



The North Central Chapter

Society of Wetland Scientists

NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER Winter/Spring 2020

PRESIDENTS NOTE

As I write this I am at home, stormed in from a blizzard with a -8°F wind-chill (which sadly isn't that bad), and wind gusts up to 50 mph. Right now, it is hard to imagine that spring is coming, but to be honest it isn't too far away. I am a Midwest girl at heart and love winter, but the cold wears on me eventually. I hope all of you are faring the winter well and maybe getting away from our northern states to warmer places for some rest and relaxation.

Despite the weather, this time of year does bring exciting things. Let me be the first to wish you a Happy World Wetlands Day (February 2nd)! I hope you take a moment that day to appreciate and maybe educate someone about the world's wetlands. It is also time to renew your SWS membership and think about attending the annual SWS meeting. This year it will be held in Quebec City, the French speaking capital of Quebec, that is said to have the feel and charm of Europe with cobblestone streets, city walls, and great food. I hope you will consider attending, I would love to see you there.

Last fall was energizing for the NCC chapter. We held our annual meeting in conjunction with the Audubon Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Symposium in Toledo, Ohio. We were able to sponsor the poster session for the symposium, and five students to attend and present their wetland research. We also awarded two tribal grant awards to enhance tribal work in the NCC on wetlands and wetland related issues. I really do feel that being able to give back to our members and enhance their work within the NCC is my favorite part of being your president.

Looking forward to 2020, we have a great year coming up. We are once again focusing on our younger members and helping them grow professionally. We are able to offer free student memberships for students who apply their first year, and the second and consecutive years we are able to pay 50% of their student membership fees. We will also be offering student research and travel awards to both the annual meeting and the fall meeting. Speaking of the fall meeting, we are in need of a host so we can start planning. If you are able to host the fall meeting, please contact me or one of the other board members.

I hope you have had some time this winter to relax and get caught up on work. As spring approaches, and you gear up for fieldwork, I hope you have some time to get out there and enjoy the wetlands!

Christina Hargiss, NCC President

christina.hargiss@ndsu.edu

BOARD SEEKING HOST FOR THE NCC SWS 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

Are you interested in hosting the NCC Annual Meeting this coming fall? The chapter board members are unable to host the meeting this year due to personal and professional time conflicts, as well as having recent meetings in the same locations so wanting to explore new areas and opportunities. Therefore, we are seeking help from the chapter. Do you work in a great location or are you willing to host and help coordinate a meeting in your area? The board members and other members are eager to support an individual or group in coordination and planning of the fall meeting. If you are willing to host please contact Christina (Christina.hargiss@ndsu.edu) or any of the NCC board members.

CONGRATULATIONS GRANT WINNERS!

Tribal Grant Award:

Leslie Peltier
Robin Clark

Student Travel Awards to Attend SWS NCC Fall Meeting:

Sara Johnson
Kate Vogel
Cheyenne Durant
Hannah Ohm
Erika Olson

STUDENTS: APPLY FOR AN SWS STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT

As reported in the January 2020 SWS Newsletter, [Student Grants](#) are awarded annually on a competitive basis to graduate or undergraduate students in support of research on wetlands. Please note: SWS Student Research Grants are intended to aid student's costs of travel, room and board in the course of field investigation and to help cover costs of expendable materials and supplies required in the execution of the proposed research. The NCC is offering two \$1,000 scholarships in addition to those available from the national office. Apply by Monday, **March 2, 2020** using the link above.

JOIN US OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
SWS.ORG

NCC-SWS OFFICERS

Christina Hargiss, President
Casey Judge, President-Elect
Julie Nieset, Immediate Past President

Jennifer Boyer, Secretary
Eric Plankell, Treasurer
Kate Lucier, 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)

SWS ANNUAL MEETING- QUEBEC RE3 2020 CONFERENCE

SWS will hold our Annual Meeting jointly with the Canadian Land Reclamation Association (CLRA) and the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER). The [Quebec RE3 2020 Conference](#) will be held June 7-11, 2020, at the Québec City Convention Center (Québec City, Canada). The theme for the meeting is *From Reclaiming to Restoring and Rewilding* (Re3 Meeting). It aims to stimulate discussions about the range of environmental management approaches advocated by the three hosting societies. **Reclaiming** is recognized and practiced by many industries, including mining and petrol extraction. **Restoring** is recognized most broadly around the world, and has been the main focus of SER. **Rewilding**, or bringing back to nature, allows us to dream. These terms also imply ideas of industry, science, practice, society and imagination. They run from the practical to the creative. The dawn of the [UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration](#) (2021-2030) is great timing for our joint conference! Furthermore, our conference will follow the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, and will celebrate SWS's 40th year as a society.

Abstract submission deadline is January 30!

Abstract submission is now open - Submit your abstract at www.re3-quebec2020.org/abstract-paper-submission. Please carefully review the information provided on this page before submitting your abstract. **The deadline for abstract submissions is January 30.** Any questions can be directed to re3quebec2020@conferium.com.

Sponsor or exhibit

Québec RE3 offers numerous opportunities for partnership and exhibition with various options and levels. We invite you to consult the Partnership and Exhibition Prospectus. Do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to share your ideas and discuss other partnership scenarios. We are flexible and willing to work with you to design a partnership package that will fulfill your needs. For more information: <http://www.re3-quebec2020.org/partnership-exhibition>.



Reprinted in part from January 2020 Newsletter

SWS NCC ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AUDUBON COASTAL WETLAND SYMPOSIUM

The SWS NCC fall 2019 annual meeting took place in Toledo, Ohio September 19th and 20th at the beautiful Maumee Bay State Park and Lodge. The theme of the conference was Coastal Great Lakes wetlands. The conference opened with an interesting plenary session from the Honorable Mayor Kapszukiewicz of the City of Toledo. He spoke about the challenges for the City of Toledo in managing water quality and drinking water, with common algal bloom, in the Great Lakes from which the city pulls its water. From there the opening session gave participants an introduction to the Great Lakes and Great Lakes wetlands hydrology, ecology, monitoring, climate change, and assessing and enhancing resilience for the future.



The SWS NCC sponsored portions of the workshop including the poster session and luncheon lightening round on the first day. There was a total of ten posters and seven of these were student research presentations from members of the NCC chapter! Posters were displayed throughout the conference,



but poster presenters were asked to give a 3-5-minute lightening talk to introduce attendees to their topic and findings. The afternoon of the first day commenced with participants choice of field trips to urban and natural settings including marsh restorations, national wildlife refuges, marsh and nature preserves, and wetland sites adjacent to the Maumee Bay River. The final day of the conference included tracking monitoring and restoration progress across state and international boundaries for coastal wetlands; as well as, a host of individual talks from local, state, and national agencies, non-profits, and scientists and engineers. Overall,

the conference and the SWS NCC support was well received and provided excellent opportunities for collaborations between SWS, Audubon, students, and Great Lakes professionals.

As part of the conference, we had an EARLY morning business meeting for the NCC chapter. Congratulations to the six students that the chapter was able to provide travel awards and/or registration for to attend they symposium. All were at the meeting and it was great to learn more about their work and to also see our two student college chapters represented and hear the wonderful things they are doing to help expand wetland interest and knowledge. These students are truly brining a new energy to the chapter that we all very much appreciate! Thank you to all that were able to attend the symposium and chapter meeting. It was a great couple of days learning about wetlands and networking.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

The North Central Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists <https://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 2019 and are still a current college student, we will pay 50% towards your membership renewal for 2020 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, 2020.

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

*If you already completed your SWS 2020 membership please contact Christina as you may still be eligible.

STUDENT CHAPTERS UPDATE

The University of Michigan Student Chapter of SWS (NCC) is celebrating its one-year anniversary this month! To celebrate, we are planning a Wetland Weekend in honor of World Wetlands Day. Events will include cookie baking, volunteering with the city of Ann Arbor to remove invasive species, and an on campus event to spread awareness about the importance of wetlands to our region. We have enjoyed getting to know each other through social events, webinar viewings, and volunteering together. This semester we are looking forward to planning outreach events and working in the community. We would love to hear from any professionals in the area interested in planning events with us! Please contact Eliza Lugten (elizalu@umich.edu)



University of Michigan Chapter Upcoming Events

February 1-3: Wetland Weekend Celebration

February 2 - Volunteering with City of Ann Arbor
Natural Area Preservation (NAP)

February 3 - Campus Wetland Celebration

March 8: NAP Salamander Survey Kickoff and
Training. 12-2PM

The University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign Chapter

Our first semester as an official RSO and NCC Student Association has been quite the success! We have hosted multiple events that have engaged UIUC students and community members, from field trips to service days to identification workshops. Our first winter fundraiser that featured the art of some of our student members was fantastic, and we look forward to continuing and expanding upon our initial success over the next year.

Quad Day and Taco Mixer: At the beginning of the semester we tabled at UIUC's annual quad day, where we registered over 200 names onto our email list. We also hosted a kickoff event, a Tuesday Taco Mixer, where we served free food and refreshments and introduced people to what our RSO is all about.

Asteraceae I.D. Workshop: In September we hosted an Asteraceae identification workshop at Meadowbrook Park, and had over 20 participants attend. Undergrads, graduate students, and people from the greater community joined us to learn how to identify late season Asters in a tall grass prairie. INHS botanist and former NCC President Julie Nieset taught the workshop.

Field Trip to Jasper Pulaski: We partnered with the Champaign County Audubon Society for a field trip to Jasper Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area in Indiana to watch Sandhill Cranes migrate.

Learn and Serve: During the fall, we partnered with the Urbana Park District to host monthly Learn and Serve events at a wet prairie restoration site in Urbana. Volunteers removed invasive species and collected native seeds from the restoration site for future plantings.

Seed Cleaning Workshop: Students and members of the CU community gathered on campus to learn about cleaning native seed from INHS botanist Bill Handel and got hands on experience cleaning seed from wild collections from PhD student and RSO member Jack Zinnen.

Winter Market: We hosted our first annual winter market fundraiser, showcasing artwork from student artists from our RSO.

For more information, please visit our website:

<https://publish.illinois.edu/societyofwetlandscientistsncc/upcoming-events/>

UIUC Chapter Upcoming Events

Jan. 31: Tree ID Workshop at the U of I Arboretum, Meet at the Noel Welcome Garden parking lot along Lincoln Ave. 2PM

Feb. 10: Applying for Federal Jobs at Turner Hall in room N120. 1-5PM FREE. Pre-registration required, see website for details.

Apr. 11: Salamander Hike at Busey Woods. 10 - 11:30 AM

Apr. 18: Spring Wildflower Hike at Busey Woods. 10 - 11:30 AM

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 or call (312)453-0230 ext. 2012.

HIGHLIGHTED STUDENT

BY ELIZA LUGTEN AND SARA JOHNSON

This newsletter's featured student is Nicole Steward B.S, Department of Biological Sciences, Western Michigan University.

1. A summary of your research.

The goal of my research is to characterize food web structure in freshwater interdunal wetlands and assess how food chain length (FCL) varies across the landscape. Interdunal wetlands are a type of Great Lakes Coastal Wetland found within the low-lying areas between the dunes of the Great Lakes sand dune system. These fishless wetlands have discrete boundaries and lack surface connection to Lake Michigan, although wetland hydrology is influenced by Lake Michigan via underground connections. Using carbon and nitrogen stable isotopes I assess variation in FCL among interdunal wetlands across a gradient of canopy cover. There are a handful of hypotheses proposed to explain variation in FCL, however, no single hypothesis is widely applicable to various ecological systems. My work tests hypotheses related to ecosystem size and productivity and considers the effects of resource subsidy on FCL under distinct levels of canopy cover.

2. What got you involved in wetland science and SWS?

I'm absolutely fascinated by wetlands! There is so much activity! So many different wetland occupants! The dynamic biotic and abiotic relationships that comprise an ecological community resulting in various habitat functioning such as high diversity and productivity, nutrient transformation, flood control, wildlife refugia, carbon storage, and more is what drives my excitement for wetland science. I immersed myself into wetland science when I started a M.S. graduate program in ecology at Western Michigan University where I am part of Dr. Tiffany Schriever's wetland ecology lab. I recently became a member of SWS earlier this year when I submitted my application for a student research grant. Since then, I'm happy to be a member and I enjoy reading the SWS News Blog and receiving SWS email updates.

3. How has being part of SWS benefitted you? What do you appreciate about being a member?

As a member I greatly appreciate the involvement SWS inspires, especially in regard to keeping up to date on WOTUS policies and encouraging members to speak up on behalf of wetland protections. Further, I appreciate that SWS is not limited to academia, but includes all professionals that study and manage wetland habitat.

4. What were you doing this summer?

This summer I am enjoying the outdoors while I collect consumers and basal sources from interdunal wetlands for later processing and data analysis. When I'm not busy with field work you can find me searching for and identifying wetland vegetation, kayaking, and hiking around with my golden retriever, Murphy.

REGIONAL NEWS

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

For local events in our state, check out these helpful event pages:

- <https://www.friendsofthecache.org/events-activities>
- <https://www.naturalland.org/event-calendar/>
- <https://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/woods-wetlands/outings-events>
- https://www.facebook.com/pg/SWSNCCUIUC/events/?ref=page_internal

Illinois wetlands in the news:

<https://www.dailyherald.com/submitted/20200103/the-land-conservancy-of-mchenry-county-preserves-83-acres-of-wetland-sedge-meadow-and-wet-prairie-in-woodstock>

The Land Conservancy of McHenry County has preserved an 83-acre property, Slough Creek Wetland Bank, near Woodstock, IL.

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

Wisconsin Wetland Bills

I can wade through the mucky soils of a wetland but trying to understand the language in government bills is daunting. I guess if you were versed in the process the terminology would be clear as water flowing in a trout stream. Below are two bills recently in the works.

Assembly Bill 190

This bill makes changes to requirements for wetland mitigation banks. This bill changes where you can purchase mitigation credits to only a mitigation bank located in the same compensation search area as

the wetland impact: geographic management unit, county, or within a 20-mile radius or the impacted wetland. Laid on the table 11/7/19 for signature by the governor. The Bill has been Tabled.

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/proposals/ab190>

Senate Bill 631

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to issue a general permit that authorizes wetland, stream, and floodplain restoration and management activities that will result in a net improvement in hydrologic connections, conditions, and functions. This bill will also create a hydrologic restoration and management advisory council, which will consist of no fewer than 7 and no more than 15 members appointed by the secretary of natural resources. January 15, 2020 status is available for scheduling.

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/proposals/reg/sen/bill/sb631>

OHIO: (State Contact, Brad Petru, bpetru@hullinc.com)

In 2019 Ohio adopted a budget that included allowances dedicated towards addressing water quality in the state, both along Lake Erie and in our internal waterways. The State has appropriated \$85.2 million from the FY2020 budget (ODNR \$46.4M, ODA \$30.3 M, OEPA \$8.7M) to target water quality policy, surface water (wetland/stream/coastal) restoration and best management practices in the northwest portion of the state initially. Eventually subsequent years will target water quality of internal lakes and rivers throughout the state. It is still unclear what the process is for recognizing and awarding projects with funding although the ODNR and OEPA have their first year budgets allocated for the most part. Local municipalities and non-profits can petition to get projects funded in subsequent years that target water quality restoration.

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

Great Lakes coastal wetlands and the GLRI-funded Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Monitoring Program was highlighted in a great documentary on PBS (<https://www.pbs.org/video/linking-land-and-lakes-hdo22u/>). Be sure to check out the fantastic views of wetland systems in Michigan and across the basin. Regional experts tell a good story about how coastal wetlands function and how important it is to monitor their health through time.

The Michigan Wetlands Association held a meeting on October 8, 2019, that was focused on PFAS and wetlands. There were several presentations on the PFAS issue, including the PFAS monitoring in Michigan and how PFAS may impact amphibians. Follow up with MWA for details.

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)
INDIANA: (State Contact, Joy Marburger, jmarburg@frontier.com)
NORTH DAKOTA: (State Contact, Christina Hargiss, christina.hargiss@ndsu.edu)
SOUTH DAKOTA: (State Contact, Vacant-Contact [Christina Hargiss](#))
IOWA: (State Contact, Paul Weihe, PhD, WeiheP@central.edu)
MINNESOTA: (State Contact, Elizabeth Markhart, bmarkhart@comcast.net)

WETLAND EVENTS AND TRAINING

JANUARY

- 31 **Tree ID Workshop, Illinois** at the U of I Arboretum at the Noel Welcome Garden parking lot along Lincoln Ave at 2PM.
<https://publish.illinois.edu/societyofwetlandscientistsncc/upcoming-events/>

FEBRUARY

- 1 **Little River Wetlands Project, World Wetlands Day 2020, Fort Wayne, IN.** <https://www.lrwp.org/worldwetlandsday>
- 2 **World Wetlands Day; #wetlandbiodiversitymatters;** Celebrate wetlands and check out the Ramsar page: <https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/>
- 1-3 **Wetland Weekend Celebration, Ann Arbor, MI;** February 2 – Volunteering with City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation (NAP); February 3 – Campus Wetland Celebration.
<https://www.weloveannarbor.com/2020/01/23/nap-february-events-with-natural-area-preservation/>
- 11 **Wetlands workshop/symposium, ND** hosted by the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society (NDCTWS), 1-5PM at the Baymont Inn and Suites, Mandan; Free
 Also see the NDCTWS Annual Meeting event listed below.
- 12-14 **NDCTWS Annual Meeting, ND** Hosted by the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society (NDCTWS), at the Baymont Inn and Suites, Mandan; Contact Rick Warhurst at Rick@naturalresourcestrust.com
<https://ndctws.wordpress.com/category/annual-conference>
- 18-20 **Wisconsin Wetland Association’s Wetland Science Conference, A Clear Vision for Wetlands.** Held at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI. Look for our chapter banner in the exhibit hall. <https://conference.wisconsinwetlands.org/>

Add an event to our calendar

Do you know of a wetland event or training opportunity that would interest members in your state or the region? Send the title, date, time, and link to the [Editor](#).

22 **Waterfowl and Other Wetland Birds in the Bog**, Friends of Cedarburg Bog, southern WI: <https://bogfriends.org/>

MARCH

8 **NAP Salamander Survey Kickoff and Training, Ann Arbor, MI 12-2PM**
<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/Parks-Recreation/NAP/Pages/NaturalAreaPreservation.aspx>

27-29 **Midwest Great Lakes Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) 2020 Annual Chapter Meeting** Acacia Center, Lyndhurst, Ohio
<https://chapter.ser.org/midwestgreatlakes/>

APRIL

11 **Salamander Hike at Busey Woods, Urbana IL; 10-11:30AM**
<https://www.urbanaparks.org/parks/natural-areas/>

18 **Spring Wildflower Hike at Busey Woods, Urbana IL; 10-11:30AM**
<https://www.urbanaparks.org/parks/natural-areas/>