



The North Central Chapter

# Society of Wetland Scientists

## **NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER** **Autumn 2016**

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

Thank you to all who were able to participate in the joint North Central Chapter SWS and Ohio Wetlands Association conference held last month in NE Ohio. The “Wetland Summit” attracted 59 participants to the joint meeting. I would like to give a gigantic THANK YOU! to our Program Committee Chair and President-Elect, Julie Nieset, for her tremendous effort organizing this event. Given that our 2016 meeting has successfully ended, it is already time to begin thinking about our 2017 conference. If you have any ideas for a location, activities, etc., for 2017, please let me know at your earliest convenience. We are hoping to hold the coming year’s conference in a somewhat centralized location in the NCC region (e.g., Wisconsin, Minnesota) to make it more convenient for travelers, but we are open to other ideas as well. The meeting will likely be scheduled for late September or early October, so please start planning on attending now. Remember, these meetings are a great way to interact with other NCC members, to learn more about wetland resources in a particular portion of our region, and for students to present their research and interact with professionals in the field. We would like to see our annual meetings grow to an even larger event each year, so you can expect additional field trips, opportunities to present, and opportunities to socialize at the 2017 event. And if for some reason you are unable to make it to the SWS International Conference in Puerto Rico, please consider your SWS Chapter meeting as an alternative. We will aim to have the location and dates of the NCC meeting firmed up by the end of the year to help you with your 2017 travel plans.

The coming year is also an exciting year in that we will be electing a new President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Student Representative, and two At-Large Board Members who will form the NCC’s Executive Board. Notice that the Secretary/Treasurer position is listed as separate positions. At the last meeting, the NCC Executive Board decided that this position would be better split to ease the work load on a single individual. We are in the process of revising the Chapter’s by-laws to reflect this change and you will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed changes soon. Thus, 2017 presents an excellent opportunity for you to become more involved in your Chapter. We will be seeking nominations for all position in January–February (including Secretary and Treasurer) with a vote in March and installation of newly elected officers in June at the NCC Membership Meeting in Puerto Rico. Please let me, or the Nominating Committee Chair ([Arnold van der Valk](#)) know if you are interested in any of these positions. We would love to have you become part of the NCC’s Executive Board.

And lastly, don’t forget to check out the SWS Wetlands Treasures website ([www.wetlandtreasures.org](http://www.wetlandtreasures.org)) and nominate that special wetland that you know of.

The Very Best of Wishes!

Dave Musher, NCC President

## **SWS-NCC ANNUAL MEETING-SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>-11<sup>TH</sup>**

This past September there were 59 participants at our joint annual meeting with the Ohio Wetlands Association "Wetland Summit" held in NE Ohio, nine of whom were students who received full scholarships to attend.



**Photo: Herrick Fen**

The speaker line-up included:

***"Bryophytes as a Potential Indicator for Wetland Quality"***,  
Presented by Bill Schumacher, Environmental Specialist,  
Ohio EPA (photo: right)

***Streamlined Vegetation Monitoring to Assess the  
Condition of Ohio's Wetlands"***, Presented by Brian Gara,  
Wetland Ecologist, Ohio EPA

***National Wetland Conditions Assessment (NWCA) in Ohio  
- Impacts to Soils"***, Presented by Bill Schumacher,  
Environmental Specialist, Ohio EPA

***"The Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program"***,  
Presented by Alexandra (Sasha) Bozimowski, Wetland Ecologist  
and Wetland Ecology Laboratory Manager for the Institute for  
Great Lakes Research, Central Michigan University

***"The Nature Conservancy's Ohio Stream and Wetland In-  
Lieu Fee Mitigation Program"***, Presented by Dana Ohman, The  
Nature Conservancy's Stream and Wetland Mitigation Specialist

***"Biomimicry Applications in Watershed Restoration"***,  
Presented by Carol Thaler, Director of Outreach and  
Administration, Great Lakes Biomimicry

***The Towpath Beaver Marsh: Junkyard to Wetland to Trail  
to Community"***, Presented by Robert W. Bobel, Park Engineer,  
Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Peg Bobel, Cultural Resource



Specialist, Summit Metro Parks

The presentations can be found: <http://www.ohwetlands.org/2016-wetlands-science-summit-presentations.html>



Field trips were to the Steiner Wetlands and Tamarack Bog, Beaver Pond and Krejci Restoration Site at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and Herrick Fen State Nature Preserve, a Nature Conservancy site.

**Photos: Krejci site, Cuyahoga Valley National Park (left); Native plant nursery, Cuyahoga Valley National Park (below)**

Wetland summit sponsors and collaborators included: The University of Akron, Cardno-JFNew, Central Michigan University Institute for Great Lakes Research, The Nature Conservancy, Bath Township, National Park Service, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. We appreciate all of the support from our sponsors and collaborators!



### **HIGHLIGHTED STUDENT BY CASEY JUDGE**

This quarter we are highlighting Kaira Kamke, a 5<sup>th</sup> year senior undergraduate majoring in Water Resources with a minor in Soil Science at University of Wisconsin, Steven's Point. I was able to get to know Kaira at the SWS 2016 Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi, TX, which she attended in part thanks to the NCC travel grant she was awarded. I nominated her to be the highlighted student for this newsletter because I was impressed with her undergraduate research and level of involvement in wetland science. Kaira's primary research interests are aquatic invertebrate ecology and taxonomy in wetlands. She is currently a junior taxonomist at the Aquatic Biomonitoring Lab at UWSP.

#### **Have you held any positions within SWS or University organizations?**

In 2015 I was the President for the Students for Wetland Awareness, Management, and Protection (SWAMP) at UWSP. I also began as the Research Coordinator for SWAMP in the fall of 2015, and continue to serve in that capacity.



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

My involvement in the wetland-focused student organization, SWAMP, at UWSP first piqued my interest in wetlands through field trips and guest speakers. A few of my water focused elective courses introduced me to the Wetland Certification program offered by my university through SWS, which seemed like a perfect match to my water resources major and soil science minor. Once I started learning more about wetlands, I wanted to begin research projects to combine my interest in aquatic invertebrates with wetlands, which really furthered my interest in wetlands overall.

### What do you like to do in your free time?

Play tennis, piano, read, and go camping or any other outdoor activity!

### Do you have a memorable field story to share?



My most memorable trip to a wetland was a class field trip to Lake Jacqueline, which was my first experience with a floating sphagnum bog mat. The course was focused on aquatic and emergent wetland plants, but the class was preoccupied for most of the trip with jumping on the mat to make the black spruce trees 20 feet away sway back and forth. Fortunately no one fell through the sphagnum mat into the water, and we all got to see sundew plants for the first time!

### UPCOMING CONFERENCE-WISCONSIN WETLANDS ASSOCIATION

WWA's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wetland Science Conference, *Wetland Connections* takes place on February 28-March 2, 2017 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point, Wisconsin

More information about the conference: <http://conference.wisconsinwetlands.org/>

The deadline to [submit an abstract](#) for the 2017 Wetland Science Conference is **November 15<sup>th</sup> 2016**. We seek proposals for oral presentations or posters on wetland research, restoration, and management projects. We especially encourage submissions on these topics related to the theme, *Wetland Connections*.

**Student Scholarships!** The deadline for the scholarship application is **January 13, 2017**. We really want to encourage student participation. We offer discounted student registration rates as well as student scholarships. Priority for these scholarships is given to students who are giving oral presentations or posters at the conference. We will also be hosting a **student presentation competition** with cash prizes for the best presentations.

## NOTES FROM AROUND THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION

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

The Maankiki Marsh project (<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/news/MichiganEstuary.html>) at the USFWS Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge south of Saginaw was completed this summer. It converted nearly 1,000 acres of agricultural land back into wetlands for the first time in nearly a century.

The Coastal Wetlands Monitoring Program had another successful sampling year looking at coastal wetland health in and around Michigan. Check out recent data on the web page (<http://www.greatlakeswetlands.org/Home.vbhtml>)

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

[http://www.amboynews.com/v2\\_news\\_articles.php?heading=0&page=72&story\\_id=4906](http://www.amboynews.com/v2_news_articles.php?heading=0&page=72&story_id=4906)

The Ryan Wetland and Sand Prairie Land and Water Reserve in Amboy, has recently undergone some major improvements to encourage wetland and prairie plants to bloom, and pollinators and animals to return. Over 10,000 hours of volunteer labor was needed to get it back in-to-shape!

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

We are pleased to introduce the new state contact for North Dakota, Marinus Otte.

I have been working on wetlands, starting with my PhD research in the Netherlands, since the mid-1980s. As a post-doc, I worked on the coastal marshes of South Carolina in the early 90s. I then moved to University College Dublin, Ireland, where I worked on all kinds of wetlands, natural and constructed, for 14 years. Since moving to North Dakota State University in 2006, my focus has been on the wetlands of North Dakota and Minnesota. I also recently started collaborative work with colleagues at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Changchun, Jilin, P.R. China on the Sanjiang Plain wetlands in the north of China. In addition, my work as the Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journal WETLANDS, has further exposed me to the entire range of scientific and management-related issues pertaining to wetlands around the world. It will be my pleasure to work with the various stakeholders in wetlands in North Dakota.



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

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

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

**David Mushet, President**  
**Julie Nieset, President-Elect**  
**Arnold van der Valk, Immediate Past President**  
**Jessica Ackerman, Secretary/Treasurer**  
**Liz Pelloso, At-Large Board Member**  
**Joy Marburger, At-Large Board Member**

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

**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>