

From the Desk of the President
The NCD President's Blog, aka "Musings by Melissa"
November 2015



Thanks to all who read last month's blog about the NCD awards! We're already seeing increased activity in application preparation compared to last year at this time, so keep up the hard work! If you haven't yet read last month's blog, stop right now, click [HERE](#), read it, and then come back. Don't worry...I'll be here when you return. ☺

Since last month's blog, I've answered some e-mail inquiries about how Chapters might increase their participation in nominating or awarding individuals for NCD awards. So, I thought I'd take the opportunity this month to share some ideas here.

One of the awards I failed to discuss last month was the Joan Duffy award. Information about the Duffy can be found here: <http://ncd.fisheries.org/joan-duffy-award/>. In short, this award targets students and provides travel support to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. The award is matched by both the NCD and the student's home chapter. Like many of our NCD awards, it's highly underutilized and the NCD only hands out a few each year.

Those chapters who regularly award the Duffy may handle the selection process a little differently. For example, my home chapter (Dakota) awards the Duffy to the student selected for the Best Student Presentation Award from the last chapter meeting (typically held after the Midwest). Other chapters may have a more formal application and selection process. There are advantages and disadvantages to each approach. It's best for each Chapter to decide what model works best...with student input, of course!

Chapter Awards Committee Chairs – don't forget to send the names and contact information for the Duffy winners to the NCD when our Awards Committee sends out the notice. This will be around early to mid-December.

For the other individual-based NCD awards, like the Meritorious Service or Fisheries Excellence Awards, perhaps a Chapter could keep a running list of possible nominees. I believe we all know those folks who've made outstanding contributions to our Chapters, the Society, or the profession. Don't be afraid to nominate that person! If that person isn't selected this time around, nominate them again the next year.

In the meantime, the NCD will keep "bugging" you all with reminders about the deadline. So, keep working on those applications for Most Active Chapters (Large and Small), Most Active Student Subunit, the Best Communications Award, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Fisheries Excellence Award and submit them to me by **November 15, 2015** to melissa.wuellner@sdstate.edu.

Best of luck to all of our nominees!

Melissa