



# Education Section of the American Fisheries Society

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Inside this issue:

Remembering Rob	3
David W. Willis	4
2013 Business Meeting Minutes	7
Student Subsection Updates	14
2013 Undergraduate Travel Award Winners	19
Award Announcements	28
Solve for Tomorrow Project	31

## PRESIDENT'S LINE

As this is my first President's Line as your Education Section President I want to do what most other presidents have done—thank everyone for serving in all the various offices and committees in the Section. Our website has the list of committees and it is extensive. These are



often thankless jobs with your 15 minutes of fame coming at the few moments you have at the Business Meeting reporting on your committee accomplishments. These committee members and chairs certainly don't do this for the fame and fortune.

We have had a few bumps in the road that many of you may not be aware of. The AFS listserv went down over the last few months and AFS has been working hard to come up with solutions. However, this meant that our Education Section (and many other sections, divisions, etc.) listservs were unavailable. A big thanks goes to Trent Sutton, our Secretary-Treasurer for finding a way to get the listserv up and running again. This was more complicated than it appeared on the surface but now we are fully functional. This was definitely a service we took for granted and did not realize there was a problem until Hilary Meyer (our newsletter co-editor) tried to send a request for newsletter articles but could not get a message to our membership! So our newsletter is a little late through no fault of our new co-newsletter editors Hilary Meyer and David Schumann.

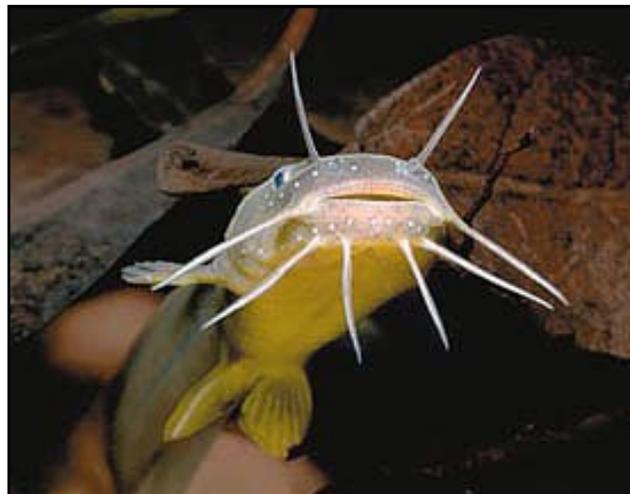
The upcoming year or so will see the Education Section involved in numerous activities at the Parent Society level. For example, AFS has created a revised list of colleges and universities with fisheries pro-

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## PRESIDENTS LINE (continued)

grams (including smaller schools), which is posted through our website under Education Links (<http://www.fisheriessociety.org/education/links.htm>). It is clear that AFS values the Education Section and there sure seems to be an emphasis on education and student-related activities. I will keep you posted as these develop.

Finally, I would like to end with a reflection. In this newsletter you will see an obituary of Dr. Dave Willis, an excellent educator, researcher, and friend. Dave embodied the phrase do what you love, and love what you do. The Education Section is comprised of members that love what they do. Becoming a member of AFS, the Education Section, or volunteering to serve as an officer or on a committee is a choice—not a mandate. Our members do these things because they love what they do. It's easy to forget that when we deal with federal government shutdown, sequesters, tight budgets in agencies and academia, increasing tuition, mid-terms and finals, theses and dissertation defenses and comprehensive exams. Don't forget why we got into this field. Take time to enjoy the outdoors and the great people we work with. Overall, it's not a bad gig.



## Remembering Rob

By: Dr. Steve Chipps



Rob Klumb was an exceptional colleague and friend whose life was tragically ended by a drunk driver on July 8, 2013 in Pickstown, South Dakota. A Wisconsin native, Rob received his B.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1990 and his M.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1997. Rob joined the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University in 1997 where he studied bioenergetics and near-shore habitat use by larval and juvenile alewife at the Cornell Biological Field Station, earning his Ph.D. in 2003. In 2002, Rob joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Pierre, South Dakota as a Fisheries Research Biologist and was promoted to Project Leader of the Great Plains Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office in 2009.

Rob was a talented biologist who led a variety of research projects on fishes of the Missouri River. In addition to his Federal job duties, Rob also served as an Adjunct Associate Professor at South Dakota State University, where he played a fundamental role in coordinating federal research needs with student education.

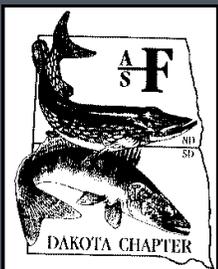
Colorful, energetic and always positive, Rob was inspirational to students and colleagues. He always took the time to avail himself to other people to help them in their professional and personal endeavors. As a mentor, he led by example, and his hands-on approach earned him a large and loyal group of colleagues. His legacy will live on in the example he set for students and future professionals.

Rob's passion for science, politics and Milwaukee-made beer ran deep and wide. His inclusiveness and open-mindedness extended to both his work and his social life, and he will be remembered for the enthusiasm he exhibited in his approach to both. From the technicians that worked under his guidance to the students he mentored to the colleagues he left behind, his loss leaves a big void in the fisheries community. **The Robert A. Klumb Memorial Award** was established in memory of Robert Klumb, a life member of the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The scholarship recognizes outstanding student contributions in fisheries science.

Donations can be made to:

Dakota AFS - Klumb Fund  
USGS South Dakota Coop Unit  
NPBL 2140B  
South Dakota State University  
Brookings SD 57007.

Rob served as a mentor for over a dozen graduate students at both the master's and Ph.D. level.



## David W. Willis 1955-2014

By: Dr. Craig Paukert



Dave served as a mentor for over 50 graduate students at both the master's and Ph.D. level, as well as numerous undergraduates.

The Education Section and fisheries profession lost a valuable friend on January 13, 2014 when Dr. David Willis passed away. Dave passed away doing what he loved—fishing with his wife and grandson. He suffered an aortic aneurism and passed away from complications from surgery related to the aneurism. Dave was a Distinguished Professor and Head of the Department of Natural Resource Management at South Dakota State University. Dave was known as a ‘manager’s researcher’ but was also known as an excellent educator. He received numerous AFS awards including the Excellence in Fisheries Education Award (1997), Excellence in Public Outreach (2003), President’s Fishery Conservation Award (2009), Meritorious Service Award (2011), and was inducted into the Fisheries Management Hall of Excellence (2007). In addition, he received several awards at SDSU including the Excellence in Teaching, Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring, and Excellence in Academic Department Leadership. Dave received his undergraduate degrees (BS, MS) from the University of North Dakota, and Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in Fishery Biology from Colorado State University. Over the course of his post-graduate career, he worked at Pittsburg State University, the Kansas Fish and Game Commission, and Emporia State University, before beginning his long tenure at SDSU from 1987 to his passing.

Dave was well-known as a scientist and educator. Dave’s contributions to fisheries management and education of over 250 publications includes textbooks used by students and professionals including Fisheries Techniques, Case Studies in Fisheries Conservation and Management, Standard Methods for Sampling North American Freshwater Fishes, Small Impoundment Management in North America, and Introduction to Wildlife and Fisheries: An Integrated Approach. He stated that one of his greatest accomplishments was the working relationships he developed with students as he served as adviser for more than 50 graduate (MS and PhD) students (many who made it to his funeral, in spite of blizzard conditions—see image), as well as mentoring countless undergraduates. Although Dave received numerous awards himself, he was most proud of the more than 90 awards received by his students. His legacy certainly continues through the ‘Willis Nation’ of his graduate students, and shown in the reflection by close friend Brian Murphy in the winter 2014 Southern Division newsletter: <http://sdafs.org/winter-2014-newsletter/>



“Do what you love, and love what you do.”

## David W. Willis 1955-2014 (cont'd)

Dave was a humble man that let his actions and the actions of his students speak for themselves. He was an excellent educator who really loved what he did. Dave believed that you should “do what you love, and love what you do”—a trait that the Education Section membership embraces as many of us love working with students. Dave will be missed.

There are many tributes to Dave that can be found on the web (e.g., Southern Division Winter 2014 newsletter, Pond Boss Magazine, SDSU webpage, AFS webpage, In-Fisherman) that reflect his professional contributions and his personal relationships with a diverse group of people from academia and agencies to recreational anglers.

SDSU has created the Dave Willis Fisheries Science Endowment to honor his legacy. To contribute click on the link below:

<https://www.sdsufoundation.org:444/give-now?t=willis>

and designate “Other” and specify Dave Willis Fisheries Science in the comment section. If you would prefer to make your gift by check, make payable to: SDSU Foundation, 815 Medary Ave., Brookings, SD 57007. If you have questions please call 1-888-747-7378. Your gift is tax deductible.

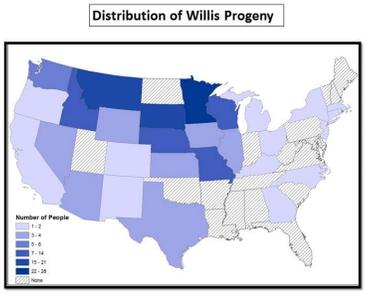
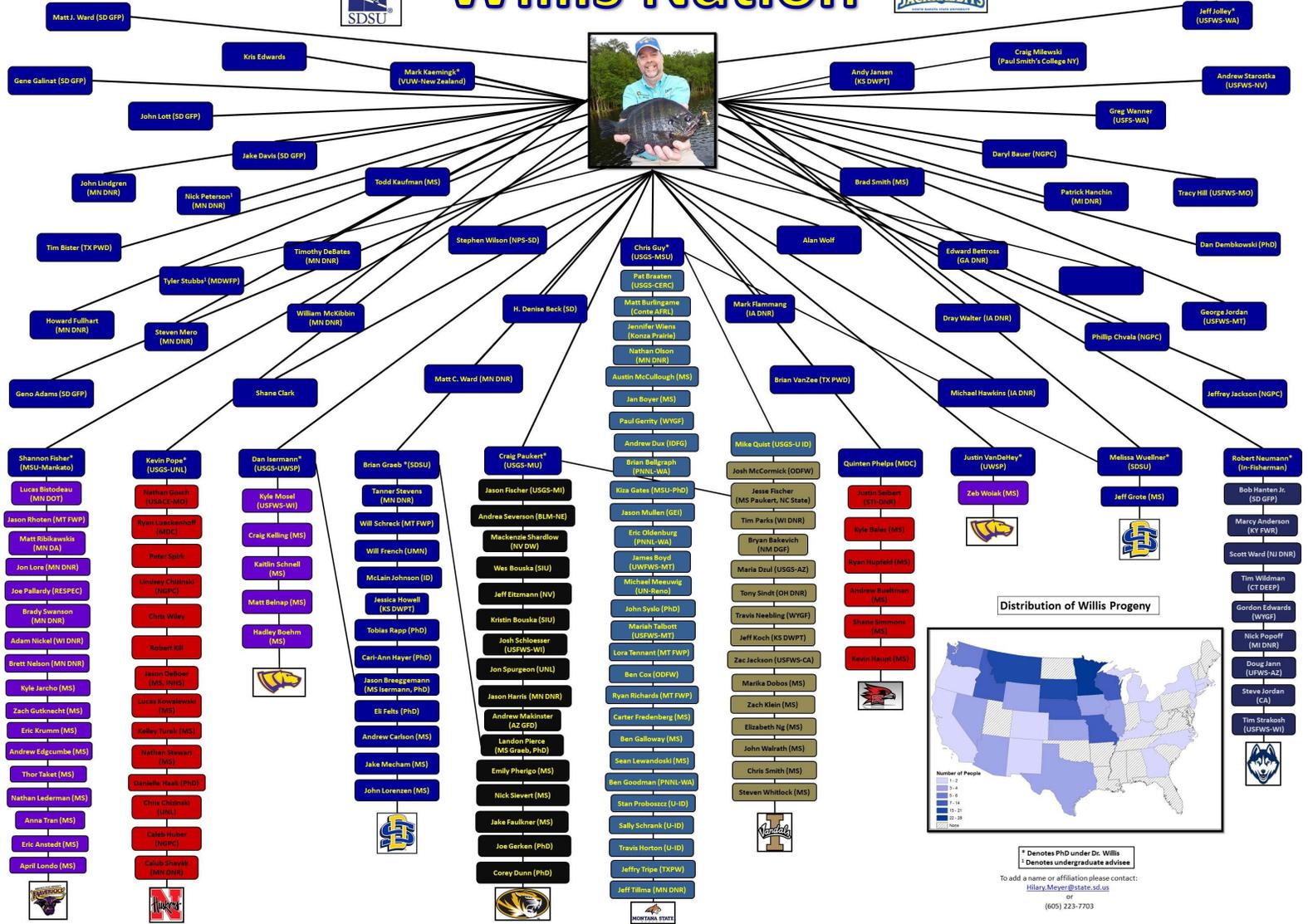


**Current and former Dave Willis graduate students that braved the storm and made it to Brookings for Dave’s funeral.**

# A Tribute to Dr. Dave Willis's Contribution to Fisheries Education



## Willis Nation



\* Denotes PhD under Dr. Willis  
 † Denotes undergraduate advisee  
 To add a name or affiliation please contact:  
 Hilary Meyer at [state.sd.us](mailto:hilary.meyer@state.sd.us)  
 or  
 (605) 223-7703



## Business Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting—Education Section

2013 Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society

Little Rock; Sep 8, 5-7 pm, Marriott Hotel – Fulton Room

**Call to Order:** Mike Quist called the meeting to order. Quist introduced himself and provided agendas and copies of the treasurer’s report to attendees.

**Introduction of Guests:** Quist recognized current officers of the Education Section, including Past-President, Steve Chipps; President-Elect, Craig Paukert, and Secretary-Treasurer, Katie Bertrand. Quist recognized the Division Representatives who serve on the Section’s Executive Committee (ExCom) along with the officers. Division Representatives were Jeff Jolley (Western), Tracy Galarowicz (North Central), Allison Roy (Northeastern), and Julie Harris (Southern). Quist then recognized Past-Presidents of the Education Section in attendance Joe Margraf, Brian Murphy, and Donna Parrish. Quist also recognized that Donna Parrish (1st Vice President) and Joe Margraf (incoming 2nd Vice President) are current AFS officers.

**Determination of Quorum:** A quorum (10% of membership) was present and confirmed by Bertrand.

**Approval of Agenda:** Quist introduced agenda. No motion.

**Approval of Minutes from 2012 Business Meeting:** The minutes were available to the membership on the Education Section webpage and in the Education Section Newsletter. No motion.

**President’s Comments:** Quist encouraged attendees to consider serving as leaders of the Education Section, stating that there is “no better place to put your efforts for the 8 year leadership commitment.” He explained that in order to realize the importance and value of AFS membership, members have to get involved. Quist welcomed future volunteers and leaders, stating that this is a very open, welcoming group, with lots of opportunities to get involved. He concluded by promising that if volunteers approached current

## Education Section Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

officers or division representatives, they will find an opportunity to apply their talent in the section.

**Treasurer's report:** Bertrand presented the Treasurer's report. Total assets of the Section as of September 8, 2013 were \$141,294.60. The balance forward from August 18, 2012 was \$202,505.72, income from the previous year was \$20,169.54, and expenditures were \$81,797.85. Bertrand explained that the decrease in net assets in the preceding year resulted from paying the final invoice for the 3rd edition of Fisheries Techniques, without yet realizing financial gains from its sale.

**Comments by AFS officer:** Donna Parrish (1st Vice President) began by stating that after attending the Governing Board meeting, she is confident that the society is in really good shape. This year we have a new Executive Director, Doug Austen, who is from our own ranks. The Society leadership hopes that this will put AFS on a new trajectory: back into a more highlighted position as a professional society than we have been in the past years. Over the next few years, Society leadership will be investigating and addressing what members want from the AFS, because Governing Board members are concerned about membership declines (down from 9,000 to 7,000 members). Parrish added that one of the best avenues for gathering information about the membership is through the Education Section. Other concerns include future sources of revenue (i.e., what revenue source will replace books?) The Governing Board discussed fish identification applications as one example of a tool that AFS could produce to get information out and help professionals perform their jobs more effectively. Parrish encouraged present members of the Education Section to collaborate and submit ideas of ways to create new value for members.

### Committee Reports:

**Newsletter:** Cari-Ann Hayer informed the group that the newsletter is published twice per year. Thanked Education Section membership, especially the student subunits, for submissions to the newsletter. Invited feedback and suggestions for improvement. President Quist thanked Hayer and Pierce for their service.

**Web page:** Steve Ranney could not attend the meeting, but President Quist informed the Section that Ranney added links from the Education Section webpage to Derek Ogle's R code. Any comments on the webpage should be directed to Quist or Ranney.

**Excellence in Fisheries Education Award:** President Quist reminded the Section that this is a Society level award, officially presented at the AFS business meeting. Jason Vokoun reported that the committee had a busy year, reviewing seven nominees. He encouraged the Student Subsection to keep the listserv going. Applications remain in consideration for three years. Vokoun recognized committee members, and asked for volunteers for a replacement for Greg Whittleage, whose term has ended. Vokoun



## Education Section Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

announced that the recipient of the award in 2012 was Dr. Frederick Sharf. Vokoun summarized Dr. Sharf's accomplishments, who was not in attendance.

**Skinner Committee:** Dan Daugherty was unable to attend the meeting so Bertrand provided the committee report. The Committee for 2012 included Dan Daugherty (Chair), Bertrand, Mary Bremigan, Andrea Johnson, Scott Heppell, Pete Sakaris, and Amy Spencer. All committee members have agreed to continue to serve on the committee. In the coming year, the committee plans to review and make recommendations for improvements to the applicant management and scoring system. The committee received a total of 29 applications (2 B.S., 17 M.S., and 10 Ph.D.) for this year's award. Thanks to the Parent Society, we were able to provide ten student applicants with Skinner Awards in support of their attendance at the meeting. The Education Section also provided additional support, allowing us to acknowledge the efforts of five additional student applicants as honorable mentions. The winners of this year's award were: Patrick Cooney – PhD student, North Carolina State University; Kristopher Stahr – MS student, Oklahoma State University; Lisa Winters – MS student, Utah State University; Sally Petre – MS student, University of Arizona; Andrew Carlson – MS student, South Dakota State University; Carlin Fenn – MS student, Southern Illinois University; David (Randy) Stewart – PhD student, Oklahoma State University; Lynn Waterhouse – PhD student, University of California – San Diego; Heather Stewart – MS student, Mississippi State University; and Tracy Wendt – BS student, University of Montana. Honorable mentions were: Abigail Lynch – PhD student, Michigan State University; Joy Young – PhD student, Florida Atlantic University; Tanner Stevens – MS student, South Dakota State University; Katharine DeVilbiss – MS student, State University of New York; and Caroline Andrews – MS student, Mississippi State University.

President-Elect Craig Paukert commented that the awards used to be funded with the interest income from the endowment. When interest rates declined in the late 2000's, AFS advised the Education Section Skinner Committee to continue awarding 10 students (at \$800 per student). Paukert recommended that the Skinner Committee investigate the sustainability of the endowment with AFS. In the future, the Section and the Committee may have to consider providing fewer awards.

**Best Student Paper-Poster Award 2012:** Melissa Wuellner and Shannon Fisher were the Co-Chairs for the 2012 Annual Meeting; however, Quist announced the award winners. Quist reminded attendees that the Education Section administers the BSP symposium, but the award is jointly sponsored by Sea Grant and AFS. Jason Neuswanger was the 2012 BS Paper winner, and there were 2 Honorable Mentions: Ashley Stasko and Tamara Pandolfo. The 2012 BS poster winner was Jeffrey Smith, and the honorable mention went to Lisa Walleser.

**Best Student Paper-Poster Award 2013:** Melissa Wuellner, Dan Magoulick, and President-Elect Craig Paukert are serving as Co-Chairs of the committee for the 2013 Annual Meeting. Paukert presented the committee report and indicated that the application



## Education Section Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

process is smoother now, thanks to an informational article in Fisheries by Melissa Wuellner and Shannon Fisher. The committee has done a great deal of important work for the students and the Society. One recent change was to ask the Education Section President-Elect to serve as a Co-Chair to provide inter-annual continuity. Craig Paukert was the committee ex officio. This year, the paper symposium is Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, and the poster symposium is Monday evening. There were 27 Best Student Paper submissions and 16 finalists were selected, representing 15 schools. Eight submissions were rejected for incompleteness, typically missing the advisor certification. In a few cases, the committee received a letter of support from an advisor, but not a student application. The committee also reviewed 3 Best Student Poster submissions (1 rejected for incompleteness) and 2 finalists were selected. The committee recruited 2 sets of judges: one set to review abstracts, and the other set to review papers and posters during the meeting. Judging packets are at the registration desk for meeting judges, who have not yet picked them up.

**Membership:** Jesse Fischer served as Chair in 2013. The committee is currently seeking a volunteer to assume the role of chair. Duties of the membership committee include the Young Professional Travel Award that was established to promote attendance at the annual meeting. Eligible applicants are those who are within 3 years post-graduation. Award is for \$1000 to one individual. Preference is given to those presenting, attending a continuing education workshop, contributing service to AFS, and demonstrating financial need. This year the committee assessed 9 applicants, and Fischer presented the award to Michelle (Mick) Walsh (in attendance), who is a Sea Grant Fellow, presenting a paper at the meeting, involved with outreach, and productive in terms of publications.

Fischer reported that the Committee discussed transferring the concept of reduced membership dues to meeting registration. Meeting registration increases from \$140 (students) to \$500 (professionals).

Donna Parrish added that the Governing Board has been brainstorming new ways to attract new Governing Board members. One effort is to re-invigorate the Emerging Leaders Mentor Program, which is designed to bring upper level graduate students and young professionals to the annual meeting to shadow a current Governing Board member at the Thursday Governing Board meeting. If potential mentees are interested, they need to contact a willing mentor. The program will provide \$500 to cover expenses related to attending the meeting early. Quist commented that attending the Governing Board meeting is very invigorating and that he enjoys interacting with a great group of people.

**Nominating:** Past-President Steve Chipps reported that this was an election year and thanked the nominees, who were willing to stand as candidates for the officer positions. Secretary-Treasurer candidates were Tracy Galarowicz and Trent Sutton. Southern Division Representative candidates were Matt Catalano and Brian Irwin. Western Division Representative candidate was Pheadra Budy. One hundred and forty people voted using Survey Monkey, and all races were very close. Katie Bertrand is President-Elect. Trent Sutton is Secretary-Treasurer. Brian Irwin is Southern Division Representative. Pheadra Budy is Western Division Representative. Next year, the Section will vote for the North Central Division and Northeastern Division



## Education Section Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

Representatives, so please consider nominations for those upcoming positions.

### Ad hoc committee & Special projects:

**Foundations of Fisheries Science:** Mike Allen provided an update of the book project and recognized Greg Sass as the other editor. He informed the group that the book was patterned after *Foundations in Ecology* and includes five sections: managing fish stocks, aquatic communities, aquatic habitat, people and economics, and fisheries enhancement. Each section includes eight seminal works in each area, and over half were selected as top vote-getters using Survey Monkey. About 15% of the works were originally published in AFS journals, but the remainder represents a wide diversity of journal titles. The only unfinished work on the project is the writing of the conclusions and Allen predicted that the book should be available for purchase in the coming year. The Education Section will receive a small portion of the proceeds. Allen recommended the book as a great resource for graduate students.

**New Initiatives:** President Mike Quist reported that this ad hoc committee was first established by Tom Kwak to determine the best uses for the substantial financial resources of the Education Section money to support our mission. During the preceding year, Mike Colvin, Dan Dauwalter, and Justin VanDeHey developed and submitted 2 ideas to the Executive Committee. The first idea was to develop digital education media (e.g., small vignettes of *Fisheries Techniques*). The second idea was to annually provide one distance continuing education workshop (i.e., virtual workshop attendance). The committee identified multiple sections of AFS that could contribute to this effort and have shared interests. The committee has reached the point where the Section needs to provide guidance on implementation of the ideas.

**Undergraduate Travel Award:** Cari-Ann Hayer reported that during last year's business meeting, the membership voted to provide \$2000/yr. for 2 years (2013-2014) while the committee developed a reviewing, awarding, and assessment framework. The committee struggled during the preceding year to reconcile everyone's ideas. The goal of the award is to involve more undergraduates in the parent society. The committee's recommendation is to select those students that show greatest promise of continued service and participation. The request for applications was posted late in July, but in the future, the committee will post the request for applications simultaneous with all other awards (e.g., Skinner Award). They reviewed 13 applicants and granted 4 awards of \$500 each to: Alichia Wilson, Casey Pennock, David Bogner, and Travis Schepker. Student recipients are asked to write a 1 page summary of their experience at the meeting.

## Education Section Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

### Additional Reports:

**Student Subsection:** Daniel Dembkowski reported on Student Subsection leadership of the Undergraduate Travel Award, and this year's Student Colloquium. The colloquium will feature a panel discussion of the questions: how can students increase their marketability as employees, and what role has AFS played in their professional development? Panelists include Dana Infante, Jessica Mistak, Doug Beard, and Candace Bressler. Dembkowski also described the partnership that the Student Subsection is Developing with the Equal Opportunity Section (Lonnie Gonzales, President). Finally, Dembkowski announced that the Subsection organized a Ladies Night for this year's annual meeting, highlighting accomplishments of female fisheries professionals.

Additional discussion arose surrounding selling books in portable document format. As soon as the Education Section learned that Fisheries Techniques, 3rd edition, was available in this format, members of the Executive Committee contacted Aaron Lerner to prevent further sales of this unprotected copy. The Executive Committee of the Education Section will work with Aaron Lerner over the coming year to explore the option of selling copy-protected electronic books.

### Awards and Recognition:

Quist informed the group that a certificate of appreciation would be sent to Julie Harris for her service as SD representative during 2011-2012, replacing Jim Peterson. Quist noted that a similar certificate would be sent to Jeff Jolley for his service as WD representative during 2011-2012. Quist provided a certificate of appreciation to Katie Bertrand for her service as Secretary-Treasurer during 2011-2012. Finally, Quist once again thanked Steve Chipps for his service as Past-President during 2011-2012.

Steve Chipps recognized winners of the raffle for election participants: Tom Kwak, Andrew Carlson, and Michael Smith.

Incoming President Craig Paukert presented a certificate of appreciation to Mike Quist for his service as Section President during 2011-2012.

### New Business and Announcements:

**Comments from President Craig Paukert:** Paukert announced that one of his first tasks will be to review awards offered by the Education Section. The review will address the following questions: are we getting good applicants, are we serving the purpose of the award, and are the awards sustainable? Paukert indicated that he will be contacting and



## Education Section Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

working with the award committee members to assess each award. Second, he announced that he intends to work with the New Initiatives Committee to develop an implementation framework. The committee has gained some traction, but the section does not have a procedure in place for evaluation and implementation. New initiatives must be reviewed to determine their fit with the mission and direction of the society. Paukert concluded by reminding attendees that our Section has ample opportunity to collaborate with other sections (e.g., FITS, FMS, FAS, and FHS) to pursue new initiatives.

Jason Vokoun motioned that the Section membership vote to amend bylaws to increase the threshold for funding decisions that can be made by a vote of the Executive Committee from \$1000 to \$2500. The motion was not seconded, and discussion ensued about whether or not an amendment was necessary. President Paukert committed to inquire with the AFS Constitutional Consultant, Jessica Mistak.

The Section was reminded of the Exchange Program between AFS and the Fisheries Society of the British Isles. Rachel Ball is the exchange student this year from England.

### Adjournment

Joe Margraaf motioned to adjourn at 6:25PM

Steve Chipps seconded.

Motion carried.



## Student Subsection News

By: Landon Pierce

President, Student Subsection of the Education Section



This has been another busy year for the Student Subsection. We have focused this past year on improving the Undergraduate Travel Award and improving communication between the Subsection, student subunits, and students.

The Undergraduate Travel Award was initiated for the 2012 Annual Meeting to increase undergraduate participation at the Annual Meeting. The Education Section provided the Subsection with three years of funding for this award. We are in the final year of funding for the Undergraduate Travel Award, so we have been discussing potential improvements to the award as we move forward. We hope to have the announcement for the 2014 Undergraduate Travel Award distributed this spring, so please keep an eye out for it and pass it along to any deserving students. I would like to thank Andrew Carlson, Janice Kerns, Cari-Ann Hayer, Dan Dembkowski, David Bogner, and Steven Cooke for serving on the Undergraduate Travel Award Committee.

The Subsection currently maintains an email list for all student members of AFS and contact information for student subunits. If you need to email our membership, then please contact Landon Pierce ([llp5yc@mail.missouri.edu](mailto:llp5yc@mail.missouri.edu)), Andrew Carlson ([Andrew.carlson@sdstate.edu](mailto:Andrew.carlson@sdstate.edu)), or Janice Kerns ([Janice.kerns@ufl.edu](mailto:Janice.kerns@ufl.edu)). The Subsection has also become more active in social media, thanks to Laura Heironimus and Jeremy Kientz.

The Subsection plans to discuss potential ways of easing the transition from student to professional for young professionals. We have identified individuals that are interested in discussing this issue and we would be happy to discuss ideas with other Sections. Please contact Landon Pierce if you would like to discuss issues related to young professionals with the Subsection.

Finally, I would like to thank Sarah Larochelle and Élodie Lavisse for organizing the student events at the 2014 Annual Meeting. This is a monumental task, and the Subsection is grateful for the work they are doing to ensure that we have a great Annual Meeting.

# Student Subsection Business Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 PM.

D. Dembkowski introduced the guests in attendance:

C. Paukert

J. Fore

A quorum (> 15 members) was determined to be present ( $n = 33$ ).

Excom Reports

J. Fore motioned to approve Minutes of the 2012 Annual Subsection Business Meeting. R. Krogman seconded the motion.

D. Dembkowski gave President’s comments, discussing the mid-year Governing Board meeting and 2013 Student Colloquium. D. Dembkowski also gave updates on national student colloquia (Pacific Ecology and Evolution Conference, University of Victoria; Great Plains Fisheries Student Colloquium, Oklahoma State University), a Subsection partnership with the Equal Opportunities Section, and two Student Angle articles in Fisheries. A brief discussion on potential topic areas for Student Angle articles (e.g., Subunit updates, research summaries) and strategies for increasing submissions ensued.

A. Carlson provided a Secretary/Treasurer report. No transactions were made during the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The Subsection account was maintained at US Bank in Columbia, MO as no branch exists in Brookings, SD. The Subsection has transitioned to online banking as traditional storage of account statements in binders is obsolete.

Date	Activity	Withdrawal	Deposit	Balance
11/15/2011	Account activation			\$2,999.20
11/15/2011	Order checks	\$5.00		\$2,994.20
12/15/2011	Seattle AFS reimbursement	\$252.41		\$2,741.79
2/20/2012	Mid-year governing board	\$525.45		\$2,216.34
6/19/2012	Dues refund (9/1/2011 to 12/31/2011)		\$410.00	
6/30/2012	End of Fiscal Year			<b>\$2,626.34</b>
	(No transactions)			
8/31/2013	End of AFS Fiscal Year			<b>\$2,626.34</b>

L.Pierce motioned to approve the Secretary/Treasurer Report. R. Krogman seconded the motion. L. Pierce gave an update on behalf of the Undergraduate Travel Award Committee. The award is

## Student Subsection Business Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

intended to facilitate undergraduate travel to the national meeting by reducing cost. Although undergraduates generally have minimal experience in scientific communication (e.g., paper/poster presentation), national meetings are beneficial in multiple ways: offering learning experiences (e.g., current research, scientific communication), networking opportunities, and valuable exposure to the national society. L. Pierce discussed requirements for award recipients, including written summaries of personal meeting experiences, and mentioned service opportunities on the selection committee are available.

No Division Representatives were present to give reports.

C. Paukert provided an Education Section report, noting student engagement has been increasingly emphasized in recent years. The Section will review purpose, funding, and sustainability of awards this year with assistance from Awards Committee members. The Section will publish a new book entitled Foundations in Fisheries Science after final revisions are completed in the coming months. C. Paukert discussed downsides of digital, chapter-by-chapter PDFs (e.g., lost revenue, unprotected documents).

J. Fore commented on the recent Subsection election.

### Officers

President-Elect: A. Carlson

Secretary/Treasurer: J. Kerns

Southern Division: R. Andrew

North-Central Division: K. Bales

Western Division: N. Sopinka

Canadian Division: K. Wilson

Northeastern Division: J. M. Hessenauer



M. Quist continued the Education Section report with a description of the Emerging Leaders Mentorship Program. The Program is intended to increase Governing Board involvement among new graduates and young professionals. A \$500 scholarship is available for attendance at the national AFS meeting and Governing Board Retreat and Meeting.

L. Pierce provided Incoming President's remarks. Involvement in AFS is crucial for professional development of members and growth of the Society as a whole. The Subsection needs committed members interested in achieving and advancing our mission.

## Student Subsection Business Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

### New Business and Announcements

Recipients of the Undergraduate Travel Award (D. Bogner, SDSU; T. Schepker, U Missouri; A. Wilson, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; C. Pennock, Kansas State University) were recognized for their achievement. The future direction of the award was discussed at length. L. Pierce asked for opinions on the tradeoff between award amount and number of recipients. Three of four recipients would have attended the national meeting without financial assistance. Given difficulty in securing undergraduate involvement in the Subsection, this suggests smaller awards for more students may be preferable. In response to a concern about locating regional award information offered by D. Bogner, J. Fore reminded members about the comprehensive Awards page on the Subsection website. D. Dembkowski mentioned contingency of award funding for three years, after which the Subsection must re-apply. It is important to distinguish the Undergraduate Travel Award from the Skinner Award to ensure continued funding for the former. Some Subsection members emphasized Subsection involvement (e.g., Business meeting attendance, volunteer work) should be a requirement for recipients, whereas others believed involvement detracted from the award's mission (i.e., undergraduate travel assistance). Members identified an overarching need for enhanced communication within the Subsection, leading to discussion of email correspondence and social media.

T. Schepker inquired how the Subsection could increase awareness of AFS and awards among students. D. Dembkowski mentioned Division Representatives could distribute information to Subunit officers as well as faculty members having continuity in AFS. R. Krogman suggested publishing an article in Fisheries. A. Carlson will contact E. Przygodzki regarding Subsection membership (i.e., Affiliate vs. Parent Society members) and security issues associated with disseminating the distribution list. L. Pierce and J. Fore reiterated the importance of effective communication and sought assistance in updating the Subsection Facebook page (L. Heironimus and J. Keintz will help).

D. Dembkowski discussed the role of Division Representatives. Duties include keeping awards updated and educating students about Subsection and Division activities. The Student Angle column in Fisheries is an effective outlet for the latter responsibility. J. Fischer mentioned article content can be diverse (e.g., Subunit activities, value of AFS involvement), and L. Pierce expressed need for a Guide to Authors.

L. Pierce inquired about Subunit expenditures, which are relatively infrequent as the Education Section covers major expenses (e.g., meeting travel). C. Paukert discussed fundraising, and L. Pierce noted diverse opportunities are available, including establishing a donation box on the Subsection and/or AFS website(s). D. Dembkowski mentioned surpluses from Subunit raffles at

## Student Subsection Business Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Chapter meetings might also serve as viable funding sources.

R. Krogman expressed concern about student preparation for the university-to-agency transition. One solution is to create certificate programs offered by university Subunits featuring short courses on important skills (e.g., MOCC motorboat operation). M. Quist mentioned this is an issue possibly too complex to address at the institutional level.

### Future Business Items

Undergraduate Travel Award – funding, amount, # recipients

Communication – email distribution list, social media

Fisheries Student Angle Guide to Authors

Finances and Fundraising

Respectfully Submitted by Andrew Carlson

29 September 2013





## 2013 Undergraduate Travel Award Updates

The Student Subsection of the Education Section awarded 4 undergraduate travel awards in 2013 for students to attend the national AFS meeting in Little Rock, AR. The awards were sponsored by the Education Section and were \$500 each to be used for travel expenses. The 2013 winners were:

Travis Schepker-University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

David Bogner-South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD

Casey Pennock-Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

Alichia Wilson-University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, AR

### Undergraduate Travel Award Experience: Travis Schepker

It is unfortunately common that students enter the work force without receiving a satisfactory understanding of all the career opportunities available in natural resources. I can recall transferring to the University of Missouri narrow mindedly, and thought to be limited to becoming a professional fisherman or park ranger with a degree in fisheries and wildlife. My perception was quickly expanded after joining the university's student chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Becoming an active participant within the student chapter has not only defined potential occupations in fisheries, but more importantly prepared me to become a successful biologist. Networking within the student subsection has led to internships, the opportunity to attend professional meetings, and even a platform to present findings from an independent research project I completed as an undergraduate. Having the opportunity to attend the American Fisheries Society's national meeting on a travel award was perhaps the perfect way for me to conclude my involvement as a student. The 143<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting occurred during my final semester as an undergraduate, and the knowledge I procured from the meeting will be invaluable in guiding my post-graduate career as a professional.

The Student Travel Award presented me with a unique opportunity, because without it attending the national meeting may not have been realistic. For this reason I felt I owed it to myself, and the student subsection governing board that supported my attendance, to use the meeting as an effective learning experience. Because attending graduate school was a realistic

By: Andrew O'Malley

## Undergraduate Travel Award Experience (cont'd)

possibility for me, I spent the bulk of my time attending symposiums presented by graduate students. Doing so has allowed me to obtain a greater appreciation of the expectations, and quality of work young professionals are capable of completing. Looking back, perhaps the most beneficial component of the meeting for me was exposure to a high diversity of the different areas of study that contribute to fisheries science. It is encouraging to know that I am entering a field with endless possibilities.

In my opinion, the national meetings did an excellent job of accommodating students and young professionals. The daily events planned for students were not only thoughtful, but more importantly well organized. I thought the career panel was beneficial for all the students in attendance. The relaxed atmosphere allowed for high levels of interaction between students, and panel members. Aside from activities geared directly to students, several other events at the conference were surprisingly welcoming. I believe this can be accredited to how approachable most members were, and their desire to guide young professionals.

Staying active with organizations such as the American Fisheries Society will enable me to become a better biologist, and allow me to have a greater contribution to aquatic sciences. Moving forward, I will make a genuine effort to promote the value of being active in the American Fisheries Society to undergraduate students. I have found that the field of natural resources is relatively competitive with respects to more traditional career paths. Networking in professional organizations will allow students to identify additional opportunities, learn from others, and most importantly share their ideas on how to better fisheries management.

### **My Attendance at the 2013 American Fisheries Society Conference**

**By: Casey Pennock**

The American Fisheries Society is around 9,000 members strong. The dynamics and sheer magnitude of our membership, as well as the behind-the-scene tasks that it takes to manage such a large and diverse group is eye opening. This was one of my biggest take-aways from this year's annual meeting. The second thing was something I heard at both the Education and Student Sub-section Business meetings, "You will only get out what you put in." I think this an important lesson for every aspect of your life, and I believe it comes with practice. It is hard, especially, as a student to find the right balance of studies, professional development, and volunteering. I know for me that attending this meeting really drove home the high priority of getting involved.

Along with attending numerous talks ranging from freshwater mussels to fish assemblages in South America I was also able to attend the Student Colloquium and Student-Mentor Social. I personally think that we as students need to do everything we can, mostly in our undergraduate careers, to be as diverse as possible. It was really great to hear from fisheries professionals in a range of different job aspects. I am not too sure on whether it really helped me decide more on a

## My Attendance at the 2013 American Fisheries Society Conference (cont'd)

particular realm that I would like to work in the future, but it definitely added some perspective and sneak peek into the different avenues that are available. The Student-Mentor Social was great. Hosting it in the Museum of Discovery was a nice change of pace from the traditional hotel banquet room, and I think it helped students be more willing to interact with those not in their current social/work group. I think too often students feel more intimidated to approach professors, professionals, or even other students while everyone is just sitting at a table. I know this has been my experience.

There was a lot of talk at the Student Sub-section Business Meeting on the future of this award. My main motivation for attending this conference was to network and get a feel of what the society does at the parent level. I think it puts into perspective our role as Student Sub-sections at the university level, and it will definitely help better inform our members as a section officer. That being said the

decision for me attending rested solely on the financial burden. The fact that the meeting was relatively close to Kansas was a major factor, as well as the support I received from the Student Sub-section Undergraduate Award. I know my fellow Kansas State Attendees, who were also undergrads, received some support from our state chapter. Without that none of us would have likely attended as we were not presenting. I think the amount of the award was good for the distance I had to travel and the cost of lodging. Lodging was our biggest burden.

I would like to thank the Student Sub-section and the Education section for their support, which allowed my attendance. I was able to meet a lot of new people, and network with potential employers and graduate advisors. My opinion of the conference was that it was very well ran. The numerous opportunities made available to students was outstanding and definitely exceeded my expectations. There is a lot more to AFS than I ever imagined before even as President of a Student-subsection. I have learned the massive importance of getting and staying involved and the opportunities that this has created for many fisheries professionals in the past. I hope that I am able to get involved in an ever increasing level and stay involved as my career in fisheries progresses. Hopefully, in a couple years I will have something substantive to present or contribute to such an awesome collection of fisheries professionals.



## David Bogner– Undergraduate Travel Award Recipient

I had a great time at the National American Fisheries Society (AFS) meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas and am very thankful for the scholarship I received by the student subsection that made it possible. The convention was not at all what I expected it to be, although I am not exactly sure what I expected. As a student at South Dakota State University, I continuously hear professors refer to the national meeting and am very glad that I had the opportunity to learn about all the successes and challenges in fisheries and the AFS.

Sunday night I spent time perusing the schedule and deciding which talks to attend and soon realized I might as well just spend all day in the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Restoration symposium, whose catch phrase “New Life For An Aging Resource” seems borrowed from Nebraska’s Habitat stamp catch phrase “New life for aging waters.” The talks in this symposium were fantastic. Possibly the greatest aspect of this symposium were all the creative habitat improvement structures and ideas that went beyond the conventional sinking of Christmas trees in the name of “habitat improvement.” My personal favorite habitat structures were the pyramid structure and the spider web structure presented by Ben Page of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission did an excellent job of not just improving habitat but also getting volunteers to provide a helping hand, something other states should look to as a model and strive to do themselves in an effort to do as much as they can. Other talks I enjoyed in that symposium included Mark Porath’s presentation on the Habitat stamp in my home state of Nebraska. I also enjoyed Dustin Everitt’s presentation about creating habitat in a Florida reservoir which presents its own challenges which are very different than those faced by those of us in the Midwest.

Another great event at the AFS conference was the Student Social. Nothing says fun to a group of students who are easily amused like a children’s museum and beer. I immensely enjoyed and took full advantage of the opportunity to network with other students while spinning washers on a giant turning table.

While the meeting and socials were great, I was exposed to the problems facing both the field of fisheries and the AFS. These issues are the discrepancies between what we (students) are prepared for in academia and the desired skill set by agencies, as well as the task of recruiting and retaining members to the AFS. As a senior at SDSU, I am faced with the reality that if I want to pursue my goal of being a fisheries biologist, then I must attend graduate school for a master’s degree in a fisheries science related field. Now while this is due to the stiff competition for jobs, it does require students to do all they can to set themselves apart to obtain a graduate position and a job. And to do this we have to continually sacrifice our time with friends, family, and studies in order to attend conferences and



weekend workshops as well as conduct undergraduate research to even have a shot at graduate school or a job. However these sacrifices are readily made only to find out someone else has set the bar even higher. But yet we still do it thinking what we are taught is important and sought by those in federal and state agencies. Now, I have worked as a temporary for a state agency for two summers and found out that while what we are taught at school is “good stuff” agencies do not have the time nor funding to be as thorough and rigorous as science demands we should be in research and that academia only prepares us for more academics. This is fine for those pursuing research positions but agencies desire a different skill set, one that large classes and lecture halls cannot provide us.

Another challenge that I learned about that specifically faces the AFS is the task of attracting and retaining members. While being a member of the AFS is beneficial to professionals, both those in agencies and academia as well as students, it is evident that the participation is much greater from the academic side than from the agencies. I believe part of this problem stems from the high cost of membership, which for those working in agencies would be paid by the individual, as there seems to be no funding by the agency itself for professional development. However, one can hardly blame the agency as many agencies are plagued with managing a resource with limited funds or the individual who may have already accomplished their goal of procuring an agency position and see no benefit of being a member. While the AFS is a great society for fisheries professionals and provides academics the place and opportunity to share research and ideas, it is only a stepping stone for those who wish to progress from a student to a fisheries professional in a federal or state agency. To increase membership from those working in a state agency, the AFS needs to show that it is of the uttermost importance for those in state agencies and for the state agencies to offer incentives for their biologists to develop themselves professionally.

The AFS conference was a fantastic experience for me, and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting and interacting with other students and professionals as well as listening to all the great presentations and learning how the AFS is confronting the tough challenges ahead. I am honored to have received the travel award that enabled me to attend the conference and learn so much in so short a time. I am already looking forward to the next conference and all the opportunities it has to offer.





## Colorado State Student Sub-Unit Update

by: Jon Wardell

### Fishing Derby Success

More than 100 anglers and volunteers shared an exciting day on the water at The CSU AFS Fall Fishing Derby hosted by the Colorado State University American Fisheries Society Student Subunit on Sept. 21. The derby traditionally takes place in the spring, but this year the subunit decided to host a second derby in the fall for the first time since 2001. The highlights of the 2013 Fall Derby include: largest pike- 36 inches, largest bass- 19.5 inches (Smallmouth), most fish caught- 11 fish, and smallest fish- 4.5inches. Here is the link to the derby photo album: <http://col.st/18SaC4w>. Also new this year, the subunit added kids fishing contests thanks to the enthusiastic support of sponsors who donated prizes for Kids Most Fish, Smallest Fish, and Biggest Fish contests. The winners took home fantastic prizes which included fly rod/reel combos, tackle boxes, and a wide assortment of lures. All children that participated in the competition received a raffle prize with a variety of lures and fishing information. The College Lake fishing derbies support CSU Subunit's mission to enhance the education and professional development of its members to help them become leading fisheries professionals dedicated to advancing the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems. Usually, the funds raised go towards club activities, guest speakers, outreach and education field trips, and the maintenance of the club's educational aquarium displays in the Wagar Building. This year, the event took place just one week after historic floods struck the Front Range of Colorado – impacting thousands of residents and causing massive disruption to ecosystems and landscapes. CSU Subunit donated a portion of the funds raised from the event to CSU Cares and the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado. The donations to CSU Cares helped provide emergency funds and assistance to CSU students and employees who were impacted by the floods, and the Community Foundation donation benefited the Poudre River, Loveland, and Estes Park Communities impacted by the floods. For more information, follow this link: <http://www.today.colostate.edu/story.aspx?id=9297>.

### New Club Officers

At the end of the semester, we also elected new officers. Our 2014 AFS Subunit Officers include: President - Jon Wardell, Vice President – Tyler Swarr, Treasurer - Kyle Dick, Student Liaison – Dylan Kwak, Aquarium Curator - Alex Townsend, Assistant Curator – William Radigan, Secretary– Ben Wasserstein, and Research Project Coordinator – Estevan Vigil.



### CPW Research

Thanks to several Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff members, the CSU Subunit has been given the opportunity to assist with conducting research and collecting data for various on-going experiments. Due to this special opportunity to conduct collaborative research with the CPW, we have appointed Estevan Vigil as our new Research Project Coordinator. Estevan Vigil is a research associate with the Colorado Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit at CSU. Starting next year, Estevan will coordinate training workshops and projects for the CSU Subunit. Thanks to the hard work of our Aquarium Curator and Assistant Curator, CSU AFS educational aquarium displays have continued to bring

## Colorado State Student Sub-Unit Update (continued)

aesthetic and educational value to the CSU community, and have become a strong part of tradition and our overall mission for our student subunit to uphold. Earlier this year, we expanded our educational outreach and added a fourth tank (amphibian display) to the upstairs of Wagar building. The new amphibian display, featuring a custom built habitat which includes tiger salamanders, boreal toads, various native fishes, and live vegetation has helped raise awareness about the importance of amphibians in aquatic ecosystems and their recent decline in the U.S. The other three tanks consist of a warmwater sport fishes, native fishes, and tropical community fishes displays. In the past, our native aquarium has displayed various Colorado species such as darters, chubs, Northern Redbelly Dace, topminnows, shiners, and killifish. This past summer, AFS CSU was given an incredible and very thoughtful donation that enabled us to upgrade from our current 45 gallon native tank to a 120 gallon native tank, and the opportunity to display Endangered fishes of the Upper Colorado River Basin. For the first time ever, a CSU student organization will be able to manage a live display containing Colorado Pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), and Razorback Sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) in the Wagar building on campus. CSU AFS student subunit members have been working hard constructing the setup that will soon hold these magnificent creatures. The purpose of this display is to educate the community about the federally Endangered fishes of the Upper Colorado River Basin.

CSU AFS is looking forward to an exciting spring semester. It will be focused on the continuation of strengthening student recruitment and participation as well as diversifying its programs to include collaborative outreach and research projects, informative speakers, and fun events – including ice fishing workshops with the CPW and hosting the traditional Evan Lefort Memorial College Lake Fishing Derby. The CSU Subunit has also recently developed relations with local private land owners, and has gained exclusive lake access for conducting various invasive species removal projects. Our goal with this project is to successfully remove as many carp as possible and donate them to the nearby Rocky Mountain Raptor Center. CSU AFS has a Facebook page, so please “Like” us to stay up to date and get more information at: [www.facebook.com/pages/American-Fisheries-Society-Colorado-State-University/450549101699139](http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Fisheries-Society-Colorado-State-University/450549101699139).

## 2014 Undergraduate Travel Award

The Undergraduate Travel Award is funded by the Education Section and provides membership to the parent society, conference registration, and a stipend to defray the cost of attending the Annual Meeting. Application material for the 2014 award will be available soon, so please keep an eye out for it and pass it along to any students that may be interested.

Visit <http://www.fisheriessociety.org/edustu/awards/index.php?page=national> for more information on student travel awards.

Contact Landon Pierce  
([llp5yc@mail.missouri.edu](mailto:llp5yc@mail.missouri.edu)) for more  
information on the Undergraduate  
Travel Award.

## Kansas State University Student Sub-Unit Update



The Kansas State University student subunit of the American Fisheries Society has had a highly productive 2013-2014 school year. We acquired funding to send all three undergraduate officers to Little Rock, Arkansas for the 143rd annual American Fisheries Society meeting. A fun fall float trip down the Kansas River was enjoyed with the Kansas State University chapter of The Wildlife Society. Monthly subunit meetings featuring professionals and researchers have been well attended by interested undergraduate and graduate students. Topics discussed have ranged from the biogeography and conservation of cutthroat trout to the diversity and distributions of prairie stream fishes, and how the Kansas Threatened & Endangered Species List operates. Besides networking, education, and insightful meetings, the students have also continued their research.

The student subunit completed fall research at Stagg Hill Lake, a large oxbow pond historically sampled from 1968-1993 by retired KSU professor Dr. Harold Klaassen. Several undergraduate and graduate students sampled the fish assemblage with trap nets, gillnets, and seines. Notable findings included the high abundance of Shortnose Gar relative to other piscivores, the presence of Smallmouth Buffalo and River Carp-sucker, and high biomass of Gizzard Shad. With the historical perspective provided from Dr. Klaassen's prior research, current results will explore patterns of diversity and abundance as well as the influence of floods and lateral connectivity. This study provides valuable experience to undergraduates by involving them in the entire process of research from study design and implementation to generating products and communicating results to the public and peers.

Lastly, the student subunit assisted the Kansas Department of Parks, Wildlife, and Tourism (KDWPT) at the annual Governor's Water Conference from October 23rd-25th in Manhattan, KS. Members were on hand to educate government officials, water enthusiasts, and the public about the various native and sport fish species in the KDWPT mobile aquarium. To continue scientific involvement and communication, KSU-AFS members have been presenting their personal or subunit research at various meetings including Desert Fishes Council in November 2013 held in Flagstaff, AZ as well as the 2014 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Kansas City, MO and the 2014 Kansas Natural Resources Conference in Wichita, KS. President Casey Pennock and secretary Nate Cathcart were awarded scholarships by the Kansas chapter of the AFS for outstanding Kansas undergraduate and graduate student, respectively. This spring 2014, KSU-AFS will resume sampling Campus Creek to monitor the campus stream fish assemblage and also sample Stagg Hill Lake to continue the long term data set. Other plans for spring include a youth fishing day with KDWPT Tourism in April and then officer elections in May. For more information regarding the subunit, please visit our website (<http://www.k-state.edu/ksuafs/>), find us on Facebook, or contact the secretary, Nate Cathcart, at [cncathca@ksu.edu](mailto:cncathca@ksu.edu).



## University of Maine Student Sub-Unit

By: Andrew O'Malley



The UMaine Student Subunit has had an exciting fall and is looking forward to what the spring holds. Last semester, the subunit hosted State Biologist Wes Ashe as he spoke about his management work with landlocked salmon in a central Maine lake. Additionally we hosted club member Jeffery Vieser who presented some of his graduate work on the fish assemblage of Coombs Bay, Maine. On January 17<sup>th</sup> we hosted Dimitry Gorsky of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and sub-unit founder, speaking on Lake Sturgeon restoration in the great lakes. We will be hosting Jacob van de Sande of the Downeast Salmon Federation who will be speaking about smelt restoration in Washington County on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The subunit continued its long standing tradition of making connections with other professional organizations as the traditional bowling night and annual free fishing day derby were held with the UMaine Wildlife Society and the Society of American Foresters. Despite blustery snowy conditions, members Rebecca Fontes and Ruleo Camacho won largest pickerel and Black Crappie, respectively. Only a few weeks prior, a jigging rod building workshop was held, interspersing fishery education with the art of rod craft. Later on this semester, members are looking forward to a smelting trip on the Kennebec, an introduction to R workshop, fly tying, and plans are being made to attend and assist with the AFS Quebec conference in August. With so many programs, the Maine Subunit's membership is active and excited for the future!

### 2014 AREA Conference: Call for Papers

The 2014 Aquatic Resources Education Association (AREA) Conference will be held in Traverse City, Michigan, October 26-30, 2014.

The Aquatic Resources Education Association is a not-for-profit association dedicated to furthering aquatic education. Members of AREA participate in a national effort toward education, conservation, legislation, cooperation, science, research, information dissemination, restoration, evaluation, management, recognition, and similar functions related to aquatics and aquatic programs. Incorporated in 1994, members represent Local, State and Federal agencies, NGOs and industry from across the nation.

We're looking for dynamic and engaging presentations that inform aquatic resource educators and program managers about proven practices, push the leading edge of the profession, and motivate the pursuit of excellence. For more information about the conference, or to download the request for proposals, visit <http://www.areanet.org/aboutus.htm>. You can also email the program chair: [Barb.Gigar@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Barb.Gigar@dnr.iowa.gov).



## Excellence in Fisheries Education Award

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) Excellence in Fisheries Education Award was established in 1988. The award is administered by the Education Section and is presented to an individual to recognize excellence in organized teaching and advising in some aspect of fisheries education. Nominees may be involved in extension or continuing education, as well as traditional college and university instruction. Nominees must be AFS members, have been actively engaged in fisheries education within the last five years, and have had at least 10 years of professional employment experience in fisheries education. Two or more people may act as nominators, but at least one nominator must be an AFS member. The nominator(s) is responsible for compiling supporting material and submitting the application. The suggested format for applications can be found on the Education Section web site. Please include in the nomination letter, the nominee's title and full contact information (i.e. address, e-mail, phone, etc.) to complete the package. Nomination deadline is **April 1, 2014**. Contact: Greg Whitledge, Committee Chair Center for Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences Department of Zoology and Center for Ecology Southern Illinois University Carbondale, IL 62901-6511 Phone: (618) 453-6089 Email: [gwhit@siu.edu](mailto:gwhit@siu.edu).

## John E. Skinner Memorial Fund Award

The John E. Skinner Memorial Fund was established in memory of John Skinner, former California-Nevada Chapter and Western Division AFS President. The fund provides monetary travel awards (up to \$800 per award) for deserving graduate students or exceptional undergraduate students to attend the AFS annual meeting. The 2014 meeting will be held in Quebec city, Quebec, Canada, August 17th -21st. Any student who is active in fisheries or related aquatic disciplines is eligible to apply. Awardees are chosen by a committee of the AFS Education Section. Selection is based on academic qualifications, professional service, and reasons for attending the meeting. In addition to travel assistance to attend the AFS annual meeting, award recipients will also receive a one-year paid membership to the American Fisheries Society. Applications forms for 2014 for the student and advisor (separate forms) are available at: [http://fisheries.org/docs/award\\_skinner1.doc](http://fisheries.org/docs/award_skinner1.doc) and: [http://fisheries.org/docs/award\\_skinner2.doc](http://fisheries.org/docs/award_skinner2.doc) Completed applications (for both student and advisor) must be received no later than **April 1, 2014**.

Contact: Dan J. Daugherty, Committee Chair  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center  
5103 Junction Hwy.  
Mountain Home, TX 78058  
Phone: (830) 866-3356 x 211  
Fax: (830) 866-3549  
Email: [Dan.Daugherty@TPWD.Texas.gov](mailto:Dan.Daugherty@TPWD.Texas.gov)



# 2014 Young Professional Travel Award



The Education Section of the American Fisheries Society is currently accepting applications for the Young Professional Travel Award for the 2014 annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Québec City. The Young Professional Travel Award was established to promote attendance of recently graduated young professionals at the Annual Meeting who have made substantial contributions to the field through continued education, outreach, and AFS service. The award provides up to \$1000 in travel support for one individual to attend the annual meeting. Preference will be given to individuals presenting at the meeting, those involved in continuing education or outreach, and those in need of financial assistance for travel. All young professional members (within 3 years post-graduation), including agency biologists, postdoctoral associates, and faculty are encouraged to apply. The award winner will be required to attend the Education Section business meeting (late afternoon; Sunday, August 17th) to receive the award and will also be asked to contribute to the Section's winter 2014 newsletter (published in early 2015).

The application should consist of the following:

1. Letter of interest
  - a. Statement of service to the Society, Sections, Divisions, or Chapters and why you want to attend the meeting
  - b. Statement of continued education effort and outreach
  - c. Statement of financial need
  - d. Statement of career goals
2. Current resume, degree(s) list of publications, honors and awards, and presentations
3. Title and abstract of the contributed paper(s) or poster(s) being presented at the annual meeting

Applications should be submitted in electronic format (single PDF preferable) to Jesse Fischer [jessefischer@gmail.com](mailto:jessefischer@gmail.com) and must be received by March 31st, 2014. The recipient will be notified by April 15th, 2014.





## Fisheries Society of the British Isles (FSBI) Travel Award

Sponsored by the International Fisheries Section of AFS

### Applications due March 31st, 2014

The **International Fisheries Section (IFS)** of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) is excited to announce the 2014 “Fisheries Society of the British Isles (FSBI) Student Travel Award”! The award covers **a year of membership to FSBI and up to \$2,100 towards travel expenses** for one chosen recipient to attend the 2014 FSBI Annual Meeting. In addition, two honorable mentions will be announced.

To apply, please submit a short letter of interest, concise resume, and travel budget (i.e. airfare, ground transportation, lodging, per diem) to the IFS Exchange Coordinator, Patrick Cooney ([pcooney@smith-root.com](mailto:pcooney@smith-root.com)) by **March 31st, 2014**. In your budget, please include and specify any supporting funds you may have from other sources.

This award is **open to all Student and Young Professional Members** of the American Fisheries Society, especially those working on topics of international interest or those associated with the symposium theme.

The awardee is expected to submit a travel report and photographs suitable for inclusion in the FSBI newsletter and IFS website to both AFS and FSBI by July 18, 2014. The awardee is also encouraged to attend the AFS meeting and IFS committee meeting in Quebec City and act as a site host for the FSBI exchange-student representative.

**2014 Annual Symposium of the Fisheries Society of the British Isles**  
**University of Hull, Hull, UK**  
**7-11 July 2014**

**Symposium Theme**  
**INTEGRATED PERSPECTIVES ON FISH STOCK ENHANCEMENT**

<http://www.fsbi.org.uk/conference-2014/symposium-theme-2/>

## Vermillion Middle School Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Project



Eighth Grade Science Teacher, Natasha Gault, and a team of Eighth Grade Science students were recently named as the South Dakota winner and a national finalist in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest. The lesson plan on Asian Carp was chosen for its innovative approach to advancing interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and making an impact in the community.

Eighth Grade students at Vermillion Middle School submitted the Asian Carp topic as a result of their passionate concern for the Missouri National Recreational River. In 1804, Lewis and Clark travelled this un-channeled and free-flowing stretch of the Missouri River. Today, this portion of the Missouri River remains in its original state. However, the flying fish invasion of Asian Carp into the Missouri National Recreational River is an environmental threat to the historically and environmentally significant waterway. Asian Carp are inundating and threatening the Missouri National Recreational River ecosystem.

The invasion of Asian Carp into the Missouri River required a scientific investigation to understand the cause and determine potential solutions. The Samsung Solve for Tomorrow national competition allowed the Eighth Grade students to conduct STEM research on Asian Carp outside of the traditional classroom.

Students became informed about this local environmental issue through expert education, innovative experiences, and data analysis with the following: The South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks, Gavin's Point National Fish Hatchery, and South Dakota State University. Students developed a technological platform for educating our community regarding the threat, prevention, and control of the invasive species in the Missouri River waterway. Finally, students advocated for Missouri River protection from Asian Carp by presenting the educational information and their proposed solution to local governmental/interest groups.

Finally, the STEM research and experiences were summarized into a three minute video submission. The project has resulted in the students earning a \$35,000 technology package for the Vermillion School District.

As national finalists, Vermillion Middle School students are competing with 14 other schools for a \$140,000 technology grant. Voting ended on March 13th and winners will be announced in early April.

Details of the project can be found at : <http://www.samsung.com/us/solvefortomorrow/projects/fishing-for-population-data.html>

## Editors' Note

If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact us. We encourage submissions and ideas for future issues of the newsletter (June/July 2014). Contributions, comments and suggestions may be emailed to us at any time.



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### Québec 2014

**From Fisheries Research to Management: Think and Act Locally and Globally**

