



The North Central Chapter

Society of Wetland Scientists

NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER Spring, 2021

PRESIDENTS NOTE

Happy Spring! I hope you are able to enjoy the sights and sounds of spring like the birds chirping and the grass growing. As the covid vaccine is becoming more available and lives are inching closer to “normal” there is reason to feel joy and celebrate. Recently a memory came up on Facebook of when the country went into “lockdown” and my kids started distance learning. At the time we were all a little excited and thought it might be challenging and fun. I am glad nobody told me at that point what the year would bring. I am truly amazed at where we are all at one year later. We are coming out on the other side of this pandemic with some scars, but hopefully as a more resilient people that can enjoy the simple pleasures of everyday life. I hope this year you all have time to step outside, stretch your legs and spend some time in wetlands reinvigorating your passion.

Since the Winter Newsletter the board has been busy. We were encouraged by the SWS President and main office to update our logo. We have a couple of great options to show you and for the chapter to vote on (see details later in the newsletter). We hope you like the options as much as we do.

It is also time to elect new officers. If you aren't familiar with the NCC process, most of our officer/board positions are on a two-year cycle. We have had some great people serving the chapter these past two years. Some will be stepping down, and we greatly appreciate your service! While others will be transitioning into a new phase of their position. Casey Judge will be the new President, and I have no doubt our chapter will be very successful in her capable hands. Julie Nieset has done a great job getting together a list of fantastic candidates for officer and board positions that need to be elected, thank you Julie! Information on voting and candidate bios can be found later in the newsletter. Please read through them and vote soon.

Also, keep in mind the 2021 SWS annual meeting will be virtual. I hope that will open opportunity for more people to attend. The new officers will be installed during the NCC business meeting, more info on that will come later.

I hope you all have a great spring and take some time to get out there and get your feet wet.

Christina Hargiss, NCC President

Christina.hargiss@ndsu.edu

NCC OFFICER ELECTIONS

NCC Board elections are open April 12 – 26, 2021. President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, Student Representative and two At-Large Board Members comprise the positions to be filled with this election. All positions serve for a 2-year term except for the Student Representative position which are a one-year term. **See candidate information at the end of the newsletter starting on P.10.** You will soon be getting a message from SWS on how to vote. Please take some time to look over the information provided by the candidates and vote when you receive the email from SWS. Candidates will be installed during the NCC meeting held as a part of the virtual SWS 2021 Annual Meeting in June. We wish the best of luck to all the candidates and are grateful for your desire to give of your time and talents to our Chapter!



Many of us are already familiar with the SWS Wetlands of Distinction (WOD) program - the initiative to raise public awareness of wetlands and their many benefits to human health and the environment. SWS is also collaborating with the US National Ramsar Committee so that this initiative can become a vehicle for identifying and processing future applications for US Ramsar designation. This program is ongoing, and your support is always appreciated! We have about a dozen WOD's certified in the NCC region and there are many more that could be added.

Criteria for Wetland of Distinction qualifications, the instructions for completing an application on behalf of a wetland, searching the database for WOD's, and for more information go to:

<https://www.wetlandsofdistinction.org/> If you would like to become more involved with this program in our region please contact Julie Nieset jenieset@illinois.edu

UPDATING THE NCC LOGO

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 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

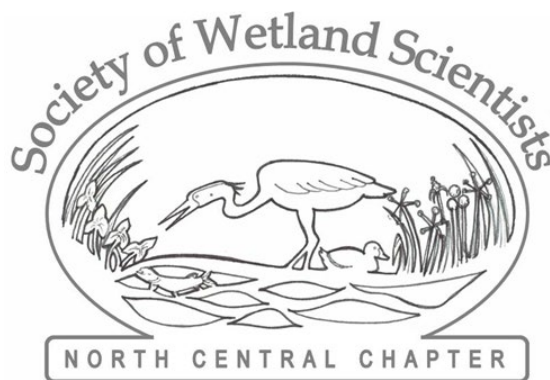
jen.boyer@dupageco.org

A look back

The current North Central Chapter logo was designed in 2005 by Dr. Sharon Kahara (Humboldt State University, CA). At the time, she was a Ph.D. candidate at South Dakota State University. The Chapter held a contest for members to submit logo ideas, and Sharon remembers submitting her design ‘on a lark.’ This is what she says about the artwork:

“It was an enormous surprise to have the logo selected by the North Central Chapter, especially being a new and (relatively) young wetlands ecologist. Participation in the logo’s development also gave me a strong sense of belonging and acceptance in the wetland community, which is something I strive to help my students achieve, particularly those from minoritized groups. Unfortunately, after all these years I had lost all images of the logo and had to search for a copy online! [After I had reached out to her.]

After receiving my BSc. in biology, I worked for two years in a publishing and design firm before deciding to return to the sciences. I encourage students to broaden their interests and integrate their passions in their scientific endeavors. Over the years, I’ve seen students use wetlands and wildlife as the inspiration to their hobbies including photography, music, jewelry and tattoos. In the logo I wanted to impart a sense of fluidity and connectedness. Hydrology is the key factor linking wetland flora and fauna and everything in the wetland.” – Dr. Sharon Kahara



Certainly, Sharon’s artwork has served us well over the years! Integrating science and art is something I think many of us relate to. If you enjoy creating art, I hope you will find yourself inspired to participate in future NCC/SWS art shows or contests.

Moving forward

This spring, the North Central Chapter was asked to update its logo in order to conform to the SWS brand standards. Kristin McGuine, graphic designer with the SWS business office, has helped us design 3 options for our members to vote on. There are two primary themes that we worked with for these options: geographic and historic.

Choice 1: The geographic logo is designed from a map of our chapter region in a style similar to logos used by the New England, Europe, and Latin America & Caribbean chapters. Uniquely, we have opted to keep the individual states and Great Lakes distinguishable in the design. The concept represented with this theme is simple – showing our chapter region and our association within SWS.





Choice 2: The historic logo, with permission from Dr. Sharon Kahara to continue to use and modify her artwork, reimagines elements from her design in a new way. Beyond the reflection of hydrology as the linking element between everything within the wetland, continued use of the design maintains a piece of our chapter history. It represents chapter that

integrate science and art, helping to build our community.

Choice 3: The third logo option is a hybrid of the geographic and historic logo concepts. Replacing the SWS main logo elements with those that Kristin pulled from Sharon’s artwork, it merges the two themes into something unique.



We are so grateful for the talent and time that both Dr. Sharon Kahara and Kristin McGuine provided in these designs and look forward to unveiling the chosen logo in June. We hope that you will get involved by voting for the logo you prefer most! Look for the logo voting options when filling in your ballot for the NCC board elections.

-Casey Judge

SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS ANNUAL MEETING 2021 Virtual on June 1, 3, 8, 9, 10

Registration: <https://pheedloop.com/sws2021annualmeeting/site/RegistrationInfo/>

As we move the SWS 2021 Annual Meeting completely online, we look forward to offering you the same vibrant programming, impactful networking, and opportunities to reflect and connect over the emerging and important topics in our field. Centered around the theme Wetland Sciences 2021: Adaptation Drives Innovation, the virtual meeting will include opportunities for engagement, including symposia, contributed sessions, workshops, plenary sessions, and space to connect with other attendees from across the globe.

All presentations will be pre-recorded but broadcasted live. There will be a live, interactive Q and A after each session. In addition to participating in the live event, all attendees will have access to on-demand recordings following the live event.

The meeting program will now be spread out over the first two weeks of June, on Tuesday and Thursday, to ensure that content is delivered in more digestible segments. All sessions will be easily accessible on-demand for attendees to view at their own convenience.

Moving our face-to-face meeting to a fully virtual format presents us with the unique opportunity to create meaningful collaboration and the ability to reflect and connect with colleagues around the world.

Because of this, our program reflects the different time zones of our attendees to the best of our ability. We hope that you will join us for this reimagined event and celebrate our collective resilience and dedication to tackling the world’s more challenging wetland management issues.

NCC Annual Meeting at SWS

The NCC annual meeting will be held on Thursday June 3rd @ Noon **Central Time**. Please look for an email with the link or use the following zoom link (Meeting ID: 993 1782 8108 and Passcode: 232578). <https://ndsu.zoom.us/j/99317828108?pwd=YUovRitnOG92YktOb3dlSU80YWWhGUT09>

JOINT AQUATIC SCIENCES MEETING



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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. SWS volunteers will be working closely with volunteers from the other Consortium of Aquatic Science Societies (CASS), and American Fisheries (AFS) is the lead society. If you would like more information, or to be involved in any of the following committees, please reach out to Casey Judge (casey.judge@iowaagriculture.gov).

SUBCOMMITTEE (No. of volunteers needed)	ABOUT
Program Management (?)	This committee will need additional volunteers later, especially for reviewing abstract submissions. Currently it is being subdivided into the following focus areas: oral/poster presentations, plenary, professional development/workshops, integrative (informal) events
Local Arrangements (4-6)	This committee currently has the greatest need for volunteers! They are working on organizing a fun run, putting together local area information, arranging childcare during the meeting, welcome events, and meeting signs
Trade Show (2)	(Not active yet, will be soon) Organization of the vendor trade show.
Student Activities (2-3)	Calling students! This committee is working on developing both formal and informal program content focused on students.

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

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 to volunteer, see JASM on P.5.

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

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.

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/swammp/>

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.

REGIONAL NEWS

INDIANA: (State Contact, Joy Marburger, PhD, jmarburg@frontier.com)

2021 INDIANA STATE ACTION ON ISOLATED WETLANDS

Anti-wetlands Bill 2021, SB 389

SB 389 would eliminate protection of state wetlands in Indiana, and most of Indiana's wetlands are state wetlands. This bill was sponsored mainly by the Indiana Builders Association and developers. The bill repeals the law requiring a permit from the IDEM (the Department of Environmental Management) for wetland activity in a state regulated wetland. SB 389 would not impact wetlands that are federally protected — but that covers the minority of wetlands in Indiana, according to IDEM. Indiana has already lost 85% of its original wetlands and, of the wetlands remaining, 80 - 90% are state wetlands which are in jeopardy if this bill passes. Most of these remaining wetlands, up to 80%, are isolated wetlands. In 2003 the legislature recognized the value of preserving the remaining wetlands and wrote the state

wetlands law. Under Obama-era regulation, federal protections applied to about 60% of Indiana's wetlands. But after the Trump administration changed those regulations last year, that number fell to 20%.

A point of concern for SB 389 authors is that sometimes IDEM will ask landowners to pay for mitigation at ratios higher than 1:1. In some cases, landowners pay rates as high as 4:1 — meaning if they destroy one acre of wetlands, they must pay to mitigate at least four acres. The reason for this is that wetlands exist in varying levels of quality. Some wetlands, for example, are forested and support ecologically important species. Others may be disturbed by human activity and lacking in critical habitat.

SB 389 was debated in a hearing in the Senate Environmental Affairs Committee on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. More than 42 environmental organizations opposed this bill. The general public recognizes that wetlands provide water purification, groundwater recharge, and critical wildlife habitat and absorb large quantities of water which reduces flood risk. If SB 389 passes and the state's wetlands protections are repealed, then it might be harder to reinstate them down the line. The protections could still be reinstated through passing a new law. On Feb. 1, **SB 389 passed the Senate by a vote of 29 to 19** with bipartisan opposition. It now goes to the House where it is sponsored by 3 representatives. Any SWS member living in Indiana should contact your representative to oppose this bill.

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

As reported [in the news](#), the EPA recently announced the completion of a \$6.6 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Project in Muskegon and the completion of a \$2.9 million project on the Detroit Riverwalk.

Central Michigan University, Lake Superior State University, Grand Valley State University, the U.S. Geological Survey Great Lakes Science Center, LimnoTech, and other agencies continue to monitor the biota, habitat, and water quality of Great Lakes coastal wetlands through the [EPA Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program](#).

MINNESOTA: (State Contact, Elizabeth Markhart, bethmarkhart@gmail.com)

The State agency responsible for wetland mitigation banking has again solicited applications for banking proposals in targeted areas of the state.

<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/bwsr-accepting-applications-wetland-mitigation-sites>

Virtual training offered by Minnesota Wetland Professionals Association.

<http://bwsr.state.mn.us/wetland-training-opportunities>

IOWA: (State Contact, Paul Weihe, PhD, WeiheP@central.edu)

Iowa celebrates construction of the 100th CREP wetland!

The Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a state, federal, local, and private partnership that provides incentives to landowners who voluntarily establish wetlands for water quality

improvement in the tile-drained, Des Moines Lobe region of Iowa. The goal of the program is to reduce nitrate-nitrogen loads from croplands to streams and rivers. In addition to improving water quality, these wetlands provide wildlife habitat and other benefits. Ongoing performance monitoring is conducted by Iowa State University. This year, Iowa celebrates construction of the 100th CREP wetland! (Event details TBD)

To learn more about the program or access the annual performance monitoring reports visit: <https://iowaagriculture.gov/water-resources-bureau/iowa-conservation-reserve-enhancement-program-crep> and <https://www.iowacre.org/>.

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

Virtual Vernal Poolooza 2021 – Land Management and Recommendations, Friday April 23, 2021, 10:30-11:30CDT <https://www.facebook.com/events/782372042689466>

Virtual Vernal Poolooza 2021 – Vernal Pool Development and Restoration, Friday, May 21, 2021, 10:30-11:30CDT <https://www.facebook.com/events/975433246319301>

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

Audubon Plan Aims to Restore Nearly 300K Acres of Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands to Benefit Birds. <https://www.wpr.org/audubon-plan-aims-restore-nearly-300k-acres-great-lakes-coastal-wetlands-benefit-birds>

Wisconsin DNR awards more than \$6.2 million to protect lakes, rivers. <https://www.nbc15.com/2021/03/12/wis-dnr-awards-more-than-62-million-to-protect-lakes-rivers/>

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

Exploring how to construct wetlands on farms and boost conservation. <https://www.agdaily.com/news/exploring-construct-wetlands-farms-boost-conservatoin/>

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

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

SOUTH DAKOTA: (State Contact, Vacant-Contact christina.hargiss@ndsu.edu)

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>

Ohio Wetlands Association

Virtual Vernal Poolooza 2021 – Land Management and Recommendations, Friday April 23, 2021, 10:30-11:30CDT <https://www.facebook.com/events/782372042689466>

Virtual Vernal Poolooza 2021 – Vernal Pool Development and Restoration, Friday, May 21, 2021, 10:30-11:30CDT <https://www.facebook.com/events/975433246319301>

University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign

Offered by the Prairie Research Institute and the Urbana Free Library on April 24 at 2-3PM
<https://urbanafreelibrary.libnet.info/event/4996249>

Join wetland scientists from the Prairie Research Institute at UIUC for demonstrations, activities, and information about wetland animals, soils, water and plants.

Participants who register can get a kit at The Urbana Free Library (available starting April 19th). Come inside the Library to pick up your kit at the Circulation Desk on the 1st Floor, or you can call 217-367-4057 to schedule a Curbside Pickup. Just ask for the Wetland Wonders Kit.

Offered by SWS Student Chapter at UIUC and the Aces Library on Thursday March 25th at 3 PM:

Applying to Graduate School Workshop

Registration is FREE:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ERh2BbK5rXUSVe4kT5fS2MkPtL9I7tQz9L3GuPvMmAw/edit>

Chapter page: <https://publish.illinois.edu/societyofwetlandscientistsncc/>

CANDIDATE PROFILES

CANDIDATE: Andrew George Robertson, BES, RPFT (Alberta, Canada)

POSITION: President-elect

BACKGROUND: I am currently Executive Director of GeoSpatial Services at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. In this role, I am responsible for oversight and management of all GeoSpatial Services projects, activities and staff. GeoSpatial Services is engaged in a wide variety of projects across the Lower 48 and Alaska including National Wetland Inventory mapping; wetland functional assessment, development of wetland monitoring and assessment methods, wetland program plan development. My academic qualifications include a Forest Technology Diploma from Sault



College of Applied Technology in Ontario, Canada, a B.Sc. in Environmental Science from the University of Waterloo and postgraduate work in forest management at the University of Toronto. I am a member of the board for the Association of State Wetland Managers, steering committee member for the ASWM Wetland Mapping Consortium and past chair of the Alaska GeoSpatial Council Wetland Technical Working Group. My prior board experience includes:

- 2 years as President of the Lakeview Townhome Association (current)
- 7 years as Vice President and President of the Winona Youth Hockey Association,
- 2 years Member at Large City of Winona Recreation Planning Committee,
- 3 years as President of the Simcoe County Condominium Corporate #56,
- 4 years as Level of Play Director for the Whitecourt Hockey Association, and
- 5 years as a member of the GIS Program Advisory Board for Sir Sanford Fleming College.

The application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other information technology (IT) solutions to natural resource management has been at the center of my career for over 30 years. Through a variety of positions, my focus has consistently been on developing and managing strategic partnerships between information technology professionals, resource managers, spatial data specialists and funding agencies. These efforts have been applied to projects of various size and complexity with the goal of achieving faster, cost effective, responsive information technology solutions that take advantage of constantly changing hardware, software and human resources while targeting strategic business needs.

As a recognized leader and professional project manager, I have a diverse background in spatial information systems, watershed planning, wetland inventory, forest management, environmental impact assessment, desktop and server system support and database administration. I am a Registered Professional Forest Technologist (Alberta, Canada) and have experience leading natural resource projects for both private sector companies and public agencies across Canada and the United States including the Department of Interior, United States Army Corp of Engineers, NOAA, and the Department of Agriculture. I have also successfully managed and provided strategic direction for diverse teams of professionals with experience in GIS, surveying, forestry, ecology, biology and information management using structured software development methodologies and formal project management systems.

These management skills are complimented by my diverse background in applied science projects including: forest inventory; site specific and regional level environmental impact assessments; local and regional watershed management plans; and the development of field and map-based vegetation classification systems. Throughout these various initiatives, my focus has been on implementing appropriate information technology solutions (such as GIS, GPS; image analysis, web-based data delivery, mobile applications etc.) to facilitate data analysis, decision support and communication with technical and non-technical groups.

SWS VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

- SWS 2021 – Symposium Coordinator and Speaker
- SWS 2018 – Invited Speaker
- SWS 2018 – Student Presentation Judge

WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE? In short, I am passionate about wetlands! In one way or another, wetlands have been part of my career and personal interest for almost 40 years. My undergraduate thesis in 1987 was focused on the ecological succession of remnant bog ecosystems in Southern Ontario, Canada. That research spurred a running theme in my career, which is the application of sound ecological principals to resource management activities and decision support. For the past 17 years, I have led a group of scientists, resource managers and student technicians focused on the development of wetland inventory techniques and correlating map-based biotic and abiotic characteristics to wetland ecological function.

I am particularly interested in promoting wetland science and management with students in higher education, underserved communities (particularly US indigenous peoples) and the development industry. I am currently playing an active role in hearings on the new Navigable Waters Protection Rule (submitting legal declarations for the defense team in two hearings) because I strongly believe that, while wetland impacts are unavoidable in our society, it is possible to implement appropriate mitigation strategies based on solid science and social compromise. I believe that a leadership role in the society of Wetland Scientists will allow me to promote these objectives.

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR THE CHAPTER'S FUTURE? I envision supporting our current membership through access to opportunities for peer-to-peer sharing, networking and promotion of public-private partnerships that support wetland science and management. This could take the form of webinars, lightning talks, guest lectures, collaborative sessions with other Associations (e.g., WWA, ASWM, ASFPM etc.) and/or chapter meetings. Given that SWS is an international organization, I think that there are excellent opportunities to learn from the creativity of other wetland scientists, particularly those outside of the U.S. who face different development pressures than us.

I also feel that it is very important for organizations to not only focus on the present, but look to the future and plan for longevity. To that end, I think it is important to promote education of student members, underserved populations (particularly Native Americans), non-traditional science practitioners and other under-represented groups in our organization. I feel that promoting wetland science through post-secondary educational institutions, perhaps with student chapters or professional guest lectures from local wetland professionals, would be an excellent way to engage potential new members. I also think it might be fun and informative to promote chapter-wide events, such as "Love Your Local Wetland", where we encourage members and others to showcase examples of wetland resources or management activities or degradation within the Chapter service area.

CANDIDATE: Keith Carr, MS., PWS

POSITION: Treasurer

BACKGROUND: By way of introducing myself to my SWS colleagues, I will start by saying all of my studies were undertaken in Canada, with degrees from the University of Waterloo (Physical Geography/Geology) and the University of Western Ontario

(Hydrology/Geohydrology). My undergrad and grad research involved following water over and under glaciers (and often drilling through them!) in the

Canadian Rockies and Switzerland. Internships followed with an environmental consultant and with Atomic Energy of Canada studying fractured-rock hydrogeology. I have been with the Illinois State Geological Survey for over 26 years, first doing Phase 1 and Phase 2 Environmental Surveys for IDOT, and for the last 22 years as a Wetland Scientist. My work in this capacity has involved helping IDOT select, restore and monitor wetland mitigation sites and banks, with my primary interest being wetland hydrology. Subsequent work has involved helping the Illinois Tollway by monitoring BMPs along their roadways (linear bioswales) for treatment effectiveness as well as monitoring receiving waters (streams and wetlands) for water quality impacts from roadway runoff. I am a Co-PI on the IDOT contract, a primary PI on the Tollway contract, and enjoy greatly working with a multi-disciplinary team of outstanding scientists in the Wetlands Geology Section at ISGS!



SWS VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: I have been an SWS member since 1999 and the role the society and the annual meetings have had in my professional development cannot be overstated. As our section works primarily on “applied science” to help governmental clients meet regulatory requirements, our opportunities are limited to participate in the academic side of our discipline. As abstract deadline time rolls around, I am always excited to propose and prepare a talk, and the annual meetings are a high point for me in a busy year, both in the opportunity to present and to re-educate myself with what others are up to. I have probably given a dozen (or so) talks and have received much in return.

WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE AND WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR THE CHAPTER’S FUTURE? Given this, I believe that the recent (and ongoing) focus of NCC in providing travel grants to young scientists yielding the opportunity to experience these meetings, fund small studies, and hence get them excited about the field is an important goal. I recall, as a young student with limited funds, the difference even a small travel or equipment grant can make in both charting a course in your field and boosting confidence. The involvement of NCC in setting up smaller regional conferences that can provide a nearby and affordable (and maybe less intimidating) forum for young scientists to present is also an important core function of the chapter in my opinion. By serving as NCC treasurer I believe I’d have something to offer my colleagues and am eager to serve!

CANDIDATE: Jennifer Boyer, CFM, PWS

POSITION: Secretary

BACKGROUND:

- B.S. in Environmental Biology from Eastern Illinois University
- 24 years of experience in various roles related to wetland science including wetland program management, regulatory policy, and wetland banking coordination as well as policy and practices for water quality best management practices.
- Currently serving DuPage County Stormwater Management as Environmental Projects coordinator
- Speaking engagements at local meetings, seminars, and conferences on topics related to wetland regulations, water quality best management practices, public policy, and native vegetation in the natural and built landscape.



SWS VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: Currently serving as the chapter’s secretary for 2 years and newsletter editor for 6 years. Past chapter website content editor 2008-2015.

WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE AND WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR THE CHAPTER’S FUTURE? The wetlands that we work to understand and protect are important individually and crucial in aggregate. Protecting wetland resources and drawing attention to their importance has been the most rewarding part of my career. More people are needed who can provide the link between science and sustainable land use.

Our members are working every day to improve on our knowledge of wetland science and policy. The NCC supports our regional membership by providing opportunities to build relationships and to share research and policy insights. We can connect more students to wetland science through our support of student chapters, student opportunities, and access/equity of underserved communities.

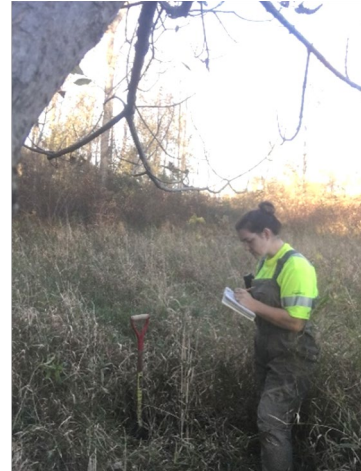
The pandemic has improved our collective remote conferencing skills, which have made conferences more accessible and sometimes more affordable. I would like to see our chapter encourage and support more small, local conferences, both in-person and remote, to maximize accessibility and connectivity for professionals and students.

CANDIDATE: Kathryn L. Williams, M.Sc., PWS

POSITION: Board Member at Large

BACKGROUND:

- B.Sc. in Biological Sciences with a minor in Agriculture from University of Alberta, Canada.
- Undergraduate research experience in aquatic invertebrate ecology, Williams, B. W., K.L. Williams, S.R Gelder, H. C. Proctor. 2011. Distribution of Entocytheridae (Crustacea: Ostracoda) in Northern prairies of North America and reports of opportunistic clitellate annelids on crayfish hosts. *Western North American Naturalist* 71(2): 276-282.
- M.Sc. in Biology from the University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Thesis: "Relative distribution and biomass of invertebrates in fens and marshes in the boreal region of Northeastern Alberta" 2013.
- Graduate Research assistant in Athabasca oil sands region of Alberta, Canada.
- Technical Report: Ciborowski, J.J.H. A.L. Foote, M.C. Roy, S. Nakhaie and K. Williams. 2012. Early community development in reclaimed landscapes of the Wapisiw Lookout Riparian Zone and associated wetlands – May-August 2011. Prepared for Suncor Energy Inc., Fort McMurray, AB, 12 p + Appendices.
- 15 years' experience in Wetland Ecology, 7 years of experience in infrastructure consulting including National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation, wetland and waterway permitting.



SWS VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

Served as Board Member at Large 2019-2021

WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE? The pandemic has severely limited the activity of the board and our ability to plan meetings, events, and move forward with initiatives. I look forward to serving as a Board Member-at-Large once again – with the intention of furthering the mission of the NCC. Our chapter represents many states and the overall initiatives of the SWS, and recently there have been several important wetland protection legislations that have come to light in our region. As a board member, I would like to work with the NCC to advocate for wetland protection and initiatives such as letter writing campaigns. I have enjoyed the opportunity to interact (virtually) with other board members, members, and student representatives to learn what is important to them in their careers and their communities.

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR THE CHAPTER'S FUTURE? I would like to move forward with a wetland mentorship program that I have been spearheading. Throughout my career I have worked with many students and graduates that are excited about wetlands but are unsure of what a career in wetland science would look like. I believe that benefitting off the enormous expertise that exists in the NCC would be a great benefit to these young professionals. This mentorship initiative will pair experienced wetland professionals to interested students and young professionals. The aim is to not only increase interest in a career in wetland science, but also membership in the NCC. I would like to further this

initiative by recruiting more member of the NCC to be mentors and get in touch with student chapters of SWS to engage mentees. Email nccwetlandmentors@gmail.com to be added to the list of mentors!

CANDIDATE: Paul Weihe

POSITION: At-Large Board Member

BACKGROUND:

Education:

- BS, Biology, University of Michigan-Dearborn
- MS, Biology, Eastern Michigan University
- PhD, Environmental Science, The Ohio State University

Experience:

Paul Weihe has served the Biology Department at Central College in Pella since 1998 as Associate Professor of Biology & Environmental Science. He has been a member of SWS for about 30 years. Research interests are evenly divided between wetland science, with an emphasis on plant ecology and hydrologic function, and educational methods and Best Practices. In addition to teaching at Central College, he participates in study abroad and with Iowa's field station (Iowa Lakeside Laboratory). Paul is also committed to public outreach and engagement, frequently posting on his blog about a project visiting wetlands in every Iowa county (<https://99wetlands.wordpress.com/>).



WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE? I wish to serve as a Board Member to contribute directly to our local SWS members and the society as a whole. I am a longtime member but have served in a leadership role; this will allow me to “give back.” In particular, I want to help in educational efforts, both with future wetland scientists and with the public at large.

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR THE CHAPTER’S FUTURE?

This Chapter is in a region that is facing, and will continue to face, significant climate change and direct threats to wetlands. I would like to encourage members to network with each other and with the next generation of environmental professionals. I hope we can likewise engage productively with the public to encourage the recognition of wetlands and the benefits they provide.

CANDIDATE NAME: Matthew J. Van Grinsven

POSITION: At-large Board Member

BACKGROUND: I have been working in wetlands for over ten years, and have been a SWS member since 2019. I have previous professional experience working in a variety of wetland types in the Great Lakes and Colorado Plateau regions of the U.S., and in addition to wetlands I have broad professional expertise focused on water resources, biogeochemistry, aquatic ecology, and forestry. My educational background consists of a B.S. in Earth Science, a M.S. in Geology and a PhD in Forest Science.



As a Hydrologic Technician for the National Park Service's Northern Colorado Plateau Monitoring Network, I installed, operated and maintained hydrological monitoring equipment as a part of an integrated riparian monitoring effort to examine linkages between hydrology, geomorphology, and vegetation in riparian ecosystems. More recently, and as researcher at Michigan Technological University, I have been working with an interdisciplinary team of scientists and resource managers on an ongoing research and management project focused on black ash wetlands. In this role, I have been primarily responsible for evaluating soil biogeochemical and hydrological responses to simulated emerald ash borer infestations, and working with the interdisciplinary team to provide targeted management information and recommendations to resource managers in the Great Lakes region.

I am currently an Assistant Professor at Northern Michigan University (NMU) where I have been working with the City of Marquette, the Marquette County Conservation District and NMU students on an ongoing hydrological and ecological monitoring effort focused on several recently established mitigation wetlands. Furthermore, I designed and introduced the first Wetlands course at NMU and am excited to continue to engage physical and natural science students at NMU with applied wetland ecosystem knowledge and monitoring techniques. I have served in a wide variety of participatory and leadership roles for committees at NMU and am interested in expanding my professional service activities beyond my institution of employment.

SWS VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: I have been a volunteer member of the SWS-NCC 2023 Annual Meeting Planning Committee and the SWS-NCC Professional Wetland Mentorship Program Committee since 2019, and I also recently volunteered to serve as a member on a couple 2022 Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting Committees.

WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE? I am excited to increase my level of involvement with SWS-NCC and have sincerely enjoyed working with fellow SWS-NCC members and officers on a couple SWS-NCC committees since 2019. I am looking forward to working more closely with SWS-NCC members and officers, if elected, and am genuinely interested in assisting with a variety of SWS-NCC activities. Furthermore, I would like to serve as an At-Large Board Member to better familiarize myself with all aspects of SWS-NCC in an effort to prepare myself for subsequently volunteering to serve in additional SWS-NCC officer positions.

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR THE CHAPTER'S FUTURE? As an At-Large Board Member, I would take great pride in assisting fellow SWS-NCC members and – if elected – fellow officers to promote science, conservation and management activities within our region. Moreover, I am both interested and professionally invested in supporting student education and research, and would look to support and enhance these essential aspects of SWS-NCC to the best of my abilities.

CANDIDATE FULL NAME: Whitney Mariah Sauskojus

POSITION: Student Representative

BACKGROUND: I am currently a first-year master's student in the Environmental and Conservation Sciences program at North Dakota State University (NDSU). My research area focuses on aquatic macroinvertebrate communities in wetland ecosystems. During my time as an undergraduate, a variety of experiences have strengthened my love for wetlands and prepared me to continue my education. Over the past two years in this field, I've worked as a field assistant, conducted an independent wetland-related research project, created some really amazing relationships with my current lab-mates and others within the wetland community, and gained valuable skills and qualifications. Currently, I hold a delegate position with the Society of Wetland Scientist's (SWS) Student Section, where one of the main goals is to organize wetland related micro-volunteering projects throughout the delegates' communities and within SWS and the scientific community.



SWS VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: SWS Student Section Delegate Program

WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE? I wish to serve as the Student Representative for the North Central Chapter for a multitude of reasons. First, having an opportunity to work directly with other peers that hold similar interests as me is extremely appealing. Being able to create these relationships and potentially open new doors for my future career is an opportunity that I'm always throwing myself towards. Second, I'd love to contribute in any way I can to such an active chapter. One of the best ways to learn is first-hand experience and self-involvement. At the end of the day, my goal is to create a safe and welcoming space for other students to feel comfortable asking questions and ultimately be involved in this society for years to come.

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR THE CHAPTER'S FUTURE? Looking towards the future, I envision this chapter continuing to be extremely active in the wetland community. I envision a diverse, passionate, and welcoming group of people who dedicate their time through webinars, meetings and providing student's resources and funding such as scholarships, travel awards, and mentoring programs. Ultimately, I would love to see more student involvement. Through this position, I believe I can be a link to voice any ideas or concerns that my peers and I might have in order to continuously improve our chapter.