

The Incredible Skinner Challenge: An Investment in our Future

Your donations to the AFS Skinner Fund for student travel awards will be doubled!

The American Fisheries Society and fisheries students seek your help in bolstering our AFS John E. Skinner Memorial Fund. The Skinner Award provides travel support for undergraduate and graduate students to attend the annual AFS parent society meeting (see background info below). The Fund and Award are administered by the Education Section, but it is an AFS society award. In recent years, we have been granting awards to 8-10 outstanding students (up to \$800), depending on the yield from the endowment fund. The Skinner is among the most prestigious, popular, and competitive student awards.

The Education Section recently passed a motion to augment the Skinner Endowment by \$25,000 with Section Funds. We further voted to initiate a matching cost-challenge to all other AFS units to further enhance the fund.

***The Education Section will match all contributions to the Skinner Fund up to a total of \$25,000!**

Thus, if we receive at least \$25,000 in new donations, the Education Section will contribute a total of \$50,000, for a total enhancement of \$75,000. At the current approximate rate of return on the endowment funds (6%), we would yield an additional \$4,500 each year — enough to fund an additional five student travel awards!

On behalf of the Education Section, Student Subsection, AFS as a scientific society, and all fisheries students, we hope that you'll join us in this effort. Please send your tax-deductible donation as a check payable to the "American Fisheries Society Education Section" to our Treasurer below.

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Thank you for your consideration and generosity, and we hope to hear from you soon.

Tom Kwak, President, Education Section
Melissa Wuellner, President, Student Subsection

Skinner Memorial Award Background

The John E. Skinner Award provides travel support for undergraduate and graduate students to attend the Annual Meeting of AFS. The award was established following the

untimely death of Mr. Skinner in a home fire in 1978. John Skinner was a native of Michigan and a graduate of Michigan State University. He was employed by the California Department of Fish and Game for nearly 25 years. His assignments over the years included three years as a researcher on statewide angling statistics and on the fisheries of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, over nine years as Water Projects Supervisor, and eight years as Research Supervisor for fish facilities in the Delta. Among his technical publications is the classic 225-page document, "An Historical Review of the Fish and Wildlife Resources of the San Francisco Bay Area." At the time of his death, he was President of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society. He also had served as President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer of the California/Nevada Chapter. Further information on John Skinner can be found in *Fisheries* [4(1):23-24 and 16(1):38-39].

Initial funding for the Skinner Award came from the California/Nevada Chapter. Over the years, many other chapters and organizations have contributed financial support. Proceeds from several AFS raffles and from sales of the textbook, *Fisheries Techniques*, also have been added to the fund. Interest from the endowment allows about 8-10 students each year to receive funds to support their travel to the Annual Meeting. The award is merit-based and designed to recognize outstanding students in the field of aquatic resource management. A call for applications is usually announced in May of each year.