



*From the Desk of the NCD President
Ramblings by Sandy
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Hello all,

I can hardly believe a year has passed since my first blog post as President. This past year has been one to remember and for many has been filled with anxiety and stress. Many states and federal agencies are facing serious budget constraints and uncertain times are ahead. There have been several positive things including the March for Science and the public's support for policies and legislation that protect aquatic resources.

I just completed the NCD annual update to the AFS Governing Board and I would like to highlight some of the great work going on within the NCD. The Missouri Chapter hosted the National AFS meeting in Kansas City. This was a wonderful conference and a showcase of all the great work going on within the Midwest. Even with budget constants in several states, work arounds were created that allowed members to attend their Chapter meetings. Iowa's annual meeting had no registration fee so Iowa DNR employees could attend. NCD donated funds to help support national and regional meetings, the equal opportunity section, the Skinner Fund, and the Joan Duffy travel awards.

There are many people I need to thank for making my presidency smooth and productive. Thank you to my Excom; Melissa Wuellner, Mark Pyron and the unsung hero Tony Barada. Melissa's hard work on revising the bylaws helped to update our records and make sure we are compliant. Thank you to Brian Borkholder for running the website and Doug Workman for maintaining the listserv. We added several new features to the website this year with the addition of the Job Board and Continuing Education pages. Dave Deslauriers and the continuing education committee have worked very hard and created a new scholarship to help students attend continuing education workshops. Throughout the NCD, seven continuing education workshops were held covering topics about R statistics, electrofishing, and careers in fisheries. Over \$10,000 in scholarships were awarded to undergraduates within the NCD to attend conferences and further their education. Our Social Media Team Drew Holloway and Jeremy Tiemann really ramped up our Facebook presence with Fieldwork Friday posts. In the past year we have doubled our followers.

I would like to also welcome Mark Pyron as the new NCD president and Heather Hettinger as our new President Elect.

It has been a pleasure and honor serving as the NCD president this past year. Looking at the list of previous distinguished folks who has served in this role I am humbled to be added to the list.

Stay safe,

Sandy