



The North Central Chapter

Society of Wetland Scientists

NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER Spring 2016

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In North Dakota, ice has disappeared from the wetlands, geese and cranes are flying overhead, and the ducks have returned. Spring has arrived early this year. No frogs calling yet, but I am sure they will be by the time you are reading this newsletter. However, if rains do not also arrive soon, it is shaping up to be a dry summer after virtually no runoff into the wetlands from snowmelt. While winter may not have been very exciting this year with its lack of significant snowfall and unusually warm temperatures, North Central Chapter members have a lot to look forward to in the near future, starting with the SWS meeting in Corpus Christi, May 31th through June 4th. In addition to the many field trips, symposia, and social events associated with the SWS Annual Meeting, the Chapter will be holding a membership meeting. One of the agenda items will be a vote on changing the Chapter's Bylaws and Standing Rules to add a student representative position to our board. With our strong focus on student development activities, having a student representative on our board will be highly advantageous. Iowa State University student Casey Judge (highlighted in this issue) has been unofficially performing this role for us since we identified the need at our last annual meeting. Thank you Casey! To formalize the role, the Board activated the NCC Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee. The committee, led by Casey and myself, reviewed the Chapter's Bylaws and Standing Rules, and identified changes needed to add a student representative position to the board. The committee also identified other changes needed to update and improve these governing documents. The proposed changes are at on the NCC homepage at the following link: <http://www.sws.org/North-Central-Chapter>. Please look them over and attend the NCC meeting in Corpus Christi to vote on the proposed changes.

Since we are on the subject of meetings, preparations are well under way for the NCC's annual meeting. This year's meeting will be held September 8th to the 11th and will be a joint meeting with the Ohio Wetland Association's Wetlands Summit and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Conservation Symposium. As you will see from the information on the meeting provided in this newsletter, NCC President Elect, Julie Nieset, has been hard at work on meeting preparations. This should be a fun, exciting, and educational event that you will not want to miss. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us in northeast Ohio this fall.

You will find many other items of interest throughout this Newsletter, so have fun reading and hope to see you in Corpus Christi, Ohio, or both. **-Dave Mushet, NCC President**

NEW SECTION! HIGHLIGHTED STUDENT



Our highlighted student this quarter is Casey Judge. She is a 2nd year PhD student in Environmental Science at Iowa State University. Casey has just been named Acting Student Representative for the SWS North Central Chapter. In addition to this position, she is also the Chair-Elect of the SWS Women in Wetlands Section, and on the Social and Outreach Committee of the Iowa State University Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology Graduate Student Organization.

WHAT ARE YOUR PRIMARY RESEARCH INTERESTS?

My research is primarily focused on nutrient dynamics in Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) wetlands located in the Des Moines Lobe region of Iowa. Specifically, I am looking at the production of methylmercury in these sites.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN WETLAND SCIENCE?

I studied marine biology in high school and developed a strong interest in that field of study, however I also have very strong ties to the Midwest. Wetland science gave me a way to research water in a variety of environments- including the primarily agricultural state of Iowa.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

Quilting, wheel pottery, hiking, kayaking and other water sports.

DO YOU HAVE A MEMORABLE FIELD OR LAB STORY TO SHARE?

I found myself deep in a thick stand of cattails—all at least 2 feet taller than my head, searching for a spot to take a water sample. As I walked, with all my field sampling stuff loaded into my backpack, I began to get a little creeped out by my lack of visibility. I wasn't 100% sure how far from the road I had gotten. I finally found a spot to take a sample, and stepped gingerly to limit how much I stirred up the sediment. Carefully, I got my sample collection bottle ready, and had just started to crouch down when I heard a rustling through the cattails like something running right at me! Convinced the landowner had a guard dog who decided I shouldn't be there (or was it a rabid wolf?), I spun around (completely mucking up the water and destroying my sample location), but the sound kept coming from behind me! After a few spins I realized the sound was my backpack brushing against the cattails. So I set off to find a different sample location. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how random sample locations are picked.

Thank you, Casey, for agreeing to be our first Student Representative and our first Highlighted Student.

NCC BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES UPDATE

Updating the NCC Bylaws and Standing rules was proposed during the NCC Executive Board meeting on February 21st, 2016. A Bylaws Committee led by Casey Judge and David Mushet was activated to develop proposed changes to 1) add a student representative to the executive board, 2) formalize the having a newsletter editor for the NCC, and 3) update other items in the NCC Bylaws and Standing Rules as deemed necessary by the committee. Approval of the proposed changes will be voted on at the next NCC Membership meeting to be held in conjunction with the SWS Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi, TX, May 31 - June 4th, 2016. Please visit the NCC homepage at <http://www.sws.org/North-Central-Chapter> to view the proposed changes.

SWS NCC ANNUAL MEETING

Save the date: September 8-11, 2016 @ the University of Akron Field Station and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

September 8-11th, 2016, our North Central Chapter will hold our annual meeting concurrently with the Ohio Wetland Association's Wetlands Summit and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Conservation Symposium. This unique collaboration includes educational opportunities and fun field trips throughout Northeast Ohio.

Events will start at Noon on Thursday September 8th at The University of Akron Field Station with field trips to local wetlands. On Friday, activities will move to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH) for a full day of lectures and activities as part of their Conservation Symposium. Saturday will involve guest speakers from the Ohio EPA and USEPA about status and trends in local and national wetlands. We will also have concurrent sessions to hear about research from members in our NCC region, as well as other learning opportunities. Saturday evening we will have a formal dinner and celebration of Ohio Wetland Association's 25th anniversary.

On Sunday, in addition to our NCC meeting, there will be choices of field trip sessions. Attendees will have the opportunity to share their knowledge of wetland plants, with a special focus on vegetation identification. We will have formal discussions on wetland conditions at various wetland types during our excursions.

Northeast Ohio sports a number of high quality wetlands, including fens and bogs, as well as a solid wetland restoration community. Come learn about these wetlands, discover the impact glaciation had in this region, hear stories of successful wetland restoration efforts in this highly-population region, and meet other wetland professionals and enthusiasts.

We are investigating potential credits towards PWS certification renewal for meeting attendance.

Submitting Abstracts

The Ohio Wetland Association (OWA) and the Society Wetland Scientists – North Central Chapter (SWS-NCC) invite the submission of abstracts to share research at the joint meeting of the OWA and SWS-NCC held September 8 – September 11, 2016, in Northeast Ohio. There will be oral presentation sessions on Saturday, September 10, 2016 with a poster session immediately following. Speakers are allowed 15 minutes for presentation plus 5 minutes for questions. Speakers are expected to present analyzed

results and conclusions from their work. Poster presentations may display preliminary research or projects where data have yet to be collected and/or analyzed.

If you wish to submit an abstract for an oral presentation or poster, please email a title, authors, and an abstract (200 words or less) to Julie Nieset (jenieset@illinois.edu) by July 1, 2016. For oral presentation submittals, if there is more than one author, indicate with an asterisk who will be giving the talk. Submittals will receive confirmation email of receipt of abstract. The presenting author will be notified by July 15th of acceptance.

All presenters are responsible for their own event registration. For poster presenters, there is also an additional opportunity to present posters as part of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History Conservation Symposium held Friday September 9, 2016.

Travel Awards

SWS student members who submit abstracts, complete an application, and attend the meeting are eligible to compete for a \$200 travel grant. Two grants will be awarded. More detailed information will be forthcoming. Contact Karen Mangan, Chair of the NCC Education Committee for more information Karen_Mangan@fws.gov

Sponsorship Opportunities

We invite sponsorship of this event. We will have a sponsorship packet available when registration starts. If you or an affiliated organization would be interested in sponsoring this event, please contact jenieset@illinois.edu

Housing

More information about housing will be forthcoming during registration.

Registration

Registration will begin in May through the Ohio Wetland Association website.

Schedule

Thursday September 8

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| Noon – 1pm | Early registration @ The University of Akron (UA) Field Station |
| 1 – 4:00pm | Field Trip – UA Field Station Steiner and Panzner Wetland Wildlife Reserve
http://www3.uakron.edu/biology/fieldstation/facilities.htm
http://www.personal.kent.edu/~spanzner/pwwr/index.html |
| 5:00 | Social at the UA Field Station (Includes OWA board meeting) |

Friday September 9

9am – 4pm Conservation Symposium at Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH). For those who are arriving on Thursday to the Akron area, there will be opportunities to carpool to this event.

Poster Session concurrent at CMNH for interested participants

CMNH Conservation Symposium Theme - Life on the Edge: Where Humans Meet Nature

In ecology, “edge effects” are the changes to species populations and natural communities that occur where two habitats meet. Throughout our planet’s history, these edges have formed through natural means. But human activity has begun to outpace these processes, creating more edges and leaving fewer intact habitats. The 2016 Conservation Symposium explores life “on the edge” -- how human activity is pushing up against the natural world, and what’s being done to push back. Join us for informative talks by experts on invasive non-native species, habitat restoration and preservation, and endangered species.

<https://www.cmnh.org/conservation-symposium>

Saturday September 10

8:00 – 9:00 Registration and coffee @ UA Field Station
9 - Noon Various speakers
12:30pm Lunch
1:30 - 5 Concurrent Sessions (15 minute sessions with 5 minutes Q &A)
5-6 Poster Session
6 Dinner and 25th Anniversary (OWA) Celebration
7 Campfire

Sunday September 11

8:30-9:30 NCC Membership Meeting
10 Field Trip
12:30 Lunch
1:30 Field Trip

WORLD WETLANDS DAY PHOTO CONTEST

Congratulations to Rachel Schultz, for winning our World Wetlands Day Photo Contest on Facebook. Thank you to everyone submitting photos and voting. Rachel’s submission (right) was titled: Introducing the next generation to the wonder of wetlands! #worldwetlandsday. Want to see the other entries and chapter news? Follow us on Facebook! Search North Central Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists.



NOTES FROM AROUND THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION

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

Workshops for Landowners sponsored by Wisconsin Wetland Association (WWA) through their *My Healthy Wetlands* Program. The workshops are for wetland owners and covers understanding, managing, and enjoying your wetlands. WWA is working with partners to offer these workshops in communities around Wisconsin. If you are interested in working with WWA to host a workshop in your community, please contact Katie Beilfuss at katie.beilfuss@wisconsinwetlands.org or at (608) 250-9971.

Workshop schedule for 2016:

- **April 30** at Maywood Environmental Center in Sheboygan
- **May 21** at Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve in Suamico
- **June 4** at Woodland Dunes Nature Center in Two Rivers

For More Information: <http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/MyHealthyWetlandsWorkshops.htm>

New Wetland Screening and Delineation Requirements

On **June 1, 2016**, the Department of Natural Resources will require full implementation of the “Wetland Screening and Delineation Procedures” guidance. This guidance establishes a revised process requiring customers applying for storm water, CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations), and waterway and wetland permits to submit a verified wetland delineation when wetlands are present in or adjacent to a project area. This guidance was developed to facilitate a more streamlined permit review because wetland boundaries will have been addressed on a project site prior to permit application submittal. The wetland review process will be uniform statewide, ensuring consistency amount the three most frequently used permit programs.

A webinar will be held Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 1:00 PM CDT. Save the link for viewing: <http://dnrmedia.wi.gov/main/Play/b612cb9a83bf4ae09a30b95e73bb40751d> If unable to attend, contact me for access to an archived version. Below is a link to the document: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waterways/documents/WetlandScreeningDelineationProcedures.pdf>

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

Don't forget to think about invasive species as you enter the field this summer! Clean your gear and report any invasive species you see. <https://www.michigan.gov/invasives> and <http://www.misin.msu.edu/>

ILLINOIS: (State Contacts, Jessie Ackerman, jracker@illinois.edu)

I thought I'd just update our readers with some helpful websites that I use for my job that might be helpful for our readers as well! All of them are from or associated with the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois. Enjoy exploring!

<http://www.isws.illinois.edu/warm/>

<http://www.isgs.illinois.edu/ilwater>

<http://clearinghouse.isgs.illinois.edu/>

<http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/>

<https://climateillinois.wordpress.com/>

NORTH DAKOTA: (State Contact, VACANT)

If you are interested in serving as state contact for North Dakota, please contact Dave Mushet, dmushet@usgs.gov.

MINNESOTA: (State Contact, Elizabeth Markhart, bmarkhart@comcast.net)

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

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

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

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

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

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

David Mushet, President

Julie Nieset, President-Elect

Arnold van der Valk, Immediate Past President

Jessica Ackerman, Secretary/Treasurer

Liz Pelloso, At-Large Board Member

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Julie Nieset, Program Committee

Arnold van der Valk, Nominations Committee

Jessica Ackerman, Membership Committee

Karen Mangan, Grants and Awards Committee

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