



Chapter Officers

President: Andy Turner

President Elect: Eric Rahm

Secretary: Brandon Baumhoer

Treasurer: Darby Niswonger

Past President: Clint Hale

Committee Chairs

Anglers with Disabilities: Mary Scott

Awards: Clint Hale

Chapter Historians:

Joe G. Dillard (Emeritus)

Vince Travnichek

Continuing Education: Brad Farwell

Finance: Eric Rahm

Information Technology/Website:

Kat Lackman

Alex Prentice

Legislative and Environmental
Concerns: Emily Tracy-Smith

Message From the President



The Missouri Chapter of AFS is continuing to take positive steps towards achieving our goals of 1) advancing conservation, 2) distributing information related to aquatic sciences, 3) promoting educational, scientific, and professional aspects of aquatic sciences, and 4) providing an organizational structure that provides opportunities for the membership and accomplishes chapter programs. Our ability to continue to make progress is only limited by the participation of our membership. As a member of MOAFS I encourage you to be active and get involved with a committee that peaks your interest.

I often hear people ask, Why should I join MOAFS? What benefit do I get from being on a committee?

Membership: Hope Dodd

MNRC Steering: Blake Stephens

Newsletter:

Emily Tracy-Smith

Hope Dodd

Nick Sievert

Dan Metcalf

Publicity: Trish Yasger

Rivers and Streams:

Chair: Eric Rahm

Secretary: Jacob Westhoff

Student Support: Jennifer Girondo

Student Subunits

Missouri State University -
Springfield: Jordan Heiman

University of Central Missouri -
Warrensburg: Kelly Hoyer

University of Missouri - Columbia:
Colton Hampton

Southeast Missouri State University
- Cape Girardeau: Thomas Devine

As an active member, there are two benefits that I find particularly valuable.

1. MOAFS gives you the opportunity to get involved in aquatic conservation on your terms. For example, a few years ago myself and a few other members wanted to find additional funding opportunities and add another scholarship to our annual student support. We accomplished this goal and have now awarded an additional \$10,000 in scholarships. This has been a very successful effort that has provided a lot of personal value to everyone involved.

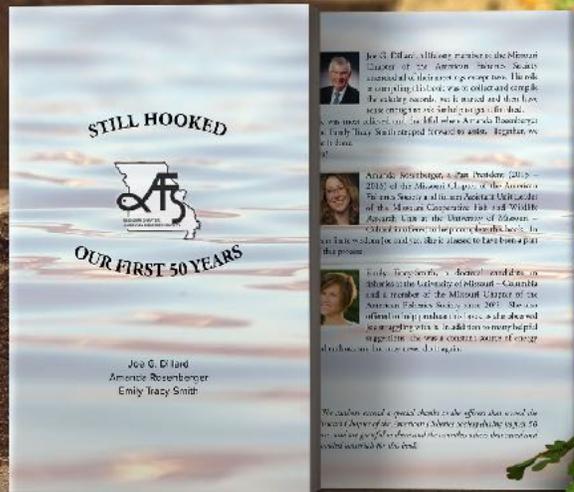
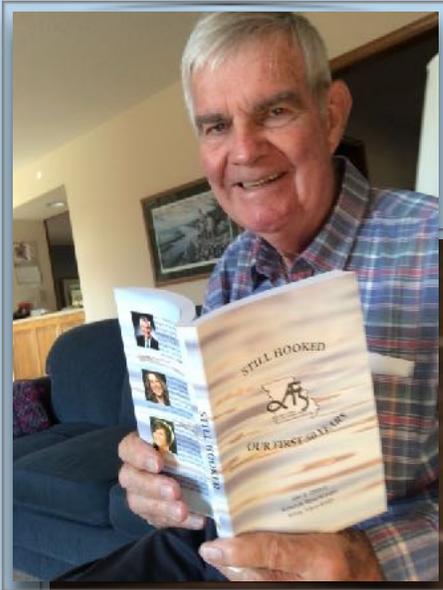
2. The second benefit to being a MOAFS member, that I personally find valuable, is that MOAFS provides the opportunity to work with many aquatic professionals and students that I would never have been in contact with during my regular job. Building a broad network of colleagues is important and MOAFS provides this opportunity for its members.

I have found a lot of personal and professional benefit in being an active member of MOAFS and these benefits are available to all members. Please consider becoming more active in this society and contact me (andywturnerms@gmail.com) if you would like to get involved in a committee that interests you.



Andy Turner

P.S. - Please help keep our history living and consider purchasing the story of our first 50 years.



“Still Hooked is a riveting tale of a rag-tag group of fish heads endeavoring against all odds to advance the health of aquatics and fisheries science” - Elmer Fudd Gantry, Los Angeles Times Gazette Chronicle

“Better than a Bloody Mary and a steak sandwich” - John Cocktoston, Friend of the Underhills, Club Members.

Student Support Report

Prepared by: Jen Girondo



MOAFS' Student Support Committee was busy this year, awarding \$3720 in scholarship awards recognizing excellent aquatic students in the state of MO. We also co-hosted a hands-on natural resources workshop with TWS last fall at Blind Pony Hatchery, providing a location, staff, and sharing the cost of meals provided to the students. For the money side of things, the SSTF advisory panel made some adjustments to the profit sharing plan and account amounts to make budgeting flow smoother in the next several years. Many thanks to workshop presenters, coordinators, judges, and advisors for the awards and scholarships!

Career Possibilities and Qualifications



Continuing Education Report

Prepared by: Brad Farwell



The continuing education committee helped host the student job fair at the 2019 MNRC. The job fair had over 30 jobs available and 15 professionals on site that performed resume reviews, mock interviews, and speed networking opportunities for the students. The job fair had over 150 students attend. We are always looking for ways to improve this activity and anyone with comments or suggestions please feel free to contact Brad Farwell (brad.farwell@mdc.mo.gov).

Brad has also been serving on the North Central Division continuing education committee. This group is in the process of trying to use an online database program to allow for the uploading and sharing of presentations from meetings and other functions. These videos would be available to all Missouri chapter members at any time with

no cost associated. This group has hosted one or two continuing education classes at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference for the last 3 years. The money from these classes goes towards the knowledge seeker awards. This award is given three times a year and is for undergraduate or graduate students that need financial assistance attending and presenting at a conference or meeting. I encourage everyone to pass this link along to anyone who may need this assistance:

<https://ncd.fisheries.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/NCDAFS-Knowledge-Seeker-Award-advertisement.pdf>

Treasury Report

Prepared by: Darby Niswonger

MOAFS funds are currently at great levels. General funds (checking and savings) total \$24,500. During the 2019 MNRC, we made \$350 profit from the silent auction, \$575 from outdoor auction, and \$430 from membership dues.

So far, we have received a generous \$75 donation from Joe Dillard, Amanda Rosenberger, and Emily Tracy-Smith, from the sale of their book Still Hooked: Our First 50 Years. If anyone would like to purchase copies of this book (\$18, includes shipping), please contact Joe Dillard at DillardJ@missouri.edu. All proceeds go straight to the chapter! Also, a huge thank you to all the members that paid at MNRC, online, and through the parent society! In 2018, membership dues netted our chapter over \$2,000. Let's recruit even more members in 2019!

In 2014, the Student Support Investment Plan was developed, and all related activities are guided by this document and the Student Support Trust Fund Advisory Panel. Since then, earnings from our investments have totaled over \$16,000. We have just over \$20,000 in the student support checking and savings accounts.

We also have investments in CDs and the stock market. We have \$51,142 invested in four CDs. These 48-month CDs are staggered so that one will mature every year. In 2018, we earned \$640 from CDs and expect about that much again in 2019. The stock market did not perform great in 2018, but we were still able to earn \$2,700 from these investments. As of mid-February 2019, our Stock Market Index funds total \$43,641. Stock market projections do not look great in 2019; we should not expect high earnings from our investments. However, we transferred \$4,100 from our general fund –special projects accounts (money from special raffles and fundraisers) to our student support checking, allowing us to fund the 2020 budget.



Account	Current Balance*
General Funds	\$ 24,580.51
MOAFS Operational Share	\$ 8,557.62
MOAFS Operational Checking	\$ 15,924.90
MOAFS Special Projects Checking	\$ 97.99
Student Support Funds	\$ 115,586.59
SSTF Money Market (Buffer Fund)	\$ 15,065.96
SSTF Checking	\$ 5,737.36
SSTF CD 1479	\$ 12,608.62
SSTF CD 2382	\$ 12,993.34
SSTF CD 2720	\$ 12,582.25
SSTF CD 2397	\$ 12,687.81
Cumulative CD Value	\$ 51,142.02
Stock market Index Fund	\$ 33,815.56
International Stock Index Fund	\$ 9,825.69
Total Stock Market Funds	\$ 43,641.25

Historian Report

Prepared by: Vince Travnichek

History

The history committee is requesting that members take photos at MOAFS events in an effort to further document MOAFS history. Photos should be sent to Vince (Vincent.Travnichek@mdc.mo.gov) or Joe Dillard (Dillardj@missouri.edu) to be archived. We would like to encourage members to purchase Joe Dillard's book entitled "Still Hooked: Our First 50 Years". The publication summarize in detail the first



50 years of MOAFS. The American Fisheries Society, our parent society, has encouraged each chapter to submit a report detailing their chapter's history. Thanks to Joe and all those who contributed to the book, MOAFS history is now concisely documented and can be viewed by the parent society.

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Communications Committee Report

Prepared by: **Andy Turner**



Last year several members identified improvements that we could make in our ability to communicate information to the MOAFS membership. As a result, a special Communications Committee was created which included Clint Hale, Kat Lackman, Alex Prentice, Jen Girondo, Emily Tracy-Smith, John Lisek, Paul Spurgeon, and Andy Turner. In our last newsletter, the committee outlined it's desired outcomes which were to establish a quarterly "Message from the President", a quick method to pass information along to the membership via email, proactively provide an opportunity for individuals to renew their memberships, and to create an active MOAFS Facebook page. We are happy to report that all four of these outcomes were completed. We have greatly improved our communication with the membership and will continue to improve on these efforts in the following year. If you are on

Facebook and would like to see more fish and less politics in your feed "Like" the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society page today!



Rivers & Streams Committee Report

Prepared by: Eric Rahm



Stream Teams United is hosting a Missouri Stream Team 30th Anniversary Party at Echo Bluff State Park on November 23, 2019. This celebration is an effort to recognize the dedicated Missouri citizens that have made the Missouri Stream Team program a success. MOAFS will help sponsor the Missouri Stream Team 30th Anniversary Party at Echo Bluff State Park. MOAFS will be contributing at the level of Stream (\$250) - that supports the costs of lodging for two nights and the dinner banquet for two of our Stream Team volunteers.

For more information about the event: <http://mstwc.org/events/30th-anniversary-party/>

Please contact the Rivers and Streams Committee Chair - Eric.Rahm@mdc.mo.gov if you have any suggestions or activities that the Rivers and Streams Committee can be involved in.



Legislative and Environmental Concerns

Prepared by: Emily Tracy-Smith



The legislative and environmental concerns committee is working on ways to engage MOAFS membership and keeping everyone well informed. The 2019 Legislative session is January 9th through May 17, 2019. Sources to follow legislative bills include the Legislative Action Center hosted by CFM and Stream Teams United, Legislative Lookout (<http://mstwc.org/advocateforwater/>).

Conservation

SB 356: Provides that any person found guilty of poaching a wild turkey, **paddlefish**, white-tailed deer, black bear, or elk may be required to provide restitution to the state; 03/11/2019 Hearing Conducted (S)

HJR 20: Proposes a constitutional amendment to assert the right of Missourians to hunt and fish; 01/10/2019 – Read Second Time (H), Hearing Not Scheduled

Conservation Authority/Funding

HJR 18: Proposes a constitutional amendment to require that the conservation sales tax be renewed by voters every six years; 01/10/2019 – Read Second Time (H); Hearing Not Scheduled

HB778: Requires the General Assembly to be notified of and approve any requests to purchase land by any state agency; 02/04/2019 – Read Second Time (H), Hearing Not Scheduled

DNR/State Parks/National Scenic Riverways

HB 776: Requires the Department of Natural Resources to offer certain state park property for sale to certain veterans; 02/04/2019 – Read Second Time (H); Hearing Not Scheduled

HB 777: Requires the Department of Natural Resources to sell certain lands acquired through environmental settlement funds; 02/04/2019 – Read Second Time (H), Hearing Not Scheduled;

HB 774: Changes the laws regarding jurisdiction ceded to the United States within the Ozark National Scenic Riverways; 02/04/2019 – Read Second Time (H); Hearing Not Scheduled

Environment

HB 271: Prohibits political subdivisions from adopting ordinances restricting the use of plastic bags or other disposable containers; 3/12/19 Reported Do Pass (H); Referred: Rules-Legislative Oversight (H)

SB 215: Repeals provisions of law relating to the provision of paper and plastic bags; 1/31/19 – Second Read and Referred (S) Local Government and Elections Committee

HB 699: Changes the laws regarding development permits in floodplains; 02/04/2019 – Public Hearing Completed (H)

SB 391: Modifies provisions relating to county health ordinances. 3/20/2019 – Formal Calendar(S) Bills for Perfection–SB 391-Bernskoetter.

HB 921: Modifies the membership of the Clean Water Commission; 02/14/2019 – Read Second Time (H); Hearing Not Scheduled;

SB 425: Relating to concentrated animal feeding operations. 3/7/2019 – Second Read and Referred (S) Agriculture, Food Production and Outdoor Resources Committee

HB 1156: Prohibits private nuisance actions from being brought when the property owner has a related government-issued permit. 3/1/19 – Read Second Time (H)

Legislative and Environmental Concerns - Continued

NOW is a great time, if you have not already done so, please consider checking out CFM's Legislative Action Center: <https://www.confedmo.org/lac/>



At this year's MNRC, we collaborated with Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM), Missouri Science & Technology (MOST) Policy Fellows, and Missouri Collegiate Conservation Alliance (MCCA) to host a two-day advocacy workshop aimed at bridging the gaps between conservationists and policy makers. We hope to collaborate on future workshops about the policy making process and how to get involved.

We participated in the CFM Annual Convention in Jefferson City, March 8-9. Emily Tracy-Smith serves as Chair for the Rivers, Streams, and Fisheries Committee and Nick Sievert as Vice-Chair. Other MOAFS members who are involved in the CFM Rivers, Streams, and Fisheries Committee include Corey Dunn, Michael Moore, Jodi Whittier, Mark Zurbrick, and Greg Pitchford. This year Brian Canaday, MDC Fisheries Division Chief, provided a presentation of the current Fisheries challenges and opportunities MDC is working on as well as an overview of the State

Record Fish program. Chris Riggert, Stream Teams Coordinator, and Mary Culler, Executive Director of Stream Teams United, provided presentations about updates for their respective programs. Since there were no resolutions for the committee to review, attendees identified and discussed several proposed changes to the 2020 Listing Methodology document: <https://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/waterquality/303d/documents/2020-lmd-jan-29-2019.pdf>

A letter was drafted by the Rivers, Streams, and Fisheries Committee and sent to the executive committee of CFM, regarding opposition to proposed changes to the 2020 listing methodology document. We believe several of the proposed changes to the 2020 listing methodology document are not supported by scientific evidence and have the potential to harm Missouri's natural resources. Proposed changes to the evaluation or standards used to identify impaired stream reaches are likely to lead to adverse changes in water quality in the state and an inaccurate assessment of state waters. We are concerned about proposed changes to which streams are selected for defining reference conditions. Specifically, we oppose the insertion of new text in step 7 on page 32 and the deletion of step 10 on page 33 of the document. Please note, that public comment for this document ends on April 3, 2019: <https://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/waterquality/303d/documents/2020-lmd-public-notice.pdf>

Upcoming events: Conservation Day at the Capitol: April 3, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Angler's with Disabilities

Prepared by: Mary Scott



The 17th Annual "A Day at the 'Ol Fishing Hole" was held on Saturday, September 15th, 2018 at the Rolla's Lions Club Park. There were 96 folks participating, including 25 staff members. With so many people fishing, the excitement level at the lake was high. Several fish were caught and there was rejoicing all over the lake. After a BBQ lunch, Choices for People provided an extra treat by arranging for an ice cream truck to stop by and purchased ice cream for all the clients. As people slowly left they were all buzzing about a great day of fishing and ice cream, two treats these folks rarely get to indulge in. This well-planned day would not have been possible without the assistance from several folks and organizations. It was through donations and volunteer time that made this event a success. Thanks to Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (MOAFS) for purchasing fish and T-shirts; Choices for People Center for cooking the hot dogs which were donated by the National

Wild Turkey Federation's Wheeling Sportsmen, who also donated snacks and drinks; and the Missouri Department of Conservation for providing the fishing poles. Thanks also to all the volunteers who came out and assisted with the fishing, registration, and making sure everyone had a great time.



Angler's with Disabilities

Prepared by: Mary Scott

The 8th Annual "A Day at the Trout Park" was held on April 13th 2018 at the Maramec Spring Park. This annual event is a good example of how multiple organizations can partner together to provide an opportunity to help those get out for a fun day of fishing. The day started out wet and cold but that didn't stop 60 clients from coming out to enjoy a day of fishing and mingling. Hatchery Manager Wes Swee stocked extra fish in the spring so there would be a better chance to catch a fish. MOAFS members and caregivers helped land 15 fish throughout the day. After a morning of fishing, everyone had a big appetite for the free lunch cooked. It takes some pre planning and many volunteers to make this day a success and that is what happened. Volunteers Nick Girondo, Angie Volmert, Jason Walker, John Marshall, Wes Swee, Moses Ong, Avery Crisp, and Mary Scott from MDC, stayed close by the spring to bait hooks, help cast and remove trout from hooks. Excellent job guys! Don Bauer owner of Double D baits provided the bait for all the participants. Way to go Don!! Several of the Choices for People caregivers were also on hand to assist clients throughout the day. Thank you, Caregivers! You guys rock. The James Foundation let us park our vehicles at no charge for the day. Thank you, James Foundation! Wes Swee arranged to borrow the wheel chair trackers for some of the clients, which worked out well because they were used all day. Thank you, Wes, this was a great idea. This is one event that you can come in a bad mood, but you will leave with a light spirit and a smile on your face.



Next Events

Maramec Spring Trout Park April 12th 9:30 Noon

Rolla Lion's Club September 21st 9:00 Noon

Outdoor Adventures

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO EXPERIENCE FISHING ON TABLE ROCK LAKE CONSIDER SUPPORTING MOAFS

GUIDED FISHING TRIP WITH RICK LA POINT



WINNER NATHAN BARNETT

Captain Rick La Point, Springfield, MO
Captain Rick La Point is a US Coast Guard licensed and fully insured professional guide with 19 years experience. He has over 35 years experience in bass tournaments with many wins and specializes in instructional fishing techniques and deep water tactics for bass. Rick currently guides on Table Rock, Tancycorno, and Bull Shoals Lakes in Southwest MO.

This Gift Certificate is good for a 4 Hour Professional Guided Fishing Trip with Capt. Rick La Point. Your Certificate can be used on any day available in 2019 Please call well ahead to reserve your date.

This certificate is valid for one year from date of issue and is non-transferable!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO EXPERIENCE CRAPPIE FISHING AT IT'S FINEST, PLEASE SUPPORT MOAFS AND GO ON YOUR OWN ADVENTURE.

CRAPPIE FISH LAKE OF THE OZARKS WITH GREG STONER



WINNER JODIE BURNS



Greg Stoner, Camdenton, MO
Greg has been the Fisheries Management Biologist on Lake of the Ozarks since 1991, and has been fishing the Lake considerably longer than that. He may not fish every day, but he does try to!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO EXPERIENCE JIG FISHING ON LAKE TANEYCOMO, PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING MOAFS AND GO ON AN ADVENTURE

JIG FISHING TRIP WITH PHIL LILLEY ON LAKE TANEYCOMO

WINNER DARBY NISWONGER 



LILLEYS' LANDING
RESORT & MARINA
UPPER LAKE TANEYCOMO • BRANSON, MO

Phil Lilley, Branson, MO

Most kids played sports in school... I fished. I cut my teeth on Kansas farm ponds growing up but my dad drove me over to the tailwater of Table Rock Dam - Lake Taneycomo - when I was in high school. After marrying my lifetime mate, Marsha, we ended up buying a resort in 1983, raised 4 kids and never looked back. There's one reason I have lasted in the resort business as long as I have -- it's because I love to fish. And I love to share my skills with others in any way I can. I love to fish marabou jigs, for trout and any other kind of fish on these Ozarks lakes and streams.

This trip includes a 4-hour jig fishing instructional trip with Phil Lilley on Lake Taneycomo for 1 person. Everything is included - boat, gas, rod and reel and jigs. Just come with a current Missouri fishing license and trout stamp. This is a catch and release trip.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO EXPERIENCE A TRUE OZARK STREAM, PLEASE SUPPORT MOAFS AND HAVE AN AWESOME ADVENTURE

CANOE TRIP AND 2-NIGHT STAY AT THE WEST PLAINS INN: WEBSTER HOUSE (TRIP 1)



WINNER JODIE BURNS



Andy Turner, West Plains, MO

This trip includes a canoe trip on the Eleven Point, North Fork, or Bryant Creek. Also included is a two night stay at the West Plains Inn: Webster House in West Plains Missouri. The Webster House is a charming 2 bedroom/1 Bath cottage that is available for short-term rentals. This home is fully furnished and the most enjoyable lodging option for your visit to the West Plains area.

This trip can accommodate 1 or 2 adults. Andy Turner is the owner/operator of the West Plains Inn: Webster House and will host both the lodging and the float. If purchased for a single person Andy will also provide paddling services for the float.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO EXPERIENCE A TRUE OZARK STREAM, PLEASE SUPPORT MOAFS AND HAVE AN AWESOME ADVENTURE

CANOE TRIP AND 2-NIGHT STAY AT THE WEST PLAINS INN: WEBSTER HOUSE (TRIP 2)



WINNER JOE MCMULLEN



Andy Turner, West Plains, MO

This trip includes a canoe trip on the Eleven Point, North Fork, or Bryant Creek. Also included is a two night stay at the West Plains Inn: Webster House in West Plains Missouri. The Webster House is a charming 2 bedroom/1 Bath cottage that is available for short-term rentals. This home is fully furnished and the most enjoyable lodging option for your visit to the West Plains area.

This trip can accommodate 1 or 2 adults. Andy Turner is the owner/operator of the West Plains Inn: Webster House and will host both the lodging and the float. If purchased for a single person Andy will also provide paddling services for the float.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO EXPERIENCE FLY FISHING ON THE UPPER CURRENT, PLEASE SUPPORT MOAFS AND GO ON YOUR OWN ADVENTURE.

FLY FISHING ON THE CURRENT WITH SAM POTTER



WINNER NATHAN BARNETT



Sam Potter, Rolla, MO

Come enjoy a 1/2 Day Walk-In guided Fly fishing Trip from TightLine Fly Fishing on the Current River or nearby waterway. Sam Potter is the owner/operator of TightLine Fly Fishing and will host the trip. Sam has been guiding fly fishing trips for 15 years throughout south central Missouri and the Ozarks. His mission is to provide a customized individual service for each client. If you are experienced or just beginning he will tailor his service for your needs.



UCM AFS Chapter Report



Prepared by: Kelly Hoyer

During the Fall Semester, we had a welcome back float trip on the James River, where we utilized a variety of sampling techniques including seining, kick seining throw cast nets, snorkeling and spotlighting. This was a great opportunity to teach members new to fisheries some commonly used field techniques.

So far for the Spring Semester, we had 11 members attend the Missouri Natural Resource Conference, where two students gave poster presentations and one student gave an oral presentation. Students also attended the Conservation Job Fair.





Missouri State

UNIVERSITY



MSU AFS Chapter Report

Prepared by: Jordan Heiman

The student unit at Missouri State University has been busy planning many events for the spring semester. Several of our members recently attended the Missouri Natural Resources Conference, many of whom presented posters or had talks. We recently started working with the Missouri State University's chapter of The Wildlife Society in order to plan more events and get involved in a wider range of activities. With this chapter, we are planning networking events, a camping trip, a float trip, and learning opportunities through seminars and trainings. The American Fisheries Society is hosting a plastic-free bake sale fundraiser to mirror a workshop we will be putting on with James River Basin Partnership about the harms of plastics in waterways. We are hoping to make this semester one full of learning and networking opportunities for our members. Check our Facebook page for t-shirt ordering and event updates.





MU AFS Chapter Report

Prepared by: Colton Hampton



The Fisheries and Aquatic Science Society (FASS) has continued to grow in the past year! We continued to recruit and add new members of both lower and upperclassmen. Our recent meetings have included presentations from professionals and graduate students on a range of topics from hatchery management to walleye and muskie fishing in Minnesota and Wisconsin. This past September we took a camping trip to Huzzah Creek where we picked up trash while on a float trip. We assisted MDC with a kids' fishing clinic at the MU Southfarm Showcase. In October, we completed our semiannual biomonitoring event on Grindstone Creek in Columbia. Most recently, we had members attend MNRC to network with professionals and

attend workshops to strengthen our knowledge as fisheries students. Our annual bake sale is coming up where we will also be offering carp chili for lunch. We have plans to hold a fly-tying night where members can try their hand at tying their own flies. We then plan on taking a camping trip where members can learn to fly fish and use their own fly they tied! We are very excited for our future and are looking forward for the opportunities to come!



Awards 2018



The John L. Funk Award of Excellence was presented to Trish Yasger by MOAFS President Clint Hale at the MNRC Awards Social.

The John L. Funk Award of Excellence honors Slim Funk, the founder of the Missouri Chapter of American Fisheries Society who was noted for his professionalism and commitment to Missouri aquatic resources. The recipient of this award is recognized for their professionalism and long-term contributions to the aquatic resources of Missouri.

For over a quarter century this year's recipient has been heavily involved with both paddlefish management and coordinating logistics for Fisheries displays at Missouri State Fair. This individual has been involved with paddlefish management since 1991 and became leader of the entire paddlefish program for the state. During her tenure as leader, a regulation change for the minimum paddlefish length limit was increased to 34 inches. This was a needed change and well-received by the public. This person has been involved with creel and tagging efforts with paddlefish throughout her entire career. She works with Protection Division officers and other staff to provide information for weekly reports during snagging season. This popular report includes lake and ramp conditions, regulation information and best suggestions as to where to fish, and hopefully, snag a paddlefish. This individual is currently a project co-leader for the Statewide Paddlefish Reproduction and Exploitation in Missouri's Large Rivers and Reservoirs project. This project will provide information on paddlefish population statistics, harvest information, and tools that will aide managers in making decisions regarding sport and commercial fishing. This type of dedication throughout the career of this biologist will ensure that Missouri will have healthy paddlefish populations for anglers both now and into the future.

Another notable contribution from this fisheries management biologist is their efforts to plan logistics to staff the Fisheries booth at Missouri State Fair for over 20 years. Thousands of visitors attend the state fair annually. This individual has ensured that booths are well-staffed; arranges lodging for staff, organizes cooking demonstrations, and manages and maintains aquaria and displays. They work closely with hatchery personnel to see that aquaria are supplied with healthy fish for the viewing public. Her efforts help to showcase the diversity of Missouri's aquatic resources and bring these species up close for our stakeholders to enjoy.

The recipient of this year's John L. Funk Award of Excellence is Trish Yasger, in recognition of her professionalism and long-term contributions to the aquatic resources of Missouri and its citizens.



Dawn Classey: Recipient of the Lee Redmond Citizen Award at the MNRC Awards Banquet.

The Lee Redmond Citizen's Award is given to individuals not directly employed in the aquatic field who make a substantial contribution to Missouri's aquatic resources.

Dawn Classey was selected to receive this award because of her dedication to the Missouri Department of Conservation's fish health program, while focusing on her education towards obtaining her BSRN degree.

During a time of critical need when a vacancy developed in the Aquatic Animal Health Specialist position, Dawn stepped up to assist with critical duties to keep hatcheries functioning. While working

on her BSRN degree she was employed as an hourly with MDC and performed fish health certifications at all hatcheries. Despite the vacancy in the AAHS position, she worked with the USFWS on an obscure pathogen case involving one of MDC's trout hatcheries, assisted with annual fish health certifications at 5 trout hatcheries, assisted with the verification of import permits into the state of Missouri, and made herself available to troubleshoot bacterial diseases and fish health issues across nine hatcheries over a 16-month period, including during periods when the AAHS position was vacant.

Dawn went above and beyond to help Fisheries through these critical times and always brought with her a positive light to every hatchery visit and interaction with MDC staff. While focusing on her studies for all important BSRN Degree, she was able to step up and fill in to help MDC's critical work without skipping a beat.

For these achievements, Dawn is deserving of the Lee Redmond Citizen's Award.



Wes Swee receiving the A. Stephen Weithman, Jr. Leadership Award at the MNRC Awards Banquet.

The A. Stephen Weithman, Jr. Leadership award was created to honor A. Stephen Weithman Jr. for his long-term and outstanding leadership to the Missouri Chapter and Missouri's aquatic resources. Recipients of this award are recognized for their leadership qualities which continue the leadership standards Steve established.

This year's recipient of the ***Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society; A. Stephen Weithman Leadership Award*** is Wes Swee. Wes was selected for his leadership with the advancement of hatchery and fisheries science, his leadership with his staff and the lasting legacy of his work with rainbow trout and invasive copepods at Maramec Spring Park.

Wes has been a long-term member of MOAFS and served the Fisheries Division coldwater hatcheries for over 17 years.

His professional career began right here at the MNRC where he was hired at the Student Job Fair fresh out of College. He was hired as an hourly employee at Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery. While there he promoted to a salaried position as Resource Assistant. Wes really showed his interest in learning and gaining responsibility. He promoted again and took the Resource Technician Position at Shepherd caring for the eggs, fry and fingerlings; parenting many millions of trout every season. Ultimately, Wes promoted to Maramec Spring hatchery as the Assistant Manager and later, the Hatchery Manger.

Wesley eagerly and continually took on more responsibility. He became President of the Missouri Chapter American Fisheries Society and he also took the lead on *A Plan for Missouri Trout Fishing*; speaking to hundreds of fishing enthusiast and interest groups across the state.

While managing Maramec Spring Park, Wes developed a great rapport with the MDC partner in that trout park, The James Foundation.

Wes worked with our Resource Science Division staff and developed a biological filter, specifically Brown Trout, that was able to reduce the parasitic Copepod densities on the Rainbow Trout; ultimately improving the health and appearance of the fish for the anglers.

Wes has moved on to the private sector, but his positive impact on conservation with MDC will be felt for a long time. A professional demeanor is the hallmark of his work with staff in other Divisions, other government agencies, non-governmental organizations and most importantly, the public.

Wesley Swee has exemplified what it means to be a **Conservation Professional**, and we are fortunate to have him, his talents and his energy in Missouri.



Don Rahm receiving a letter of recognition for his work in angler recruitment, retention, and reactivation in Missouri.

Don Rahm has conducted outstanding work and demonstrated a tremendous drive and passion for angler recruitment, retention and reactivation in Missouri. Don has provided instruction and fishing opportunities for thousands of youth and families in the two plus years that he served as a volunteer and hourly for the Missouri Department of Conservation’s Central Region. Through his leadership, new rod and reel loaner locations were activated, solid partnerships with additional volunteer fishing instructors were made and the Discover Nature Schools-Fishing curriculum is now being used in many schools and school districts within the Central Region. His activities and accomplishments are among the top in the state. We are pleased to present Don Rahm this Letter of Recognition from Missouri Chapter of American Fisheries Society.

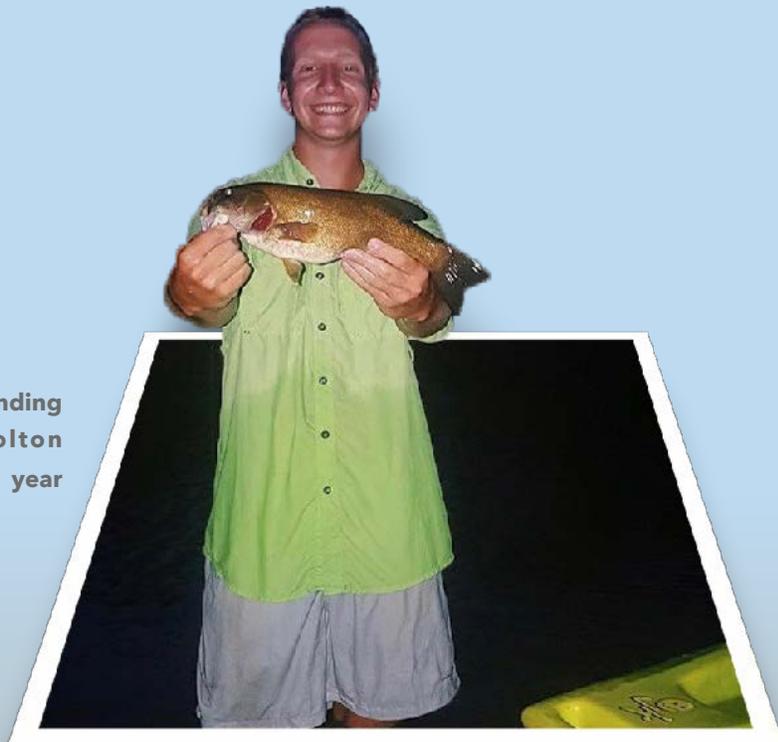
Jen Girondo then announced the recipients of the following student awards:



Student Achievement Award: Jeff Williams. \$500 + 1 year AFS membership.



Duffy Memorial Travel Award: Elisa Baebler. \$200 + 1 year AFS membership.



Joe G. Dillard Outstanding Undergraduate: Colton Hampton. \$2,500 + 1 year AFS membership.

**MNRC best student poster:
Mike Thomas. \$200 + 1
year AFS membership.**



**MNRC best student
platform: Jeff Williams.
\$200.**

Information Technology Report - Spring 2018

Prepared by: Kat Lackman & Alex Prentice



```
include <stdio.h>
t main(){
    printf("Hello!\n")
    return 0;
```

The MOAFS IT committee has been using the Constant Contact system since 2018. This upgrade from our previous listserv provides easier management of the membership email list and a more professional appearance to our organization. This system allows us to send out targeted mailings, create multiple mailing lists, and evaluate the open rate or percentage of members opening each email.

We have been using this platform to communicate job opportunities, meeting and event reminders, student information, and messages from the MOAFS President. In 2018, 46 email campaigns were sent out to 309 contacts compared to approximately 155 active (paid dues) members. As of 2019, we have 361 email contacts.

BREAKING NEWS

Taneycomo Trout Tournament

MOAFS
MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

Lake Taneycomo



TROUT TOURNAMENT

Saturday, May 19th, 2018
Lilleys' Landing

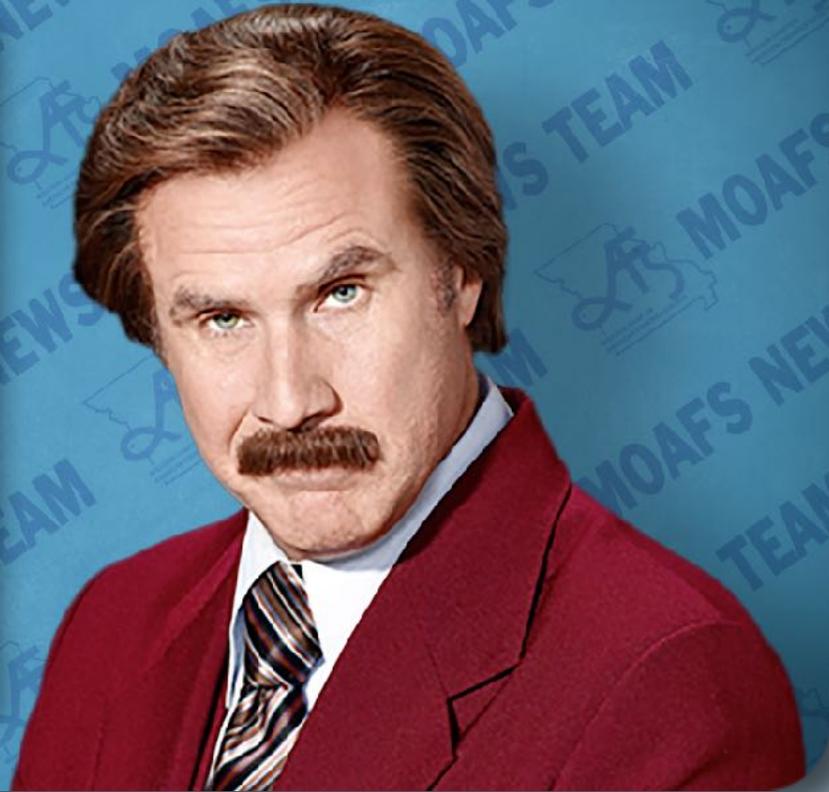
For more information call 417-334-6380 or 1-866-545-5397

Prizes:

1st place.....	35%	Fees: \$70.00 per team (two-man team)
2nd place.....	25%	\$10 for big trout (optional)
3rd place.....	10%	Start Time: 8:00 a.m.
		Weigh In: 4:00 p.m.
		Entry Deadline: May 19th - 7:45 a.m.

Big Trout Pot (100% payout)

1st Place.....	70%
2nd Place.....	30%



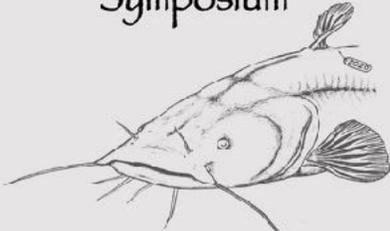
BREAKING NEWS

Taneycomo Trout Tournament



In Other News

CATFISH 2020
3rd International Catfish Symposium



Little Rock, AR - February 2020

First call for papers early 2019
Proceedings to be published

Catfish2020.com

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society Symposium
Hyatt Regency San Antonio Riverwalk, San Antonio, Texas
4/14/2019-4/18/2019

Society of Freshwater Science Annual Meeting
Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah
5/19/2019-5/23/2019

North American Native Fish Association Convention
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, Jackson, Mississippi
5/30/2019-6/2/2019

Joint Meeting of the Centrarchid, Esocid, and Walleye Technical Committees
The Galley Hotel Bar & Grill, Webster, South Dakota
7/16/2019-7/18/2019

Ecological Society of America
Kentucky International Convention Center, Louisville, Kentucky
8/11/2019-8/16/2019

American Fisheries Society
Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, Nevada
9/29/2019-10/3/2019

Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers Conference
National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West Virginia
10/6/2019-10/10/2019

Entomology 2019
America's Center, Saint Louis, Missouri
11/17/2019-11/20/2019

79th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference
The BOS Center, Springfield, Illinois
1/26/2020-1/29/2020

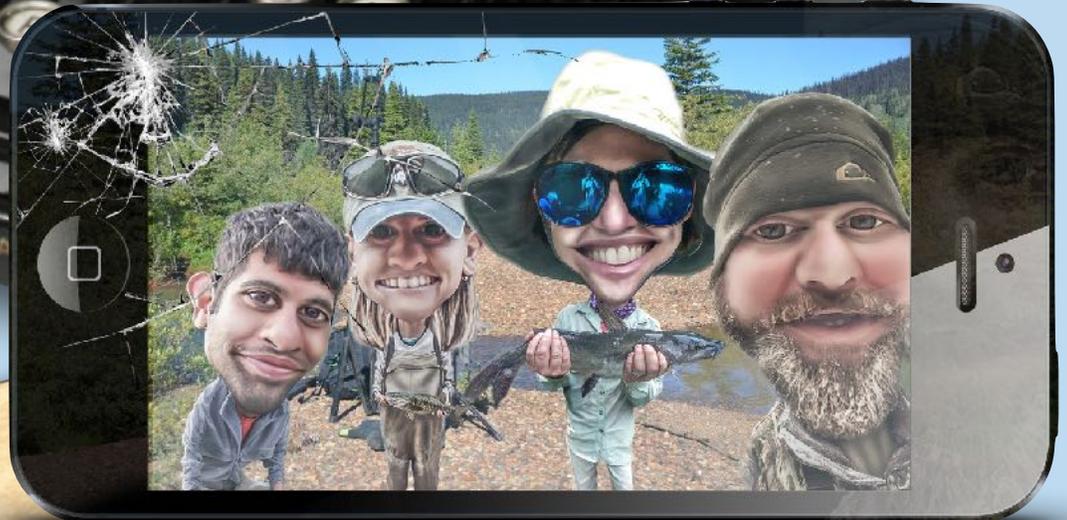
Missouri Natural Resources Conference
Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, Missouri
2/4/2020-2/6/2020

Southern Division 2020
Little Rock Marriott-Downtown, Little Rock, Arkansas
2/20/2020-2/23/2020

Catfish 2020- The Third International Catfish Symposium
Little Rock Marriott, Little Rock, Arkansas
2/18/2020-2/20/2020

We hope this edition has brought you fond memories from the recent MoAFS activities and inspired you to get out there and pursue your passion. We live in uncertain times battling efforts to undermine conservation and science in general. Under mounting pressure, we must not abandon our principles nor our commitment to fisheries science. If you ever feel overwhelmed—**“WE SUGGEST YOU TAKE OUR ADVICE...PULL DOWN YOUR PANTS AND SLIDE ON THE ICE!”**

Emily, Hope, Nick, and Dan



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