

UNDERCURRENTS

February 2021

The Newsletter of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



President's Message ~ Sara Thomas

Greetings fellow Members of MI AFS,

Well, I think I can lay claim to one of the strangest years to serve as president of our Chapter! Way back in March we were on track to have one of our largest solo Chapter meetings with 126 initial registrations, 43 oral presentations and 24 posters. Then Michigan reported the first positive case and CMU cancelled all events, and MSU affiliates and some others had to cancel attendance. Looking back, if I had known then what I did now, we certainly would have just outright cancelled the meeting. But thankfully no one got sick and it was a very successful meeting with high quality presentations. One professional told me it was his first time attending the chapter meeting and he was very impressed with the quality and topics of the presentations. I hope we can get more word out like this; our Chapter meetings are a great venue for learning about what is happening throughout the state and a good networking opportunity. It would be awesome if we could continue attendance of 100+ at future meetings.

This year's meeting will obviously be a little different and president-elect Doug Larson is working on the virtual meeting platform. Please consider submitting an abstract and registering for this event. We will still be giving out the student presentation award. The social distancing aspect of our world has also put a damper on our continuing education events. The larval fish id class at the March Meeting had full registration and was attended by 19 people. After many years of service to the Chapter as Continuing Education Committee Chair, Dan Traynor has stepped down and Stacey Ireland who has helped in the past, has volunteered to take over the role. We are looking at potential virtual options and hope to be able to have an in-person event sometime.... I know many of you were looking forward to the mussel id class. Thank you to everyone involved in executive or on committees for your dedication to the Chapter and AFS.

As a state employee with MDNR, I've been working from home since mid-March, which has its perks and downsides. We were able to start creel after Memorial Day and very limited 1-person field outings and then stream surveys in July with very strict protocols and lots of vehicles to sampling sites. The increase in license sales brought an increase in our inboxes of new anglers asking questions about where to fish. Like many of you, I've had my fill of webinars, Zoom, and Teams meetings.

These past few months have certainly given us all a different perspective in our personal and professional lives. One of the things that has been clear is the importance of natural areas and outdoor recreation and we are all at the forefront of protecting and providing these opportunities. I hope all of you and your families are safe and healthy. Looking forward to seeing you all in person sometime soon.

Sara M. Thomas



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From the President-Elect ~ Doug Larson

Virtual greetings from Northern Michigan and Happy New Year! I want to start by thanking the membership for the opportunity to serve as President-elect of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. I feel honored and humbled to serve Michigan's fisheries professionals and look forward to serving to the best of my ability. As was the case with those who served before me, I am always available to discuss fisheries topics of interest, concerns, or issues which are of importance to the Chapter. I welcome constructive feedback so that my time as a Chapter Officer moves MIAFS forward.



Fisheries research and management were challenging in 2020. Many projects had to rely on remote monitoring or reduced field effort. Projects which conducted field sampling in 2020 had to adapt for the safety those involved. At Black Lake, we have the privilege to work with the perfect organism for social distancing. Thank you to Michigan State University Ph.D. candidate Joe Riedy for sharing his photo which demonstrates the flexibility of a dedicated team of researchers salvaging two graduate student field projects in 2020. These efforts would not have been possible were it not for a robust radio frequency identification (RFID) monitoring program. The expansion of programs like these throughout the Great Lakes Region along with the virtual nature of fisheries research and management led the executive committee in planning for the annual meeting.

The 2021 Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society annual meeting will be held virtually on March 16th and 17th, 2021. The theme of this year's meeting is "Virtual Fisheries Management." Expansion of electronic monitoring offered fisheries professionals opportunities to salvage an otherwise challenging year. To highlight this theme, Dr. Christopher Vandergoot, Associate Professor at Michigan State University and Director of the Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System (GLATOS) will provide the keynote address, entitled, "From here to there & back: using acoustic telemetry to inform management decisions and understand Great Lakes fish ecology and biology." Additionally, we would like to highlight those projects which rely on the use of telemetry to monitor fish populations from a distance. We also welcome submissions from other topics of interest to fisheries professionals from around the state. Abstracts are due by February 10, 2021.

If 2020 had a silver lining, it would emphasize the importance of connecting with other fisheries professionals, student members, and stakeholders in an increasingly digital world. As Chapter President I am interested in increasing the digital footprint of fisheries research in Michigan. I would like to engage current members research interests and expand the communication of their findings both to the public and other fisheries professionals. I view scientific communication as an excellent vector through which to attract new members and increase public connectivity. I would also like to highlight existing K-12 opportunities for classroom and place-based learning to interest and recruit the next generation of fisheries professionals.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank the other Chapter Officers, Sara Thomas, Jan-Michael Hessenauer, Emily Martin, Dana Castle, and Stacy Ireland for their assistance planning this year's meeting and for their service to the Chapter this year. I want to take a moment to offer my heartfelt thank you to Dan Traynor for his commitment to the continuing education program over the last seven years. Though Dan is taking a step back from the continuing education committee, his contributions will be felt for years to come.





Treasurer's Report for All Accounts through December 30, 2020

BALANCE FORWARD December 6, 2019	<u>2020</u>
Checking	\$11,812.51
Savings	\$8,027.63
PayPal	\$0.00
Petty Cash	\$597.47
AFS Investment Account (MidWest FW Conf)	<u>\$12,089.00</u>
TOTAL BALANCE	<u>\$32,526.61</u>

INCOME	
AFS Dues Rebate	\$0.00
Continuing Education	\$768.00
Donations to MIAFS	\$1,135.40
Membership dues, meeting fees	\$10,365.03
Interest Savings	\$4.02
AFS Investment Gain/Loss + Fees	-\$40.00
Petty cash (meeting fees, dues, t-shirts)	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$12,232.45</u>

EXPENSES	
Awards, Scholarships, Travel Grants	\$800.00
Bank Charges	\$0.00
Meeting Costs	\$10,556.19
Donations	\$750.00
Continuing Education	\$382.74
Postage/Office Supplies/Printing Fees	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$12,488.93</u>

TOTAL CASH FLOW **-\$256.48**

BALANCE December 30, 2020	
Checking	\$11,592.01
Savings	\$8,031.65
CD's	\$0.00
Petty Cash	\$597.47
PayPal	\$0.00
AFS Investment Account (MidWest FW Conf)	<u>\$12,049.00</u>
TOTAL BALANCE	<u>\$32,270.13</u>

January 11, 2021
President Sara Creque Thomas
Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

President Thomas,

As Audit Committee Chair, it is my responsibility to annually evaluate the finances of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Over the past week, I worked with Secretary-Treasurer Emily Martin to review all of the chapter's financial information. The records for 2020 were more brief than other years, but Emily has done a nice job of keeping things organized and on track for the chapter. She was able to quickly address the few minor issues that arose. For the period spanning the last audit through the 2020 calendar year, I find that all chapter financial records are in order.

Please accept this correspondence as official record of the annual audit of the chapter's financial records and contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

David C. Caroffino, Ph. D.
Audit Committee Chair
caroffinod@michigan.gov

Fisheries Biology Specialist
Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station
96 Grant Street
Charlevoix, MI 49720





Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award

The purpose of the Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award is to recognize undergraduate and graduate students for their achievements in the fields of fisheries or wildlife management and encourage their participation in professional societies and conferences. Since 2005, the annual award ceremony held during the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference has recognized over 375 students from over 40 different universities.

The 2021 award ceremony took place on February 3 during the virtual Midwest Fisheries and Wildlife Conference and recognized 13 student finalists from 9 different universities in 6 states and Canada.

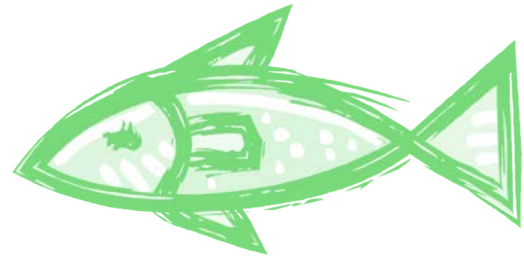
The following students were recognized as 2021 Fenske Award finalists:

Fisheries

Natalie Coash, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Emily Fleissner, University of Minnesota Duluth
Meagan Kindree, University of Toronto
Noland Michels, University of Minnesota Duluth
Tyler Murray, Eastern Illinois University
Kristina Pechacek, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
Kyle Rempe, Eastern Illinois University

Wildlife

Cheyenne Beach, Western Illinois University
Jackie Gehrt, Kansas State University
Lauren Larson, Western Illinois University
Arthur (Tommy) Young, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point



The following two students were recognized as the 2021 Fenske Award recipients:

Paul Bzonek – Fisheries

Paul received his B.S. from University of Guelph, his M.S. from University of Toronto, and is working towards his PhD at University of Toronto where he is investigating non-structural deterrents on invasive fish movement. Paul's research and field interests have ranged from smallmouth bass predation, Common Carp movement (including field work in South Africa), Asian Carp barrier response, and Sea Lamprey.

Engaging, teaching, or mentoring citizens is an important goal of Paul's. He has actively communicated the results of his research to scientists and the public through numerous professional papers and presentations, and through online media, public webinars, and public presentations. He has mentored others including undergraduate students working on honors thesis research and completing work-study programs.

Paul is a member of the American Fisheries Society where he currently serves as the Canadian Aquatic Resource Section student representative and served as a panelist for Canadian Fisheries Day Plenary Session at the 2020 Annual Meeting. He is also a member of the Canadian Black Scientists Network and has participated in several University of Toronto organizations and volunteered to help organize the 2018 International Association of Great Lakes Research.



Fenske Award
Fisheries

Paul Bzonek
University of Toronto

Paul's future career goals are to continue to conduct meaningful fisheries conservation research with integrity, diversity, and compassion for others. According to Paul's advisor, Dr. Nicholas Mažndrak, "As a researcher, teacher, and colleague, Paul is a role model and mentor for black and minority students." And ". . .has a promising future in fisheries science and management."

Danielle Berger – Wildlife



Fenske Award
Wildlife

Danielle Berger
Utah State University



Danielle received her B.S. from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where she was awarded the Boone and Crockett Douglas Stephens Undergraduate Research Fellowship to study bobwhite nest selection. She recently completed her M.S. from University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she researched prairie-chickens and sharp-tailed grouse, and she is working toward her PhD at Utah State University where she is looking at factors that influence the demography of endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. Danielle hopes to one day hold a position where she can reconcile the needs of people and wildlife by addressing applied ecological questions with application for policy and management.

While at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Danielle served as an invaluable Teaching Assistant helping students grasp complex biological concepts and as instructor for English as a Second Language. Danielle takes an active role in helping others, whether it is helping others who are

struggling, through policy reform on sexual misconduct, or involvement in after-school programming or her church. And it should be mentioned that she is a single mother who takes all of this on while prioritizing her two children.

As her advisor from University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Dr. Larkin Powell, states ". . .research, leadership and service are personal qualities that set Danielle apart from her peers. She is kind, concerned, and has empathy for her fellow students and society at large. She works to make a difference . . ."

Special thanks to the following individuals from the Minnesota and Michigan Chapters of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society for their help with the award: Jo Ann Alexander, Robin DeBruyne, Dave Clapp, Patrick Ertel, Jacob Haus, Corbin Hilling, Holly Jennings, Jessica Piispanen, Bill Severud, Mark Tonello, Dan Traynor, and David Williams.



This award was made possible through organizational and financial contributions from:

- 2021 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Committee
- American Fisheries Society- North Central Division, Minnesota and Michigan Chapters
- The Wildlife Society- Minnesota and Michigan Chapters

Jessica Mistak, Chair



Continuing Education Update

The Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society hosted one continuing education workshop in 2020. Others were planned but quickly fell victim to the pandemic! The one successful workshop, Introduction to Sampling and Identification of Freshwater Fish Eggs and Larvae, was held at Central Michigan University on March 11th. The workshop was instructed by Ed Roseman and Stacey Ireland and Ed Roseman from the U.S. Geological Survey Great Lakes Science Center and Amy George from the U.S. Geological Survey Columbia Environmental Research Center. The course drew 23 participants including 5 students. The recipient of the \$150 student travel grant was Derek Hartline from Lake Superior State University.

We also planned a Freshwater Mussel Sampling and Identification Workshop to be held in Grand Rapids in May. Registrations were nearly filled but we unfortunately had to postpone the course. We'll hopefully be able to reschedule in the next year or two!

With the continued pandemic-related uncertainty we're planning to begin hosting virtual workshops. Stay tuned for workshop idea surveys and announcements!

In other news Stacey Ireland has accepted the position of Continuing Education Committee Chair, so please welcome here to her new role!

MIAFS continues to hold 25% of all workshop seats for free student registrations and awards the top applicant with a \$150 travel grant. Application instructions are included with all workshop announcements. Unfortunately, this program is still being underutilized so if you're a student consider applying for free registration! We are also still (and always!) looking for new workshop ideas! If there are any courses you would like to see offered or are interested in teaching a course please contact Stacey Ireland at sireland@usgs.gov. Suggestions for future courses are always appreciated!

Rivers and Streams Technical Committee Update

My name is Nate Winkler and am a biologist for the Conservation Resource Alliance (www.rivercare.org) in Traverse City. Presently I'm the Chair of the "Rivers and Streams Technical Committee" with my term beginning in March of 2019.

Since that time, I've been reviewing and distributing scientific literature to committee members, selecting papers that apply to Michigan issues though not all research takes place in Michigan. In an attempt to reduce the research down to slightly more than what the abstract describes, I hope to provide a more easily digestible version of the work so that folks may have a starting point if they decide to fully read the paper that is attached. If they choose not to, the reader has a general idea of the research and has a paper to reference later.

My intention this year was to also coordinate and provide informational virtual presentations from our colleagues to expand on certain subjects but due to the pandemic, this became a difficult task with everyone just plowing through the necessary work of their jobs. My goal for 2021 is to resurrect this idea while also continuing the literature review distribution (at the very least).

I would like to extend an invitation to anyone that's interested to join the Rivers and Streams Technical Committee and encourage current members to weigh in on subjects they'd like to see the committee focus on.

Please contact me at nate@rivercare.org or 231.620.4026 if you're interested to participate or if you'd like to provide ideas on how to improve the scope of the committee.

LSSU Student Subunit Update

We have faced many different challenges throughout the year with the addition of Covid-19 protocols and a transition to online learning. Regardless, our AFS student subsection has been thriving. Throughout the year we have participated in many virtual learning opportunities and attending virtual conferences. These virtual activities have



allowed our members an education that otherwise would not have been possible. During the second week of October, twenty members ranging from freshman to senior members participated in the pond sampling. The sampling occurred on a small private pond. After placing a fyke net, we let the net sit to collect fish. After removing all the fish from the net, students identified, weighed, and measured the length of each fish. The length, weight, and species identification were all recorded. By collecting and recording the different fish species provided the landowner information to effectively manage the pond. Even more, by conducting the pond sampling, we were able to provide a hands-on experience to our members.



During the last few days of October and the first weekend in November, our club had the opportunity to collaborate with the LSSU Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE), and to help conduct broodstock and egg collection for the CFRE Atlantic salmon hatchery. By participating in broodstock and egg collection, our members gain hands-on experience gill netting, measuring, weighing, and handling the Atlantic salmon. Providing our club members with critical hands-on experience furthers their education and understanding of the



egg collection process within the hatchery. Although there have been many changes throughout the year with the addition of Covid-19 protocols, our club continues to educate and provide our members with many different hands-on opportunities. By providing different educational opportunities, we enrich our members who will carry this onto their further career paths. As we transition into the spring of 2021, our student subunit is excited to continue providing engaging experiences for our students.

Great Lakes Survey Work During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Brad Utrup- Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Some of the most important work our station is responsible for is long-term monitoring of Great Lakes fish populations. The data from these surveys are used to make decisions regarding commercial and recreational fishing regulations. Some of these surveys have been conducted for four decades! The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us all to make changes in our daily lives and our station's field work is a great example.

During the spring, State of Michigan employees were moved to teleworking and all field work was postponed. We were forced to cancel three of our surveys as state officials worked to determine what work we could accomplish safely. Once it was determined it was safe to return to some form of fieldwork in the summer, we began developing a plan to complete as much of our work as possible in a safe manner.

Working on a Great Lakes survey vessel during a pandemic presents unique challenges. Each survey requires a minimum number of crew members to complete the work safely and efficiently. Space is always at a premium on vessels cramped with equipment, nets, anchors, livewells, and coolers which makes social distancing practices often difficult, if not impossible. We developed safety protocols, health screenings, and disinfecting procedures to ensure we could operate safely. The biologists identified critical data that needed to be collected and cut out desirable but less essential information to streamline each survey. We sailed with the smallest crew possible from our "family unit" and altered our travel logistics to minimize the number of nights we needed to spend in hotels. A tradition in normal years is for the crew to gather in the evening at a chosen restaurant and share a meal. The day is recapped, stories are told, and friendships are strengthened. This year, our evenings consisted of take-out food and eating alone in our own room.

Looking back now from the close of the field season, I am proud of the work we were able to accomplish. In a year filled with uncertainty and disruption we were able to successfully complete (by 2020 standards) many of our surveys and collect this critical data as best we could. We played the hand we were dealt and did the best job we could.



Annual crew photo from the completion of the Saginaw Bay survey.



A Lake Sturgeon captured from Lake St. Clair, August 2020

Numerous state-record sized Flathead Catfish caught in Plum Creek “The Hot Ponds” of western Lake Erie

John Buszkiewicz - Fisheries Biologist, Michigan DNR

In 2018, the Michigan DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service hired full-time dedicated Grass Carp response crews to regularly conduct sampling efforts throughout western Lake Erie and its connecting tributaries. Great Lakes wetland ecosystems in Michigan that are sampled monthly by response crews include the Trenton Channel (Detroit River mouth), Pointe Mouillee State Game Area (Huron River Mouth), North Maumee Bay, La Plaisance Bay, and Plum Creek (“The Hot Ponds”). Plum Creek is a unique relatively deep site near the mouth of the Raisin River in Monroe county, adjacent to a shallow backwater area, which has a variety of marshland habitat including large beds of American Lotus. Warmwater discharge from the DTE Energy nuclear power plant empties here, keeping temperatures in the Hot Ponds well above freezing year-round. Grass Carp captures and acoustic telemetry detections have persisted at this site throughout the last few years. Response crews use large-mesh trammel nets in combination with pulsed-DC boat electrofishing to target Grass Carp, which results in other large-bodied native fish, such as Buffalo and Common Carp, being captured as by-catch. Recent response efforts at Plum Creek unexpectedly resulted in the by-catch of four “monster” Flathead Catfish equal to, or exceeding the current state record (52 pounds, 46 inches) in Michigan. These record-sized Flathead Catfish, ranging from 52-59 pounds and 40-48 inches, were effectively stunned while electrofishing or entangled within the trammel net. Several additional flatheads that exceed master angler length requirements (29 inches) in Michigan have also been caught and released at this site since 2018. While Flathead Catfish are native to the large river basins within the central U.S., they are not native to the Great Lakes. Though it is unsure how this species initially colonized the Great Lakes, unauthorized and intentional historical stockings, movement through canals, and subsequent natural range expansions are thought to have contributed to their dispersal. If you are interested in targeting and potentially catching giant catfish in southeast Michigan, Plum Creek offers the opportunity for success. This location also holds a highly diverse fish community right in the middle of one of the largest electrical power generating stations in the United States. The abundance of waterfowl and Bald Eagles also makes this site truly beautiful.



10 years with the MDNR Fisheries Division's Dive Team

(Dave Clapp and Pat O'Neill, MDNR Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station)

All of us are involved in conducting research studies, assessments, and surveys to provide information in support of science-based management of Michigan's world class aquatic resources. Ideally, this information is gathered using the best available, "state-of-the-art" methods. Underwater observation and data collection methods are increasingly used by fisheries professionals; in particular, SCUBA diving has been used to gather important information on fish abundance and diversity, habitat choice, egg deposition and recruitment, freshwater mussel abundance and distribution, gear efficiency and performance, and effects of exotic species on ecosystems. In these studies, direct underwater observation provided information that could not have been obtained through traditional fishery methods.

With this in mind, a little more than 10 years ago (2009) Michigan DNR Fisheries Division formed a dive team to address this need for studies of Michigan fish. Since that time, Dive Team members have completed extensive annual training and logged more than 1,000 dives to conduct diverse and important research and management activities.

Training

Each winter, Fisheries Division Dive Team members complete classroom and "in-pool" training, to refresh basic diving skills, undergo required fitness tests, practice rescue techniques, and discuss operations conducted during the previous field season. Winter sessions are complimented by open water training, which provides an opportunity to practice underwater navigation, boat operations, and specific protocols for collection of scientific data.



(Left) Dive Team members conducting "diver assistance" simulations during a pool training session.

(Right) Fisheries Division Dive Team members leave the water after some open-water training with partners from The Nature Conservancy.



Instrument placement and maintenance of stocking facilities

Maintenance of fisheries research and management equipment sometimes requires "in-water" operations. Adjustment of hydroacoustic gear on research vessels has routinely been conducted by Dive Team members, ensuring accurate data is collected on Great Lakes fish populations...and saving the state thousands of dollars in vessel dry dock costs. The increasing use of acoustic telemetry to measure movement of fish has been greatly facilitated by diving operations to place receivers and download data. In other operations, Dive Team members recently were deployed to Saginaw Bay to place monitoring equipment on a rehabilitated reef, and have assisted hatchery managers by maintaining net pens for stocking of Great Lakes salmonids.

Mussel surveys and relocation

Our knowledge of the importance of freshwater mussels in aquatic ecosystems has expanded significantly in the past 20 years, and much of this knowledge has been gained through underwater observation and collections. Since its formation, the Fisheries Division Dive Team has been involved as a partner on numerous mussel surveys and management efforts. For example, Dive Team members assisted with mussel relocation to facilitate a dam removal project on the Grand River. Recently, mussel surveys on the Detroit River involved partners from multiple agencies, including MDNR.

(Dive Team, Con't.)



(Left) Divers assist MDNR and LSSU hatchery managers with placement and maintenance of a net pen for Atlantic Salmon in the St. Mary's River at Sault Ste Marie.

(Right) MDNR biologist Sara Thomas consults with Dive Team members Pat O'Neill and Kris Snyder during a survey for threatened and endangered mussels on the Detroit River.



Monitoring and managing aquatic invasive species (AIS)

One of the greatest threats to aquatic ecosystems in Michigan are invasive species. Dive Team members have been involved in both documenting these threats and helping to develop management strategies to lessen their impact. Much of this effort has centered on Great Lakes reefs that serve as important spawning and nursery habitat for native fishes including Lake Trout, Lake Whitefish, Walleye, Lake Sturgeon, and Cisco. A recent project involved placement of barriers around study reefs to facilitate removal of Rusty Crayfish, a significant predator on eggs of native fish. Other efforts have included monitoring the success of dreissenid mussel control efforts in the Great Lakes (Leland / Good Harbor) as well as on inland systems (Round Lake, near Petoskey).



(Left) A MDNR diver checks placement of a barrier to control Rusty Crayfish on a northern Lake Michigan spawning reef.

(Right) Round Goby, another significant predator on native fish eggs, have been the subject of several SCU-BA-supported survey efforts.



The above brief examples describe just a few of the projects on which the Fisheries Division Dive Team has provided assistance to managers and researchers. In each case, the data obtained proved critical to management of important Michigan aquatic resources. We invite those with an interest in scientific diving, or who have projects that would benefit from participation of scientific divers, to contact us. It's been an eventful first decade for the MDNR Fisheries Division Dive Team, and we're looking forward to many more years of successful operations and expanded collaborations with other Michigan natural resource professionals.

For more information :

Dive Team background, training, and scientific diving standards: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAcYbkSwDq8>, <https://www.aaus.org/>, <https://www.unols.org/>

Net pens: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12aZwBapiWl>, <https://www.lssu.edu/cfre/>

Mussel surveys: <https://www.cmich.edu/news/article/pages/Kalamazoo-watershed-mussels-research.aspx>, <https://www.cmich.edu/news/article/Pages/Snuffbox-mussel-propagation-2020.aspx>,

Reef restoration: <https://www.michiganseagrant.org/saginawbayreef/>, <https://vimeo.com/145949971>

AIS and native species enhancement: https://youtu.be/2iCW7MdpC_U, https://www.researchgate.net/profile/John_Fitzsimons/publication/240671722_Estimates_of_egg_deposition_and_effects_of_lake_trout_Salvelinus_namaycush_egg_predators_in_three_regions_of_the_Great_Lakes/links/5699327d08ae6169e55172cc.pdf, <https://invasivemusselcollaborative.net/research-and-projects/imc-pilot-project-draft/>

President—Elec Candidate Biographies

Kevin L. Kapuscinski, Ph.D.

Candidate – President-elect of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

My career has been greatly enriched by opportunities and relationships stemming from participation in student chapters, state chapters, and the parent society of the American Fisheries Society, so it is an honor to be considered for the role of President-elect of the Michigan Chapter. If elected, my goals would be to increase opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to connect with fisheries professionals, promote continuing education opportunities for learners at all career stages, and organize an in-person annual meeting in 2022 that is both safe and engaging for our members.

Currently, I am the Assistant Director of Research for the Center for Freshwater Research and Education at Lake Superior State University, and an Associate Professor in the School of Natural Resources & Environment. I strive to create collaborative research opportunities for students and challenge them learn new skills as they develop into scientists. In this effort, I have worked with various state, federal, and tribal agencies to secure nearly \$5 million in research funding and mentor >40 undergraduate and graduate stu-



dents, resulting in >30 peer-reviewed publications. More importantly, my students have developed into professionals that are crafting their own careers at agencies and universities—their participation in the Michigan Chapter has been integral to their development. For the past six years while in Michigan, I have been an active member of the Michigan Chapter and encouraged our undergraduates to become active as well. Connecting students to fisheries professionals would be at the forefront of my efforts as President-elect. My most significant roles of professional service include serving as an Associate Editor for the *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, and the Primary Editor for a book published by the American Fisheries Society titled *Muskellunge management: fifty years of cooperation among anglers, scientists, and fisheries biologists*. Additionally, I currently serve on the awards committee of the Michigan Chapter. I look forward to the opportunity to serve as President-elect for the Michigan Chapter, and I sincerely thank you for your consideration.

President—Elec Candidate Biographies

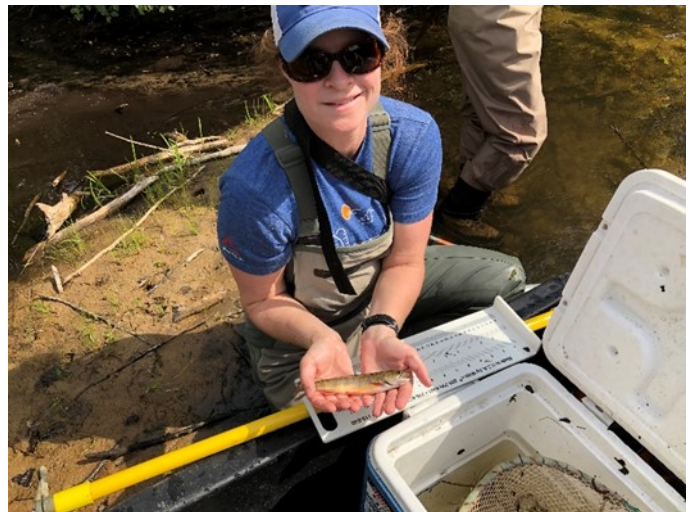
Kristin Thomas

Candidate for President-Elect of the Michigan Chapter, American Fisheries Society

I am an aquatic ecologist for Michigan Trout Unlimited. Our mission is to conserve, protect, and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds in Michigan. I have been with TU since 2009. I created and run our data collection program which focuses on collecting temperature, habitat, discharge, macroinvertebrate, and fish data across the state for a wide variety of purposes. I also am our primary project manager, this includes in-stream habitat projects, collaborative groups, and management of our summer staff. I am increasingly interested in in-stream habitat improvement, specifically project implementation and how to measure effectiveness of this work to improve future efforts.

I earned my M.S. at Grand Valley State University in 2008. My thesis research compared colonization rates of dreissenid mussels in Great Lakes coastal wetlands and adjacent lake habitat to determine if wetland habitats were resistant to invasion. While getting my B.S. at Winona State University I explored habitat preferences of slimy sculpin in small coldwater streams. My research has been published in the journals *Freshwater Biology* and *American Midland Naturalist*. More recently my writing has focused on technical reports, grant applications and reports, and magazine articles targeted at Trout Unlimited members. I have been an invited reviewer for several journals and grant programs.

I joined the American Fisheries Society while working on my master's degree. While I have not previously been involved in a leadership role at AFS, I have presented at many meetings and attended several workshops. If elected, my goals would be to maintain Michigan AFS's excellent reputation, provide useful and innovative educational opportunities, and to provide opportunities for networking and support to our student members. I truly enjoy mentoring young professional and would like to focus on growing the scope of support given to student members.



2020 MIAFS Chapter Award Winners

**Text was extracted from the award nominations submitted by various MIAFS members.*

Leonard Award

Purpose: To recognize outstanding professional competence and achievement of a professional employed in the field of fisheries or aquatic biology in Michigan.

Dr. Ashley Moerke



“Dr. Moerke’s research has helped enhance conservation and management of Michigan’s aquatic resources, especially fisheries that rely on tributaries to the Great Lakes and the St. Marys River. For example, her work to advance restoration of the Little Rapids in the St. Marys River has improved spawning habitat that will provide everlasting benefits to fisheries. Additionally, Dr. Moerke’s work on coastal wetlands, in collaboration with the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program, has greatly improved our understanding of these vital resources. Furthermore, she has published in peer-reviewed scientific journals with undergraduate students on multiple occasions – no easy task. While Dr. Moerke’s research record is impressive, I believe her greatest contributions have come through teaching undergraduate students majoring in Biology, Conservation Biology, and Fisheries and Wildlife Management. Evidence of her ability to train and inspire others can be seen by examining the ranks of agencies and universities. Dr. Moerke’s former students, scattered throughout the country, are now leaders in state, federal, and tribal agencies, and several are professors training the next generation of natural resource stewards. Last, Dr. Moerke has been the primary force behind LSSU’s Center for Freshwater Research and Education, leading efforts in fundraising, construction design, team building, and strategic programmatic planning. The Center will enhance education of undergraduates, advance research in the field of aquatic ecology, and engage the public through a Great Lakes Visitors Center. Dr. Moerke’s efforts to educate and inspire others have provided tremendous benefits to Michigan’s aquatic resources, creating a legacy that will be measured in decades rather than years.”

Hazzard Award (Two recipients in 2020)

Purpose: To recognize excellence in student research in fisheries or aquatic biology at a college or university in Michigan.

Elle Gulotty

“Elle’s work has direct implications for stream management in Michigan, and she brings these insights into her daily work as a part of her employment with the DNR. I view her work as being very groundbreaking in that the fluvial geomorphological implications of stream structures has not been well considered in the past. Furthermore, here synthesis of her work with the fluvial geomorph literature has the potential to set the stage for a broad conceptual framework that others could use nation or world-wide.”





Thornton Ritz

“Thornton completed his M.S. degree in summer 2019. The research was unusual and particularly challenging because it required development of a larval rearing system for burbot in my lab (where none existed), capture and production of fertilized eggs and larvae from wild burbot parents, and considerable work collecting additional historical specimens from around the Great Lakes. Thornton was the first grad student in my lab working on this species and has done an enormous amount of work to set up what I hope will be a long-running research program. As far as I know, this is the first systematic work with larval burbot in the Great Lakes and a large contribution to a small literature on the species globally. We are in the process of generating two papers from this research (one will be submitted this week and the other is soon to follow).”

Grayling Award

Purpose: To recognize outstanding contribution(s) to Michigan’s fishery related resources, to Michigan’s fishery profession, or to the Michigan Chapter by a person, industry, agency, or organization.

Dr. Edward Roseman

“Key work headed by Ed Roseman began in the early 2000s, when historic losses of coarse substrates were identified as a bottleneck limiting the availability of high quality spawning grounds for a number of fishes, including walleye, lake whitefish, and lake sturgeon. Ed conducted research to identify contemporary spawning locations and quantify larval production of these fish species. In an effort to supplement lost spawning habitat throughout the St. Clair Detroit River System, Ed helped initiate a highly successful spawning reef restoration project that continues to further understanding about habitat limitations and the effectiveness of remediation efforts aimed at conservation and restoration of imperiled fisheries. The progress toward recovery of fish populations has been documented in several peer-reviewed papers (many featured in AFS publications) and gained international attention, resulting in Ed’s participation in overseas fish and habitat restoration workshops and sparking international collaborations.”

“Ed is not only a mentor, but has also had the unique ability to create connections among all of those that have worked for him. Ed encourages his employees and students to become active members of the American Fisheries Society at the national, state, and student levels and a number of employees have taught professional workshops and held officer positions at various levels of the American Fisheries Society. By promoting participation in the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and similar professional organizations, Ed has fostered a group of young scientists to go beyond simple networking, creating a community of researchers that not just work together, but work together well. Although many individuals have grown as researchers under Ed’s tutelage and furthered their careers, they still continue to share ideas, collaborate, and hatch new research questions. These unique connections would not exist had Ed not emphasized how important good working relationships are and facilitated a means for all of these scientists to be forever connected.”



Albert S. Hazzard Award (http://www.fisheriessociety.org/miafs/ahazz_award.html)

Justin W. Leonard Award (http://www.fisheriessociety.org/miafs/jleo_award.html)

The Grayling Award (http://www.fisheriessociety.org/miafs/gray_award.html)

Meeting Announcement

Grand Rapids, Michigan to Host the 2022 Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting

Mark your calendars for the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, **May 16-20, 2022**.

The meeting will be held at the DeVos Place Convention Center and it is organized by the Consortium of Aquatic Science Societies (CASS), which includes:

American Fisheries Society

Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography

Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation

Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society

International Association for Great Lakes Research

North American Lake Management Society

Phycological Society of America

Society for Freshwater Science

Society of Wetland Scientists

Please keep an eye on the JASM website for updates and evolving details including opportunities to get involved: <https://jasm2022.aquaticsocieties.org/>



JASM 2022

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, MAY 16 - 20



MIAFS Technology Update



The MIAFS webpage is hosted on the parent society servers under the url – <http://michigan.fisheries.org/> - check it out! You can use this page to post job openings, find contact information for your officers, see meeting announcements, and so much more.

Don't forget you can always hit the Chapter up on its Facebook page as well; <https://www.facebook.com/MichiganAFS/>. Feel free to post anytime, or send items to be posted to our Communications Chair Heather Hettinger at hettingerh@michigan.gov

Justin Chiotti is the webmaster for the Chapter webpage. If you have anything you would like added to the site, please send Justin an email at justin_chiotti@fws.gov.

Doug Workman is the ListServ coordinator for the Michigan Chapter. Please forward any announcements, job posting, or other important information to Doug at dworkman@advancedecological.com

2020 Business Meeting Notes

The meeting notes from the 2020 AFS Business Meeting are now available on our web page,

<http://michigan.fisheries.org/past-meetings/>

2020 Membership Update

Currently, the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society consists of 341 active members, a 3% increase from 2019. The membership consists of 146 Regular Members, 104 students, 51 Young Professionals, 20 Retirees, and 20 Life Members.

Brad Utrup, Membership Committee Chair





2020-2021 Chapter Officers

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Continuing Education Committee- Stacey Ireland (sireland@usgs.com)

Fenske Award Committee- Jessica Mistak (mistakj@michigan.gov)

Membership Committee- Brad Utrup (utrupb@michigan.gov)

NCD Walleye Tech Committee- Ed Roseman (eroseman@usgs.gov)

Past Presidents Committee- Justin Chiotti (justin_chiotti@fws.gov)

Program Committee- Doug Larson (larso147@msu.edu)

Resolutions Committee- Kevin Donner (kdonner@LTBBODAWA-NSN.GOV)

Rivers & Streams Committee- Nate Winkler (Nate@trivercare.org)

Student Concerns- Jessica Diaz (diazjes1@msu.edu) **and Conner Johnson**
(cjohnson30@lssu.edu)

Water Quality Committee- Doug Bradley (dbradley@limno.com)



Need to know something about the Chapter?

Check out the MIAFS website at:

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/miafs/>



This newsletter is published annually by the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Editor Heather Hettinger. Comments, suggestions, and submissions should be directed to hettingerh@michigan.gov

Not a member? Know someone who should be a member?

Being an active member of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will provide many opportunities to advance your growth as a fisheries professional and allow you to have a bigger impact on in the future of Michigan's fisheries. Our newsletter, email listserv, and the ability to network and connect with other fisheries professionals from local governments, academia, fish culture, the private sector, and even other states will keep you current with all of the latest techniques and issues.

You do not have to join the parent society to be a Michigan Chapter member and the annual \$10.00 membership fee is a great bargain.!

To become a member and pay dues visit the membership page: http://www.fisheriessociety.org/miafs/afs_joinus.html

The Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is a professional organization interested in maintaining high standards for the fisheries profession and ensuring conservation of Michigan's aquatic resources. The Michigan Chapter was founded in 1973 as part of the North Central Division of AFS and currently represents over 430 members.