A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT
I hope that time spent at our SWS meeting in Denver was productive and inspiring for your work (and life)! We have an opportunity in October to connect with our regional members and networks. Please save the date for our annual meeting on October 24. Activities in your home state are being planned to allow more members to participate in our annual meeting this year. If you are not able to travel to the meeting, please consider participating online and be sure to keep an eye out for local networking events in the form of happy hours, hikes, and other state activities.

A warm welcome to our newly installed officers on our NCC Board of Directors, Benjamin Hengel from North Dakota State University and Jess Stern from University of Illinois- UC, who are co-Student Representatives for our NCC. Bree Richardson completed her term as Student Representative – Bree we wish you much success in your academic and future endeavors! Thank you for your contribution to our Chapter.

As always, thank you to everyone for your time, energy, contributions and skills toward our success.

The SWS website is posting more information about recent court cases and rulings pertaining to wetlands. One, in short, a U.S. District Court has issued a nationwide injunction, voiding the Suspension Rule for violations to the Administrative Procedure Act: https://sws.org/Blog/South-carolina-u-s-district-court-issues-nationwide-injunction-rendering-cwr-suspension-rule-void.html


Please consider providing information about regional wetland issues to post on our website and other forms of social media. We do have state Chapter representatives who post information in our newsletters, but can hold space for contributions from others.

For Wetlands!

Julie Nieset
jenieset@illinois.edu

Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid in a wet meadow, Lake Co., IL. Photo by J. Nieset, 7/18/18
NCC ANNUAL MEETING-SAVE THE DATE!
Our NCC Annual Meeting is going digital this year! We have reserved an online forum for Wednesday October 24th, 2018. Look for more information and a call for presentations in upcoming newsletters and emails.

24TH ANNUAL WETLAND SCIENCE CONFERENCE-WISCONSIN WETLANDS ASSOCIATION
FEBRUARY 19-21, 2019 | MADISON, WI

Wisconsin Wetlands Association invites you to participate in the 24th Annual Wetland Science Conference, to be held February 19-21, 2019, at the Madison Marriott West Hotel and Conference Center. This year’s conference will also celebrate Wisconsin Wetlands Association’s 50th Anniversary, with reflections on where we came from, where we are, and what lies ahead.

Join other scientists and professionals of the wetland and water community of Wisconsin and the upper Midwest to:

Share your wetland research, restoration, management, or outreach program;
Learn new identification and assessment approaches and techniques;
Hear about approaches to incorporating wetlands into watershed & community planning;
Discuss the latest in wetland science, planning, and protection issues;
Look ahead to the future of wetland science and practices in Wisconsin and the Midwest.

The 2-day conference, which will draw more than 350 attendees, will include a keynote address, organized symposia, topical oral sessions, a poster session, working groups, a banquet, and field trips to area wetlands.

This year’s conference will build on a two-decade long tradition of regional collaboration to protect and care for the region’s wetlands.

KEY CONFERENCE PLANNING DATES

Call for Symposia and Workshops. SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Sept. 28, 2018.
Call for Presentations & Posters – to be issued September 2018. SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Nov. 15, 2018
Student Scholarships – APPLICATION DEADLINE: Jan. 11, 2019
Note: we will also be holding a student presentation competition with cash prizes!
Registration – to open December 2018. EARLY BIRD DEADLINE: Jan. 19, 2018
Sponsors & Exhibitors – promote your work to our audience as a sponsor & exhibitor. Exhibitor space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up by Jan. 18, 2019, to insure you receive recognition in the event materials.

Click here for more conference details: conference.wisconsinwetlands.org
HIGHLIGHTED STUDENT
BY BENJAMIN HENGEL AND JESS STERN

This quarter we will highlight two students that received the $750 Travel Award to attend and present at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Denver earlier this summer. The two recipients include Casey Judge, a PhD student at Iowa State University, and Camilo Rey Sanchez, a PhD student at The Ohio State University. Congratulations to both of you on receiving the travel award and thank you for representing the North Central Chapter at the Annual Meeting in Denver.

CASEY JUDGE
Casey is entering the 5th year of her PhD program in Environmental Science at Iowa State University. She is focusing her research efforts on greenhouse gas emissions and monomethylmercury production within wetlands created for the purpose of limiting agricultural induced nutrient loads in downstream waters.

Why did you become interested in Wetland Science?
I knew that I wanted to pursue a career related to environmental science, and since I live in a predominantly agricultural state, working in wetland science affords me the best option to remain close to home and have a positive impact on our environment. As I finished my second undergraduate degree and decided upon graduate programs I took the course that I now teach (Introduction to Systems Analysis) and found that I truly enjoyed the mass balance systems analyses associated with wetlands in this area. I spoke with the course professor, and he is now my advisor!

What are your goals after graduation?
Ultimately, I would like to find a career in Iowa close to family. My long-term goal would be to work in a career that affords me options to teach—whether it be a full time professor position, or working in the federal/private sector and being a guest instructor at a university.

Funny/memorable field story:
This year Iowa has received a lot of rain. Consequently, getting all of my field equipment deployed has been a challenge because the ground was often too wet/soft to drive the truck back to my sites. I have also had issues with my GHG samplers draining my batteries faster than my solar panels can keep up. (I use large, roughly 50lb marine deep cycle batteries.) After talking to Mom and Dad a few times about how these issues were stressing me out, Mom decides to load up their ATVs and use her days off work to come out to the field and help me get all of my field equipment deployed! Three days in the field with Mom and I was able to get everything set up and pulling samples, and it was awesome. She was amazed at the amount of equipment and steps required for the whole process, which I think is summed up pretty well by this (probably my favorite) conversation that happened during that time:

(I grab a couple batteries and heft them to the pick-up truck)

Mom: “OH! Batteries!”
Me: “Yeah...what did you think I meant?”

Mom: “I don’t know, I was picturing like Duracell.” (laughing)

Me: “So wait, all this time I’ve been whining about how I’m tired of hauling new batteries out to the field you just, what, thought I was a wimp??”

Mom: “Yes! I thought, just stick them in your pocket, what’s the big deal?!”

Publications:

CAMILO REY SANCHEZ
Camilo is a 4th year PhD student in the Environmental Science program at The Ohio State University. He researches methane emissions from wetlands and became interested in wetland science from his fascination for wetland biochemical processes. He would like to have a career in applied research in academia or in the industry.

Funny/memorable field story:
One time, I got lost in the thick forest in Panamá while checking some field equipment in a remote area. For more than two hours I had no idea where I was or where to go. I had a compass but I did not have a map. It was stressful but I managed to come up with a successful plan to find one of the paths and return to the dock where people were worriedly waiting for me. I learned that the sense of direction in the thick tropical understory is tricky and you can easily deviate from your path if you are not paying close attention.

Publications:


NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER YOUTH ART CONTEST WINNERS

This year’s annual SWS meeting, held in Denver featured a youth art contest. Two winners in the Grades 1-4 category hail from the North Central region. The theme of the contest was Wetland Wildlife. Check out all of the winners and their fantastic artwork here: [http://sws.org/Resources/education-and-outreach.html](http://sws.org/Resources/education-and-outreach.html)

First Place: Josie Bryson, West Chicago, IL
Second Place: Willa Larkin, Falcon Heights, MN
NOTES FROM AROUND THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION

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

Catch up on the latest activities at seven Wetland Wonders in the lower peninsula (https://bit.ly/2v1LAWs) or check out the latest invasive species to hit the "least wanted" list for the Great Lakes (https://bit.ly/2M2IKYS).

Did you know that Michigan Sea Grant operates an active research program and offers graduate student fellowships (https://bit.ly/2M58NO9)? How about that the MDNR partners with the Michigan Municipal Wetland Alliance (http://michiganwetlands.com/) to "... help Michigan municipalities, agricultural producers, and blueberry growers abide by stringent wetland mitigation requirements." and promote optimal use of MDNR public lands?

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

We are pleased to welcome the new state contact for Iowa, Paul Weihe. Dr. Paul Weihe has served the Biology Department at Central College in Pella, Iowa since 1998; he is currently Department Chair and Associate Professor. He has been a member of SWS for nearly 30 years. His research training is in wetland science, with an emphasis on plant ecology and hydrologic function. However, he is primarily an educator with numerous publications and experiences with students at Central College, with study-abroad and with Iowa's field station (Iowa Lakeside Laboratory), and is committed to public outreach and engagement. His current activity includes participation in citizen-science ecological research, and a blog describing a tour of Iowa’s wetlands (https://99wetlands.wordpress.com/).

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

http://www.nwherald.com/2018/05/16/mchenry-county-helps-fund-sternes-fen-wetland-restoration-project/aq2ytrd/

The first project funded under McHenry County’s Wetland Restoration Fund program has been approved for Crystal Lake Park District’s Sterne’s Fen wetland restoration.


The Chicago Magazine did a great write-up of the Franklin Farm constructed wetland project by the Nature Conservancy in Lexington, IL. The project aims to study the mitigation of nutrients from farm fields entering the Mackinaw River.

If you follow The Nature Conservancy in Illinois on Facebook or Instagram you’ll see that Nachusa Grasslands had two important visitors in mid-August – two whooping cranes! There are only 757 whooping cranes remaining in the world, and the two that were sighted at Nachusa last week were reintroduced by the International Crane Foundation.
**WISCONSIN**: (State Contact, Laura A.B. Giese, lgiese@trcsolutions.com)

The Surface Water Data Viewer is a great tool for wetlands and waterways. It went through some revisions earlier this year (May 2018). Below are some of the highlights:

Two new base layers added into viewer. The former wetland layer was split into Mapped Wetlands and Wetland Indicators & Soils.

New NRCS data added into the Wetland Indicator & Soils layer. This layer now displays both Maximum and Minimum Extent Wetland Indicators.

Wisconsin Wetland Inventory dynamic service is now available to the public.

https://dnrmaps.wi.gov/H5/?viewer=SWDV

The Foxconn Development in Southeast Wisconsin is currently under development.

The first phase impacts approximately 16 acres of wetlands. Wisconsin law requires a company that fills a wetland to create 1.2 new wetland acres for every acre filled. The new Act 58, the state Foxconn incentives bill, requires the company to restore 2 acres for every acre filled. Therefore, Foxconn will be paying more than $2 million to the Wisconsin Wetland Conservation Trust (WWCT) to compensate for wetland impacts. Here is an opportunity to restore high quality wetlands into the watershed.

The Foxconn site is in the headwaters of the Des Plaines River Watershed, which is immediately upstream of Lake County, IL and encompasses a major source of surface water. The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission will review the proposed Foxconn development and related adjacent improvements due to concerns of adverse impacts on flooding and water quality along the Des Plaines River in Lake County. Utilizing the in-lieu fee funds from WWCT and incorporating wetlands into the landscape could ameliorate potential flooding concerns.

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

Researchers are stocking amphipods in some prairie pothole experimental sites to evaluate population sustainability over time. This lower trophic organism is being evaluated as a wetland health indicator. Danelle Larson at MNDNR leads the 3-year $500k study.

A new conservation reserve enhancement program sign up in Minnesota adds permanent easements for crop to habitat conversion in high priority areas of watersheds. Wetlands and grasslands are the restoration focus for 5,270 acres in the first year.

UMN researchers are in the second year of a Phragmites genetic analysis study. Julia Bohnen, working with Sue Galatowisch, solicits leaf tissue collections from people throughout the state.

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

**INDIANA**: (State Contact, Liz Peloso, pellos. elizabeth@epa.gov)

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

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

**OHIO**: (State Contact, Brad Petru, bpetru@hullinc.com)
OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!

The following are NCC Committee Chair positions that are open. We welcome your participation and passion for wetlands and for helping to create a stronger organization. Contact Julie Nieset jenieset@illinois.edu for more information about these Chair positions and to volunteer. Acknowledgement of your involvement will be listed on the Leadership page of our NCC website.

External Affairs Committee Chair
- Identify potential sponsors and collaborators for Chapter events

Goal: To connect with other like-minded organizations to collaborate on projects and share ideas. To have sponsorship of Chapter events to offset some expenses (Modeled from page 9 of SWS Standing Rules June 2017 https://www.sws.org/category/governance.html

2018 Chapter Meeting Committee Chair(s)
- Plan and implement 2018 Chapter symposium and meeting along with associated tasks. This year we will be utilizing webinar and videoconferencing technology for an online Chapter symposium and meeting. Tech-savvy individuals are encouraged to get involved!

Goal: To continue the tradition of annual Chapter meetings for members to connect and present regional wetland research

History/Archives Committee Chair
- Review Chapter documents to understand Chapter history. Ideally draw up a timeline or other document to highlight Chapter events, personnel, and changes over the years

Goal: For our Chapter to have a better understanding of our history, of how we have come to this point in our Chapter and more context of where we can go from here. For instance, there is a SWS chapter that has a “Past Presidents Council” where they can draw on support and insight from past chapter presidents. Gathering this type information would give us the potential to draw on support if we choose. (See also page 9 of SWS Standing Rules June 2017 https://www.sws.org/category/governance.html

HAVE YOU MADE A DONATION TO SWS NCC IN THE PAST YEAR?

Thank you for all those who have made donations to our Chapter – these donations are invaluable in supporting our programs for students and outreach efforts. We are doing a routine audit of our books in an effort to standardize donation accountability. If you made a donation to our North Central Chapter through our website anytime last year, we would like to hear from you. If you made a donation for the Native American Arts Initiative (NAAI) for the NCC Annual Meeting in Fargo last fall, we have inspected these donations and do not need further information from you. For all others, please contact our NCC Treasurer Eric Plankell eplankel@illinois.edu

Queen-of-the-Prairie plants in a wet meadow, Lake Co., IL. Photo by J. Nieset, 7/18/18
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**

Julie Nieset, President  
Christina Hargiss, President-Elect  
David Mushet, Immediate Past President  
Jessica Ackerman, Secretary  
Eric Plankell, Treasurer  
Liz Peloso, At-Large Board Member  
Joy Marburger, At-Large Board Member  
Bree Richardson, Student Representative

**NCC-SWS COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Christina Hargiss, Program Committee  
David Mushet, Nominations Committee  
Jessica Ackerman, Membership Committee  
Karen Mangan, Grants and Awards Committee

**WEBSITE** [http://www.sws.org/North-Central-Chapter](http://www.sws.org/North-Central-Chapter)

---

### Monarch on Ironweed, Lake Co., IL
- Photo by J. Nieset, 8/8/18

### Adult female Polyphemus moth, Champaign Co., IL
- Photo by J. Nieset, 7/21/18