



The North Central Chapter

# Society of Wetland Scientists

## NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER Winter, 2021

### PRESIDENTS NOTE

Happy New Year! I think this year, possibly more than any other year, this sentiment feels like a weight lifted off our shoulders. Really nothing tangible changed as we moved from 2020 into 2021, however I have observed many using it as a way to move beyond 2020 and into the future. I think that for most people 2021 brings with it a sense of renewed hope...hope for a widely available vaccine, hope for calm, and hope for a return to normalcy. Many of us didn't realize how much we would miss "normal" things like chatting with colleagues, attending conferences, travelling, and just being able to be around people. I know some people have cherished the ability to work from home and be an introvert, but the upheaval that has changed the world has taken a toll on everyone. As we move into 2021, I wish all of you health, happiness, and hope for a wonderful year ahead.

The biggest news I have, is that four of the NCC nominees were chosen to be SWS 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awards recipients. Congratulations to Siobhan Fennessy, Kurt Kowalski, Bill Mitsch, Marinus Otte, and all of the other recipients. You are well deserving, and we appreciate your dedication to SWS, the NCC and the field of wetland science. In 2021, we have many things to look forward to. There will be information coming soon from SWS on the annual meeting in June, please see the SWS newsletter when it comes out for those updates. This year, the NCC is once again able to offer free and discounted student memberships. If you know a student, please share the membership information later in the newsletter with them. We will also be offering student research awards, announcements on those should come out early in the year from the main office. The NCC Board has decided, with all of the current uncertainties, the 2021 regional meeting would be best as a virtual fall meeting. We plan to have an in person meeting again in 2022. We are all looking forward to connecting with you through these opportunities.

Even though it is cold outside, spring will be here before you know it, and field season will be upon us. Whether you are able to get out and enjoy winter skiing, skating or fishing, or waiting until it is warmer; I hope everyone is able to get out there and enjoy the wetlands.

Christina Hargiss, NCC President  
[Christina.hargiss@ndsu.edu](mailto:Christina.hargiss@ndsu.edu)

## MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS AT WORK

Ever wonder how your membership money for the North Central Chapter (NCC) is used? Annually, the chapter dues go to support: student research awards, student travel to the NCC regional meeting, student travel to the SWS annual meeting, student chapters within the NCC region, the SWS Multicultural Mentoring Program, holding the NCC regional meeting, and sponsoring state conferences within the NCC region. Additionally, in recent years we have also been able to support specific initiatives such as developing a NCC Wetland Mentoring Program, and tribal initiatives to enhance and recognize wetland work by tribal groups and on tribal lands. Thank you so much for your support of SWS NCC, we could not do all this great work without you! Please consider renewing your membership and encourage your colleagues and students to become members too. Additional donations to the chapter can be sent to the chapter care of SWS at 1818 Parmenter St, Ste 300, Middleton, WI, 53562 - remember to note NCC donation on your check. If you are looking for other ways to support the chapter and these initiatives, volunteering is a great way to support the chapter. For an opportunity in Michigan, see P.4.

## FREE/DISCOUNTED STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

The North Central Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists <https://members.sws.org/north-central-chapter> is offering a limited number of free Society of Wetland Scientists memberships to students the first year they apply. If you were a student member of SWS in 2020 and are still a current college student, we will pay 50% towards your membership renewal for 2021 membership (\$15 towards the full \$30 student membership fee).

If you are a current student attending a college or university located within our ten-state region (ND, SD, NE, IA, IL, MN, WI, IN, MI, and OH), you are eligible to apply for a free or discounted SWS membership. In addition to the many other benefits of being an SWS member, student members of the Society are eligible for travel and research grants that are awarded yearly. For consideration, please submit the following information to Christina Hargiss (Christina.hargiss@ndsu.edu) by March 10, 2021.

1. Your name, phone number, mailing address, and email address
2. A copy of your current student identification card
3. A copy of your current transcript (unofficial is fine)
3. A paragraph about your interest in wetlands and why you would benefit from being a member of the Society of Wetland Scientists.

**JOIN US OR RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP**  
[SWS.ORG](https://www.sws.org)

### NCC-SWS OFFICERS

**Christina Hargiss, President**

**Casey Judge, President-Elect**

**Julie Nieset, Immediate Past  
President**

**Jennifer Boyer, Secretary**

**Eric Plankell, Treasurer**

**Kate Williams, At-Large Board  
Member**

**Paul Weihe, At-Large Board  
Member**

**Eliza Lugten and Sara Johnson,  
Co-Student Representatives**

### NCC-SWS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Casey Judge, Program  
Committee**

**Julie Nieset, Nominations  
Committee**

**Jennifer Boyer, Membership  
Committee**

**Karen Mangan, Grants and  
Awards Committee**

Corrections or new items for the NCC newsletter. Editor: Jennifer Boyer  
([jen.boyer@dupageco.org](mailto:jen.boyer@dupageco.org))

## SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AWARDS

In honor of its 40th Anniversary, the Society of Wetland Scientists recognized 18 recipients for high level and sustained contributions to wetland research, practice, education, communication, or service to the Society. Congratulations to the following members who received acknowledgement at the SWS 2020 Virtual Meeting on December 1:

- William Conner
- Gillian Davies
- Luke Eggering
- Kathy Ewel
- Siobhan Fennessy
- Royal Gardner
- Andy Herb
- Scott Jecker
- Chris Joyce
- Kurt Kowalski
- Bill Mitsch
- Bill Morgante
- Marinus Otte
- Kim Ponzio
- Ralph Tiner
- Gene Turner
- Doug Wilcox
- Dominik Zak

## OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT A WEBINAR TO NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER MEMBERS

The NCC Board acknowledges the lack of opportunities to present research during the changes brought about by the pandemic. Traditionally our Chapter meetings have provided forums for members and especially our students to share research. Thus, we are offering opportunities for this via webinar. In addition, the Board has allocated funds for students to receive a stipend for presentations. If interested contact Julie Nieset, Past President, at [jenieset@illinois.edu](mailto:jenieset@illinois.edu)

## SWS MULTICULTURAL MENTORING PROGRAM

SWaMMP provides NSF-funded and SWS regional chapter supported opportunities for traditionally underrepresented undergraduate students to attend/participate in SWS annual meetings. Participating in an SWS annual meeting as a SWaMMP student provides unique mentoring and workshop experiences, as well as opportunities to network and present a research poster. This program is designed to help maximize students' exposure to career options in wetland science.

Learn more about the program, check out photos from past years, and find past award winners here: <https://www.sws.org/swampp/>



## WISCONSIN WETLANDS ASSOCIATION WETLAND SCIENCE CONFERENCE

February 16-19, 2021

The 2021 Wetland Science Conference is going virtual! Wisconsin Wetlands Association has decided to suspend this year's in-person event in favor of a fully virtual experience as a result of uncertainty surrounding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While we may not be seeing you in person, we are committed to creating a valuable and engaging educational and networking experience. Join us online February 16-19, 2021!

As a sponsor of the event, NCC invites you to click on the link to view the program:

<https://conference.wisconsinwetlands.org/program/>

**Registration opened January 18, 2021.**

## JOINT AQUATIC SCIENCES MEETING



### Looking for ways to get involved?

The 2022 SWS Annual Meeting is going to be held as part of the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting in Grand Rapids, and we are looking for volunteers within our chapter to help with meeting planning and organization. Getting involved is a great way to gain experience, interact with fellow wetland scientists, and make the most of your membership. If you would like to be involved in any of the following subcommittees, please reach out to Casey Judge ([casey.judge@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:casey.judge@iowaagriculture.gov)).

SUBCOMMITTEE	SUMMARY OF MAIN TASKS
<b>Program Management</b>	Program timeline, developing scientific program, contributed papers/posters, symposia, abstracts, program guide, meeting theme, poster session
<b>Local Arrangements</b>	Onsite scouting, local hotspots, attendee questions re: hotel accommodations, networking events, parking, etc.
<b>Raffle and Local Flavor</b>	Field Trips, raffle sponsors, volunteer scheduling
<b>Plenary Committee</b>	Themes, speakers, set up
<b>Student Activities</b>	Event coordination, timelines, networking events, professional pairing, job boards
<b>Fundraising and Sponsorship</b>	Sponsorship levels and outreach

[Learn more about JASM 2022 here.](#)

## NCC OFFICER NOMINATIONS DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>

The NCC is currently accepting nominations for President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, two At-Large Board Members, and a Student Representative. Nominations for each of these six positions will be accepted until midnight Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Please send your nominations along with a few sentences stating why this person is interested in the position via an email to Julie Nieset, the Nominating Committee Chair [jenieset@illinois.edu](mailto:jenieset@illinois.edu). Self-nominations are highly encouraged. So, if you are interested in serving the Chapter in a leadership role, please nominate yourself for one of these positions.

The President-Elect position is a six-year commitment. The duties of the President-elect are to assist the President and to perform the duties of the President when that officer is absent or unable to act. The President-elect also serves as chairperson of the Program Committee. After serving an initial two-year term, the President-Elect automatically ascends to become the Chapter's President for an additional two-year term. The President is responsible for the business of the Chapter, making appointments authorized in the Standing Rules, establishing special committees, and exercising other responsibilities determined from time to time by action of the Chapter and its Executive Board. The President chairs all meetings of the Chapter and the Executive Board and serves as a member of all Standing and Special Committees. The President also serves as Chapter Representative to the Society and as a member of the Society Board of Directors. Following the term as the NCC President, the elected individual serves a final two-year term as Past-President. The Past President serves as chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

The Secretary, Treasurer, and At-Large Board Member positions each involve two-year commitments. The Secretary maintains a count of Chapter members in good standing and serves as chairperson of the Membership Committee. The Secretary coordinates Chapter membership with the Society Secretary and replies to or directs correspondence pertinent to Chapter business affairs and membership. The Secretary also maintains files and records of Chapter business and maintains and updates copies of the Chapter Bylaws and Standing Rules. The Treasurer attends to all appropriate financial matters of the Chapter, including payment of bills, grant recipient funding and coordination with the SWS main office over Chapter financial affairs. At-Large Board members attend board meetings and contribute expertise and perspective to NCC.

The Student Representative serves for a one-year term. The Student Representative is available for student members and student associations to contact to voice any needs and concerns and to forward these on to the Executive Board. Further, the Student Representative seeks out individuals to interview and write about in the "highlighted student" section of the Chapter's quarterly newsletter.

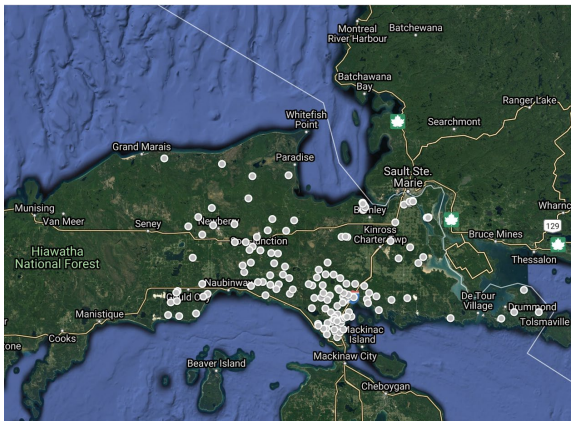
Elected Board Members serve as voting members of the Executive Board and regularly attend board meetings which are often via phone or video chat. Special duties of these board members are at the discretion of the President.

If you have been looking for a way to become more involved in the Chapter, one of these positions may be for you. The elections will be held in April (details on how to vote will be provided in our Spring Newsletter) and our new officers will be installed at the Annual SWS meeting that will be held virtually due to Covid-19. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Nieset (Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee), [jenieset@illinois.edu](mailto:jenieset@illinois.edu), Christina Hargiss (current NCC President) [christina.hargiss@ndsu.edu](mailto:christina.hargiss@ndsu.edu), or Casey Judge (current NCC President-Elect), [Casey.Judge@lowaagriculture.gov](mailto:Casey.Judge@lowaagriculture.gov). And remember, the nominations deadline is Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.

## TRIBAL AWARD RECIPIENT

Robin Clark, PhD Candidate, Michigan Technological University

Boozhoo! Robin Clark ndizhinikaaz. Bawaating ndoongiba. My name is Robin Clark and I'm an Anishinaabe woman from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. In 2020, the Society of Wetland Scientists North Central Chapter awarded Tribal Wetlands Funding for my dissertation research, "Gathering Giizhik in a Changing Landscape." Giizhik (Northern white cedar; *Thuja occidentalis*) is essential to Great Lakes Anishinaabe community ways and has been identified as highly vulnerable to climate-driven change. The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Bay Mills Indian Community, and Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan have partnered on my dissertation research to better understand current and future Giizhik growth on tribal, federal, and state lands in Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula (**Figure 1**).



**Figure 1.** Tribal, federal, and state forested wetland sites sampled.

NCC SWS funding supported 2020 field season travel for Kate Bentgen (Senior at Northern Michigan University) and me to complete forest assessments on 36 forested wetland sites, for a project total of 101 site assessments on tribal, federal, and state lands. Site assessments focused on Giizhik regeneration, recruitment, and Anishinaabe harvester needs. I am currently analyzing the field data and will be working with research partners to identify forested wetland management strategies, which support Giizhik populations and long-term tribal community access to them.



**Figure 2.** Robin Clark (left) and Kate Bentgen (right) completed site assessments during the 2019 and 2020 field seasons.

## TRIBAL AWARD RECIPIENT

Leslie Peltier, Faculty, Turtle Mountain Community College

### ***Grant for Wild Rice gathering***

Turtle Mountain Community College (TMCC) students and faculty and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (TMBCI) Dept. of Environmental Protection thank you for granting us funding from the North Central Chapter of the Society of Wetlands Scientists.

The grant monies were spent on purchasing a 16-foot Saranac 146/G canoe, 2 paddles, 2 pairs of waders, life vests, and 3 duck foot push poles.

TMCC also contributed to this effort by purchasing two canoes and paddles, and life vests and by paying for transportation of canoes and equipment from Bismarck to TMCC.



Students in the Traditional Use of Plants class joined other tribal members and the Tribal EPA Technician William Houle in our first attempt at harvesting wild rice in 2018 and 2019. We “knocked” about two pounds of rice that first year which we parched, treaded, and winnowed. We had limited equipment, having to use our own canoe, borrowed boats, wading boots, and a limited numbers of life vests.

Using our newly purchased equipment, we harvested wild rice again on Sept. 8, 2020 again

with William Houle who explained and photographed the entire event and posted it on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa EPA [Facebook page](#).

He also and contacted a reporter to write a story for the *Turtle Mtn Times* which ran in the Sept. 14, 2020 issue. The new equipment allowed for more tribal members to participate in the harvest. Unfortunately, we went out too late and strong winds had knocked quite a bit of rice into the lake. William also thought he had seen ducks and beavers eating it the week before. We knocked about one pound of wild rice, but with such a small amount harvested, we agreed to save it for reseeding the lakes and have given it to William Houle.



Know that your financial support has helped the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa renew their participation in their cultural heritage and helped to provide hands-on educational practice of our traditions.

## HIGHLIGHTED STUDENT

Rohini Vembar, Ohio State University

### Highlighted Student

Our highlighted student is Rohini Vembar who has since graduated from Ohio State University with a B. S. degree in Environmental Science, minoring in International Studies – Development Studies. She was a 2019 recipient of the SWS Multicultural Mentoring Program (SWaMMP) award to present her research at the SWS annual meeting in Baltimore, MD.



**What cultivated your interest in environmental science?** My Grandfather earned a PhD in botany from university in India. Growing up, he would talk my ear off about soybeans and plants. I did not expect to become interested in plants because of this but it turns out it did. I was involved in outdoor activities through 4-H and Girl Scouts. I took an AP environmental science in high school. We did a lot of hands-on activities during this class. Until I took this class, I had loved doing science, but it didn't seem like something I could do as a career. The class helped me see that this was a possibility.

At university I traveled to New Zealand for a month as part of an education abroad program called, “Sustaining Human Societies and the Environment” that spurred my interest in biological invasions and the effect on biodiversity. We traveled around the South Island meeting with locals and people who work in the tourism industry while studying different aspects of sustainability. We were able to really see the damage invasive species such as the introduced stoats and cats had done to harm the bird diversity. We also did some invasive plant scotch broom removal during one of the days. When I came back home, I saw similar problems here with fresh eyes.

**Will you share more about the research you presented at the SWS conference?** For a couple of years during college I interned at the Ohio Department of Transportation. I developed a project to see how invasive plants – specifically cattails – are impacted by road salt concentrations. We looked at non-native, native and hybrid species of cattail abundance in roadside wetlands in Ohio in relation to salinity. I presented a poster about this research at the SWS conference. My advisor introduced me to other environmental professionals at the conference. This was my first professional conference, and it was an incredible opportunity to be able to meet with other students and professionals who share similar experiences in life and in science.





**What have you been up to since graduating?** I started work as an Environmental Scientist with Stantec Consulting Services. This work primarily involves performing wetland delineations as well as other activities such as stream and bat surveys. I started a few months before the pandemic, so it has been different, but I have been able to learn so much from co-workers and travel for work to MI, WV, OH, and KY. I spend about half my time outside. It is such a good feeling.

**What is your favorite plant?** My favorite plant is the honey locust. I think it's an underrated plant. I like the thorned variety the most – the thorns are pretty, and this species is meant to have giant thorns to protect themselves. The flowers are gorgeous. My favorite wetland plant is the river birch - I like the bark a lot, the way that it peels and the colors. I like a lot of plants, so it is hard to choose.

**What wetland would you like to visit next?** I grew up in Northern Ohio near quite a few bogs. When I go home, I try to go for a walk in the local parks. One wetland I really want to go is Singer Lake Bog, a nature preserve owned by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

### AUDUBON COLLEGE CAMPUS CHAPTER PROGRAM

The National Audubon Society is a nonprofit conservation organization that works to protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. College students and existing college clubs in the field of ornithology, environmental science, biology, and other related majors are invited to join [Audubon's Campus Chapter Program](#). The



student-led campus chapters and ambassador representatives across the Great Lakes region's five states (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI) connect with local Audubon affiliates for hands-on leadership opportunities in conservation and advocacy that build skills, relationships, and resumes. Interested students or faculty, please contact Izabela Grobelna, Chapter Network Associate at [Izabela.Grobelna@audubon.org](mailto:Izabela.Grobelna@audubon.org) or call (312)453-0230 ext. 2012.

### SAVE THE DATE!

A banner for the SWS Annual Meeting 2021. The text reads "SWS Annual Meeting 2021" in large, bold, dark green letters, with "{Virtual in June, 2021}" in smaller, teal letters below it. Underneath, it says "Wetland Sciences 2021: Adaptation Drives Innovation". At the bottom, it says "Join us the first and second Tuesdays and Thursdays of June: June 1, 3, 8, and 10! Optional: Workshops on Wednesday, June 9." The background features a stylized mountain range and a cartoon beaver sitting at a laptop.

## REGIONAL NEWS

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

- Researchers at the University of Illinois, Chicago and the University of Waterloo used a U.S.-wide dataset to quantify the impact that wetlands have on reducing agricultural-sourced nitrate: <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/12/targeting-us-wetland-restoration-could-make-cleaning-water-much-cheaper>
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources events page: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/calendar/Pages/default.aspx>
- Friends of the Cache River events page: <https://www.friendsofthecache.org/events-activities>
- Northern Illinois wetland event page: <https://www.naturalland.org/event-calendar/>

**INDIANA:** (State Contact, Joy Marburger, [jmarburg@frontier.com](mailto:jmarburg@frontier.com))

**Proposed Indiana SB389 would eliminate protection of state wetlands in Indiana.** The bill repeals the law requiring a permit from the department of environmental management for wetland activity in a state regulated wetland. SB389 had the first hearing in the Senate Environmental Affairs Committee January 14, 2021.

<http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2021/bills/senate/389#document-409e92e4>

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

### **Governor's Task Force on Climate Change Report**

Wetlands are a recommended focus area in the Resilience section of the report. Wetlands are being acknowledged for their important stormwater function. Maintaining or reconnecting the hydrologic system(s) of wetlands through protection and restoration will ameliorate runoff and flooding issues in watersheds impacted by climate change. Several strategies include the support of pilot watershed assessment projects that will develop methods of identifying degraded hydrologic conditions; support for demonstration projects to showcase techniques and practices that build hydrologic resilience to climate change effects such as flooding and drought; establish an advisory council with the focus to manage/store water through the restoration of the natural capacity within native ecosystems.

The Wisconsin Wetland Association has been instrumental in getting the Task Force to entertain and incorporate the importance of wetlands on the landscape and their ability to provide important functions to offset the effect of climate change. The full Report can be found at the following:

[https://climatechange.wi.gov/Documents/Final%20Report/USCA-WisconsinTaskForceonClimateChange\\_20201207-LowRes.pdf](https://climatechange.wi.gov/Documents/Final%20Report/USCA-WisconsinTaskForceonClimateChange_20201207-LowRes.pdf)

## 2021 Wisconsin Water Week

March 8-12 will be the first ever Wisconsin Water Week and will be a part of the 2021 Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention. The theme is “Navigating in Turbulent Times”. The event will be virtual, and topics include: Water Cycles – groundwater and climate; Water Bodies – monitoring and managing; Water Actions – stories from the field; Major Wisconsin Watersheds; and much more. Registration is not currently open; check the UW Stevens Point Extension Lakes website for more information:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/convention/default.aspx>

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

Restoration of the Shiawassee Flats continues! Funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, over 1,000 acres of coastal wetland habitat are being restored in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, the Shiawassee River State Game Area, and surrounding lands. The work continues after May 2020 flooding and pandemic-related challenges. Check out the area by boat or car once the refuge’s wildlife drive opens this spring.

The National Park Service is leading an analysis to continue the restoration of the Sand Point Wetland complex at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Also funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, this multi-year effort will continue examination of how the coastal wetlands were affected by the presence of a road and how restoration of the hydrology and vegetation communities can be achieved.

The SWS student chapter at the University of Michigan is thriving. You can follow their activities on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/seasthewetlands>) or Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/seasthewetlands/>). They are always looking for ways to learn about wetland science and management, so please reach out to them if you need some help or have opportunities for them.

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

### Wetland resources get boost with grant to Nebraska Game and Parks

LINCOLN, Neb. — With the help of a \$280,000 matching grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, working with partners, will be able to modernize wetland conservation resources for educators and the public.

The three-year project is expected to result in a new online collection of educational materials, including a fifth-grade curriculum and activity book; Platte Basin Timelapse short films and multimedia stories; a public-consumption Guide to Nebraska Wetlands; and an online wetland ESRI StoryMap.

Game and Parks, Ducks Unlimited, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are providing the matching funds for the project, expected to be completed in 2022.

“We want to tell the stories of the important aspects of wetlands,” said Ted LaGrange, Game and Parks wetlands program manager and lead on the project. “The benefits of wetlands are important to understand, as are the conservation actions being taken to sustain them.”

Communities benefit from wetlands in a variety of ways. They act as habitat for a diversity of fish, wildlife and plant species; offer recreational benefits to hunters, anglers and wildlife observers; and improve water quality, provide groundwater recharge, and reduce the effects of flooding.

“These are stories that need to be told no matter where a person lives: Wetlands — and the benefits they provide — are just as important to urban communities as they are to rural ones,” LaGrange said.

A team of producers from Platte Basin Timelapse started collecting those stories across the state in summer 2020. For the next year, they’ll continue to collect photos, time-lapse images, video and audio recordings, and interviews that will be woven into compelling stories about Nebraska’s wetlands, the role wetlands play in people’s lives and why wetlands need to be conserved.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for our team of storytellers, and I’m confident Nebraskans will be both surprised and take pride in the beauty, diversity and richness of our wetlands critical to life in the region, and value them in new and important ways,” said Michael Forsberg, Platte Basin Timelapse co-founder and prominent Nebraska conservation photographer.

The multimedia products will be used in educational curriculum focused on the science of wetlands. The lessons, to be developed by Game and Parks’ Fish and Wildlife Education Division, will be available online at [outdoornebraska.gov](http://outdoornebraska.gov).

Other partners on the education project include the Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and U.S. Geological Survey, and many other organizations, agencies, and schools.

To track the project, follow Game and Parks and the Platte Basin Timelapse on Instagram or Facebook and search by #nebraskawetlands. To learn more about Nebraska wetlands, visit [OutdoorNebraska.org/nebraskawetlands](http://OutdoorNebraska.org/nebraskawetlands).

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

**NORTH DAKOTA:** (State Contact, Christina Hargiss, [christina.hargiss@ndsu.edu](mailto:christina.hargiss@ndsu.edu))

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** (State Contact, Vacant-Contact [Christina Hargiss](mailto:Christina Hargiss))

**IOWA:** (State Contact, Paul Weihe, PhD, [WeiheP@central.edu](mailto:WeiheP@central.edu))

**OHIO:** (State Contact, Brad Petru, [bpetru@hullinc.com](mailto:bpetru@hullinc.com))

## **WETLAND EVENTS AND TRAINING**

SWS CALENDAR: [HTTPS://WWW.SWS.ORG/WEBINARS/](https://www.sws.org/webinars/)

ASWM Webinars: <https://www.aswm.org/aswm/aswm-webinarscalls>