

Hadley Boehm Receives 2023 Janice Lee Fenske Award



MOAFS member Hadley Boehm, a Ph.D. student at University of Missouri-Columbia, pictured at left, received the 2023 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference's [Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award for Outstanding Students](#). The award (a \$750 scholarship and plaque) is given to one fisheries student and one wildlife student in the 13-state Midwest region and selection is based on achievement in fisheries or wildlife management and the characteristics that made Jan Fenske a remarkable fisheries biologist, in particular enthusiasm to protect fisheries resources through management activities, selflessness and motivation to teach others, interest in professional involvement, and integrity, positive attitude, and compassion.

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 has held recent roles of North Central Division's Co-Chair of the Student and Early Career Professional Affairs Committee and Division Representative for the Society's Student and Early Career Professional Subsection. She currently 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 Program 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 at the 2023 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Through this participation and, as a woman in fisheries, Hadley has become increasingly involved in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in 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 her future career."

Upon receiving the award, Hadley remarked, *“It meant a lot to me to receive that award since it’s in memory of a female fisheries biologist from back home.”*

*From Jessica Mistak, Fenske Award Committee Chair and Supervisor (she/her/hers) of the Habitat Management Unit of the Michigan DNR Fisheries Division.



The Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award for Outstanding Students is in memory of Janice Lee Fenske. Jan worked for Michigan DNR for 27 years, holding a variety of positions as well as serving as Michigan DNR’s first female fisheries biologist. She was a remarkable person, known for her heartfelt dedication to natural resource management; an ability and desire to pass along wisdom to others; active involvement in professional societies; and strength of character.

In 2005, she passed away after a courageous battle with cancer, leaving behind not only her beloved career, but also a legacy of mentorship, inspiration, and friendship.

The award serves as tribute to Jan Fenske’s passion for life and the protection of our natural resources and was established in her honor in 2005. Since then, 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 was made possible through organizational and financial support of the Midwest Steering Committee; the American Fisheries Society through its North Central Division and Kansas and Michigan chapters; and The Wildlife Society through its Kansas and Michigan chapters.

Compiled by: Joe G. Dillard Historian Emeritus of MOAFS and Jessica Mistak, Fenske Award Committee Chair