

RESTORATION NEWS MIDWEST

Newsletter of the Midwest-Great Lakes Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration International – July 2010, Volume 3, Issue 1

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY, THIRD ANNUAL MEETING LOCATION, AND GRATITUDE FOR FORMER BOARD MEMBERS SERVICES

We are at the beginning of our third year of operation and the Chapter has grown much faster than any of us anticipated. Currently, we have 158 members and as expected the majority (92%) of our members hail from the six states within our chapter boundaries (Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota). The remaining 8% of our current membership reside in seven other states (Maryland, New York, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Mississippi, and California) and one Canadian province (Ontario). The Board of Directors is in the process of developing a membership survey. We (the Board of Directors) feel this survey will be a way for Chapter members to provide us with feedback regarding the chapter's activities and the services it provides. We plan to use the results of the survey to assist with planning future activities and identifying areas that we need to improve upon. The survey will be distributed sometime in August via email and we want to encourage everyone to participate in this survey.

The Board of Directors voted and officially approved the Annual Meeting Committee's recommendation that the 2011 Annual Chapter Meeting should be held at the University of Illinois at Springfield. Thus, our third Annual Meeting will be held at the University of Illinois at Springfield in during the first part of April 2011. We will share future developments with you as we work to prepare for our Third Annual Chapter Meeting. The Annual Meeting Committee will also be working this year to identify the location for the 2012 meeting.

I would like to take the opportunity to recognize and thank three former Board members for their contributions to the Chapter - Carl Wodrich (Secretary), Pamela Rice (Wisconsin Representative), and Jason Husveth (Minnesota Representative). All three individuals were part of the Organizing Committee that helped establish the Chapter and to get it running in our first year (2008). Each also contributed to various Chapter initiatives during our second year. For these contributions we thank them as we greatly appreciated their time and efforts.

Rocky Smiley, President

A REVIEW OF THE 2010 ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING

The Second Annual Chapter Meeting was held April 9 to 10, 2010 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum. This was a very special event because it marked the second gathering of the Midwest-Great Lakes SER Chapter and it was also part of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum's 75th Anniversary celebration. Given that the meeting site is considered to be the birthplace of ecological restoration and the Chapter is a newcomer to the region we adopted the meeting theme "Legacies and Upstarts in Ecological Restoration". Restoration projects are implemented as a result of historic degradation, current environmental problems, emerging environmental threats, or a combination of these factors. Thus, the meeting theme also provided an opportunity to reflect on the past, consider the present, and look towards the future of ecological restoration in the region.

We had 130 attendees from 12 states (Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin,

Minnesota, New York, Kentucky, Iowa, Missouri, Mississippi, and California) in attendance. Meeting attendees represented their respective academic institutions (44%), private companies (28%), nonprofit groups (17%), and county, state, and federal agencies (11%). Our scientific program consisted of a keynote presentation, two plenary sessions, two workshops, one poster session, six contributed oral presentation sessions, and tours of the Arboretum. All abstracts have been compiled into an Abstract Book that will be available soon for downloading along with the meeting program at the Chapter's website.

The meeting began on Friday afternoon with an interactive plenary session on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative that consisted of a panel that included Terry Heatlie (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), Todd Hogrefe (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation), Amy McGovern (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), and Karen Rodriguez (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency). The panel provided updates, gave advice on writing great grant proposals, and answered questions from the audience.



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Panel answers questions from the audience.

After a short break attendees had the choice of workshops on Friday afternoon. One workshop led by Scott Peyton (Stantec Consulting) focused on how to design stream restoration projects using natural channel design techniques. The second workshop,

Lisa Brush (Stewardship Network) and Steve Apfelbaum (Applied Ecological Services) taught how to use of high-resolution multi-spectral aerial imaging as part of restoration planning and evaluation.



Learning how to use high-resolution multispectral aerial imaging.

The evening poster session consisted of fifteen posters that encompassed topics ranging from development of reference plant communities for forested ecosystems to prairie restoration experiments to development of volunteer programs. A reception also gave the meeting attendees a chance to view sponsor exhibits and to socialize with colleagues during the poster session.



A well attended and lively poster session.

After dinner Dr. Joy Zedler (University of Wisconsin-Madison) delivered the keynote presentation titled "Restoration Targets Are Changing". She urged restorationists to

clarify their restoration targets and to consider longer time scales (> 50 years) for achieving their goals. “Targets for specific states and services are often missed, but if the vision is for full recovery quickly, to date, only claim for such an outcome is based on opinions and broad, vague targets”, she said. Dr. Zedler also recommended a “learning-while-restoring” approach as a way of dealing with moving targets in a changing environment. In this way, even a project that is deemed to be a failure may offer hope for future success.



Dr. Zedler addresses meeting attendees during her keynote presentation.

Saturday began with the Chapter Business Meeting. Hua Chen (Treasurer) provided attendees with the most recent information on the Chapter’s financial status. Bob Grese (Membership Committee Chairperson) summarized temporal and spatial trends in chapter membership to provide attendees with information on the current composition of the our membership. Rocky Smiley then summarized recent webpage and listserv issues and facilitated discussion on the Chapter’s use of other social media types (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, etc.). The group voted to establish a Facebook page to serve in place of the listserv. However, chapter updates will also be sent via email.

Saturday morning also consisted of six sessions of thirty-seven contributed oral

presentations. All sessions were well attended and each consisted of five to seven presentations that focused on restoration within specific ecosystem types. One third of the oral presentations focused on wetland restoration, one third involved grassland restoration, and the remaining one third consisted of either stream restoration or forest restoration. Additionally, 56% of oral presentations highlighted research results, while 44% focused on the description of restoration designs and implementation.



One of the 37 contributed presentations given on Saturday morning.

The Awards Ceremony was held during lunch. Doyn Kellerhals (University of Illinois at Springfield) received the Best Student Poster Award for her poster presentation “Bacterial communities change on decomposing silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) leaves from Illinois River floodplain habitats”.



Rocky Smiley congratulates Doyn Kellerhals for winning the Best Student Poster Award

Jason Ryndock (University of Mississippi) traveled 728 miles to give his oral presentation on “The impact of woodland restoration on the spider community of an upland deciduous forest in northern Mississippi” and received the Student Presenter Who Traveled the Farthest Award. Both student award winners received a \$50 award from the Chapter.



Rocky Smiley congratulates Jason Ryndock for being the Student Presenter Who Traveled the Farthest.

Additionally, during lunch Stuart Allison (the Midwest U.S./Canada Representative on the SER Board of Directors) provided attendees with updates from the SER Board. In particular, Stuart solicited feedback from attendees on their views on SER holding a joint North American meeting in those years when the International SER meeting is not held.



Midwest U.S./Canada SER Board Representative Stuart Allison talks with Karen Rodriguez.

Saturday afternoon was devoted to the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum Plenary Session. This session consisted of presentations by Kevin McSweeney, Mark Wegnener, and Cheryl Bauer-Armstrong that discussed the Arboretum’s history, its land use, development of an online interactive map, and educational outreach program.



Dr. Kevin McSweeney reviews the history of the Arboretum during the Arboretum Plenary Session.

The meeting concluded with guided walking tours of the Arboretum that included visits to Curtis Prairie the world’s oldest restored prairie, Wingra Woods and Gallistel Woods with their Native American effigy mounds, the Wisconsin Native Plant Garden, and the Green Prairie restoration tract that was hand-planted in 1940’s and 1950’s.



An Arboretum Tour Guide discusses the Native American effigy mounds found within Wingra and Gallistel Woods.

We are grateful for the support provided by our meeting sponsors (University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum, Genesis Nursery, Stantec Consulting, Applied Ecological Services, ENVIRON International Corporation, Prairie Restorations Inc., JFNew, The Nature Conservancy, Seiler Instrument, Botham Vineyards, and Ecological Restoration Services). Steve Glass, Susan Halverson, Kevin McSweeney, and the other staff at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum assisted the Chapter's Annual Meeting Committee with planning and onsite preparations. Hua Chen, Bob Grese, Dan Larkin, and John Shuey served as judges for the Best Student Poster Presentation Award. Assistance with set up and registration was provided by David Benson, Katie Martin, Belynda Smiley, Eric Bird, and Benjamin Van Thiel. We are also thankful for the participation of all presenters, moderators, tour leaders, volunteers, and attendees for making our second Annual Chapter meeting a success.

*Rocky Smiley, President and Young Choi,
Annual Meeting Committee Chairperson*

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN- STEVENS POINT STUDENTS WORK TO PROMOTE RESTORATION

Many college students involve themselves in extracurricular activities. It might be clubs, student organizations, intramurals – it doesn't matter. As members of the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point (UWSP) SER Student Guild, we choose restoration. Any number of reasons could explain that - maybe it is to gain experience in the field, develop ourselves professionally, or to build our resumes. All are excellent reasons to get involved – but I get a sense that it's more than that. Rather than twirl batons or grip baseball

bats, we choose to swing pulaskis and left shovels. We tear up the generic green stuff which doesn't belong, and replace it with a carefully selected composition of species that do belong. In the process we correct the error of our parents while setting the record straight for our children. In the process we reconcile our personal disconnect from the land and restore our relationship with the earth.

The UWSP SER Student Guild began in 2002 concurrently with the development of the Ecosystem Restoration major in the College of Natural Resources at UWSP. We originally organized under the title of Society of Ecological Restoration. Last year we formally affiliated ourselves with the Society for Ecological Restoration! We are the only SER Student Guild present within the Midwest-Great Lakes SER Chapter boundaries. We currently have 45 members that consist of 95% of undergraduates and 5% of graduate students.

Our biggest strength as a student organization is our ongoing restoration projects within the larger Stevens Point area. On a 4047 m² plot of land within UWSP's Schmeckle Reserve we have been restoring an oak savannah by removing early successional tree species and planting native grasses and forbs. Additionally, we have a Karner blue butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*) habitat restoration and ongoing monitoring project on Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) property in Plover, Wisconsin. Since Karner blue butterflies require wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) during their larval stage, much of our effort for this project goes into collecting and planting lupine seed. In many ways wild lupine and the Karner blue butterfly have become flagship species for our group.



UWSP SER Student Guild members planting wild lupine at DRN State Fisheries Area on the Little Plover River, Fall 2008.

On October 2, 2010 the UWSP SER Student Guild will hold the Second Annual Karner Blue Rendezvous at the Little Plover DNR State Fisheries Area in Plover, Wisconsin. It is a public outreach event aimed at connecting the public with ecosystem restoration and endangered species conservation. We will serve local bison burgers and have live music while engaging the public through restoration demonstrations, seed sifting, guided hikes, and children's activities. It is a celebration of the work we do as a student organization and a celebration of ecological restoration. We want to encourage everyone to join us for this fun event! More information can be found at <http://eeinwisconsin.org/net/calendar/events.aspx?s=0.0.0.2209>



Community members sift lupine seed at the 2009 Karner Blue Rendezvous.

In addition to the long-term projects and the Karner Blue Rendezvous, we seek to provide professional development opportunities for our members. Six members attended the 2010 Midwest-Great Lakes SER Chapter Annual Chapter Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. Additionally, one of our recent graduates, Paul Cigan, gave a poster presentation on the role of student conservation organization in environmental monitoring and community outreach. This poster presentation highlighted the UWSP SER Student Guild's Karner blue butterfly restoration project. We continue to encourage research within our organization and some of our members are now working on a seed germination study of native prairie plants.



UWSP SER Guild members at the 2010 Midwest-Great Lakes SER Chapter Meeting

Despite all of these things, we believe our most important work is not our restoration projects, our outreach, or our research. The most valuable contribution we can make to the field is equipping young people with a love of the earth and a knowledge of ecological restoration. As our graduates move forward and spread to every corner of the United States and even other areas of the world, the seeds have been planted – and restoration will continue to grow!

Benjamin Van Thiel, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point SER Student Guild

SELECTED CONTENTS OF THE JUNE 2010 ISSUE OF *ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION*

Ecological Restoration is the oldest publication to deal exclusively with ecosystem restoration and is published for the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum by the University of Wisconsin Press and in association with the SER International. Below are selected Restoration Notes and Articles from the June 2010 issue. This issue contains a selection of Restoration Notes and Articles devoted to education and outreach in ecological restoration.

Perspective

F. S. Smith. Texas today: a sea of the wrong grasses.

Restoration Notes

J. Stubbendieck and R. A. Masters. Practical technique to manage smooth sumac and maintain prairie biodiversity (Nebraska).

B. Molano-Flores, C. A. Danderson, and K. Patel. Seed self-burial, germination, and seedling survival for a species with hygroscopic awns (Illinois).

J. Klein and D. Conover. Restoring biodiversity by lowering deer numbers at Shawnee Lookout (Ohio).

P. A. Desserud and M. A. Naeth. Smooth brome: an unexpected response to straw-amended soil (Alberta).

C. Kaplan and N. Hoeffner. Restoring grassland habitat in Linn, Wisconsin.

T. B. Simpson. Teaching ecological restoration to strangers and friends: an adult education program in northeastern Illinois.

M. Farrior. Social science resources for

restoration outreach programs.

Articles

Z. Dowling, T. Hartwig, E. Kiviat, and F. Keesing. Experimental management of nesting habitat for the Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*).

J. Aronson, N. Aguirre, and J. Muñoz. Ecological restoration for future conservation professionals: training with conceptual models and practical exercises.

D. J. Tongway. Teaching the assessment of landscape function in the field: enabling the design and selection of appropriate restoration techniques.

J. M. Rey Benayas, A. Escudero, J. F. Martín Duque, J. M. Nicolau, P. Villar-Salvador, D. García de Jalón, and L. Balaguer. A multiinstitutional spanish master's program in ecosystem restoration: vision and four-year experience.

R. E. Cruz and R. B. Segura. Developing the bioliteracy of school children for 24 years: a fundamental tool for ecological restoration and conservation in perpetuity of the Área de Conservación Guanacaste, Costa Rica.

C. A. B. Mesquita, C. G. D. Holvorcem, C. H. Lyrio, P. Dimas de Menezes, J. Dilson da Silva Dias, and J. F. Azevedo, Jr. COOPLANTAR: a Brazilian initiative to integrate forest restoration with job and income generation in rural areas.

R. Hall and C. Bauer-Armstrong. Earth partnership for schools: ecological restoration in schools and communities.

For more information on current and past issues of Ecological Restoration see:

<http://www.ecologicalrestoration.info/firstpage.html>

UPCOMING ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION RELATED CONFERENCES AND EVENTS – AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2010

Drugs in the Drinking Water – Great Lakes Pharmaceutical Source Reduction Summit. Chicago, Illinois. August 5, 2010. For more information contact Josh Singer (jsinger@greatlakes.org).

Michigan State University Garden Day. Wharton Center, East Lansing, Michigan. August 6, 2010.
www.hrt.msu.edu/2010-garden-day/

2nd Annual Midwest Native Plant Conference. Dayton, Ohio. August 6 to 8, 2010.
www.cincinnatibirds.com/mwnp/

H2O Great Lakes, Great People. Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association and the Michigan Water Environment Association. Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. August 10 to 13, 2010.
www.mi-wea.org/annual_conference.php

Knee Deep in Prairies 2010. Riveredge Nature Center, Newburg, Wisconsin. August 11, 2010.
www.riveredge.us/default.aspx?id=205

Great Lakes Dunes. Stewardship Network Webcast. Online event, 11:45 am to 1:00 pm EST, August 11, 2010. See the following for more information:
www.stewardshipnetwork.org/site/c.hrLKWPILuF/b.3975187/k.A610/Stewardship_Network_Webcast.htm

2010 Stiltgrass Summit, hosted by the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area. Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois. August 11 to 12, 2010.
www.rtrcwma.org/stiltgrass

Jens Jensen's 150th Birthday Celebration. The Chicago Park District and Parkways Foundation present a series of events celebrating the life and work of Jens Jensen. Eleven events to be held in Chicago, Illinois from August 11 to October 29, 2010. See website for more information:
www.jensjensen.org/drupal/?q=events

Farming and Water Quality: A Conversation with Iowa Farmers. Owatonna, Minnesota. August 16, 2010.
www.minnesotawaters.org/content/“farming-and-water-quality-conversation-iowa-farmers”

RiverNight 2010. Harriet Island, St. Paul, Minnesota. August 18, 2010.
www.minnesotawaters.org/content/rivernight-2010-mn-event

Advanced Naturalist Workshops. The Cincinnati Museum Center is offering workshops on the identification of plants and animals in Ohio. Four workshops (Fish, Freshwater Snails, Grasses, Freshwater Algae) will be held between August 20 to September 19, 2010. See the following webpage for more information:
cincyevolution.com/eoa/Edge_of_Appalachia/Advanced_Naturalist_Workshops.html

Watershed 2010. Innovations in Watershed Management Under Land Use and Climate Change. Madison, Wisconsin. August 23 to August 27, 2010.
content.asce.org/conferences/watershedmanagement2010/index.html

21st International Diatom Symposium. St. Paul, Minnesota. August 29 to September 3, 2010.
web.stcloudstate.edu/phytolab/ids21/Registration.html

2010 Annual Meeting of the Michigan Prescribed Fire Council. Fort Custer Training

Center, Augusta, Michigan. September 10 to 11, 2001. www.firecouncil.org/training

Ohio's 2010 Coastweeks. Part of an international celebration of our waters and shorelines. The focus is to encourage people to be part of the solution, not the pollution of Lake Erie. Events include stream, lagoon, marsh, and shoreline cleanups at various locations in Ohio from September 11 to 25, 2010. See 2010 Events Schedule at lakeerie.ohio.gov/Coastweeks.aspx

Fourth Annual Indiana Bat Festival. Indiana State University and the Center for North American Bat Research and Conservation. Indiana State University Science Building, Terre Haute, Indiana. September 18, 2010. www.indstate.edu/biology/centers/batfestival.htm

The Great Lakes Wind Collaborative 3rd Annual Meeting. Cleveland, Ohio. September 20 to 21, 2010. www.glc.org/energy/wind/email/GLWC2010-savedate.html

Second Annual Karner Blue Rendezvous. University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point SER Student Guild. Plover Wisconsin. October 2, 2010. eeinwisconsin.org/net/calendar/events.aspx?s=0.0.0.2209.

Michigan Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects Conference. East Lansing, Michigan. October 7, 2010. www.michiganasla.org/chapter/index.html

2010 Annual Conference of the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education. Engaging Students in Science and

Stewardship. University of Michigan Biological Station, Pellston, Michigan. October 8 to 10, 2010.

www.michiganenvironmentaled.org/conference2010.html

Restoring Ecological Health to Your Land with Steve Apfelbaum (Applied Ecological Services) and Alan Haney (University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point). Stewardship Network Webcast. Online event, 11:45 am to 1:00 pm EST, October 13, 2010. See the following for more information:

www.stewardshipnetwork.org/site/c.hrLOKWPILuF/b.3975187/k.A610/Stewardship_Network_Webcast.htm

Wisconsin Wetlands Association's 2010 Annual Membership Meeting and Wetlands Awards Ceremony. University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum, Madison, Wisconsin. October 21, 2010.

www.wisconsinwetlands.org/2010annualmeeting.htm

Natural Landscaping with Native Plants. Wild Ones. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. October 23, 2010. Registration form available for download under "Milwaukee Area Chapters Natural Landscaping Conference" section at www.for-wild.org/events.html

Railroad Environmental Conference 2010. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. October 26 to 27, 2010.

ict.illinois.edu/railroad/RREC/overview.asp

Bill Santelik, EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., and Cody Fleece, Stantec Consulting.



MIDWEST-GREAT LAKES CHAPTER SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION INTERNATIONAL

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