



The North Central Chapter

Society of Wetland Scientists

NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER Spring 2017

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Well, there is definitely much that should be of interest to all in this edition of the NCC Newsletter, and thus it is difficult to know just where to begin. I guess I will start by sharing a really cool link provided by one of our Chapter's past presidents and current NCC representative for the state of Michigan, Kurt Kowalski.

<https://story.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=aed61922c4b444ba843d19e676e80004>

The link Kurt shared will take you to a story map highlighting "The Great Wetlands of the World." I am particularly fond on #11. Also, under #13 you can find two Ramsar recognized "Wetlands of International Importance" that occur within our region, Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in South Dakota and Horicon Marsh in Wisconsin.

After I started writing this message, I realized that it will be the last "Presidents Note" that I will be writing for our newsletter as the next, summer, edition is not scheduled to come out until after the SWS Annual Meeting in June, i.e., after the Chapter's new officers are installed. However, the NCC will be in very capable hands when the President reins are transferred to our current President-Elect, Julie Nieset. Julie has been very active in her role as President-Elect and is more than capable in leading the Chapter as its new President, until the leadership reins are once again transferred in another two years. And that brings us to the 2017 NCC elections. We have received nominations for all of the elected positions in the Chapter. Thus, we are prepared to proceed with the election of our new officers. In this issue, you will find information on all of the candidates running for the President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Student Representative, and Board Member positions. All positions are for two-year terms except the Student Representative who is elected annually. Voting will be open from April 5th until April 26th, with results being announced at the NCC Membership Meeting occurring on June 6th in conjunction with the SWS Meeting in Puerto Rico. Please be sure to read over the information provided by the candidates and to vote. More instructions on how to vote, along with a link to your ballot, will be sent out just before the voting starts on April 5th. And thanks again for all the candidates who have expressed their interest in serving the NCC in one of its elected roles. Best of luck to all of those who are running. Our Chapter is very lucky to have such a well-qualified slate of candidates!!!

Besides the installation of officers, another important item of business that will be conducted at the NCC's membership meeting in Puerto Rico, will be a vote to approve changes to the chapter's bylaws. The proposed changes are needed to split the current Secretary/Treasurer position into two separate positions, i.e., Secretary and Treasurer. The current Secretary/Treasurer proposed this change as a way to reduce the workload created by having a single individual performing both roles. The NCC governing

board agreed with this recommendation and voted 1) to approve a modification of our Standing Rules to facilitate this change, and 2) to prepare and present to our membership changes to our bylaws to enact this change in our leadership structure. A copy of the NCC bylaws with the proposed changes is included at the end of this newsletter. The vote to approve will take place at the NCC membership meeting in Puerto Rico, currently schedule for 5:45 – 6:30 pm on June 6th. If attending the SWS meeting in Puerto Rico, please also attend our chapter meeting and vote on this important change.

Lastly, I want to provide an update on preparations for our Chapter's Annual Meeting, this year being held in Fargo, North Dakota. We have the dates nailed down, Thursday October 12th, Friday October 13th, and Saturday October 14th, 2017. Please mark these dates on your calendar as this is shaping up to be a meeting that you will not want to miss. The venue for our meeting is the Radisson Hotel (<https://www.radisson.com/fargo-hotel-nd-58102/fargo>) in downtown Fargo. The Radisson will give us easy access to all that downtown Fargo has to offer. We plan to start the meeting on Thursday with a series of mini-workshops focused on, among other things, providing you with information on what SWS membership has to offer. Included in these mini-workshops will be one focused on publishing in *Wetlands*, led by the editor of the journal and NCC member, Marinus Otte. Other mini-workshops are being identified and will be announced soon. Thursday will conclude with a catered dinner with a guest speaker at the Radisson. Day 2 of the meeting, 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 other students and scientists from across the North Central Region. Lunch and breaks will be provided at the Radisson, but for dinner we will all be on our own to explore the many eating opportunities available within easy walking distance of the hotel. And on Saturday October 15th, we plan to conclude the meeting with an all-day field trip into Minnesota, where we will explore the [beach ridges of Glacial Lake Agassiz](#), visit the [headwaters of the Mississippi at Itasca State Park](#), and search for [carnivorous wetland plants near Bemidji](#), 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? More information on submitting abstracts to present, registering for the meeting and field trip, room blocks at the hotel, etc., etc., etc. will be coming to you soon. Having a good attendance at this meeting will be key to its success and also to our plans to continue holding these meetings each year, thereby providing our members with unique opportunities to meet, explore, and form new contacts and relationships in areas throughout the vast 10-state region of our Chapter.

I will close by saying that my past two years as President of this outstanding Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists has been a wonderful and educational experience. I look forward to serving the NCC as your Past-President for the next two years and to seeing many of you in Fargo this coming Fall. Enjoy this issue of your newsletter, and please be sure to cast your vote for officers in April and attend the NCC membership meeting if you are at the Puerto Rico meeting!!!

Dave Mushet, NCC President
dmushet@usgs.gov

2017 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT-ELECT (One candidate for one position)

Candidate: Dr. Christina LM Hargiss

Background: Dr. Christina Hargiss has been an active member of the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) since 2008. She is currently an Assistant Professor at North Dakota State University (NDSU) in the School of Natural Resource Sciences. She earned her Ph.D. in Natural Resources Management from NDSU in 2009. Christina has researched various aspects of Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) wetlands for the past 20 years. She helped lead North Dakota's efforts for the National Wetland Condition Assessment in 2011 and 2016 and has taken part in numerous research studies throughout the PPR and surrounding areas. Her research interests involve the impacts of energy development and urbanization on wetlands, wetland assessment, and water quality.



SWS Volunteer Experience:

Dr. Hargiss has attended numerous SWS annual and regional meetings and has been the lead or co-author on 14 abstracts and one invited presentation. While she has never served as an officer within SWS, she has held a number of leadership positions including serving on the Board of Directors for River Keepers (a regional non-profit) for 7 years, with two years as Vice-President. Additionally, Dr. Hargiss has served terms as the Secretary/Treasurer, Vice-President, and President for the North Dakota Coalition for Conservation and Environmental Education.

WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE?

"I have always wanted to be more active in SWS and the North Central Chapter, but until now I had not found the right opportunity. I feel that wetlands and wetland professionals are often undervalued and overlooked, and I would like to help make a change in those views. I welcome the opportunity to take on a leadership role in the main organization that promotes wetlands."

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR THE CHAPTER'S FUTURE?

"In the future I think wetland science, wetland research, and wetland professionals may deal with some contentious political and policy issues. I see the North Central Chapter being a source of sound scientific information and professionals that can provide guidance on emerging issues. Additionally, I will strive in continuing the recruitment of new members and inspired young professionals into the Chapter and wetland sciences."

SECRETARY
(One candidate for one position)

Candidate: Jessica R. Ackerman, M.S., PWS

Background:

- B.S. in Environmental Science from Bowling Green State University
- M.S. in Hydrogeology from Illinois State University
- 5-yr experience as an Assistant Wetlands Geologist for the Illinois State Geological Survey
- Currently serving as the Secretary-Treasurer and IL State Contact for the NCC

SWS Volunteer Experience:

- Membership committee 2015-present
- Co-organized the 2016 and 2017 World Wetlands Day NCC Facebook photo contest
- Represented SWS and the NCC at the Wisconsin Wetlands Association conference 2017



WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE?

“I’ve enjoyed serving on the board the last two years, and wish to continue serving and being involved in the chapter in this way. I also enjoy meeting our chapter members and hearing from them how we can better serve our region.”

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR THE CHAPTER’S FUTURE?

“I hope we grow – both with more membership and financially! We could use a well-attended regional meeting and a national meeting in our region, and I’ll continue to advocate for that. I also envision our chapter to continue to be in support of students through board representation, research and travel grants, and the encouragement of meeting participation.”

TREASURER
(One candidate for one position)

Candidate: Eric T. Plankell, M.S., PG

Background:

Member, The Geological Society of America (since 2011)
Licensed Professional Geologist for State of Illinois (since 2007)
Member, Society of Wetland Scientists (since 2004)
M.S., Geology, The Ohio State University (2000)
B.S., Geology, The Ohio State University (1997)

Eric has been employed at the Wetlands Geology Section of the Illinois State Geological Survey since 2004. His primary responsibilities include monitoring surface and groundwater hydrology at wetland mitigation sites and monitoring water quality in natural areas and streams receiving runoff from roadways. One project that he is particularly proud of involved providing design recommendations for a wetland that the Illinois Department of Transportation built in 2010, near Freeport, Illinois.



SWS Volunteer Experience:

- Will be presenting talk entitled “Accumulation of Metals in Bioswale Soils Along I-294 in Northern Cook County, Illinois” at 2017 SWS Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico
- Presented poster entitled “Water-Quality Impacts to a Forested Fen as a Result of Roadway Deicing Activities” at 2014 Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting, Portland, OR (2014)
- Served as Illinois state contact for NCC (2008-2012)
- Judged student papers/posters at 2010 SWS Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT (2010) *has volunteered to do the same at 2017 SWS Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico

WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE?

“I would like to become more active in the organization, with the hopes of establishing some new contacts and friendships along the way.”

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR THE CHAPTER’S FUTURE?

“I would like to see the NCC continue its efforts in encouraging and supporting student participation in the organization, and I am supportive of the Chapter’s Annual meetings. If elected I would look for ways to help support both of those initiatives.”

**Student Representative
(Two candidates for one position)**

Candidate: Nicole Alysia Ellingson

Background:

B.S. Natural Resources Management – North Dakota State University (2016) (Summa Cum Laude)

M.S. Natural Resources Management – North Dakota State University (anticipated graduation December 2018)

Undergraduate research experience on a wetland restoration project in Southeastern North Dakota. Presented poster on research at the 2016 SWS Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Graduate Research Assistant, School of Natural Resource Sciences, North Dakota State University (January 2017 – present)

Student Trainee – US Fish and Wildlife Service, Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (May 2016 – August 2016)

Undergraduate Research Technician, School of natural Resource Sciences, North Dakota State University (March 2016 – May 2016)

Natural Resource Management Technician – School of Natural Resource Sciences, North Dakota State University (May 2015 – September 2015)

Water Craft Inspector Intern, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (May 2014 – August 2014)



WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE?

“I would like to serve as the student representative because I believe my experience participating in SWS as a student has given me a unique perspective about the organization. I participated in wetland research as an undergraduate student and was fortunate enough to be able to attend the national meeting in Corpus Christ, TX in 2016. The symposiums and oral presentations opened my eyes to all that wetlands and wetland research has to offer. After reflecting on this experience, I realize how important it is for students, both graduate and undergraduate, to be engaged in organizations like SWS.”

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR THE CHAPTER’S FUTURE?

“For the future of the chapter, I envision continued or even increased support for student involvement. Travel grants and scholarships for students to attend conferences are fantastic, as they provide excellent opportunities to learn more about wetlands, but also allow students to meet professionals in the field. Yet, supporting student involvement could also involve encouraging more undergraduate (or graduate) students to participate in research, while providing resources (providing information about non-SWS grants, scholarships, and assistantships) to students.”

Candidate: Bree Richardson

Background:

Masters of Science, May 2018; Kent State University, Kent, OH; Major:

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Bachelor of Science, May 2015; University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point,

Stevens Point, WI, Major: Water Resources, Minor: Soil Science

Graduate Research Assistant, Kent State University, Jun. 2016–Present

Chemistry Technician III, North Carolina Department of Agriculture,

Raleigh, NC, Jul. 2015–Jun. 2016

Associate in Research, Duke University, Durham, NC, May 2015–Jul.

2015

Biogeochemistry Research Laboratory Assistant, College of Natural

Resources, UWSP, Stevens Point, WI, Jan. 2012–May 2015

Natural Resource Intern, Student Conservation Association (SCA),

McCloud, CA, Jul. 2013–Sep. 2013

Awards: Outstanding Water Resources Student - UWSP CNR, Best

Undergraduate Presentation–Society for Freshwater Science, Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation–

Wisconsin AWRA Conference, Highest Honors Oral Presentation–UWSP CNR Research Symposium,

Chancellor’s Leadership Award–UWSP, Silver Presidential Volunteer Service Award, James Jay Harvey

Research Award–UWSP CNR, AmeriCorps Education Award, Gold and Bronze Presidential Volunteer

Service Awards



WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE?

“I wish to serve as the student representative for the North Central Chapter to maximize my involvement with the Society of Wetland Scientists. I hope to connect with other students and professionals to collaborate on research and wetland conservation ideas. As an aspiring wetland scientist, I am eager to share my ideas for member participation and involvement. I am well organized and determined to make an impact in the field of wetland science. Involvement with SWS is the best way for me to reach more people and help advance the organization.”

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR THE CHAPTER’S FUTURE?

“I envision the future of the North Central chapter will have a strong emphasis on educating the public and school children about the importance of wetlands and water resource conservation. I have several ideas on activities and presentations for teachers to use in the classroom to teach students about why it is important to care about wetlands. I also envision more local meet and greet activities for students and professionals to connect and share ideas to create a stronger wetland community.”

Board Member
(Three candidates for two positions)

Candidate: Joy E. Marburger, Ph.D.

Background:

Education:

- University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, Ph.D.; Agronomy/Plant Sciences (Genetics)
- Bowling Green State University, Ohio, Bowling Green, Ohio, M.S.; Biology/Botany
- Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania, B.S., Biology/Art

Experience:

- 1/2016-present, Adjunct Professor of Biology, Purdue University Northwest, Westville, Indiana 46391
- 7/2002-12/2015, Natural Resources Program Manager (Research Coordinator-10 national parks), Great Lakes Research and Education Center, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, National Park Service, Porter, Indiana 46304
- 7/1993-7/2002, Environmental Scientist, St. Johns River Water Management District, Palatka, Florida 32178

International Experience:

- US-Sino Science Education Exchange, 2010; Shanghai, China, sponsored by National Science Teachers Association
- US Fish and Wildlife Service Research Grant, 1986; Keolodeo National Park, Rajasthan, India; developed and published a plant key to the park's vegetation
- Peace Corps Volunteer, Sierra Leone, West Africa, 1969-72; secondary school teacher (British system), biology, general science, art (grades 6 through community college equivalent)

SWS Volunteer Experience:

- Speaker: Best Management Practices for Climate Change Adaptation: A Wetlands Perspective, SWS Annual Meeting, Providence, Rhode Island, May 2015
- Organizer and speaker, Invasive Species session for *Novel Ecosystems Symposium*, INTECOL-SWS Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida, June 2012
- Organizer and speaker, the North Central Chapter SWS meeting, Indiana Dunes NL, Indiana, September 2012
- Organizer and speaker, *SWS Symposium, Genetics and Ecology of Cattail Invasions: Implications for Wetland Management*, SWS Annual Meeting, Madison, Wisconsin, June 2009
- Committee member in the SWS Professional Wetland Scientist certification committee, 2003–2012
- Organizer and speaker, *SWS Education and Outreach Symposium (What You Need to Know for Our Field's Future: A Special Student Symposium)*, SWS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, June 2003



Candidate: Jessica Monson, MS, WPIT

Background:

Education:

University of Iowa:

B.S. - geoscience

M.S. – soil science and Quaternary Geology

Experience:

University of Illinois in Champaign:

5+ years working for the Wetlands Geology Section at the Illinois State Geological Survey, Currently Assistant Wetlands Geologist

Other relevant information:

Certified as a Wetland Professional in Training by SWS (October 2016)



SWS Volunteer Experience:

Served as co-Illinois State Representative for the North Central Chapter of SWS with Jessica Ackerman

WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE?

“I would like to serve as an at-large board member for the North Central Chapter of SWS in order to become more involved with the wetland science community.”

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR THE CHAPTER’S FUTURE?

“I envision increasing the chapter’s availability and activities for wetland scientists of the region.”

Candidate: Liz Pelloso, PWS

Background: Since 2011, Liz has served as a wetland and environmental scientist for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in Chicago, Illinois. Her responsibilities within USEPA’s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementation Section primarily involve reviewing draft and final NEPA documents for which Federal funds, grants, permits, or other actions are required, and providing comments as necessary as they relate to air & water quality, wetlands, threatened and endangered species, historic resources, noise, environmental justice, and other environmental impacts. Specifically, as a Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS), Liz specializes in review of potential impacts to wetland and aquatic resources. Before joining USEPA, Liz spent seven years as a Wetlands Project Manager for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) in Indianapolis. Liz received her B.S. in Environmental Science from DePaul University in Chicago, and received a double masters (MSES and MPA) from Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA). Outside of work, she also serves on the DePaul University Alumni board, the Indiana University SPEA Alumni Board of Directors, and has been a board member of the Society of Wetland Scientists – North Central Chapter since 2010, and a board member of the Illinois Association of Environmental Professionals since 2012. In her free time, Liz enjoys hiking, reading, looking out for unauthorized activities in wetlands/wetland violations, and spending time with her daughter Holly, who was born in January 2017.



SWS Volunteer Experience: Liz has been involved with the North Central Chapter in both her previous capacity as a wetlands project manager for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management as well as during her time at USEPA.

WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE?

"I have enjoyed bringing my experience and perspective on applied science and policy, as both a state wetland regulator and a NEPA reviewer, to further the goals of SWS. Additionally, while acknowledging that SWS is heavily influenced by academia, there are plenty of members in both the private and public sector who need to be represented!"

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR THE CHAPTER'S FUTURE?

"I would like to see us continue to grow our membership, encourage student participation and representation, and grow our annual chapter meetings. It would also be great to partner with other organizations, such as the Wisconsin Wetlands Association and the Michigan Wetlands Association, to provide events, trainings, and seminars."

HIGHLIGHTED STUDENT

BY CASEY JUDGE

Dave Mshet provided the nomination for this quarter's highlighted student, Kyle McLean. Kyle is a 1st year PhD student in Environmental and Conservation Science at North Dakota State University. As Dave stated in his nomination, "Kyle has shown great initiative to further our understanding of the functioning of prairie-pothole wetland ecosystems in the face of a changing climate. His Master's work focused on identifying and documenting changes that have occurred in these valued wetland ecosystems during a period in which changing precipitation patterns have filled basins to levels likely not experienced in the previous 500 years. His PhD work is focused on developing a deeper understanding of the response of wetland systems to climate fluctuations through the use of structural equation modeling techniques. Kyle's enthusiasm for anything "wetland" and participation in many SWS activities makes him an ideal



student to be highlighted by the Chapter." Thanks for the nomination, Dave! Kyle describes his research interests as prairie pothole wetland community ecology, and to that end he has a number of publications listed below that I encourage you to check out. Additionally, Kyle was the 2013 NCC Travel Award recipient during his Master's program.

Why did you become interested in Wetland Science?

I have been drawn to aquatic ecosystems for as long as I can remember. So naturally, when I moved from the state of Washington to North Dakota in 2008 I found myself spending a lot of time in the prairie potholes. I have been involved with a number of wetland studies where I have had opportunities to collect data on bird, fish, amphibian, invertebrate, and plant communities. Currently I am interested in putting the pieces together

in an attempt to gain a better understanding of how different components of biological communities (e.g., invertebrates, birds, amphibians...) interact and how they respond to changes in abiotic conditions.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of your research?

The hobbies and interests that initially come to mind are snorkeling (wetlands and streams are my favorite), paddling, birding, and charcuterie. In actuality, I spend a lot of my down time eating, watching cheesy crime shows, and browsing through Wikipedia.

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

Just last year I was doing some vegetation assessments in CRP fields throughout the Dakotas. I was trying to locate a field that was probably a quarter mile from the Canadian Border. To get to the field I missed the section road I needed to turn on and turned around at the border crossing. At the time I did not realize I probably looked super suspicious to the border patrol when I turned around and took the first dirt road away from them. Well I had to go about a mile west and a tiny bit north on some low maintenance roads to get to the field. Just about the time I turned north in what ended up being a flooded road and had to stop I see the border patrol come barreling behind me. Apparently, my reasoning for being there seemed too strange to them to be made up, we had a little laugh, and I finished my survey.

Publications

When he's not getting hassled by Canadian board patrol, Kyle has been busily adding to the compilation of wetland research. His publications and links to the papers are listed here for you to check out:

McLean, K. I., Mushet, D. M., Renton, D. A., & Stockwell, C. A. (2016). Aquatic-Macroinvertebrate Communities of Prairie-Pothole Wetlands and Lakes Under a Changed Climate. *Wetlands*, 36(2), 423-435. <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/70178339>

Stockwell, C. A., Fisher, J. D., & McLean, K. I. (2016). Clinal Patterns in Genetic Variation for Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*): Conservation Status and Population Histories. *Wetlands*, 36(2), 437-443. <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/70178571>

McLean, K. I., Mushet, D. M., & Stockwell, C. A. (2016). From "duck factory" to "fish factory": climate induced changes in vertebrate communities of prairie pothole wetlands and small lakes. *Wetlands*, 36(2), 407-421. <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/70170157>

McLean, K. I., Stockwell, C. A., & Mushet, D. M. (2016). Cannibalistic-morph Tiger Salamanders in Unexpected Ecological Contexts. *The American Midland Naturalist*, 175(1), 64-72. <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/70162004>

Mushet, D. M., Goldhaber, M. B., Mills, C. T., McLean, K. I., Aparicio, V. M., McCleskey, R. B., ... & Stockwell, C. A. (2015). *Chemical and biotic characteristics of prairie lakes and large wetlands in south-central North Dakota—Effects of a changing climate* (No. 2015-5126). US Geological Survey. <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sir20155126>

Igl, L. D., Chepulis, B. J., & McLean, K. I. (2014). Historic and recent nesting records of Turkey Vultures in South Dakota. *South Dakota Bird Notes*, 66(1), 8-17. <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/70099778>

Mushet, D. M., McLean, K. I., & Stockwell, C. A. (2013). Salamander colonization of Chase Lake, Stutsman County, North Dakota. *The Prairie Naturalist*, 45, 106-108.

<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/70060519>

NOTES FROM AROUND THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION

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

NOAA has several ongoing projects in the lower Muskegon River, Detoit River, and other parts of Michigan. Check them out at <http://bit.ly/2mFNt8r>

If you live or are working near the Pellston area, you might be interested in the resources provided through the University of Michigan Biological Station (<http://bit.ly/2mYnAkF>)

Don't forget about the great research coming out of the peatlands and other areas within the USFWS Seney National Wildlife Refuge (<http://bit.ly/2mlOsd1>)

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

<http://www.dupageforest.org/danada-wetland-project/>

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, along with DuPage County Stormwater Management, are working to create and restore wetlands and prairie at Danada Forest Preserve in Wheaton, IL. The project will restore approximately 21 acres of wetlands and 23 acres of prairie.

<http://dailyegyptian.com/66089/news/if-proposed-cuts-are-implemented-sius-67-year-old-wildlife-research-laboratory-will-close-director-says/>

Southern Illinois University's Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory is in danger of taking quite the budget cut if the IL state budget does not pass by July. This is just one of many university and state wetland programs in IL that are being affected by the state budget impasse.

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

Nationwide Permits (NWPs) Coming to Wisconsin

For the last 15 years, NWPs were not issued for Wisconsin. The St. Paul District issued NWPs only for activities regulated by Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. In lieu of NWPs for activities that are regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (and which result in minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects), the St. Paul District previously issued regional general permits specific to Wisconsin. Since many of these regional general permits are very similar to the NWPs, the District is considering issuing Section 404 NWPs along with re-issuing all Section 10 NWPs.

Wisconsin Wetland Conservation Trust (WWCT) Program

This is Wisconsin's In-Lieu-Fee (ILF) program for wetland compensatory mitigation, which acts as an additional mitigation method to offset wetland impacts by funding projects. The second request for proposals (RFP) has been issued with \$8.7 million dollars available within 9 service areas. The RFP due date is April 28, 2017. A new scoring criteria sheet has been developed and the application is a fillable PDF. Documents and information can be found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/wwct.html>

Lesser celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*: A wetland invasive to look for in spring

The Wisconsin Wetland Association is alerting landowners to keep an eye out for lesser celandine, which is an aquatic invasive plant. This invasive plant is listed as **Prohibited** in Wisconsin, which means that it is not currently found in Wisconsin, with the exception being isolated to a specific watershed in the state but which, if introduced into the state, is likely to survive and spread. At a distance lesser celandine can easily be confused with the native plant, marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*). So make sure to take a closer look. <http://wisconsinwetlands.org/updates/lesser-celandine-a-wetland-invasive-to-look-for-in-spring/>

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

This coming summer, a UNL graduate student (Cody Dreier) and a field crew will visit sample locations throughout Nebraska and collect level 1 (landscape), level 2 (rapid assessment method), and level 3 (on-site measurements) wetland assessment data. This is the second and final field season for this study. The data collection methods will conform to the protocol established by EPA for the 2016 National Wetland Condition Assessment (NWCA). The indicators that will be evaluated for the level 3 assessment include vegetation, water quality, soils, and hydrology. Outcomes of this project will be an improved understanding of the condition of Nebraska's wetlands that can be used to target wetland conservation efforts, track invasive species distribution changes, evaluate potential climate change effects on wetlands, and describe the range of reference conditions for key and vulnerable wetland complexes in the state that are also representative of many wetlands throughout the Great Plains. This project is being funded by a State Wetland Program Development Grant from EPA Region 7.

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)

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

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

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

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

Casey Judge, Student Representative

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>

**BYLAWS OF THE
NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS**

With Proposed Changes

ARTICLE I
Names and Objectives

1. The name of the organization shall be the NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS, hereinafter referred to as the Chapter and as the Society. Qualified persons residing within the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin who are also members in good standing with the Society of Wetland Scientists are eligible for Chapter membership.
2. The objectives are as follows:
 - a. Operate solely and exclusively as a charitable and educational organization to foster conservation and understanding of wetlands.
 - b. Provide an independent forum for an interchange of ideas and data developed within wetland science in the North Central Region (hereinafter referred to as the Region).
 - c. Develop and promote wetland science as a distinct discipline within the Region.
 - d. Promote and evaluate the educational, scientific, and technological development and advancement of all branches of wetland science and practice within the Region.
 - e. Further the knowledge of wetland resources and encourage wetland protection, restoration, and stewardship within the Region.
 - f. Encourage a fraternity of scientists based on shared knowledge, dedication, friendship, and mutual professionalism within the Region.
3. For the administration of the affairs and the attainment of the objectives of the Chapter, the Chapter shall have the power, either directly or indirectly, either alone or in conjunction or cooperation with others, to do any and all lawful acts and things, and to engage in any and all lawful activities that may be necessary, useful, suitable, desirable, or proper for the furtherance, accomplishment, fostering, or attainment of any or all of the objectives for which the Chapter is organized, as set forth in Article First a-e, and to aid and assist other organizations whose objectives are such as to further accomplish, foster, or attain any of such objectives.
4. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Chapter shall neither have nor exercise any power, nor shall it directly or indirectly engage in any activity that would cause the Society to lose exempt status from Federal income taxation as a corporation as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and its regulations as the same now exist or as they may hereafter be amended from time to time.

ARTICLE II
Membership and Election of Members

1. The membership of the Chapter shall be of the same classes defined in the Society Bylaws and Standing Rules.
2. As used in the Bylaws and Standing Rules, the term "member in good standing" refers to a Chapter member within the Region who is a member of the Society in good standing, with dues paid in the current calendar year.

ARTICLE III Officers and Board of Directors

1. The Officers of the Chapter shall be President, President-elect, ~~and~~ Secretary, ~~and~~ Treasurer. Additionally, there shall be two Board Members and a student representative who are elected by Chapter members. The Immediate Past President and the elected officers, board members, and student representative constitute the Executive Board of the Chapter who shall have the authority to meet in closed sessions.
2. Only active members in good standing shall be eligible for nomination for an elected Chapter office. The student representative must also be a graduate or undergraduate student in good standing at a college or university within the Region.
3.
 - a. All elected officers shall serve for a period of two years, elected board members shall serve for a period of two years, and the student representative shall serve for a period of one year.
 - b. The President shall serve only one term in office and upon the termination of that term, shall immediately become the Past President and continue as a member of the Executive Board.
 - c. The President-elect shall serve one term in that office and shall automatically succeed the President for one term in office.
 - d. The officers, board members, and student representative of the Chapter and the members in any Standing or special Committee shall continue to serve and be responsible for the business and activities of the Chapter in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws, or Robert's Rules of Order in the absence of specific guidelines, until new elections are held.
 - e. If an officer, board member, or student representative cannot fulfill or complete the term of office to which he or she was elected, the Executive Board is authorized to appoint a replacement until an election is held at the next annual meeting.
4.
 - a. Society Board of Directors Meetings: The President will serve as the North Central Chapter (NCC) representative at all Society Board of Directors (BOD) Meetings. Chapter funds may be used to pay for all travel costs for the President to attend the BOD meetings if non-Society funds are not available. If the President is not able to attend a Society BOD meeting, then the other NCC Executive Committee (EC) members will be asked to attend in the President's place. The request to represent the NCC at the BOD meeting will be offered, in this order, to the following people: President-elect, Secretary, ~~and~~ Treasurer, Immediate Past President, Board Member-at-Large with the most time in their position, and the Board Member-at-Large with the least time in their position. If none of the people

named above can attend the meeting, then a written report will be prepared by the President and distributed to the Society Board of Directors.

- b. NCC Business Meetings: When a Chapter business meeting does not occur in conjunction with the Society Annual Meeting (e.g., regional node meetings), the President will have the discretion to authorize use of Chapter funds to pay for all travel costs for one NCC EC member to attend and conduct the meeting. Selection of that person will follow the order outlined above.
- c. Other Events: Unless there is a specific and valid need for the President or another NCC EC member to attend an event and officially represent the Chapter's interests, Chapter funds may not be used to pay for travel costs of EC members attending professional events (e.g., meetings, conferences, workshops, training, field trips) or any non-professional activities.

ARTICLE IV Meeting and Voting

1. The Chapter shall meet twice annually; at the site of the Society annual meeting and at a place to be determined by the Executive Board.
2. In the event of an emergency, the Executive Board may cancel a meeting or change the place of meeting, or order a Special Meeting. If a meeting is canceled, the Executive Board shall schedule the next meeting and a place agreed upon among the Board.
3. A quorum for the transaction of official business of the Chapter shall consists of at least three (3) members of the Executive Board of the Chapter along with any number of active members in good standing present.
4. A motion to amend the Bylaws or to establish or dissolve a Standing Committee shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting. A Special Committee may be established or dissolved at the Executive Board's discretion or upon completion of that committee's appointed task(s).
5. The Chapter Secretary-~~Treasurer~~ shall certify the voting status of members and determine quorum. Any board member present may perform these functions in the Secretary-~~Treasurer~~'s absence.

ARTICLE V Adoption of Standing Rules

1. The Executive Board is authorized to adopt and amend Standing Rules necessary for conduct of Chapter business by a majority vote.
2. The Standing rules must include, but shall not be limited to, the following:
 - a. Matters pertaining to Chapter finances.
 - b. Prescribed duties of Chapter officers and Board Members.

- c. Provisions for the establishment, duties, and methods of selection of Standing Committees and other committees necessary to conduct the business of the Chapter. A Standing Committee is defined as one that is established permanently in the Bylaws as part of the basic organization of the Chapter, or by amendment of said Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI Amendment of Bylaws

1. The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing who attend a Chapter business meeting. Proposals for amendments may be generated in the following ways:
 - a. Recommendation of a majority of voting members of the Executive Board.
 - b. Petitions signed by not fewer than twenty members in good standing or 10 percent of the Chapter membership eligible to vote, whichever is fewer, and presented to the President at the next business meeting.
2. Proposed amendments shall be submitted or petitioned at one business meeting and voted on at the next business meeting of the Chapter.

ARTICLE VII Dissolution of the Chapter

1. If the Society is dissolved, the Chapter is also dissolved, and all Chapter net assets will be distributed to a similar not-for-profit organization. Designation of the organization(s) to receive said assets will be at the discretion of both the Chapter Executive Board and the Society Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII Chapter and Society Representation

1. No member of the Society will represent the Society without prior approval of the Society Board of Directors nor represent the Chapter without prior approval of the Chapter Executive Board.