



President's Message, *Phil Willink*

Greetings Illinois AFS,

Summer is over and fall is finally here. Many of you are transitioning from fieldwork, whether it is for Asian Carp, Yellow Perch, Walleye, Bluegill, Banded Killifish, Mussels, or Mudpuppies, to data entry, report writing, etc. Illinois has an amazing diversity of aquatic habitats, stretching from hundreds of feet below the surface of Lake Michigan to the restless currents of the Mississippi River. And there is an equally amazing group of fisheries biologists working on these systems.

One of the highlights of every year is getting to talk with this group of fisheries biologists at our Annual Meeting. It was a while ago, but this is the first newsletter since our most recent conference in Champaign. I would like to once again thank James Lamer and Jeremy Tiemann for organizing everything with the venue, Hilton Garden Inn. I also want to thank April Burgett and Kim Dunningan for providing invaluable support at the registration desk and helping with the logistics of the judging of posters and presentations.

Although many of the most memorable moments from the meeting may be the socializing and raffle, there was also an excellent lineup of speakers. With 57 presentations and 15 posters, this was one of the largest IL AFS meetings in recent memory.

The large number of presentations resulted in a packed schedule and shortened breaks. Thank you to all attendees for your understanding as you navigated the unusually busy meeting. Personally, I learned a lot by listening to the impressive variety of talks.

At the Business Meeting, Greg Whitley introduced the idea of instituting Student Continuing Education Awards. Up to two awards of \$125 each will be given annually to support student attendance in workshops or continuing education courses that require payment of a registration fee. For more details, see the IL AFS website or contact Dan Grigas at DGrigas@dupageforest.org

Another item at the Business Meeting was a proposal by Jeremiah Haas to allow Retired Past Presidents to attend IL AFS Meetings without having to pay the registration cost. Part of the impetus for this was to encourage those with decades of fisheries experience to attend the meetings, share in the comradery of the Chapter, and pass on their knowledge and experiences to succeeding generations. This wonderful idea passed unanimously.

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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: Phil Willink

President-Elect: Blake Ruebush

Secretary: Karen Rivera

Treasurer: Rich Lewis

Past President: Greg Whitledge

Excom Members at Large: Rebekah Anderson, Seth Love

Committee Chairpersons:

Archival: Nathan Grider

Arrangements: Greg Whitledge

Awards: Nerissa McClelland

Continuing Education: Ben Lubinski

Environmental Concerns: Nathan Grider

IL Environmental Council: Diane Shasteen

IL Wildlife Action Team: Trent Thomas

Membership: Josh Sherwood

Newsletter: Brian Metzke/Jason DeBoer

Raffle: Rebekah Anderson

Resolutions: Rob Hilsabeck

Student Concerns: Dan Grigas

Student Subunits:

Eastern Illinois: Reuben Frey

Southern Illinois: Alex Catalano

University of Illinois: Patrick Watson

Western Illinois: Dominique Turney

Website: Brian Metzke

NCD Committee Reports Representatives:

Centrarchid: Josh Sherwood

Esocid: Joe Parkos

Ictalurid: Jeremy Tiemann

Rivers and Streams: Trent Thomas/Steve Pescitelli

Walleye: Jason DeBoer/Mike Garthaus



Illinois Council
Trout Unlimited



If you or someone you know is interested in supporting our organization, please contact the membership committee chairman, Josh Sherwood (jsherwo2@illinois.edu), for more information.

President's Message, cont'd, Phil Willink

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And now it is time to look forward to next year's 2020 Annual Meeting. We will not have an independent IL AFS conference in 2020. Instead, we will be combined with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Springfield, IL. This conference takes place January 26-29, 2020. We will hold our annual IL AFS Business Meeting at this conference and it will be essentially the same, but the date and time have not been set yet. We still plan to judge student presentations and posters, although the logistics are a bit more complicated. We will not be judging professional presentations this year so the attention can be focused on the students. The details surrounding the raffle, which is an annual favorite, are still being worked out. Stay tuned for updates!

And with that I wish you a happy and productive fall.

Best Fishes,
Phil

2019 IL AFS meeting recap, *Brian Metzke, IL DNR*

The 57th annual meeting of the ILAFS was held in February 2019 in Champaign. At least 149 attendees were present, 46 of whom were students, rivaling some of the most attended meetings in Chapter history. Attendees were affiliated with 18 different universities, research institutions and agencies. Fifty-seven oral presentations on such topics as sportfish ecology, invasive species, freshwater mussels and endangered species were provided. Fifteen poster presentations were also provided. The raffle, an annual favorite, netted \$2500 for student grants and awards.

During the business meeting, Phil Willink officially took the helm of the Chapter and thanked Greg Whitlege for his year of service as President. Karen Rivera was welcomed as Secretary.

Thanks to all those that planned, participated in and attended the 2019 meeting. We hope to see you in Springfield in January 2020.

IL AFS ExCom news bits

Kevin Irons has stepped down from his at-large position on the ExCom, and Seth Love has agreed to a nomination for that position. A brief bio for Seth is featured below.

Hello Illinois AFS! My name is Seth Love and it was an honor to be nominated and approved to serve as an Executive Committee Member at Large at the February 2019 annual meeting. I look forward to serving in this capacity and am excited to see our chapter continue to flourish. Some of you know me but I suspect that I haven't had the pleasure of meeting most of you so what follows is a brief autobiography.

My interest in fisheries management began in high school where I worked on Chesapeake Bay tributaries as a summer technician for Maryland's DNR. This initial experience led me to pursue and obtain a bachelor's degree from Houghton College in 2011 and a master's degree from Southeast Missouri State University in 2016. Throughout my young fisheries career, I've had the opportunity to work on some fascinating ecosystems like estuaries, mountain lakes/streams, and large rivers. I currently work as a fisheries biologist with the Illinois DNR's Aquatic Nuisance Species Program based out of Silver Springs State Park and have worked out of this office for a few years. While this is my first leadership role within Illinois AFS, I am currently active at both the regional (North Central Division) and national (Introduced Fish Section) levels where I serve as an Awards Committee Member and as Newsletter Editor, respectively. I believe that my broad experiences will help me to successfully serve our chapter and I eagerly look forward to what the future holds!



ANNOUNCEMENT: IL AFS student travel grant

ILLINOIS AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY \$100 STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS



The Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (IL AFS) will be awarding up to **4 travel grants** for students to attend this year's Annual Meeting which will be in conjunction with this year's annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. The grants will be **\$100 each** to help students to attend this Annual Meeting to be held at the Springfield, Illinois from **January 26-29, 2020**.

Criteria for this selection will be based upon financial need and/or reason(s) for attending the meeting (e.g., paper presentation, pertinent paper session, IL AFS committee meeting). Students should include the above information and also state their class standing (i.e. junior, B.S. candidate), fisheries related interests, participation in IL AFS activities, and AFS membership status when applying. A letter from each applicant's advisor confirming the need for travel money is also required.

Grant recipients are asked to attend the Business Meeting at the conference to receive their awards.

ALL STUDENTS ARE URGED TO APPLY, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE PRESENTING A PAPER!!!

Submit electronic (preferred) or paper applications

by: November 4, 2019

to: Dan Grigas
IL AFS Student Concerns Committee
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
3S580 Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60189
Phone: (630)933-7668
E-mail: dgrigas@dupageforest.org

ANNOUNCEMENT: Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference travel grant

\$400 TRAVEL GRANT to MIDWEST FISH & WILDLIFE 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, January 26-29, 2020 in Springfield, Illinois.**

Criteria for this selection will be based upon financial need and/or reason(s) for attending the meeting (e.g., paper presentation, pertinent paper session, IL AFS committee meeting). Students should state their class standing (e.g. junior, B.S. candidate), interests, and AFS membership status when applying. A letter from each applicant's advisor confirming the need for travel money is required. **Students must be currently enrolled in an Illinois college or university.**

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 THEY ARE PRESENTING A PAPER!!!**

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

by: November 4, 2019

to: Dan Grigas
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
3S580 Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60189
Phone: (630)933-7668
Email: dgrigas@dupageforest.org

ANNOUNCEMENT: Larimore Student Research Awards

LARIMORE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD PROGRAM

PURPOSE: The mission of the Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals. Thus, the purpose of the Larimore Student Research Awards Competition is to provide financial incentives for outstanding student research projects to promote the conservation, development, and wise use of the Illinois fisheries.

WHO CAN APPLY: Students attending any accredited Illinois college or university, who maintain a cumulative GPA equal to or greater than 3.0 may apply.

AWARD: A maximum of four awards per year will be granted. Each grant is eligible for up to \$500 depending on the quality of the proposal.

APPLICATION: Applications require submission of a proposal packet, which includes a proposal cover sheet, abstract, project description, budget, resume and transcripts of candidate, and two letters of recommendation. **Please email Dan Grigas for an application packet!**

DEADLINE: Completed proposals must be received by the Chair of the Student Concerns Committee of Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society by **November 4, 2019**. Send applications to:

Dan Grigas

Fisheries Ecologist
Office of Natural Resources
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
3S580 Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60189
dgrigas@dupageforest.org

SELECTION: All award proposals will be reviewed and selected by the Student Concerns Committee of the Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Successful applicants will be notified by the end of January each year. At or near the end of their research, recipients of the ILAFS grant award must present their research findings at an IL AFS meeting, **however this year the MWFWC will be a “joint” meeting with IL AFS. Research must be presented at the MWFWC in Springfield in January of 2020 for applications to be considered.**

CONTACT: Dan Grigas at the above address or phone: (630)933-7668 e-mail: dgrigas@dupageforest.org

Nominees sought for IL AFS Fisheries Professional Awards

Stephen A. Forbes Fisheries Excellence Award

This award will be given to fisheries professional who has made an outstanding contribution to the fisheries profession in Illinois. This contribution should be a collection of achievements over the individual's career which surpass normal job duties, and contribute to advancement of the profession through either research or management activities. While not necessarily a requirement, evaluation of the nominee should consider dissemination of their work by publication (in refereed or non-refereed formats) and/or presentations at AFS, or other profession meetings. Award recipients should be members of the Illinois Chapter during the period the work was accomplished. Nominations should include the names and signatures of at least 2 nominators, a brief (1 page maximum) biographical sketch of the nominee, a brief (1 page maximum) narrative of significant contributions made by the nominee, and copies of any additional materials to support the application. Nominations should be submitted to the Awards Committee (nerissa.mcclelland@illinois.gov) and must be approved by the Executive Committee.

Illinois Chapter Meritorious Service Award

This award will recognize extraordinary service to the Chapter by an active or past member. Nominations may be based on a variety of service activities benefiting the Illinois Chapter. Consideration may also include contributions to North Central Division or Parent Society. In the nomination, evidence must be presented that this service has gone beyond routine membership and that it has made a genuine and lasting contribution to the betterment of the Chapter. Nominations should include the names and signatures of at least 2 nominators, a brief (1 page maximum) biographical sketch, a brief (1 page maximum) narrative of significant contributions made by the nominee, and copies of any additional materials to support the application. Nominations should be submitted to the Awards Committee (nerissa.mcclelland@illinois.gov) and must be approved by the Executive Committee.

Spotlight on research, Jim Lamer, Director at Illinois River Biological Station

Illinois River Biological Station fish community assessment in response to the Illinois Waterway 2020 Lock Closure

Commercial and recreational navigation are persistent and important uses of our navigable waterways, but its ecological impact is difficult to assess and poorly understood. The Illinois River is an ecologically significant North American waterway and a series of lock closures proposed in 2020 creates a rare opportunity to evaluate ship-induced effects to our native biota. The Illinois Waterway Consolidated Lock Closure will occur from July 1 – September 10 with variable duration of closure for each of the eight locks. This may impact pool-pool navigation (unless high water prevents wicket closure at La Grange and Peoria dams), but does not limit intra-pool navigation <https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Navigation-Status/>.



Navigation can have detrimental effects to aquatic ecosystems at several hierarchical levels. Mechanical wave depression and resulting energy from ship-induced waves can directly affect bank and channel morphology and contribute to resuspension of sediments. Resulting increases in turbidity from sediment resuspension reduces primary productivity, macroinvertebrate abundance and diversity, macrophyte growth and colonization, and composition and abundance of fish communities using main channel border habitats. Ship-induced waves have had effects on all stages of fish ontogeny ranging from displacement and stranding, changes in species abundance and community composition, and lowered foraging efficiency contributing to reductions in growth and body condition. These effects were either a direct or indirect response to navigation frequency or boat-induced wave action. Abundance on rheophilic and lithophilic fish assemblages were notably affected by the duration and frequency of boat passage. Despite evidence of ship-induced fish effects, assessment of these impacts has not been evaluated on the Illinois River. A standardized approach building on the architecture of the LTRM framework will be necessary to comprehensively assess fish response to the 2020 lock closure on the Illinois waterway.

Spotlight on research, continued from page 10

The exiting LTRM framework is a strong foundation to detect shifts in fish abundance and composition in the Illinois River, but it currently only collects data on the La Grange Reach. Although this is informative to assess lock closure impacts to the La Grange Reach, it is a compartmentalized response to a system-wide effect. To assess the effects of lock closure system-wide, expansion of LTRM methods accompanied by ship-induced related explanatory variables (i.e., vessel frequency, sediment resuspension, flow velocity, zooplankton abundance, water temperature, wave height) are needed. Existing infrastructure and sampling on the Illinois River is being standardized and leveraged to help meet this need. This includes existing main-channel border electrofishing by the IRBS's Long Term Survey and Assessment of Large River Fishes in Illinois (LTEF) from the Alton-Dresden pools, and a recent expansion to this effort in the Peoria Reach that also includes back-water and side-channel habitats, IRBS black carp hoop net sampling in the La Grange Reach, ILDNR Asian carp monitoring program electrofishing and minifyke netting in Lockport-Marseilles Reaches, and additional monitoring by the Fish and Wildlife Service and Army Corps of Engineers. By leveraging the data of existing projects and filling in the gaps, we are able to collect evaluate fisheries response throughout the entire Illinois River prior to, during, and after the proposed Illinois River Lock Closure (2019-2021).



Announcement:

You are invited to attend and participate in the 3rd International Catfish Symposium to be held February 18-20, 2020 in Little Rock, Arkansas, in conjunction with the AFS Southern Division Annual Meeting. This meeting will provide a forum for the exchange of information about the biology, ecology, management and conservation of worldwide populations of both game and nongame catfish species. Previous publications from the First and Second Symposia continue to sell and have served as important references for managers and researchers alike.

The theme for the 3rd International Symposium is “Communicating Catfish Science” and will bring together the last decade’s work on the conservation, ecology, and management of worldwide catfish populations and their habitats. We encourage you to submit your research findings on any topic pertinent to management of catfishes and are actively seeking presentations pertaining to conservation and management challenges. Individuals interested in developing topical review papers are encouraged to contact the Program Committee Co-Chairs to assist with topic coordination.

Please contact Dr. Dan Shoup (daniel.shoup@okstate.edu) or Ben Neely (ben.neely@ks.gov) with questions about the program and Dr. Tom Kwak (tkwak@ncsu.edu) or Mark Porath (mark.porath@nebraska.gov) with questions about the proceedings.

Visit catfish2020.com for updated information, guidelines for oral and poster presentations, manuscript submission instructions, and symposium details.



Announcement:



The **80th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference** will be held January 26-29, 2020 at the BOS Center in Springfield, Illinois. The theme will be "**Bringing Science Back to the Forefront of Resource Management.**"

This annual event attracts nearly 800 biologists, students, and scientists from local, state and provincial, federal, and tribal natural resources agencies, universities, and private companies across the 12 Midwestern states and provinces. Highlights include: nearly 400 technical presentations, poster displays, plenary sessions, networking opportunities and social events.

Please see www.midwestfw.org for more details!

