found on USFWS's website:

https://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/insects/rpbb/index.html and https://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/insects/rpbb/guidance.html

SOUTH DAKOTA: (State Contact, Carol Johnston, Carol.Johnston@sdstate.edu)

A land use issue relating to wetlands was temporarily resolved after a special session of the South Dakota Legislature on June 12, 2017. At issue was fishing access to nonmeandered lakes, which are sloughs or potholes that were so small (generally <40 acres) when the land was first surveyed by federal surveyors in the 1870s that they were not marked as a separate lake. Early settlers were allowed to claim them, and now their successors own and pay taxes on the lake bottoms. Many of these former wetlands are now lakes that are hundreds and even thousands of acres in size. A compromise bill opens more than two dozen bodies of water to public recreation while giving individual landowners the ability to post and close certain areas of nonmeandered waters through the use of buoys. The bill "sunsets" on July 1, 2018, which will require the Legislature to take up the issue during the next legislative session. http://gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/courtruling.aspx

Oню: (State Contact, Hugh Crowell, hcrowell@hullinc.com)

The Ohio Wetlands Association (OWA) is having their Annual Meeting at Gallant Woods Park, Delaware, Ohio on Saturday August 12, 2017. The OWA Science Summit will be Saturday, October 14, 2017, Westville, Ohio, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Wiliam Mitch. More information about these events can be found on the OWA website: http://www.ohwetlands.org/

NEBRASKA: (State Contact, Ted LaGrange, ted.lagrange@nebraska.gov)

INDIANA: (State Contact, Liz Pelloso, pelloso.elizabeth@epa.gov)

Iowa: (State Contact, Melinda Coogan, coogan@bvu.edu)

MINNESOTA: (State Contact, Elizabeth Markhart, bmarkhart@comcast.net)
NORTH DAKOTA: (State Contact, Marinus Otte, 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)

NCC-SWS OFFICERS

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Eric Plankell, Treasurer
Liz Pelloso, At-Large Board Member
Joy Marburger, At-Large Board Member
Bree Richardson, Student Representative

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Karen Mangan, Grants and Awards Committee

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