

Lota - Fisk



Gazette

OFFICIAL BIENNIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



Photo provided by Gretchen Hansen-MNDNR.

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."- Aldo Leopold

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President's Message

by Paul Glander, President, MNAFS

Welcome to the second issue of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society revitalized newsletter; the Lota-Fisk Gazette. Like everything else in the Chapter, production of this newsletter is entirely dependent on volunteers including newsletter editor Craig Kelling and those of us who wrote articles.

The 2018 annual Chapter meeting was held in St. Cloud on February 6 through 8. Many thanks to the large team of people who helped to put on another successful Chapter meeting! Approximately 85 persons registered for the meeting in the "professional" category with about 38 students registered. They presented 45 spoken papers and 25 poster presentations. Students from the Bemidji State University Sub-Unit assisted with the raffle this year. Two plenary speakers, Julie Defilippi Simpson (AFS Communications Committee Chairperson) and Dr. Katie Steiger-Meister (US Fish & Wildlife Service), spoke on different aspects of communication in the fisheries profession.



Past-President Schmalz handing over Esox and the MNAFS Chapter to President Glander. Photo by Brian Borkholder.

During the Chapter business-meeting portion of our February 2018 gathering, it was announced that Edie Evarts (MNDNR Area Fisheries Supervisor at Tower) was elected to be the Chapter's President-Elect. Kristan Maccaroni was elected to the Executive Committee slot for DNR employees and Jay Hatch was reelected to the "open" Executive Committee slot. Additionally, the Chapter award of excellence has been renamed to honor the late Dennis (Denny) Schupp, a long time DNR fish research biologist who served as a mentor and inspiration to many of us. The Chapter continues to be in a strong financial position.

Planning is underway for a joint meeting with the Dakota Chapter of AFS in Fargo, North Dakota February 25-27, 2019. The Dakota Chapter is composed of fisheries professionals from the states of North and South Dakota. President-Elect, Edie Evarts, and Arrangements Chair extraordinaire, Mandy Erickson, are our leads for organizing this meeting. As always, a variety of volunteers will be needed to organize and pull off the meeting.

Following the rotation called for in the Chapter bylaws, where the Chapter President is a DNR employee on odd years and a non-DNR employee on even years, we will be looking for members who are not employees of the DNR to run for the position of President-Elect before the 2019 annual meeting. We will also need to nominate and elect individuals for the academic and federal slots on the Chapter's Executive Committee.

For the 40 years I've been a member of the national American Fisheries Society, there has often been a question of "What does a person get for their membership in the national AFS or the "parent society"? Now that parent society membership includes online access to AFS journals (Transactions, Journal of Aquatic Animal Health, North American Journal of Fish Management) there is a good answer to that question. Although we will continue to have some "Chapter only" members, we will also encourage membership in the national AFS or "parent society".

On a purely personal note, I can report that the first two months of my retirement have been great. For the first time in many years, I actually went fishing on the Minnesota fishing opener. The only thing that has changed regarding my involvement with AFS is that my former email address (ending in @fws.gov) is no longer active. I can be contacted at pgafs2012@gmail.com. Feel free to email me with questions about the Chapter, the “parent society” and especially if you are interested in taking a more active role in the Chapter or Society.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy summer and that we all will find some time to get outside fishing or otherwise enjoying our States lakes, rivers and streams.

MEETINGS: THE PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE TO WORK

2018 Business Meeting Minutes

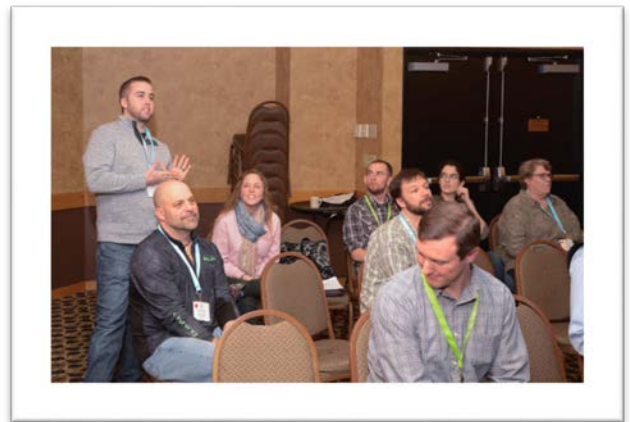
by Calub Shavlik, Secretary-Treasurer, MNAFS

2018 MN Chapter American Fisheries Society – Business meeting – St. Cloud

Meeting called to order by President Schmalz @3:10pm

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order: Determination of Quorum
2. Approve Agenda – additions
3. Approve minutes from 2017 business meeting in St. Cloud
4. Recognition of MN Chapter Past Presidents in attendance
5. North Central Division Update
6. Parent Society Update
7. President’s Prerogative – Review 2017 Budget and Action Agenda
8. Other News
9. Committee Reports
10. Unfinished Business
11. Installation of New Officer (President)
12. Awards
13. 2018 Budget
14. 2018 Action Agenda
15. New Business
 - a. 2018 Election Results
16. Other New Business from the Floor
17. 2019 Chapter Meeting
18. Adjourn
19. EXCOM



Federal EXCOM Representative, Craig Kelling, discussing the Lota-Fisk Gazette with Chapter members. Photo by Brian Borkholder.



Communications Committee Chair, Hanna Kruckman, discussing the events of the North Central Division AFS Business Meeting. Photo by Brian Borkholder.



Attendees of the 2018 Annual MNAFS Business Meeting. Photo by Brian Borkholder.

Minutes from the 2017 MNAFS Business meeting; was sent via email, motion to accept by Hiebert, Miller, passed

Recognition of MNAFS Past Presidents - (Baird, Borkholder, Hiebert, Hove, Miller, Radomski)

North Central Division – (Kruckman attended the business meeting in Milwaukee)

- Upgrade Joan Duffy award to \$750.00.
- Communication – Facebook (asking for pictures of field work).
- Catfish 2020, Little Rock.
- Walleye Technical meeting - Spirit Lake, July.

Parent society – (Schmalz attended) National AFS Annual Meeting was in Tampa Bay

- Training – stress the importance of “learning the basics.”
- Trying to increase parent society membership, financial incentive if we can reach 50% Chapter+Parent membership.

President Prerogative

- Budget (Books audited by Hiebert and Erickson. See below).
- Action Agenda (see below).
- Highlights
 - a. Joan Duffy - \$200 was awarded.
 - b. Schupp’s Award of Excellence – work with Radomski.
 - c. 2019 – joint annual meeting with Dakota Chapter, Holiday Inn, Fargo, Feb 25 – 27.
 - d. Communication – Kruckman established a new website through the parent society –Kelling – revitalized the newsletter “Lota-Fisk Gazette.”



President Paul Glander escorted by Loren Miller and Owen Baird during the President installation ceremony. Photo by Brian Borkholder.

- e. Students - Erin Schaefer (Need to work on communications - contact information from all colleges in MN).
- f. Membership – started to work with Joel Hoffman on recruitment, retention, and reactivation
- g. Historian – Borkholder, need help to organize material and establish electronic archives. Will eventually migrate material to the website.
- h. EXCOM – Neil Mundahl, Jay Hatch, Craig Kelling, Mandy Erickson.

Membership

- Current professional total = 96 (66 are also parent society members).
- Current student total = 61 (26 are also parent society members).

Nomination

- DNR – two candidates, Craig Soupir and Kristan Macaroni.
 - a. Kristan wins with 66% of the votes.
- Open – Jay Hatch wins with 100% of the votes.
- President Elect – Edie Evarts wins with 98.8% of the votes.

Awards

- Awarding “Best Student Paper” and “Best Student Poster” at the banquet.

Communications

- Kruckman - Asking for information to help facilitate updating the new MNAFS website.

- Kelling – newsletter; 2 issues per year - first one will highlight the annual meeting and the second one will highlight professional work; always looking for new content.

Arrangements

- Planning for the 2018, 2019 meeting is underway with Dakota Chapter (Wert and William) – Banquet speaker will be Josh Wert – FWS work and “Welcome to the 2019 meeting.”

FWLA

- Interest with merging with MCF – Lance Ness – head of both.
- Discussion on how it will look (lobbying side of FWLA).
- Waiting for clarity on setup – some MCF business that MNAFS does not support.

Fishing Roundtable

- Hatch attended this year. Watershed – a lot of information out there. How to communicate with new generation.

Scholarship

- Awarded EE Mecklenburg Scholarship to Linda Xiong – U of M – intern with MinnAqua and EPA, work with variety of organizations (see below).

Fundraising

- J. Hansen Co-Chair with Maccaroni (last year) - Bemidji State sub-unit is the host.

Science Fair

- Nerbonne – several events.

Historian

- Borkholder - looking for Tim Goeman in regards to more historical information.

Salmonides

- International meeting “char symposium” in Duluth.

Installation of New MNAFS President

- President Glander - escorted by Baird and Miller and the handover of the Esox.

Awards

- Past President – Patrick Schmalz.
- Special Recognition - Mandy Erickson - EXCOM and local arrangements.
- Special Recognition – Kristian Macaroni – Raffle and sub-units.

Budget

- Motion to accept – Nerbonne, Dustin, passed.

IT'S CLEARLY A BUDGET. IT HAS A LOT OF NUMBERS IN IT

2018 Proposed Chapter Budget

by Calub Shavlik, Secretary-Treasurer, MNAFS

| Description | 2018 Budget |
|--|---------------------------|
| Income | |
| Interest On Investments | \$0.00 |
| Continuing Education Workshops | \$0.00 |
| <u>2018 Annual Meeting</u> | |
| Registration | \$10,350.00 |
| Raffle | \$2,000.00 |
| Sea Grant Award | \$250.00 |
| New Ulm Scholarship Award | \$500.00 |
| Total Anticipated Meeting Income | \$13,100.00 |
| Chapter Dues | \$2,000.00 |
| T-Shirt Sales | \$500.00 |
| Scholarship Fund (Interest Only) | \$100.00 |
| <u>Total Income</u> | <u>\$15,700.00</u> |
| Expenses | |
| <u>Business Functions</u> | |
| Printing/Postage/Website | \$300.00 |
| President's Travel | \$1,500.00 |
| Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance Membership | \$1,750.00 |
| Chapter Awards | \$100.00 |
| Total Business Costs | \$3,650.00 |
| <u>2018 Annual Meeting</u> | |
| Facilities and Food | \$6,500.00 |
| Miscellaneous | \$1,500.00 |
| Fundraiser-Raffle Prizes | \$150.00 |
| Best Student Paper Award | \$250.00 |
| Student Support (Winners) | \$100.00 |
| Total Meeting Costs | \$8,500.00 |
| <u>Scholarships and Travel Grants</u> | |
| Chapter Scholarships | \$1,300.00 |
| Joan Duffy Student Travel Award to Midwest | \$200.00 |
| Equal Opportunities Section Travel Award to Parent Meeting | \$100.00 |
| State Science Fair Awards | \$750.00 |
| Hutton Junior Fisheries Biologist Program | \$300.00 |
| Total Scholarships | \$2,650.00 |

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| <u>Projects and Activities</u> | |
| President and EXCOM Initiatives | \$600.00 |
| Continuing Education Workshop Insurance | \$150.00 |
| Lake Friendly Award | \$150.00 |
| Total Projects | \$900.00 |
| <u>Total Expenditures</u> | <u>\$15,700.00</u> |



Secretary/Treasurer, Calub Shavlik, discussing the 2017 and proposed 2018 budget with Chapter members. Photo by Brian Borkholder.

2018 President's Action Plan

by Paul Glander, President, MNAFS

| GOAL | OBJECTIVE |
|---|--|
| <u>Membership Services</u> | |
| Work with President-Elect for 2019 meeting and explore possible meeting partners (consider joint meeting – last 2009) | Continue planning for the 2019 joint meeting with the Dakota Chapter in the Fargo Moorhead area |
| Promote fisheries certification | Continues |
| Regular communication with membership | With assistance of the Communications Committee, Issue two chapter newsletters annually. Continue to update and maintain the new Chapter website and discontinue use of the old website. Review and update Chapter email mailing list as necessary. Develop chapter social media (Facebook, etc...) presence using parent society guidelines |
| Sponsor at least one continuing education workshop | Appoint an ad hoc committee to discuss continuing education needs and possible Chapter roles with agencies employing Chapter members, especially MN DNR Fisheries |
| Provide judges and maintain funding for regional and state science fair awards | Continues, Scholarship Committee |
| Award Chapter scholarships | Continues, Awards Committee |
| Maintain contact list with schools that have fisheries and related programs | Appoint a Students Committee Chair to continue and further develop |
| Encourage student involvement in the Chapter and Chapter meetings | Appoint a Students Committee Chair to continue and further develop with input from younger Chapter members |
| Recruit and retain young professionals into active roles in the Chapter | Appoint a Membership Committee chair to further develop with input from younger Chapter members |
| Enhance the diversity of Chapter members, especially in Chapter leadership positions | Appoint a Membership Committee Chair to further develop in coordination with the Nominations Committee Chair |
| Retain post-professional contact information for retirees and increase role of retirees in chapter activities | Appoint a Chapter Historian and further develop with assistance from Membership Committee |
| Increase diversity of Chapter funding sources | Continue through Fundraising Committee |

| | |
|--|--|
| Review and update LRP | Completed in 2016 by LRP Committee |
| Encourage interactions with other Minnesota professional societies, as well as AFS Chapters from neighboring states | Joint meeting in 2019 with Dakota Chapter, contact MN Chapters of TWS and Soil & Water Conservation Society. Consider possible future joint meeting(s) |
| Host Midwest and National AFS Annual Meetings | Hosting Midwest in 2021 |
| Increase collaboration with non-governmental aquatic resource groups, between agencies, and with University researchers | Continues |
| <u>Advocacy, Outreach, and Stewardship</u> | |
| Disseminate and promote Chapter positions on aquatic and related natural resource issues at the State legislature via Chapter letters, Chapter resolutions, and the Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance (FWLA) or similar lobbying groups | Continues: President works with FWLA Representatives, investigate possible interest by Chapter members retired from agency/academic careers to become more involved in this on behalf of the Chapter |
| Establish and encourage lines of communication, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Email, and/or Website forums for exchange of information and opinion on current policy issues | With assistance of the Communications Committee, issue two Chapter newsletters, continue to populate new Chapter website, review and update Chapter email mailing list as necessary, develop Chapter social media (Facebook etc...) presence using parent society guidelines |
| Increase general awareness of good aquatic stewardship by collaborating with citizen groups and local officials, and contributing to citizen stewardship programs such as the lake friendly shoreline awards | Continues: EXCOM |



Past President, Patrick Schmalz, discussing the accomplishments of his action plan. Photo by Brian Borkholder.

Snapshot: 2018 Annual Meeting

by Craig Kelling, Federal Representative/Newsletter Editor, MNAFS



Students and professionals gather at Beaver Island Brewery for the welcome reception. Photo by Brian Borkholder.

On February 6-8, 2018, approximately 130 students and professionals attended the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society 51st annual meeting at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud, MN. The meeting theme was “Communicating Fish Science in Minnesota.”

Thanks to members of our Ad-Hops committee, the meeting was kicked off with a welcome reception at Beaver Island Brewery. The venue (and beverages) was the perfect way to kick start information sharing, networking, and collaboration.

Day 1 began with a welcome address from Patrick Schmalz and Paul Glander (currently Past-President and President, respectively). This was followed by two plenary sessions. Julie Defilippi Simpson, AFS Communications Committee Chairperson, gave a presentation titled “To Members...And Beyond! Resources and Strategy for Effective Communications”, which outlined AFS communication strategies and tools at the national level. Julie stressed the importance of understanding your audience and providing a consistent message as she states, “it is important to remember your message, know who you are and know who you want to be.” Julie’s presentation was followed by Dr. Katie Steiger-Meister, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - External Affairs, who provided a talk titled “Carp-ocalypse Now! Your Survival Guide to Invasive Species.” Katie highlighted the communication blunders and successes associated with the Service’s Asian Carp management. Katie stressed the importance of timeliness, accuracy, and consistency in messaging.

Over the following day, more than 70 oral and poster presentations were given showcasing the tremendous fisheries conservation work throughout Minnesota.

The oral and poster sessions were followed by the annual Chapter Business Meeting. As evidenced by the perennial low attendance, the time and location of the meeting must be a closely guarded secret. During the Chapter business-meeting, it was announced that Edie Evarts (MN DNR Fisheries, Tower) was elected to be the Chapter’s President-Elect. Kristan Maccaroni (MN DNR Fisheries, West Metro) was elected to the Executive Committee slot for DNR employees and Jay Hatch was reelected to the “Open” Executive Committee slot. It was announced at the business meeting that the Chapter award of excellence has been renamed to honor the late Dennis (Denny) Schupp, a long time DNR fisheries research biologist who served as a mentor and inspiration to many of us.

The meeting culminated with an awards banquet honoring member achievements, a presentation from Dakota AFS president-elect Josh Wert, and a most impressive raffle hosted by Bemidji State University Student Sub-Unit that refused to be overshadowed by the chocolate fondue fountain. Congratulations to all award and raffle winners.

Special thanks to the Chapter members who worked hard to make this meeting a success - Eric Altena, Mandy Erickson, Paul Glander, Jon Hansen, Michelle Krecklau, Craig Kelling, Kristan Maccaroni, Brian Nerbonne, Keith Reeves, Patrick Schmalz, Heidi Rantala, Calub Shavlik, and the Bemidji State AFS Student Sub-Unit.



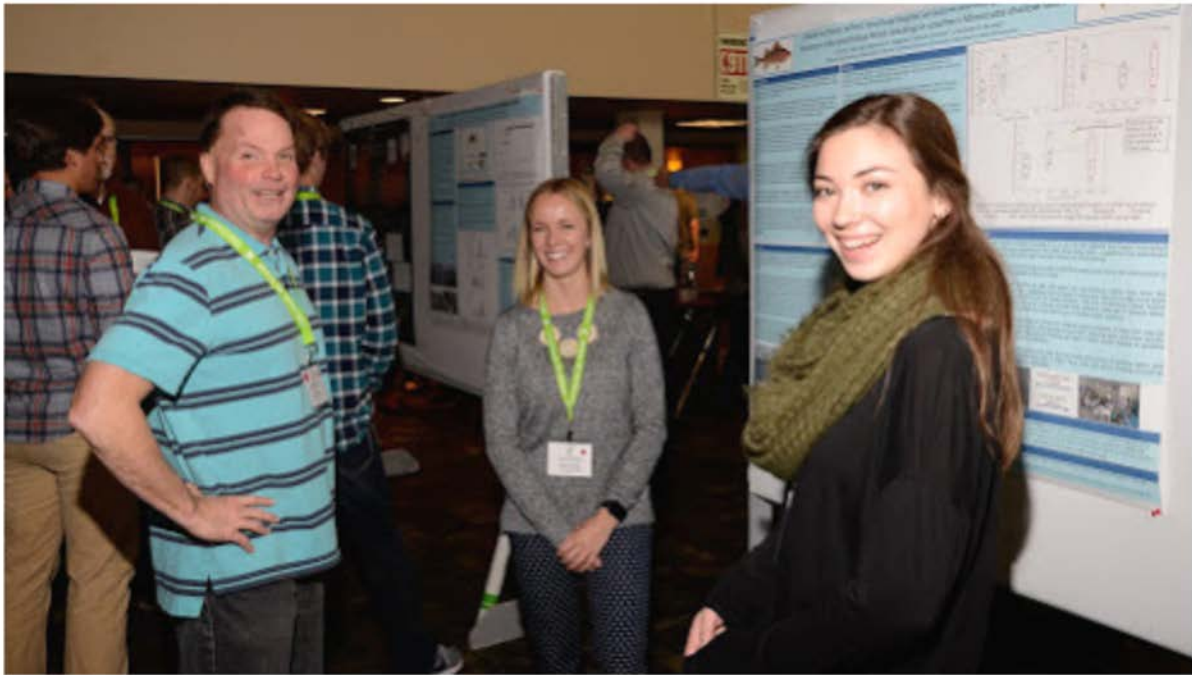
Dr. Katie Steiger-Meister, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - External Affairs, discusses communication associated with FWS Asian Carp Management. Photo by Brian Borkholder.



AFS members enjoying the hit chocolate fondue fountain. Photo by Brian Borkholder.



Julie Defilippi Simpson, AFS Communications Committee Chairperson, discusses national AFS communication strategies. Photo by Brian Borkholder.



Good times had by all. Scenes from the annual MNAFS meeting. Photos by Brian Borkholder.

HONORING THE EFFORTS OF VOLUNTEERS

2018 Award Winners

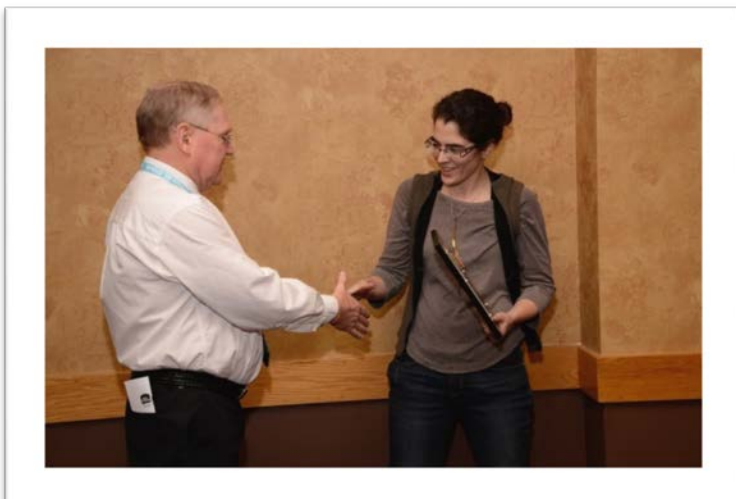
by Keith Reeves, Awards Committee Chair, MNAFS



President, Paul Glander, awarding Patrick Schmalz, for services to the Chapter as President. Photo by Brian Borkholder.



President, Paul Glander, awarding Mandy Erickson, for services to the Chapter as DNR EXCOM representative and Arrangements Committee Chair. Photo by Brian Borkholder.



President, Paul Glander, awarding Kristan Maccaroni, for services to the Chapter as Fundraising Committee Chair. Photo by Brian Borkholder.



Awards Committee Chair, Keith Reeves, awarding Jenna Ruzich (UW-Stevens Point) Best Poster. Photo by Brian Borkholder.

Best Presentation was awarded to LJ Rogers (UM-Duluth) – not pictured.

REWARDING OUR FUTURE PROFESSIONALS

2018 Scholarship Recipient

by Jay Hatch, Scholarship Committee Chair, MNAFS

This year's unanimous selection for the E. E. Mecklenburg New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen Scholarship is Linda Xiong. Linda received two checks, one from Ruth Mecklenberg in the amount of \$500 and one from MNAFS in the amount of \$400 for a total of \$900. The Chapter also waived the Annual Meeting registration fee for Linda and covered her lodging costs for two nights. Linda attended the entire meeting and definitely made the most of it.

Biographical Summary of Linda Xiong

Linda is a Senior at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities majoring in Environmental Sciences, Policy, and Management and minoring in Marine Biology. She is mentored by Dr. Andrew Simons, Jennifer Nicklay, Julie Westerlund, Amy Browender, and Gretchen Bass, to name a few. Linda's application revealed a person not only dedicated to and excited about studying and protecting freshwater and marine ecosystems but also passionate about sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm with others, especially today's youth. Since ending her freshman year of coursework, Linda has worked as an Intern with Minnesota Department of Natural Resource's (MNDNR) MinnAqua Program, a Technician with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA); and as a Curatorial Assistant in the Fish Collection of the James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History (University of



Awards Committee Chair, Keith Reeves, and Scholarship Committee Chair, Jay Hatch, awarding Lind Xiong (UMN, College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources) the E.E. Mecklenburg Scholarship. Photo by Brian Borkholder.

Minnesota). She has become quite adept at identifying many of Minnesota's most challenging fish species, acting as a verifier of species collected by both MNDNR and MPCA. She is an experienced fish sampler, having become familiar with most forms of electrofishing, gill netting, trap netting, and seining; a stream macroinvertebrate sampler; and has experience in identifying and measuring stream and lake stressors. Her return to MPCA for a second field season as a Technician and her subsequent MPCA Employee Recognition Award attest to her value as a field biologist. Linda also has conducted research on soil chemistry and its effects on stream water quality.

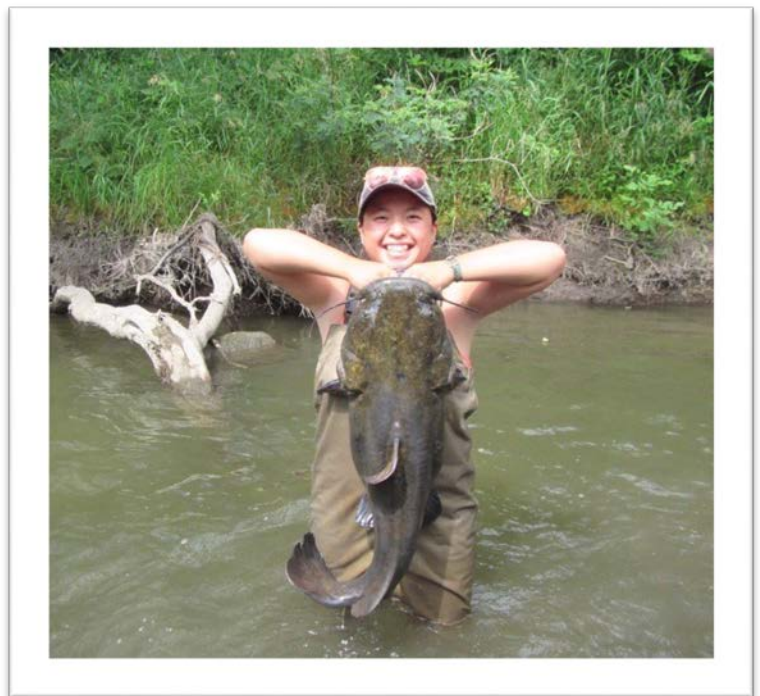
While interning with MinnAqua, Linda discovered her enthusiasm for teaching "people of all ages." In addition to developing and teaching fishing clinics, Linda shot and produced a video that allowed clinic participants to experience the inner ecosystem of a lake, showing different mesohabitats—physical water characteristics, vegetation types (including invasive versus native) and the fish species found within. She continued her public outreach mission over the past two years by giving volunteer fish talks to the crowds surrounding the DNR Pond at the Minnesota State Fair.

As President of the Marine Biology Club at University of Minnesota, Linda not only discharged the normal duties of that office but also led and supported a variety of outreach events both on campus and [in] elementary schools to encourage young students to pursue postsecondary education, and to start thinking about the natural environment as a career opportunity. "Outreach was my favorite part about being President because I got to meet so many young people. I wanted to have an impact on them through talking about water quality and marine biology to encourage their learning." During a semester at University of Hawaii, Linda volunteered in a bioacoustics laboratory and became a member of the Sea Turtle Stranding Response Team, the experiences from which, she developed an outreach activity for the Marine Biology Club.

Linda has internationalized her environmental management education by studying natural resource sustainability in Ecuador, and environmental management and natural history in Norway. She also works as a Communications and Program Assistant in the study abroad program in the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Science (CFANS), and volunteers in the College Possible program.



Photos provided by Linda Xiong.



SUB-UNIT HAPPENINGS

Student Sub-Unit Updates

by Pheng Lor, Vice President of Fisheries, University of Minnesota – Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Club

This spring semester the Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology Club raised over 10 thousand dollars in grant money! With this amazing opportunity we were able to buy a few seine nets, game cameras, and traps. Also, this past winter our Canada Lynx tracking event with the Forest Service in the Superior National Forest area was a great success. While tracking for lynx we found multiple tracks, scats, hair, beds, and kill sites.

Additionally, in this past winter we had an exciting time enjoying one of the many fun outdoor activities in Minnesota, ice fishing. Later in the spring we had a deer aging workshop with our own professional Dr. Cornicelli. Another amazing opportunity we had in the spring was getting to tour the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center and learn all about the various techniques being researched to prevent and eradicate invasive species from Minnesota waters. Lastly, wrapping up the semester, we plan to take a canoe trip on the Saint Croix in May before finals. Also, some events we look forward to in the summer with the East Metro MNDNR is gillnetting in Mille Lacs, visiting and volunteering in the St. Paul hatchery, Muskellunge population estimates on White Bear Lake, and bass nighttime electrofishing.



Photo provided by Pheng Lor.

by Quinnlan Smith, President, University of Minnesota – Duluth, AFS Student Sub-unit



Photo provided by Quinnlan Smith.

The American Fisheries Society sub-unit at UMD has enjoyed a great semester of activities and hosting local biologists and professors from around the area. Three students from our sub-unit, L.J. Rodgers, Noland Michaels, and Andrew Nissen attended the Minnesota American Fisheries Society annual meeting in February, with all three students presenting information about their current graduate studies. L.J. received the best student paper presentation from the meeting. L.J. and Noland continue to volunteer weekly at schools in the surrounding Duluth area, and many students from the sub-unit helped volunteer at the University of Minnesota Duluth annual Science and Engineering Day, performing various biological demonstrations for 1st-5th graders from the surrounding schools. Due to the cold weather, the smelting this year has been tough on Lake Superior. Cold water temperatures combined with final exams means the sub-unit hasn't been able to take

some smelting trips, but indoor activities weren't off the table! The sub-unit took its annual trip to the Great Lakes Aquarium with a behind the scenes tour from the Director of Operations, Jay Walker. Not only do students get to

explore the aquarium, but everyone also gets to take a look at everything that makes the aquarium run on a day-to-day basis. Although the sub-unit hasn't been out smelting, the annual end of the year smelt fry is still planned once classes conclude. Starting next semester, Noland Michaels will be leading the sub-unit as President, and Quinn Smith will be assisting as Vice President.

by Samuel Peterson, President, Bemidji State University, AFS Student Sub-unit

The Bemidji State AFS Sub-unit has been involved with a multitude of activities over the last few months. We started the winter by prepping for the MNAFS meeting. The raffle, which we hosted, was extremely successful and went towards aiding future funding activities. As the ice kept accumulating on the lakes, we had been asked by the Grand Rapids DNR to assist them in Burbot data collection on Leech Lake over the weeklong Eelpout Festival. Length, weight, and counts were analyzed and used to assist the lengthy dataset already collected on this sensitive indicator species. Further activities included our annual Yellow Perch ice-fishing tournament, working with the Sanford Center during hockey games for fundraising, and taking a tour of the Great Lakes Aquarium in Duluth with DNR fisheries ecologist Heidi Rantala. With this extended winter season, we took advantage of our fundraising opportunities and went on a guided fishing trip to Lake of the Woods. We ended the year at our last meeting by voting in new officers for the 2018/2019 school year. As the year comes to an end, the Grand Rapids DNR had asked us to aid in the Walleye spawning in Cutfoot during the first week of May. Our annual White Sucker spawning run will also be worked on in collaboration with Urbank Bait Co. over the month of May. Many activities have kept us on our toes this year and as we continue to grow as a sub-unit, so will our efforts and activities for next year!



Photo provided by Samuel Peterson.

STRIVE TO BE A GOOD COLLABORATOR

Member Spotlight

by Craig Kelling, Federal Representative/Newsletter Editor, MNAFS

This issue's member spotlight: Dr. Gretchen Hansen, Fisheries Systems Ecologist, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Tell me how you first got involved with fisheries?

I grew up in Minneapolis and my family owns a cabin in Northwestern Wisconsin, where we would spend weeks at a time playing in the lake each summer. I always loved water, the outdoors, and biology, so when I learned that you could have a career combining all three I jumped at the chance. I got my first experience in fisheries working at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Trout Lake Station in Vilas County working on invasive crayfish and food webs, and from there have been lucky enough to work on a variety of species and ecosystems.



Photo provided by Gretchen Hansen-MNDNR.

What research are you currently working on?

I am working on a number of projects under the broad umbrella of understanding how large scale environmental change affects lakes and lake fish. Specific projects include statistical analyses to describe spatial and temporal patterns in fish relative abundance, food web analysis of Minnesota's large walleye lakes using stable isotopes, and modeling thermal-optical habitat for walleye.

How do you think fisheries conservation will change in the next 10 years?

Fish and fisheries are changing due to unprecedented environmental changes, while at the same time resources to monitor and manage for these changes are more and more limited. The major challenges to our profession in the coming decade will be to identify causes of change in complex systems and to design effective management strategies that account for new conditions while retaining core objectives. I expect that to meet these challenges, fisheries scientists will incorporate new approaches and technologies into time-honored approaches, and that interdisciplinary collaboration will be necessary to be effective.

What is a favorite memory from your field work?

SCUBA diving nearly every day for three summers in Sparkling Lake, Vilas County, Wisconsin. The water is crystal clear and full of beautiful habitat and fish. The smallmouth bass have learned that SCUBA divers provide ample food, so they will follow you around and eat crayfish out of your hand.

What advice would you give to young fisheries professionals?

Focus on developing tools and skills that will be widely marketable and applicable to a variety of jobs. You never know where the next great opportunity will be, so be open to a range of options. Also, develop collaborations with good people with different backgrounds and skills, and strive to be a good collaborator.

In August, Gretchen will be taking a new position as an assistant professor of fish ecology at the Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology Department at the University of Minnesota.



Photo provided by Gretchen Hansen - MNDNR.

DESTINATION NOSTALGIA

Curator's Corner

by Craig Kelling, Federal Representative/Newsletter Editor, MNAFS

What's in a logo? During the 1980's, Diane Whiting drafted a pen and ink version of the walleye that has graced the official MNAFS logo to this day. Due to copyright concerns and use by other AFS chapters, MNAFS sought and received exclusive rights to the drawing from Diane in 1991. While the logo has certainly evolved, like most great ideas, it began with pen and paper.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Upcoming Events

by Craig Kelling, Federal Representative/Newsletter Editor, MNAFS

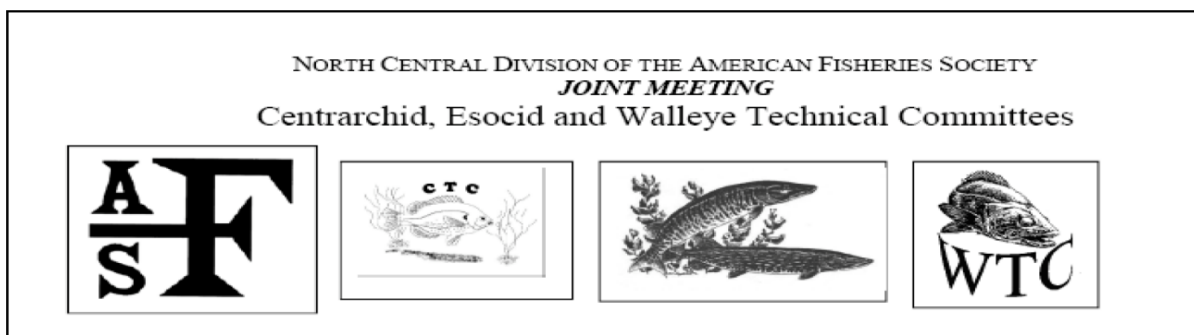
79TH MIDWEST FISH AND WILDLIFE CONFERENCE
 JANUARY 27-30, 2019
 CLEVELAND, OHIO
 COMMUNICATING SCIENCE TO FAN THE FLAMES OF CONSERVATION

Have an innovative idea on a timely subject that would appeal to fish and wildlife professionals from across the Midwest? The Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Program Committee invites you to submit a symposium proposal for the 2019 conference, to be held January 27-30 in Cleveland, Ohio. The theme of the meeting is "Communicating Science to Fan the Flames of Conservation." This annual event will attract nearly 800 biologists, students, and scientists from local, state and provincial, federal, and tribal natural resources agencies, universities, and private companies across the 12 Midwestern states and provinces.

An organized symposium is a series of presentations that address aspects of a single topic or theme. Symposia are the scientific centerpiece of the conference and will run concurrently with other technical sessions. A symposium can consist of invited speakers only or be open to accepting presentations from the general call for abstracts, which will open by early August, 2018. Symposia topics related to the conference theme are highly encouraged, as well as those addressing aspects of fish and wildlife ecology, management, conservation, health, or human dimensions.

Anyone interested in coordinating a symposium for the conference should submit a proposal online by Monday, July 16 2018, 11:59 PM (EST). [CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT](#)

Responsibilities of Symposia Organizers: Symposium organizers are responsible for recruiting presenters, soliciting their abstracts, and directing them to submit their abstracts and presentations through the Midwest online submission forms. The Program Committee will work with symposium organizers to incorporate appropriate presentations that are submitted as contributed papers.



ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Dates: July 24-26, 2018

Location: Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, Milford, Iowa

<http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/lakesidelab/about/index.html>

Meeting

The Joint Meeting will include a welcome dinner social Tuesday evening, a full day of presentations on Wednesday, a dinner social Wednesday evening, and a half day of presentations/business meetings on Thursday. Registration cost is anticipated at \$60 and will include both socials, coffee breaks, breakfast on Wednesday and Thursday, and lunch on Wednesday. Students are half price.

Yellow Perch Symposium

In response to recent amendment of the WTC bylaws to include Yellow Perch, a Yellow Perch symposium will be held on the afternoon preceding the Joint Meeting (July 24th). The symposium will begin with lunch, followed by afternoon of presentations on any subjects regarding Yellow Perch. Cost is anticipated at \$20 per person.

Lodging

Cabins (shared bathhouse and no AC) are available for \$20 per night and Motel-style rooms (private bathrooms and AC) are available for \$65 per night. Contact Lakeside Laboratory at Lakesidelab@uiowa.edu or (712) 337-3669 for reservations and additional information.

Registration and Presentation Submittal

Contact Hilary Meyer at Hilary.Meyer@state.sd.us for registration and submission of paper abstracts. Payment will be accepted as cash or check at the door (sorry, we are unable to process credit cards or other forms of electronic payment). Deadline for registration is June 24th.

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