

### Calendar of Events

- Dec. 3-12 - WDSE pledge drive
- Dec. 8 - Holiday Gathering at Green Mill
- Jan. 18 - Member-share potluck
- Feb. 18 - NE Regional Science Fair
- April - Guest speaker TBA
- May 12 & 13 - Spring Retreat
- May, 2006—AWIS End of the Year Potluck and Plant and Book Sale

## From the Desk of the President :

By Val Brady

Welcome to another year of interesting and stimulating AWIS meetings! We had a great turnout for the fall meeting, nearly crowding out of the home of our gracious host, Jean Regal of the UMD medical school. Please encourage all of the potential new members who came to attend future meetings.

As you will see in the calendar, we have a great slate of meetings and activities lined up for the year. By the time you read this, we will have already learned how paper is made on the Storaenso tour and will be looking forward to an evening of fun assisting public TV station WDSE in their fund drive. We have decided to infuse our holiday gathering with the spirit of giving by bringing gift items for the women's shelter. The slate of activities for spring 2006 is also full with the January member share potluck, the science fair judging, a guest speaker, and the spring retreat at St.

Croix State Park. I hope you can join us for many of these activities.

To keep up with what is going on, please take advantage of both the AWIS email list server and our website. These two tools are our most efficient and effective forms of communication for most of us. Information about both of these can be found in this newsletter.

As always, your board of directors is looking for ways to make our chapter more responsive to the needs of local women scientists, engineers and mathematicians. One way to do this is to expand our mentoring abilities. To this end, the website and this newsletter contain contact information for our members, along with a note about each member's specialty or interest. We encourage younger women to use this list to find a local

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## Holiday Gathering Dec. 8



Our next AWIS Meeting will be our Holiday Get Together to be held December 8th at The Green Mill., 5:30 p.m. (see page 3)

Please bring a gift donation for the local women's shelter

RSVP to Valerie Brady ([vbrady@nrri.umn.edu](mailto:vbrady@nrri.umn.edu)) or 720-4353

### Here Is Your AWIS Executive Council

Valerie Brady- President

Ginny Snarski— President Elect

Laura Solem- Treasurer

Anett Trebitz- Secretary

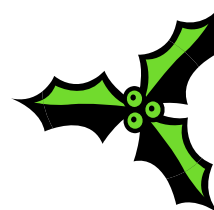
Valerie Brady & Stacey Stark- Webmasters

Zandy Zwiebel - Newsletter

Volunteers are needed for annual WDSE Fall Pledge Drive to be scheduled between December 3rd - 12th at WDSE station near UMD

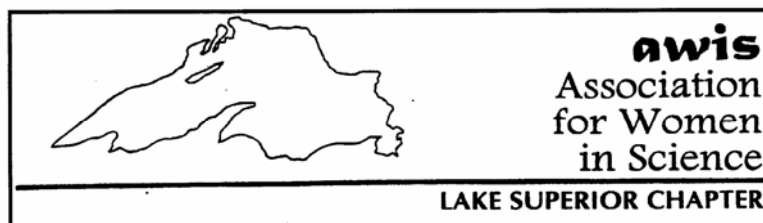
•••(details page 2)•••

Contact Laura Solem 724-4157 or ([laura.solem@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:laura.solem@pca.state.mn.us))



## WDSE Pledge Drive





***PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH!***

- Sign up now to get on the AWIS-LSC group e-mail list by visiting <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/> or send a blank e-mail to [AWIS-LSC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:AWIS-LSC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) This is our main way of communicating between newsletters.
- A registration form for you or a friend is available on the back side of this announcement.
- Please check your mailing label— the date and year listed are the date and year you last paid dues. If it has been more than one year since you paid your dues, please pay them and help support the cause.

UPCOMING MEETINGS	WHAT & WHERE :
WDSE Pledge Drive (Dec. 3-12)	<b>WDSE pledge drive - volunteers needed</b> Laura Solem is organizing AWIS assistance with the local public TV pledge drive. Exact date and time TBA (usually a 5 hour evening). We have loads of fun for a good cause; the fellowship and food are great. Watch the website and email for details. Contact Laura at 724-4157 or ( <a href="mailto:laura.solem@pca.state.mn.us">laura.solem@pca.state.mn.us</a> )
Holiday Gathering (Thurs. Dec. 8, 5:30 pm)	<b>Holiday get-together at The Green Mill, Canal Park</b> AWIS members gather for food and fellowship before the holidays, with AWIS paying for the treats. We will also be bringing gift items to donate to the local women's shelter. Contact Valerie Brady ( <a href="mailto:vbrady@nrri.umn.edu">vbrady@nrri.umn.edu</a> ).
January Meeting (Wed. Jan. 18, 6:00 pm)	<b>Member-share potluck at MPCA, 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Paulucci building, Canal Park</b> Members share a potluck meal and information about their research, travels and/or hobbies. Speaker volunteers needed. Contact Valerie Brady ( <a href="mailto:vbrady@nrri.umn.edu">vbrady@nrri.umn.edu</a> ).
February Activities (Sat. Feb. 18, 7:30 - 1:30)	<b>NE Regional Science Fair - Judges Wanted.</b> Activities held at UMD this year. Sign-up on the Science Fair web site at <a href="http://www.deadbeets.com/sciencefair">www.deadbeets.com/sciencefair</a> . Or contact Marsha Meinders-Patelke at <a href="mailto:patelke@cpinternet.com">patelke@cpinternet.com</a> to help.
April Meeting (date and loca- tion TBA)	<b>Guest speaker - ideas needed</b> Know of a topic you'd like to hear about, or a great guest speaker we should here? Your ideas are needed for our outside speaker for the year. Contact Valerie Brady ( <a href="mailto:vbrady@nrri.umn.edu">vbrady@nrri.umn.edu</a> ).
Spring Retreat (May 12 & 13)	<b>Spring Retreat at St. Croix State Park.</b> Plan on joining us for a weekend of good company, spring hiking and wildflowers, bike trails, dominoes (always), pizza, and good books. Organized by Deserae Hendrickson. Contact her at 879-0024 or <a href="mailto:desron@direcway.com">desron@direcway.com</a>
May Meeting (Date and loca- tion TBA)	<b>May - Book/Plant Fundraiser</b> Bring a dish to pass for a potluck dinner as well as your plants and books for the sale! This sale raises money for our grants and scholarships programs and science fair awards.

## An Introduction from Our New President Elect

By Ginny Snarski

I really believe that our AWIS newsletter is a wonderful tool for keeping members up on what's happening in our chapter even when we can't get to the meetings or events. Having put together newsletters for other groups, I appreciate how hard it can be to get together newsworthy, interesting or relevant stuff for an issue. So when I read Zandy's email requesting input to this newsletter, I thought about submitting a little something about -- what?? -- maybe about my latest canoe trip??. But then the deadline came and went and I thought, "Oh well, too late." Oh, I must have been thinking a bit too hard because shortly after I got an email from Zandy saying that the headline had been extended and suggesting, that because I'd missed the fall kickoff meeting and I was now the new vice president, I should introduce myself. She then proceeded to "interview" me via email. So, no more procrastinating...



Let me introduce myself to those of you who don't know me. I'm Ginny Snarski, age 57, started out life in northern Wisconsin, where I stayed for most of the first 22 years of my life. After college, I began working at the US EPA lab in Duluth (well, it wasn't EPA yet) as a research aquatic/fisheries biologist and worked there for over 34 years until retiring in June 2004. I was involved in many laboratory studies with fish and environmental pollutants (chemical and biological) and, when I was older and in somewhat degraded (crotchety) physical condition, in field studies. I've been active in the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, serving on various committees, executive committee member, and president. I've been a member of the Lake Superior Chapter of AWIS since it was formed about 20 years ago, was chapter secretary for a few years and I am a mostly active member of our great Book Group. Since my retirement, I've spent time (or more time) on hobbies and activities such including: volunteer work, reading, gardening, sewing and needlework, and all kinds of outdoor activities. Canoeing is

one of the things I especially enjoy sharing with my DH Darryl.

Here's a link to some photos of our September trip on the Bowron Lake Provincial Park Canoe Circuit in BC:

<http://community.webshots.com/album/474780192PyXHqg> and Darryl's trip report:

<http://www.paddling.net/message/showThread.html?fid=chat&tid=386061> . I'm looking forward to seeing you at upcoming AWIS meetings and to getting to work with each of you on some AWIS activity. Ginny

### (President's Note from page 1)

mentor if they do not already have one. If you have ideas about how we can serve our members better, no matter what stage of their career they are in, please let us know. We are also always looking for ideas to encourage young women (junior high and high school) to consider careers in the sciences, engineering and mathematics. So again, please don't be shy about sharing your ideas.

*A couple more things to remember:*

#### Keep up-to-speed using the AWIS-LSC website!

Our own AWIS website is at [www.awis-lsc.org](http://www.awis-lsc.org) and has a lot of useful information. Local jobs in science are posted as soon as we learn about them. The calendar about AWIS

meetings is always up-to-date, and you can find out about the latest books the book group is reading, see how to volunteer to be a science fair judge, or get the latest information about the spring retreat. In addition, you can find contact information and other stuff that is for members only in that section. The username is *awismember* and the password is *duluth*.

#### AWIS email list: the easiest way to communicate

All of our last minute planning is done on our email list. This is also where we send around the latest local science job announcements. If you are not getting these emails and would like to be "in the loop", send an email to Stacey Stark ([slstark@d.umn.edu](mailto:slstark@d.umn.edu)) and she'll be happy to add you. You can also opt out at any time.

Thanks for making AWIS a great organization. Val

Have you checked out our web site? [www.awis-lsc.org](http://www.awis-lsc.org)



### Other AWIS News!!

#### AWIS-LSC Teacher's Grant Update

At the September meeting we discussed the teacher's grant again and the problems we've had with lack of applications. We are trying to give \$100-\$200 to local junior high or high school teachers to use to encourage young women in science or math, but we've had no applications despite to attempts. We have now decided to look for teachers at the science fair who are doing a good job of encouraging young women and give them a grant without requiring an application.

#### Nationals Web Site [www.awis.org](http://www.awis.org)

The national AWIS organization unveiled a newly revised web site this fall, and they are asking for input and comments. If you have a chance, you can review it at [www.awis.org](http://www.awis.org). Your comments and suggestions should be sent to Nancy Bakowski at ([bakowski@awis.org](mailto:bakowski@awis.org)) or Alex Ruby at ([webadmin@awis.org](mailto:webadmin@awis.org)).

#### AWIS Book Group - an abridged history

By Marsha Meinders Patelke

I joined the AWIS Book Group when it first started meeting in 1996. My primary reason for joining was to read books that I wouldn't typically choose. When I reflect on Book Group now however, I realize what I look forward to is an evening out with the women, good conversation, good dinner and reading a book - pretty much in that order. The first couple of years we would gather about once a month at a member's home. Then it was the Brewhouse for a beer, a book and a burger. Now about every 6 weeks we sample a different restaurant, talk about the most recent book, choose a new title for the following meeting, and chat.

Titles that first year included *You Just Don't Understand* (Debra Tannen), *Composing a Life* (Mary Cathrine Bateson), *Having Our Say* (Sarah & A. Elizabeth Delany) and *Women of the Four Winds* (Elizabeth Fagg Olds). We tended to choose non-fiction books that dealt with issues such as women in science, the world of work, research and women's lives. After a bit we allowed one fiction book per year. Recently, we have been trying to incorporate classics such as Willa Cather's *Oh Pioneers*. We don't really limit ourselves much anymore, and if you check out the book group tab on our AWIS web site ([www.awis-lsc.org](http://www.awis-lsc.org)) you can see the diversity.

So - that brings us to AWIS Book Group 2005 through 2006. As you may have seen in email, a group of us gathered on Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Barnes and Noble to select our first couple of books and meeting dates for the season. I sent an email messages on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, to let folks know what we plan to be reading, when we will meet, and where we will converge. But you can also find this information on the "book group" link of the AWIS web site. This year we are using "themes".

Now here is the part that I don't think people believe. You don't have to read the book to join us. No really its true. Let's say someone who didn't read *A Walk in the Woods* wanted to join us. That's great - no problem - I am sure that a person could think of something to say about walking in the woods and contribute to the conversation without having read the book. You can think of it as a conversation about a topic. And - if you were kind of curious about the book or wanted to find someone to borrow it from . . . Besides you never know where the conversation will lead. But it is ok to read the book. So - I hope to see you at one of our gatherings!

#### Books and Themes

**Current book theme:** Women's experiences in the Middle East.

Members can choose to read any or all of the following books in preparation for a great discussion about this topic:

- A bed of red flowers: In search of my Afghanistan*, by Nelofer Pazira
- Mayada; Daughter of Iraq; one woman's survival under Saddam Hussein*, by Jean Sasson; or
- Reading Lolita in Tehran; A memoir in books*, by Azar Nafisi

**Meeting:** Wed. Nov. 16th, 5:30 pm, at Huies Chop Stick Inn, 505 E. 4th St., Duluth. Park in the back of the Daugherty's Hardware parking lot.

**Future book choices:**

December: Nickel and dimed: On not getting by in America, Barbara Ehrenreich

January: Theme is Lobsters. Read either:

- The secret life of lobsters* by Trevor Corson, or
- The lobster chronicles* by Linda Greenlaw

February meeting theme will be New Orleans and Gulf Coast hurricanes



## MEMBER AND COMMUNITY ANOUNCMENTS

### Great Lakes Aquarium “Voices of the Lake” Speaker Series:

The Great Lakes Aquarium is now presenting their 2005-2006 speaker series “Voices of the Lake.” Presentations feature local speakers with expert knowledge and experience with Great Lakes issues. The speaker series provides an opportunity for the community to appreciate and become aware of Great Lakes issues from those who have experienced them firsthand.

The presentations will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Great Lakes Aquarium. Cost for the general public is \$3 and Great Lakes Aquarium members are free. Refreshments are provided at all presentations. For more information, contact Joy Kubarek-Sandor at [jkubarek@glaquarium.org](mailto:jkubarek@glaquarium.org) or 740-3474 ext. 1019.

**November 10:** Thom Holden, Lake Superior Maritime Visitors Center - “With All Hands: Sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald”

**December 8:** TBA (check [www.glaquarium.org](http://www.glaquarium.org))

**January 12:** John Anderson, world paddler - “Lake Baikal...The Pearl of Siberia”

**February 9:** Jesse Schomberg, MN Sea Grant - “Lake Superior’s Wild Wetlands: Unheralded Protectors of an Ecosystem”

**March 9:** Debbie Waters, Hawk Ridge - “Raptor Migration in the Northland”

**April 13:** Dave Dempsey, author of *On the Brink: The Great Lakes in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* - “How Citizens Rescue the Great Lakes: Local and National Efforts”

### Activities at Hartley Nature Center (HNC):



**Now thru December:** Michael Furtman’s - “Invasion from the North” photographs of last year’s owl invasion on display with interpretation in the exhibit hall.

*The Izaak Walton League offers programming the 1st Wednesday of each month:*

**November 2:** “CLOUGH ISLAND”—development on 330 acres in the middle of the St. Louis River Estuary

**December 7:** Dr. William Fleischman - Update by the “STREAM TEAM” watershed initiative for Duluth Area

**Tuesdays and Thursdays:** 10:00 a.m. Nature Nook for parents with preschoolers. Includes story time followed by a hike, craft or other outside activity centering on the topic of the story.

**February 18:** Mush For Kids 2006 (noon to 4 PM) \$5 to try snowshoing, skiing, dogsledding, skijoring, and sleigh rides. Organized by Positive Energy For Youth, proceeds go to fund programs that get kids outside.

For more information e-mail [info@hartleynature.org](mailto:info@hartleynature.org) or call 724-6735.

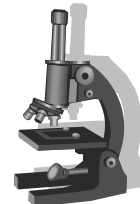
### Wild Ones Meetings:

Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Hartley Nature Center and are open to the public. Programs start at 7:00. For more information go to [www.d.umn.edu/~wildones](http://www.d.umn.edu/~wildones), or contact Carol Andrews at e-mail: [carol\\_andrews@hotmail.com](mailto:carol_andrews@hotmail.com) or phone: (218) 727-9340.

### Call for Science Fair Judges:

It’s never too early to solicit help for the N.E. Regional Science Fair. Please send the informational letter out to all of you colleagues. The Fair is on Saturday February 18, 2005 at UMD from 7:30 am -1:30 pm. go to [www.deadbeats.com/sciencefair](http://www.deadbeats.com/sciencefair), or contact Marsha Meinders-Patelke at [patelke@cpinternet.com](mailto:patelke@cpinternet.com) to help.

The State Science Fair to be held in the Twin Cities April 2-3 is also in need of judges. Please express interest at the “deadbeats” web site.



**AWIS-LSC**

557 West Wabasha Street  
Duluth, MN 55803

**AWIS-LSC MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Enclosed is my payment \$\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my contribution \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the AWIS Scholarship

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Where would you like to receive the newsletter? (home / work)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Interest/Expertise: \_\_\_\_\_

Can we include your contact information in a published directory? (yes / no) On our website? (yes / no)

**Please return to:**

Laura Solem, AWIS Treasurer  
4734 Mc Comber Road  
Duluth, MN 55803

**Dues:**

\$10.00—Professional Member  
\$5.00— Student Member  
The membership year runs from Sept to June