

John L Funk Award of Excellence- Dr. Mark Wildhaber, USGS

The Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society's John L. Funk Award of Excellence recognizes the professionalism and contribution of recipients who have made profound impacts on the protection and management of Missouri's aquatic resources.

Mark Wildhaber completed his Bachelor's degree at Southeast Missouri State University receiving a B.S. in Zoology and Mathematics minoring in Chemistry, Master's degree at Texas A&M University in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, and doctorate degree at North Carolina State University, receiving a PhD in Zoology minoring in Biomathematics in 1989. In 1991, Mark began his career at the USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center.

Through his career Mark has authored or co-authored more than 130 papers with more than 2600 citations, including work on at-risk, threatened, endangered, and invasive species, reproductive biology, bioenergetics, population, community, and ecosystem ecology and modeling, contaminants, and climate change. He's worked on everything from Neosho madtom to pallid sturgeon to grass carp to the red swamp crayfish to fisheries impacts and essential fish habitat for sharks. On the terrestrial side, has lent his expertise to projects ranging from mammals to migratory birds. Mark's expertise has been called upon by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Mark is a member of the World Sturgeon Conservation Society, has served as a fellow with the American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists, a member of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, the Animal Behavior Society, and the American Fisheries Society. Mark has served the Missouri Chapter as Chair of the Continuing Education Committee, and the Parent Society as a member of the Publications Award Committee, and as Associate Editor of The Progressive Fish Culturalist.

Mark can wrap his mind around Bayesian statistics.

But most importantly- Mark has given his time and expertise freely to collaborators, demonstrated by the depth and breadth of his work. He has also been an invaluable resource to students and early-career professionals looking for guidance on study design, statistics, and navigating the challenges of a professional career. Mark is approachable and eager to engage professionals from a variety of disciplines, to foster the understanding and protection of our aquatic resources. It is my honor, on behalf of the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, to present the John L. Funk Award of Excellence to Dr. Mark Wildhaber.