**Midwest-Great Lakes SER Chapter: Who we are, what we do, and what we will do.**
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This region has a diversity of ecosystems including prairies, a variety of forest types, savannas, wetlands, and aquatic habitats including the Great Lakes. There are federally designated wilderness areas in all six states. This diverse geographic area is impacted by agriculture, industry, urbanization, and invasive species. Consequently, ecological restoration projects within this region face a wide range of challenges.

### Historic Information
- Chapter established in 2008
- Includes six states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin (Area: 1,005,719 km²)
- Filed articles of incorporation & recognized as a domestic non-profit organization by the State of Indiana in 2012
- Designated a non-profit public foundation 501 3(c) by the United States Internal Revenue Service in 2013
- Annual Meetings (2008-2013) included oral and poster presentation sessions, workshops, symposia, plenary sessions, field trips (Recent meetings had attendance of @ 140 persons)
- Maintain website & Facebook page, and issue newsletters to communicate with our membership.

### Five-year Strategic Plan
To better serve our constituent membership the chapter is developing a five-year strategic plan. We used a membership questionnaire to assess the needs and interests of our members. The visions and goals of the strategic plan reflect the results of the membership questionnaire that was completed by forty-six members (25% of our membership) in April 2013.

#### Selected Results from the Membership Questionnaire

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<th>Please select what you think are the three most important benefits or services the Chapter should provide in the future</th>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunity to interact with others interested in ecological restoration</td>
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<td>Networking opportunities</td>
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<td>Information on job opportunities</td>
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<td>Information on technical assistance</td>
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#### Rate the items below for their importance to affect the science and/or practice of restoration ecology in the future

| Invasive Species | Strong affect 90% | Moderate affect 10% | Weak affect 0% |
| Global Climate Change | Strong affect 76% | Moderate affect 22% | Weak affect 2% |
| Funding | Strong affect 71% | Moderate affect 27% | Weak affect 2% |
| Restoring Native species Habitat | Strong affect 69% | Moderate affect 29% | Weak affect 2% |
| Public Support | Strong affect 63% | Moderate affect 33% | Weak affect 4% |

### Membership Affiliation
- Academia
- Non-governmental organization (NGO)
- Private for profit firm
- Federal, state, or county government agency
- Other

### Five-Year Strategic Plan
**Mission:** To promote the science and practice of ecological restoration to assist with the recovery and management of degraded ecosystems within the Midwest-Great Lakes region of the United States.

**Vision:** To be a primary regional source for information on issues related to ecological restoration and provide a forum for interchange of ideas on restoration among scientists, practitioners, students, and members of the lay public.

#### Goal 1. Improve outreach, benefits, and services for members

**STRATEGIES**
1. - Provide two major membership events annually
2. - Provide at least one online webinar annually on regional restoration issues, methods, practices, and/or research
3. - Produce or support development of publications & short notes on regional restoration topics & best restoration practices
4. - Proactively post timely regional job links
5. - Provide highlights of restoration projects within the region on digital media
6. - Encourage networking and interaction among our diverse membership base

#### Goal 2. Become the primary regional source of ecological restoration & restoration ecology

**STRATEGIES**
1. - Become proactive on policy positions locally & regionally within constraints expected of a non-profit 501 c(3) organization
2. - Collaborate with & support other like-minded organizations by developing & strengthening local/regional private & nonprofit restoration networks
3. - Jointly host meetings & workshops with other organizations
4. - Encourage community ecological restoration activities by establishing recognition awards for community developments

#### Goal 3. Encourage greater student involvement and recognition

**STRATEGIES**
1. - Provide mini research grants, internships, and/or travel grants
2. - Encourage development of SER Student Associations or Student Subchapters within the region
3. - Provide greater recognition for students at our Annual Meeting
4. - Provide student focused events

#### Goal 4. Strengthen the overall foundational structure of the organization

**STRATEGIES**
1. - Increase membership & retention of members
2. - Host Annual Meetings that attract up to 200 persons
3. - Maintain good financial standing, increase sponsorships & private donations
4. – Clarify expectations of Board members, improve orientation materials for incoming Board members
5. – develop strategies for recruiting new Board members
6. - Review and ensure active committees are fulfilling needed functions
7. - Increase membership involvement in active committees