



# Mainstream

## President's Message

Sara Thomas

Happy New Year NCD Members!

It has been a while since we have pulled together a newsletter, but there continues to be lots going on with our amazing chapters, technical committees, and the re-energized Student and Early Career Professionals Activities Committee. Some of these will be highlighted in this newsletter.

It's a strange January so far here in Michigan with no to little ice in the lower Peninsula. Hoping this mild winter holds so that everyone can have safe travels to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. NCD was able to once again offer travel support to students and early career professionals using funds from MAFWA designated for this purpose. We are also matching several chapter students travel grants with the Joan Duffy travel awards. Congrats to all these award winners! It's very encouraging to see the enthusiasm of this new crop of upcoming fisheries professionals.

I want to give a special shout-out to the many Members of the Michigan Chapter and others within NCD who helped plan and organize the Society Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids this past summer. I'm sure those of you who were able to attend will agree with me that it was well run conference with excellent talks, socials, networking and catching up with old colleagues. Total in-person attendees came in at 1,433 from 34 different countries! While attendance was obviously high from NCD states, we had some great turnout from across the US., including 52 from Maryland, which was the highest of a non-NCD state.

We know that travel to the 2024 Society Annual Meeting in Honolulu, HI will be difficult for many. We encourage those of you who are interested in attending to start talking with your managers, administrations, advisors, etc. now to see if you can come up with a plan to get you there. Also, many Sections offer travel awards, so be on the lookout for those as well. If the annual meeting is not in the cards this year, this is a perfect opportunity to check out other chapter and/or Division meetings, technical committee summer meetings and others.

One of the best ways to get the most out of your AFS membership and build your network is to get involved on a deeper level through volunteering. AFS and NCD are always on the lookout for volunteers in various capacities – so be sure to keep an out for emails and if you are interested in getting more involved or gaining leadership experience, please reach out to me. Getting to know others through my experience on the Executive Boards at the Chapter and Division levels has been extremely rewarding!

Wishing you a safe and productive 2024 and hope to see many of you throughout the year!

Sara Thomas – NCD President



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This newsletter is published twice a year. Deadlines for submission are April and September 1st. The views and opinions expressed herein and not necessarily those of NCD.

## Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Updates



# 84<sup>TH</sup> MIDWEST FISH AND WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

January 28-31, 2024 | Sioux Falls, South Dakota

**Habitat:** Working Today to Benefit Tomorrow

The 84th Midwest Fish And Wildlife Conference will be hosted by [South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks](#), and is scheduled to be held January 28-31, 2024 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



We hope to see you there!

**Special Symposia Announced!** 12 organized symposia will be offered as part of the technical program at the annual conference. An Organized Symposium is a series of integrated presentations that address aspects of a single topic or theme. Read the organized [symposia overviews](#).

**Conference Schedule** is available! View the schedule of events [here](#).

**Download the mobile app** for digital access to symposia, meeting events, and more! See details below:

1. **Download** the Sched App from the App Store or Google Play
2. **Search** within the Sched App to find your event:  
"2024 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference"
3. **Sign up** or **Sign in** to access your event



## Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Updates

The NCD Student and Early Career Professionals Committee invites you to attend a hockey game on January 30th at 7:05pm at the Denny Sanford PREMIER Center. Scan the QR code below to purchase tickets.



Bring a friend or mentor and network at the **hockey game!**



January 30th - 7:05 PM - Denny Sanford PREMIER Center

**Get \$10 tickets in section 102!**





## Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Updates

### Student-Focused Events and Resources

The student/professional networking events are popular every year at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. These are great opportunities for students to make connections with professionals, which can have a positive impact on your career.

Students will receive an orange-colored “STUDENT” ribbon to attach to their name tag. All meeting registrants are encouraged to engage students in conversations and professional activities to facilitate networking.

#### Student Icebreaker Meet & Greet

Sunday, 5:00 PM—6:00 PM

All students are invited and encouraged to attend this informal meet and greet. Meet other students on a personal level and begin networking to prepare for the conference and the opening social. Information regarding student-related activities and conference know-how information will be available.

Attendees will be given the opportunity to participate in a “Networking Challenge” bingo card game. Completed cards will be entered into a raffle for a prize.

#### Student & Professional Networking Luncheon

Monday, 12:00 PM—1:30 PM

This unique networking event will feature speakers and opportunities to interact with professionals in your chosen area of interest. This is a great opportunity for students to interact with fisheries and wildlife professionals in small groups to discuss professional/career development!

### Resources

A **Student Resource Room** will be available for students to learn and network throughout the conference, featuring a variety of resources including a job board, networking opportunities, resume writing and interview techniques.

We are also looking to create a visual of where our attendees are coming from. Please bring a decal of some sort, whether it's an agency logo, school mascot, or something of sorts to place on a map. This allows attendees to show where they hail from. These decals should be reasonable size and not too overbearing, enough to let others play on the board as well!

## Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Updates

### Fundraising Silent Auction and Raffle

Don't forget to check out the silent auction and raffle during the meeting! All proceeds will benefit the [South Dakota State University Student Subunit](#).



Do you have items you would like to donate for the silent auction or raffle? Please contact Jeston Hassler (Jeston.Hassler@jacks.sdstate.edu) with a picture and description of the item(s) you would like to donate.

## NCD Updates—2023 Business Meeting Minutes



### North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society 2023 Business Meeting Minutes

83rd Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, Overland Park, Kansas  
February 12-15, 2023



Brian Nerbonne, President, [brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us](mailto:brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us)  
Sara Thomas, President Elect, [thomass35@michigan.gov](mailto:thomass35@michigan.gov)  
Mark Fincel, Immediate Past President, [Mark.Fincel@state.sd.us](mailto:Mark.Fincel@state.sd.us)  
Drew Holloway, Secretary/Treasurer, [dholloway@msdeng.com](mailto:dholloway@msdeng.com)  
Web site is: <http://ncd.fisheries.org>

President Nerbonne called the meeting to order at 10:30AM. Sixty-Seven members were in attendance when the meeting was called to order.

#### **Introduction of Special Guests**

April Croxton- AFS President

Gary Whalen – Second Vice President of AFS

Doug Austen – Executive Director of AFS

#### **Approval of the 2022 Business Meeting Minutes**

The 2022 business meeting minutes were posted on the NCD website and in the Spring 2022 newsletter. No comments or changes to the business meeting minutes were received.

A motion to approve the business meeting minutes as written was made, no objections—The motion was approved by membership.

#### **AFS Report**

April Croxton- Happy to be in attendance at MFWF, and glad to be in the presence of other AFS officers to help support the work being done in the NCD. Special thanks to all the time and effort put into holding these meetings.

Transparency – AFS officers are trying to be present at all meetings to learn about all the successes and issues seen throughout AFS. Working to increase best management practices by highlighting efforts being implemented thought each division. Also work to increase AFS communication to the divisions and state level.

Awards process- All awards will now be submitted via an online portal.

DEI- All members need to feel included, from students to retirees. Latin America Fish Conference is a step to engage underserved fisheries professionals.

Grand Rapids Annual Meeting – April expressed that this is our home division meeting and that we need to make sure to represent the NCD.

Closed with a reminder to volunteer and serve AFS if you have the means.

Doug Austen- Asked for support for the Latin American Fish Conference. NCD agreed to support at \$250 dollars. This meeting will serve as an investment for AFS to future members.

World Fish Congress – March 2024. International fisheries work will be highlighted from 70-80 countries.

AFS Hawaii 2024- Pacific Island Chapter has been created and will be a vital part in the planning process.

RAWA update – although it didn't pass AFS will still help to get it in front of congress again.

New CO-Ops at Purdue and Michigan State – increased research and support

Hutton Program updates – Biggest group in the last 15 years. 40+ student awardees. There will also be a conference to highlight their projects.

Membership – Down 1700+ members since 2020. Important to stress AFS membership.

## NCD Updates—2023 Business Meeting Minutes, cont'd

### Treasurer's Report

The North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society has \$134,376.95 in two accounts (checking and AFS investments) as of December 31, 2022. The finances are detailed below. Since this is a year's end report it does not reflect any spending after January 1, 2023. The newest line item is the MAFWA Travel Grant money that is to be used for student and early career professional travel to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

## NCD Treasurer Report EOY 2022

Prepared by: Drew Holloway

**NCD-AFS Total Funds** **\$134,376.95**

### Account Summaries

NCD General Fund	\$17,758.11
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### Technical Committees

Centrarchid	\$1,007.19
Esocid	\$5,955.28
Ictalurid	\$12,220.14
Rivers and Steams	\$3,753.88
Salmonid	\$8,563.41
Walleye	\$21,230.72

### Other Funds

Fenske Award	\$4,527.26
Cont. Education	\$1,675.88
MAFWA Travel Grants (Student/ Young Prof.)	\$5,980.08

### AFS Investments\*\*

NCD	\$21,068.00
Ictalurid Tech Committee	\$21,490.00
Walleye Tech Committee	\$9,147.00

**\*\* Latest updates were from Q2 sent on 09/06/2022**

Prepared by: Drew Holloway  
NCD - Secretary/Treasurer  
Dholloway@msdeng.com

## NCD Updates—2023 Business Meeting Minutes, cont'd

### Standing Committee Reports

Archives Committee: No Report

Audit Committee: 2022 NCD End of Year report was submitted and approved by Tom Bacula, chair, on February 22, 2023.

Awards Committee (Thomas):

- Recognize committee members: Seth Love, IL-AFS; Nick Kramer, KS-AFS; Margaret Stadig, WI-AFS
- MAFWA Travel awards given out to 8 students and early career professionals
- NCD awards were given out this year to Meritorious Service, Large and Small Chapter, Student Subunit and communications
- this year instead of spending money on a large plaque that usually doesn't end up having a home, we elected to give cardstock certificates and a check for \$30 to the Chapter and student subunit award winners.

Communications Committee (Holloway): The Facebook page is continuing to grow with 546 page likes. Our "Fieldwork Friday" posts are still a fan favorite and will continue during the 2022(3?) field season. Please continue to share your photos, videos and stories relevant to the fisheries field (send to who?).

Continuing Education Committee: No Report

Membership Committee (Thomas): Membership is down but looking forward to working with the committee. Would like to create a "new AFS" membership acknowledgement program. Idea to maybe add banner for nametags that will highlight "years of service" to encourage engagement.

Newsletter (Harried): Brittany Harried will be working on Mainstream submissions for spring newsletter.

Nominating Committee (Fincel): Dan Isermann was nominated after a tight race with Nick Kramer. Mark reminded the audience that Parent Society members are the only votes that count. AFS nominating committee update- The process was discussed, and the future ballot will be a strong pairing of nominees. April C. mentioned that members interested in being future leaders should talk to current leaders. They will be a great resource for information.

Resolutions Committee: No report.

Student and Early Career Professional Affairs Committee (Shaley Valentine and Hadley Boehm): Recent name change to bring in the ECP into the committee. Co-chair design to help the transition as students and ECP move on. First year was a challenge but a great start to revitalize the committee. First timers w/ Feedback symposium will be held to help break the ice for students and ECPs learn how to present. Survey summary results – 146 respondents – highlights include: DEI workshops needed for the future, NCD females are getting more involved, mentoring needs and how to talk with professionals. A soft skills symposium will be held at Grand Rapids AFS meeting.

### Technical Committee Reports

Centrarchid Technical Committee (Will Radigan, Chair)

- We have raised over \$250 using the NCD's threadless t-shirt site for travel grants, etc.
- We are currently replacing inactive state representatives with motivated individuals.
- We are pursuing different ways for the CTC to fulfill its mission statement, to include potential collaboration on a review paper, a synthesis of survey data, and a workshop or symposium.

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## NCD Updates—2023 Business Meeting Minutes, cont'd

### Technical Committee Reports, cont'd

#### Esocid Technical Committee (Jordan Weeks, Chair)

- Elected Jonah Dagel (MN DNR) as the new Chair for 2023. Congratulations Jonah!
- Developed a Scholarship fund to help students travel to conferences. This fund is supported solely by donations from esocid fishing clubs. So far we have received donations of \$1000 (Muskie Clubs Alliance Of Wisconsin), \$500 (Michigan Muskies Alliance) and \$500 (Capitol City Chapter of Muskies Inc-Madison, WI).
- Our first scholarship recipient was Sadie Swindall. Sadie is currently a student at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay studying under Dr. Patrick Forsythe. Her project will focus on Northern Pike using acoustic telemetry in wetlands surrounding Green Bay. She was awarded \$250 to attend the GLATOS meeting being held in Ann Arbor at the end of this month. This Scholarship is also available for the AFS Meeting in Grand Rapids (announcement attached-Deadline for applications is June 1)
- Organized a group to plan the Summer meeting of the WTC, CTC and ETC in Northern Wisconsin (tentative dates June 20-22, 2023).  
Worked with Dr.'s Derek Crane (Costal Carolina University) and Kevin Kapuscinski (Lake Superior State University) to provide an esocid symposium at the AFS meeting in Grand Rapids.

#### Ictalurid Technical Committee (Chris Cheek)

All vacancies filled  
Student research grant will be awarded for \$800.00  
Looking to increase Ictalurid presence

#### Reservoir Technical Committee (Andrew Bueltmann, Chair)

Rebecca K. – Andy will be stepping down and looking for a new chair  
2021 manuscripts approved and looking for publication date for North American Journal  
Symposiums always encouraged to spread the current science  
Increase in questions on microplastics and trash in reservoirs

#### Rivers and Streams Technical Committee (Bret Roberg, Chair)

- The RSTC is currently working on planning for the spring RSTC meeting, which is scheduled for March 28 and 29 in Moline, Illinois.  
We are updating our operational procedures to include such things as virtual meetings, online voting, etc.

#### Salmonid Technical Committee (Jeremy Keintz)- No Update

#### Undervalued/Underappreciated Fishes Technical Committee (Paul DeRolf, Chair) *Provisional*

#### Urban and Community Fisheries Technical Committee (Tyler Stubbs, Chair)

- Had first "official" meeting as a recognized group in Sept.
- Laura Schmidt from WI is the chair-elect.
- Reached out to each chapter to nominate an official representative for the technical committee.
- We are close to having a new logo that we will utilize for the group.
- Information has been added to the NCD webpage for the committee.  
Looking for ideas on future projects to focus on as a group.

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## NCD Updates—2023 Business Meeting Minutes, cont'd

### Technical Committee Reports, cont'd

#### Walleye Technical Committee (Jason DeBoer, Chair)

- We held our traditional joint summer meeting with the Centrarchid Technical Committee (CTC) and Esocid Technical Committee (ETC) on the beautiful shores of Lake Okoboji in Milford, IA on July 18-20, 2022.
- We also hosted a side-scan sonar workshop at the meeting with support from the AFS Professional Development Committee; 24 people participated in classroom and on-water learning.
- At that summer meeting, we voted to increase both the number and value of our Percid travel awards to the Midwest meeting, from 1 to (up to) 3 annually, and from \$200 to \$300. Consequently, we selected three students to receive the Percid award to this year's Midwest meeting.
- We finished publishing a special section in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management from our virtual 2021 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference symposium entitled "Effects of System Change on North American Percid Populations."

### New Business:

John Bruner – Asked to make a resolution to make retiree registration fees the same as student registration rate. Kopaska mentioned that we don't have much pull with the planning of the MWFC but can talk to the planning committee about it for the next meeting in South Dakota.  
Holloway- look into proper way to bring it to the MAFWA planning committee in a form of a resolution.

Call for Volunteers in vacant committee roles

NCD Merchandise "Store" (Holloway)– The NCD store has officially opened! It took a little longer than expected but it is up and running. If you are a current NCD committee chair, chapter president, or student subunit looking to make a little extra money please come see me at the trade show. Our booth has examples of products provided by Threadless T's and information about pricing and earning potential.

### Upcoming Meetings & Locations

2023 AFS Annual Meeting, August 20-24, 2023, Grand Rapids, MI  
2024 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, late January, South Dakota

President Nerbonne adjourns meeting at 11:54am

*Respectfully submitted by Drew Holloway, NCD AFS Secretary-Treasurer.*

## NCD Updates—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

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

Hadley Boehm, *Fisheries*  
 Lindsey Gapinski, *Wildlife*



Pictured above: Photo of 2023 Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award Finalists in attendance at the 2023 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

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



## NCD Updates—2023 Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award

### 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!

## NCD Updates—2023 Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award

### 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 dishonest. 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.



## NCD Updates—NCD Awards

### NCD Awards Presented at the 2023 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

**Most Active Chapter, Small Chapter** – Iowa Chapter



**Best Chapter Communications** – Ontario Chapter



**Most Active Student Subunit** – Purdue University and University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

**Meritorious Service Award** – Drew Holloway

Drew Holloway has served as the Secretary/Treasurer for the North Central Division (NCD) of the American Fisheries Society since 2018. This is often a thankless yet vital component to a vibrant and active division. Drew currently manages the funds not only for the NCD, but also for all the division's technical committees. His attention to details allows him to promptly deliver treasurer updates for all the technical committees when asked. He also assembled a forecast funding sheet that provides the NCD Executive Committee with projected income and expense information based on historical data, allowing better financial planning for the division.

This year, Drew took it upon himself to open an online NCD merchandise store. This site was recently opened and provides print-on-demand, allowing apparel to be purchased without the need to house overstock, increasing efficiency and saving money. Now that the store is open, Drew is working to incorporate chapters and student sub-units into the site. This would allow these groups to showcase their merchandize on the same site to create a one-stop-shop. Moreover, it allows these units to include apparel that incorporates the division logo with the unit logo.

For three years, Drew has compiled and edited contributions to Mainstream, the NCD's biannually published newsletter. This publication provides divisional updates, recognizes work being completed at various chapters, technical committees, and student chapters, and provides information for upcoming meetings. Drew also has been a main contributor to the NCD Facebook page, starting the #FieldworkFriday feature.

Drew also served the Indiana Chapter in various capacities. He served as President in 2018 in addition to serving on many committees. Even as Drew served the NCD, his service to the chapter did not slow; he recently designed and launched a new website for the Indiana Chapter in 2022.



## NCD Updates—NCD Awards, cont'd

### NCD Awards Presented at the 2023 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference



#### 2023 MAFWA Travel Grant Award Winners (to attend Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference) from AFS, NCD)

- Katie Bearden, South Dakota State University
- Azareah Carson, Southern Illinois University
- Logan Cutler, South Dakota State University
- Kamden Glade, Bemidji State University
- Hannah Mulligan, South Dakota State University
- Valerie Thompson, Eastern Illinois University
- Shaley Valentine, Southern Illinois University
- Logan Zebro, University of Nebraska



#### 2023 Joan Duffy Student Travel Awards Winners

- Anna Raney – Missouri Chapter
- Julie Hampton & Lindsey La Brie – Dakota Chapter
- Kayla Reed – Wisconsin Chapter
- Shaley Valentine – Illinois Chapter
- Tommy Johnson – Iowa Chapter
- Grace Carter – Indiana Chapter



## NCD Updates



Pictured above: NCD AFS Leadership at the 2023 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

Pictured to the right: Mark Fincel, Past President



Pictured below: NCD Past Presidents Meeting at 153rd Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, MI



## NCD Updates—NCD Merchandise Store

### The NCD shop is officially open!

#### [NCD of AFS on Threadless](#)

The NCD apparel shop is open! This print-on-demand digital storefront will allow the NCD and its chapters the option to sell logo merchandise without the overhead.

There are a variety of customizable items to choose from with varied profit margins.

There will be product examples available to view at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife meeting in the tradeshow hall.

If any chapter would like more information please contact store manager—  
Drew Holloway [dholloway@msdeng.com](mailto:dholloway@msdeng.com)



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## NCD Committees



Interested in getting involved with NCD? Please consider helping with any of the [NCD committees](#) listed below!

### Standing Committees

Auditing Committee
Continuing Education Committee
Membership Committee
Newsletter Committee
NCD Nominating Committee
Resolution Committee
Student Affairs Committee
Communications Committee
AFS Nominating Committee
AFS Meritorious Service Award
Special Committees
Strategic Plan Update

### Technical Committees

Centrarchid
Esocid
Ictalurid
Rivers and Streams
Salmonid
Walleye
Urban & Community Fisheries
Student and Early Career Professionals



## NCD Committee Updates

### Centrarchid Committee:

Over the past two years, the CTC has grown. We have active representatives from nine states within the NCD and participate in business meetings at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and the joint summer meeting of the Centrarchid, Esocid, and Walleye Technical Committees. The CTC is working on a regional collaboration examining environmental factors affecting smallmouth bass and largemouth recruitment and has recently financially supported centrarchid-related research. Further, the CTC is working on pursuing several avenues for securing funding for travel grants to future Midwest Fish and Wildlife conferences for those conducting centrarchid-related research, to include t-shirt sales and requests to state AFS chapters. If interested in joining the team, please email the CTC chair, Will Radigan, at [wradigan2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:wradigan2@huskers.unl.edu).

### Student & Early Career Professionals Activities Committee (SECPAC):

*Kamden Glade & Hannah Mulligan, Committee Co-chairs*

First and foremost, we'd like to acknowledge Hadley Boehm and Shaley Valentine for all the time and effort they gave to revive this committee over the past couple of years. We could not have asked for better co-chairs to get the group re-organized!

In 2022 the previously defunct NCD Student Affairs Committee was re-established as the SECPAC to also include early career professionals. We meet approximately monthly, and the year of 2022 was largely devoted to amending committee bylaws and objectives, developing subcommittees, building membership, finding state representatives, and filling subcommittee chairs and team members. However, 2023 has seen a rapid increase in SECPAC organized activities and our membership and student/ECP involvement continues to grow! Here are a few highlights from last year and plans for 2024...

We started 2023 by hosting two events at the Midwest conference in Kansas. The first event was a short social hour where current and interested members could network and learn more about what SECPAC does and how to get involved. Several members of NCD ExCom were present to offer their support and to hear ideas from the group. We also hosted a symposium and panel discussion focused on providing constructive feedback to new conference presenters. Attendees were asked to provide written feedback for the presenters, and there was time for verbal feedback following each presentation. The session concluded with a panel of more experienced presenters offering tips, tricks, and best practices when giving presentations. This symposium was a hit, and we look forward to hosting a similar session at the 2024 meeting in South Dakota. If you are interested in viewing the 2023 panel discussion as you prepare for upcoming winter conferences, a recording is located [here](#). During the upcoming Midwest conference we are also planning to attend a Stampede hockey game on 1/30 at 7 pm, so we invite you to attend for an opportunity to network and enjoy the game.

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## NCD Committee Updates, cont'd

### Student & Early Career Professionals Activities Committee (SECPAC), cont'd:

Because so many of our members are students with busy courseloads and ongoing research, SECPAC has taken a “many hands make light work” approach by organizing subcommittees to focus on specific tasks and provide opportunities for varying levels of involvement to members. We have designated chapter reps from most chapters to help facilitate communications between SECPAC and chapter members that may be interested in our activities. Our Midwest conference team has been instrumental in organizing symposia each of the last two years. Our Membership team has been busy updating our list of contacts from each chapter and the universities within NCD that offer fisheries-related degrees (if you are student or faculty member at a college or university without a subunit, please reach out to Kamden or Hannah if you would like to be added to our email listserv and/or become a member). Our Communications team has also been sending weekly summaries of graduate school, employment/internship, and grant/scholarship opportunities to our members. Our Continuing Education team is in the process of setting up a few virtual webinars that we will host over the coming months, the first of which we are co-hosting with the Fisheries Management Section about mentoring on 2/13 from 1-2 pm (for info contact [Elizabeth.Renner@state.sd.us](mailto:Elizabeth.Renner@state.sd.us)). Most recently, we've been working with a few folks from the Michigan chapter who are interested in setting up a student conclave for the NCD. Stay tuned for more details.

If any of these activities sound interesting to you, we'd love for you to join us! This is a good opportunity to network with other students/ECPs, gain practice working as a team and in professional society involvement. We welcome all levels of participation ability/availability, and we are always looking for motivated students/ECPs to join in and help maintain the momentum we've built over the past couple years. If you're interested in joining, just want more information, or would like to be added to the email listserv to receive job/scholarship/grad position postings -please contact Kamden ([kamden.glade@state.mn.us](mailto:kamden.glade@state.mn.us)) or Hannah ([Hannah.Mulligan@jacks.sdstate.edu](mailto:Hannah.Mulligan@jacks.sdstate.edu)).

## NCD Chapter Updates

### Indiana Chapter

The Indiana Chapter of AFS held its fall meeting at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis on October 10, 2023. Following the meeting, the members toured the Attaraya Shrimpbox facility in Indianapolis. Attaraya Shrimpbox is a start-up shrimp farming concept where individuals can produce shrimp in a shipping container.

The chapter will hold its Annual Spring meeting at Ball State University on Feb 20-22, 2024. Indiana AFS is represented by a large number of hatchery biologists, and as such, we have decided to highlight the importance of hatcheries during the meeting. The meeting theme is: "Hatching Things Out: Highlighting the Role of Hatcheries in Fisheries Management and Conservation."

Program highlights include:

- Plenary speaker Donavon Patterson with the Texas ShareLunker Program – a partnership between Texas Parks and Wildlife and anglers to selectively breed lunker bass in Texas
- A plenary talk from biologists with Fisheries Conservation, Inc – an organization involved in the propagation and restoration of imperiled aquatic species
- A presentation about the aquaculture partnership between the Indiana DNR and Ball State
- A continuing ed. tour of the Muncie Sanitary District's new freshwater mussel propagation and education facility.

### Missouri Chapter

The Missouri Chapter has had an active 2023 focused on supporting members, partner organizations, and early career professionals.

Over the course of 2023, the Chapter has been working with the Missouri Department of Conservation to develop collaborative training opportunities. We have been proactive about recognizing the good work Chapter members do throughout the state, and are retooling our Newsletter into a Communications Committee that can provide more timely and relevant content to membership.

The Chapter hosted a table at Clean Water Day at the Capitol, in conjunction with Stream Teams, United a statewide organization focused on the stewardship of Missouri's aquatic resources. The Chapter was represented at River Soundings, a conference hosted by the Greenway Network, where attendees learned about the impacts of habitat alteration on fish communities in the lower Missouri River.

Chapter mentors hosted two Hutton Scholars in 2023, and many members took time to make sure those students had rewarding experiences in the fisheries and aquatic sciences fields. I'm proud of the work going on throughout the state to re-invigorate our Student Subunits, as members from many different state and federal agencies are engaging and supporting Subunits and their students. Long-term efforts to improve fisheries and aquatic sciences research and education paid off in 2023, with announcement of the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems at the University of Missouri. We worked with NCD's Student and Early Career Professionals Committee (SECPAC) to support some of their events during the 2023 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Overland Park, Kansas, and look forward to continuing to support SECPAC at the 2024 conference in St. Louis.

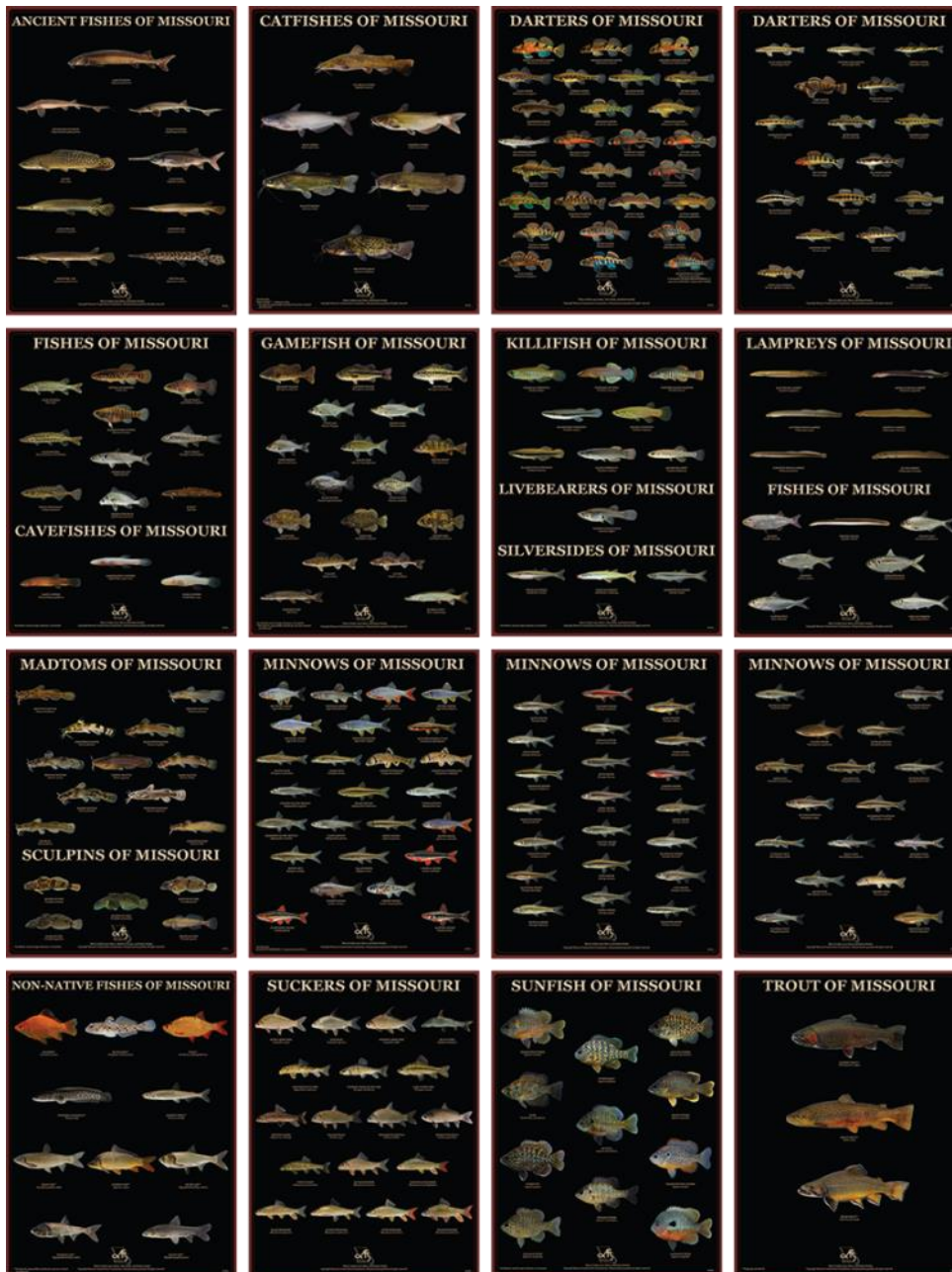
Looking ahead- our annual Chapter Business Meeting will be February 7th, where we will be presenting our annual student scholarships, as well as election results and Chapter Awards. The Chapter is gearing up for the 2025 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in St. Louis, with several members on various planning committees. Ben Havens will be gaveled in as MOAFS President in February 2024, and we're looking forward to his continued service with the Chapter.

## NCD Chapter Updates, cont'd

### Missouri Chapter, cont'd

MOAFS is currently selling the Fishes of Missouri posters [here](#). A 16-poster set compiles the current scientifically accepted fish species found in Missouri and can be purchased for \$80.00. Each of the unique posters within the 16-poster set can be purchased individually for \$10.00. A bulk buying discount is available: first 5 posters at \$10.00 each and any additional posters at \$5.00 each.

Posters can be pre-ordered for pickup at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference. If unable to pick up at MNRC, shipping is available. If shipped, a \$10 charge for shipping will be added to all orders up to 1 full poster set. Additional shipping costs will be added to larger orders.



Funds generated from the sale of these posters will be used to sustain the goals of MOAFS:

- To advance the conservation, development, and wise use of aquatic resources for optimum use and enjoyment by people
- To facilitate the distribution of information regarding the aquatic sciences
- To promote and to evaluate the educational, scientific, and professional aspects of the aquatic sciences
- To provide an organizational structure that equitably represents its members, develops opportunities for effective leadership, and generates the resources necessary to accomplish Chapter programs.



## NCD Chapter Updates, cont'd

### Ohio Chapter

The Ohio Chapter held their Summer Business Meeting at Castalia Trout Club in Castalia, Ohio in July this year, with 18 members in attendance. Topics of discussion included Hutton Scholar sponsorship, use of chapter funds for chapter president travel, and student subunit updates. After the meeting, members were treated to lunch and toured the Trout Club, then toured the Ohio Division of Wildlife's Castalia State Hatchery.

The chapter donated \$1,350 to various charitable causes in 2023, including the AFS Equal Opportunities Section, State Science Day awards, and scholarships to Ohio State University Stone Lab's Fish Sampling Techniques workshop.

The Ohio Chapter will hold their Annual Winter Meeting at Deer Creek State Park on March 14-15, 2024. On the agenda are the Winter Business Meeting, scientific presentations, and a workshop on the use of sidescan sonar. Contact the chapter ([theocafs@gmail.com](mailto:theocafs@gmail.com)) if interested in attending.



Pictured above: Ohio Chapter members hear about the Rainbow Trout hatching process from Dan Kovalaske, Castalia State Fish Hatchery Coordinator.



## NCD Chapter Updates, cont'd

### Wisconsin Chapter

The Wisconsin Chapter remained active in 2023, including thoroughly enjoying getting together in Stevens Point for our annual meeting (January 31 – February 2) after two years of virtual meetings. There were 195 attendees (136 professional, 52 students, 7 retired professionals), 28 oral presentations, 23 poster presentations, and ended with a keynote address from Steve Gilbert (retired DNR biologist) who reflected on how the Chapter and AFS influenced his career and has changed over time (students once were not allowed to be members!). We started the meeting with a workshop on Tips and Tricks to Becoming a Better Researcher, led by Greg Sass and Joe Mrnak, followed by a social at a local brewery that included a student-professional cornhole tournament. We hosted a student-professional lunch and a student table (job postings, questions) during breaks. At our business meeting we presented various awards, and also conducted a naming ceremony for our "Speed Talk" in honor of Dr. John Lyons, a retired DNR researcher who is currently a curator and lecturer at UW – Madison. Our annual raffle was a mixture of donations from businesses and members and raised over \$3,000.

We continue to strongly support students with funding and opportunities. We welcomed UW – La Crosse as our sixth student subunit. We continue to offer our Student-Mentor program that is open to all students. Our "Fisheries Bootcamp" in northern Wisconsin was revived for the first time in three years, where students from multiple campuses assisted with various field sampling and research projects for one weekend, with housing provided. We provided \$1,000 to the UW – Stevens Point student subunit to purchase various sampling equipment and reimbursed subunit officers for AFS membership dues. We provided \$5,681 for student scholarships, travel awards, and Hutton Scholar directly through WI AFS and through matches/donations to NCD (Joan Duffy) and AFS (Hutton, Skinner, EOS). Chapter members routinely present at student subunit meetings, and offer field sampling opportunities including lake sturgeon sampling (highlight for many students).

Our chapter conducted other activities throughout the year, including hosting the NCD Technical Committees in Tomahawk in June. Multiple members attended the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Kansas and the AFS Conference in Michigan (organized multiple symposiums). We again ran our member fishing photo contest, and included a children's category for the first time. Member were also invited to participate in ice and open water fishing contests. We sold our "Wisconsin's 10 Most Unglamorous Fishes" apparel through an online website.

Our 2024 meeting will be held in Green Bay from January 23-25. We will have a workshop on leadership, personality types, and interacting with the public and also voting on a new Chapter logo. We are excited to see what else we can accomplish!



Pictured above: Tony Reith, winner of the annual fishing contest

## NCD Chapter Updates, cont'd

### Wisconsin Chapter, cont'd



The opening social at the 2023 WIAFS Annual Meeting was held at O'so Brewery which included a student-professional cornhole tournament





## NCD Chapter Updates, cont'd

### Wisconsin Chapter, cont'd



Pictured above: WIAFS Annual Meeting Grand Social and raffle



Pictured to the left:  
An ice auger-drill combo  
was the top raffle prize at  
the 2023 WIAFS Annual  
Meeting