

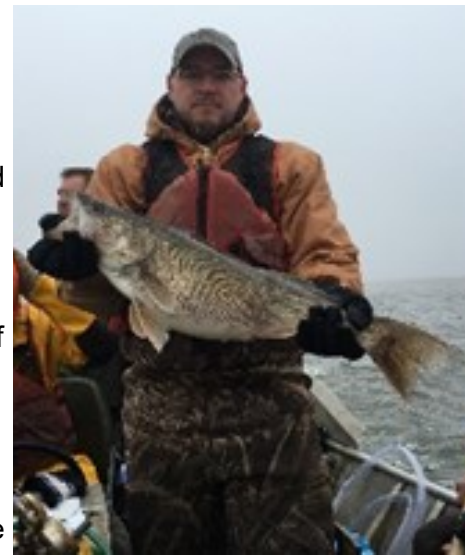


Mainstream

President's Message

Mark Fincel

Greetings North Central Division! 2020, and a chunk of 2021, has come and gone. In the moment, time seemed to move at a snail's pace, but it is amazing how fast my first year on the NCD ExCom has flown by. It was a whirlwind of virtual meetings and learning divisional governance with no face-to-face conversations. I must say, having a great group of peers around me made the transition (and learning curve) much easier. For that, I want to thank Joe Conroy and Jeff Kopaska for their mentorship. Their commitment to AFS and the division is exemplary, and I am fortunate to have a great group of predecessors.



The transition of the NCD ExCom was a little abnormal in 2021, but what was "normal" in 2021? The officers transitioned during the summer AFS business meeting, which was held virtually on August 12th, although the national meeting will not take place until November. During the August meeting, I moved into the president position, Joe Conroy moved to the past president position, and we warmly welcomed Brian Nerbonne into the president elect position. We are fortunate to have Drew Holloway available for another year as the Secretary/Treasurer. Unfortunately, Jeff Kopaska has moved off the ExCom but will remain engaged with the NCD through his involvement with parent society committees next year. For the 2021/2022 year, both Brian Nerbonne and I will serve on the AFS Management Committee, Jeff Kopaska and Joe Conroy will serve on the AFS Nominating Committee, and I will serve on the AFS Membership and Affiliate Membership Committees. I am excited to see the NCD well represented in parent society activities.

By the time Mainstream is released, I will have touched base with each of the NCD units. I applaud the work of my predecessors opening and strengthening the line of communication between NCD governance and its units. This is something that I hope to continue through my time with the NCD ExCom. A priority for my presidential term is to identify wants and needs of state chapter members (both parent society and affiliate members) and present those issues and ideas to the parent society to better fulfill expectations of members at all levels of AFS.

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This newsletter is published twice a year. Deadlines for submission are April and September 1st. The views and opinions expressed herein and not necessarily those of NCD.

President's Message, continued

For those who haven't met me, I am an outdoor enthusiast who resides in South Dakota and currently work as a fisheries biologist for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks. I grew up in the suburbs of Dayton, Ohio. I received my B.S. from Ball State University and M.S. from Eastern Illinois University. I took a couple years and worked for the USGS out of the Columbia, MO office before heading north and receiving my Ph.D. from South Dakota State University. After graduating, I was very fortunate to fill a biologist position working on the same systems (and with the same biologists) that I worked on for my Ph.D. I have held several positions with SDGFP since I started in 2011 including senior biologist and fisheries supervisor.

Fall is a busy time in South Dakota as wing beats start to creep into my dreams. I am an avid waterfowl enthusiast, and I am blessed by the opportunity to chase this quarry for months on end in South Dakota. If you can't reach me in the office, there is a good chance I'm sitting in a goose pit, layout blind, or waist high in a duck slough! I look forward to working with NCD membership over the next year and if anyone has questions/comments, or just wants to talk about fish, AFS, or waterfowl hunting, please reach me by email Mark.Fincel@state.sd.us.

Call for Vice President Candidates



The Nominating Committee of the North Central Division (NCD) of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) seeks nominees for the office of Vice President for the 2021–2022 election cycle.

The NCD Vice President begins service at the 2022 NCD Annual Business Meeting held at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, assumes a one-year term of President Elect at the 2022 AFS Annual Meeting, serves as President during 2023–2024, and finishes service as Past President the following year. The elected nominee will serve on the NCD Executive Committee, Chair the NCD Membership Committee, and serve on the AFS Governing Board and Membership Committee.

Nominations will be accepted from current AFS active members, whether nominating others or providing a self-nomination. We especially seek nominations from underrepresented groups to broaden the Division's perspective. Nominations, expressions of interest, or requests for more information can be made by contacting current NCD Past President, Joe Conroy, at joseph.conroy@dnr.ohio.gov.

All nominations should be received by 1 November 2021.

82nd MIDWEST FISH & WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

Fish & Wildlife Stewardship in Working Landscapes

February 13–16, 2022 • Des Moines, Iowa



The 82nd Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference will be held in Des Moines, Iowa on February 13–16, 2022.

Iowa has the most altered landscape in the country with 97 percent in private ownership and 85 percent being actively farmed. Here, Fish and Wildlife Stewardship in a Working Landscape is a challenge that we understand.

At the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, our mission is to conserve and enhance our natural resources in cooperation with individuals and organizations to improve the quality of life in Iowa and ensure a legacy for future generations.

As host of the 82nd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in 2022, the Iowa DNR and our partners understand the importance of working landscapes and how they can provide habitat for fish and wildlife and also recreational opportunities for people. Our host city – Des Moines – recognizes the value of outdoor recreation as an economic development and recruitment tool, investing millions into accessible riverfront, improving fishing ponds across the city and adding native plants along its extensive trail system.

The general Call for Abstracts is open. Individual speakers within a symposium, general oral, and poster presentations are being accepted. The deadline to submit has been extended to October 22. [Submit an abstract.](#)

Special Symposia Announced! 15 organized symposia will be offered as part of the technical program at the annual conference. An Organized Symposium is a series of integrated presentations that address aspects of a single topic or theme. Read the [organized symposia overviews.](#)

The Call for Workshops and Related Meeting Requests are open! Requests will be accepted through October 22, 2021. [Submit a workshop or related meeting request.](#)

Conference Schedule: View the preliminary [schedule of events.](#)

82nd MIDWEST FISH & WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

Fish & Wildlife Stewardship in Working Landscapes



February 13-16, 2022 • Des Moines, Iowa

With support from the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, American Fisheries Society, North Central Division and The Wildlife Society, North Central Section invite applications for registration grants to attend the 2022 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. These grants will cover 100% of early registration costs for the 82nd Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, to be February 13-16, 2022.

Students and early career professionals (≤ 5 years of service) from states in the North Central Section or North Central Division, and who hold state, regional, or national society membership, are eligible. For the American Fisheries Society, depending on the number of applications, preference may be given to individuals with national society membership.

Please provide a statement (150-250 words) that addresses your: 1) financial need, 2) conference participation plan (e.g., workshop, presentation, meeting), 3) anticipated impact on future work within organization and professional society, and 4) intended plan to relay experience gained to others (e.g., post-conference presentation, newsletter article).

Be on the look out as applications will be available in the coming weeks!



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Fish & Wildlife
Agencies

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82nd MIDWEST FISH & WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

Fish & Wildlife Stewardship in Working Landscapes



February 13–16, 2022 • Des Moines, Iowa

2022 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award for Outstanding Students

Sponsored by:

North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society
Iowa and Michigan Chapters of the American Fisheries Society
Iowa and Michigan Chapters of The Wildlife Society
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Steering Committee

We are pleased to accept applications for the Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award from fisheries and wildlife undergraduate and graduate students who are planning to attend the 2022 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Des Moines, Iowa.

Up to 25 students will be selected and formally recognized for their achievements during the Tuesday morning virtual plenary session. Two students, one focusing on fisheries management and one focusing on wildlife management, will be presented with a Fenske Memorial Award that includes a scholarship of \$750.

The winners of the Fenske Memorial Award will be selected based on the characteristics that made Jan Fenske a remarkable fisheries biologist. For more information on Jan Fenske and the history of the award, please visit <https://michigan.fisheries.org/awards-and-grants/fenske-award/>.

To apply, please submit:

- A resume that includes your GPA.
- A one-page cover letter that discusses your future career goals and reasons for attending the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.
- One letter of recommendation submitted directly from either an academic advisor or a professional in fisheries or wildlife management.

Application materials should be sent by email to Jo Ann Alexander at AlexanderJ7@michigan.gov. Please indicate in the email subject line either “Fenske Award- fisheries” or “Fenske Award wildlife” (depending on your focus area).

The deadline for submission is Monday, January 10, 2022, and all applicants will be notified of their selection by Monday, January 31, 2022.

Questions regarding the award should be sent to Jessica Mistak, Fenske Award Committee Chair, at mistakj@michigan.gov.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) is gaining ground in Congress!

Today, more than 40% of freshwater fish species are at risk and over 70% of freshwater mussels are extinct or imperiled in the U.S. States have identified 12,000 imperiled species around the U.S. Just this week, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declared 23 species extinct.



This groundbreaking legislation, would secure **\$1.3 billion** in dedicated funding annually for **state fish and wildlife agencies** and **\$97.5 million annually for tribal nations** to proactively and cost-effectively work on the **conservation and monitoring of at-risk species**.

Bill status:

The House bill, H.R. 2773, introduced in April, now has [122 co-sponsors](#). **The bill is heading to mark-up before this committee in mid-October**, a critical milestone for the bill where it can be amended and/or voted out of committee. [Learn More](#)

The Senate bill, S. 2732, was introduced in mid-July by Sen. Heinrich and Sen. Blunt and already has [26 co-sponsors](#). **This bill is on fire and we need to build on this momentum!** This is a major step forward from last Congress when we did not have a companion bill in the Senate. [Learn More](#)

Ways you can help...

Tune in October 12th (11:30 EDT) to **The Value of Your Voice - Promoting Passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act**. During this 30-minute webinar, you will hear from AFS Policy Director, Drue Winters, and TWS Government Relations Manager, Caroline Murphy, about ways that natural resources students and professionals can elevate the need for at-risk species funding and promote passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act! [REGISTER NOW!](#)

NOW is the time for individual outreach! AFS asks that YOU reach out to your Representative or Senators if he or she has not yet co-sponsored the bill. It takes TWO minutes to make a call, send a message through an online portal, or post on social media!

Membership Committee 2021 Report

Doug Workman, dworkman@advancedecological.com

The membership of the North Central Division (NCD) is comprised of members of good standing from the following states and provinces: Alberta, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Manitoba, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nunavut, Nebraska, North Dakota, Northwest Territories, Ohio, Ontario, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The total membership of the North Central Division decreased by a total of 30 members from 2020 to 2021. Regular membership decreased by 19 members, and Retired membership decreased by three members from 2020 to 2021. Life memberships increased by two members, Official members increased a total of nine members, and Student members decreased a total of 28 members from 2020 to 2021, which represents the third straight year of decline in student membership since 2018. The NCD also is comprised of a total of 83 members that are located outside of the traditional states that are represented by the NCD. A total of 114 members were located outside of the traditional states that are represented by the NCD in 2020.

Province/State	Hon.	Life	Off.	Reg.	Retired	Stu.	Young Professional	Total Number
Alberta		5		21	1	10	3	40
Iowa		13		31	2	16	8	70
Illinois		13	2	42	9	34	36	138
Indiana		8		16	7	16	10	57
Kansas	1	4	1	22	3	7	8	46
Manitoba		1		13		2	5	21
Michigan		23	3	100	10	48	43	227
Minnesota		22	1	64	6	18	12	124
Missouri		15	3	35	7	13	16	90
North Dakota		3		4		2	4	13
Nebraska		4	1	11	3	12	7	39
Northwest Territories								
Nunavut							1	1
Ohio		12	2	38	10	29	8	100
Ontario		10		66	12	46	32	166
South Dakota		2		18	5	6	4	35
Saskatchewan		2		11		2	2	17
Wisconsin		22		53	13	26	14	130
Total by Type	1	159	13	545	88	287	213	1,314

Hon. – Honorary members

Off. – Administrative/Official members (typically natural resource agencies)

Reg. – Regular members

Stu. – Student members

Young Professional – now referred to as Early Career members

Summary of members by location. Data source: AFS September 29, 2021.

Committee Reports

Walleye Technical Committee:

Lawrence Eslinger – WTC Chair

The Walleye Technical Committee (WTC) has been busy over the past year+ initiating an effort to highlight emerging Percid (Walleye and Yellow Perch) management and research findings associated with population responses to ecosystem change. As part of this effort, WTC conducted a symposium at last year's virtual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (MFWFC) entitled, "Effects of System Change on North American Percid Populations." The symposium featured 27 presentations, with the intent to publish full paper manuscripts in an upcoming special section within the North American Journal of Fisheries Management (NAJFM). We are currently in the latter half of the manuscript review process, and are excited to see this effort come to fulfillment in a future issue of NAJFM. Keep your eyes open for that!

This past summer WTC conducted a virtual summer meeting jointly with the Esocid and Centrarchid technical committees (ETC and CTC, respectively) of NCD. The last 2 joint summer meetings have been virtual, but we are hopeful to conduct 2022's summer meeting in-person up in northern Wisconsin. Also, WTC will be conducting its annual winter business meeting (again jointly with ETC and CTC) in association with the upcoming MFWFC in Des Moines, Iowa. Stay tuned for future details on all those happenings!

Membership to the NCD-Walleye Technical Committee is open to any and all who are working with Walleye, Sauger, and Yellow Perch culture and management. To join the NCD-Walleye Technical Committee email distribution list please contact David Seibel (david.seibel@wisconsin.gov).

Cheers!



Photo: Drew Holloway

NCD Committees



Interested in getting involved with NCD? Please consider helping with any of the NCD committees listed below!

Standing Committees

Auditing Committee

Continuing Education Committee

Membership Committee

Newsletter Committee

NCD Nominating Committee

Resolution Committee

Student Affairs Committee

Communications Committee

AFS Nominating Committee

AFS Meritorious Service Award

Special Committees

Strategic Plan Update

Technical Committees

Centrarchid

Esocid

Ictalurid

Rivers and Streams

Salmonid

Walleye

Urban & Community Fisheries

Undervalued Fishes

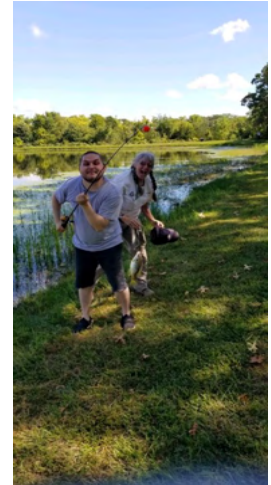
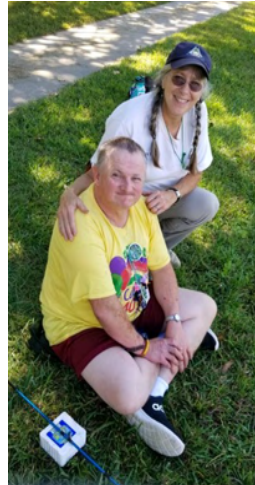
NCD Chapter Reports

Missouri Chapter Update

Eric Rahm—Past President

The Missouri Chapter of AFS (MOAFS) along with Choices for People, the Lions Club of Rolla, the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM), and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) sponsored the 20th Annual Disable Fishing Event: “A day at the ole fishing hole” at the Rolla Lions Club Park on September 18, 2021.

Approximately fifty disabled anglers enjoyed a day of fishing at the lake Event organizers, Mary Scott (MDC and MOAFS) and Bob Pellegrin (Choices For People) made sure everyone had a fun fishing adventure. Donations from organizers included worms, food, beverages, snacks, and a T-shirt. MOAFS supplied the fish, CFM grant money enabled us to purchase and design T-shirts and MDC supplied the fishing gear. Several fish were caught and everyone had a fantastic time! Thank you to all who came to help out, you're very much appreciated!



NCD Student Sub-Chapter Reports

Aaron Muehler, President



Missouri State University

Subunit Update

The Missouri State University Subunit is excited to get our year started. This semester we will be holding a kayak float trip that will double as a stream cleanup on the James River near Springfield, MO. We will also be taking our subunit out boat electrofishing for all members to gain invaluable experience working with the equipment and working with the fish as well. Of course, our main event is attending opening day of trout fishing in the spring at Bennet Springs, this is always a hit and is a perfect example of stakeholders using the resource. Being able to provide a place where we can foster the future of our discipline is very important to us, so we make sure to provide ample opportunities for professional growth. Whether that be helping students apply for internships, graduate assistantships, or even careers. We are looking forward to attending the National AFS meeting in Baltimore, MD this year and will be sending five members from our subunit to speak about a variety of topics. We hope everyone has a great year!

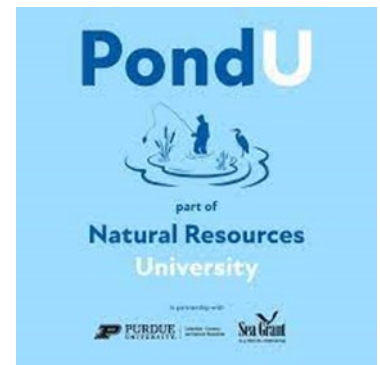


NCD News



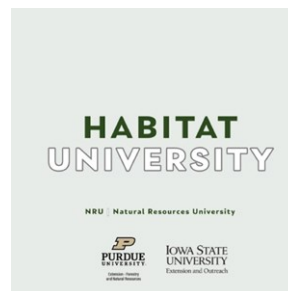
Natural Resources University is a podcast network focused on delivering science-based natural resource management. The series within the network include Deer University, Fire University, Pond University, and Habitat University. Funding for this podcast network is generated from the Renewable Resources Extension Act.

Pond University is hosted by Mitch Zischke (L) and Megan Gunn (R), and aims to provide pond management information and advisor for landowners and pond professionals. It is supported by our pond and wildlife website: <https://extension.purdue.edu/pondwildlife/>.



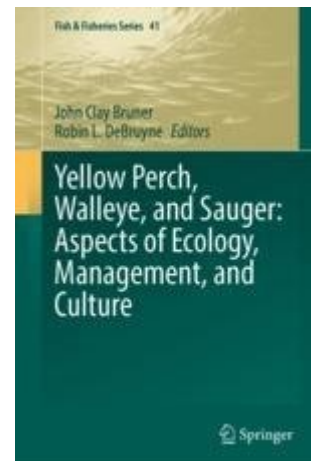
Here is a link to a story that Purdue Forestry and Natural Resources published on the podcast: <https://ag.purdue.edu/fnr/Pages/ZischkeBrookePodcasts.aspx>

Check out the Other Podcasts from Natural Resources University Network!



NCD News

Bruner, John Clay, DeBruyne, Robin L (Eds.) 2021 Yellow Perch, Walleye, and Sauger: Aspects of Ecology, Management, and Culture Springer Fish & Fisheries series Cham, Switzerland Vol. 41: x, 1-412 pp.



Most recent research

Two main species with multiple life stages included

Large geographic range covered

Multiple aspects included (management, policy, aquaculture, genetics, etc)

New methods of culture

About this book:

Walleye, one of the most sought-after species of freshwater sport fishes in North America, have demonstrated appreciable declines in their numbers from their original populations since the beginning of the 20th century. Similarly, Yellow Perch, once the most commonly caught sport fish and an important commercial species in North America, have also shown declines. Compiling up-to-date information on the biology and management of Walleye, Sauger, and Yellow Perch, including research on systematics, genetics, physiology, ecology, movement, population dynamics, culture, recent case histories, and management practices, will be of interest to managers, researchers, and students who deal with these important species, particularly in light of habitat alterations, population shifts, and other biotic and abiotic factors related to a changing climate.

Buy this book

eBook 128,39 €

Hardcover 166,39 €

price for Spain (gross)

Pre-order Hardcover

Due: December 13, 2021

ISBN 978-3-030-80677-4

Free shipping for individuals worldwide

Institutional customers should get in touch with their account manager

Covid-19 shipping restrictions

The final prices may differ from the prices shown due to specifics of VAT rules

About the editors:

John Clay Bruner, M.Sc., a past chair of the AFS NCD Walleye Technical Committee, authored the phylogeny of the Percidae chapter in the 2011 *Biology, Management, and Culture of Walleye and Sauger*, and the 2019 *Type Specimens of Fossil Fishes: Catalogue of the University of Alberta Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology*. He edited Wooding's 1994 *Lake, River & Sea-run Fishes of Canada*. He has published on living and fossil Percidae, Catostomidae, and Pomacentridae.

Dr. Robin L. DeBruyne conducts fisheries research on the Great Lakes and other large-lake ecosystems on topics including predator-prey dynamics, population dynamics, effects of ecosystem changes, and has concentrated on fish early-life history and habitat restoration research in the St. Clair-Detroit River System and Lake Erie since 2012. In addition to serving as co-editor, she is the lead author on two of the book chapters.

NCD News

AFS Members From Multiple Divisions Join Together to Build A New Model for Collaboration

Martha Mather kmalofs@umich.edu

What

Over 60 American Fisheries Society members from the North Central, Southern, Northeastern, and Western Divisions have expressed interest in joining a new collaboration to address problems related to prairie stream fish research and conservation. This collaboration will advance through a symposium at the 2021 national AFS meeting in Baltimore entitled “*Creating and Implementing an Ecosystem-wide Integrated Research Agenda and Conservation Plan for Prairie Streams: A Shared Vision, Next Generation Synthesis, and Future Action Plan.*”

Why

Prairie ecosystems once covered 2.8 million square kilometers of North America. Numerous Great Plains fish species have been declining for decades. Prairie stream ecosystems face unprecedented threats from surface and groundwater depletion caused by human development, stream fragmentation, invasive species, native species loss, energy development, and climate change. These stressors compromise the integrity and function of stream ecosystems and result in continued loss of native biota.

A New Vision

Increasing threats to aquatic resources demand new collaborative approaches. For large ecosystems, such as prairie streams, one state, one agency, or one research lab cannot be effective alone. Collaborative synthesis in ideas, data, and action is needed for restoration and preservation of prairie fish assemblages. However, this collaboration requires creative and innovative ideas, a common vision, good coordination among participants, and a clear plan for future action.

The Symposium

This symposium will serve as a forum for retrospective and historic analyses, current studies, projections to help provide directions for a future regionwide ecosystem-based synthetic conservation plan, and guidance for future research on prairie fishes and ecosystems.

Nine organizers are joined by 23 other coauthors to present 15 talks and a panel discussion. Topics address: (1) conservation vision and objectives, (2) existing tools and information resources, (3) information gaps, and (4) resource management challenges. The diverse fisheries experts involved in the symposium represent three federal agencies, one non-governmental organization, six state agencies, five cooperative fish and wildlife research units, and six universities.

Organizers of the symposium include: David Hu (*US Geological Survey*), Patrick M. Kocovsky, (*US Geological Survey*), Sarah Gaughan (*Bellevue University*), Martha Mather (*Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit*), Kevin Mayes (*Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*), Joshua Perkin (*Texas A&M University*), Dana Winkelman (*Colorado Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit*), Melissa Wuellner (*University of Nebraska at Kearney*) and Jane Rogosch (*Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit*).

Continued on next page...

NCD News

AFS Members From Multiple Divisions Join Together to Build A New Model for Collaboration

Martha Mather kmalofs@umich.edu

Other speakers include: Thomas Archdeacon (*US Fish and Wildlife Service*), Caitlyn Aymami (*Kansas State University*), Carli Baum (*Colorado Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit*), Evan Booher (*Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife*), Natalie Coash (*University of Wisconsin Stevens Point*), Stephen Davenport (*US Fish and Wildlife Service*), Jessica Davis (*Tennessee Valley Authority*), Daniel Fenner (*US Fish and Wildlife Service*), Joanna Hatt (*New Mexico Department of Game & Fish*), Brian Hickerson (*Arizona Game and Fish Department*), Mark Kirk (*Murray State University*), Keith Koupal (*Nebraska Game and Parks Commission*), Steven Krentz (*US Fish and Wildlife Service*), Erin Nguyen (*Texas A&M University*), Kevin Pope (*Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit*), Olivia Rode (*Kansas State University*), Anthony Rodger (*Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation*), Ryan Smith (*The Nature Conservancy*), Trevor Starks (*Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation*), Steve Thomas (*University of Nebraska*), Joe Trungale (*Texas Conservation Science*), Samuel Wallick (*University of Nebraska at Kearney*), and Annika Walters (*Wyoming Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit*).

Ultimate Outcome

The ultimate outcome of the collaboration is to foster broader landscape and riverscape efforts to preserve and protect these important native fish resources of the North American Great Plains before additional extirpations and extinctions result in irreversible ecosystem impacts.

In addition, we hope to develop a new model for across-employer, across-location, and across-disciplinary synthesis that can be transferred to other systems and locations. This model will promote high quality science, facilitate excellent monitoring data collection, aid decision-making, and guide future research and management activities.

NCD Announcements



North Central Division of the
American Fisheries Society

Be on the look out for #FieldworkFriday!
Returning May 2022



The 2022 Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting (JASM 2022), co-sponsored by AFS and the eight other partner societies in the Consortium of Aquatic Science Societies, will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 14-20, 2022. The conference theme is “Rapid Changes ~ Collaborative Solutions.”

JASM2022 will employ a hybrid meeting model to create an exciting in-person event but also provide for submission and access to content for those unable to travel to Grand Rapids.

Upcoming NCD Meetings

2023
Kansas

Live-Streamed from Grand Rapids – Plenary sessions and selected other events will be live streamed as well as recorded and available online.

In-person Symposium and Contributed sessions – All oral and poster presentations delivered in Grand Rapids will be pre-recorded and available online to all attendees.

Virtual Symposium and Contributed sessions – Submissions of papers and posters by those unable to travel will be included as pre-recorded content and attached to appropriate symposium and contributed sessions.

**Have something you would like featured in a future NCD
Mainstream?**

Contact Drew Holloway
dholloway@msdeng.com