



## President's Message, Steve Pescitelli

Greetings Chapter Members, Hopefully you all made it through the summer heat and had some fun and interesting adventures in the field. I look forward to hearing about them and/or seeing them on our Facebook Page. One of the highlights of the summer for me was attending the National AFS meeting in Kansas City. Thanks to the Chapter for supporting the trip. Although KC may not seem like the most exotic location, it was an excellent venue for the meeting - good music, local brews, bars, tourist sites, and of course BBQ! It has been a while since I attended a National Meeting so it was bit overwhelming at first given the sheer number of papers, posters and other activities. The AFS meeting App was very helpful in navigating the maze.

I was able to see many excellent professional and student papers ranging from ancient fishes to postlarval amphidromus goby movement at half-moon in the Caribbean (got to get out of the bucket occasionally). Our Illinois Chapter was well represented with 15 oral and 11 poster presentations by our members (I think I got them all). I also met up with many current Chapter members and some distinguished Illinois Chapter Alumni, like Mark Pegg, Tom Kwak and IL

Chapter Past President, Doug Austin, now the Executive Director of AFS. Doug is doing a great job, as evidenced at the Chapter Presidents meeting in KC. The Parent Society has hired some new staff that will be providing a host of services to the Chapters and Units, including: assistance with continuing education, online training, website hosting, officer recruitment and training, and much more, which you will be hearing about in the next few months.

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### Chapter Objectives:

- Promotes training of fisheries professionals.
- Provides education outreach to the citizens of Illinois.
- Fosters research in fisheries and aquatic sciences.
- Provides sound fisheries policy information.
- Enhances communication and synergistic relationships amongst fisheries professionals.



## Chapter Officers and Chairpersons

President: Steve Pescitelli

President-Elect: Jim Lamer

Secretary: Greg Whitledge

Treasurer: Rich Lewis

Past President: Brian Metzke

Excom Members at Large: Karen Rivera/Kevin Irons

### Committee Chairpersons:

Archival: Nathan Grider

Arrangements: Brian Metzke

Awards: Steve Pescitelli

Continuing Education: Ben Lubinski

Environmental Concerns: Rob Colombo/  
Randy Sauer

IL Environmental Council: Vic Santucci/Diane  
Shasteen

IL Wildlife Action Team: Trent Thomas

Membership: Matt Diana

Newsletter: Brian Metzke/Jason DeBoer

Raffle: Blake Ruebush

Resolutions: Rob Hilsabeck

Student Concerns: Nerissa McClelland/Dan Grigas

### Student Subunits:

Eastern Illinois: Hanna Kruckman

Southern Illinois: Alex Loubere

University of Illinois: David Boggs

Western Illinois: Eli Lampo

Website: Matt Diana/Ann Holtrop

### NCD Committee Reports Representatives:

Centrarchid: Josh Sherwood

Esocid: Rob Colombo

Ictalurid: Jeremy Tiemann

Rivers and Streams: Trent Thomas/Steve Pescitelli

Walleye: Jason DeBoer/Mike Garthaus

If you or someone you know is interested in supporting our organization, please contact the membership committee chairman, Matt Diana ([matt@illinois.edu](mailto:matt@illinois.edu)), for more information.



## President's Message

*(continued from page 1)*

We are currently trying to organize an IL Chapter officers retreat to discuss using some of these services and to have a look at our Chapter's Committee organization and workings, all of which will be discussed with members as we head toward the meeting in Moline.

Speaking of which, Brian has arranged a great spot for the Annual Meeting, and I am sure we will have another fun and beneficial get together. I trust you are all formulating your ideas for papers and posters. The Annual Meeting is the Chapter's high point of the year and is something we all look forward to. One of the challenges mentioned at the Presidents meeting in KC was how to keep members more engaged in between the annual meetings. Facebook and the newsletters help for sure, and if you are an officer or committee chair, that also helps. If anyone has any ideas of how we can better keep member's attention or provide additional services, let me know.

Another topic at the KC Presidents meeting was Parent Society Membership. Most of the State Chapters have many members who do not join the Parent Society. Of Course National AFS would like them to join, but many State Chapter Officers expressed the opinion that the Parent Society could better articulating the benefits of National membership. I would also welcome your thoughts on this topic.

That's about it for now. I hope you all have a productive and fun fall season – a great time to be out on the water. Don't forget, we would like to see what you're up to out there, so please post a picture or two on our Facebook page. Do not hesitate to email, text, message, or call me, or any of the ExCom members with your questions, concerns, or comments, and certainly let us know if would like to become more involved in the Chapter.

Also, take a peek at our website (<http://illinoisamericanfisheriessociety.weebly.com/>), there is a lot of useful stuff, but certainly let us know if there is anything else you would like to see. I look forward to seeing you all in February, or hopefully before – Cheers.

Cheers,

Steve

## The Passing of Three Fisheries Icons, *Brian Metzke*

*Editor's Note* This year our Chapter mourned the passing of three esteemed fisheries professionals, two of which are founding members : Al Lopinot, Leonard "Bull" Durham and Robert Rung. Below are their obituaries:

Al Lopinot 1922 - 2016 LITCHFIELD, IL - Al Lopinot, 93, formerly of Litchfield, Ill., passed away peacefully in his sleep at St. Joseph's Hospital in Bloomington, Ill., on August 4, 2016. Born in Belleville, Ill., on Sept. 10, 1922, he attended a one-room elementary schoolhouse and graduated from Belleville Township High School. He entered the U.S. Navy in WWII and served on LST 895 in the Pacific Theater and the assault on Okinawa. Al worked as Chief Fishery Biologist for the Illinois Department of Conservation for 24 years, and was the author of six books and over 100 papers on aquatic biology. For more than 30 years he was active as a volunteer for the city of Litchfield, Ill., where he served on many town committees. He was active in the American Legion Post 436 and the Litchfield Rotary Club, eventually serving as a District Governor. Al was interested in photography, gardening, woodworking crafts and travel—mostly tent camping. He was inducted into the Senior Illinoisan "Hall of Fame" in October of 2014. Survivors include Marge Lopinot, his wife of 70 years; children: Mary (Ron) McClintock, Ann (Jeff) Ayers, and John (Susan) Lopinot; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. A military burial will occur at 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 12, 2016, at Camp Butler National Cemetery, 5063 Camp Butler Rd., Springfield, IL 62707, followed by a Celebration of Life luncheon at Holy Family Parish Hall in Litchfield. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to: The Litchfield Food Pantry or Holy Family Church in Litchfield. *Published in The State Journal-Register on Aug. 9, 2016.*



Bull Durham and Al Lopinot (second and third from the right) at the ILAFS 50th Anniversary meeting.

## The Passing of Three Fisheries Icons, *Brian Metzke*

SARASOTA, Fla. -- Leonard "Bull" Durham, 90, passed away June 4, 2016 at Village on the Isle. Leonard was born on August 27, 1925 in Glen Carbon, IL to Carolina (Peradotti) and Rolla Durham, Sr. who along with his brother Rolla Durham, Jr. and his wife Olga (Kalapaca) Durham preceded him in death. Survivors include his four children and their spouses; L. David (Mary) Durham, Lynn (Grady Smith) Durham, James (Nancy) Durham, Larry (Leslie) Durham; his four grandchildren Geoffrey, Mitchell, Mackenzie, Matthew; and his brother Raymond Durham.

Bull grew up in the small agricultural and coal mining town of Glen Carbon, IL. He joined the Navy Air Corps at the age of 17 and was sent to Milligan College, Duke University and the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI. After this schooling Bull had the chance to take tests for Submarine Training and PT Boat Training, passed both, chose Submarine Training and was accepted. Training was in New London, CT. He was assigned to the USS Crevalle and entered WWII as a radio, radar, and sonar operator. During this service Bull earned the Navy Cross, the Purple Heart and several other medals. He was a true hero.

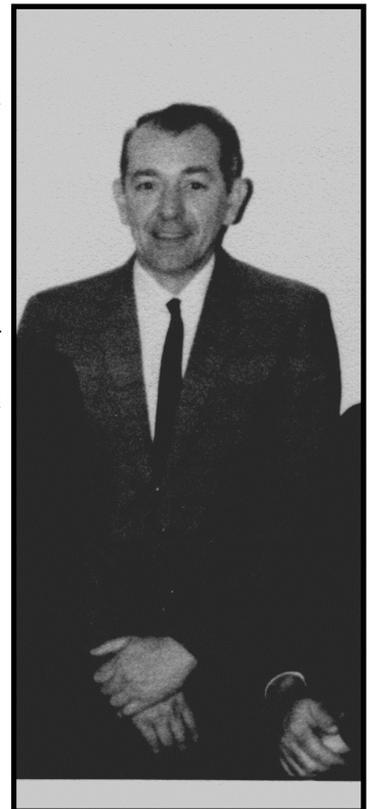
After his service Bull decided to attend school at the University of Illinois in Champaign, IL. It was there that he met the love of his life, Olga Kalapaca, to whom he was married for 67 years. It was there that he learned that he could make money working with fish. It was there that with co-workers he invented a portable electro-shocking device to stun fish from a boat to accurately assess the fish populations. And it was there that he finished his Bachelor's, earned his Master's, then Doctorate Degree in Zoology and Aquatic Ecology.

Bull's and Olga's next move was to Charleston, IL and Eastern IL University in 1956 where he quickly became a beloved professor. In 1967 he became the Director of Eastern's Division of Life Sciences, a program that combined zoology and botany. At Eastern he was also an Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chairman of the Department of Zoology and Chairman of the Foreign Languages Department. He also served the city of Charleston as City Commissioner for eight years.

Bull and Olga's next move was to Rotonda West, FL to their retirement "Dream" house where neither of them slowed down. Bull became very active in the VFW where he served as commander several years and was named all state commander. Other activities included Neighborhood Watch, American Legion, Fiesta Club (Alcalde), Shriners, Masons, Orchid Society, Elks, Men's Gold Association, and aquatic advisor to the Rotonda West Association.

Bull and Olga made their last physical move together as they downsized and moved into the Village on the Isle in Venice, FL. It was there that they enjoyed their last years together. Olga passed away in March, now Bull has joined her. Bull was an adorable, hardworking person who would help anyone in need and was loved by all who knew him. He is and will be deeply missed.

A memorial service is being planned by his children. Currently the date is unknown. In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made to the Leonard and Olga Durham Scholarship Fund at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL 61920



## The Passing of Three Fisheries Icons, *Brian Metzke*

Bob Rung's passion for streams, fishing inspired others After serving in Vietnam and earning a Purple Heart as a U.S. Army Combat medic, Bob Rung came home to the Boulder Hill subdivision and operated a pet shop for several years in the Wilhelm Building on Jefferson Street in downtown Oswego. But Rung, who died Monday at the age of 71, stepped away from the shop in the 1980s as he embarked on a new career as an Illinois Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist whose work helped improve the ecosystems of the Fox River, Waubonsie Creek and other rivers and streams throughout the state. John Rung, president of Shaw Media, the parent company of the Oswego Ledger, said growing up Bob was more like a father than a brother to him. "I'm not sure where I'd be without him," John Rung said. "Bob loved fishing, and he was passionate about conservation and his profession. But most of all he loved his wife, his children, and his growing family. He was truly was a devoted husband, father and grandfather." Former Oswego Village President Brian LeClercq recalled that he first got to know Rung as one of the many local youths who would frequent Rung's pet shop. "Bob was so much fun. I remember going in his shop when I was a youngster and I knew I couldn't afford a fish and he knew it, too, but he still gave me a guppy for free—a pregnant guppy. A few days after I brought it home I had tank full of fish," LeClercq said. Many years later, LeClercq said he reconnected with Rung in his role as a village official. By that time, Rung was working with the IDNR. LeClercq recalled being among a group of volunteers who helped Rung plant lizard tail and water willows at the mouth of the Waubonsie Creek at the Fox River in what is now Hudson Crossing Park in downtown Oswego. "He was so passionate about the Fox River and he really inspired me and I know he inspired many others," LeClercq said, adding, "For me he's one of those individuals that left a mark on my life and got me interested in the environment. He and (the late) Mike Brock (an Oswego High School ecology teacher) were all about the Fox River and inspiring others to try and do their part to clean it up." Looking back on Rung's life as a shop owner and then with the IDNR, LeClercq said, "I think he did what he loved. When you measure someone's life you wonder if they truly enjoyed what they did. In Bob's case he absolutely did what he enjoyed and because of his passion I know he really inspired a lot of people." Bert Gray, former long-time director of the Oswegoland Park District, said Rung provided assistance to the park district in his role with the IDNR. As an example, Gray described Rung as being instrumental in providing the park district with information that helped the agency to secure funding in the late 1990s to remove the dam on the Waubonsie Creek in Oswego's Stonegate Park. The early 20th century dam had served to block fish passage in the creek for decades, which ultimately served to limit the fish population in both the creek and river. When the dam was removed in the late 1990s, the creek was restored as an active piece of the Fox River ecosystem, Gray said. "The result today is a much healthier creek and a healthier fish population in the Fox River," Gray said. Roger Matile, director of the Little White School Museum and Ledger columnist, said Rung was a "fishing fanatic" from the time his family moved to Boulder Hill. Matile added, "Bob's love of the river, I think, drove him to get the relevant educational credentials so he could join the IDNR and actually make a difference." In a statement issued Monday, the IDNR said Rung's "energy and passion for river conservation were unmatched." As an example, the statement noted that the water willow is now thriving along the banks of the Fox River thanks to Rung's "tireless efforts." The agency also described Rung as "relentless with permit reviews" and someone who "never backed down from anybody." The statement continued: "He was a true fish nut and loved them all. If you knew Bob, you would not be surprised that he also threw himself into angling with equal energy and passion. Bob poured jigs, built rods, tied flies, and was always plotting his next fishing trip or strategy. He was well known as one of the best jig fisherman on the Fox River. "As a DNR Technician years ago, he revised and updated electrofishing rigs for the whole State and won the Technician of the Year award for many years running." The statement concluded, "He was also a long time crusader for dam removal. Bob will be remembered for the many things he did for Illinois streams over the years, but his most memorable asset was his generous spirit, and undying love for fish and fishing." *Published in the Kendall County NOW newspaper.*





## 4,000 More Endangered Mussels Relocated to Illinois, *Jeremy Tiemann and Alison Stodola*

Beginning in 2005, the INHS partnered with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), and state agencies in Pennsylvania and Ohio to implement portions of the USFWS' recovery plan for the Northern Riffleshell (*Epioblasma rangiana*, bottom left of picture) and Clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*, upper right of picture).

Both species are federally endangered and were historically present throughout the Ohio River drainage, including the Vermilion River of the Wabash. Their range-wide declines were attributed to a combination of issues that reduced habitat and water quality, including impoundments, siltation, pollution, stream dredging, and exotic species.



A salvage project in Pennsylvania on the Allegheny River provided an opportunity for the translocation of Northern Riffleshells and Clubshells into Illinois. The Hunter Station Bridge, which passes over the largest known populations of these two species, is scheduled for removal in 2018. It is estimated that this bridge project would directly impact nearly 100,000 mussels.

Both of these streams have multiple areas in conservation ownership and support diverse and highly-valued mussel assemblages and populations of the known fish hosts. Approximately 1400 Northern Riffleshell and 2600 Clubshell were released in 2016 in both rivers into existing relocation sites as well as novel sites within protected areas. Some individuals were marked using "glitter tags," a new tagging procedure for Illinois (see below). It is essential to mark each translocated individual so that natural reproduction can be assessed in the future.

Since 2010, nearly 4,200 Northern Riffleshell and 3,700 Clubshell have been translocated to the Salt Fork Vermilion River and Middle Fork Vermilion River. The goal of this project is to re-establish self-sustaining Northern Riffleshell and Clubshell populations into their historical ranges in Illinois, and to determine the viability of translocating endangered mussels displaced by bridge construction projects. Our preliminary data suggest Clubshell are surviving at a slightly higher rate than Northern Riffleshell, but both species are significantly affected by high discharge events. For example, one of our sites was washed out following a series of three discharge events in a two month period. Our plans call for continued monitoring of these sites and collaborating with partnering states (e.g., Pennsylvania, Ohio).



This relocation project is being funded, in part, by a natural resource damage assessment settlement (Hegeler Zinc — Lyondell Basell Companies) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and to the State of Illinois.

## Fisheries Division Activities at the State Fair, Dan Stephenson

Fisheries staff set up and manned multiple activities and venues at the State Fair in Springfield this year. At the gate to Conservation World the first place people stopped was the Touch a Fish station where kids of all ages could touch or hold fish, crawdads and turtles. For many this was their first experience touching those wild creatures. Adjacent to that was the Urban Fishing program with its fishing pond. Six clinics were held per day where kids learned about fishing and aquatic resources then were allowed to go to the pond and catch fish. At the Fisheries tent, there was a live fish display which included two pools and five aquariums with live fish from various waters throughout the state. The nearly 5' long alligator gar was a topic of conversation for the thousands of people who came through the tent. In addition to that, there was fishing offered on the fishing pier at the large IDNR pond. The Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program displayed a video to educate fair goers about problems with invasive species in Illinois, in particular, Asian Carp. In addition ANS Staff answered the myriad of questions the public has about that species. The Bowfishing Association of Illinois set up in the Fisheries tent and offered practice bow fishing for young and old alike in the pond using fish decoys. Finally, again this year fly fishing clinics were held three times each day offering basic instruction and then allowing anglers to catch fish in the pond on the west side of the IDNR building. The pond is stocked prior to the fair with 4-5 pound adult large and smallmouth bass that are being retired from the state hatchery. As with every year, everyone had a great time at the fishing venues at the State Fair.





## Deploying Multiple Tools the Key to Stopping Asian Carp, Researchers Say, *Marion Renault, Chicago Tribune*

In less than half a century, Asian carp went from being unknown in U.S. waters to making up 90 percent of the biomass in some stretches of the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. There is no silver bullet for eradicating the invasive species. But a decadelong rush to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes may be paying off. With a slew of methods, from electric barriers to noise cannons and "fences" made of carbon dioxide, researchers hope to keep Asian carp at bay. Next summer, some of those new tools will be put through final tests. Layering multiple approaches is the closest thing to a solution, said Jon Amberg, a research fish biologist for the U.S. Geological Survey's Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center. "One of them might be 90 percent effective," he said, "but when you have five of them that are all 90 percent effective working together — you're pretty close to 100 percent." Few of Illinois' 44,000 miles of streams and rivers are free of Asian carp, experts say, and federal estimates put 3.1 million pounds of the fish in the lower reaches of the Illinois River alone. That data also illustrates how Asian carp have continued their advance upstream in recent years. Regional natural resource experts have spent between \$40 million and \$50 million annually searching for solutions to keep the fish out of the Great Lakes, already home to 186 invasive species of plants and animals such as sea lampreys and zebra mussels. From there, they say, little would stop them from entering and monopolizing tributaries and river systems in Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and Canada. Some of those efforts have staved off the species' leading edge, said Dan Stephenson, a longtime biologist and chief of fisheries at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Guy Lopez, who runs local charter fishing company Wild Dog Tackle and Good Guyde Service, said the carp's notoriety has cost him customers who used to fish on the Illinois River. He said the spot where he brings groups, near Starved Rock, is not what it once was as sauger and walleye have begun to disappear. Lopez still charts boats for trout and salmon fishing on Lake Michigan in the summers, but said he fears losing that business too if carp continue their advance unchecked. "I'm here at ground zero," Lopez said. "The angling experience isn't as good as it used to be." Ultimately, wiping Asian carp from where they are already established is probably a pipe dream, Amberg said. But removing even half the population would reopen waters for native fish such as walleye, bass and bluegill to rebound. "It's an incredibly challenging feat, but the more tools we're able to provide, the better off they're going to be," Amberg said. He said targeting Asian carp has been a long staircase of testing solution after solution. "You can't just jump to the top. If you pay attention to the steps that are right in front of you ... next thing you know you're only a couple steps away — and that's where we are now. We're now at a point where we're seeing a light at the end of the tunnel," he said. Fortifying electric barriers Asian carp, first introduced in the South 40 years ago to clear algae from catfish ponds, are incredibly fertile, face few predators, and tend to eat so much plankton that they starve out native species. Their takeover poses economic risks in addition to ecological ones, because they could reduce revenue for tourism and recreation sectors if they swim their way into the Great Lakes. Tackling Asian carp could damage industry just as easily — namely the shipping industry — unless researchers find a way to block the fish while still allowing rivers and canals to connect freely to Lake Michigan. One method that has met those criteria involves electrodes installed at the bottom of waterways to create an electric field that repels or stuns fish. In 2002, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers activated the first such electric barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, and three are now in operation. By the end of 2017, a final component of the barrier is set to be completed. As a baseline deterrent, the electric barriers have been incredibly effective, according to Chris Drew, commander of the Army Corps' Chicago District. Still, engineers have had to address a few potential glitches: the voltage's weakness when it comes to small fish, for one, and the possibility that barge traffic could drag fish across the barrier. Bubbles, noise and poison The theory underlying new tools being explored by researchers is an ancient one, according to Amberg. "Know thy enemy," he said, citing a proverb by the ancient Chinese general Sun Tzu. By tapping into general fish biology as well as certain unusual physiological features of Asian carp, solutions such as fences made of carbon dioxide, acoustic barriers and targeted poison have shown promise. In studies conducted this summer, researchers demonstrated that aquatic species — be it Asian carp or other native fish — will swim away from carbon dioxide-infused water and toward oxygen-rich areas. Steeping sections of a river with carbon dioxide could deter Asian carp from entering new territory, said Michael Donaldson, the study's lead author and a natural resources researcher at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. But CO<sub>2</sub> fences pose problems of their own, he said. They are not species-specific, so native fish also become stressed by heightened levels of carbon dioxide. And if the method moves forward, it would have to be registered with the EPA as a pesticide, which could be a bureaucratic headache. That's where another approach — acoustic barriers — has appeal. When you tap on an aquarium, the fish inside will initially be startled. But pound on the glass again, and they probably won't respond, said Al Mensinger, a biology researcher and professor at the University of Minnesota at Duluth. Because of a specialized connection between their swim bladder and inner ear, silver and bighead carp have an enhanced sensitivity to high frequency sounds, he said. By setting up speakers on opposite ends of a pond, Mensinger's team was able to play pingpong with the fish — sending them from one end to the other up to 37 times. An underwater recording of a revving 100-horsepower motorboat can effectively drive away silver and bighead carp, initial studies show. "They won't cross that barrier," Mensinger said. Acoustic barriers are also a portable and relatively cheap.



## Deploying Multiple Tools the Key to Stopping Asian Carp, Researchers Say, *Marion Renault, Chicago Tribune*

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The main cost is about \$3,000 for speakers and amplifiers. Another approach being tested by scientists exploits carp's preferred eating method. Unlike most native fish, silver and bighead carp are filter-feeders, consuming as much as a fifth of their body weight in plankton each day. So a group of U.S. Geological Survey researchers are working to develop a microparticle embedded with Antimycin, one of only a handful of registered piscicides, or substances poisonous to fish, according to Amberg. Once carp ingest the specially sized particle, it releases a lethal dose of Antimycin in their gastrointestinal tract. Studies from this summer treated an entire pond with the toxin; a large number of the silver and bighead carp were killed while no largemouth bass died. All of these methods — carbon dioxide, acoustic and toxic deterrents — will undergo field tests in summer of 2017, Amberg said. Down the line, they could be used in conjunction with other carp-battling tools. When electric barriers need maintenance, carbon dioxide fences could go up. In spots where carp are concentrated among lots of native fish, Antimycin might be released. And high-frequency sounds could be used to drive the carp into commercial fishing nets.



"Depending on the context, we would have a Plan A, Plan B and a Plan C," Donaldson said. "Integrating all these tools together gives us a best flexibility." Out of the river and into a market On its face, another proposed measure has unlikely appeal for ecologists: overfishing as a means of protecting natural resources. But some say in order to deplete existing carp populations, the only effective method is pulling them out of the water by the thousands. "We've shown time and time again that we're really good at overfishing populations and causing fisheries to crash," Amberg said. "It would appear we can do that with carp." The state's natural resources department has contracted commercial fishermen to set out thousands of miles of nets to catch carp since about 2010. Stephenson said those efforts have netted about 5 million pounds of Asian carp, then refrigerated and shipped to a processing plant in northwestern Illinois to be turned into liquid fertilizer. But at a price of 17 cents per pound, Stephenson said, there's not a ton of incentive for fishermen. For the past five to 10 years, he said, countless groups have expressed interest in building processing plants and developing the market for Asian carp. "But nothing ever happens," Stephenson said. "There's no money right now in anybody's budget to build processing plants." Still, he said there is potential for that to change. With the proper infrastructure, Asian carp could be processed into cat food. It could also be flash-frozen or canned for human consumption in the place from which it hails, where pollution, overfishing and water projects have depleted carp populations but not appetite for the species. "There are more Asian carp in Illinois than in China," Stephenson said. Others are trying to develop that taste here in the Midwest, including Dirk Fucik, who owns a fish shop in Lincoln Park. Fucik said he has been selling and sampling Asian carp for more than a decade and has worked with state agencies to familiarize his customers with the fish. Other than the Chicago restaurateurs who infrequently introduce Asian carp as a special menu item, Fucik said his store is one of the few places in the city that regularly carries it. "All these people are trying to eradicate it, to feed it to people, but it's really hard to find it," Fucik said, adding that he likes the challenge of getting passers-by to taste it. Once deboned, Fucik usually grinds the fish for burgers, sausages and meatballs, and seasons it with flair like any other ground meat: using Italian spices, preparing it with Asian flavors or serving it Cajun style, to name a few. He said despite its reputation, he prefers Asian carp to some of the other fish he offers such as Tilapia. "There are a lot of ugly fish in the world," he said. "When you say carp, people turn up their nose. Most people like it once they taste it and get past the stigma."



## Gordon Tucker Honored with Scientific Name of Newly Discovered Plant Species, Researchers Say, *Journal Gazette/Times-Courier*

*Editors note—Gordon Tucker, professor at EIU, presented an aquatic plant identification workshop for ILAFS and now is being honored with his own plant species.*

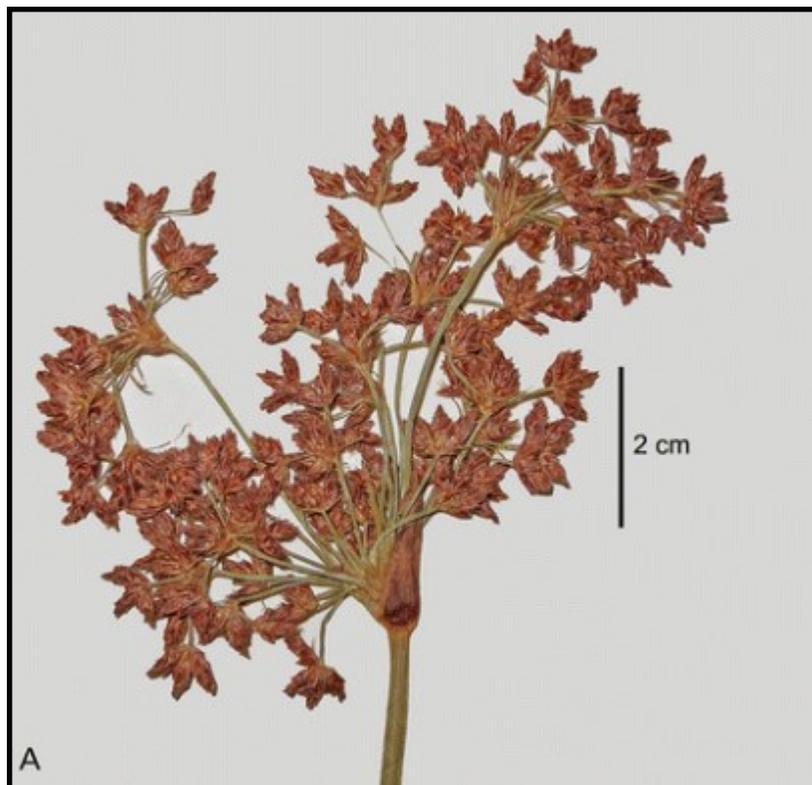
CHARLESTON — A longtime botanist at Eastern Illinois University now shares his name with a new plant species found in India.

The university on Monday said that some of Gordon Tucker's colleagues discovered the new member of the sedge family and decided to name it after him because he provided the expertise to confirm the discovery. The new sedge is called *Fimbristylis tuckeri*.

Sedges are flowering plants that resemble grasses. News of the new species was announced in the September issue of the *Kew Bulletin*.

Tucker said the discovery itself was not unusual. More than 1,000 new plant species were identified last year and there are about 5,500 known types of sedges.

But Tucker said he was flattered by the new name.





## Alligator Gar Reintroductions Ramp-Up, *Nathan Grider*

It was hard to miss the recent flurry of media attention on Alligator Gar reintroduction in Illinois that stretched from the Los Angeles Times all the way to Europe. While it was great to see so much positive attention on a species historically viewed as a nuisance, much of the media coverage was based on incorrect claims that the purpose of reintroduction was to combat Asian carp species. To summarize the latest activities on the Alligator Gar front in Illinois, the following is included from the IDNR website ([http://www.ifishillinois.org/programs/alligatorgar\\_news.html](http://www.ifishillinois.org/programs/alligatorgar_news.html)):

“Alligator Gar is the largest fish native to Illinois. With records dating back to prehistoric years, this species had not been seen in the state since the last documented Alligator Gar catch in the Cache River cutoff channel in southern Illinois in 1966. Alligator Gar were officially declared extinct in Illinois in the 1990s. In 2010, the IDNR's Division of Fisheries began an Alligator Gar reintroduction program. During that time, Alligator Gar were stocked in a few waterways, including the lower Kaskaskia River. “We only stocked a few thousand in total at those sites and many of those were small, so survivability was questionable,” said Dan Stephenson, the IDNR's Chief of Fisheries. The program had a brief hiatus in 2014 – 2015, but times are changing, and this program is once again becoming active with more research backing up this stocking initiative to help ensure success of survivability. According to Stephenson: “We now raise the fish to at least 12 inches before stocking so that their survival is vastly improved.” However, he cautions, more research still needs to be done to evaluate the survivability of this species and what needs to be done for successful reestablishment, which he predicts will be a challenge and take some time to net results. For instance, we know that female Gar do not become sexually mature until the age of 11, and even then they may not necessarily spawn every year. The reasons for reintroducing the Alligator Gar are twofold: Bringing back an extirpated species to Illinois waters is one of the goals. In addition, the Alligator Gar is becoming a popular trophy quarry for sportsmen in the southern part of their range, Louisiana and Texas. Bowfishing enthusiasts in particular enjoy pursuing the huge fish. For those of you worried that Alligator Gar would be detrimental to popular sportfish species, biologists say the Alligator Gar is an opportunistic predator that mostly targets shad and rough fish, such as carp. However, IDNR biologists warn that controlling Asian carp is **not** the reason for this reintroduction. According to Stephenson, though Alligator Gar are an apex predator that will take Asian carp, nothing can control their population right now. In the long-term, creating commercial markets for Asian carp will be the best hope of reducing their numbers. To answer another note of concern to some, there is no documented evidence suggesting that Alligator Gar will bite a swimmer. That has been a concern posed to the Department in the past few weeks. Swimmers simply don't look like a prey species to an Alligator Gar. Alligator Gar stocking will begin in Southern Illinois waters, which have the correct habitat for this species and would therefore be conducive to their survival. They are being stocked initially in very small numbers in certain places to see if they can be established. Our neighboring states, Kentucky and Missouri, are also taking part in this reintroduction program with the small fish (fry) initially coming from the US Fish and Wildlife Service hatchery, then raised in the state hatcheries to stocking size. Currently there are four types of Gar found in Illinois: Spotted, Shortnose, Longnose and now the Alligator. Alligator Gar were not traditionally found in large numbers in Illinois, and though they do grow quickly, it awaits to be seen this program's success as females mature and reproduce in 11+ years. We will monitor this program closely and will implement creel and size limits if necessary as this population becomes established. To effectively manage these prehistoric fish, the IDNR is working closely with University of Illinois researchers to study how Alligator Gar, in addition to the three other Gar species, grow, mature, reproduce and migrate to make certain these species continue to troll Illinois' waterways.”

In late September, IDNR Fisheries staff released 1,600 Alligator Gar ranging from 12 to 14 inches in length at Power-ton Lake, Sanganois State Fish and Wildlife Area, Horseshoe Lake in Madison County, and backwaters of the lower Kaskaskia River. Each location received approximately 400 fish. Jeremiah Haas and other staff with Exelon Corporation also assisted with growing-out these fish, which were received earlier in the summer from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery in Tupelo Mississippi.





# IDNR Private Fish Dealer and Pond Consultant List Request Form

Would you like to have your business contact information added to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Private Fish Dealer and Pond Consultant List on the I Fish Illinois website?

[http://www.ifishillinois.org/programs/fish\\_dealers.pdf](http://www.ifishillinois.org/programs/fish_dealers.pdf)

If so, please provide the following contact information, and check the boxes next to all information that you would like posted. The Private Fish Dealer and Pond Consultant List is updated annually.

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

|                   |
|-------------------|
| For IDNR Use Only |
| Received: _____   |
| Posted: _____     |

**Applicant Information:**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Aquatic Life Dealer License #: \_\_\_\_\_ Minnow Dealer License #: \_\_\_\_\_

Check boxes for species of aquatic life that you have for sale and all services you offer, if applicable:

**SPECIES**

- |   |  |  |                                       |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Albino Catfish   | <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Shiner       | <input type="checkbox"/> Pumpkinseed         | <input type="checkbox"/> White Sucker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Crappie    | <input type="checkbox"/> Goldfish            | <input type="checkbox"/> Rainbow Trout       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Perch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Catfish     | <input type="checkbox"/> Green Sunfish       | <input type="checkbox"/> Redear Sunfish      | <input type="checkbox"/> _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bluegill         | <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid Bluegill     | <input type="checkbox"/> Rosy Red            | <input type="checkbox"/> _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brook Trout      | <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid Crappie      | <input type="checkbox"/> Smallmouth Bass     | <input type="checkbox"/> _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Bullhead   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid Striped Bass | <input type="checkbox"/> Striped Bass        | <input type="checkbox"/> _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Trout      | <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid Sunfish      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tiger Muskie        | <input type="checkbox"/> _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Channel Catfish  | <input type="checkbox"/> Koi                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tilapia spp.        | <input type="checkbox"/> _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Shiner    | <input type="checkbox"/> Largemouth Bass     | <input type="checkbox"/> Triploid Grass Carp | <input type="checkbox"/> _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fathead Minnow   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mosquitofish        | <input type="checkbox"/> Walleye             | <input type="checkbox"/> _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flathead Catfish | <input type="checkbox"/> Muskellunge         | <input type="checkbox"/> White Bass          | <input type="checkbox"/> _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gizzard Shad     | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pike       | <input type="checkbox"/> White Crappie       | <input type="checkbox"/> _____        |

**SERVICES**

- |   |   |   |                                |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electrofishing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality        | <input type="checkbox"/> Fountains          | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Surveys     | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation Surveys   | <input type="checkbox"/> Aerators           | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stocking         | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation Treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Docks              | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Management Plans | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation Planting  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bank Stabilization | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mapping          | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat              | <input type="checkbox"/> Pond Design        | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

An Aquatic Life Dealer License and/or Minnow Dealer License is required to import fish into Illinois. To obtain a license please visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/LPR/Pages/Commercial.aspx> or call 217-785-3423.

In addition to these licenses, import permits for VHS-Susceptible Species, Salmonids, and Restricted Species (Triploid Grass Carp, Tilapia, etc.) may apply. Please visit the following link to learn more about IDNR fish importation regulations: <http://www.ifishillinois.org/programs/aquaculture.html>.

Submit completed requests via mail, fax, or email.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
 Aquaculture Program  
 One Natural Resources Way  
 Springfield, IL 62702

**Contact Us**

Phone: 217-785-8772  
 Email: [dnr.aquaculture@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.aquaculture@illinois.gov)

## Announcements

# \$400 TRAVEL GRANT to MIDWEST FISH & WILD-LIFE CONFERENCE



The **Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society** (IL AFS) will be awarding a single \$200 travel grant which will be matched by the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society. This will provide **\$400** for a fisheries student to attend the **Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, February 5-8, 2017 in Lincoln, Nebraska.**

Criteria for this selection will be based upon financial need and/or reason(s) for attending the meeting (e.g., presentation, pertinent paper session, IL AFS committee meeting). Students should state their class standing (e.g. junior, B.S. candidate), interests, if they are presenting a paper or poster, and their AFS membership status (national, state, sub-unit) when applying. A letter from each applicant's advisor confirming the need for travel money is required.

The grant recipient is asked to attend the business meeting at the conference to receive their award. **ALL STUDENTS ARE URGED TO APPLY, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE PRESENTING!!!**

Submit applications (**electronic copies preferred**) or inquiries:

by: **November 4, 2016**

to: **Nerissa McClelland**  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
700 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Havana, IL 62644  
Phone: (309)543-3316 ext. 224  
E-mail: nerissa.mcclelland@illinois.gov



## Announcements

### SAVE THE DATE

55th Annual Meeting of the Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
Stoney Creek Inn, Moline, Illinois  
February 21-23, 2017

Registration details to be posted on the Chapter website soon.

