

Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society



Excellence in Wildlife Conservation through Science and Education

<http://wildlife.org/illinois-chapter/>

Edited by Scott Meister, President-Elect

President's Corner

Bob Clevestine

In spite of winter's icy grip on the Upper Mississippi, the Buffleheads and Goldeneyes seem pretty optimistic....this can only mean one thing....Spring really is on the way, and it's time for the Annual Meeting. The Natural History Survey crew has assembled a great agenda for April 12th to 14th in Champaign – check the flyer on pages 9-12 of this newsletter for details.

President-elect Meister has reached out to our known and presumed state school student chapter contacts in an effort to gather some news and updates from those chapters, as well as reinforce the State, Section, and national organization support for student participation in The Wildlife Society. As this year has flown by, so have my grand plans for just about everything, including ushering one or more of our student chapters toward “the finals” for student chapter of the year. Opportunities for student projects on our National Wildlife Refuges abound and I suspect many similar opportunities exist on State, County, and local conservation lands. On Refuges, we have basic floral and faunal inventory needs; we have questions about habitat relationships, habitat selection versus availability, and invasive species effects on habitat suitability.

Besides research and inventory work, there are always opportunities for regular grunt work like clearing bush honeysuckle, pulling garlic mustard, or trail maintenance. Volunteer work days are always appreciated by any agency with public lands, not just FWS. Another possibility would be helping with the DNR's annual goose round-ups –it's a great way to get familiar with animal handling fast – opportunities vary by DNR District, but contact any DNR employee and they can point you in the right direction to connect with the round up nearest your school. Although the goose round-ups occur in June, at least they're after finals, and it's an excuse to bring your chapter buddies together to rub

elbows with the professionals for a day. If your chapter members are scattered for the summer, maybe your members can represent the chapter at the round-up nearest them around the state, and see how many events the chapter can bag.

As of this writing, the application form and deadline for 2015 hadn't been posted on the TWS website yet, but if it's like last year (link below), it's likely June 30. If your student chapter is just starting or restarting, give some thought to the goals outlined in the application form to plan your chapter's activities in the near and long term, and go for it. Let's get future wildlifers in Illinois noticed!

<http://wildlife.org/chapter-and-student-chapter-of-the-year-awards/>

Just to close, please feel free to contact me or any chapter member to explore opportunities for your student chapter to study or work on our great state's public lands, we're here for you.

ICTWS Member Publications

Ahlers A. A., Mitchell M. A., Dubey J. P., Schooley R.L., Heske E.J. 2015. Risk factors for *Toxoplasma gondii* exposure in semiaquatic mammals in a freshwater ecosystem. Journal of Wildlife Diseases. In press. <http://dx.doi.org/10.7589/2014-03-071>

Crawford, J. C., R. D. Bluett, and E. M. Schaubert. 2015. Conspecific aggression by beavers (*Castor canadensis*) in the Sangamon River Basin in central Illinois: correlates with habitat, age, sex and season. American Midland Naturalist 173:145-155.

Fischer J.D., Schneider S.C., Ahlers A.A., Miller J.R. 2015. Categorizing wildlife responses to urbanization and conservation implications of terminology. Conservation Biology. In press. [DOI: 10.1111/cobi.12451](https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.12451)/epdf

Schulz, J.H., D.L. Otis, and G.E. Potts. 2014. Sad Demise of the Passenger Pigeon: Learning From-Or Repeating-The Past? The Wildlife Professional 8(3):64-67.

Tosa, M. I., E. M. Schaubert, and C. K. Nielsen. 2015. Familiarity breeds contempt: proximity loggers reveal female white-tailed deer avoiding close contact with near neighbors. Journal of Wildlife Diseases, 51:79-88. [DOI 10.7589/2013-06-139](https://doi.org/10.7589/2013-06-139).

Upcoming Meetings

71st Annual Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee and the 9th Biennial Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society Symposium
March 22-27, 2015
St. Charles, MO



<http://www.umrcc.org/Reports/Annual%20UMRCC%20Mtg/Note%20on%202015%20Annual%20Meeting.pdf>

51st Annual Meeting of the Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society

April 12-14, 2015
Champaign, IL

Details and a registration form can be found on pages 9-12 of the Newsletter.

Important dates to consider:

March 13, 2015: Reservations at Hawthorne Suites should be made by March 13 to assure availability. After that, rooms can still be reserved, but no guarantees on availability.

March 30, 2015: Early-bird registration ends and abstracts are due.



47th Meeting of the Mississippi River Research Consortium

April 22-24, 2015
La Crosse, WI

<http://m-r-r-c.org/>

More info on pages 13-14!



International Urban Wildlife Conference

May 17-20, 2015
Chicago, IL

<http://www.urban-wildlife.org/>

Register by May 1 for a discounted rate!



International Urban Wildlife Conference

95th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists

June 12-16, 2015
Jacksonville, FL

<http://www.mammalsociety.org/meetings>



15th Biennial Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System

October 27-29, 2015
Peoria, IL

<http://www.conferences.uiuc.edu/conferences/conference.asp?ID=413>

See page 15!



Student Chapter Corner

Contacts

Eastern Illinois University

Advisors: Jill Deppe, jdeppe@eiu.edu
President: Clinton Morgeson

Southern Illinois University

Advisor: Eric Schaubert, schauber@siu.edu
President: Julie Driebergen
Webpage: <http://wildlifezoology.rso.siu.edu/>

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Advisors: Steve Buck, sbuck@illinois.edu
Bob Schooley, schooley@illinois.edu
President: Isha Robertson

Western Illinois University - Inactive

Advisors: Chris Jacques, CN-Jacques@wiu.edu

Resources

The Wildlife Society staff and Council actively encourage the success of student chapters and provide ongoing assistance to them. For more information on resources available to student chapters including annual conclaves, the TWS Leadership Institute, Career Development and Job Board visit: <http://wildlife.org/next-generation/>

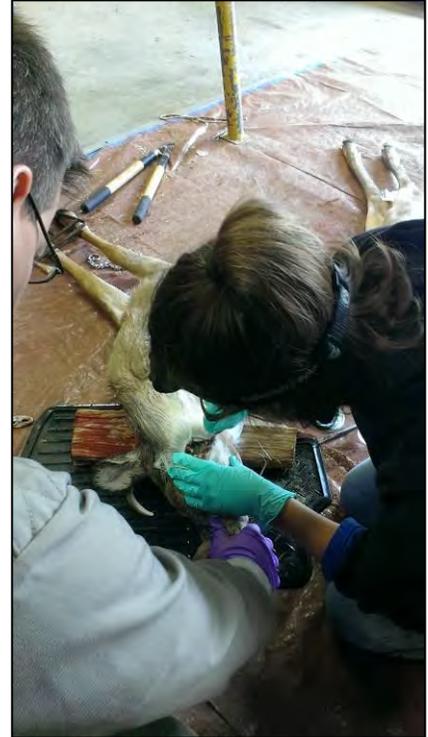
Reports

Southern Illinois University Carbondale Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society and Zoology Club Julie Driebergen, President

This Spring semester, we have already gone to the Crown Ridge Tiger Sanctuary in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, for a general tour of the facilities. We also volunteered at the Science Center in Carbondale, Illinois to help young girls get into the science fields through "Frozen" themed science demonstrations. We will be volunteering with a forest or park clean-up with Green Earth and we will be visiting the Endangered Wolf Center in Eureka, Missouri in March. In February, we had a representative from Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge talk to us about volunteer and Job opportunities, and we had a graduate student talk about his research with River Otters and what it takes to get into research like that. We hope to have more graduate students and a state herpetologist come speak at our meetings, and to have a tour of the wet specimen lab/museum within SIUC. At the end of the semester, we will vote for new board members, and say goodbye and good luck to graduating seniors.

**Eastern Illinois University
EIU Fish and Wildlife Ecology Club
Clinton Morgeson, President**

The Eastern Illinois University Chapter of The Wildlife Society meets jointly with the EIU Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) each month as the EIU Fish and Wildlife Ecology Club. During the fall 2014 semester the club had a guest lecture from EIU graduate student Alex Winter on his research on northern cardinal breeding ecology, and club members participated in several field activities. In November club members observed Lee Mitchell (Natural Resource Specialist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) process deer brought into the Wolfe Creek State Park deer check station at Lake Shelbyville. Students learned about how deer are recorded for harvest reporting to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Deer processing included age estimations, weight measurements, and checks for chronic wasting disease. After observing the process students gained hands-on experience processing deer under Lee's instruction. Together with the AFS students, TWS students assisted a local landowner evaluate the fish composition in his agricultural pond. The club used this opportunity to conduct an electrofishing and pond management clinic for students, where members had a chance to boat-electroshock, handle fish, and help make management recommendations to the landowner. The club also held an urban fishing event for local youths at the EIU campus pond. Children from Mattoon Elementary School had the opportunity to learn how to fish. It was very encouraging to see the excitement these opportunities provided youths. Toward the end of the fall semester the club organized a CPR and first aid training opportunity for club members, led by the American Red Cross Association. Club members gained valuable CPR and first aid training and acquired American Red Cross CPR/AED/first aid certification. This spring the club has invited guest lecturers from an environmental consulting firm to discuss career opportunities and preparation. The club also will continue the urban fishing program, fundraising opportunities (sale of t-shirts), and organize additional skills clinics (e.g., bird banding).



Notes and Contributions

Kenton Macy, a biologist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Charleston was selected as the Illinois Pheasants Forever 2014 Wildlife Professional of the Year. Kenton played an instrumental role providing training and support to Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists and in promoting quality habitat throughout partner offices. *Congratulations Kent, from your fellow ICTWS members!*

* * *

Emiquon Preserve Update

Steve Havera

After the lengthy discussion at our business meeting last year regarding the proposed Corps of Engineers Environmental Management Program's project to move forward with Illinois River connectivity to the The Nature Conservancy's Emiquon Preserve, the remainder of 2014 included many endeavors associated with the project. Some activities included the submission of several letters and comments of concern to the Corps by chapter members, the submission of our Chapter's 2006 Position Statement on River Connectivity to the Corps, the implementation of an online petition against the project that collected more than 1,500 signatures and was sent directly to the Corps and appropriate politicians, a detailed letter against the project written to the Corps and appropriate legislators by nine knowledgeable professional biologists with more than three centuries of experience (Manning, Conlin, Tranquilli, Havera, Etter, Nixon, Montgomery, Emerick and Beissel), and a formal letter written to TNC by the Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society expressing concern regarding the proposed reconnection of the Illinois River and Emiquon Preserve.

As a result of these and other endeavors along with the failure of TNC to approve the NRCS Compatible Use Agreement stipulations associated with The Wetland Reserve project at the site, TNC formally withdrew the project from the Corps of Engineers Environmental Management Program in November. TNC is currently pursuing private options for construction of a control structure and associated pumping capabilities.

* * *

The Conservation Affairs Network

Gary Potts

Purpose

The Conservation Affairs Network enhances the effectiveness of our entire Society by increasing communication, collaboration, and coordination between our Chapters, Sections, and TWS headquarters. Establishing better connections among the individual units of TWS is part of a larger strategic effort that will propel our entire Society into the future as a stronger organization and make each of us more effective at achieving our mission.

Focus

The Conservation Affairs Network is being launched with an initial focus on wildlife policy issues at the national, regional, and local levels. Wildlife policy issues are currently addressed by all levels of TWS. However, policy activities of individual units are rarely communicated to others in the Society. Given the

many similarities in wildlife policy issues among regions, this is an area in which more communication and collaboration could immediately increase our individual and collective effectiveness by allowing us to learn from and assist each other.

The Conservation Affairs Network is not about conducting more policy activities in each Chapter or Section. Rather its purpose is to grow the connections and promote collaboration that will make our actions more efficient and effective.

Framework

The Network creates direct linkages among Chapters, Sections, and TWS headquarters through the establishment of Conservation Affairs Committees (CAC) within each Chapter and Section. These committees are integrated with others in their geographic region through the Section CAC consisting of the Chapter CAC Chairs.

Regular communication via conference calls, emails, and newsletters will allow information to be shared throughout the Network. Each individual CAC will be made aware of activities and issues being addressed by other CACs in the Network, enabling CACs to coordinate and collaborate on their efforts.

Each CAC can determine its own communication needs. To get the Network started, the current recommendation is for Chapter CACs to host bimonthly conference calls with their committee members; for Section CACs host bimonthly conference calls with all Chapter CAC Chairs in their region; and for Section CAC Chairs participate in bimonthly conference calls with TWS Government Affairs Staff.

For more information about the initiative, go to www.wildlife.org/conservation-affairs-network, which includes all of the previous issues of the newsletter.

* * *

ICTWS Newsletters

Don't wait for solicitation to provide any contributions to the next ICTWS Newsletter! We accept news, awards notices, recent publications, upcoming conferences, or any item that could be valuable to members throughout the entire year. Please email Scott Meister at smeister@dupageforest.org any contributions.

Previous editions of our Newsletter are available on our website: <http://drupal.wildlife.org/illinois/>.
Thanks to Michelle Horath for maintaining the site!

ICTWS Executive Board

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**David E. Andersen, North Central Section
Representative**

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dea@umn.edu
(612) 626-1222

51ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

ICTWS

REGISTER NOW

HOSTED BY THE ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY AND THE UI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:

WHAT'S HURTING OUR HERPS: DISEASES OF FREE-RANGING REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Dr. Matt Allender

*Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarian
Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Biosciences
Research Affiliate, Prairie Research Institute*

OTHER FEATURED EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Sunday evening social
- Science Slam: speed-talks on wildlife research
- Monday evening poster session and social
- Monday lunch and dinner included
- Coffee breaks and refreshments included
- Plenty of great presentations by your wildlife colleagues!

APRIL 12-14

FORBES NATURAL HISTORY BUILDING
[ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY HEADQUARTERS]

1816 SOUTH OAK STREET
CHAMPAIGN, IL

REGISTRATION

**Early-bird registration (before March 30th) only \$50!
After March 30th registration is \$60.**

Thanks to a generous donation by the UI Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, the first 20 students that submit a paper or poster abstract may register for the meeting at a special reduced rate of only \$25!

SEND YOUR REGISTRATION CHECK (SORRY, NO ONLINE PAYMENT OPTION AVAILABLE) MADE OUT TO ICTWS TO:

LUKE GARVER, ICTWS SECRETARY/TREASURER

**IDNR
ONE NATURAL RESOURCES WAY
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702**

NOTE:

Registrants at the door may not be able to purchase dinner Monday night due to the necessity of ordering in advance. You don't want to miss the Black Dog BBQ, so make sure we get your registration at least a week early!



LODGING

HAWTHORNE SUITES

**101 TRADE CENTER DRIVE
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820
(217) 398-3400**

<http://www.hawthorn.com/hotels/illinois/champaign/hawthorn-suites-by-wyndham-champaign/hotel-overview>

A special block of rooms is reserved for ICTWS at \$70.00 per night. Reservations for the conference should be made by March 13 to assure availability (rooms will not be held more than 30 days before the conference). After that, rooms can still be reserved, but no guarantees on availability.

PARKING

FREE parking at the hotel (Hawthorne Suites), which is a short walk to the Forbes Natural History Building. Parking will also be made available at the Forbes Natural History Building (watch for signs directing you to the appropriate lot).

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Three types of abstracts will be accepted:

- 1. FULL 20-MIN ORAL PRESENTATIONS:** Presentations should be about 17 minutes long, allowing time for introductions and questions. We have limited time for these, so please consider one of the options below for preliminary results. Presentations by students being considered for the Best Student Paper Award will receive priority and be scheduled for Monday morning.
- 2. SPEED-TALKS:** We plan a Monday afternoon session with about 10 speed-talks. These will be scheduled at 10-min intervals, so plan about 8 minutes for the oral presentation followed by time for a single question. There will be a coffee break immediately after the session, and the evening social also will offer opportunities for individual discussions. We will hold you to a strict time limit on these talks. Share your significant new findings swiftly and concisely!
- 3. POSTERS:** The Monday evening poster session is a great place to describe short projects, ongoing research, and preliminary results. We especially encourage students to bring posters describing their research, even if still in the proposal stage. This will be a great opportunity to share your plans and get feedback from your colleagues.

WHEN SUBMITTING YOUR ABSTRACT PLEASE SPECIFY:

Type of Presentation: FULL PRESENTATION SPEED-TALK POSTER

If full presentation, is the presentation to be considered for the Best Student Paper Award? YES NO

If space becomes limited, can we switch you from full presentation to speed-talk? YES NO

SEND YOUR ABSTRACT AS A WORD DOC FILE TO: eheske@illinois.edu

Abstracts will be considered beginning immediately up to March 30 (2 weeks before the meeting).



ABSTRACT EXAMPLE

Please follow the abstract format, and limit text to no more than 300 words:

TITLE: Highlights from some recent research on ocelots, American mink, and muskrats.

AUTHORS: Torrey W. Rodgers, Department of Animal Biology, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801; Patrick J. Wolff, Adam A. Ahlers, Robert L. Schooley, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801; and Edward J. Heske (presenter), Illinois Natural History Survey, 1816 South Oak St., Champaign, IL 61821; Phone (217) 244-2173; Email: eheske@illinois.edu

ABSTRACT: We summarize key findings from 3 recent studies on ocelots (*Leopardus pardalis*), American mink (*Neovision vison*), and muskrats (*Ondatra zibethicus*). 1) Camera trapping and capture-recapture estimates from DNA in scats revealed that ocelots on Barro Colorado Island in the Panama Canal occur at the highest density yet reported for this species. Examination of spatiotemporal overlap and relatedness among ocelots on BCI are consistent with some predictions from kin selection theory, and suggest the social organization of solitary small cats is more flexible than commonly assumed. 2) Analysis of scat contents revealed that crayfish are a major component of the diet of American mink in an agricultural region in central Illinois, particularly in summer. Although a relationship between mink and muskrats has often been emphasized, habitat use in riparian systems in our agricultural landscape was strongly related to hotspots of crayfish abundance. 3) Toxoplasmosis, a disease caused by the protozoal parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* with felids as the definitive host, is of growing concern for wildlife in aquatic systems. Antibodies to *T. gondii* were detected in muskrats and American mink captured in riparian systems at rates much higher than reported for mammals in upland habitats. Watershed area (area of drained landscape above point of capture) was the best predictor of infection rate in muskrats, suggesting drainage systems transport and collect *T. gondii* oocysts, increasing risk to semiaquatic mammals.



**Registration Form
ICTWS Annual Meeting
12-14 April 2015
FORBES NATURAL HISTORY BUILDING
Champaign, Illinois**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Receipt Required? Yes: _____ No: _____

Item	Number	Total
Early-bird Registration Fee (\$50) <i>before March 30th</i>		\$
Regular Registration Fee (\$60) <i>after March 30th</i>		\$
Student Discount Rate (\$25) <i>First 20 Student Registrants With Abstracts*</i>		\$
2015 IL Chapter Dues (Regular-\$10)**		\$
2015 IL Chapter Dues (Student-\$5)**		\$
2015 IL Chapter Dues (Retired-\$5)**		\$
	Grand Total	\$

*You must send an abstract to eheske@illinois.edu to receive this discount!

**Illinois Chapter Dues can also be renewed online at <http://drupal.wildlife.org/illinois/>.

Return this form with your check or money order to:

Luke Garver, ICTWS Secretary Treasurer

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way

Springfield, IL 62702

luke.garver@gmail.com

(217) 473-6187



DATES: The 47th meeting of the Mississippi River Research Consortium will be held April 22-24, 2015. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm Wednesday, April 22 with a welcome reception, keynote presentation, and evening social.

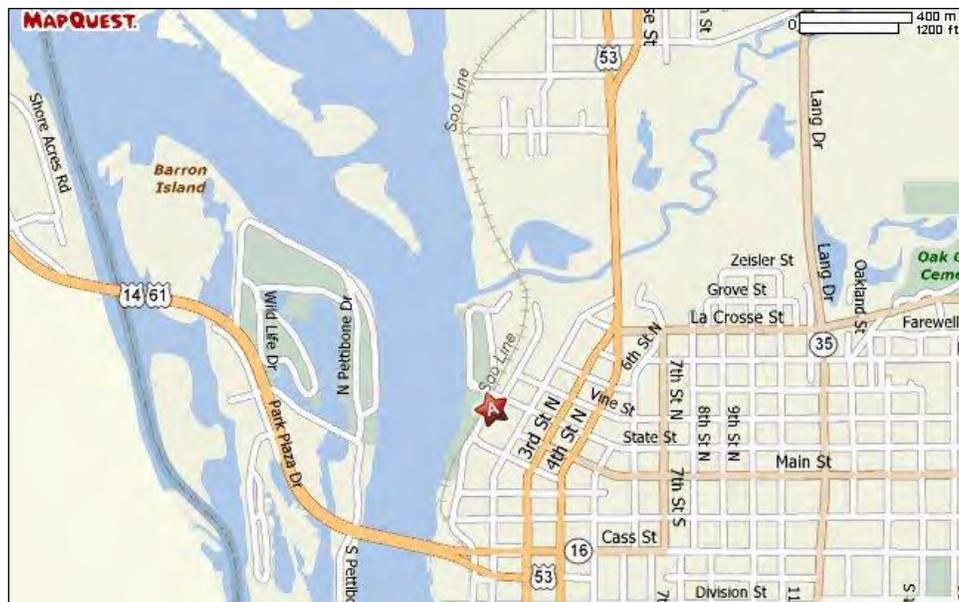
REGISTRATION: There are two options for conference registration:

Option 1: Register online by clicking the 'Pay Now' button and select the appropriate registration fee on the MRRC homepage <http://m-r-r-c.org/>. You will be directed to PayPal to make a secure online payment.

Option 2: Complete the attached form and mail it with your registration fee to: **Mississippi River Research Consortium, c/o Neal Mundahl**
Department of Biology, Winona State University
P.O. Box 5838, Winona, Minnesota 55987

We must receive your registration payment by April 10th, 2015 for early registration. Onsite registration can be done with cash, check or through PayPal at the registration table; however, the late registration fee will apply. If you have questions, see <http://m-r-r-c.org/>, or contact MRRC President, Dr. Andrew Casper, (309) 543-6000, afcasper@illinois.edu.

LOCATION: The meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel, 200 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 54601. The Radisson Hotel is located in the heart of historic downtown La Crosse and overlooks the scenic Mississippi River. Featured in the Hotel are a restaurant, lounge, and indoor pool/whirlpool.



LODGING: A block of rooms has been reserved for the nights of April 22-24, 2015 at a government rate of \$70.00 for single occupancy or \$100.00 for double occupancy per night plus taxes (13.5%) if reservation is made by **March 22, 2015**. The hotel telephone number is 608-784-6680. Please mention that you are with the Mississippi River Research Consortium.

AWARDS: Judging for the Best Paper and Best Poster Awards will take place for student presentations only. If you would be willing to serve as a judge, please contact MRRC Vice President, Michelle Bartsch at mrbartsch3@gmail.com and/or indicate on your Registration Form or Abstract submittal.



Registration Form

47th Annual Meeting
Mississippi River Research Consortium
Radisson Hotel
La Crosse, Wisconsin
April 22-24, 2015

NAME: _____

AFFILIATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE:(Home/Work): _____ Email: _____

Registration fee includes: 2015 dues and conference proceedings, Wednesday evening social and Thursday evening social and banquet, as well as Friday lunch.

Please indicate participation below (Y or N):

Wednesday evening social _____

Thursday evening banquet _____

Friday catered lunch _____

Please circle willingness to serve as a judge for student presentations: Y or N

If yes, are you available to judge Wednesday (evening), Thursday and Friday, please circle which days you are available to serve as a judge? **Wednesday Thursday Friday ALL**

Pre-Registration (**by 10 April 2015**): _____ regular \$105.00 _____ student \$75.00

Late Registration (**after 10 April 2015**): _____ regular \$120.00 _____ student \$90.00

Note: Hotel reservations must be made by **22 March 2015** to get the reduced room rate.

2015 Dues Only: _____ \$20.00 (members not attending, but wanting to receive the Proceedings)

Please make checks payable to the MRRC and mail to:

Mississippi River Research Consortium
c/o Neal Mundahl
Department of Biology, Winona State University
P.O.Box 5838
Winona, Minnesota 55987

Note: You may also register on-site, the day of the meeting with cash, check or credit card payments through PayPal; however, the late registration fee will apply.



Save the date!

Hotel Pere Marquette, Peoria, IL
October 27-29, 2015

A Watershed Partnership



ILLINOIS RIVER
CONFERENCE

Discover what's been happ'n
on the river and the land!

Partnerships working towards
improving the Illinois River system

Find out more by going to <http://www.conferences.uiuc.edu/conferences/conference.asp?ID=413>