

SWS Bulletin
North Central Chapter Report
May 13, 2005

Our web site (<http://www.sws.org/regional/northcentral/>) was recently redesigned and looks significantly better due to the contributions of our webmaster Steve Chu. Steve and I have been working to put a new face on the existing content of the site and begin offering some new items. I encourage you to contact Steve (swhchu@hotmail.com) or me if you have ideas and suggestions of things you would like to see the chapter offer on the web site.

We now have a logo for the chapter! Thank you to Sharon Kahara, Mark Dilley, and other members for contributing their time and talent to this effort. Ultimately, we had two great designs to choose from. Since only one could serve as our main logo, the chapter selected the design by Sharon Kahara through the voting process. You can check out the new logo on the web site and on future chapter publications.

Elections were held for two at-large board positions and the secretary-treasurer position. Mitch Strain was reelected to one of the board positions with a term ending in 2006. Results of the other two elections were announced formally at the business meeting in Charleston and are available on the web site. Thank you to those accepting nominations and everyone who submitted votes.

The chapter board approved a conservative plan to invest a portion of the chapter's funds in certificates of deposit. This investment strategy will allow the chapter to maximize returns on the funds in our account while still fully supporting our ongoing chapter needs.

The North Central Chapter is helping organize and provide student sponsorship for the Lake Superior Basin Wetlands Research and Management Conference to be held on the campus of the University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN on July 14-15, 2005. This meeting will be jointly organized by the Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists, Wisconsin Society of Professional Soil Scientists, North Central Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists, and the Arrowhead Water Quality Team. It is sponsored by the Arrowhead Water Quality Team with funding by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Local Water Management Challenge Grant Program, Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources Environmental Trust Fund, and the Great Lakes Protection Fund. Check the North Central Chapter web site for additional details.

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