

2006 SWS Fall Meeting Agenda Central Chapter

9:15-10:00

Sign in and Registration (Coffee and Pastries)

9:15-10:00

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, Regulatory Branch
Mr. Rob Gramke**

Topic: St. Louis District policies in asserting jurisdiction on waters of the United States and challenges the Regulatory Branch is faced with in making these determinations. Mr. Gramke will also discuss the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposal to renew and revise Nationwide permits for work in wetlands and other waters that are regulated by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and possible regional conditions to be placed on these new Nationwide permits to further protect sensitive aquatic ecosystems.

10:00-10:45

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, Regulatory Branch
Mr. Shawn Sullivan**

Topic: Update on the status of the Mitigation Rule, new Regulatory Guidance Letters, Mitigation Banks, and statewide initiative in Missouri for a stream evaluation method. The stream evaluation is nearing implementation and will assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the MDNR-Water Protection Program in determining the amount of mitigation required to offset proposed impacts to Missouri streams and amount of corresponding credits that may be generated for proposed aquatic resource improvements.

10:45-11:30

**Missouri Attorney General's Office, Deputy Chief of Staff
Mr. Bill Bryan**

Topic: Regulated Waters and the Courts: A State Perspective. State and federal courts have struggled with the scope of laws protecting water quality. There are many gray areas, and a few clear demarcations of regulatory authority. Recent Supreme Court decisions highlight some key differences between State and Federal law.

11:30-12:30 Lunch

12:30-1:15

**Middle Mississippi River Partnership
Mr. Steve Black**

Topic: The Middle Mississippi River Partnership is a collaboration of 16 federal/state agencies and not-for-profit organizations working to restore and enhance the natural resources of the corridor. The Partners developed a Coordination plan in July 2005 to help guide their efforts in addressing the identified resource concerns and issues. The vision of the partnership is a network of diverse and sustainable natural resources on public and private lands in the Middle Mississippi River corridor that adequately supports wildlife habitat and provides conservation benefits consistent with a variety of other uses. Wetlands have been identified as a resource of concern in the corridor with an outcome of wetland functions and values providing long-term sustainable habitat for desired plants and animals.

1:15-2:00

University of Missouri

Mr. Michael Headrick

Topic: Missouri River Post-flood Evaluation Synthesis for the Missouri Department of Conservation. Studies funded by the Missouri River Post-Flood Evaluation and closely related studies on the lower Missouri River. Floodplain wetlands changed dramatically and recovered quickly following the Great Flood of 1993. Erosion and sedimentation restarted community succession. Connection with river flow restocked wetlands with riverine flora and fauna, reduced abundances of species that reestablished slowly since the previous flood, and opened space for pioneer species. Long intervals between floods allow mature forest, vegetatively reproducing aquatic plants, and animals better adapted to lacustrine conditions to replace pioneer species.

2:00-2:45

Missouri Department of Conservation

Mr. Tom Leifeld

Topic: Columbia Bottom Conservation Area is in north St. Louis County at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. The Conservation Department is implementing a plan to create a mosaic of bottomland habitats in Columbia Bottom that will include shallow wetlands, bottomland hardwoods, prairie and cropland. These habitats will attract a wide variety of resident and migratory wildlife for the enjoyment of all our state's residents and visitors. Mr. Leifeld will provide a presentation and tour of the management areas.

2:45-3:30 Chapter Meeting

Discussion Topics

Officer Term Length

Mid-Year Board Meeting

Next Year's Meeting Location

Meeting Committee

Election of New Officers

3:30-5:00 Field trip through Columbia Bottoms Conservation Area