



# North Central Chapter Report



*By Kurt Kowalski  
Chapter President  
March, 2007*

We are getting close to the vote, so you won't see this announcement much longer! Numerous amendments to the chapter's bylaws were proposed at the Cairns business meeting. Proposed amendments include shortening the term of officers, clarifying membership categories, and implementing numerous formatting changes. These amendments are clearly outlined in a document named "Bylaws proposed changes and votes - 061106.pdf" that can be found on the chapter's web page (<http://www.sws.org/regional/northcentral/>). In this document, the amendments were grouped into six separate sections that will be voted on individually at the next major chapter business meeting to be held during the SWS Annual Meeting in Sacramento, CA. The web site also contains a file named "Bylaws proposed final - 061106.pdf" that is a complete version of the bylaws including the proposed changes. Please review the proposed amendments and send comments or questions to me ([kkowalski@usgs.gov](mailto:kkowalski@usgs.gov)).

Planning has begun for the SWS Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin in 2009! The SWS Board of Directors accepted our chapter's proposal to host the 2009 meeting in conjunction with the Wisconsin Wetlands Association Annual Wetland Science Forum. Plans are being made so watch the Bulletin and the chapter web site for new information. Special thanks go out to SWS member Dr. Joy Zedler (University of Wisconsin – Madison) for leading the planning committee and the many members of SWS and WWA (particularly Becky Abel and Laura England) who are stepping up to plan this great meeting. We're going to need lots of help so please contact Joe Schubauer-Berigan ([Schubauer-Berigan.Joseph@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Schubauer-Berigan.Joseph@epamail.epa.gov)) if you have ideas for the meeting or would like to get involved.

The North Central Chapter once again was involved with the Wisconsin Wetlands Association Annual Wetland Science Forum (<http://www.wiscwetlands.org/2007forum.htm>), a 2-day conference convening wetland researchers, consultants, agency staff, students, conservationists and other wetland enthusiasts from around Wisconsin and the Great Lakes region. This 2-day conference was held February 1-2, 2007 at the Radisson Hotel & Convention Center, La Crosse, WI and focused on the theme "Riverine Wetlands: Connections, Corridors and Catchments." The North Central Chapter provided registration and travel support for students presenting papers and setting up the NCC display in the exhibitor's space. Many of the students sent personal messages that thanked the Chapter for its support and emphasized how valuable the experience was to their academic and professional careers. The chapter was well represented at the meeting with SWS members presenting research papers, leading field trips, and participating as members of the science forum advisory panel. By all accounts, the 12th Annual Wetland Science Forum was the largest and one of the most successful WWA Forums to date. It attracted more than 315 wetland enthusiasts who participated in the conference sessions and braved unusually cold temperatures to participate in "sold out" field trips. The success of this meeting bodes well for our chapter's joint efforts with WWA to host the 2009 annual SWS meeting in Madison, WI.

## *SWS Committee & Chapter Reports*

### *N.C. Chapter report continued*

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The Chapter is seeking nominations for both the President-elect and At-large Board positions. The President-elect position currently has a 3-year term, but the chapter will be voting on a proposal to change the President-elect, President, and Past President positions to 2-year terms during the June 2007 business meeting. Regardless of term length, the President-elect position will begin June 2007. The At-large Board position is a 2-year term that will begin June 2007 and end in June 2009. Beth Nixon, the chapter Nominations Committee Chair, will be accepting names via email ([ehnixonusa@netscape.net](mailto:ehnixonusa@netscape.net)) through March 26, 2007. All members in good standing are invited to submit nominations for this election planned for April through May 2007. You may nominate others and yourself. The candidates for election will be advertised on the web site and via email on April 2, 2007, and the voting process will be described at that time. Electronic voting will run until May 25, 2007. Position duties are described in the Chapter bylaws at <http://www.sws.org/regional/northcentral/Bylaws.htm>.

Our new student group based at the Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan recently elected Robin Conklin as their first President. Congratulations Robin! This group of students will be organized formally with the University and actively participate in Chapter and Society activities. We look forward to seeing this group develop.

Sharon Kahara (PhD Graduate Assistant at South Dakota State University) is putting the finishing touches on a color version of our logo. Among other things, we plan to produce t-shirts and other goods sporting this logo. Availability information for these products will be sent to you via email, put on the web page, and likely appear in future Bulletin reports. You won't miss it.

Students: The North Central Chapter announces the availability of Student Travel Grants (in support of student travel to professional meetings). For more details visit the web site or contact the Educational Outreach Chair, Mitchel R. Strain, PWS, at 614.459.2050 x506 or [mstrain@burnip.com](mailto:mstrain@burnip.com).

I encourage you to join the growing number of members who are contributing to the chapter and benefiting from all it has to offer. We are always looking for new ideas and welcome anyone looking for a way to become more involved. I especially urge students and those who have never been active in the chapter to find a place and jump into the action.