

# UNDERCURRENTS

March 2019

The Newsletter of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



## President's Message ~ Justin Chiotti

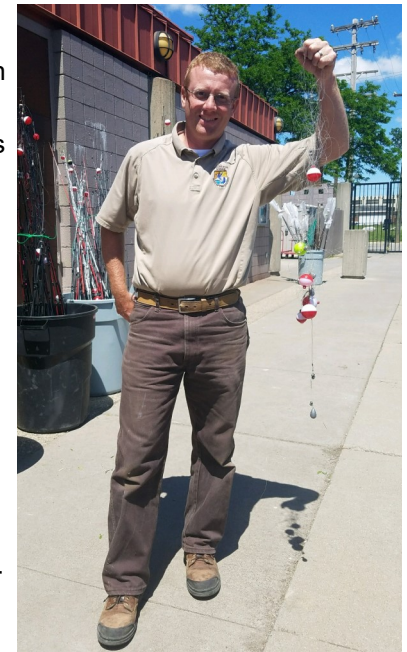
How the time flies....it doesn't seem that long ago I was preparing for our annual meeting in Port Huron and the 2018 field season. I wanted to thank everyone who was able to attend last year's meeting, highlighting some of the management activities and restoration projects taking place in our urban areas around the state. Hopefully, those in attendance were inspired by Dr. John Austin's presentation regarding the "Blue Economy" and how revitalization of our urban areas can lead to a more vibrant community creating jobs and driving economies. Writing this message reminds me of the economic influence the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has had on the City of Detroit, where developers have invested nearly \$400 million in waterfront developments and improvements.

As an officer of our Chapter, I pledged to continue to bring conservation to urban areas around the State of Michigan. For our office, last year's field season began by working in the Saginaw Bay/River Area of Concern where we were monitoring fish passage at the recently constructed Frankenmuth Rock Ramp. Over the past few years, many outreach events have been held at this location highlighting the importance of restoring river connectivity. This past fall, hundreds of people attended the first ever lake sturgeon release at several sites in the Saginaw River Watershed, an event that will hopefully grow each year. Thousands of people attended the 2018 Blue Water Area Sturgeon Festival where participants learned all about lake sturgeon in the Great Lakes. I also had the chance to share our story with residents in the State of Ohio where the first ever lake sturgeon stocking took place in the Maumee River Area of Concern.

More and more as fisheries professionals we need to show the relevancy of our work and these events give us a chance to demonstrate to the public what we are doing to protect their natural resource and why the work we do is important. So remember to take some time to share your knowledge with a classroom or donate your weekend for an outreach event, that data or manuscript will be there when you get back.

The Michigan Chapter had many accomplishments this year, due to the efforts of our executive committee officers, committee chairs, and you the membership. I would specifically like to thank Robin DeBruyne, Jan-Michael Hessenauer, Billy Keiper, Emily Martin, and Dan Traynor. Thank you for the opportunity to represent the Michigan Chapter over the last year.

Sincerely,



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## From the President-Elect ~ *Jan-Michael Hessenauer*

Michigan AFS members:

I am excited to begin serving as your president after our annual meeting in Gaylord, MI March 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. It is my honor to pick up the baton from our current president Justin Chiotti and past president Robin DeBruyne. Together with the help of a very dedicated executive committee, technical committees and our membership Justin and Robin have ensured that the Michigan Chapter of AFS is a thriving organization. I would also like to thank Billy Keiper for his long service to the Chapter as treasurer, and Emily Martin for taking this important role over. Dan Traynor has done an outstanding job organizing professional development opportunities for our members. My goal is to continue the momentum that they have built. Specifically, I want to ensure that Michigan AFS members feel connected to the organization, and that Michigan AFS provides a network and opportunities for all Michigan AFS members.



If you have questions, concerns, comments or ideas about how Michigan AFS can better serve its members please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting and the professional development courses throughout the year.

Jan-Michael Hessenauer

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**MICHIGAN CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY**

**Treasurer's Report for All Accounts  
through December 1, 2018**

**BALANCE FORWARD December 2, 2017**

Checking	\$11,755.65
Savings	\$8,019.61
PayPal	\$396.80
Petty Cash	\$16.47
AFS Investment Account (MidWest FW Conf)	<u>\$11,434.00</u>
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b><u>\$31,622.53</u></b>

**INCOME**

AFS Dues Rebate	\$2,043.90
Continuing Education	\$4,150.55
Donations to MIAFS	\$1,000.00
Membership dues, meeting fees	\$3,036.92
Interest Savings	\$4.01
AFS Investment Gain/Loss + Fees	<u>\$650.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$10,885.38</u></b>

**EXPENSES**

Awards, Scholarships, Travel Grants	\$1,100.00
Bank Charges	\$0.00
Meeting Costs	\$4,715.80
Donations	\$550.00
Continuing Education	\$2,450.80
Postage/Office Supplies/Printing Fees	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$8,816.60</u></b>

**TOTAL CASH FLOW** **\$2,068.78**

**BALANCE December 1, 2018**

Checking	\$13,170.42
Savings	\$8,023.62
CD's	\$0.00
Petty Cash	\$16.47
PayPal	\$0.00
AFS Investment Account (MidWest FW Conf)	<u>\$12,084.00</u>
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b><u>\$33,294.51</u></b>

December 21, 2018  
 President Justin Chiotti  
 Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

President Chiotti,

As you are aware, the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (MIAFS) elected a new Secretary-Treasurer, Emily Martin, who began in March 2018. I worked with Emily and the former Secretary-Treasurer, William Keiper, to review the chapter's financial information over the past year. I want to note my thanks to them for their rapid responses to my inquiries, and their efforts to ensure a smooth transition for this important position. I am pleased to report that my audit for the 12-month period of December 2017 through November 2018 is complete and I find that all chapter financial records are in order.

Resulting from my review, I have two recommendations for the Executive Committee, both of which have been discussed with and are supported by the present Secretary-Treasurer. First, it would be beneficial for MIAFS to develop a simple form for use by those who expend their own funds on chapter business and seek reimbursement. Second, while it is important for the chapter to maintain a liquid cash reserve, it appears to me that our balance (~\$21,000) is larger than necessary, given the history and nature of our financial dealings. These assets have grown by approximately \$7,000 in the past three years, which coincides with the membership dues increase from \$5 to \$10. I would encourage the Executive Committee to establish a long-term cash reserve target based on our financial history, and then revisit both the annual dues amount and the chapter spending plan. I am happy to discuss and assist with both of these recommendations, at your request.

Please accept this correspondence as official record of the annual audit of the chapter's financial records. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

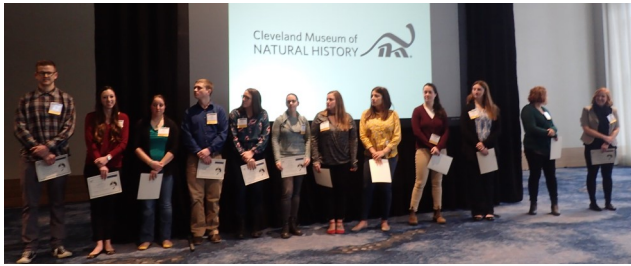
Respectfully,  
 David C. Caroffino, Ph. D.  
 Audit Committee Chair  
 caroffinod@michigan.gov

Fisheries Biology Specialist  
 Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station  
 96 Grant Street  
 Charlevoix, MI 49720





## Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award



The purpose of the Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award is to recognize undergraduate and graduate students for their achievements in the fields of fisheries or wildlife management and encourage their participation in professional societies and conferences. Since 2005, the annual award ceremony held during the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference has recognized over 325 students from 44 different universities, 16 states, and 1 Canadian province. The 2019 award ceremony took place in Cleveland, Ohio on January 28 and recognized 25 student finalists from 16 different universities in 8 states and 1 Canadian province. The following two students were recognized as the 2019 Fenske Award recipients, receiving both a plaque and \$750 award:

### **Chelsey Nieman – Fisheries**

Chelsey received her B.S. from Linfield College in Oregon, her M.A.S. (Master of Advanced Studies) from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego and is expecting to earn her Ph.D. this spring from The Ohio State University where she is researching the effects of human induced stressors on the physiology of economically and ecologically important fishes.

Chelsey has been a member of the American Fisheries Society since 2012 and her involvement has stretched from the CalNevea and Ohio Chapters to the Buckeye Student Subunit. Chelsey served as the AFS North Central Division's Student Subsection Representative, the Ohio Chapter's Social Media Manager and, in her current role as the professional development chair for the Buckeye Student Subunit, is helping coordinate the conference's silent auction.

Chelsey is motivated to educate others about the importance of responsible angling and aquatic conservation. She is a certified Ohio DNR Passport to Fishing Youth Fishing Instructor, a regular volunteer at the Ohio State University's Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory, and a mentor to several undergraduate students.

Chelsey's advisor, Dr. Suzanne Gray, describes her as a dynamic student who brings a broad set of research and life experiences to her research and someone who is as comfortable speaking in front of her peers about the technicalities of her research as she is discussing lure colors and gutting techniques with local charter boat captains.



### **Melissa Starking – Wildlife**

Melissa earned her B.S. and M.S. from the University of Michigan-Flint and is pursuing her Ph.D. at Michigan State University where she is evaluating the effects of different silvicultural approaches to reduce the impacts of deer on regeneration of Michigan's northern hardwoods.

Melissa has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 2015 and her involvement includes serving as a Board Member and Conservation Affairs Network liaison for the Michigan Chapter and serving on working groups at the national level including Forestry and Wildlife and Spatial Ecology and Telemetry.

Melissa strongly believes that each person can have a lasting impact towards furthering science-based wildlife management and conservation. She has taken on roles, such as teaching junior high students about wildlife tracking techniques, to help inspire others to make positive changes in their lives so our natural resources are available for generations to come.

Her advisor, Dr. Gary Roloff, identifies Melissa as an extremely hard worker with a positive get it done attitude. She also possesses exceptional enthusiasm, a strong work ethic, and a keen interest in teaching. He expresses amazement at her ability to accomplish so much while also being a mom to 3 young kids.



Special thanks go to members of this year's review committee: Robin DeBruyne, Patrick Ertel, Suzanne Gray, Holly Jennings, Mark Tonello, and Jay Wesley. This award was made possible through organizational and financial contributions from:

- 2019 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Committee
- American Fisheries Society- North Central Division, Ohio and Michigan Chapters
- The Wildlife Society- Wisconsin and Michigan Chapters

Jessica Mistak, Fenske Award Chair

## 2018 MIAFS Chapter Award Winners

### Albert S. Hazzard Award

To recognize excellence in student research in fisheries or aquatic biology at a college or university in Michigan. The award is named in honor of Dr. Albert S. Hazzard (1901-1979). ***The recipient of the 2018 Hazzard Award was Darren McCullough, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.***

### Justin W. Leonard Award

To recognize outstanding professional competence and achievement of a professional employed in the field of fisheries or aquatic biology in Michigan. The name of the award is in honor of Dr. Justin W. Leonard (1909-1975), Professor of Natural Resources and Zoology, University of Michigan. ***The recipient of the 2018 Leonard Award was Gary Whelan, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division***

### Grayling Award

To recognize outstanding contribution(s) to Michigan's fishery related resources, to Michigan's fishery profession, or to the Michigan Chapter by a person, industry, agency, or organization. ***The recipient of the 2018 Grayling Award was Greg Kennedy, USGS Great Lakes Science Center***

### MIAFS President Certificate of Appreciation

***Robin DeBruyne*** received a Certificate of Appreciation from the American Fisheries Society for his service as President of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.



Nominate a student, friend, or colleague for one of the MIAFS Chapter Awards. Follow the hyperlinks below to view the eligibility criteria and to find how what is required to nominate someone!

**Albert S. Hazzard Award** ([http://www.fisheriessociety.org/miafs/ahazz\\_award.html](http://www.fisheriessociety.org/miafs/ahazz_award.html))

**Justin W. Leonard Award** ([http://www.fisheriessociety.org/miafs/jleo\\_award.html](http://www.fisheriessociety.org/miafs/jleo_award.html))

**The Grayling Award** ([http://www.fisheriessociety.org/miafs/gray\\_award.html](http://www.fisheriessociety.org/miafs/gray_award.html))



## MIAFS Technology Update



The MIAFS webpage is hosted on the parent society servers under the url – <http://michigan.fisheries.org/> - check it out! You can use this page to post job openings, find contact information for your officers, see meeting announcements, and so much more.

Don't forget you can always hit the Chapter up on its Facebook page as well; <https://www.facebook.com/MichiganAFS/>.

Justin Chiotti is the webmaster for the Chapter webpage. If you have anything you would like added to the site, please send Justin an email @ [justin\\_chiotti@fws.gov](mailto:justin_chiotti@fws.gov).

Doug Workman is the ListServ coordinator for the Michigan Chapter. Please forward any announcements, job posting, or other important information to Doug at [dworkman@advancedecological.com](mailto:dworkman@advancedecological.com)

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### 2018 Business Meeting Notes

The meeting notes from the 2018 AFS Business Meeting are now available on our web page, at <http://michigan.fisheries.org/past-meetings/>

Hard copies will also be distributed at our upcoming 2019 Chapter Business Meeting in Gaylord.

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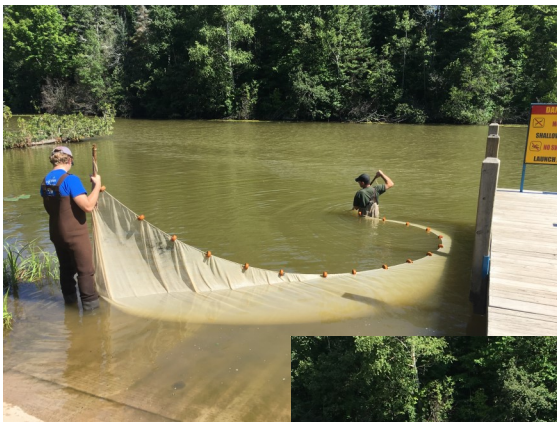
## Continuing Education Update

The Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society hosted two continuing education workshops in 2018. The first workshop, An Introduction to R: Getting Comfortable with the Basics, was held in Traverse City on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The workshop was instructed by Dr. Richard Erickson from the USGS and Dr. Eric Eager from University of Wisconsin La Crosse and drew 22 participants including 12 students. The recipient of the \$150 student travel grant was Carrie Coy from Lake Superior State University. The second workshop, Identification of Nongame Fishes, was held at Lake Superior State University on July 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The workshop, instructed by Dr. Kevin Kapuscinski from Lake Superior State University, drew 19 participants, including 3 students. The winner of the \$150 student travel grant was Cheyanne Schlafley from Ferris State University.

MIAFS continues to hold 25% of all workshop seats for free student registrations and awards the top applicant with a \$150 travel grant. Application instructions are included with all workshop announcements. Unfortunately this program is still being underutilized so if you're a student consider applying for free registration! Over the last two years every applicant has been awarded free registration.

The Continuing Education Committee plans to host several workshops in 2019. The first workshop, Writing Technical Documents in Plain, Simple, and Concise English, will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> at the joint AFS-TWS conference. The workshop will be instructed by Dr. Steve McMullin, associate Professor Emeritus, Virginia Tech Department of Fish & Wildlife Conservation. Other courses in development for the upcoming year are a fish habitat assessment workshop and a Smith-Root electrofishing principles and safety workshop.

The Continuing Education Committee is always looking for new workshop ideas! If there are any courses you would like to see offered or are interested in teaching a course please contact Dan Traynor at [traynord@michigan.gov](mailto:traynord@michigan.gov) or Stacey Ireland at [sireland@usgs.gov](mailto:sireland@usgs.gov). Suggestions for future courses are always appreciated!



## 2019 Election: Presidential Candidate

### Sara Thomas

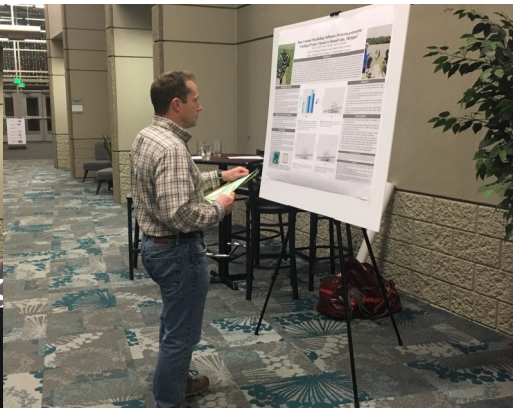
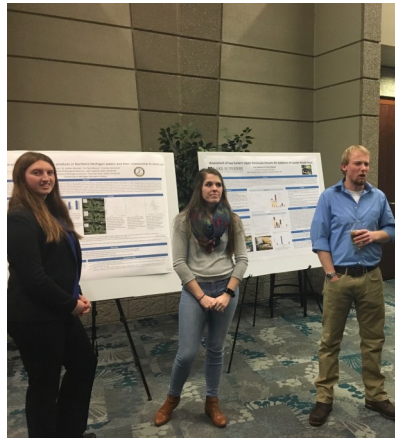
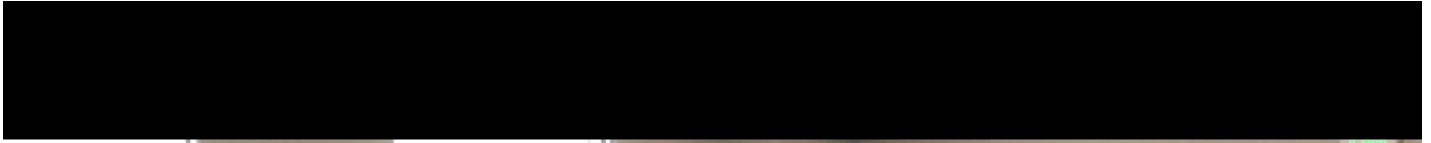
I have been with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division since 2016 as the Lake Erie Unit Manager. I oversee inland fisheries management activities and work closely with the research section on Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie issues and with our AIS coordinator on grass carp and red swamp crayfish in Southeast Michigan. Previously I worked for 14 years as a Fisheries Research Biologist for the Illinois Natural History Survey, Lake Michigan Biological Station, where I focused on nearshore communities, native and non-native species interactions (particularly with relation to diets), habitat, and zooplankton. I earned my M.S. in Aquatic Ecology from the University of Michigan (2002) and B.S. in Water Resources and Environmental Biology from Heidelberg University (1999). My M.S. thesis looked at using site and landscape scale habitat variables and valley segment characteristics in relation to fish abundances and potential increases with dam removal in Michigan streams. I

have served on the Lake Michigan Lower Level Task Group, Michigan Mussel Committee, Lake Erie Yellow Perch Task Group and awards committee for MIAFS. I have been a current or past member of National AFS (IL and MI chapters), IALGR and ESA and have published multiple articles in AFS journals and served as a reviewer for AFS and other publications. I would be honored to carry on the great tradition of strong leaders in MIAFS. As president I would work with ex-Comm and committees on not just growing membership numbers but increasing participation of current members. I would love to see attendance and number of presentations at our annual meetings increase. I would also like to see more connections made between agency personnel and student sub-unit members, perhaps even going so far as to get a mentoring program set-up. MIAFS should be active in using social media not just to reach members, but to spread the importance of fisheries and aquatic habitat conservation in Michigan to the public as well.





## 2018 Meeting Highlights



## 2018-2019 Chapter Officers

### **President**

Justin Chiotti  
USFWS  
Alpena Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Office  
Waterford Substation  
7806 Gale Rd.  
Waterford, MI 48327  
Cell: (248) 891-0087  
Fax: (248) 666-9157  
justin\_chiotti@fws.gov

### **President-Elect**

Jan-Michael Hessenauer  
Fisheries Research Biologist  
Lake St. Clair Fisheries  
Research Station  
Michigan Department of  
Natural Resources  
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hessenauerj1@michigan.gov

### **Secretary-Treasurer**

Emily Martin  
Lead Inland Fish & Wildlife  
Biologist  
Bay Mills Indian Community  
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(906)248-8651  
emartin@baymills.org

### **Past President**

Robin DeBruyne  
University of Toledo  
USGS Great Lakes Science  
Center  
1451 Green Road  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105  
(734) 214-7228  
(734) 994-8780 (fax)  
rdebruyne@usgs.gov

## **Committee Chairs:**



**Audit Committee– Dave Caroffino** (caroffinod@michigan.gov)  
**Awards Committee– Dana Castle** (dkcastle08@gmail.com)  
**Centrarchid Committee– Vacant**  
**Communications Committee– Heather Hettinger** (hettingerh@michigan.gov)  
**Continuing Education Committee– Dan Traynor** (traynord@michigan.gov)  
**Fenske Award Committee– Jessica Mistak** (mistakj@michigan.gov)  
**Membership Committee– Alex Hondzinski** (hondzinski.alex@gmail.com)  
**Brad Utrup** (utrupb@michigan.gov)  
**Nominating Committee– Carl Ruetz** (ruetzc@gvsu.edu)  
**Past Presidents Committee– Robin DeBruyne** (rdebruyne@usgs.gov)  
**Program Committee– Justin Chiotti** (justin\_chiotti@fws.gov)  
**Resolutions Committee– Kevin Donner** (kdonner@LTBBODAWA-NSN.GOV)  
**Rivers & Streams Committee– Vacant**  
**Student Concerns– Trevor Dunn** (tdunn@lssu.edu)  
**Water Quality Committee– Doug Bradley** (dbradley@limno.com)

## **Need to know something about the Chapter?**

Check out the MIAFS website at:

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/miafs/>



This newsletter is published annually by the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Editor Heather Hettinger. Comments, suggestions, and submissions should be directed to [hettingerh@michigan.gov](mailto:hettingerh@michigan.gov)

## **Not a member? Know someone who should be a member?**

Being an active member of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will provide many opportunities to advance your growth as a fisheries professional and allow you to have a bigger impact on in the future of Michigan's fisheries. Our newsletter, email listserv, and the ability to network and connect with other fisheries professionals from local governments, academia, fish culture, the private sector, and even other states will keep you current with all of the latest techniques and issues.

**You do not have to join the parent society to be a Michigan Chapter member and the annual \$10.00 membership fee is a great bargain.!**

**To become a member and pay dues visit the membership page:**

[http://www.fisheriessociety.org/miafs/afs\\_joinus.html](http://www.fisheriessociety.org/miafs/afs_joinus.html)

*The Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is a professional organization interested in maintaining high standards for the fisheries profession and ensuring conservation of Michigan's aquatic resources. The Michigan Chapter was founded in 1973 as part of the North Central Division of AFS and currently represents over 430 members.*