

Highlights of the activities of the Midwest Great Lake Chapter of SER in 2012

10 December 2012

Our 4th Annual Meeting was held on the University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus in May 2012 and had 138 attendees from nine states. The highlight of this successful meeting was a joint plenary session and tour focusing on conservation and restoration of the eastern massasauga rattlesnake. Our chapter was incorporated as a non-profit organization in Indiana and we submitted our IRS 501c3 application for federal non-profit status. We greatly appreciate SER's assistance with incorporation and the 501c3 application. Our Board of Directors initiated development of a Five Year Strategic Plan to assist with creating future activities to better serve our membership. We are assisting SER in organizing their 2013 World Conference with five Chapter Board members serving on the conference Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and by forming a chapter committee designated to support the LOC. We participated in a public outreach event in June at the Fermilab Natural Areas Discovery Day near Chicago, Illinois to educate the public about the MWGL SER Chapter. We worked with SER in updating our website so it has a more modern structure and appealing look. Preparations for our 5th Annual Meeting have begun and it will be held in Ohio in April 2013.

Roger C. Anderson, President
MWGL Chapter SER

January 2013

BOARD COMPOSITION –

Executive Board:

Name	Title	Board Term	Email
Roger Anderson	President	April 2012 to April 2014	rcander@ilstu.edu
Hua Chen	Vice-President	April 2011 to April 2013	hchen40@uis.edu
Jennifer Lyndall	Treasurer	April 2011 to April 2013	jlawton@environcorp.com
Troy Anderson	Secretary	April 2012 to May 2014	troy@appliedeco.com

Other Board Members:

Name	Title	Board Term	Email
Cody Fleece	Ohio Representative	April 2012 to April 2014	Cody.Fleece@stantec.com
John Shuey	Indiana Representative	April 2011 to April 2013	jshuey@tnc.org
Donald Tilton	Michigan Representative	April 2011 to April 2013	DTilton@ectinc.com
Xiaoyong Chen	Illinois Representative	April 2012 to April 2014	xchen@govst.edu
Nancy Aten	Wisc. Representative	April 2012 to April 2014	nancyaten@landscapesofplace.com
Chris Lenhart	Minn. Representative	April 2011 to April 2013	lenh0010@umn.edu
Todd Aschenbach	At-Large Representative	April 2012 to April 2014	aschenbt@gvsu.edu
David Benson	At-Large Representative	April 2011 to April 2013	dbenson@marian.edu
Pamela Rice	At-Large Representative	April 2011 to April 2013	pamelarice37@yahoo.com
Rocky Smiley	At-Large Representative	April 2012 to April 2014	rocky.smiley@gmail.com
Autumn Sabo	Student Representative	April 2011 to April 2013	aesabo@hotmail.com
Lauren Umek	Student Representative	April 2011 to April 2013	lumek@u.northwestern.edu

Committees & Committee Members

Name	Committee	Term (If applicable)	Emails
Executive Committee	Roger Anderson	April 2012 to April 2014	See above – Board member
Executive Committee	Hua Chen	April 2011 to April 2013	See above – Board member
Executive Committee	Jennifer Lyndall	April 2011 to April 2013	See above – Board member
Executive Committee	Troy Anderson	April 2012 to May 2014	See above – Board member
Annual Meeting-Chair	Rocky Smiley	April 2012 to April 2014	See above-Board Member
Annual Meeting	Hua Chen	April 2012 to April 2013	See above – Board member
Annual Meeting	Young Choi	April 2012 to April 2014	Ydchoi@purduecal.edu
Annual Meeting	David Benson	April 2012 to April 2013	See above – Board member
Annual Meeting	Donald Tilton	April 2012 to April 2013	See above – Board member

Annual Meeting	Jennifer Lyndall	April 2012 to April 2013	See above – Board member
Annual Meeting	Roger Anderson	April 2012 to April 2014	See above – Board member
Annual Meeting	Pamela Rice	April 2012 to April 2013	See above – Board member
Annual Meeting	Charles Goebel	Sep 2012 to April 2013	Goebel.11@osu.edu
Annual Meeting	Nick Basta	Sep 2012 to April 2013	Basta.4@osu.edu
Communications-Chair	Rocky Smiley	April 2012 to April 2014	See above-Board Member
Newsletter Subcommittee-Chair	Rocky Smiley	April 2012 to April 2014	See above-Board Member
Newsletter Subcommittee	Troy Anderson	April 2012 to May 2014	See above – Board member
Newsletter Subcommittee	Liam Heneghan	April 2012 to April 2013	lhenegha@depaul.edu
Website – Subcommittee-Chair	Nancy Aten	April 2012 to April 2013	See above – Board member
Membership-chair	John Shuey	April 2012 to April 2013	See above – Board member
Membership	Lauren Umek	April 2012 to April 2013	See above – Board member
Membership	Jennifer Lyndall	April 2012 to May 2013	See above – Board member
Membership	Xiaoyong Chen	April 2012 to May 2014	See above – Board member
Subregional Local Restoration - Chair	Cody Fleece	April 2012 to April 2014	See above – Board member
Subregional Local Restoration	Chris Lenhart	April 2012 to April 2013	See above – Board member
Subregional Local Restoration	Nancy Aten	April 2012 to April 2014	See above – Board member
Awards Committee - Chair	Hua Chen	April 2012 to April 2013	See above – Board member
Awards Committee	John Shuey	April 2012 to April 2013	See above – Board member
Awards Committee	Lauren Umek	April 2012 to April 2013	See above – Board member
Board Development - Chair	Sean Clauson	April 2012 to April 2014	Sean.Clauson@cardno.com
Book Committee - Chair	Chris Lenhart	NA – Will be disbanded after book completion.	See above – Board member
Book Committee	Rocky Smiley	NA – Will be disbanded after book completion.	See above – Board member
SER 2013 Meeting Committee – Chair	Nancy Aten	NA – Committee formed to assist local organizing committee and SER with preparations for SER 2013. Will be disbanded after the meeting	See above – Board member
SER 2013 Meeting Committee	Autumn Sabo	2012-2013 -same as above	See above – Board member
SER 2013 Meeting Committee	Todd Aschenbach	2012-2013 –same as above	See above – Board member

EVENTS –

1. Annual Chapter Meeting – University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, May 4 to 6, 2012

The 4th Annual Meeting of the Midwest-Great Lakes SER Chapter was hosted by University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and Environment and the Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum on May 4 to 6, 2012. One-hundred and thirty-eight persons from 9 states (MI, IL, WI, IN, OH, MN, MD, PA, and UT) attended the meeting, which had a plenary session, a keynote presentation, two symposia, two workshops, 21 contributed poster presentations, and 36 contributed oral presentations related to the role of ecological restoration in connecting nature and culture in human-dominated environments. A meeting highlight was a joint plenary session and field trip focusing on the conservation and restoration of the eastern massasauga rattlesnake. Meeting attendees also had the opportunity to participate in three offsite field trips to local restoration sites in Michigan.

2. Fermilab Natural Areas Discovery Day- July 14, 2012

The MWGL SER Chapter had an exhibit at this event that was located near Chicago, Illinois. It provided us with a great outreach opportunity to share with the general public the activities of the Midwest-Great Lakes SER Chapter, SER, and the importance of ecological restoration.

COMMUNICATIONS –

Name of communication/ publication (e.g. social media platforms, newsletters, books, guides)	Brief description (include link to websites)
<i>Restoration New Midwest</i>	Restoration News Midwest is the chapter newsletter of the Midwest-Great Lakes SER Chapter. We issued two newsletters in 2012 that can be downloaded from our website. http://chapter.ser.org/midwestgreatlakes/restoration-news-midwest/
<i>Website</i>	Our website has undergone reconstruction with a new look and added features, with help from SER. http://chapter.ser.org/midwestgreatlakes/

OTHER MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS –

MWGL SER Chapter formally incorporated as non-profit and filed its 501c3 application

The MWGL SER Chapter has been formally incorporated as a non-profit in Indiana. Since its inception one goal of the Board of Directors has been for the Midwest-Great Lakes SER Chapter to become a federally recognized non-profit organization (i.e., 501c3 exempt organization). All non-profit organizations must incorporate before they can be recognized as a non-profit organization by the IRS. Just recently we filed our articles of incorporation and we have been formally recognized as a domestic non-profit organization by the State of Indiana. We also completed our 501c3 application and after incorporating SER’s suggestions we submitted our application and are waiting to hear the IRS’s decision regarding this matter.

YEAR-END CHAPTER SUMMARY –

The 4th Annual Meeting of the Midwest-Great Lakes SER Chapter was hosted by University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and Environment and Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum on May 4 to 6, 2012. One-hundred and thirty-eight persons from 9 states (MI, IL, WI, IN, OH, MN, MD, PA, and UT) attended the meeting, which had a plenary session, a keynote presentation, two symposia, two workshops, 21 contributed poster presentations, and 36 contributed oral presentations related to the role of ecological restoration in connecting nature and culture in human-dominated environments. A meeting highlight was a joint plenary session and field trip focusing on conservation and restoration of the eastern massasauga rattlesnake. Meeting attendees also had the opportunity to participate in three offsite field trips to local restoration sites in Michigan.

In August, the Chapter was incorporated as a nonprofit Domestic Corporation, which allowed us to apply for 501c3 nonprofit status with IRS. Our Chapter’s Bylaws were modified to conform to IRS expectations and our application materials were submitted to IRS in November.

We initiated two major projects in 2012. Our Board of Directors began development of a 5-Year Strategic Plan. We are collecting information from the Chapter’s Board and Members needed to guide development of long-term goals and policies. Also, the Annual Meeting Committee has been organizing our 5th Annual Meeting, which will be in Wooster, Ohio, April 21-14, 2013 and hosted by Ohio State University’s Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center and School of Environment and Natural Resources.

CHAPTER CHALLENGES –

We are currently working on a 5-Year strategic plan and book on restoration ecology for our region. This year we were formally incorporated as a non-profit in Indiana and submitted our 5013c form application for non-profit status to IRS. We are finding it a challenge to maintain the routine business of the chapter while initiating major projects. .

For the most part we are stable with a good membership base and for us the challenge is promoting the growth this young chapter.

VOLUNTEER HOURS –

All of our Board Members are volunteers (16), elections are conducted by a volunteer (1), we have several volunteers that help organize and run our annual meeting these include persons associated with the host institution and these can be 20-25 persons who secure facilities for the meeting, arrange for catering, preside over paper or poster sessions, and help set rooms for banquet etc., prepare meeting announcement and post them on our web site, addition, our 4-5 of Board members help to solicit sponsor for our Annual Meeting. Our keynote and plenary speakers and field trip leaders at the Annual Meeting are also volunteers Our web site is maintained by a volunteer and all of the written material Newsletter research articles etc posted on the website are prepared by volunteers. Estimated number of volunteer hours per year is 2000. We have 45-50 volunteers.

MEMBERSHIP –

Total number of members:

The total membership of the MWGL Chapter SER was 122 in the 4th quarter of 2012.

Composition:

By gender, approximately one-third of the members are women (31.2%) and slightly less than twice as many members are men (68.7%).

By organizational affiliation, 46.1% of the members have academic/research affiliation and Private Sector affiliation comprise 25% of the membership. The remainder of the members is affiliated with Governmental Organization (11.7%) or with other groups (10.2%).

Approximately 16.2% of the members are students.

Geographic distribution:

Our chapter members come from 14 states in the nation. As expected, 84% of our members reside in states that are within the MWGL Chapter region. For the six states included within the region served by the MWGL Chapter, Illinois has the largest number of members (28), followed by Michigan (20), Wisconsin and Ohio each have 19 members, and Indiana and Minnesota have 10 and 8 members, respectively.

State	Number of members	State	Number of members
California	1	Minnesota	8
Georgia	1	Indiana	10
Kentucky	1	Ohio	19
Massachusetts	1	Wisconsin	19
Maryland	2	Michigan	19
New York	3	Illinois	28
Iowa	4		
Missouri	5		