

The Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society would like to present the John L. Funk Award of Excellence to James Civiello. Originally named the Award of Excellence, it was renamed to honor Slim Funk, the founder of the Missouri Chapter, for his professionalism and commitment to Missouri aquatic resources. The recipient of this award is recognized for their professionalism and their long-term contributions to the aquatic resources of Missouri.

James began his career in 1982 as an hourly employee with the Missouri Department of Conservation and went into the hatchery system in 1984. During his career, he held several positions in both the warm and cold-water systems including assistant manager and manager. He now holds the position of the Hatchery Systems Manager in the Fisheries Section. Throughout his career he has been a leader and role model to his staff and many others throughout the Department. Because of his dedication and passion for the aquatic resources of Missouri, he has made many long-lasting contributions over the years. Some of these include: his work with enhancing trout production at Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery, oversight of fish production at 4 warmwater and 5 coldwater hatcheries, assisting with HIMS (Hatchery Information Management System) development and implementation, working to improve hatchery monitoring and alarm systems in the hatcheries, administering the feed contract ensuring the nutritional requirements are met for the species being reared, coordinating annual fish trades with his counterparts in other states to bring in fish species that assist in providing diverse angling opportunities and also for restoration efforts, hosting the Mid-Continent Fish Culture Workshop that brings in fish culturists and researchers from across the county. One of his most notable achievements was helping pioneer the culture of Ozark and eastern hellbenders developing techniques now used for propagation and culture at the St. Louis Zoo.

He has had over 30 years to build on established fish production techniques and this desire to improve facility operations and culture techniques is one of many outstanding qualities that he possesses. He has encouraged the rest of the Section to continue to build upon established techniques and has put hatcheries in a good position going into the future with the infrastructure and culture improvements.

For his work within the hatchery system, and his dedication to the aquatic resources and citizens of the State of Missouri, the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society presents the John L. Funk Award of Excellence to James Civiello.