



Mainstream

President's Message

Sara Thomas

Greetings NCD members,

As I look outside my office window, it's worse weather in early April than it was in late January at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in South Dakota!!! The true joys of Midwest weather! A big thanks to the NCD and Dakota Chapter members that helped plan the meeting. Despite Midwest not being an official AFS meeting, it has generally served as the home of our Division annual meeting for decades. While not having our own meeting has both pros and cons, it is always great to see many NCD colleagues at this meeting. This year's meeting will be particularly memorable for those in attendance as the "middle of the night fire at the hotel meeting". But despite the sleepy attendees, there were lots of good presentations and conversations. Next year's meeting will be held in St. Louis, MO in January. Start thinking about talks and travel plans now.

Speaking of travel plans, abstract submissions for AFS 2024 in Honolulu are now open. There were very large number of symposium submissions and attendance is expected to be high. I know it will be harder for us NCD folks to attend and especially agency folks, but hopefully some of you are able to get creative with funding opportunities and make the trip. If not, keep AFS 2025 in San Antonio in mind. The 50th Black Bass Symposium will be held in conjunction with this meeting, making it a great opportunity for NCD managers and researchers!

I would also like to congratulate our Division award winners that were announced at the annual business meeting. Please see additional details later in this newsletter. We should all be proud of the excellent work being done by our members and chapters in NCD. IF you didn't make the nominating deadline for Society awards this year, please consider nominating a deserving individual or group next year.

We know everyone is busy, but we have some exciting movement in NCD to get two new committees up and running. These are the Native Nongame Fishes Working Group/Tech Committee and a Fisheries Community Advocacy and Sustainability (FishCAST) committee.

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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 are not necessarily those of NCD.

President's Message, continued

Details on how to get additional information and express interest in learning more can be found in this newsletter. Joining NCD committees is an excellent way to build your networking and communication skills. The SECPAC is also working on planning some exciting events, including a student conclave this summer. Be sure to look for information on Tech Committee Summer meetings as well.

I wish everyone a very safe and productive field season and end to the school year! I challenge everyone this summer to share your love and knowledge of aquatic resources with someone new. You never know what interaction will inspire the next Fisheries Professional.

Sara Thomas, AFS NCD President



My youngest "I picked this outfit to look like you"



And putting her to work.

NCD Updates—2024 Business Meeting Minutes



North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society
2024 Business Meeting Minutes

84th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
January 28-31, 2024



Sara Thomas, President, thomass35@michigan.gov
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Web site is: <http://ncd.fisheries.org>

2024 Business Meeting Minutes

84th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, January 28-31, 2024

President Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:30AM. Seventy-five members were in attendance when the meeting was called to order.

Introduction of Special Guests

Gary Whalen – 1st Vice President of AFS

Approval of the 2023 Business Meeting Minutes

The 2023 business meeting minutes were posted in the 2023 Fall 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. Motion by Gary Whalen, second by Drew Holloway

AFS Report

Gary Whalen- Presidential update for Cicil Jennings.

Executive Director search is underway with candidates hoping to be in hand by June/July so a decision can be made prior to Doug Austen's last day September 19th.

Annual meeting – not “national meeting” we are international organization and need to be aware of our international members. Planning is well underway for the meeting with a lot of Hawaiian themes and plenary speakers. Lots of DEI initiatives and TEK items planned.

Respectful planning is also underway to make sure we are good visitors to the islands.

World Fish Conference – Cicil will give a welcome note and is heavily involved with planning and executing the conference.

Strategic Planning for 2025-29 – Currently working on this five year plan but also looking at long-term framework to see what AFS will look like in 25-30 years. Membership and recruitment will be some of the main goals post COVID.

DEIJA- Cecil is working hard on creating a welcoming society

Hutton summit - A previous Hutton scholar was in the room

Professional Certification- revamping and trying to express importance to state agencies

Know your officers- Reach out to the AFS leadership and try get to know them. They are a great group of people who are always willing to talk.

Although membership is down our budget is stable. Increasing membership should be on everyone's mind because of the relationships and personal connections we make with fellow members.

Still working on the old office in Bethesda to get it sold. The office isn't as important as is used to be and they are working to get it sold.

Publication contract is expiring but packages have been sent to 7 publishers to get something finalized ASAP.

AFS Officer Travel- Transparency was one of the biggest goals for April during her presidency. This will continue to be of great importance to make sure officers are able to know what's happening from a subunit, state, and divisional level.

NCD Updates—2024 Business Meeting Minutes, continued

AFS Report Continued

Retiary Core of Excellence – We need to keep our well informed and knowledgeable retired members engaged with our younger members
Expand on Webinar series- very popular with membership and encourage folks to present their work

Treasurer's Report

The North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society has \$135,937.74 in two accounts (checking and AFS investments) as of December 31, 2023. The finances are detailed below. Since this is a year's end report it does not reflect any spending after January 1, 2023. Although I have yet to receive the Q3 or Q4 reports you can see all three investments (NCD, WTC and ITC) are holding on after last year's losses. This report has been sent to the Audit and approved on 1/10/2024. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

NCD Treasurer Report EOY 2023

Prepared by: Drew Holloway

NCD-AFS Total Funds **\$135,937.74**

Account Summaries

NCD General Fund	\$29,545.67
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Technical Committees

Centrarchid	\$863.64
Esocid	\$6,705.28
Ictalurid	\$12,171.29
Rivers and Steams	\$3,344.60
Salmonid	\$8,563.41
Walleye	\$1,038.63

Other Funds

Fenske Award	\$4,027.26
Cont. Education	\$1,675.88
MAFWA Travel Grants (Student/ Young Prof.)	\$14,480.08

AFS Investments**

NCD	\$21,809.00
Ictalurid Tech Committee	\$22,245.00
Walleye Tech Committee	\$9,468.00

** Latest updates were from Q2 sent on 12/27/2023

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

NCD Updates—2024 Business Meeting Minutes, continued

Membership update Call to Action (Holloway) -After the AFS membership call recently I would like to echo Garys statements on membership and mention Kelly Kotche, AFS membership staff, that her goal is a 5% increase for 2024. For NCD that means 70 new members of 6 a chapter. That is a very reasonable goal and hope every state can produce those types of numbers to continue to build AFS membership.

President Remarks (Thomas) – Thank Jeff Kopaska for his Future-Casting workshop sponsored by NCD. Great ideas presented and hope to see those passed down to state level.

MAFWA Travel Grants – Increased by 11 recipients giving out \$500 for students and \$750 to ECPs. NCD is working to continue our networking and want to highlight policy work done by AFS. We had responses to 8 policies. Notable were Ballast Water management for the Great Lakes, 2023 WOTUS and USGS gage networks.

SECPAC – A big shout out to their group of 80+ members with an active and creative membership hosting events like a hockey game event at Midwest.

State-Wide Student Subunit – Still working to get state-wide networks of smaller schools to have representation. Iowa is making notable headway and hope this will continue.

State Chapter Updates

Dakotas- Thank you for hosting and planning Midwest

Illinois- Well attended Boat safety course

Indiana – mobile shrimp farm operation tour for CE

Iowa- new logo and state fish

Kansas- connecting with student subunits

Michigan – voting on new logo and kudos to the work put in for the previous annual meeting in Grand Rapids

Minnesota – engaging with student groups and continuing education opportunities

Missouri- mussel and crayfish workshops planned

Nebraska – new logo and bi-law updates

Ontario – non-game focus for meeting and very active Instagram

Ohio- Trout club summer meeting and OSU student group is growing post covid

Wisconsin – Equipment grants for student subunit supplies

Mid-Canada- Now has full suite of officers for the first time in years and are working on bi-laws and involvement.

Standing Committee Reports

Archives Committee: No Report - vacant

Audit Committee: 2023 NCD End of Year report was submitted and approved by Tom Bacula, chair, on January 10, 2023.

Awards Committee (Isermann):

- MAFWA Travel awards given out to 19 students and early career professionals

-Joan Duffy Awards – 8 awards given out this year

-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.

Continuing Education Committee: No Report

Membership Committee (Thomas): Membership is down but looking forward to working with the committee. 30-page report given to committee.

Working with committees and their specialties to see how membership can be improved or grown.

Quick reminder that memberships can be gifted- Great way to support students for \$35

Communications Committee (Harried): The Facebook page is continuing to grow with 766 page likes. Instagram 137 followers and 368 Twitter followers. Please continue to share your photos, videos and stories relevant to the fisheries field.

NCD Updates—2024 Business Meeting Minutes, continued

Standing Committee Reports, cont'd

Newsletter (Harried): Brittany Harried will be working on Mainstream submissions for spring newsletter due April 1st.

Continuing Education: Vacant

Nominating Committee (Nerbonne via Thomas): Drew Holloway and Joe Parkos were nominated for Vice President (Holloway Wins). Three candidates ran for Sec/Treasurer. Doug Workman will be taking over at the Annual meeting.

Resolutions Committee: No report.

Student and Early Career Professional Affairs Committee (Glade): See Newsletter for full update.

Working with Fisheries Management on webinar – registration available

Liz Renner helped create logo – See merch at the NCD table

Officers are currently being solicited for open positions. Contact Kamden or Hannah Mulligan

Working with Michigan to create a student conclave – Shooting for one day conclave before Midwest F&W in St. Louis.

Technical Committee Reports

Centrarchid Technical Committee (Will Radigan, Chair)

Kansas, Illinois, Iowa and South Dakota looking at Bass recruitment

Increase membership and funds are goals for 2024

Esocid Technical Committee (Jonah Dagel, Chair)

(2) Travel Scholarships award - \$500

Business meeting was yesterday and was well attended

Ictalurid Technical Committee (Chris Cheek)

Student research grant will be awarded for \$800.00 announcement coming

State Reports being compiled for a 2023 report

See Chris if interested in joining – What's next for ITC

Reservoir Technical Committee (Rebecca K.)

Looking for a new chair – Contact Sarah Thomas if interested

Rivers and Streams Technical Committee (MJ Oubre, Chair)

37 attend meeting

Student focus – 9 attended which is a record for the committee

Poster session added for student

Everyone is invited to Moline, IL March 20-21st

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)

State chapters report submitted

Logo created – looking to do merchandise to raise funds

Still looking to fill every NCD state

Hoping to have a Symposium at Midwest next year with Southern Division

Walleye Technical Committee (Jason G., Chair)

Travel money awarded at business meeting

Summer meeting will be in Southern Illinois

Logan Zebro is working to get some WTC merch created

NCD Updates—2024 Business Meeting Minutes, continued

New Business:

Call for Volunteers in vacant committee roles

NCD Merchandise “Store” (Holloway)– The NCD store has been open for almost a year! It took a little longer than expected but it is up and running. Thus far we have seen designs from seven groups. This includes student subunits, state chapters, and tech committees. 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.

Non-affiliated Student Sub-Unit Start-up (Rebecca K.)- “Cross Campus student and ECP sub-unit” goal to keep students and ECPs engaged if not officially able to join sub-units.

Working on bi-laws and logistics of a state wide meeting. Sub-units must have academic advisement so finding professors to work with students from all over the state is a challenge but some IDNR staff willing to help since they are also teaching.

Formation of NCD DEIJ Committee (Harried)- Fill a need at NCD level to include a DEIJ committee. Serve as a starting point for states and sub-units to find the necessary information to get their committee started. Currently 4 state chapters in NCD have DEI committee so trying to see what all states need will be very important. Contact Brittany if you have any questions.

Non-game and Native Fishes Committee (Thomas)- Core group spearheading this group and working to finalize previously written bi-laws. Building off of the success of recent symposiums this will be a important committee moving forward.

Black Bass 2025 Symposium (Thomas)- We have been asked to sponsor the 50th anniversary of this event being held in conjunction with the AFS Annual meeting in San Antonio next year. It will hopefully bring 200+ attendees to the meeting. They are asking for a \$1,000 sponsor for the meeting. Gary Whalen makes motion to provide \$1,000 to Black Bass 2025, seconded by Jeff Kopaska. None opposed, motion passes.

Chapters encouraged to update logos to reflect new AFS logo.

Upcoming Meetings & Locations

2024 AFS Annual Meeting, September 15-19th, 2024, Honolulu, Hi
2025 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, late January 19-22, Saint Louis, Mo

President Thomas adjourns meeting at 11:46am

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

NCD Updates—2024 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 450 students from over 40 different universities.



84TH MIDWEST FISH AND WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

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

Habitat: Working Today to Benefit Tomorrow

The 2024 award ceremony took place on January 30 during the Midwest Fisheries and Wildlife Conference and recognized student finalists from 16 different universities in 12 states throughout the Midwest.

Submitted by Jessica Mistak, Chair



Pictured above: Photo of 2024 Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award Finalists in attendance at the 2024 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

NCD Updates—2024 Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award

The following students were recognized as 2024 Fenske Award finalists:

Fisheries

Mercedes Batalla, South Dakota State University
 Jacob Bentley, The Ohio State University
 Brandt Boekhout, Iowa State University
 Ryan Bohlen, University of Wisconsin- Steven's Point
 Brenden Elwer, South Dakota State University
 Cali Engel, University of Nebraska- Lincoln
 Brooke Gaudry, Valley City State University
 Taylor Gross, Lake Superior State University
 Masaki Hara, Minnesota State University- Mankato
 Allison Hay, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
 Alexandria Keiler-Klein, University of Nebraska at Kearney
 Hannah Lenning, University of Nebraska at Kearney
 Madeline Lewis, Iowa State University
 Riley Mounsdon, South Dakota State University
 Seth Renner, Iowa State University
 Madalyn Siller, South Dakota State University
 Levi Umland, University of Missouri
 Maxwell Wilkinson, University of Wisconsin- Steven's Point
 Logan Zebro, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Wildlife

Mary Benjamin, Central Michigan University
 Levin Brandt, University of North Dakota
 Alexandra Dudley, Purdue University
 Anna Hill, Northern Michigan University
 Lauren Schagel, Lake Superior State University
 Abbigail Schrader, Lake Superior State University
 Jessica Speiser, South Dakota State University
 Cassie Stitzman, Northern Michigan University
 Anna Weesies, South Dakota State University
 Chloe Wiersema, South Dakota State University

The following students were recognized as 2024 Fenske Award recipients:

Natalie Coash, Fisheries
 Ashlyn Herron, Wildlife

Special thanks to the following individuals for their help with the award: Jo Ann Alexander, Andrew Carlson, Dave Clapp, Robin DeBruyne, Patrick Ertel, Mark Fincel, Holly Jennings, Mark Kaemingk, Jeremy Kientz, Tamara Lipsey, Bill Severud, and Mark Tonello.



Pictured above: Ashlyn Herron (left) and Natalie Coash (right)

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

- 2024 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Committee
- American Fisheries Society- North Central Division, Dakota and Michigan Chapters
- The Wildlife Society- South Dakota and Michigan Chapters

NCD Updates—2024 Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award

Natalie Coash – Fisheries

Natalie received her B.S. in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point and is pursuing her M.S. in Fisheries from Auburn University where she is studying the tradeoffs between economic benefits and fishing quality of increased bass tournament fishing effort in northeast Alabama.

Natalie is a very active member of the American Fisheries Society, including serving as President and Vice-President of the University of Wisconsin- Steven's Point student subunit (which received the North Central Division's Most Active Student Subunit Award under her leadership) and assisting with the Auburn University

Subunit's numerous volunteer activities. Her work experiences have taken her from managing remote salmon weirs Alaska, to monitoring Brook Trout in northern Wisconsin, to helping manage aquatic invasive species in South Dakota. She frequently volunteers to help provide learning opportunities for the public and regularly assists her peers whether to help track bass or paddlefish – or really it seems like any time she sees a way she can be helpful.

Natalie is dedicated, passionate, and driven. She plans to let her curiosity pave the way as she continues to acquire diverse experiences in her goal of either pursuing a PhD in salmon ecology or begin working toward management and research of cold-water stream in the Midwest or Pacific Northwest.

According to Natalie's advisor, Dr. Matthew Catalano, "Natalie has an engaging, confident yet respectful, and spunky demeanor that brings out the best in those around her. She will be a leader wherever she ends up because she is extremely personable, up-front, organized, hardworking, and has an upbeat positive attitude. She also has the passion and dedication to resource stewardship that would make her an excellent ambassador for Jan Fenske's legacy." We could not agree more. Congratulations Natalie!



NCD Updates—2024 Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award

Ashlyn Herron – Wildlife

Ashlyn received her Bachelor of Ecosystem Management from Lethbridge College in Alberta, Canada where she conducted research on grassland birds. Currently, she is pursuing her M.S. in Biology of University of North Dakota where she continues to explore grasslands, specifically how restoration of those areas influences bird diversity.

Ashlyn is an active member of The Wildlife Society. She represented the Canadian Section as the student representative on their certification committee and served as the Vice President of the Lethbridge College Chapter of The Wildlife Society. She is a currently a member of the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the Biology Graduate Student Association at the

University of North Dakota. She regularly volunteers her time to assist others including planning for the Grand Forks Ducks Unlimited banquet and the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference.

Ashlyn's passion for conservation is rooted in her upbringing on a multi-generational beef-farm in the grasslands of Alberta, and properly caring for the land is an integral part of who she is. Her deeply rooted passion has led to her long-term goal of building a career as a grasslands species-at-risk biologist supporting private land conservation for the benefit of wildlife and maintained use of working landscapes.

Dr. Melissa Schmitt describes Ashlyn as “possessing a natural ability to inspire and empower others, providing invaluable guidance that extends beyond academic pursuits. Ashlyn's mentorship goes beyond pure instruction. Instead, it's characterized by patience, empathy, and a genuine investment in the personal and professional growth of her mentees. Ashlyn's passion, strong work ethic, coupled with her ability to inspire and motivate others, sets her apart as a future leader in wildlife ecology and management.” Congratulations, Ashlyn! You are well-deserving of this award.



NCD Updates—NCD Awards

NCD Awards Presented at the 2024 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

Most Active Chapter, Small Chapter
Indiana



Most Active Chapter, Large Chapter
Michigan



Most Active Student Subunit
University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point



Best Chapter Communications
Ohio



Meritorious Service Award
Melissa Wuellner



Fisheries Excellence:
Ben Neely and Mike Steuck



Ben Neely



Melissa Wuellner

NCD Updates—NCD Awards

NCD Awards Presented at the 2023 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

Student & Early Career Professional Travel Grants - Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference

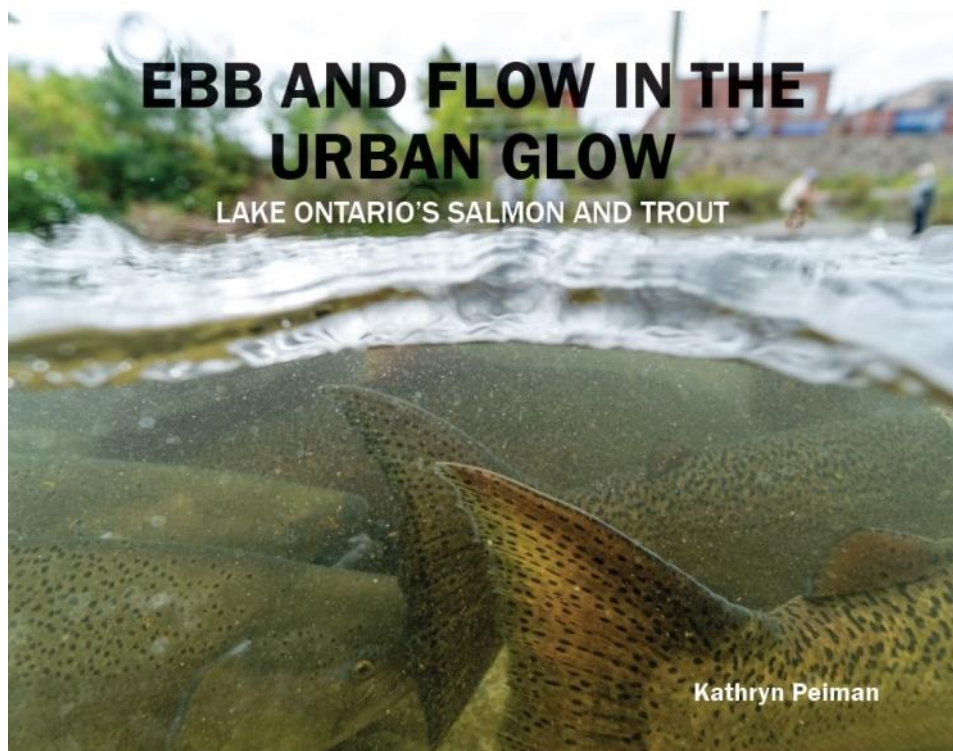
Name	University or Organization
Levi Umland	Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
Ella Humphrey	University of Nebraska Lincoln
Justin Sturtz	South Dakota State University
Kayla Reed	University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point
Logan Cutler	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Julia Hampton	University of North Dakota
Matthew Maldonado	University of North Dakota
Abigail Fountain	Bemidji State University
Taylor Preul-Stimetz	Wisconsin DNR- Office of Applied Science
Maxwel Wilkinson	University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point
Hadley Boehm	University of Missouri
Riley Mounsdon	South Dakota State University
Logan Zebro	University of Nebraska-Kearney
Brenden Elwer	South Dakota State University
Ryan Bohan	University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point
MJ Oubre	Illinois Natural History Survey, University of Illinois
Erik Cristan	University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point
Braxton Newkirk	University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Jacob Bentley	The Ohio State University



NCD Updates—Awards and Achievements

The Iowa Chapter of the AFS, 1 March 2023, presented Dr. Robert (Bob) Summerfelt, Professor Emeritus, Iowa State University, the 2023 Award of Professional Excellence, for his contributions to fisheries science and management. Bob has been an uninterrupted dues paying member of AFS for 65 years, and a member of the 1870 Society donor club. He has been a member of 15 AFS sections, a charter member of several sections, two chapters and past president of the Oklahoma and Iowa Chapters.

Congratulations, Bob!



Kathryn Peiman recently wrote and self-published a book available at their [website](#).

The story of salmonids in the Great Lakes is a fascinating one. In Kathryn's new coffee-table style book, Kathryn explores the history, biology, and human interactions that have shaped six of Lake Ontario's salmon and trout species, which now coexist with millions of people but remain largely hidden under the water and invisible to most non-anglers. Come explore 100 pages of photos showcasing these amazing fishes in their environment.

NCD Updates—NCD Merchandise Store

The NCD shop is officially open!

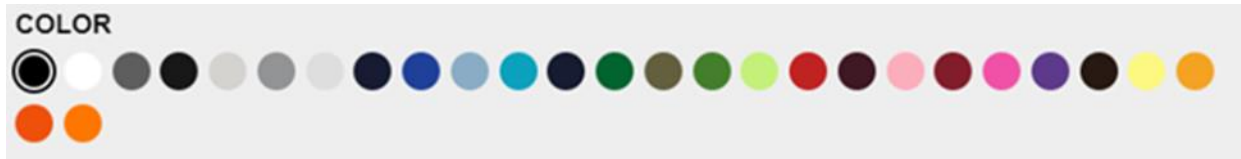
[NCD of AFS on Threadless](#)

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



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
NCD Fisheries Community Advocacy and Sustainability Team
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

News from the Fisheries Management Section

The early months of 2024 were used to kick off a suite of continuing education webinars, hosted by the Fisheries Management Section. The NCD was well represented in all three webinars.

January 2024 - [Standard Sampling](#)

Lewis Bruce contributed a presentation on research regarding the impact that descaling your electrofishing boat can have on your sampling efficiency.

Joe Conroy spoke about understanding catchability and how it relates outcomes from standard methods to the underlying population supports the fundamental assumption that consistent, effective methods facilitate comparisons through time and space.

February 2024 - [Mentoring](#)

This webinar was co-sponsored by FMS and the NCD Student and Early Career Professionals Activities Committee. Hadley Boehm, Kevin Dockendorf, Eric Palkovacs, and Jesse Trushenski comprised the expert panel, while Liz Renner and Jeff Kopaska moderated the discussion. Lots of useful information was provided from both a mentor and mentee perspective. Mentoring the next generation of professionals is one of the most important things that established professionals can do to insure the long term viability of our profession.

March 2024 - [Stats](#)

Dr. Jason Doll, Francis Marion University presented on the appropriate times to use frequentist and Bayesian statistical approaches in fisheries applications.

Drs. Dan Isermann and Dan Dembkowski from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point addressed basic things that fisheries managers look at, such sample sizes, inference, age and growth data, length frequencies, and catch-effort.

Following the March webinars, the Continuing Education webinars will recess for the spring/summer field seasons, and commence again in the fall. Feel free to reach out to Jeff Kopaska with any topics you feel would be of interest.

Jeff Kopaska, FMS President-elect

NCD Committee Updates, continued

Student & Early Career Professionals Activities Committee (SECPAC):

Kamden Glade & Hannah Mulligan, Committee Co-chairs

Mark your calendars: SECPAC will be hosting a student conclave in January 2025! The event is tentatively scheduled for the day(s) prior to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. We plan to provide a nice mix of networking opportunities and continuing education workshops. If you want to be involved with planning this event, or if you have ideas of workshops that would be beneficial, contact Kamden

(kamden.glade@state.mn.us) or Hannah
(Hannah.Mulligan@jacks.sdstate.edu).



Other updates:

- New webpage: <https://ncd.fisheries.org/student-and-early-career-professionals/>
- Join our email list: <https://forms.gle/Pp4bGk7jD91K19MY7>
- SECPAC merch on Threadless: <https://ncdofafs.threadless.com/designs/student-early-career-professional-affairs-committee-secpac>
- Mentoring webinar co-hosted with the Fisheries Management Section: <https://fms.fisheries.org/continuing-education-webinars/>

NCD Committee Updates, continued

Rivers & Streams Technical Committee (RSTC):

MJ Oubre, Committee Chair; Madison Myers, Secretary/Treasurer

RSTC had a successful 35th annual spring meeting at the Rock Island Conservation Club in Milan, Illinois. This year's event included talks on a wide variety of topics related to rivers and streams in the region and our inaugural poster session. We celebrated our years of successful research, past and present, at our annual Bernie Schonhoff memorial fish fry and evening social. Members ranging from undergraduate to retirees were able to bond over our shared love of fluvial systems and the universal challenges we all face in our efforts to study and protect them. The RSTC annual business meeting was held on day 2 of the meeting. Some important highlights include plans to initiate a t-shirt fundraiser, planning efforts for student travel awards, and discussion of possible symposium topics for the 2025 Midwest meeting. Additional details about these topics will be released in the upcoming months. We conclude the event with a tour of lock & dam 15 at Arsenal Island. Our committee extends our greatest appreciation to Mississippi River Visitor Center and the Army Corps of Engineers for providing us close up insights to infrastructure that affects many of our nation's waterways. We invite anyone interested in any upcoming RSTC events or opportunities to join our google email groups by sending a request to ncd_rstc+subscribe@googlegroups.com. Please direct any questions, nominations for 2025-2027 committee chair or secretary/treasurer, or meeting minutes requests to rstc.ncd.afs@gmail.com.



Pictured to the left: Elizabeth Anderson, University of Toledo (left), Joe Spooner, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission/University of Nebraska-Lincoln (center), and Jenna Sorensen, Augustana College (right) presented their research at the inaugural poster session. The committee is looking forward to making the poster session a traditional part of our spring meeting.

RSTC members standing on the lock & dam structure at pool 15 on the Mississippi River. Our tour included the unique history of the region, the impact and importance of the dam structure, and a close-up view of a barge locking through. The field trip was well received by all and we hope to organize similar events in the future.



NCD Committee Updates, continued

NCD Fisheries Community Advocacy and Sustainability Team (FishCAST):

Brittany Harried and MJ Oubre, Committee Co-Chairs

This committee, consisting of at least two members, shall provide resources and opportunities that increase support and a sense of belonging for all members and chapters, and lead to increased retention and recruitment of members. This committee shall also assist in implementing these practices within the Division, including working with the annual meeting planning committee, other standing committees, and the executive committee to further the goals of this committee.

To help inform the needs this committee should address, please complete this survey by clicking on this [link](#) or scanning the QR code.



Brittany Harried [she/her]



MJ Oubre [they/them]

If you would like to get involved with this committee, please email us at [<fishcast.ncd.afs@gmail.com>](mailto:fishcast.ncd.afs@gmail.com).

NCD Committee Updates, continued

Native Nongame Fishes Working Group:

This committee was formed from the #AFS153 NONGAME symposium and aims to enhance communication and collaboration.

If you are interested in getting involved in the science and management of native, traditionally non-game fishes, scan the QR code below to complete a short survey and get involved!

Are you interested in the science & management of native, traditionally non-game fishes?

Building from the momentum of the #AFS153 NONGAME symposium, we are forming a **Native Nongame Fishes Working Group** to enhance communication and collaboration

Please complete a short survey to get involved!

nativenongamefishes.com

JOIN US

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NCD Chapter Updates

Michigan AFS DEIJB Committee Update

Just over a year ago the Michigan chapter created a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Belonging (DEIJB) committee, in the hopes of making the chapter more inclusive while aligning with the parent society's diversity efforts. To this end, the vision of the Michigan AFS DEIJB committee is to create a chapter culture that welcomes, values, and supports fisheries professionals of all identities and backgrounds. In addition to fostering a chapter culture that is respectful and welcoming, we strive to recruit and retain members from underrepresented identities/backgrounds while creating and advocating for policies that promote DEIJB values at the chapter, regional, and international levels.

Our committee has grown with the addition of two new members, improving our representation, productivity, creativity, and critical thinking. Since the committee was formed, we have presented annually on the importance of DEIJB in fisheries at the Michigan chapter's annual meeting. These presentations have provided an excellent opportunity to educate members on the importance of DEIJB and solicit feedback on our initiatives. We have also partnered with the Equal Opportunities Section of AFS and hosted a webinar about how both committees can interconnect and support one another. This virtual event was well attended, furthering our desire to host webinars and/or virtual discussions in the future. Presentations have not been the only way that we have provided information about DEIJB topics to Michigan chapter members; in fact, we publish a newsletter called the Tackle Box, as this monthly bulletin strives to tackle complex issues. The Tackle Box has been well received and is regularly shared by members to individuals outside the Michigan chapter.

At this year's chapter meeting, two of the committee's members - Kynzie House and Lydia Doerr - received the Michigan AFS Cisco Award for their efforts in fostering inclusion and diversity in the fisheries profession. They were deeply honored to be recognized and remain dedicated to improving diversity. They, along with the other committee members, are excited to continue to develop new initiatives, which may include a mentorship program for aspiring fisheries professionals and students. Additionally, the committee will continue to refine the DEIJB Michigan Meeting Travel Award, which was first introduced this year. This award was developed to support individuals (including non-chapter and non-Michigan residents) who would otherwise not have the opportunity to attend the Michigan meeting.

Ensuring that fisheries science is inclusive of people with unique perspectives, identities, and backgrounds will strengthen our discipline by improving our ability to address complex problems, enhancing our capacity to represent the needs and values of Michiganders. While efforts to reach our objectives are ongoing due to the complexities of our ever-evolving society, the DEIJB committee remains dedicated to promoting diversity in the Michigan chapter and beyond.

Minnesota Chapter

The Minnesota chapter of AFS met in Brainerd MN at Cragun's resort for this year's chapter meeting, from Feb 26 to 28 of 2024. We had a larger than usual number of attendees, including 129 professionals and 72 students from 10 different schools, for a total of 201 attendees. There were 12 students and 35 professionals who gave oral presentations; there were 24 posters total, 21 of which were student presentations! For the first time this year we gave out prizes for both first and second place student presentations and posters (\$250 for first place, \$100 for second place). We had two continuing education offerings, including scientific illustration (2hr class), fish identification with certification for those scoring high enough on a final practical exam (5hr class). We also offered a free resume and cover letter workshop run by volunteers from the chapter; an optional ice fishing social event time; an interactive plenary session focused on developing good mindset and building resilience; and enjoyed a student-run trivia session along with our evening banquet and fundraising raffle. New officers were elected and inducted at the business meeting; those updates and more can be found on our chapter website: <<https://units.fisheries.org/mnafs>>.

NCD Chapter Updates, continued

Ohio Chapter

The Ohio Chapter held their Annual Winter Meeting at Deer Creek State Park on March 14-15, 2024. In addition to the Business Meeting, two days of scientific presentations and a workshop on the use of sidescan sonar in habitat assessment took place. The chapter was honored to host AFS Second Vice President Gary Whelan at the meeting to discuss the future of AFS and start discussions about the parent society meeting in Columbus (2026, when Gary will be president). Fifty four chapter members attended.

Missouri Chapter

The Missouri Chapter held their annual Business Meeting February 7th, in conjunction with the Missouri Natural Resources Conference. More than 85 members attended, we held two fisheries and aquatic presentation sessions, and more than a dozen posters regarding fisheries and aquatics topics were presented. We presented the 2023 John L. Funk Award of Excellence to Dr. Mark Wildhaber with the USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center, The A. Stephen Weithman Jr. Leadership Award to Eric Rahm of the Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Lee Redmond Citizen's Award to Chris Geden of River City Outdoors. Yonah Bennett (University of Central Missouri) received the Student Achievement Award, Tyler Hessler (University of Missouri) received the Best Student Presentation, Afrida Aranya (Missouri State University) received Best Student Poster, Shin Batz (University of Central Missouri) received the Joe G. Dillard Outstanding Undergraduate Scholarship, and Levi Umland (University of Missouri) received a Duffy Travel Award for the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.

The Missouri Chapter is involved in a number of events this spring- Missouri River Days, in conjunction with Missouri River Relief, is a week-long opportunity for fourth graders in Columbia Missouri Public Schools to get outside and learn about the Missouri River from fisheries biologists. The Missouri Chapter is participating with Stream Teams United in Great Rivers State Day at the Capitol on April 18th, to recognize and educate legislators and staff on the importance of rivers and streams to Missouri's citizens. Our Disabled Angler to work with Choices for People and their fishing day at Maramec Springs Trout Park and the Rolla Lions Club, on May 3rd and September 14th.

The South Dakota State University Student Subunit has been in touch with MOAFS members, interested in using some of the proceeds from the 2024 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference to take a trip to Missouri later this summer, and experience some of the state's aquatic diversity. Missouri Chapter members have been putting together a list of opportunities as they plan their trip.

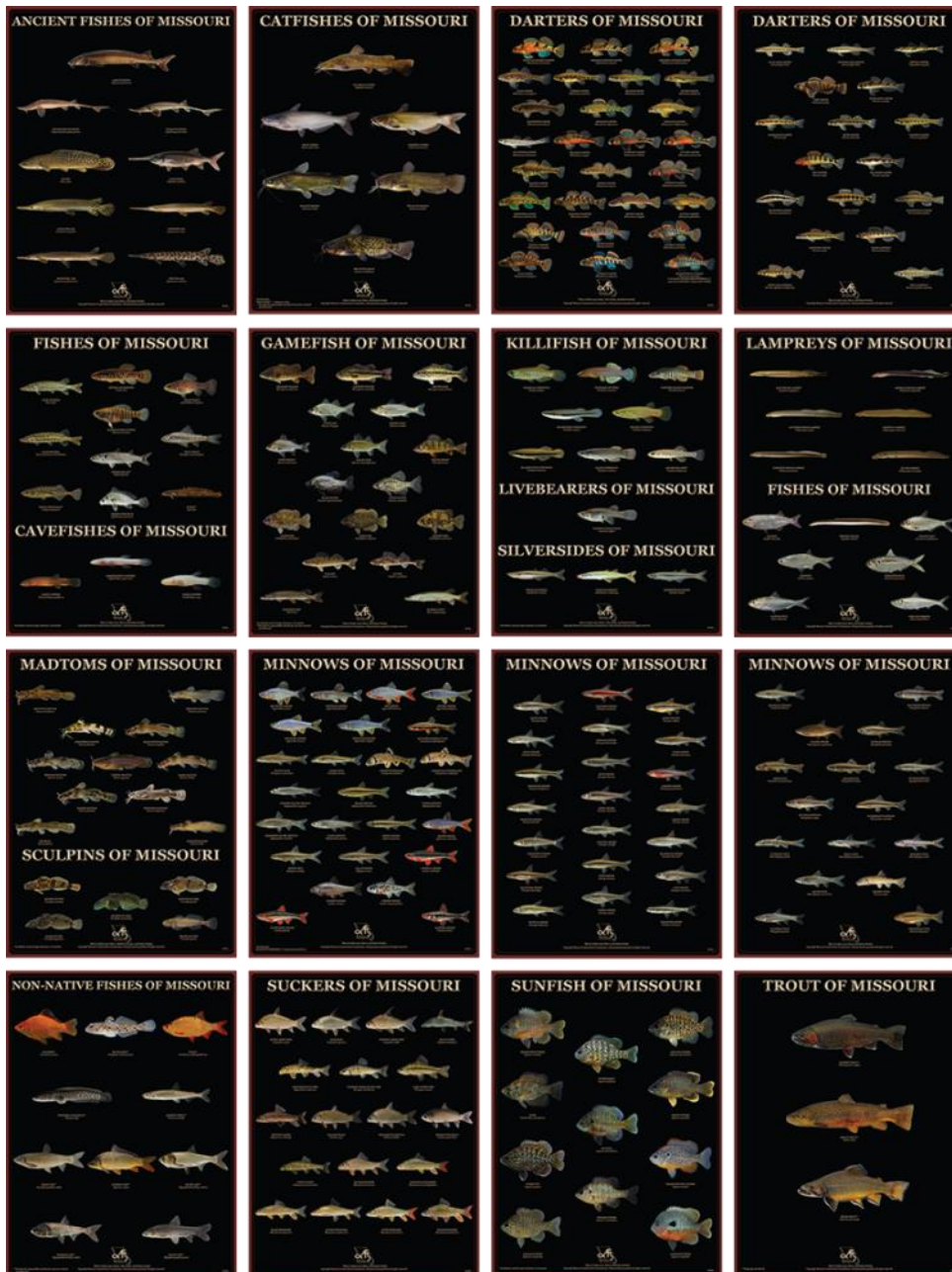
Missouri Chapter members have also been busy planning the 2025 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in St. Louis, with several members serving on planning committees. Chapter members have been working with NCD's SECPAC to host a student colloquium in St. Louis, in conjunction with the conference.

NCD Chapter Updates, continued

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.