



Musings by Melissa August 2016

Ah, feelings are bittersweet as I compose this blog. This is my last post as I pass the torch to our next NCD President, Sandy Clark-Kolaks. It's truly been a pleasure serving you as our Division's leader over the past year. I know I said that in my "President's Message" in the April issue of *Mainstream*, but it's still true!

What makes my job particularly rewarding is all of the great people with whom I've had the opportunity to work. My Executive Committee team of Andy Jansen, Vince Travnichek, and Sandy has supported me in all of my crazy ideas. Doug Workman always sends my listserv messages without fail. Brian Borkholder makes me literally laugh out loud with his artistic improvements of the monthly blog and has fixed some major issues with our NCD webpage as we migrated to a new site this last year. The technical and standing committee volunteers, chapter and student subunit presidents, ad-hoc committee participants, and those involved in the planning of the annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference are the heartbeat of the Division and the Society as a whole.

I know I'm probably missing some folks I need to thank. This year wouldn't have been as nearly as amazing without the energy, commitment, and passion of our NCD members. I sincerely thank you for all that you do and for selecting me as your President for this past year.

To close, I'd like to welcome Mark Pyron and Tony Barada to our Executive Committee. Mark will become President-Elect of the NCD and Tony will begin his two-year term as the Division's Secretary-Treasurer at the AFS Annual Meeting in Kansas City. My duties now shift into those of Past President, so I'll still be working for the NCD. Hey, you can't get rid of me that easily! I hope to see many of you at this month's meeting in Kansas City or the 2017 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska!

Enjoy the rest of summer!

Melissa

P.S. Thank you all for making the President's Blog the most visited page (other than the Front Page) on the NCD website for this past year!