

SWS Bulletin
North Central Chapter Report
February 10, 2005

I am pleased to announce that Mitch Strain has been reelected to an at-large board seat. Thank you to everyone who voted. We now need to get started on the election for the other at-large board seat and the Secretary-Treasurer position. The terms for both of these positions end in June. Please send an email to Beth Nixon (ehnixonusa@netscape.net) if you would like to nominate someone or are interested in being nominated. Voting for candidates will occur later this spring with the results becoming effective during the business meeting in Charleston, SC. Watch your email and check the web site (<http://www.sws.org/regional/northcentral/>) for updates.

The North Central Chapter wants to acknowledge the accomplishments of five students (Monika Freyman (Loyola University – Chicago), Melissa Gibson (Michigan State University), Laura Pickering (University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh), Ashley Risler (Northland College), and Julia Wilcox (University of Wisconsin-Madison)) for participating in the Wisconsin Wetlands Association meeting focused Great Lakes coastal wetlands (January 26-27, 2005; Green Bay, WI). These students were presenters or significant contributors to papers being presented at the meeting and received financial assistance from our chapter to help cover their meeting costs. The chapter thanks them for their efforts and encourages them to continue their scholarship in the wetland sciences.

A joint technical conference is being planned for July 13-15 in Duluth, MN. The North Central Chapter of SWS is teaming up with the Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists, the Wisconsin Society of Professional Soil Scientists, and the Arrowhead Water Quality Team (a multi-jurisdictional group composed of local and state agencies and educational institutions, in particular, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Sea Grant, Fond du Lac Reservation, and Carlton County Planning and Zoning Department) to put together a meeting with a plenary session, a panel discussion, socials, and field trips. There also are plans to have a session devoted to presentations on wetland management topics organized by MAPSS, WSPSS and AWQT and a contributed wetland research paper session organized by SWS. Meeting details will be posted on the chapter web site as they develop.

Do you live or work in Iowa, Minnesota, 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 me (Kurt Kowalski, kkowalski@usgs.gov) if you are interested in learning more about becoming a regional contact.

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 always are 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