

UNDERCURRENTS

March 2020

The Newsletter of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



President's Message ~ Jan-Michael Hessenauer

Hello Michigan AFS members and Happy New Year! The last year has been a very busy one. Personally, my wife and I welcomed our second son into the world, which has resulted in a lot of late nights, diaper changes, but also great family time for us. Professionally, our office (MDNR- Lake St. Clair Fisheries Research Station) has continued the long-term Great Lakes monitoring surveys that are our bread and butter, covering Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair and Saginaw Bay. I also had the opportunity to sample some of Michigan's premier stream resources with DNR management units throughout the state. The diversity and quality of Michigan's fishery resources never ceases to amaze me.

As a chapter the past year has been a busy one too. We held our first joint meeting with the Michigan Chapter of the Wildlife Society last March in Gaylord. The meeting was well attended and provided the opportunity to mingle with our professional colleagues across fields. This year we are back to meeting on our own. However, I felt, and I hope that many of you did too, that meeting with the Wildlife Society was worthwhile and should happen again in the future. Our new Vice President Sara Thomas has been spearheading preparations for this year's annual chapter meeting which will occur on the Campus of Central Michigan University. The meeting has a full slate of talks and posters and I very much hope to see you there. I also hope that you will consider attending the annual meeting of the Society in Columbus, OH. AFS celebrates its 150th anniversary this year and the meeting is sure to be a special one.

I'd like to close by thanking you, the members of our chapter, for your continued membership, participation and engagement. I would also like to recognize Justin Chiotti, Robin Debruyne and Ed Roseman for their continued leadership. Daniel Traynor for his efforts identifying and organizing the chapters continuing education program. Emily Martin for her meticulous attention to the chapter's finances. Dana Castle for her work on the awards committee. Doug Workman for maintaining the chapters listserv. Brad Utrup for improving the way the chapter enrolls and tracks membership. Heather Hettinger for her active role in facilitating communication with our membership by running the facebook page and our newsletter. David Caroffino for his annual budget audit. Connor Johnson and Jessica Diaz for serving as student liaisons to the Lake Superior State University and Michigan State University student sub chapters.

Thanks, and here's to a great year of research, management, engagement and activity with Michigan AFS!

Sincerely,

Jan-Michael Hessenauer, Ph.D.

President Michigan Chapter AFS



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From the President-Elect ~ *Sara Thomas*

Hello Fellow members of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society,

I am honored to have served the last year as president-elect of the Michigan Chapter. We have a great group of current and former officers and they've been so helpful in helping me get my feet wet. I want to thank Dana Castle for her continuing work on the awards committee, Dan Traynor for putting on great continuing education programs, and Emily Martin for keeping our books straight and being one of the best and quickest meeting note takers around! Jan-Michael Hessenauer and Justin Chiotti have been super patient with all my questions about planning a meeting. We also have folks hard at work on a Chapter exhibit for the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Parent Society meeting. We hope many of you will be able to make the trip to Columbus for this exciting meeting.

This year's annual chapter meeting will be held March 11-13 at Central Michigan University in their relatively new Biosciences Center and I couldn't be more excited about the locale. Being a fan of all things puns and plays on words, the theme of this year's meeting is "Water: Central to It All". We are lucky to be in a state so blessed with abundant aquatic resources, which play a large role in tourism, industry, recreation and diverse habitats. Water is central to life as we know it and that goes beyond fish. To build on the collaborative environment of hosting this year's conference at a university, I was hoping to attract a wide variety of talks in addition to fish focused abstracts. We had an amazing turn out for abstracts and will have 43 oral presentations and 25 posters covering a wide range of aquatic science that are central to healthy aquatic ecosystems as a whole. I hope to see many of you there in Mount Pleasant!

With so much water in Michigan, none of us exactly has a lot of free time on our hands to add extra work, but I really encourage you to get involved with the Parent Society and Chapter any way you can. It's very rewarding and gives you a different perspective. As President I hope to encourage more interaction between professionals and the student chapter members. I also hope to get feedback from the entire membership on ways to increase interest and attendance at our annual meetings. We have such a diverse state, that it really does benefit us to all come together and learn about all the great work being done throughout the state. Here's to a great 2020 for everyone!

Sincerely,





Michigan Chapter

MICHIGAN CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report for All Accounts through December 7, 2019

BALANCE FORWARD December 1, 2018

Checking	\$13,170.42
Savings	\$8,023.62
PayPal	\$0.00
Petty Cash	\$16.47
AFS Investment Account (MidWest FW Conf)	<u>\$10,836.00</u>
TOTAL BALANCE	<u>\$32,046.51</u>

INCOME

AFS Dues Rebate	\$1,986.50
Continuing Education	\$6,235.63
Donations to MIAFS	\$1,850.00
Membership dues, meeting fees	\$22,703.23
Interest Savings	\$4.01
AFS Investment Gain/Loss + Fees	\$1,253.00
Petty cash (meeting fees, dues, t-shirts)	<u>\$579.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$34,611.37</u>

EXPENSES

Awards, Scholarships, Travel Grants	\$1,410.00
Bank Charges	\$0.00
Meeting Costs	\$26,356.28
Donations	\$650.00
Continuing Education	\$5,405.74
Postage/Office Supplies/Printing Fees	<u>\$311.25</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$34,133.27</u>

TOTAL CASH FLOW **\$478.10**

BALANCE December 7, 2019

Checking	\$11,812.51
Savings	\$8,027.63
CD's	\$0.00
Petty Cash	\$597.47
PayPal	\$0.00
AFS Investment Account (MidWest FW Conf)	<u>\$12,089.00</u>
TOTAL BALANCE	<u>\$32,526.61</u>

January 23, 2020

President Jan-Michael Hessenauer

Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

President Hessenauer,

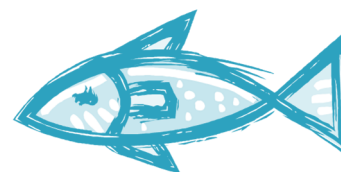
As Audit Committee Chair, it is my responsibility to annually evaluate the finances of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. In the recent weeks, I worked with Secretary-Treasurer Emily Martin to review all of the chapter's financial information. Emily has done an excellent job of keeping the finances and documents in order and was able to quickly respond to and satisfactorily resolve the few questions that arose. I am pleased to report that my audit for the 12-month period of December 2018 through December 6, 2019 is complete, and I find that all chapter financial records are in order.

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

Respectfully,

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

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Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award

Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award- 2020

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 350 students from 44 different universities, 16 states, and 1 Canadian province. The 2020 award ceremony took place in Springfield, Illinois on January 27 and recognized 22 student finalists from 11 different universities in 7 states. The following two students were recognized as the 2020 Fenske Award recipients, receiving both a plaque and \$750 award:

Dominique Turney – Fisheries

Dominique received her B.S. from Purdue University, and is expecting to complete her M.S. this spring from Western Illinois University where she is studying Paddlefish movement and habitat use in upper Mississippi River navigation pools, and their overlap with Asian carp. She has already secured a position as an Aquatic Nuisance Species specialist at the Illinois River Biological Station in Havana.

Dominique has been a member of the American Fisheries Society since 2013, beginning with student membership at Purdue. She served as Treasurer and President of the Western Illinois University Student Subunit where she facilitated five professional development workshops, over ten public outreach events, two undergraduate travel awards, and student assistance to the Illinois DNR. She also served as the student representative to the Mississippi River Research Consortium's Board of Directors.

Dominique seeks to motivate others to better care for and manage natural resources through leadership and teaching. She is especially passionate about invasive species management. Her supervisor, Jim Lamer of the Illinois River Biological Station, describes Dominique as dependable and passionate, with a positive attitude and an ambitious drive to do great work. In his own words, "Dominique has a promising future ahead and exhibits leadership qualities that I'm sure will continue to grow...I am proud to work with a student that embodies the ideals and passion of Janice Lee Fenske."

Andrew Dennhardt – Wildlife

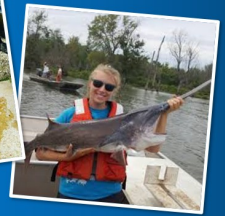
Andrew received his B.S. from Southern Illinois University, M.S. from West Virginia University, and is in the process of completing a double PhD from Michigan State University. He has been involved in a wide variety of research from vireos to turtles, but his most recent work focuses on quantifying fish and wildlife dynamics in relation to landscape characteristics and practices. He seeks to serve the public as a biologist and leader in the Federal government and was recently named a Directorate Resource Assistants Fellow with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Andrew has been a member of the Wildlife Society since he was a student at West Virginia University in 2011 and has since served on the Biometrics and Student Development working groups. He has also been active in the Ecological Society of America and American Ornithological Society and helped coordinate several Graduate Student Research symposia at Michigan State University.

Andrew excels in mentoring others, especially in quantitative skills. He helped plan a new seminar course at Michigan State University on enriching skillsets of natural resource scientists, mentored two undergraduates through research projects, and facilitated numerous quantitative skill workshops - including one at this year's Midwest Fisheries and Wildlife Conference. Andrew also spends time focusing on public outreach, coordinating events for 4-H, and volunteering as a hunting mentor. As his advisor Dr. Gary Roloff states, "Andrew's enthusiasm and commitment to wildlife conservation is deep and contagious."

Fenske Award - Fisheries



Dominique Turney
Western Illinois University



Fenske Award - Wildlife



Andrew Dennhardt
Michigan State University



Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award (Con't.)

Special thanks go to members of this year's review committee from Illinois and Michigan: T.J. Benson (IL TWS), Robin DeBruyne, Patrick Ertel, Holly Jennings, Tamara Lipsey, Blake Ruebush (IL AFS), Mark Tonello, and Jay Wesley. I also want to acknowledge the important contributions from Jo Ann Alexander for administrative support, Dan Traynor for preparing the certificates and plaques, and Rebecca Krogman for overseeing this year's award ceremony.

This award was made possible through organizational and financial contributions from:

- 2020 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Committee
- American Fisheries Society- North Central Division, Illinois and Michigan Chapters
- The Wildlife Society- Illinois and Michigan Chapters

Jessica Mistak, Fenske Award Chair



2020 Fenske Fisheries Finalists



2020 Fenske Wildlife Finalists



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/>. Feel free to post anytime, or send items to be posted to our Communications Chair Heather Hettinger at hettingerh@michigan.gov

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 at 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

2019 Business Meeting Notes

The meeting notes from the 2019 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 2020 Chapter Business Meeting in Mt. Pleasant



Continuing Education Update

Continuing Education Update

The Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society hosted three continuing education workshops in 2019. The first workshop, **Writing Technical Documents in Plain, Simple, and Concise English**, was held in Gaylord on March 13th. The workshop was instructed by Dr. Steve L. McMullin, Associate Professor Emeritus, Virginia Tech Department of Fish & Wildlife Conservation and drew 27 participants including two students. The recipient of the \$150 student travel grant was Ben Vasquez from Northern Michigan University. The second workshop, **Family-level Aquatic Macroinvertebrate ID**, was held at Lake Superior State University on April 4th and 5th. The workshop, instructed by Dr. Ashley Moerke and Jesse Wesolek from Lake Superior State University and Brian Wesolek from the Bay Mills Indian Community, drew 14 participants. The final workshop of 2019, Stream Habitat – **Exploring Fish Habitat Concepts and Management**, was held in Gaylord on June 4th and 5th. The workshop was instructed by Elle Gulotty, Kesiree Thiamkeelakul, and Patrick Ertel from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Bethany Matousek, Joe Rathbun, and Ralph Reznick from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy, and Kristin Thomas from Michigan Trout Unlimited. The workshop drew 23 participants including six students. The recipient of the \$150 workshop travel award was Chris Adams from Michigan Technological University.

The Continuing Education Committee plans to host several workshops in 2020. The first workshop, **Introduction to Sampling and Identification of Freshwater Fish Eggs and Larvae**, will be held on March 11th at the MIAFS annual meeting at Central Michigan University. The workshop will be instructed by Ed Roseman and Stacey Ireland from the United States Geological Survey. Other proposed workshops are freshwater mussel sampling and identification, database management, electrofishing, and nongame fish ID.

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!

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 or Stacey Ireland at sireland@usgs.gov. Suggestions for future courses are always appreciated!



Report from The Walleye Technical Committee Representative

Ed Roseman; eroseman@usgs.gov



This past year was my inaugural year as our Chapter's representative to the North Central Division Walleye Technical Committee. Thanks to Seth Herbst and other previous WTC representatives for advice on meeting logistics, history, and to all of Michigan's walleye scientists for providing information to share with the WTC. In July, I attended the summer joint meeting of the Esocid, Walleye, and Centrarchid technical committees in Webster, SD. I presented an overview of current walleye research projects being conducted by Michigan university students and DNR/federal staff. I also provided an update on walleye stocking in Michigan, making use of the Michigan DNR's online stocking database. Walleye-related presentations from other states included: Nebraska Walleye Spawn Techniques by Brian Sweet, Nebraska Game and Parks Commis-

sion; Evaluation of Portable Water Filtration Systems to Reduce the Transport Risk of Zebra Mussels and Asian Clams During Fish Spawning and Trap and Transfer Operations by Benjamin Schall, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks; OTC Immersion Marking of Walleye Fry in Minnesota Using the "Jug Method" by Dale Logsdon, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; The Role of Angler Harvest on Walleye Population Dynamics in Three Western South Dakota Reservoirs by Cade Lyon, South Dakota State University; Lake Oahe Walleye Tagging Study by Mike Smith, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks; Assessing Abundance of Centrarchids and Juvenile Yellow Perch in Northern Wisconsin Lakes with Different Walleye Recruitment Histories by Ethan Brandt, UW-Stevens Point; Characterizing the Angling and Tribal Spearfishing Walleye Fisheries in the Ceded Territory of Wisconsin, 1990–2015 by Lawrence Eslinger, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and The Search for Wisconsin's State Record Walleye by Stephen Gilbert, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. I also participated in a tour of the Tour of Blue Dog Hatchery Facility in Waubay, SD.

The winter WTC meeting was held as part of the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Springfield IL during January 26-29, 2020. Discussion about a special walleye symposium at the 2021 Midwest Fish and Wildlife in St. Paul, MN ensued, and we encourage Michigan walleye researchers to get presentations ready. Proceedings from this symposium will be published in a special issue of North American Journal of Fisheries management, so please consider a contribution. The WTC has proposed to contribute funds for the publication to offset author page charges. The summer joint meeting of the ETC, CTC, and WTC meeting will take place in July at the research station in Minocqua, WI.

Lastly, I hope many of you got word that John Bruner from University of Alberta is organizing a Symposium titled "Biology, Management, and Culture of Walleye, Sauger, and Yellow Perch: Status and Needs" for the 150th meeting of the American Fisheries Society being held in Columbus, OH at the end of August 2020. Abstracts for Symposium oral presentations must be submitted to the AFS website by March 20, 2020.

Please find time to take advantage of the Great walleye fishing in Saginaw Bay and western Lake Erie!

Research Project Highlight: Distribution and dispersal of Lake St. Clair larval Yellow Perch; by Clara Lloyd

The U.S. Geological Survey Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC) and partners routinely assess fish spawning and larval fish dynamics in the St. Clair – Detroit River System (SCDRS) to evaluate efficacy of habitat restoration and provide indices of fish production in the system. In 2018, the GLSC partnered with Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), University of Toledo, and Paul Smith's College of the Adirondacks to explore larval Yellow Perch dynamics in the SCDRS with an intensive sampling effort on Lake St. Clair. Clara Lloyd, a recent graduate of Paul Smith's College, used the 2018 data for her senior thesis. A second intensive sampling of Lake St. Clair was completed in 2019. While 2019 samples and data are currently being processed, we share some preliminary findings in this volume of *Undercurrents*.

Spatial and temporal dynamics of fish larvae play an important role in determining year-class strength due to variation in habitat quality and food resources. Tracking the abundance and distribution of larval fish can provide a measure of spawning success, provide inference about the quality of spawning and nursery habitats, and provide insight for predicting future year-class strength. Abundance trends over the past decade in the SCDRS show a decline in Yellow Perch larvae. The general decline in production may affect fisheries in other areas of the Great Lakes. Specifically, recent genetic and microchemistry analyses showed Yellow Perch originating from Lake St. Clair make a substantial contribution to the western Lake Erie stock.

We sampled larval Yellow Perch throughout Lake St. Clair and the lower St. Clair River in 2018 and 2019 to identify important spawning and nursery areas and measure ecological factors influencing their early life history, distribution and abundance. We employed a lake-wide daytime sampling program using paired bongo nets to sample pelagic larvae beginning in mid-March, before Yellow Perch had hatched, and continuing through mid-July, when larvae were absent from samples (Figure 1). Temporal trends in abundance were examined using a hotspot analysis. This analysis allowed us to identify areas that had significant clustering of Yellow Perch larvae. Based on our analyses, Mitchell Bay and Anchor Bay appear as the primary regions for Yellow Perch spawning habitat and/or nursery grounds for larvae because larvae are consistently found in these areas throughout the sampling season. At this point in our analysis, it is difficult to conclude which ecological factors are influencing the distribution of Yellow Perch the greatest, but submerged aquatic vegetation, water temperature, and water clarity likely influence Yellow Perch distribution. Vegetation surveys conducted by Michigan DNR from 2003 to 2007 showed Anchor Bay and Mitchell Bay have abundant submerged aquatic vegetation. Yellow Perch use vegetation for broadcast spawning, therefore these bays were likely providing suitable spawning habitat. Additionally, these bays warmed to the optimal water temperature (10–15 °C) for Yellow Perch spawning and had slightly lower water transparencies earlier in the season than other lake regions. Results of this study increase our understanding of the ecological interactions underlying larval Yellow Perch and their habitat use during critical early life history periods in Lake St. Clair. Future analyses will compare larval abundances and distributions with Michigan DNR bottom trawl data to examine ontogenetic changes in habitat use, growth, and survival relationships.

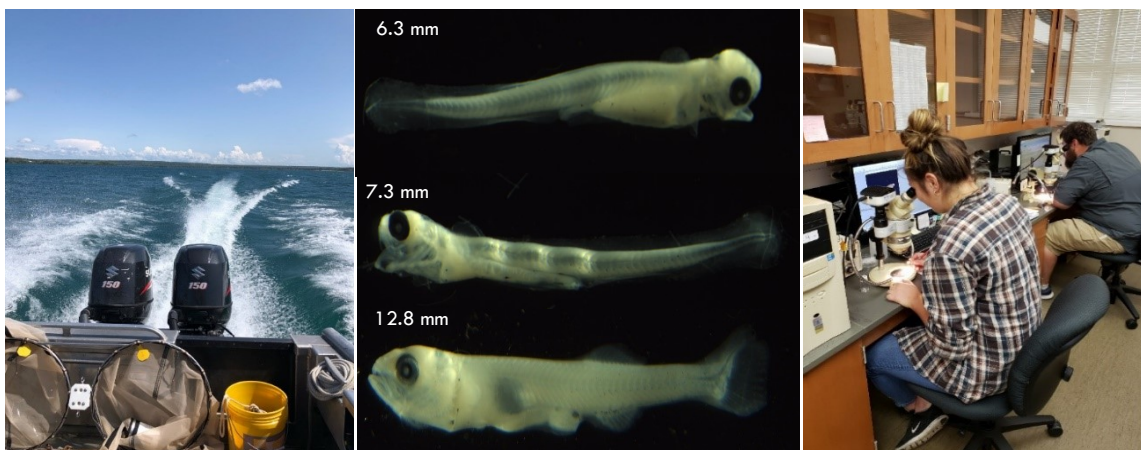
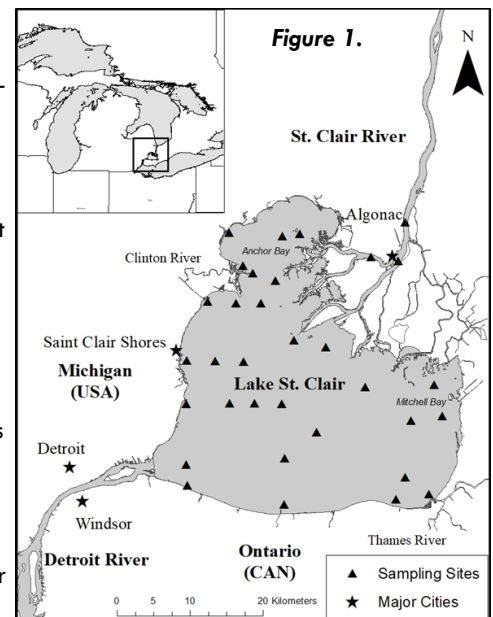


Photo captions left to right: Typical 2018 field season day sampling on Lake St. Clair; yolk-sac and larval Yellow Perch; technicians Clara Lloyd and Dustin Bowser at the USGS Great Lakes Science Center identifying larval fish. All photos by USGS Great Lakes Science Center

2019 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 recipients of the 2019 Hazzard Award were Courtney Higgins and Ryan Andrews.**

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 2019 Leonard Award was Kelley Smith, retired Chief of 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 2019 Grayling Award was Mike Jones.**

MIAFS President Certificate of Appreciation

Justin Chiotti received a Certificate of Appreciation from the American Fisheries Society for his service as President of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

MIAFS Chapter Student Travel Grant

To financially assist students who might not otherwise be able to attend the Chapter meeting located in opposite Michigan peninsula. **The recipient of the 2019 Chapter Travel Grant was Alan Mock.**

MIAFS Workshop Travel Grant Award

To financially assist students who are interested in attending the MIAFS Continuing Education Workshops. **The recipients of the 2019 Workshop Travel Grant were Ben Vasquez (NMU) and Chris Adams (MTU).**



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)

Justin W. Leonard Award (http://www.fisheriessociety.org/miafs/jleo_award.html)

The Grayling Award (http://www.fisheriessociety.org/miafs/gray_award.html)



2018-2019 Chapter Officers

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Centrarchid Committee- Vacant

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Continuing Education Committee- Dan Traynor (traynord@michigan.gov)

Fenske Award Committee- Jessica Mistak (mistakj@michigan.gov)

Membership Committee- Brad Utrup (utrubb@michigan.gov)

NCD Walleye Tech Committee- Ed Roseman (eroseman@usgs.gov)

Past Presidents Committee- Justin Chiotti (justin_chiotti@fws.gov)

Program Committee- Sara Thomas(thomass35@michigan.gov)

Resolutions Committee- Kevin Donner (kdonner@LTBBODAWA-NSN.GOV)

Rivers & Streams Committee- Nate Winkler (Nate@trivercare.org)

Student Concerns- Tim Hawley (MSU) **and Connor Johnson** (LSSU)

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

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

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.