

Supporting Those Who Support Us

Become a Member of the Conservation Federation of Missouri

By M. A. Zurbrick

A majority of those reading this are likely fisheries and aquatic resource scientists and managers. No matter who you work for, what your title is, or what your job duties are, by being or becoming a member of the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (MOAFS) you are part of “a scientific and professional organization composed of persons dedicated to the conservation, enhancement, and restoration of aquatic resources.” By being a member, you are letting others know that you believe in and support “the conservation, development, and wise use of aquatic resources for optimum use and enjoyment by people”. You are proclaiming to others that what MOAFS stands for, you stand for... and by paying membership dues, you are “putting your money where your mouth is”.

Do you leave your passion for conservation and natural resources at the dock or office when you go home at the end of the day? When you are enjoying a weekend catching fish or shooting game, do you forget about conservation and those that support wise use of our natural resources? I suspect that you are a conservationist through and through, no matter the time of day or week, no matter if you are working as a public servant or enjoying the outdoors as a private citizen.

If you believe in and support the MOAFS as the voice for professionals dedicated to the aquatic conservation cause, I am suggesting that you should also believe in and support the voice for citizens dedicated to the conservation cause, be it aquatic or terrestrial. If you are not already, you should consider becoming a member of the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM).

Yes, MOAFS is an affiliate of the CFM, as are the other three professional societies that make up the Missouri Natural Resource Conference; however, I am encouraging you to be an individual member of the CFM. We, as individuals and professionals, owe our support to this not-for-profit citizen organization that has been our staunchest ally and most passionate advocate for conservation, including sound fisheries science and aquatic resource management.

A myriad of conservation accomplishments that the CFM has been an integral part of can be found on their website. This voluminous list of achievements include being a primary sponsor of the Stream Team Program, initiating and providing funds for the Operation Game Thief Program, and organizing and hosting the recent Missouri Water Summit. Most important of all, it was the CFM leading the charge to take politics out of conservation in 1936 and to establish the 1/8 cent sales tax for conservation in 1976. For more than 75 years, the CFM has been THE conservation proponent and watchdog in the Missouri General Assembly and US Congress.

As both a citizen and fisheries professional, I owe much to the CFM. How many MOAFS members would be aquatic resource scientists, biologists, and managers working in the Show-me state if not for the establishment of the MDC and the Design for Conservation?

For the cost of a couple of boxes of duck loads, a handful of lures, or a fishing, small game, and trout license, you can help support those who support us. By being both a MOAFS and a CFM member you can demonstrate to others your commitment to the conservation cause as a professional and a citizen.

There are three easy options for joining: 1) Call the office 8-5 M-F at 800-575-2322; 2) Join on line at www.confedmo.org; or 3) Mail a check or drop by their office: Conservation Federation of Missouri, 728 W. Main, Jefferson City, MO 65101-1559.