

FISH SOUP

Winter 2021 Newsletter





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The O 'Fish' al Newsletter of the AZ-NM Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

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Cover:

The view from the water in Apache Lake, AZ, last fall

News and Announcements



Joint Annual Meeting 2021 Recap

This year's Joint Annual Meeting, held February 4th and 5th, was different, to say the least. This probably had to do with the AZ-NM AFS Chapter holding its first ever virtual meeting. Events on the first day of the meeting included the annual piscicide applications short course, followed by the AZ-NM Chapter's business meeting. A number of important topics were discussed at the business meeting, including updates from committee chairs and student sub-units, the election of new officers (see the list on page 12), and the presentation of awards (see page 5). Friday's events included talks by



Outgoing Chapter President Alton Livingstone putting on his best Zoom face during the Business Meeting

members of AZ-NM AFS, AZ TWS, and NM TWS. There weren't a large number of fisheries presentations, but the presenters who did participate represented the Chapter well. A variety of interesting presentations were given from students and professionals from Eastern New Mexico University, University of Arizona, and New Mexico State University.

Because of the virtual nature of the event, the meeting could only offer a limited number of activities. That being said, the fact that the Chapter was able to plan and host a meeting under difficult circumstances should be considered a success. To quote a line from one of the presentations: "Fisheries professionals [and students] are dedicated and resourceful. We can find ways to safely do our jobs." We will hope for an in-person JAM next year, but we will make do with whatever the circumstances dictate. See you all then!



2021 Chapter Award Winners

Fishhead of the Year: Tony Robinson



Anyone who has worked with Tony is aware of his long and successful career of native fish research and management with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. As the Gila River Basin Program lead for the Department, Tony has had unprecedented success establishing populations of native fish throughout the Gila River basin. Tony is

primarily or partially responsible for the establishment of at least 57 populations of Gila Topminnow, Desert Pupfish, Spikedace, Loach Minnow and Roundtail Chub in the Gila River Basin. This remarkable feat is evidence of his determination to overcome the obstacles to native fish conservation that often seem insurmountable to others. An example of a particularly successful project was Tony's supervision and participation in the Blue River native fish restoration project in which he was instrumental in its success. As a result of this project, nonnative fish have been eliminated from the lower Blue River and populations of Roundtail Chub and Spikedace have been established. The Spikedace population in the lower Blue River might now be one of the largest in existence in the world. Tony has also mentored and supervised a number of biologists over the years, many of whom have advanced to successful fisheries careers and are still members of this chapter, with some moving on to the highest ranks in the Department. Tony's contributions have set a high bar for the next generation of fish biologists to strive towards.

Conservationist of the Year: Joanna Hatt



Joanna Hatt's dedication to fisheries conservation and management is unwavering. She has worked tirelessly to the benefit of native fish conservation in New Mexico. Some of her accomplishments include leading the development of a conservation strategy for Rio Grande Chub and Sucker with over a dozen partners, improved our understanding of several imperiled species, and coordinating the Pecos Pupfish Conservation Team. Congratulations, Joanna!

Miles McInnis Student Award Winners:

Jane Trujillo



Jane is a master's student in the Caldwell lab at NMSU. She is studying how an invasive predator affects fish stocks in a large reservoir. Jane has been a member of the AZ/NM Chapter since 2015, and has served in leadership roles in the AZ/NM Chapter of AFS including Secretary/Treasurer and Membership Chair. Congratulations, Jane!

Miles McInnis Student Award Winners (Cont'd):

Steven Ingram



Steven is a master's student in the Bonar Lab at the University of Arizona. He is studying fisheries hydroacoustics, and how the sampling method could be incorporated into fisheries monitoring in Arizona reservoirs. Steven has been a member of the AZ/NM Chapter since 2020, and currently serves as the editor of the chapter's newsletter.

Upcoming Events



2021 AFS Western Division Meeting

The 2021 AFS Western Division Virtual Annual Meeting, hosted by the Utah Chapter, is scheduled for May 10-14. This year's meeting will feature the Aquatic Film and Photo Festival, along with plenary, talks, and workshops across five days. Abstracts for papers and posters will be accepted until March 19, 2021. The deadline for awards, scholarships, and "travel" grants to cover the cost of registration is March 1, 2021 (go to wdafs.org for more info). Details on the meeting schedule, fees, and abstract submissions can be found at: <https://web.cvent.com/event/ed8ce15a-32ac-43f4-be03-53f48869dc5b/summary>.



2021 AFS Annual Meeting Rescheduled

The American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, originally scheduled for August 8-12, will now be held November 6-10, 2021, in Baltimore, Maryland. By moving the meeting date to later in the year, the hope is to hold an in-person event. The meeting will have a remote option and will move to virtual if need be. The deadline for symposium proposal submissions is February 26, and abstract submissions will open by the end of February. See more details at: <https://www.cvent.com/c/abstracts/47f72f67-1442-46e3-bea6-486d50749c61>.

Student Sub-Unit Updates

From the 2021 JAM Business Meeting

New Mexico State University

Johnathan Brooks, NMSU AFS Chapter: Things have been slow, but we've been holding meetings twice a month online. There are about 22 students that are active members. We are working to get resume workshops set up and we've made important decisions about hats! We have a new faculty advisor: Dr. Zach Klein!

Arizona State University

Bryan Pruskowski, ASU Wildlife and Restoration Student Association: We are hurting for members due to competition from so many other student societies. We have gotten membership participation through discord message boards and monthly Kahoots trivia sessions.

University of Arizona

Quenten Masters, UA Fish and Wildlife Society:

We had 25 members at their first meeting and we're still holding bimonthly meetings. We were able to continue with the same officers for this semester. We are looking for guest speakers for meetings and we're talking about doing Kahoots or quizbowl trivia.

Job Opportunities

Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist (Wildlife Specialist 2)

Arizona Game and Fish Department

Lake Havasu City, AZ

<https://www.azstatejobs.gov/jobs/wildlife-specialist-2-lake-havasu-city-arizona-united-states>

Silver Creek Hatchery Manager (Wildlife Specialist 3)

Arizona Game and Fish Department

Show Low, AZ

<https://www.azstatejobs.gov/jobs/wildlife-specialist-3-show-low-arizona-united-states>

Executive Board

President:

Brian Hickerson
Arizona Game and Fish Department
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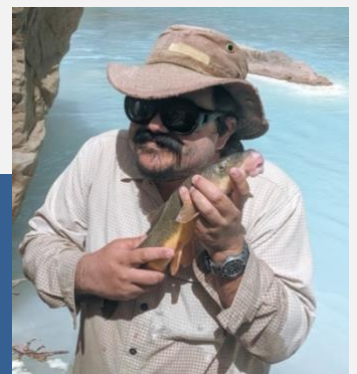
President Elect:

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Past President:

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Secretary:

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Treasurer:

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Committee Members

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Small Grants

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Student Affairs & Miles McInnis Scholarship

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Nominations/Awards

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Note from the editor....

Hi Everybody,

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue of Fish Soup. I want to hear more input from you for the next newsletter! Please send in articles, photos, and announcements to singram@email.arizona.edu. Also feel free to contact me with suggestions and comments about the newsletter.

Thank you,

Steven Ingram

