

UNDERCURRENTS

February 2023

The Newsletter of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



President's Message ~ Kevin Kapuscinski

Hello Michigan AFS Members!

It truly has been an honor and an education to serve as president for the past year. Thank you all for your engagement in our chapter. Hosting our 2022 meeting at Lake Superior State University and the Center for Freshwater Research and Education was a career highlight, despite a few bumps along the way. Thanks to all who helped plan the meeting, attended, presented, and engaged with our student members. We are fortunate to have so many members volunteering their time in roles of service to the chapter. They exemplify the notion that leadership is about action, not title. There are too many people to thank individually, but I would like to highlight some of our key initiatives and contributors. For example, Sara Thomas, Emily Martin, and Doug Larson have been extremely generous with their time in assisting and mentoring me in my role as president – thank you!

President-elect Jen Johnson has been working hard to plan our chapter's 2023 meeting, which will be co-hosted with the Michigan Chapter of the Wildlife Society and held at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, March 22-24. President-elect Johnson and many other members have also been helping organize the AFS annual meeting in Grand Rapids, August 20-24. Both events will be excellent, so I hope to see you all there.

I am very pleased to report that our chapter recently created a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, which is now up and running. Thank you to Dr. Tracy Galarowicz (co-chair), Dana Castle (co-chair), Lydia Doerr, and Kyle Brumm for serving in this important role. Communication and resources from the committee are forthcoming, and I encourage chapter members to engage with the committee whenever possible.



Past-president Doug Larson, April Simmons, and Signe VanDrunen have made substantial progress on improving chapter communications. Most importantly, they have transitioned our webpage to AFS hosting, updated its content, and enhanced our social media presence. Be sure to follow @MichiganAFS and @michiganafs.73 and hit that like button!

As always, our continuing education program and awards in support of professional development remain a strength of our chapter. Stacey Ireland and Dana Castle have provided essential leadership in these areas. I am so grateful to all of our committee chairs, committee members, and chapter members that volunteer their time and energy. Thank you for all that you do, and for providing me with the experience of serving as president.

Best wishes in 2023,
Kevin

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From the President-Elect ~ Jennifer Johnson

First and foremost, I want to thank you for the giving me the opportunity to serve as President-elect of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. This past year has been a valuable learning experience and I couldn't have done it without the support of our members. Specifically, I want to thank Kevin Kapuscinski, Doug Larson, Emily Martin, and Dana Castle. You all did an amazing job this year and your dedication to improving our natural resources is inspiring for the next generation of biologists, technicians, educators, and students. I also want to thank April Simmons and Signe VanDrunen for stepping up our game in the social media world. Getting Michigan AFS's messages out in our digital world is essential and strengthens our commitment to our members and to the fisheries of our state. I would like to thank Stacey Ireland and Dan Traynor on our Continuing Education Committee. Our Michigan Chapter continues to value and prioritize learning opportunities for both students and professionals. Lastly, a huge thank you to our annual meeting planning committee. This year we have a joint conference with the Wildlife Society, and it takes a lot of behind the scenes work to pull off a successful meeting. Your commitment is very much appreciated!!



The work I've done over this past year on behalf of Michigan AFS focused primarily on planning and coordinating our upcoming Chapter Meeting and the parent Society's Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids (see details in newsletter). Our primary objectives in the Chapter are to *"provide a forum for discussion of fishery issues, increase awareness of aquatic resource problems and allow networking of people with common interests"*. Both the Chapter and Parent Society meetings are excellent venues to meet these objectives. Over the years, I have gone to Chapter Meetings, Parent Society Meetings and Midwest F&W conferences. I've come out of all of these events with an increased network of colleagues, a greater understanding of current fisheries issues and a renewed sense of purpose in my job. I highly encourage all members to make it a priority to attend any or all of these meetings.

My time as President will soon arrive and I suspect it will go by as fast as this last year as President-Elect. Knowing this, I put some considerable thought into what I'd like to focus on in the upcoming year. My ideas kept revolving around students in various fisheries programs across the state. I honestly haven't heard a lot of feedback from students on how the Michigan Chapter can better serve them. It has been awhile since I've been a student, but just listening to my three children, I know some of the struggles into adulthood are a bit different than they were when I was 18. And along those lines, the fisheries management issues have also changed and are even more complicated today. With those things in mind, my goal as President is to reach out to students, actively listen, and move forward accordingly. I, along with the Executive Committee members, would like to visit various colleges and universities across the state to discuss how we can serve you better. I'm sure I'll bring a survey with me asking you specific & thought provoking questions- I wouldn't be a good biologist if I didn't try to collect and report data! I would love to be able to inspire and mentor the next generation of natural resource professionals. However, the first step is reaching out and listening.

Thank you again and I look forward to serving our Chapter!

Sincerely,
Jen Johnson

Fisheries Management Biologist
Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Unit





**MICHIGAN CHAPTER AMERICAN
FISHERIES SOCIETY**

**Treasurer's Report for All Accounts
through December 31, 2022**

BALANCE FORWARD December 31, 2021	2022
Checking	\$13,302.44
Savings	\$8,036.00
PayPal	0
Petty Cash	\$10.00
AFS Investment Account (MidWest FW Conf)	\$15,176.00
TOTAL BALANCE	<u>\$36,524.44</u>
INCOME	
AFS Dues Rebate	\$1,995.15
Continuing Education	\$7,798.16
Donations to MIAFS	\$0.00
Membership dues, meeting fees	\$7,672.60
Interest Savings	\$3.67
AFS Investment Gain/Loss + Fees	-\$1,484.00
Petty cash (meeting fees, dues, t-shirts)	\$10.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$15,995.58</u>
EXPENSES	
Awards, Scholarships, Travel Grants	\$5,540.19
Bank Charges	\$424.43
Meeting Costs	\$8,960.44
Donations	\$0.00
Continuing Education	\$11,755.41
Postage/Office Supplies/Printing Fees	\$23.05
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$26,703.52</u>
TOTAL CASH FLOW	<u>-\$10,707.94</u>
BALANCE December 31, 2022	
Checking	\$4,064.83
Savings	\$8,039.67
CD's	\$0.00
Petty Cash	\$10.00
PayPal	\$44.69
AFS Investment Account (MidWest FW Conf)	\$13,692.00
TOTAL BALANCE	<u>\$25,851.19</u>

February 1, 2023

President Kevin Kapuscinski
Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

President Kapuscinski,

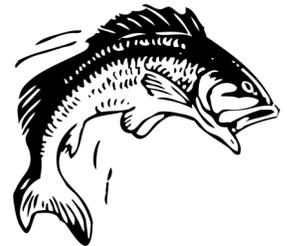
As Audit Committee Chair, it is my responsibility to annually evaluate the finances of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. In recent weeks, I worked with Secretary-Treasurer Emily Martin to review all of the chapter's financial information for calendar year 2022. The Chapter saw an increase in transactions during 2022, as operations returned to normal and preparations for the 2023 national AFS meeting in Michigan required additional travel by Chapter members. While some minor issues were found during the audit, Emily has been diligent with her follow up to resolve issues that rest with outside entities. Executive Committee and Chapter members should expect to strictly adhere to Chapter policies regarding the reimbursement process in the future. All of the Chapter's funds are accounted for and Emily has done a commendable job of managing revenue and expenses. For the period spanning the 2022 calendar year, 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.

This is the eight consecutive audit that I have completed for the Chapter. I believe there is value in rotating responsibilities to include others and to have a fresh set of eyes on a process such as this. Former Chapter Treasurer William Keiper has volunteered to step into the role of Audit Committee Chair at the end of the calendar year 2023, to take the lead on the audit of the 2023 Chapter finances. There is value in having a former Treasurer conduct the audit, given the familiarity that role has with the Chapter's financial transactions. I am willing to assist him during that transition, should the Executive Committee agree with that shift in responsibilities.

Respectfully,

David C. Caroffino, Ph. D.

Audit Committee Chair
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Natural Resources Manager
Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station
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NCD Walleye Technical Committee Update

Beginning in 2022, I was afforded the opportunity to serve as our Chapter's representative to the North Central Division Walleye Technical Committee. I want to thank Ed Roseman for considering me to be a quality candidate for nomination and to the Michigan Chapter for electing me to this role.

Each year, a summer technical meeting and winter business meeting occur. In July, I attended the summer joint meeting of the Esocid, Walleye, and Centrarchid technical committees at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory in Milford, IA. The venue was situated along the shore of West Okoboji Lake, which is part of the Iowa Great Lakes. Take it from me, our Great Lakes are much better. In total, there were 18 presentations given, with a strong showing from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (Go Pointers!).



Jason Gostiaux with a 28-in Walleye from the Mott Reservoir.

At the time of writing this update, the winter business meeting has not taken place yet. It is scheduled to occur in February during the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Overland Park, KS. Agenda topics include final notes from the North American Journal of Fisheries Management Special Section: Effects of Ecosystem Change on North American Percid Populations which was published in June 2022, a review of the Percis V conference in the Czech Republic, elections, and ideas surrounding Percis VI. Please contact me if you are interested in any of the topics which will be covered at the winter business meeting.

Across Michigan, Walleye production, management, and research are going strong. In 2022, the Michigan DNR stocked approximately 4.7 million spring fingerling Walleye. This was an excellent year for production and allowed some systems to be stocked which had not received Walleye since before the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, over 17,000 fall fingerling Walleye were stocked amongst 17 locations. Evaluating these stocking events is important for management and the Southern Lake Michigan Management Unit has demonstrated low stocking densities (~3/ac) of fall fingerling Walleye are producing reliable Walleye fisheries.

On the research front, a new project began in 2022 to reveal the relative contributions of the different reproductive sources driving the now fully wild Saginaw Bay walleye population. Acoustic telemetry tags were implanted in mature walleye during late spring and early summer and will continue this year. This work relies on a quality partnership between the Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System, USGS, MSU, and the DNR. Additionally, Walleye research continues to occur out of the Marquette Research Station. This year, staff published two manuscripts in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management titled: "Stable isotope signatures and displacement patterns of Walleye change following establishment of Dreissenid mussels in a Lake Michigan embayment" and "Changes in habitat conditions, fish populations and the fishery in northern Green Bay, Lake Michigan, 1989-2019."

Lastly, I would encourage you to take advantage of the expanded opportunity for Walleye in the Saginaw River, which now allows anglers to harvest Walleye year-round.

Jason Gostiaux
Michigan DNR-Fisheries biologist
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Continuing Education Committee Update

The Freshwater Mussel Sampling and Identification Course was held September 7th and 8th in Grand Rapids MI. The course was instructed by Joe Rathbun (retired aquatic biologist), Scott Hanshue (retired fisheries biologist), Dr. Renee Mulcrone (ASTI Environmental), Jessica Pruden (US FWS), Elle Gulotty, Kesiree O'Brien, and Cleyo Harris (MDNR) and drew 16 attendees including 3 students. This course included classroom and field instruction to allow students to practice identification on live specimens and to see examples of sampling techniques and designs.

The Smith-Root Electrofishing Principles and Safety Course was held in Gaylord on September 27th and 28th. The course, instructed by Patrick Cooney, drew 16 participants including 3 students. This course included classroom instruction held at the University Center of Gaylord and field instruction at the Michigan DNR Gaylord fish shop with an overview of boat electrofishing followed by backpack and barge electrofishing in the Sturgeon River near Wolverine.



The Freshwater Mussel Sampling and Identification students prepare to flex their mussel knowledge during their hands-on course.

Data Manipulation and Visualization Fundamentals using the Tidyverse in R was a 2-day virtual course held November 7-8th, 2022. The course was instructed by Shaley Valentine (SIU) and Garrett Johnson (USFWS) and drew 28 participants including 10 students. As this was a virtual course, the lecture was recorded and sent to participants who were unable to attend the entire session.

Continuing Education has been busy preparing for the 2023 calendar year. Introduction to Database Design and Management will be instructed by Dan Hayes (MSU) beginning in late February. This will be a pre-recorded lecture series with office hours/class meetings tentatively scheduled for Mondays from 7-9 pm. Please watch your email and our social media platforms for this announcement!

Three courses will be offered on March 22, 2023 at the annual Michigan AFS Conference (held jointly with The Michigan Chapter of the Wildlife Society) at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, MI. These courses are Freshwater Mussel Identification Certification, Introduction to Knot Tying, and Safety in the Field (*Wildlife targeted*). Please visit <https://michigan.fisheries.org/annual-meetings/upcoming-meeting/> for more information.

Courses will also be offered at the 153rd annual AFS Meeting scheduled for August 20-24th, 2023 in Grand Rapids, MI. These courses are still being submitted and organized so more information to follow!

If there are any courses YOU would like to see offered or are interested in teaching, please email Stacey at sireland@usgs.gov. We are always looking for ideas from our membership!



The Smith-Root Electrofishing Principles and Safety Course had a shockingly excellent class learning to electrofish on the Sturgeon River.



Professional Awards

Text was extracted from the award nominations submitted by various MIAFS members.

2022 Leonard Award

Purpose: To recognize outstanding professional competence and achievement of a professional employed in the field of fisheries or aquatic biology in Michigan.

Winner: Mike McCauley – Great Lakes Environmental Center (GLEC)

Below are excerpts from Mike’s nomination:

“Mike is a Senior Research Technician for the Great Lakes Environmental Center (GLEC) where he has worked for over 20 years. Since 2011, Mike has served as a contractor for the Water Resources Division of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). He is the field crew leader for EGLE’s Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program (FCMP) and surface water PFAS monitoring.”

“Because of Mike’s dedication to the FCMP, EGLE has been able to analyze over 5,000 fish for contaminants (including PFAS) across 40 locations and nearly 1,400 surface water samples for PFAS in the last five years. The data collected is used by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to set fish consumption advisories. Data from surface water PFAS monitoring are being used to locate sources of contamination throughout Michigan, helping the state become a leader in identifying and addressing PFAS, largely due to Mike’s tireless effort in the field. Mike also helps collect data related to qualitative evaluations of the macroinvertebrate and fish communities and habitat quality, used to assess the condition of Michigan’s streams. Mike’s welcoming personality has been extremely beneficial to the Eat Safe Fish program as he routinely informs anglers and property owners that he meets in the field on where to find the most current fish consumption advisory information.”



2022 Cisco Award

Winner: Dr. Tracy Galarowicz, Central Michigan University, Associate Dean, College of Science and Engineering

The nominator provided the following information related to Tracy’s dedication to promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in the field of fisheries.

Tracy is a member and leader in the Biology department of a major Michigan university where she provided amazing leadership to over 35 graduate students (with the majority moving on to successful careers in Natural Resources) and worked diligently to insure that under-represented students were exposed to biology (specifically fisheries) and provided opportunities to advance in the field. She has also successfully advocated for changes in the classroom by focusing on increasing the diversity of leaders in science and higher education and has worked to develop new curriculum materials and classes at CMU that highlight cultural issues surrounding Michigan Fisheries. Tracy has also worked in her own community to increase awareness and appreciation for science and fisheries management among diverse groups. Tracy has been a long-term AFS member, providing service in subsections such as Education and Equal Opportunities, participating on committees (Emmeline Moore Prize, Membership Concerns, J. Frances, Allen), and is now (as of 2023) a co-chair of the MIAFS DEIJ Committee.

Contributor Award

2022 Grayling Award:

Purpose: 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.

Winner(s): Brett Fessel and Frank Dituri for their work on the Boardman/Ottaway River Restoration and FishPass.

The nominees of this successful award provided an extremely well-written and heartfelt letter that documented the extent of the winners' work on the Boardman/Ottaway River restoration efforts. A small fraction of the letter is shared below:



“The Boardman/Ottaway River has long been the subject of a broad, comprehensive ‘natural river plan’ that envisions dam removal, fishery improvements, better land use, connectivity, invasive species control, and selective fish passage. This ‘natural river plan’ has been a priority for a wide range of partners... Mr. Dituri and Mr. Fessel have been working on restoration of that system for decades, and their success in reimagining a natural system, and then making it happen, has been truly awe inspiring.”

Together, Mr. Dituri and Mr. Fessel have done decades of yeoman's work to conduct the biology needed for restoration, to understand species interactions and the conditions needed for communities to thrive, to communicate the work to an often skeptical and divided public, to convince politicians to spend scarce dollars, to facilitate the myriad interagency agreements and collaborations, and to remain confident, optimistic, and enthusiastic about the project. Their leadership as IT chairs, as monumental as it has been, has been but a part of their overall work to advance fishery management and river restoration in

Michigan. We could not be more impressed with all they have done for Boardman/Ottaway River restoration and we could not be more grateful to have them as FishPass partners.

“We believe it is most fitting the two share this award because of their many years of collaboration with each other and with members of the community. The two of them have driven success of one of the largest and most successful river restoration projects in the nation.”

The Awards and Executive Committees “tricked” Brett and Frank to attend the 2022 meeting to accept their awards. While all members of the committee felt a little bad about this, after hearing Frank and Brett accept their awards, it was worth it. Brett emphasized how many of these projects take time and that you just cannot give up even after repeatedly hitting snags. He emphasized that finding the right team can be everything you need to accomplish your goals and strive forward to do good work like a family unit. Their words were truly inspiring to all that attended (lots of tears) and what Brett and Frank have been able to accomplish in the Boardman/Ottaway is proof of what all of us in fisheries are capable of when we are able to come together and work toward a common goal.



Student Awards

2022 Hazzard Award

Winner: Shay Keretz, Central Michigan University

Paper: Limited Co- existence of Native Unionids and Invasive Dreissenid Mussels more than 30 Y Post Dreissenid Invasion in a Large River System

This paper (a chapter in Shay’s dissertation research) describes the extent of native Unionid and Dreissenid mussels in the Detroit River, updating our knowledge on the community dynamics, distribution, and ecology of these important taxa, filling a nearly 30-year lag in mussel assessment. Shay’s work will be paramount to developing management objectives to identify and protect native mussel populations and habitat in the Detroit River. Further, the methods she developed and employed in her survey will be useful for research in other regions of the Great Lakes and beyond seeking to document mussel communities and interactions with invasive Dreissenids.”

Runner-Up: Mikayla Kindler, Kalamazoo College

Paper: Field Evaluation and Mesocosm Assessment of Invasive Round Goby Densities in East Grand Traverse Bay, Michigan

“Every day that Mikayla came to work last summer, she was clearly excited and happy to be here and that enthusiasm rubbed off on other station staff... We benefitted so much from having Mikayla as a member of our team; I strongly recommend her as a recipient of the Hazzard Award, and I look forward to the amazing impact she will have in her future career in resource management.”

2022 Best Student Paper and Poster Awards



Best Paper: Amber Johnston, Michigan State University

Best Paper Runner-Up: Simon Freeman, Lake Superior State University

Best Poster: Savannah Blower, Lake Superior State University

Runner up: Dakota VanFleet, Lake Superior State University

2022 Travel Awards

MIAFS awarded two students \$1,000 to attend the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 2022. Kelly Hoyer (Central Michigan University) and Ben Kline (Michigan State University) were the recipients of these awards.



Student Awards

2023 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 400 students from over 40 different universities.

The 2023 award ceremony took place on February 14 during the Midwest Fisheries and Wildlife Conference and recognized student finalists from 9 different universities in 8 states throughout the Midwest.

The following students were recognized as 2023 Fenske Award finalists:

Fisheries

Katie Bearden, South Dakota State University
 Tristan Blechinger, University of Minnesota
 Logan Cutler, South Dakota State University
 Hannah Mulligan, South Dakota State University
 Kayla Reed, University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point
 Logan Zebro, University of Nebraska at Kearney



Wildlife

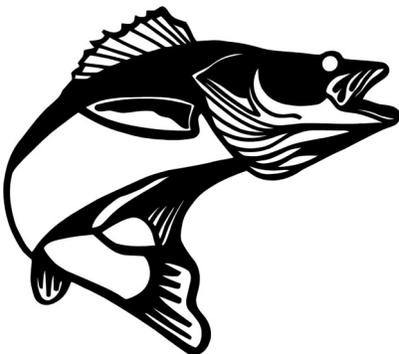
Katelyn Bergstrom, Bemidji State University
 Max Larreur, Southern Illinois University Carbondale
 Carsten White, Purdue University – Fort Wayne

Special thanks to the following individuals for their help with the award: Jo Ann Alexander, Dave Clapp, Robin DeBruyne, Tamara Lipsey, Holly Jennings, Brett Miller, Melissa Starking, and Mark Tonello.

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

- 2023 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Committee
- American Fisheries Society- North Central Division, Kansas and Michigan Chapters
- The Wildlife Society- Kansas and Michigan Chapters

Jessica Mistak, Chair





Student Awards

The following two students were recognized as the 2023 Fenske Award recipients:



Hadley Boehm – Fisheries

Hadley received her B.S. in Biology from Alma College in Michigan, a M.S. in Environment and Resources from University of Wisconsin-Madison, a M.S. in Natural Resources from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and is working towards her Ph.D. at University of Missouri-Columbia where she is researching the trophy fishery created by low-density stocking of Striped Bass in Bull Shoals Lake. Hadley is a very active member of the American Fisheries Society where she holds the current roles of North Central Division's Co-Chair of the Student and Early Career Professional Activities Committee and Division Representative for the Society's Student and Early Career Professional Subsection. She also serves as the Education Section's Newsletter Committee Chair and the Equal Opportunities Section's Co-Treasurer and is in the current Climate Change Ambassador cohort. She is an active member of the University of Missouri's Wildlife and Fisheries Graduate Student Organization and regularly mentors undergraduate students. Hadley frequently steps up to help teach others and, as an example, co-organized the Student, Early-Career, and First-Timer Presentations with Feedback symposium that starts later today. Through this participation and, as a woman in fisheries, Hadley has become increasingly involved in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion our field and has given presentations and in-person workshops on incorporating DEI in hiring. Ultimately, Hadley aims to not only be a great mentor and professional, but also to expand her role within the fisheries community and AFS to create and achieve goals for improving diversity, equity, and inclusion.

According to Hadley's advisor, Dr. Craig Paukert, "Hadley is an exemplary graduate student with real-world experience, is productive, and brings an unselfish attitude to help others in AFS and beyond. She not only gives back to her profession, but she gives back to the community as well. Hadley is easy to talk to and very patient, which serves her well when she discusses her research to anglers or the public. I thoroughly enjoy our long conversations about science, fish management, careers, and other wide-ranging topics that come up. I look forward to continuing to work and collaborate with Hadley now and in the future career." We could not agree more. Congratulations Hadley!



Lindsey Gapinski – Wildlife

Lindsey received her B.S. in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and is currently a M.S. student at Iowa State University where she is researching the use of restored wetlands by bird species of conservation concern in Iowa's Prairie Pothole Region. Lindsey's long-term career goal is to use her background in both biology and statistics to tackle wildlife ecology and conservation challenges so that future generations can experience wildlife and wild places as she has.

Lindsey is very involved in Iowa State University's Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management's Graduate Student Organization, serving as Volunteer Chair, an editor of the yearly Field Notes publication, and as a member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Lindsey has also stepped into the role of teacher and mentor during her time at Iowa State University through serving as a Teaching Assistant for General Ecology, mentoring undergraduate field technicians on identification of birds and wetland plants, and serving as a Graduate Student Peer Mentor to help first-semester M.S. students adjust to the department and the expectations of graduate school.

Lindsey's graduate advisor, Dr. Anna Tucker, describes Lindsey as "A joy to work with. She is respectful, collegial, and honest with technicians, graduate student peers, and faculty. I especially appreciate her attitude, which is positive without being dis-

honest. Sometimes positivity can veer into denial, but Lindsey can acknowledge a frustrating situation while still managing to find the upside. I have witnessed this in the field, in her coursework, and in tackling data management and analysis for her thesis." Congratulations, Lindsey! You are well-deserving of this award.



Woolnough Spatial Ecology & Conservation Lab



Assessment of Federally Endangered Snuffbox in Michigan, USA

Scott LaValley, M.S. Candidate

Abstract:

Retaining biodiversity is important for maintaining ecosystem processes that sustain humans and wildlife, the long-term resilience of ecosystem functions relies heavily on biodiversity and conservation actions to preserve rare species. Freshwater systems are heavily impacted by overexploitation, pollution, modification of flow regimes, habitat degradation, and aquatic invasive species. Freshwater mussels (Unionids) are among the most affected animals by changes to freshwater systems and are highly imperiled around the world. There are 298 species of unionids in North America of which over 200 are listed as special concern, threatened, or endangered by state or federal government. Among these species is the Snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*), which inhabits the Great Lakes, Appalachia, and parts of the Mississippi River drainage. Snuffbox have seen a decrease in range of over 60% compared to historical records. In Michigan, Snuffbox were documented in 12 rivers. This study sought to collect demographic data, surrounding unionid species composition, microhabitat characteristics, and abiotic and biotic factors that influence these populations. To do so, surveys were conducted to target snuffbox at each river where snuffbox were found. Differences in abundance, sex ratios, ratios of live and dead Snuffbox shells, and Snuffbox size raise concern for populations of Snuffbox in the Tobacco River and rivers in the Huron River watershed. The demographic data can be used to update the assessments of Michigan Snuffbox populations for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The catch per unit effort data collected during surveys was then combined with GIS analyses of land use, surficial geology, dams, and inland lakes to determine how the variability of the area upstream of Snuffbox populations may influence the density of Snuffbox in different rivers. These analyses show that the rivers that Snuffbox inhabited were composed of a wide variety of land use and surficial geology and some demographic data were poorly explained using GIS analyses which indicated some populations may be facing pressures from highly localized sources such as pollutants, invasive species competition, or predation. Assessing threats to Unionid populations at multiple scales is important to the conservation of these imperiled aquatic species.

Contact Information:

Dr. Daelyn Woolnough

wooln1d@cmich.edu

Central Michigan University



Juvenile Snuffbox and a Lilliput found in the Flat River.



Scott LaValley enjoying a beautiful day in Davis Creek searching for Unionids.



A tagged male Snuffbox found in the Grand River.



Bald Mountain Pond Dam Restoration

Bald Mountain Pond Dam was built in the 1960s on a small headwater stream in the Clinton River watershed, located in Southeast Michigan. The purpose of this dam was to create a small impoundment that could be stocked with adult trout to provide an “easy to access” trout fishery near a high population center. Over the years it was determined that maintaining this fishery was not sustainable and subsequently was discontinued. Eventually the boards used to control the water level began to fail and managers chose to remove them instead of investing more resources into a failed stocking experiment. While the impoundment was eliminated with removal of the boards, the concrete structure stood strong and remained as an impediment to fish passage and natural sediment transport through the stream. In addition, the dam structure presented a safety hazard in a natural area of Bald Mountain Recreation Area.



1965 picture of Bald Mountain Pond with anglers fishing for trout

In 2020, Clinton River Watershed Council, Michigan DNR, US Fisheries and Wildlife Service, and local stakeholders were able to secure grant funds to remove the remaining structure of Bald Mountain Pond Dam. The project aimed to remove the dam, restructure the cross section of new stream channel using reference reach characteristics, and then let the restored stream processes adjust the channel on its own. This project and approach not only permitted a low cost for removal but also presented the opportunity for us to learn more about ecosystem impacts from removing small dams. Accordingly, the collaborative group along with Oakland University set up monitoring with a “before-after-control-impact” (BACI) design that included a holistic approach to sampling, from fish community to periphyton assemblages and stream geomorphology.

This monitoring was completed for three years prior to the dam removal and will be carried out for multiple years following the dam removal. The dam was removed at the beginning of 2023, which now leaves permanent bank stabilization measures and monitoring left to do.



Image of the Bald Mountain Pond Dam in 2021, prior to the dam removal. All of the boards have been removed for a long time but the cement structure continues to persist.



Former location of the Bald Mountain Pond Dam, immediately following removal in early 2023.

Contact information:

Cleyo Harris
HarrisC9@michigan.gov
Michigan
Department of Natural
Resources
Lake Erie
Management Unit

Candidate for President-Elect of the Michigan Chapter, American Fisheries Society

Jason Fischer

I am a fisheries biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office – Detroit Substation. I began my current position in 2020 but have worked on Michigan waters for the past decade. Most of my work has focused on fish habitat restoration and fisheries monitoring in the St. Clair-Detroit River System (SCDRS), but I am also involved with other projects throughout the Great Lakes, from Lake Sturgeon assessments in the St. Marys River to Lake Whitefish spawning habitat assessments in Lake Erie.

Having received my bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in 2009, I've spent most of my career in the Great Lakes Region, although, I did take a brief hiatus from the area to pursue a master's degree from Kansas State University. At Kansas State University I studied the response of a large river fish assemblage to habitat alteration, graduating with my M.S. degree in 2012. I returned to Michigan in 2013 as a contractor for the U.S. Geological Survey, evaluating and assisting with planning habitat restoration projects in the SCDRS. The evaluations I began at the U.S. Geological Survey formed the foundation of my Ph.D., which I earned from the University of Toledo in 2019.

I have been a member of the AFS parent society since 2009 and a member of the Michigan Chapter since 2014. While a student I served as treasurer of the Kansas State University student sub-chapter and secretary of the University of Toledo student sub-chapter. Currently, I am a co-chair of the student events planning committee for the 2023 national conference and am honored to be running for the opportunity to further my service to AFS as president-elect of the Michigan Chapter.

The personal and professional relationships I have developed through AFS are the most valuable part of membership for me. I believe that developing a strong network is critical to professional development and to bolstering the value of our work. If elected, I will continue the work of past presidents to foster inclusion and increase engagement with young professionals, the up-and-coming cohort of fisheries leaders.





Candidate for President-Elect of the Michigan Chapter, American Fisheries Society

Gary Michaud



I am the inland fisheries biologist for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) in northern Michigan. I have worked for LTBB in various capacities since 2016 when I started as a volunteer before starting my professional journey. In my time with LTBB I have spent the majority of time working with native species restoration and reintroduction efforts of Cisco, Lake Whitefish, and Lake Sturgeon. My current position allows me to work with a variety of species management and restoration efforts like Walleye and now Arctic Grayling. A central part of my responsibility as an employee for LTBB and as a professional is to ensure that fishing rights of Anishinaabe in 1836 Ceded Territory are upheld and that our communities are provided with the best information available.

Central Michigan was my alma mater for both

undergraduate and graduate studies. I worked with Great Lakes Cisco populations in northern Michigan in the Great Lakes Fisheries Program for LTBB from 2016 to 2018. I spent a couple years downstate in Ann Arbor working at the United States Geological Survey Great Lakes Science Center as a student contractor working with historical commercial Coregonine data and on Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, and the Detroit River. In 2020, I returned north to work at LTBB's Fisheries Enhancement Facility raising Walleye, Lake Whitefish, and Lake Sturgeon for education and restoration.

I am honored to be nominated for the position of president-elect for the Michigan Chapter of AFS. My primary goal, if elected, will be to facilitate an environment of learning, communication, and cooperation among the many agencies that work in our great waters. Additionally, I hope to improve the general fisheries research community line of communication with the public so that what occurs out on the water and in the lab reflects our passion for the animals we study.



2023 Joint Michigan AFS/TWS Meeting Agenda

**Michigan Chapters of the American Fisheries Society And The Wildlife Society 2023
Joint Annual Meeting
22-24 March 2023
Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire, MI**

WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH

Continuing Education Workshops

Freshwater Mussel Identification Certification

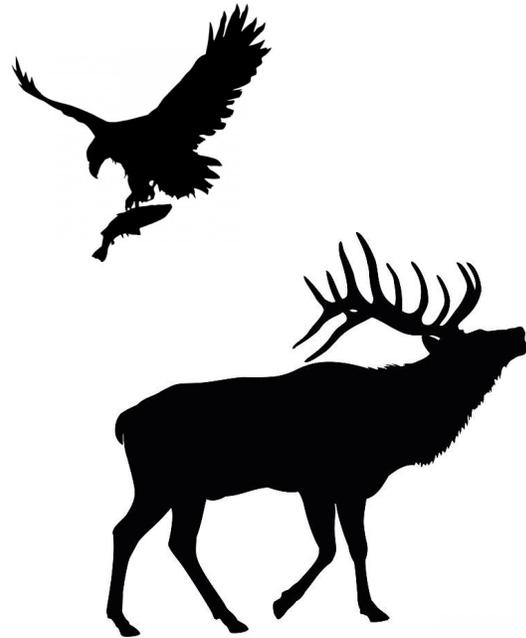
1:00 – 5:30 PM

Introduction to Knots and Ropework

1:00 PM—5:00 PM

Safety in the Field

1:00 PM—5:00 PM



THURSDAY, 23 MARCH

Meeting Registration

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Plenary and Oral Presentations

8:00 AM – 4:20 PM (Refreshments and lunch provided)

Business Meeting and Awards

4:20 PM – 5:30 PM



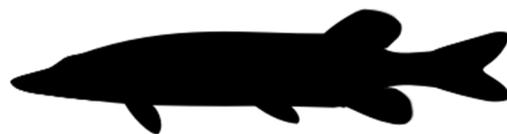
Professional Networking, Student Social & Poster Session

5:30 – 10:00 PM (Refreshments and dinner provided)

FRIDAY, 24 MARCH

Oral Presentations

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

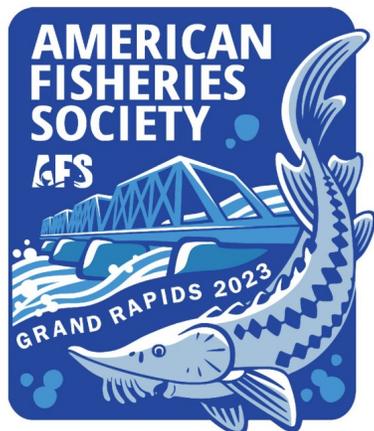


Updated registration and hotel information found here:

<https://michigan.fisheries.org/annual-meetings/upcoming-meeting/>



Future Meeting Notice



American Fisheries Society 153rd Annual Meeting August 20-24 2023 Grand Rapids, Michigan

Theme: Adaptive Approaches to Understand and Manage
Changes in Fisheries

For the most up-to-date information, please visit:
<https://afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org/>

MIAFS Technology

You can contact the Chapter on:

Webpage: <https://michigan.fisheries.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MichiganAFS/>

Twitter: [@MichiganAFS](https://twitter.com/MichiganAFS)

Instagram: [@MichiganAFS.73](https://www.instagram.com/MichiganAFS.73)

We encourage you to post or send items to be posted to our Communications Co-Chairs: April Simmons and Signe VanDrunen at miafs_comm@outlook.com.

Want something added to our webpage? Contact Doug Larson at larsol47@msu.edu.

Please forward any announcements, job posting, or other important information to the Michigan Chapter ListServ Coordinator, Doug Workman, at dworkman@advancedecological.com.

2022 Business Meeting Notes

The 2022 AFS Business Meeting notes are now available on our web page:

<http://michigan.fisheries.org/past-meetings/>



2022-2023 Chapter Officers

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Awards Committee– Dana Castle (dkcastle08@gmail.com)
NCD Centrarchid Tech Committee– Matt Diana (dianam@michigan.gov)
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NCD Walleye Tech Committee– Jason Gostiaux (gostiauxj@michigan.gov)
Past Presidents Committee– Sarah Thomas (thomass35@michigan.gov)
Presentation/Poster Awards– Mark Tonello (tonellom@michigan.gov)
Program Committee– Jennifer Johnson (johnsonj17@michigan.gov)
Resolutions Committee– Currently Open
Rivers & Streams Committee– Nate Winkler (Nate@trivercare.org)
Student Concerns– Doug Larson (larso147@msu.edu)
Water Quality Committee– Doug Bradley (fishcentric@gmail.com)

Our Chapter has a New Website!

Stay updated on MIAFS awards, continued education, and more at:
<https://michigan.fisheries.org/>

This newsletter was published by the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Communications Committee. Comments, suggestions, and submissions should be directed to miafs_comm@outlook.com.

Curious About MIAFS Membership?

Being an active member of MIAFS 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 networking opportunities with other fisheries professionals from local governments, academia, fish culture, the private sector, and other states will keep you current with all of the latest techniques and issues.

Non-Parent Society Michigan Chapter Membership fee: \$10.00.

To become a member and pay dues, visit us at:
<https://michigan.fisheries.org/about/join-us-2/>

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.

