

# UNDERCURRENTS

March 2022

The Newsletter of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



## President's Message ~ Doug Larson

Greetings Michigan AFS membership! It has been my pleasure to serve as President of the Michigan Chapter in 2021. It has been a year of personal and professional growth, as I have decided to return to Michigan State University to pursue a graduate opportunity in addition to managing the activities at the Black River Sturgeon Facility. I want to start by thanking the membership for the opportunity to serve as President of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. As was the case with those who served before me, I am enthusiastic to discuss fisheries topics of interest, concerns, or issues which are of importance to the membership.

Looking back on the 2020 virtual meeting, I really want to thank everyone who attended. I know by March of 2021 we were all "zoomed out," yet we still managed to eclipse the 100 attendee's mark. I'm happy to report that the 2022 annual meeting is returning to an in-person format. President-elect, Kevin Kapuscinski has a great meeting planned. 2022 will also mark the return of MI-AFS continuing education programming. Stacy Ireland and Past President, Sara Thomas, are planning to host a workshop designed to help students and early-professionals navigate the challenges in securing employment in the increasingly competitive natural resources field on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Panelists from the fields of fisheries and wildlife at various organizations (DNR, EGLE, USFWS, USGS, Tribal Fisheries, Academic Institutions, etc.) will be available to discuss application materials, including providing resume and interview feedback. Scholarships are available for up to five students to attend. In addition, the planning committee is working on a data management workshop, an introduction to R workshop, and a mussel identification course for 2022.

The next two years are going to be exciting in Michigan. In May of 2022, Grand Rapids plays host to the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting. Visit the JASM website (<https://jasm2022.aquaticsocieties.org/registration/>) to register. The Michigan Chapter is working with the Wildlife Society to plan a joint meeting for the Spring of 2023. Watch for details in Fall, 2022. Lastly, the American Fisheries Society is holding its annual meeting in Grand Rapids in August of 2023. Planning for this meeting is just beginning, and the Michigan Chapter is looking for volunteers to fill out the planning committee. If you're interested in helping plan a major conference, this is your opportunity! Please reach out to someone on the executive committee as soon as possible to have your voice heard in the planning process.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank the other Chapter Officers, Kevin Kapuscinski, Emily Martin, Dana Castle, and Stacy Ireland for their dedicated service to the Chapter this year. I would also like to recognize the contributions of Sara Ang and Isaac Loutzenhiser for their contributions to the student subunit. Last, but certainly not least, I want to take a moment to congratulate outgoing Past President Sara Thomas. Following three exemplary years of service to the Michigan Chapter, Sara was recently elected Vice President of the American Fisheries Society – North Central Division. Thank you, Sara, for your service to the Chapter and for your continued service to the American Fisheries Society. All the best in 2022!

Doug Larson



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## From the President-Elect ~ Kevin Kapuscinski

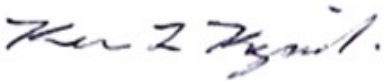
Greetings from the shores of the St. Mary's River!

Thank you for granting me the opportunity to serve as President-elect of MI AFS. Most of my effort thus far has been focused on planning our next annual meeting, which will be held 16-18 March 2022 at Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie. Our chapter's officers have been instrumental in guiding me through the meeting planning process, and I cannot thank them enough. We have an excellent group of presentations submitted by our membership, and I am especially looking forward to our poster social event at the recently-opened Richard and Theresa Barch Center for Freshwater Research and Education. Please visit our [website](#) for meeting details. I will do my best to notify you when additional updates are made.



My goals as President are to (1) increase opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to connect with fisheries professionals, and (2) facilitate continuing education opportunities for learners at all career stages. Please, do not hesitate to contact me with suggestions on how best to achieve these goals. I would also very much like your input on how MI AFS can support, encourage, and increase participation of underrepresented groups in our chapter. I am starting to brainstorm ideas around this important issue, but advancing inclusion will only be successful if it is driven by the membership so I need your help. Your questions and suggestions on how to otherwise improve MI AFS are of course welcome – please reach out to me by phone (906-635-2093) or email ([kkapuscinski@lssu.edu](mailto:kkapuscinski@lssu.edu)). I look forward to working with you all to ensure MI AFS is an active and rewarding society.

Best wishes in 2022!



Kevin L. Kapuscinski, Ph.D.  
Assistant Director of Research, Center for Freshwater Research and Education  
Associate Professor, School of Natural Resources & Environment  
Lake Superior State University





**MICHIGAN CHAPTER AMERICAN  
FISHERIES SOCIETY**

**Treasurer's Report for All Accounts  
through December 31, 2021**

<b>BALANCE FORWARD December 31, 2020</b>	<u>2021</u>
Checking	\$11,592.01
Savings	\$8,031.65
PayPal	0
Petty Cash	\$597.47
AFS Investment Account (MidWest FW Conf)	<u>\$12,049.00</u>
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b><u>\$32,270.13</u></b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
AFS Dues Rebate	\$1,973.60
Continuing Education	\$0.00
Donations to MIAFS	\$258.57
Membership dues, meeting fees	\$355.03
Interest Savings	4.35
AFS Investment Gain/Loss + Fees	\$3,127.00
Petty cash (meeting fees, dues, t-shirts)	\$10.00
Deposit of petty cash into checking	\$597.47
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$6,326.02</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Awards, Scholarships, Travel Grants	\$950.00
Bank Charges	\$0.00
Meeting Costs	\$524.24
Donations	\$0.00
Continuing Education	\$0.00
Postage/Office Supplies/Printing Fees	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$1,474.24</u></b>
<b>TOTAL CASH FLOW</b>	<b>\$4,851.78</b>
<b>BALANCE December 31, 2021</b>	
Checking	\$13,302.44
Savings	\$8,036.00
CD's	\$0.00
Petty Cash	\$10.00
PayPal	\$0.00
AFS Investment Account (MidWest FW Conf)	<u>\$15,176.00</u>
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b><u>\$36,524.44</u></b>

January 20, 2022

President Douglas Larson  
Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

President Larson,

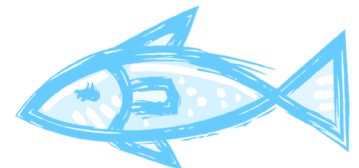
As Audit Committee Chair, it is my responsibility to annually evaluate the finances of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. In recent weeks, I worked with Secretary-Treasurer Emily Martin to review all of the chapter's financial information for calendar year 2021. As was the case in 2020, the volume of records was reduced again in 2021 compared to prior years simply because of the ongoing nature of limited operations. 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 2021 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  
Natural Resources Manager  
Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station  
96 Grant Street  
Charlevoix, MI 49720





# Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award

## The Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award

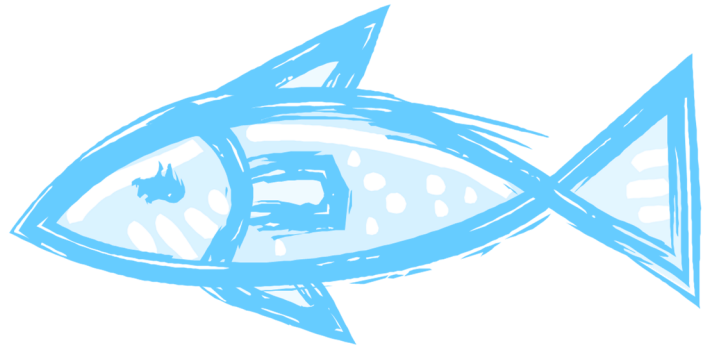
The purpose of the Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award is to recognize undergraduate and graduate students for their achievements in the fields of fisheries or wildlife management and encourage their participation in professional societies and conferences. Since 2005, the annual award ceremony held during the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference has recognized over 400 students from over 40 different universities.

The 2022 award ceremony took place on February 14 during the Midwest Fisheries and Wildlife Conference and recognized student finalists from 11 different universities in 7 states throughout the Midwest.

The following students were recognized as 2022 Fenske Award finalists:

### Fisheries

Hadley Boehm, University of Missouri-Columbia  
 Logan Cutler, South Dakota State University  
 Jordan Everson, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
 AnaSara Gillem, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
 Erik Griffen, Iowa State University  
 Kelly Hoyer, Central Michigan University  
 Mikayla Kindler, Kalamazoo College  
 Lindsey LaBrie, University of South Dakota  
 Madeline Lewis, Iowa State University  
 Hannah Mulligan, South Dakota State University  
 Kyle Olivencia, Iowa State University  
 Kristina Pechacek, University for Wisconsin-La Crosse  
 Benjamin Schall, South Dakota State University



### Wildlife

Dustin Brewer, Central Michigan University  
 Amber Smith, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
 Cassie Stitzman, Northern Michigan University  
 David Wolfson, University of Minnesota

Special thanks to the following individuals from the Iowa and Michigan Chapters of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society for their help with the award: Jo Ann Alexander, Dave Clapp, Robin DeBruyne, Matt Dollison, Patrick Ertel, Seth Fopma, Drew Holloway, Rebecca Krogman, Tamara Lipsey, Holly Jennings, Jessica Mistak, Gary Roloff, Mark Tonello, and David Williams.

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

- 2022 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Committee
- American Fisheries Society- North Central Division, Iowa and Michigan Chapters
- The Wildlife Society- Iowa and Michigan Chapters

Jessica Mistak, Chair

The following two students were recognized as the 2022 Fenske Award recipients:

Shaley Valentine – Fisheries

Shay received her B.S. from Northern Michigan University, her M.S. from Utah State University, and is working towards her PhD at Southern Illinois University -Carbondale where she is researching the native fish community of the Upper Mississippi River System.

Shay is a member of the American Fisheries Society where she currently serves as the officer in the SIUC Student Subunit. She also serves as President of SIUC's Zoology Graduate Student Association, mentors undergraduate students on research projects, coordinates outreach events with local schools, and participates in SIUC's Women's Civic Institute for community leadership development. Shay routinely steps up to help teach others and just yesterday taught a workshop to conference attendees on using R statistical software. Ultimately, Shay aims to not only be a great mentor and professional, but also to expand her role within the fisheries community and AFS to create and achieve goals for improving mental health, diversity, and inclusion.

According to Shay's advisor, Dr. Jim Garvey, "Shay hits all the marks – she is smart, passionate about natural resources, curious, and eager to translate what she learns to her peers in the fisheries profession as well as to the people we are trying to reach in the schools, at the boat docks, in the capitol buildings, and everywhere else." And "Shay cares deeply. That is probably the best summary statement I can make about her. This sense of duty and responsibility permeates all that she does, and our discipline of fisheries is lucky to have her working with us." We could not agree more. Congratulations Shay!



Jeffrey Edwards – Wildlife

Jeffrey is a senior Wildlife Ecology and Management undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where he is working on an independent research project investigating blue-winged teal nest selection and nest survival in collaboration with Wisconsin DNR. Jeffrey's long-term career goal is to conduct research and contribute to the management of North American waterfowl. After graduating in May, he intends to gain valuable experience working seasonal waterfowl jobs while also applying to graduate school.

Jeffrey is a member of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point student subunit of The Wildlife Society where he has served a co-leader of several projects involving white-tailed deer, woodcock, and Wisconsin DNR Adopt a Wildlife Area. He is also the President of the University's Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Collegiate Program and an Advisory Board Member of the BHA Collegiate Program. As part of his involvement with BHA, he's secured several grants, coordinated training, conducted outreach with students and published articles – and for these efforts, he was awarded the BHA Rachel L. Carson Emerging Leaders Award. Jeffrey also mentors other students and regularly helps his peers and graduate students with their research projects.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Career Development Coordinator, Sue Kissinger, wrote "From my first meeting with Jeffrey, I was immediately impressed with his intelligence, strong work ethic, integrity, and outgoing personality. Jeffrey is one of the most ambitious students I have worked with in my 30-year career at UWSP. He is not only a leader but a positive role model for so many undergraduate students. His impact will be felt in the UWSP College of Natural Resources and the wildlife profession for years to come." Congratulations, Jeffrey! You are well-deserving of this award.





## GVSU Update

Grand Valley State University is offering a new major for a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (<https://www.gvsu.edu/biology/bachelor-of-science-in-fisheries-and-aquatic-sciences-66.htm>). This new major is intended for students interested in shaping the management of aquatic resources through the study of stream, lake, wetland, and marine ecosystems. Students in the program will receive hands-on scientific and taxonomic training, develop expertise in molecular ecology and mapping/global information skills, and gain an understanding of relevant public policies. The major is designed to provide students with the opportunity to participate in research projects and to develop identification skills for freshwater plants and/or algae, aquatic insects, and fishes. The required coursework will allow students to seek professional certification from the American Fisheries Society. To learn more about this major, contact Dr. Eric Snyder ([snydeeri@gvsu.edu](mailto:snydeeri@gvsu.edu)) or Dr. Carl Ruetz ([ruetzc@gvsu.edu](mailto:ruetzc@gvsu.edu)).



## Publications

**Bruner, John Clay, and Robin L. DeBruyne. 2021.** Yellow Perch, Walleye, and Sauger: Aspects of Ecology, Management, and Culture. Springer Fish & Fisheries Series book series (FIFI, volume 41):i-xii, 328 pp.

Part of the Fish & Fisheries Series book series (FIFI, volume 41)

### *Editors:*

John Clay Bruner Robin L. DeBruyne

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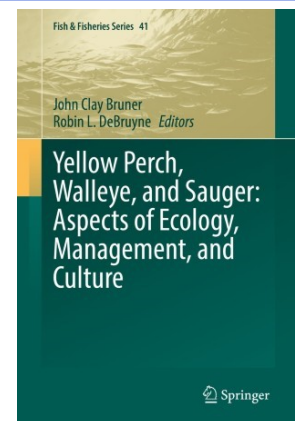
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## 2021 MIAFS Award Winners

*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.

#### **Mike Thomas**

“Mike began his professional career after graduating from Michigan State University with his master’s degree in 1985. After a short stint with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, he returned to his home state where he began working as a fisheries biologist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Pontiac District Office in 1987. In 1992 he transferred to the Lake St. Clair Fisheries Research Station, where he served as a fisheries research biologist until his retirement in October 2016. Mike’s 30-year career was truly a career of service; service to Michigan’s anglers, fisheries managers, and most importantly its natural resources. His contributions to fisheries science, particularly fisheries management in the Great Lakes waters of Southeast Michigan, can be found in numerous research reports, peer-reviewed publications, and popular articles. Mike’s research has been honored through awards including the AFS Fisheries Administration Section Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Research and Surveys Award and the AFS President’s Fishery Conservation Award.



"Mike’s work, which includes pivotal studies documenting long-term trends in the fish communities of Saginaw Bay, the St. Clair-Detroit River System, and Lake Erie have left a lasting mark on the way we think about and manage the region’s fisheries. But beyond his professional achievements, Mike has gained an incredible amount of respect – both from his colleagues and Michigan’s angling community – in the way that he went about accomplishing his research. Mike always chose timely research topics aimed at improving fisheries management, but only after consulting with managers and anglers to confirm that everyone’s information needs – and particularly the needs of Great Lakes cool and warm-water fish communities – were met. He embodied the professionalism of a true scientist; always conducting his research without bias and presenting the results factually, regardless of their political implications. Fisheries managers and anglers alike always appreciated Mike’s honesty; although he didn’t always tell them what they wanted to hear, he did always tell them the truth.

Throughout his career, Mike was never too busy to take a phone call, answer an e-mail, or speak to a group of anglers. His mentorship and friendship have been valued by his colleagues in state, federal, and provincial governments, universities, and the numerous undergraduate and graduate students who have worked with or collaborated with him through the years. Fisheries throughout Southeast Michigan and the lower Great Lakes are better for having Mike Thomas working on their behalf; anyone who enjoys the incredible fishing opportunities that can be found in the region owes him a huge debt of gratitude.”

*Awards continued on page 8...*

## Awards (Continued...)

### 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.

#### **Joseph Bohr**

“Joseph Bohr was an aquatic biologist specialist with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and served as the Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program coordinator for more than 15 years. In 2020, Joe retired from EGLE and was hired as a contractor to the Michigan Department of Health as a coordinator involved organizing the collection, preparation and measurement of contaminants in fish to assess temporal trends and risks to human health. Joe's organizational skills, knowledge of fish behavior, and expertise in statistics was vital to the Eat Safe Fish program. Joe's passive sampler and caged fish studies were crucial in evaluating the effectiveness of remedial programs aimed at reducing chemical contamination in surface waters.

Joe was one of the first people to identify per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as potential human health and environmental concerns in Michigan when he found elevated levels of PFAS in fish collected near a military base. Joe later designed a reconnaissance study to examine the concentrations of PFAS in fish and surface waters across the state. Based on the results of this study, Joe took the initiative to design a surface water monitoring plan to locate the sources of PFAS in one of the more highly contaminated watersheds identified in the reconnaissance study. The success of his initial monitoring plan lead to more and more sampling, such that more than 2,000 fish and 1,000 surface water samples have been analyzed throughout Michigan for PFAS under Joe's leadership. The importance of Joe's work cannot be overestimated since the results of the monitoring have been used to establish fish consumption advisories to protect human health and to restrict discharges of PFAS to Michigan surface waters.

Joe brought his expertise over to MDHHS in 2020 where he is currently analyzing spatial and temporal trends of PFAS in fish tissue. His project aims to provide a better understanding of the factors involved in PFAS bioaccumulation in fish which is critical to protecting human health.

Furthermore, Joe played an integral role in public outreach during his time with EGLE by frequently addressing citizen's concerns regarding contamination of local fisheries. He routinely provided an overview of the Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program to University classes which inspired numerous students to pursue a career in fisheries biology.”



### Cisco Award:

Purpose: to recognize a person or entity that has made significant contributions to fostering inclusion and/or diversity in the fisheries profession. This award was established to recognize people or entities that seek out opinions that may differ and give opportunity to those who may be underrepresented in the fisheries profession.

**Jessica Mistak** *Jess was actually nominated TWICE for the Cisco award!*

“Jess has worked tirelessly to promote inclusion and foster diversity in the fisheries field. Her work with the Janice Fenske fellowship has provided support and opportunity for numerous students throughout Michigan and the Midwest. The second that the idea for this award was brought up I thought that Jess should be the first person to win it.”



## Awards (Con't...)

"1) Plays a leading role in promoting and awarding the Janice Fenske Award and Scholarship.

2) Serves as an outstanding mentor and role model to students and career professionals... 'does the right thing' every day, at work and in her personal life.

3) Served AFS locally, regionally, and nationally for 20+ years...Jessica makes diversity and inclusion part of her job in every position she's had with AFS.

4) Is a good person! She's honest, dedicated, always sets a good example, and always looks out for the interests of others and bigger causes...not just herself."

"I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that she's impacted the lives of 100's of individuals, and especially students and early career professionals."



### Hazzard Award:

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

#### **Winner: Jake Kvistad**

Institution: Central Michigan University

Advisor: Dr. Tracy Galarowicz

Thesis: "Size segregation and seasonal patterns in rusty crayfish *Faxonius rusticus* distribution and abundance on northern Lake Michigan spawning reefs"

"Jake is easily in the top 5% (probably 1%) of graduate students that we've worked with. His work is addressing management of AIS (rusty crayfish, round goby) on Great Lakes reefs, and will have a significant impact on fisheries management on these systems. He is extremely conscientious, hard working, and near brilliant...he teaches his committee members something new every week! In addition, he is a real team player who has positive, lasting interactions with a diverse group of project collaborators...agency staff, non-governmental partners, university collaborators, and public. Jake would be a very worthy recipient of the Hazzard Award."

#### **Runner-Up: Samantha Tank**

Institution: Michigan State University

Advisor: Dr. Daniel Hayes

Thesis: A Social and Biological Evaluation of New Zealand Mudsnail Invasion in Michigan Rivers.



## Assessing Early Life Stage Ecology of the Great Lakes Largest Lake Sturgeon Population

USGS Great Lakes Science Center

The St. Clair-Detroit River System (SCDRS) is the 145 km long corridor that connects Lake Huron to Lake Erie and is the epicenter of recovery for lake sturgeon populations. Since lake sturgeon recruitment can be limited by the quality and availability of spawning habitat, seven artificial spawning reefs have been constructed since 2004 near historic spawning locations to restore lost habitat and increase recruitment. Egg mats, benthic D-frame nets, and stratified conical nets were used to gauge lake sturgeon use of the artificial reefs and movement throughout the system. We are currently preparing a Scientific Investigations Report for public release later this year that explores the past ten years of data. We found that lake sturgeon quickly made use of the artificial reefs, spawning on them almost always during the first spawning season, and then continuing to spawn on most reefs year after year. Data from the benthic D-frame nets revealed that larval lake sturgeon were captured throughout the system, with highest catch per hour at the St. Clair River reefs. This was expected given the large spawning population at the head of the St. Clair River near Port Huron, Michigan and Sarnia, Ontario. Depth-stratified conical nets were placed at surface, middle, and bottom depths in the rivers in 8 to 10 meters depth. Although we found the highest catch per hour in the bottom nets, both yolk-sac and post yolk-sac stage larvae were captured at all sampling depths. In 2021 we sampled for eggs near the spawning reefs and for larvae at new sites not associated specifically with the spawning reefs in the St. Clair River. We captured eggs at all functioning spawning reefs and caught a record number of larval lake sturgeon. This was a very exciting discovery for our group, and we plan to continue to assess lake sturgeon spawning and larval ecology as part of standard monitoring programs.



Photo 1: setting a D-frame net to collect drifting larvae in the St. Clair River. Credit - USGS GLSC.



Photo 3: larval lake sturgeon collected from the St. Clair River during the field season. Credit – USGS GLSC



Photo 4: removing an adult lake sturgeon that was captured in the D-frame net set for larvae in the St. Clair River. Credit – USGS GLSC.



Photo 2: research technician deploying paired bongo nets to collect pelagic larvae. Credit – USGS GLSC.



Photo 5: looking for eggs on the egg mats set on the river bottom. Credit – USGS GLSC.

## Attending the 2021 AFS National Conference

We (Emily Mensch and Emily Liljestrand) had the pleasure of attending the AFS National Conference in Baltimore Maryland thanks to a generous financial contribution from the Michigan Chapter. Mensch presented on her ongoing research related to the chemical characterization of the sea lamprey alarm cue. Though Liljestrand didn't present research, she participated in a continuing education course that taught the philosophy and use of VAST, a software for spatial stock assessment modeling.

Both the Emilys ("Emilies?") took advantage of the diverse symposia, networking opportunities, and outings organized by the conference. Liljestrand ran in the 5k spawning run and carcass crawl through a historic and bay-adjacent area of downtown and met up with former colleagues from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science for a bowl of Ramen. Mensch met friends from science Twitter in person and networked with fisheries professionals about future job and PhD positions.

COVID precautions were in full effect, and the event space felt very safe. Folks were required to show vaccination records during registration and masks were mandated in all indoor areas. Though this was the first in person meeting since the pandemic, it was hardly "typical," and it seemed like the schedule was always shifting, creating some unsteady footing for the eager participants. Liljestrand waited half an hour for a symposium on Chesapeake Bay fisheries resources only to realize the session had moved online!

A favorite symposium of both, which did occur in person, was Thursday morning's "Diversity and Inclusion: a strategy to implement change for 2023 and beyond." Several insightful talks offered perspectives on existing inequalities in fisheries and in AFS specifically and offered clear forward-moving solutions. For example, Cassidy Miles, from the Missouri Department of Conservation, pointed out how including preferred pronouns on nametags can reduce the frequency of misgendering participants, particularly those with non-binary identities. We met up with her later to get some complementary "Outdoors is for everyone" buttons. A must-have item for this event!



*Connor Buckley, Emily Liljestrand, Emily Mensch at The National Aquarium in Baltimore, MD.*



*The aforementioned button*

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

*Jennifer Johnson*

I am a fisheries management biologist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit. I help manage the western Upper Peninsula watersheds that drain into Lake Michigan. My position enables me to work on a vast array of natural resource issues concerning the Upper Peninsula. Some projects I'm currently working on include evaluating muskellunge movements in the Paint River system, lake sturgeon rehabilitation efforts on the Menominee River, and freshwater mussel management efforts. I am also a member of the Fisheries Division Walleye Committee, the Climate Change Committee and Co-Chair of the Michigan Mussel Committee. My ultimate career goal is to help ensure future generations can enjoy Michigan's fisheries and outdoors as much as we have (hopefully even better).

I earned my B.S. at Lake Superior State University and was quickly immersed in hands on experience at the Aquatic Research Laboratory (now the Center for Freshwater Research and Education). I was also active in the AFS Michigan Student Chapter at LSSU and was able to participate in annual meetings, which gave me the opportunity to practice my networking skills. My senior project involved surveying freshwater mussels in the eastern Upper Peninsula and evaluating whether surficial geology could be used as a predictor in freshwater mussel locations. It was during this project that I developed an utmost appreciation for freshwater mussels and continued that research during my masters degree at the University of Georgia. I have presented at multiple AFS conferences, including the National AFS meeting in Nashville.

Being a member of the AFS has undoubtedly helped me advance in my career. To be nominated for the AFS Michigan Chapter President-Elect position is truly an honor and if elected I would work to uphold the standards and ideals that the Michigan Chapter is known for.





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

*Jason Fischer*



I am a fisheries biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office – Detroit Substation. I began my current position in 2020 but have worked on Michigan waters for the past nine years. Most of my work has focused on fish habitat restoration and fisheries monitoring in the St. Clair-Detroit River System (SCDRS), but I am also involved with other projects throughout the Great Lakes, from Lake Sturgeon assessments in the St. Mary’s River to Lake Whitefish spawning habitat assessments in Lake Erie.

Having received my bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University in 2009, I’ve spent most of my career in the Great Lakes Region, although, I did take a brief hiatus from the area to pursue a master’s degree from Kansas State University. At Kansas State University I studied the response of a large river fish assemblage to habi-

tat alteration, graduating with my M.S. in 2012. I returned to Michigan in 2013 as a contractor for the U.S. Geological Survey, evaluating habitat restoration projects in the SCDRS. The evaluations I began at the U.S. Geological Survey formed the foundation of my Ph.D., which I earned from the University of Toledo in 2019.

I have been a member of the AFS parent society since 2009 and a member of the Michigan Chapter since 2014. While a student I served as treasurer of the Kansas State University student sub-chapter and secretary of the University of Toledo student sub-chapter. I am also an active member of multiple working groups including the Lake Erie Habitat Task Group and St. Clair-Detroit River System Initiative.

The personal and professional relationships I have developed through AFS are the most valuable part of membership for me. I believe that developing a strong network is critical to professional development and to bolstering the value of our work. If elected, I will continue the work of past presidents to foster inclusion and increase engagement with young professionals, the up-and-coming cohort of fisheries leaders.

## Meeting Agenda

### Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting 16-18 March 2022 Lake Superior State University



#### WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH

*Natural Resources Careers Workshop*

2:00 – 5:30 PM

Richard and Theresa Barch Center for Freshwater Research and Education, 100 Salmon Run Way, Sault Ste. Marie, MI

#### THURSDAY, 17 MARCH

*Meeting Registration*

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

LSSU's Walker Cisler Student & Conference Center, 650 W. Easterday Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI

*Plenary: Restoration of Coregonines in the Great Lakes, Dr. David "Bo" Bunnell*

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM LSSU's Walker Cisler Student & Conference Center, 650 W. Easterday Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI

*Oral presentations, business meeting, and awards*

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM (Refreshments and lunch provided)

LSSU's Walker Cisler Student & Conference Center, 650 W. Easterday Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI

*Poster presentation social and raffle*

6:00 – 9:00 PM (Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres provided)

Richard and Theresa Barch Center for Freshwater Research and Education, 100 Salmon Run Way, Sault Ste. Marie, MI

#### FRIDAY, 18 MARCH

*Oral presentations*

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM (Refreshments provided)

LSSU's Walker Cisler Student & Conference Center, 650 W. Easterday Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI



## 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](mailto:hettingerh@michigan.gov)

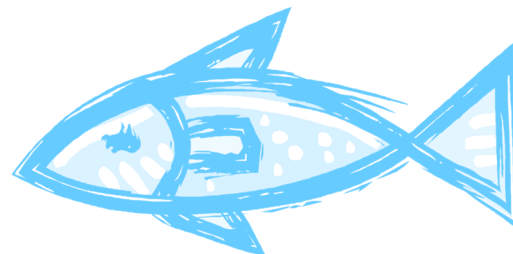
Justin Chiotti is the webmaster for the Chapter webpage. If you have anything you would like added to the site, please send Justin an email at [justin\\_chiotti@fws.gov](mailto:justin_chiotti@fws.gov).

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](mailto:dworkman@advancedecological.com)

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## 2021 Business Meeting Notes

The meeting notes from the 2021 AFS Business Meeting are now available on our web page, <http://michigan.fisheries.org/past-meetings/>





## 2021-2022 Chapter Officers

## Committee Chairs:

### President

Douglas Larson  
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**Audit Committee– Dave Caroffino** (caroffinod@michigan.gov)

**Awards Committee– Dana Castle** (dkcastle08@gmail.com)

**Centrarchid Committee– Matt Diana** (dianam@michigan.gov)

**Communications Committee– Heather Hettinger** (hettingerh@michigan.gov)

**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– Kevin Kapuscinski** (kkapuscinski@lssu.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)



### President-Elect

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### Past President

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## 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](mailto: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](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 400 members.*