

## North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society

1. **Date:** 11/5/2011

2. **Subunit Name:** Lake Superior State University

3. **Number of Subunit Members (AFS members only):** The LSSU Subunit currently has 72 paid members. As a fully undergraduate Subunit of both AFS and The Wildlife Society, only a fraction of Subunit members belong to the AFS parent society (13 student members), but all are members of the Michigan Chapter of AFS.

4. **Officers President:** John Ransom      **Vice President:** Steven Gambicki

**Secretary:** Katelynn Cordero      **Treasurer:** Jason Gostiaux

5. **Person making nomination (Name, Affiliation, Address, Telephone):** Dr. Geoffrey Steinhart (Advisor and President of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society) & John Ransom (Subunit President), Lake Superior State University, 650 W. Easterday Ave., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783; gsteinhart@lssu.edu; 906-635-2093

Signature:



1. **Number and Type of Meetings:** The officers meet every other week to discuss upcoming activities and speakers. This meeting includes advisors and committee chairs. Full Subunit meetings also are held every other week, are widely advertised (e.g., signs on campus, posted on the university web site), and are open to all people that are interested. The full meetings are usually 45-min long with time after for people to discuss new events and ideas for the Subunit. Meeting topics include upcoming activities, fundraising events, conferences, and speakers. The Subunit also maintains a web site that lists current events, meeting minutes, by laws, and officers along with a link to the Subunit Facebook site (132 members).([www.lssu.edu/org/fwclub](http://www.lssu.edu/org/fwclub)).

### 2. **Special Activities:**

Fisheries techniques – members learned how to use fisheries sampling equipment and about managing lakes

- Subunit members volunteered with Hiawatha Sportsmen's Club to conduct spring lake assessments. The skills learned during this assessment were: usage of fyke nets to sample fish and recording fish data (e.g. lengths, weights, and fish identification).
- Subunit members volunteered at the Annual Soldier Lake assessment looking at the affects of fishing on the yellow perch population.
- Fishery survey of Dr. Tom Allen's farm pond to assess stocking success.
- Atlantic salmon broad stock capture and egg fertilization with LSSU's Aquatic Research Laboratory

Collaboration with government agencies and local organizations – enhanced members knowledge of collaboration amongst fisheries and conservation based organizations.

- Subunit members assisted the Michigan DNR in taking Cisco eggs on the St. Mary's River. Subunit members learned egg taking and fertilization techniques. This was an effort to help the DNR stocking of Cisco in Saginaw Bay.
- Subunit members worked with the DNR and Ducks Unlimited to clean up dump sites in nearby State Forest land.
- The Subunit has a long-standing collaboration with the Sault Area Sportsman's Club (SASC) and assisted in handling and measuring fish at the annual Salmon Slam fishing tournament and their walleye ice-fishing tournament.
- Volunteers from the Subunit helped preserve wetlands by pulling Purple Loosestrife in Nine Mile Marsh South of Sault Ste Marie. A study is being conducted to look at how habitat is being improved because of our removal efforts.

Members frequently provide educational opportunities for local elementary and high school students. We feel that it is important that the next generations develop value for and understanding of our natural resources if they are going to preserve them in the future.

- The Subunit worked with the DNR on a project called Salmon in the Classroom with the goal to educate grade school students about Salmon and fishery jobs in Michigan. Several Subunit members gave presentations at local schools about raising salmon eggs and life history of salmon in the Great Lakes.
- Members provided tours of the LSSU Aquatic Research Laboratory to local elementary and high school students. Members explained how a hatchery functions and the ecology of the Atlantic salmon raised at the hatchery.
- Sault Ste. Marie Kid's Fishing Day – Members assisted with organizing the event and helped kids throughout the day bait their hooks, take off the fish, and fillet the fish.
  - The Subunit annually donates at least \$150 and has organized the annual the "Heartburn for Kids" chili cook-off to raise funds for the Kid's Fishing Pond.
- Members gave presentations at a Mind Trekkers event to promote youth involvement in scientific education. Presentations included radio telemetry, fish ID and physiology, and anatomy.
- Environmental Summit Kids Day – members volunteered to educate kids about aquatic systems, human uses and pollution, aquatic insect ID, and aquifers.
- Subunit members gave presentations to K-12 students to help promote science education through the program STEMS (Science, Technology, Engineering and math).
- Subunit members presented projects for biodiversity awareness month. Projects were presented on campus and the event was open to the public. Subjects included: crocodiles, purple loosestrife, global warming, sea turtles, and household contaminates pollution.
- The Subunit also assisted in recruiting events with the Admissions Office to attract college bound seniors to study Fisheries and Wildlife Management.

Members conduct and assist each other with undergraduate thesis projects. This provides valuable learning opportunities for all students involved. Members present their research at conferences and several are in the process of publishing their thesis. The research conducted by members contributes to a greater understanding of science and sustainable management of our resources.

The following studies were conducted in 2010-2011 and have benefited from the assistance and leadership of Subunit volunteers:

- Collecting and counting Sea Lamprey egg to help with a project titled "Changes in Sea

- Cutting Striped Maple for a project titled, "The Removal of Striped Maple and its Affect on White Tail Deer Habitat uses."
- Water quality assessment and fish sampling for a project called "Status, Distribution, and Factors Limiting Brook Trout in Cheney Creek Mi"
- Macro-invertebrate sampling - gauge the effects of Pacific Salmon on macro-invertebrates in a Lake Michigan tributary
- Electro-fishing and fish ID – for a project looking at the changes in fish communities after a dam has been removed
- Sturgeon radio tag tracking to help a project looking at the movements of Lake Sturgeon on the St Mary's River
- Pond sampling using fyke nets and fishermen surveys for a project looking at effects of fishing pressure on Solider Lake.
- Northern pike sampling, tagging, and stocking related to a senior thesis project on the management of Cranberry Lake.
- Helped conduct a survey about the affects on ducks

Student Subunit members consistently attend and participate in professional conferences. The student Subunit and its members have received numerous awards and recognition for their outstanding contributions in professional development, scientific contributions, and outreach.

- 2011 AFS Meeting (Des Moines, IA)
- 24 members are planning on attending
- 2011 MIAFS Meeting (Petoskey, MI)
  - 7 poster presentations
  - 24 members in attendance
  - Organized raffle
  - Hosted screening of, "Lake Invaders: Battle for Lake Huron"
  - Jessica Kosiara was awarded Best Student Poster
  - Tiffany Mielens received a MIAFS Chapter Travel Grant
- Several sub-unit members take active roles on state and divisional AFS committees:
  - Doug Galvis ('10-'11) and Steven Gambicki ('11-'12), LSSU Subunit Vice President, was a MIAFS Executive Committee member.
  - Brian Marshall ('10-11), and John Ransom ('11-12) serves on the MIAFS Student Concerns Committee.
- The Club brought in Jesse Trushenski from Southern Illinois University to talk to interested students about Fish culture, aquaculture, and Graduate school. Several interested members where provided with dinner with Jesse to further discuss professional development and aquaculture.
- The club brought in speaker Mark Ebner to talk about the work being doing by CORA with controlling Cormorant populations on the St Mary's River
- The Subunit sponsored an alumni social at the AFS national conference in Seattle. –The alumni social had a great turn-out, graduates spanning 5 decades attended.

## Finances

Funds raised by members ensure that members can attend professional conferences and meetings and contribute to various charities and organizations.

Fundraisers included:

- Raffle held at the 2011 MIAFS meeting raised \$475
- Whitefish Dinner raised \$1,500

- Club t-shirt and sweat shirt sales – raised over \$300
- Club t window decal sales – raised \$50

Subunit made donations to:

- AFS Hutton Program - \$200
- Sault Ste. Marie Kid's Fishing Pond - \$176
- Subunit team raised money for Relay of life - \$1500 (\$150 sponsored by Subunit)
- Other donations and awards (<\$100 each): Thanksgiving food baskets, Subunit
- Member of the Year Award
- Members helped with fundraiser to buy fish and maintain the salt water tank in the Biology Department at LSSU

### **3. Membership Recruitment Activities**

Members are involved in several student recruitment activities throughout the year to engage more students in the field of fisheries and wildlife management.

- Organized fun events including:
  - Hiking trips to Pictured Rocks and Roberson Cliffs
  - Biogames and Spring Games (picnics with fun activities open to all LSSU students; the Subunit helps organize these events and provides the food and refreshments)
  - Organized a Facebook summer fishing tournament so that Subunit members would remain active and connected over summer break
- Tours of the Aquatic Research Lab - important for recruiting students into the Fisheries and Wildlife program
- A Subunit member attended the Admitted Student Receptions over spring break and was able to talk to newly accepted students about the Subunit and LSSU.
- Meeting fliers are always posted across campus and meetings are listed on the LSSU and Subunit web sites.
- The Subunit hosted a Whitefish Dinner attended by over 50 people in the community. A silent auction raised money for Subunit activities.
- The Subunit staffed a table with information on the Subunit at six LSSU orientation events, at Lakerpalooza (a fall information fair), LSSU Fall Fling.
- The club is also looking into getting special on campus housing (Row House) that would allow the club to have a house that only for members. This would also increase the club's presence on campus.

- 4. On a single attached sheet (one side only), describe what makes your Chapter an active and important contributor to the NCD, AFS, and the fisheries profession. Also use this sheet to expand on any of the above areas. You may also attach copies of any written or printed material (letters, newsletters, fliers, newspaper, clippings, etc.) that lend support to your nomination. This material will not be returned, and if the number of pages exceeds five, it will only be reviewed by the Awards Committee Chair to avoid excessive photocopying and**

The LSSU Subunit (aka Fisheries and Wildlife Club; FWC) provides valuable experiences for young professionals while reaching out to the community and improving the visibility of both the American Fisheries Society and Wildlife Society. The LSSU Subunit is different from some other subunits in that we are both a fisheries and wildlife club. Therefore, our activities are often split between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. We believe that aquatic ecosystems cannot be viewed in isolation, as terrestrial and aquatic linkages are now well established as being important for ecosystem function. Professionally students may be faced with managing aquatic and terrestrial systems. Therefore, having a diverse membership and diverse activities serve to strengthen our ability to develop into more well rounded professionals, to share our knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm with broad audiences, and to better understand the conservation and management of our resources.

In addition to all the professional development activities, we also try to have some fun activities for better retention and recruitment of members. Activities have included bowling and game nights, a club broomball team, and outdoor activities which include hunting and fishing trips, and annual hiking trips to local parks and wilderness areas. We think that having such activities are important for retention of college aged students as well as bonding as a group to create a stronger, friendlier club.

We are especially proud of the continuing success of our fisheries-related activities this year. We conducted two lake surveys, providing experience in fisheries techniques for many club members. We have also expanded the work that we do with other organizations both on and off campus. This fall we helped the Sault area tribe collect and release walleye caught on the St Mary's river by anglers in the Masters Circuit Walleye Tournament. This not only helps the walleye population and fisheries on the river but also helps Cabela's, the anglers, and our club (and in turn AFS) have a more positive public appearance. We also have members of our subunit starting to develop an aquaculture project that would try to make fish farming possible and affordable and a local level. Many professors and different departments, including engineering, business, and marketing, have collaborated on their project.

We are also working on developing our wildlife management related projects: upcoming plans for the school year include deer population estimates, bird counts, and frog and toad surveys. The FWC also is considering leading a hunter safety program and a long-term habitat study with the DNRE.

Our Subunit has many activities for continuing education. A club member organized a job/graduate school panel and workshop for the annual meeting of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. We welcomed Dr. Jesse Trushenski from the University of Southern Illinois and an AFS leader, to talk to the club about aqua culture and graduate school. We have worked with area grade schools and the MDNR on a program named Salmon in the Classroom. This program is aimed to educate children about Salmon in the Great lakes and opportunities for fisheries jobs in the region. In addition, the Subunit is planning to continue working with the Sault High School Envirothon group, and hopes to help faculty at LSSU lead a group of high school students participating in the NOAA Ocean Sciences Quiz Bowl.

We have seen an increase in membership in the club over the last couple of years. We have increased membership by 20% from fall 2010 to fall 2011. This is a trend that we expect to continue because of the high number of freshmen and sophomore members that joined and returning members have remained active in the group. We also encourage our upperclassmen to lead events that they participated in as underclassmen. This way we can help them as AFS members develop leadership and interpersonal skills as well as advancing technically and academically.