

Solid Waste Association of North America

YP NEWSFEED

Badger Chapter Announces Brenda Lee Quinnell Rising Leader Scholarship

The Wisconsin Badger Chapter is proud to announce the **Brenda Lee Quinnell Rising Leader Scholarship.** This scholarship will be awarded annually to a student who searches for extra opportunity, inspires others, and demonstrates commitment and accountability. See Page 2 for additional details.

Badger Chapter Scholarship Information

FREE Student Membership

SWANA continues to offer FREE student membership! If you are a full-time student (undergraduate or graduate student) with an interest in environmental sciences, solid waste management, or recycling-related professions, a FREE SWANA student membership is perfect for you.

Register Here Today!

Wisconsin YP Week

Wisconsin YP Week begins on April 19, 2019 and is a weeklong platform for meaningful conversations about the issues that matter to YPs in Wisconsin. Every year WI YP Week is kicked off with the announcement of the winners of the **Bubbler Awards**, the Best Workplaces for Young Professionals in Wisconsin.

Learn More about YP Week! Nominate your employer for a Bubbler Award

River Clean Up—June 8th, 2019!

The Young Professionals of the Badger Chapter of SWANA and the Emerging Leaders of AROW have officially adopted a mile of river. Join us on June 8, 2019 on the Beaver Dam River in Beaver Dam, WI for a River Clean Up event.

Email Lindsey Carlson carlsonlindseye@gmail.com for more information!

WIRMC Events

The YPs will hold their annual Welcome Reception on February 27, at 8pm at the Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point, WI. Don't forget that many outstanding YPs are also presenting at the conference this year!

WIRMC Conference Schedule

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Badger Chapter announces the Brenda Lee Quinnell Rising Leader Scholarship. Also find additional details about the 2019 scholarship application and recipients from 2018.

LIVING SUSTAINABLY PAGE 4

The Earth is in need of your help, here are some ways to live sustainably that you may not have thought of.

YP ORGANICS START UP PAGE 5-7

One SWANA YP's journey from a waste management degree to sustainable agriculture and back to organics collections.

LIVING LANDS &WATERS PAGE 8-9

Are you ready to take action? Living Lands and Waters has been cleaning up our nation's waterways since 1998 and an opportunity to do your part is coming up soon.

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PAGE 10

The 2019 Board of Directors was announced and it includes a new YP, Lindsey Carlson, of SCS Engineers.









Badger Chapter Announces the

Brenda Lee Quinnell RISING LEADER SCHOLARSHIP



most members. Brenda Quinnell, knowledge and experience. director of the Adams County Solid Waste Department, served for over 10 years as Wisconsin the Badger Chapter's administrative assistant. During her years of service Brenda was much

more than an "assistant", she was a leader. Brenda kept chapter presidents and monthly meetings on task, filed annual financial reports, organized in person meetings, and played a major role in WIRM conference planning. -Meleesa Johnson, current Chapter Treasurer, put it best when she said, "Brenda was the glue that held [this chapter] together."

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Beyond her dedication to the chapter, Brenda was a welcoming presence. In a forum like SWANA, where many of the meetings and communications are held over the phone or via email, it can be difficult to get to know someone. That was not so with Brenda who's warm voice and kind nature traveled through the phone and email waves with each communication.

> Brenda and her husband, Robert, pictured to the right. Top two photos courtesy of Facebook/Abbey Quinnell.



To the right, Brenda and John Welch taking the 2017 WIRMC YP Welcome reception very "seriously".



n August 2018 the solid Brenda played an integral part in getting the YP Group off recycling the ground. She guided YP members through committee community lost one of structure and helped promote and organize YP events. devoted She was a true mentor and always willing to share her

> For these reasons, and many more, the Wisconsin Badger Chapter is proud to announce the Brenda Lee Quinnell Rising Leader Scholarship. Each year, one \$2,000 (min) scholarship will be awarded to an individual who demonstrates the following characteristics or actions through their application and essay(s):

- Searches for extra opportunities in school, community, work, or the solid waste and recycling industry
- Inspires others through mentorship, integrity, creativity, and his or her ability to communicate
- Commitment. enthusiasm. and passion. accountability towards an organization or activity

Additional details can be found on the SWANA Badger Chapter's website https://www.swana-wi.org/awards.

Both SWANA National and the Chapter have scholarship programs in place to promote the org's strategic value of industry education. Each year, the Chapter awards up to \$6,000 in scholarships in the following categories:

Category I: Students entering college who are sponsored by a SWANA member

Category II: College/university students pursuing a degree in a field related to solid waste management

Category III: (Robert P. Stearns/SCS Engineers): Fulltime students entering or in graduate studies in a related field

and new this year:

Brenda Lee Quinnell Rising Leader Scholarship:

Category I, II, or III students who demonstrate leadership, commitment, and passion. The recipient of this award will be forwarded for national award consideration.

An application for the Chapter scholarship program serves as the application for the National program.

The deadline for submittal to the Chapter is May 1 and applications are available in approximately February of each year on the Chapter's website.

2018 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Category I—Member Sponsored Students Entering College

NOVA ANDERSON

Green Bay East High School (sponsored by Chris Anderson)

Through high school, Nova committed himself to his community, music, education, and other extracurricular activities. He was a dedicated member of the high school orchestra, jazz band, and marching band along with a volunteer at many community events. Nova started his fall semester at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for Biomedical Engineering in the Fall of 2018.



Category II—College Students Studying in a Related Field

CONNOR ACKER

University of Wisconsin – Madison (student member)

Connor is a senior studying Geological Engineering, Geology and Geophyics - with certificates in Engineering for Energy Sustainability and Environmental Studies - at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. He first became involved in solid waste management in 2017 while researching gaseous emissions at the Dane County Sanitary Landfill (under Professor James



Tinjum) and taking the course "Solid and Hazardous Waste Engineering" (with Professor Jim Park). He has been a member of the Wisconsin Badger Chapter of SWANA since April 2018.

CHELSEA HUCKBODY

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point (student member)

Chelsea is a student member of the Badger Chapter and a senior at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. Her interest in solid waste management began after participating in an alternative spring break, cleaning up 20,000 lbs of trash from a tributary of the Mississippi River in Memphis, TN. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in both Soils and Waste Resources- Waste Management and Geography and will receive a GIS focal



certificate for Urban and Regional Planning. She is serving as the president of UWSP's Waste Management Society for the 2018 fall semester. She has worked as the Refuse and Recycling Program Intern in the Planning and Development, Recycling Department, for the Village of Weston, WI where she engaged and organized community outreach and events for proper recycling. After working on a capstone project that developed a food scrap curbside collection pilot program in the city of Stevens Point, her new-found motivation now includes organics diversion.

BROOKE MARTEN

University of Wisconsin – Madison (student member)

Brooke is an undergraduate student studying Civil Engineering and plans to obtain certificates in Engineering for Energy Sustainability and Environmental Studies. Exposure to the idea of merging the concepts of engineering and sustainability came to her in the summer of 2015 when she began an internship at the campus's Office of Sustainability where she ran a program to divert expanded polystyrene from landfill disposal. More recently, she began



doing research focused on locating the source and contributing factors of the release of hydrogen sulfide at an area landfill. Other interests of Brooke's include hiking, camping, and being an active member of the UW – Madison Triathlon club. Her long-term goal is to apply her degree in a manner that betters the health of the environment.

IMPROVING EVERYDAY SUSTAINABILITY



KEEPING IT CLEAN WHEN PUMPING FUEL

This first one I learned from my college professor, Dr. John Katers. When we think of reducing our waste, we usually think of the mountains of garbage in landfills. We don't often think of waste that goes down our sewer drains and into our precious water resources. Runoff from paved surfaces can have a significant negative impact on nearby streams and rivers. One simple way to contribute less pollution to our environment is not to drip fuel onto the ground when you fill up your vehicle's tank! It may seem miniscule but imagine the cumulative volume of fuel that is wasted on the ground from every individual fill up.

YOU CAN COMPOST MORE THAN FOOD SCRAPS

There are many everyday items that could come in compostable forms and you may not even know it! A great example of this is a compostable phone case. I was tired of going through numerous plastic phone cases so I searched for an alternative and was overjoyed to find one. Another item you can replace is hiding in the dark of your kitchen garbage can. Ditch traditional plastic garbage bags and opt for compostable ones. Better yet, go BAGLESS and clean your bin with an eco-friendly cleaner every now and then (if you compost food scraps it should be mostly dry items in your trash and it should stay pretty clean anyway).

GOING OUT TO EAT? TAKE A CONTAINER WITH YOU

This next measure takes a little pre-planning, but you can quickly make it a habit like anything else. If you're anything like me, you cringe when handed a foam take-out container. These foam containers are generally non-recyclable in most areas and end up existing in landfills essentially forever. To combat this problem, take your own reusable to-go container to restaurants to avoid foam take home containers. People will be impressed with your commitment to leading a sustainable life!

SAVE ENERGY AND MAKE COOKIES!

Here's a bonus tip for the super eco-conscious readers. I always get slack from my friends for this one: using the oven twice each time! I try to save as much energy as possible (except for the occasional use of my space heater..shh!!). I've always felt like heating up the oven required a lot of energy, so I've always tried to use it twice whenever I need it. This ultimately means making cookies after dinner is finished, but who wouldn't want to do that!



Make plastic wrap and produce bags a thing of the past with these practical alternatives. Ones like these are made of cloth, machine washable and readily available on sites like Etsy.



Frames made from recycled sytrofoam from Uniek of Waunakee, WI can be found from \$9 at retail stores.

MAKE THE SWITCH

Give it a shot and try to replace as many products as you can in your life with eco-friendly, local, or recycled options. You can start with one item at a time like I did. At first, you can buy an eco-friendly option at the store or online and after that you can explore making it yourself at home. You would be surprised how easy it is to make many of the products we use every day (like the bags pictured to the left)!



About the Author: Krystal Clark has worked at Foth since August 2018 as an Environmental Scientist. "I decided to write about uncommon ways to be more eco-friendly in your everyday life because I realized I was doing so many weird and small sustainable acts that other people may not have thought of and I want to share them. We have all heard of the typical ways you can help the environment such as turning off lights, recycling, and reducing water consumption (don't let that faucet run when you brush your teeth!). These are all great ways to do your part, but the Earth is in dire need of each and every one of us putting in more effort. I know I don't need to hit you all with facts, because the fact is that those of us in the solid waste industry know all too well the pitfalls our society is suffering from our penchant to waste."

Tell us about the uncommon ways you are being sustainable in your everyday life @SWANAWisconsinBadgerChapter on Facebook or by emailing krystalclark678@gmail.com

laughing raucously together as good friends and there. colleagues.

Wisconsin.

Enter: Rising Sand Organics Cooperative Farm

It wasn't random; we all had previous ties, some a little loose, but shared a friendship with one individual that (from my perspective) ultimately brought us all together. After the first meeting, I admit to some skepticism but quickly realized that this group of people was unlike any other. Now I feel lucky to call them my friends and co-owners. I am a better person for what I've learned alongside them so far and that will undoubtedly continue.

n November 2017, I watched from two round We broke ground in the tough, cold, Wisconsin spring tables over as some vague friends and even more but by August we had almost 2 acres of lush, nutrient vague acquaintances leaned in to hear each other's dense, organic vegetables on our new property. In a rushed and slightly hushed voices at the annual sense much of it had already been sold, to our 55 CSA Central Rivers Farmshed Farmer Tribute Dinner. I was families, who paid months in advance to help us cover curious, but I guess not enough to interrupt; I carried on the very late 2017 and very early 2018 season costs. with my frivolous evening of good food and beer. It Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a farming was my third year attending the dinner, and the model that has become more recognized recently, following year (2018) I found myself around one of allowing small farmers the opportunity to work closely those very same round tables with those very same with those for whom they grow, and creating mysteriously whispering people...but this time we were accessibility to necessary funds that just isn't otherwise

It was a season of new things for me. While I'd worked Around the time of that dinner in 2017 the conversation on a number of small CSA farms before I had never had officially started (though it had informally taken been part of an entire growing season: from the cold place long before then). By December we'd had our but increasingly warmer and brighter spring days, first meeting, in January we looked at some land, by through the unpredictable summer, and then to the March the Farm Service Agency approved our loan, and cold and increasingly colder (and darker) winter days. in April of 2018 we closed on 35 acres in Custer, And here I am again, ready to jump at the flicker of a lingering sun that indicates the lengthening of days and the notion that life will once again rise from the soil, no matter how cold and frozen it was all winter. "

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Rising Sand Organics Member-Owners. Back row: Danny Werachowski, Corrina Wilson, Fanni Bartnik, Polly Dalton, Kelly Adlington, Monica Endres. Front row: Daniel McDowell, Logan Brice, Lee Bartnik, Oren Jakobson

Furthermore, I'd never been an owner before. My newfound sense of responsibility has redefined what the very word even means, in addition to helping me uncover an overwhelming sense of purpose. I will be forever grateful to all my co-owners for allowing me (and everyone) the space to pursue our own passions. In my case that would appear to be curbside diversion of organic waste from the landfill.

We are currently picking up from 57 residences and 5 businesses, totaling roughly 50 5-gallon buckets every week depending on the rotation. The weekly haul typically ranges between 500 and 700 pounds but we have collected as much as 1,200 pounds. The most common type of subscription is the residential every-other-week option, for \$11.50/month (via Paypal).

We also supply a free drop site one day a week in town for folks who don't want to pay, but will arrange for them to help out once a month if they'd like to volunteer instead. Those who pay for the service (whether with cash or help) get a 5-gallon bucket fitted with a screw-top lid and on their pick up day we swap it out for an empty one. In the beginning I used my personal vehicle ('08 Dodge Grand Caravan), then switched to the farm van (1992 Ford E250), then recently purchased a 1990 Ford F350, converted manual. The flat bed is great for our current capacity of buckets but will just get better as we start picking up from larger food waste generators.

What I think is really unique about this is the collective effort that made it happen. As beginning farmers and brand new land owners, we didn't kid ourselves into thinking we could also become commercial composters in the same year. We're working with another local farm, Whitefeather Organics, who has composted on a larger scale for years. We also teamed up with Farmshed (the same nonprofit I mentioned in the beginning) to have an in -town site to rendezvous, wash buckets, and store a few things.

As it always has been, UWSP is also a partner in this effort. The Soil and Waste Department in the College of Natural Resources has provided us endless opportunities to work and learn with students; I'm lucky to have Susanna Baker, Rising Sand's Compost Intern and UWSP waste major, with me every week to run the route together. Additionally, in April we launched a Gofundme campaign with a goal of \$1,000. 36 people donated and they made up the bulk of our initial customer base (which totaled about 15 in July). Thanks to these contributors, especially the extremely generous ones—the City of Stevens Point and Rob Greenfield—we surpassed our goal by about \$100. Thus, we were not only supported by likeminded businesses and organizations, but also our community.

While it was a collaboration between people and resources that made this possible, the collaboration between fields of study is also fascinating.

Continued on Page 7.



Rising Sand is currently picking up organic material from 57 residences and 5 businesses. The weekly haul typically ranges between 500 and 700 lbs but the business has collected as much as 1,200 pounds.

fight you on it. The next few years weren't that many of them. brought new perspectives, learning when complexly related to the health of our has evolved. environment. Simultaneously I began to truly grasp that agriculture is dramatically changing the quality, availability, and understanding of our natural resources in ways that often feel unstoppable and irreversible. To me these were, and remain today, the most glaring challenges that face our world.

was to take: waste and resource which that life hinges. brought me back to waste...and now I related friends. find myself hovering between the two as if they are the same effort.

I recently reminisced with a fellow collaboration, accepting that the waster about how the major at UWSP answers to problems we've never had has changed in the last five years. In before may just not yet exist. The my program there were about 60 only way we're going to arrive at students, but I recall being one of those answers is by continuing to only two women who regularly explore the ways by which we can attended Waste Management Society collaborate and cooperate. After all meetings, often working and laughing none of us, nor our professions, are in the shadows of large, plaid, mutually exclusive...in fact, it happens boisterous men on the fast track to to be quite the opposite.

For me, waste and recycling was an wastewater treatment plants and interest far before local and organic landfills (let it be known that I fondly It was my desire to remember these fellas, their friendlyminimize waste that led me to the giant qualities, and the humor they farmers market, where food is sold brought with them everywhere). without packaging and nobody will While it was mostly men, there still I walk into that how we live our lives and Management Society meeting, the subsequently what we waste is room is filled and the demographic

The study has grown, just like the industry, and we must grow our conscience in tandem with them. If not, the world and its constant change will outrun us and we will be forever behind. The issues we see today are calling for alternatives: alternative waste and resource management; alternative forms of I hung in limbo for a while in college, organizing; alternative attitudes about unsure of which direction my path life, and the natural resources on Growing management or food and agriculture? organic vegetables and picking up Where could I have the most impact? food waste curbside may seem like In the end it seems that waste entirely different things but they have brought me to food which has settled into my life like unequivocally

> My recent career journey has taught me to be creative and open to

The issues we see today are calling for alternatives: alternative waste and resource management; alternative forms of organizing; alternative attitudes about life, and the natural resources on which that life hinges."





About the Author: Kelly Adlington graduated from UWSP with a BS in waste management in May of 2017. She is a member-owner of Rising Sand, growing vegetables cooperatively and managing the curbside compost service. She also serves as the Project Coordinator for Recycling Connections, pours beer in the taproom at Central Waters, and hosts a radio show on 90fm--Stevens Point's student-run station--called "The Tuning Fork." **Photos From:** Layne Cozzolino, Rising Sand Organics, and Kelly Adlington.

living lands and waters river clean up are you ready to take action?



Photo courtesy of Living Lands and Waters

As solid waste professionals we dedicate our lives to the management of solid waste. To some of us, this means transporting waste or operating equipment at a landfill, to others, it may mean designing plans or writing reports. It may also mean creating programs or regulating sound (re)use and disposal of our resources. Whatever your profession, those of us in the industry try our best to protect human health and the environment.

Even with the combined efforts of everyone in the industry, our society's technology, infrastructure, programming, and regulations, solid waste still *somehow* manages to escape into the environment. Many of us feel frustration in how our society manages its waste. Do any of these sound familiar?

"Ahh, I can't believe my coworker can't look past her nose, the bin is clearly marked <u>no</u> plastic film."

"You can't just burn Styrofoam plates after thanksgiving Uncle George. Wait, why are we using single use dinnerware in the first place?"

"Why doesn't this bar, at a minimum, collect aluminum cans. It is money they're throwing away!"

I'm sure it's a common experience to others in the field to feel the same frustration over a lack of participation and awareness from much of society. As a 17 year old, Chad Pregrake felt a similar sense of frustration. The Mississippi River had a large impact on his formative years and to see it overcome with all sorts of plastic, appliances, tires, and any object imaginable was unacceptable. With this frustration came the need to take action. Chad began calling government agencies to make this problem known. The calls were intended to push those who could do something to take measures to clean up and prevent further pollution of the river. As could be expected, those who could do something about it had no desire or means to.

The naivety of "someone else will take care of it", lead to real action on Chad's part and he ultimately established Living Lands and Waters. What started as a one-man/one-boat process later expanded to an operation consisting of 5+ barges, 5+ jon boats, a crane and excavator, 12 crew members, 4 mission-essential dogs, and over 110,000 volunteers.

I had the great pleasure of being one of those volunteers and witnessed one of the Living Lands and Waters operations firsthand for a week during spring break in 2017. Beyond the incredibly fun and laidback atmosphere, which is bound to permeate the nomadic barge life, the experience was nothing short of profound. The voyage was awe-inspiring but at the same time gut wrenchingly devastating.

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As a solid waste professional who had worked at a landfill the summer before, I was blown away by how much waste ends up in our rivers, especially considering the fact that we live in a first world country, which should have plenty of infrastructure and educated citizens to prevent such an atrocity. When viewing the aerial images for the area where we were working, there appeared to be a blanket of snow along the shorelines. But wait, snow doesn't line the Mississippi in the middle of summer! The images were displaying plastic litter lining one of our nation's greatest treasures, the Grand Ol' Mississip. We picked 20,000 pounds of trash out of the Mississippi River in Memphis that week and had hardly made a dent.

This experience was incredibly profound, not just as a citizen, but especially as a solid waste professional. I was intimidated, to say the least, to think about the industry's role in addressing the garbage problem. A problem, which has an intricate and often overlooked impact on all aspects of our lives, the economy, our health, and our precious environment. But as Joan B aez famously said, "action is the antidote to despair." In a similar way that Chad was called to action by what he saw, I was also inspired into action and would like to inspire you as well.

As of 2019, Living Lands and Waters has recovered more than 10 million pounds of fugitive solid waste out of our nations' waterways. "Adopt-A-River-Mile", a program of Living Lands and Waters, is a key component of the continuing effort to recover even more material out the Mississippi and her tributaries. I was able to recognize first hand the impact that cleaning upriver can have on supporting their efforts. The Young Professionals of the Badger Chapter of SWANA and the Emerging Leaders of the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin have officially adopted a mile of river in support of Living Lands and Waters. The adoption of the river is an effort to clean up what our profession has not been able to address. From flood debris to blatant littering, we simply cannot manage every aspect of solid waste management (or at least not yet).

We would like to invite you to join us for our **first annual river clean-up on June 8**th, **2019 on the Beaver Dam River in Beaver Dam, WI.** Kayaking, a cookout and camp-out, some good old fashioned feel-good volunteering, and great place to connect with fellow solid waste professionals looking to have a good time, will put into perspective what our industry is really all about.





About the Author: Lindsey Carlson, pictured above on her 2017 spring break trip, is an active member of SWANA and a new member to the Badger Chapter's Board of Directors. Read more about her on page 10.

mark your calendar

First Annual River Clean-Up BEAVER DAM, WI

email carlsonlindseye@gmail.com for more information



2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCED

Annual election of Badger Chapter Board of directors was held at the Annual inperson meeting on October 25, in Stevens Point, WI.

The current Board of Directors includes:

John Welch—President, Dane County

Erik Lietz—Vice President, *Oakridge Engineering, Inc.*

Meleesa Johnson—Treasurer, *Marathon County Solid Waste Department*

Chris Anderson—Secretary, Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC

Lindsey Carlson, SCS Engineers

Chad Doverspike, Brown County Port & Resource Recovery

Phillip Gearing, SCS Engineers

David Hagenbucher, Marathon County Solid Waste Department

George Shereda, TRC Environmental Corp

Roxanne Wienkes, *William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital*

NEW YP ELECTED TO THE CHAPTER BOARD



The Badger Chapter's Board of Directors would like to welcome Lindsey Carlson, a very active and inspiring YP, to the Board!

Since September 2018, Lindsey has worked at SCS Engineers on their solid waste management team preforming OM&M on

landfills and assisting with landfill permitting and compliance.

Prior to starting at SCS Engineers, Lindsey worked as a waste management specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources gathering, analyzing, and compiling data for the department's waste registry system.

While completing a degree in Waste Management at UW -Stevens Point, Lindsey served as president of the Waste Management Society, worked at the Marathon County Solid Waste Department, and studied effects of vermicompost and compost tea application on ginseng production as an undergraduate research assistant among many other things.

Lindsey continues to serve in the Wisconsin Army National Guard as a Horizontal Construction Engineer Sergeant operating heavy equipment and applying her passion for effective solid waste management, recycling, and environmental stewardship wherever she can.

SEE US @ WIRMC!

YP RECEPTION AND WELCOME EVENT Wednesday, February 27 8 PM to 10PM

YP PRESENTATIONS

2/28:Track Session I (10:15-11:50am)

Plastic Packaging - What Makes it Recyclable? - Amanda Haffele, WI Institute for Sustainable Technology

2/28:Track Session III (3:40-4:40pm)

Curbside Compost in a Small City - Kelly Adlington, Rising Sand Organics

A Wasted Future: The Value of a Student Intern - David Hagenbucher, Marathon County Solid Waste Department

About this Newsletter

This Newsletter is intended to benefit the Badger Chapter Young Professionals and other young professionals in the industry. It serves as a communication tool to help keep members informed on group activity, past and future networking events, and expand outreach to new and prospective members. We want to hear from you about how we can improve the content of this newsletter. The intent is to distribute this newsletter bi-annually to Badger Chapter members and who ever may be interested in the content.

THANK YOU

to the SWANA YPs who contributed to this issue

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LAYOUT

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If you have comments,
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