

SWS Bulletin
North Central Chapter Report
December 1, 2005

The North Central Chapter is seeking nominations for one At-Large Board position that will have a term from July 2006 through June 2008. Beth Nixon, the chapter Nominations Committee Chair, will be accepting names via email (ehnixonusa@netscape.net) from now until April 1, 2006. All members in good standing are invited to submit nominees for this board election to be held May through June 2006. You may nominate other(s) and yourself. The candidates for election will be advertised on the web site and via email on April 15, 2006, and the voting process will be described at that time. Electronic voting will run until June 15, 2006.

We continue to fill vacant regional contact positions and welcome Andy Schmidt as the new Minnesota node. Andy is a wetland specialist for the Grand Portage Reservation and can be reached at aschmidt@boreal.org if you are looking for information about SWS activities in Minnesota or have a project/topic in that area that you would like the whole chapter to know about. Do you live or work in Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, or South Dakota? Interested in becoming a regional contact for one or more of these states? Our geographically large and diverse chapter relies on people serving as regional contacts (i.e., nodes) to represent the local and regional interests. No one currently represents these states so please contact Kurt Kowalski (kkowalski@usgs.gov) if you are interested in learning more about becoming a regional contact.

Jesse Kurylo and others have worked hard to produce a promotional brochure for our chapter. Copies of the two-fold brochure will be made available to anyone who can take them to meetings or otherwise make them available to potential members (e.g., students). Contact Kurt Kowalski (kkowalski@usgs.gov) to get preprinted copies or check the web site for less fancy PDF versions.

The North Central Chapter once again will be a sponsor for the Wisconsin Wetlands Association Annual Wetland Science Forum, a 2-day conference convening wetland researchers, consultants, agency staff, students, conservationists and other wetland enthusiasts from around Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region. Wisconsin's Wetlands: Biodiversity and Threats is the theme of this 2-day conference, to be held February 2-3, 2006 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison. The North Central Chapter primarily will be providing registration and travel support for students presenting papers.

The chapter will be contributing to the 2006 ASWM annual meeting scheduled for August 29-31, 2006 in Traverse City, Michigan. We likely will be organizing a series of field trips and helping shape the content of the meeting. This is expected to be a large meeting and should be a great opportunity for SWS members to participate. Please contact Joe Schubauer-Berigan (schubauer-berigan.joseph@epamail.epa.gov) if you are able to help with the planning or execution of the meeting.

Our current Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee Chair, Dave Merkey, is moving out of our chapter so we are looking for someone to fill the vacancy. This position is responsible for

identifying needed changes and shortcomings in the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Chapter and reporting them to the President. Contact Kurt (kkowalski@usgs.gov) if you would like to be considered for the position.

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.

-Kurt Kowalski, North Central Chapter President