

Calendar of Events

- April 21– Member Speaker Meeting, UMD School of Medicine.
- May 20– Final Meeting– Potluck, Book and Plant Sale.
- Last Week in May– River

A Note From The Desk of Stacey Stark:

Dear AWIS Lake Superior Chapter Members,

We really had a packed January and February! Please read about what you may have missed in the other articles in this newsletter. A special thanks to everyone who participated in the Science Fair judging and the first annual “Making Choices” Women in Science panel. I think both of these events really get to the core of what AWIS is all about. We are adding another community service type project this year. AWIS is helping to expand the annual River Quest event (see page 5) with an essay contest sponsored by both River Quest and AWIS. This will involve reviewing the top essays written by 6th graders that attended the River Quest educational event and selecting recipients for awards provided by River Quest. AWIS will help design the contest and then the actual judging will occur sometime at the end of May.

In April Donna Forbes will lead a meeting discussing what she does in science. Donna is an Associate Professor in the University of Minnesota School of Medicine Duluth where she teaches Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology. She will teach us all about the human brain! Don’t miss this one.

At our May 20 meeting, we will unveil our new website! The board has agreed that we should give this a try. Our goal is to keep a simple, but updated site of events and past activities as well as contact information (this will be password protected). After a year we can evaluate the site usage. Keeping this up for a year (with volunteer chapter womanpower of course) will cost about the same as mailing two newsletters.

Continued on Page 4...

Here Is Your AWIS Executive Council

Stacey Stark– President
slstark@d.umn.edu

Deserae Hendrickson– President Elect
dsron@chartermi.net

Laura Solem– Treasurer
Laura.Solem@state.mn.us

Anett Trebitz– Secretary
trebitz.anett@epa.gov

Marsha Meinders Patelke– Book Group
patelke@cpinternet.com

Kristin Riker-Coleman and Katie Larson– Newsletter
rike0003@tc.umn.edu and katielarson@fdlrez.com



Member Speaker, Donna Forbes
The Human Brain: Real and Digitized
 Wednesday, April 21 6:00 pm

April Meeting

UMD School of Medicine, Room 52,
 Refreshments in Room 298 after the talk.
 Park in Pay Lot A or the Meters on University Drive

Bring a Prospective Member!!!!

AWIS 2004 Retreat

by Deserae Hendrickson

Six members enjoyed our annual weekend retreat on February 7-8 including Lynette Carney, Donna Forbes, Deserae Hendrickson, Penny Morton, Ginny Snarski, and Stacey Stark. We stayed at the River House in the ABR Resort in Ironwood Michigan. We skied for two days out our back door on nice fresh snow, and really enjoyed the great trails at ABR- very pretty! Once again, we carried

on the tradition of making way too much yummy pizza for dinner! Pizza was also followed by the traditional cut-throat match of Mexican train (a dominoes game). The victor at dominoes was Penny, who also received the award for most impressive somersault on the ski trails. Unfortunately, we were not able to witness this spectacular fall directly- only the snow covered figure emerging

"Making Choices" Career Panel A Success

By Annett Trebitz

On February 10th, a group of AWIS members including Valerie Brady, Diane Desotelle, Erica Hahn, Cindy Hale, Molly Negus, Penny Morton, and Jean Regal participated in a career forum for Duluth-Superior area college students. Panelists addressed a number of topic areas including their education and career path, choices they had made along the way, and some of the obstacles they had overcome. Students then had an opportunity to speak with panelists individually.

The speakers represented a range of areas of expertise (engineering, geology, ecology, medicine, etc.) and types of employment (university, federal agency, consulting, state agency, industry). To round out the already impressive diversity of careers among AWIS members, the panel

also included a chemical engineer working at Stora Enso and a programmer analyst working at General Mills.

The event was collaboratively planned and organized by AWIS, UMD-Career Services, and UMD's Women in Engineering and Sciences student group. General Mills and a grant from UMD's student association paid for dessert and publicity. Thanks to all the AWIS members who participated and to Stacey Stark and Annett Trebitz for organizing. Not only did we provide some great information and inspiration to the student audience, but we learned more about each other's careers and interests. Hopefully we can stage an event like this again in the future and increase the student attendance.

Member Directory

By Annett Trebitz

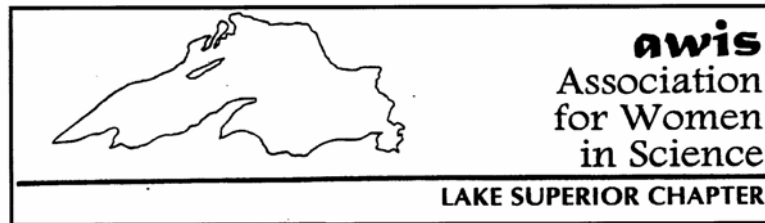
As part of our effort to foster networking, we have produced an AWIS Lake Superior Chapter members directory. The directory has been included as a separate insert in this newsletter for those of you whose membership is current. If you did not get a directory, either we accidentally omitted it (sorry!), or more likely, your membership is expired (check your address label). The directory lists current AWIS mem-

bers who authorized that their information be published. Contact Annett Trebitz to correct directory information or to have your name added, and contact Laura Solem to update your membership (see officers contact info elsewhere in the newsletter). Note that our membership year runs Sept. to Sept."

Book Group

As of the newsletter deadline, the book group had not selected its next title. However, the next meeting is April 29th, around 5:30 or 6 pm. We will meet at Beecroft's Books, 3631 Tower Ave in Superior. Beecroft's has sandwiches and pop and teas and great cookies and/or bars.

Author, Shawn Parish, will also be there. He writes books on fishing, etc. on the north shore. For the book title, or more information on the meeting, contact Marsha Patelke [patelke@cpinternet.com].



- Please 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. This is our main way of communicating between newsletters.
- Fill out your registration form today and bring it to the first meeting or mail it to Laura Solem (address on 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 ASAP!!

AWIS MEETING	WHAT
April 2004	Member Speaker Donna Forbes: The Brain, Real and Digitized. April 21, 2004 , 6 pm, UMD School of Medicine Room 52. For more info contact: Stacey Stark— slstark@d.umn.edu
May 2004	May 20, 2004 . Potluck, book sale, plant sale fund raising Contact: For more info contact: Stacey Stark— slstark@d.umn.edu

Member Calendar

Compiled by Katie Larson

- Saturday May 1st is Dulcimer Day in Duluth III. The folk music festival filled with classes in mountain and hammered dulcimer, autoharp, kantele, guitar class, kids' fun classes and concerts Events will be held at First United Methodist Church, 230 E. Skyline Parkway. See www.dulcimersinduluth.org for the schedule, reservation information, sponsors, photos from the last two years and more or call 218-525-5098.
- On Wed, April 21, EPA's Mid-continent Ecology Division will be having an open-house 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. This is an opportunity for the general public to tour the facility and learn about the ecology and toxicology research that goes on there. 6201 Congdon Blvd., Duluth (across from the tourist information kiosk on Hwy 61 at the mouth of the Lester River) Tel 218-529-5000 for more info.
- Minnesota SeaGrant's Liquid Science Speaker Series February – September 2004. Soak up the latest information concerning the Great Lakes and Minnesota's waters. Presentations are free and for the public. All talks are scheduled from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. with receptions immediately following to encourage conversations with the researchers. April – WOW! Water on the Web Duluth, Hartley Nature Center, April 13 May – Linking Land Use to Water Quality Duluth, Hartley Nature Center, May 11. June – Invasive Species of the Great Lakes Duluth, EPA Gitchee Gumees Conference Facility (6201 Congdon Blvd.) July – On the Edge! Great Lakes Coastal Research Duluth, EPA Gitchee Gumees Conference Facility, July 13. August – Great Lakes in a Changing Climate Duluth, EPA Gitchee Gumees Conference Facility.

FYI– AWIS Membership Policy

Each May, women who have not paid for two cycles (in May of 2004, this will be May 2002) will be notified via email or postcard, then dropped from the membership list and added to a "inactive" list. Women will stay on the "inactive" list for 3 additional years and will continue to receive a postcard about the Fall meetings but will NOT receive newsletters or emails from the list-serve and will not be included in the directory. If a membership due has not been paid in 5 years, this person will be dropped from our database.

Science Fair Wrap Up

by Laura Solem

Aurelia DeNasha received an award from AWIS for her project titled "What bird did these feathers come from?". Aurelia's project all started when she found a dead bird and wanted to know what species the bird was. Pursuit of her question did not merely end with a picture from a field guide book or even with communication with several local bird experts rather, unresolved questions lead her to a research laboratory at UCLA. Although DNA analysis per-

formed for Aurelia by the UCLA lab, was not able to positively identify the species of bird she found, she was able to determine several species the bird was not. (Many of us have been there!!) Aurelia's enthusiasm for the project was evident and her hard work and curiosity led her down many interesting paths from bird migration to DNA homology. We hope her curiosity leads her down many more.

What Bird Did These Feathers Come From

Aurelia DeNasha, 8th Grade, Fond du Lac Ojibwe School

I found a dead little yellow bird on the sidewalk and I wanted to know what kind it was. I was able to keep some of the feathers and I scanned them to show what they looked like. I searched bird guides, narrowed the choices down, and then hypothesized that it was an adult female Wilson's Warbler. But I wanted a more definite way to identify it.

I found a study being done by the Center for Tropical Research at UCLA that uses DNA testing to identify Wilson's Warblers and track their migration. I contacted the people in charge to see if I could test the DNA from my feathers and they said they could help. The results showed that it was not a Wilson's Warbler, but a subspecies of Dendroica that hadn't been entered into the gene bank yet.

Doing this project, I learned a lot more about birds and bird tracking, DNA and DNA testing, and the importance of bird conservation efforts.

Cont from Page 1....A Note from Stacey Stark

Finally and most importantly, at our May meeting we will nominate new officers. Our chapter has been consistently active for over 15 years, but the people who are at the core of organization and participation naturally fluctuate over the years. Please consider joining the board! Thanks everyone for all your help this year. It's really all just a bunch

of fun with some awesome women who consider themselves scientists ...

It's been a fun year! See you April 21!

Stacey

AWIS History— We Need Your Help!!!

by Ginny Snarski

During our spring retreat, some of our conversation wandered to previous retreats, the where, who and what. As we talked, we realized that our AWIS chapter has been around for quite a long time but we couldn't quite recall the specific details for many past events. Penny Morton and I still recalled the first organizational meeting but were fuzzy about exactly when it was and who was there. As we shared memories of current or previous members and tried to recall all the activities we've done as a chapter, I suggested that it might be interesting and useful for someone

to try to pull together a history of the chapter. Stacey and the others at the retreat suggested a history poster for this fall's first meeting. I agreed to spearhead this project by eliciting input (memories & records) from current members, asking for pictures, and other documental to put on the poster. This poster will include history from the very start to the current time. Any and all input, suggestions, ideas are needed--many of you are probably much more creative than I. PLEASE HELP! Contact Stacey or me (Ginny Snarski, dbathel@cpinternet.com or 529-5116 (wk) or 525-

New Outreach Activity: Judging Essays for RiverQuest

by Stacey Stark

AWIS-LSC has been asked to facilitate and judge an essay contest for the St. Louis River Quest, coordinated by the Duluth Seaway Port Authority. River Quest, created in 1993, is an educational program sponsored by more than 40 local agencies concerned with the use and preservation of the St. Louis River estuary. During six half-day cruises held onboard the harbor excursion vessel Vista Star, sixth grade students visit 10 learning stations where hands-on lessons in water quality, soil conservation, pollution prevention, maritime commerce, boating safety, fish habitat

and sewage treatment help them understand industrial, commercial and recreational activities in the Duluth-Superior Harbor.

The details of the essay contest are not yet completely worked out. The students will be asked to submit an essay reflecting on their experience at River Quest the week after River Quest. We will most likely review only the top essays submitted by teachers the last week in May. If you are interested in being a part of this activity, please contact Stacey Stark.

THANK YOU!!!

Special thanks from the 2003-2004 AWIS-LSC president for your extra time this year:

Book club coordination - Marsha Meinders-Patelke
Bikes and Hikes - Deserae Hendrickson

Science Fair:
Marsha Meinders-Patelke (coordinator), Laura Solem,
Diane Desotelle, Wendy Grethen

September kick-off - Laura Solem
Millennium House tour - Kristin Riker-Coleman
Holiday party - Anett Trebitz, Terry Jicha
April meeting - Donna Forbes
Retreat planning - Deserae Hendrickson
Show N Tell meeting - Laura Solem

Newsletter:
Kristin Riker-Coleman and Katie Larson

Show N Tell Tellers
Diane Desotelle, Val Brady and Jane Wattrus

Scholarship coordination
Val Brady

"Making Choices" Panel
Anett Trebitz (coordination)
Valerie Brady
Diane Desotelle
Erica Hahn
Cindy Hale
Molly Negus
Penny Morton
Jean Regal

Webpage development
Val Brady

AWIS-LSC

2431 Branch Street
Duluth, MN 55812

AWIS-LSC MEMBERSHIP FORM

Enclosed is my payment of \$_____

Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ for the AWIS-LSC Scholarship Fund.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Area of Interest: _____

Please return to:
Laura Solem, AWIS Treasurer
1331 East 11th Street
Duluth, MN 55805

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