

Gwen White

From: Geoffrey B. Steinhart <gsteinhart@lssu.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2010 4:04 PM
To: Gwen White
Subject: LSSU Student Subunit Nomination
Attachments: Nomination_LSSU subunit_10.pdf; ATT00001..htm

Hello Dr. White,

Attached, please find a nomination of the LSSU Student Subunit of AFS for the Most Active Student Subunit Award. As the advisor for the Subunit, I am pleased to report that they have maintained their high level activity across a range of events involving education, professional development, and service. In fact, I think this group has been even more organized than ever before - events are planned well in advance, leading to better participation from the members. Higher attendance is also a result of an increase in membership numbers. And the Subunit is continuing to seek ways to get more students to be actively involved in the Subunit's activities. I certainly think they would make a worth recipient of the Most Active Student Subunit Award.

Please confirm that you receive th computers are overloaded with students trying to register for classes.

Cheers,

Geoff

Nomination Form: Most Active Student Subunit Award
North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society

1. **Date:** 11/12/10

2. **Subunit Name:** Lake Superior State University

3. **Number of Subunit Members (AFS members only):** The LSSU Subunit currently has 52 paid members. As a fully undergraduate Subunit of both AFS and The Wildlife Society, only a fraction of Subunit members belong to the AFS parent society (6 student members), but all are members of the Michigan Chapter of AFS.

4. **Officers:** President: Brian Marshall

Vice President: Doug Galvas

Secretary: Tiffany Radka

Treasurer: Mike Tower

5. **Person making nomination (Name, Affiliation, Address, Telephone):**

Dr. Geoffrey Steinhart (Advisor and President-Elect of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society) & Brian Marshall (Subunit President), Lake Superior State University, 650 W. Easterday Ave., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783; gsteinhart@lssu.edu; 906-635-2093

Signature:



6. **Number and Type of Meetings:**

The officers meet every other week to discuss upcoming activities and speakers. This meeting includes advisors and committee chairs. Full Subunit meetings also are held every other week, are widely advertised (e.g., signs on campus, posted on the university web site), and are open to all people that are interested. The full meetings are usually 45-min long with time after for people to discuss new events and ideas for the Subunit. Meeting topics include upcoming activities, fundraising events, conferences, and speakers. The Subunit also maintains a web site that lists current events, meeting minutes, by laws, and officers along with a link to the Subunit Facebook site and Google Calendar of events (www.lssu.edu/org/fwclub).

7. **Special Activities:**

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- Subunit members helped the Little Traverse Conservancy with a shanty clean-up (winter) and with trail maintenance (fall) and the Round Island Point Nature Preserve.
- Assisted with habitat rehabilitation via purple loosestrife removal at Nine Mile Marsh.
- Subunit staffed a table at the annual Bi-national Public Advisory Council's Environmental Summit that provided information on sustainable fish choices and Subunit activities.
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Information on sustainable fish choices and samples of gourmet, troll-caught tuna from a Michigan company were made available at every screening. In addition, a panel discussion was held at the Gaylord screening with the panel made up of people from LSSU, Michigan Sea Grant, Trout Unlimited, and Gaylord High School.

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8. Membership Recruitment Activities:

- Members are involved in several student recruitment activities throughout the year to engage more students in the field of fisheries and wildlife management.
 - Organized fun events including:
 - Camping trips to Pictured Rocks and Whitefish Point
 - Cardboard Boat Regatta team
 - Biogames and Spring Games (picnics with fun activities open to all LSSU students; the Subunit helps organize these events and provides the food and refreshments)
 - Tours of the Aquatic Research Lab - important for recruiting students into the Fisheries and Wildlife program
 - Meeting fliers are always posted across campus and meetings are listed on the LSSU and Subunit web sites.
- The Subunit hosted a Whitefish Dinner attended by nearly 80 people in the community. Raffle items and a silent auction raised money for Subunit activities. A short awards presentation preceded the dinner and afforded the opportunity to highlight Subunit achievements.
- Information and results of survey work on the Hiawatha Sportsmens Club was presented at their annual meeting and published in their newsletter.
- The Subunit staffed a table with information on the Subunit at six LSSU orientation events, at Lakerpalooza (a fall information fair), LSSU Fall Fling, and at the annual Bi-national Public Advisory Council's Environmental Summit. Led tours of the Aquatic Research Laboratory during Great Lake State Weekend.
- The Subunit conducted a survey of members to determine what activities drew them to the Subunit and ways to improve the Subunit experience.
- The Subunit created a Logo and Apparel Committee to develop a new Subunit logo and order new apparel and other logo items.

9. On a single attached sheet (one side only), describe what makes your Chapter an active and important contributor to the NCD, AFS, and the fisheries profession. Also use this sheet to expand on any of the above areas. You may also attach copies of any written or printed material (letters, newsletters, fliers, newspaper, clippings, etc.) that lend support to your nomination. This material will not be returned, and if the number of pages exceeds five, it will only be reviewed by the Awards Committee Chair to avoid excessive photocopying and mailing expenses.

The LSSU Subunit (aka Fisheries and Wildlife Club; FWC) provides valuable experiences for young professionals while reaching out to the community and improving the visibility of both the American Fisheries Society and Wildlife Society. The LSSU Subunit is different from some other subunits in that we are both a fisheries and wildlife club. Therefore, our activities are often split between terrestrial and aquatic. We believe that aquatic ecosystems cannot be viewed in isolation, as terrestrial and aquatic linkages are now well established as being important for ecosystem function. Therefore, having a diverse membership and diverse activities serve to strengthen our ability to develop into more well-rounded professionals, to share our knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm with broad audiences, and to better understand the conservation and management of our resources.

In addition to all the professional development activities, we also try to have some fun. Other Club activities have included making pike decoys, game nights, and outdoor activities (fishing, hunting, hiking, and camping). We are especially proud that we have stepped up our number of fisheries-related activities this fall. We conducted two additional lake surveys than we normally have, providing experience in fisheries techniques for many more Club members. And we are not ignoring the students interested in wildlife management: upcoming plans for the school year include deer population estimates, wolf call surveys, and mallard nest building. The FWC also is considering leading a hunter safety program and a long-term habitat study with the DNRE. The Club encourages participation by our members and, therefore, is valuable for growing the Subunit.

For educational activities, the Subunit has many new activities in development for the coming year. First, we are organizing a job/graduate school panel and workshop for the annual meeting of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. This year's meeting is being held in conjunction with the Wildlife Society and the Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative, so there should be a large turnout for the workshop. Subunit officers have developed a survey that will be distributed to universities across Michigan to determine what undergraduate and graduate students would like to see covered in the workshop. In addition, the Subunit is planning to continue working with the Sault High School Envirothon group, and hopes to help faculty at LSSU lead a group participating in the NOAA Ocean Sciences Quiz Bowl.

The FWC also instituted some changes over the last year. First, we created two standing committees (the Event Committee and Raffle Committee) and temporary committee charged with developing a new Subunit logo and ordering logo apparel and items. These committees will provide Subunit members an opportunity to become more involved in day-to-day activities. We also implemented a Member of the Year Award to acknowledge the hard work of our members. Finally, we conducted an on-line survey of our membership to learn what they do and don't like about the Subunit meetings, activities and to learn how we can better serve our membership. Secretary Tiffany Radka attended presentations at the annual AFS meeting in Pittsburgh that provided several other ideas to improve the activity and involvement of current and potential Subunit members. We believe these activities are working, as FWC membership has increased, meeting and event attendance is higher than 2008-2009, and the number of AFS and TWS parent society memberships has increased.

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- The Subunit conducted a survey of members to determine what activities drew them to the Subunit and ways to improve the Subunit experience.
- The Subunit created a Logo and Apparel Committee to develop a new Subunit logo and order new apparel and other logo items.

9. On a single attached sheet (one side only), describe what makes your Chapter an active and important contributor to the NCD, AFS, and the fisheries profession. Also use this sheet to expand on any of the above areas. You may also attach copies of any written or printed material (letters, newsletters, fliers, newspaper, clippings, etc.) that lend support to your nomination. This material will not be returned, and if the number of pages exceeds five, it will only be reviewed by the Awards Committee Chair to avoid excessive photocopying and mailing expenses.

The LSSU Subunit (aka Fisheries and Wildlife Club; FWC) provides valuable experiences for young professionals while reaching out to the community and improving the visibility of both the American Fisheries Society and Wildlife Society. The LSSU Subunit is different from some other subunits in that we are both a fisheries and wildlife club. Therefore, our activities are often split between terrestrial and aquatic. We believe that aquatic ecosystems cannot be viewed in isolation, as terrestrial and aquatic linkages are now well established as being important for ecosystem function. Therefore, having a diverse membership and diverse activities serve to strengthen our ability to develop into more well-rounded professionals, to share our knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm with broad audiences, and to better understand the conservation and management of our resources.

In addition to all the professional development activities, we also try to have some fun. Other Club activities have included making pike decoys, game nights, and outdoor activities (fishing, hunting, hiking, and camping). We are especially proud that we have stepped up our number of fisheries-related activities this fall. We conducted two additional lake surveys than we normally have, providing experience in fisheries techniques for many more Club members. And we are not ignoring the students interested in wildlife management: upcoming plans for the school year include deer population estimates, wolf call surveys, and mallard nest building. The FWC also is considering leading a hunter safety program and a long-term habitat study with the DNRE. The Club encourages participation by our members and, therefore, is valuable for growing the Subunit.

For educational activities, the Subunit has many new activities in development for the coming year. First, we are organizing a job/graduate school panel and workshop for the annual meeting of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. This year's meeting is being held in conjunction with the Wildlife Society and the Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative, so there should be a large turnout for the workshop. Subunit officers have developed a survey that will be distributed to universities across Michigan to determine what undergraduate and graduate students would like to see covered in the workshop. In addition, the Subunit is planning to continue working with the Sault High School Envirothon group, and hopes to help faculty at LSSU lead a group participating in the NOAA Ocean Sciences Quiz Bowl.

The FWC also instituted some changes over the last year. First, we created two standing committees (the Event Committee and Raffle Committee) and temporary committee charged with developing a new Subunit logo and ordering logo apparel and items. These committees will provide Subunit members an opportunity to become more involved in day-to-day activities. We also implemented a Member of the Year Award to acknowledge the hard work of our members. Finally, we conducted an on-line survey of our membership to learn what they do and don't like about the Subunit meetings, activities and to learn how we can better serve our membership. Secretary Tiffany Radka attended presentations at the annual AFS meeting in Pittsburgh that provided several other ideas to improve the activity and involvement of current and potential Subunit members. We believe these activities are working, as FWC membership has increased, meeting and event attendance is higher than 2008-2009, and the number of AFS and TWS parent society memberships has increased.