



## President's Message, *Cory Suski*

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Greetings Chapter members!

I hope that everyone had a productive summer and that folks were able to find some time to relax as well. It is my honor and privilege to take the helm as Chapter President for our 52<sup>nd</sup> year, and I am looking forward to an eventful and busy year.

At the outset, I wanted to acknowledge the efforts of Executive Committee members that are stepping down from their positions. The success of the Chapter is due to the hard work and dedication of many individuals, and members of the Executive Committee work extremely hard on a range of tasks and activities to keep the Chapter running smoothly. A huge "Thank You" is owed to Scott Shasteen who is

stepping down as Chapter President.

Thanks to Scott's hard work and leadership over the past year, the Chapter is in great shape, both fiscally and otherwise. Trent Thomas will be stepping off the Executive Committee after serving as Past President, and I'd like to thank Trent for serving the Chapter over the past several years. Brian Metzke will be taking over the role of secretary/treasurer, and Scott Stuewe will be the new Chapter Vice President.

This year is already looking to be very busy and productive for the Chapter. Some of the things that folks have been working on include a motion to separate the secretary position from the treasurer and make the treasurer a 3 year position, with the goal of

simplifying the position for the treasurer. There also is work ongoing to assist with the development of a new Student Subunit at Western Illinois University, and there also are a number of great continuing education courses in the planning stages. Finally, Scott Shasteen has been busy planning the 2014 Annual Meeting in Bloomington, currently scheduled for the first week in March, which is sure to be an excellent meeting.

I am looking forward to interacting with everyone at the upcoming Chapter meeting in Bloomington, and also to working with everyone to protect and manage Illinois' aquatic resources.

### 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: Cory Suski  
 President-elect: Scott Stuewe  
 Secretary/Treasurer: Brian Metzke  
 Past President: Scott Shasteen  
 Excom Members at Large: Karen Rivera/Kevin Irons  
 Committee Chairpersons:  
     Archival: Rich Lewis  
     Arrangements: Trent Thomas/Mike Hooe  
     Awards: Steve Pescitelli  
     Continuing Education: Jonathan Leiman/Ben Lubinski  
     Environmental Concerns: Rob Colombo/Randy Sauer  
     IL Environmental Council: Vic Santucci  
     IL Wildlife Action Team: Trent Thomas  
     Membership: Matt Diana  
     Newsletter: Lindsey Bock/Brian Metzke  
     Raffle: Jim Lamer  
     Resolutions: Rob Hilsabeck  
     Student Concerns: Nerissa McClelland/Brian Metzke  
     Student Subunits:  
         Eastern Illinois: Joseph Zigler  
         Southern Illinois: Anthony Porreca  
         University of Illinois: Jeffrey Gring  
     Time and Place: Scott Shasteen  
     Website: Tony Holda  
 NCD Committee Reports Representatives:  
     Centrarchid: Josh Sherwood  
     Esocid: Rob Colombo  
     Ictalurid: Jeremy Tiemann/Dan Sallee  
     Rivers and Streams: Trent Thomas/  
         Steve Pescitelli  
     Walleye: Ken Clodfelter

**Thanks to Our 2012 Corporate Members**



Illinois Council Trout Unlimited



Professional Association of Conservation Resource Managers



## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lists Neosho Mucket as Endangered and Rabbitsfoot as Threatened

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is listing the Neosho mucket as endangered and the Rabbitsfoot as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Both species are freshwater mussels found in river systems in the eastern half of the United States.

The Neosho mucket has been eliminated from about 62 percent of its historic range with only nine of 16 historic populations remaining. Only one of these populations is known to be reproducing. The Neosho mucket is currently found in Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri.

The Rabbitsfoot has disappeared from about 64 percent of its historic range. While 51 of the 140 historic populations remain, only 11 populations (22 percent of its existing populations or eight percent of the historic populations) are viable; 23 populations (45 percent of the existing populations) are at risk of elimination; and 17 populations (33 percent of the current populations) show limited reproduction with little evidence of sustainability. The Rabbitsfoot is currently found in Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. The Rabbitsfoot is no longer found in Georgia and West Virginia.

In listing the two mussels, the Service evaluated factors that could lead to their extinction. Threats to these mussels include loss and degradation of stream and river habitat due to impoundments, channelization, chemical contaminants, mining and sedimentation. Freshwater mussels require clean water; their decline often signals a decline



**Neosho Mucket (left) is now listed as federally Endangered.**

**The Rabbitsfoot (right) is now listed as federally threatened.**



in the water quality of the streams and rivers they inhabit.

The Service's final rule listing the Neosho mucket and the Rabbitsfoot appears in the September 17, 2013 *Federal Register*. The protection for these mussel species under the ESA becomes effective 30 days after the rule is published in the *Federal Register*. The ultimate goal of the ESA is the recovery of these listed species, so that they no longer need the protective measures of the ESA. The next step is development of a recovery plan that provides a guidebook for the Service and its conservation partners to address threats to the species survival and recovery. When completed, the recovery plan will be available on the Service's website (<http://www.fws.gov/Endangered>)

It is illegal under the ESA to kill, harm or otherwise "take" a listed species, or to possess, import, export or conduct interstate or international commerce without authorization from the Service. The ESA also requires all federal agencies to ensure actions they authorize, fund, or undertake do not jeopardize the existence of listed species.

On October 16, 2012, and May 9, 2013, the Service opened public comment periods on its proposal to list

these mussels under the ESA. Twelve comments were received on the proposed rule. The Service did not receive any requests for a public hearing during either comment period.

However, we held public information meetings in Joplin, Missouri, on May 21, 2013, and Greenville, Missouri, on May 23, 2013.

For more information regarding the listing of these two freshwater mussels, please contact:  
Chris Davidson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office

110 South Amity Road Suite 300  
Conway, AR 72302

Telephone [501-513-4481](tel:501-513-4481)

Also, please visit <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/> or Docket #FWS-R4-ES-2012-0031 on <http://www.regulations.gov/>

### Student Subunit Update: Eastern Illinois University, Joseph Zigler

This past spring we held our annual Beast Feast, at this event we were able to acquire some generous donations that will help the club in the future. Our next meeting will be a guest speaker who is a graduate student here at Eastern who will be talking about her research in Dr. Colombo's fish lab. We have also planned to go out electro fishing later in the month with Dr. Colombo.

Our new officers are: Joseph Zigler, President; Jena Nierman, Vice President; Clint Morgeson, Secretary; Ryan Hastings, Historian; Meagan Thomas, Treasurer.

At our last meeting we had approximately 20 people in attendance.

## Student Subunit Update: U of I, Urbana-Champaign, *Jeff Gring*

The University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Student Subunit Chapter of the American Fisheries Society continues to promote fisheries conservation and education through organizing outreach events with the surrounding community and providing educational opportunities for prospective fisheries professionals.

In the spring, our subunit organized and participated in several educational outreach events in the local community:

- 4-H youth fish camp at nearby Monticello Lake (Monticello, IL), where members of our subunit demonstrated backpack electroshocking and exposed the kids to proper fish handling techniques and identification.

- Outreach event at Homer Lake (Homer, IL), where subunit members educated zoology students from Champaign Central High School about fish communities and common sampling techniques. Students participated in backpack

electroshocking, seining, angling, kick-seining, and fish/crayfish identification, while also learning about boat electroshocking through demonstration. For many students, this was their first introduction to fisheries and aquatic ecosystems. Based on positive feedback from the students and the overall success of the event, we will be hosting another field day with this year's students in the fall.

The UIUC subunit provided its members with several opportunities to improve their fisheries-related skills and knowledge in the spring, and will continue to do so this fall. Members of the subunit assisted the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) with a project on Monticello Lake in the spring, involving characterizing the fish community of the lake prior to the introduction of a biocontrol species and provided undergraduate members with valuable field experience. Graduate students within our subunit hosted several workshops in the

spring, including fish aging and crayfish identification workshops. This upcoming year, with the help of Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) biologists, we plan to host fish aging, crayfish identification, mussel identification, aquatic macroinvertebrate identification, and fly tying workshops. These workshops provide subunit members with a valuable introduction to skills and knowledge pertinent to fisheries research and management. The UIUC subunit also facilitates networking for all members through sampling events with local agencies, such as the IDNR and INHS, and through visiting professional speakers at monthly meetings.

### **Current Officers:**

-Jeff Gring, President -Andy Stites, Vice President

-Chris French, Treasurer -Greg King, Secretary

Active Members: 20

## Student Subunit Update: SIUC, *Anthony Porreca*

### **Recent Activities:**

The urban fishing program was in full swing this summer, with subunit members volunteering 2-3 times a week at campus lake at SIU. We also participated in the US Forest Service's ArborWild event where around 80 kids got to go fishing, many for the first time.

Fish U, a weekend camp designed to educate students about our aquatic resources, was largely run by our subunit.

Camp activities included fish dissections, invertebrate sampling and identification, a canoe trip, electrofishing, and a fish fry for the kids and their families. We were really



pleased with the turnout this year and had a great time showing up and coming students what we get to do every day.

### **Future activities:**

SIU will have a booth at the Southern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days at John A. Logan College at the end of September. This event will be used to educate the public on graduate research going on in fisheries at SIU and as a fundraising opportunity.

Additionally, our annual hog roast will be held late October. This event is used to thank and celebrate the hard work of all subunit members and as a social event for the whole fisheries center at SIU.

### **New 2013 Officers:**

Anthony Porreca - President

Devon Oliver - Vice President

Jorden Thorngren - Treasurer/Secretary.

Our faculty mentor is Dr. Jesse Trushenski.

## Student Concerns Committee Update, *Brian Metzke*

Fall always brings transition for the Student Concerns Committee, and this season is no different. The newest officers are taking over leadership roles in their respective student subunits and social, educational and outreach events are being planned by their members.

This year the Committee has two big announcements. First, a new Western Illinois University student subunit is taking form and is expected to be fully recognized by the Society by the time our annual conference rolls around. The inaugural group of officers has written bylaws, signed petitions and submitted their request to the Chapter. The WIU unit will be mentored by Dr. Jim Lamer. We wish them luck as they begin their first year.

Secondly, as I transition into my new officer duties, I have decided to step down as Committee Chair. Not to worry, though, because I leave you in the capable hands of Nerissa McClelland. Nerissa has been an active member of the ILAFS for a number of years and I know she'll engage in her new position with enthusiasm and dedication. I'll be helping her transition over the next few months, but please contact her with any Committee communications at [Nerissa.McClelland@illinois.gov](mailto:Nerissa.McClelland@illinois.gov).

Finally, the Committee has several opportunities to fund student travel and research. Here are the upcoming events:

### **Joan Duffy Student Travel**

**Award.** Students attending the annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife con-

ference are eligible to receive **\$400** towards the cost of this event. Required materials are due on October 25<sup>th</sup>. See the flier in this newsletter for details.

### **Larimore Student Research**

**Grant.** Any student conducting fisheries research is encouraged to apply for **\$500** in monetary support for their studies through this grant program. Documents are due November 29<sup>th</sup>. See the flier in this newsletter for additional details.

### **Illinois AFS Student Travel**

**Awards.** Up to four students will be awarded **\$100** each to help defray costs associated with attending the annual chapter conference. Information regarding these awards will be available after the first of the year.

## Spotlight on Graduate Student Research, *Greg King*

I am a master's student at the University of Illinois, advised by Dr. Cory Suski. My thesis project is funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Fish Enhancement, Mitigation and Research Fund, and is being carried out on tributaries of the St. Lawrence River near Cornwall, ON, Canada. My thesis is focused on quantifying the effects of landuse practices on fishes, to improve the success of restoration activities. Across North America, a host of practitioners are undertaking projects to restore aquatic ecosystems, improve fish habitat, and reverse problems such as habitat degradation or habitat loss. Surprisingly, very little data exists to quantify the success or effectiveness of different restoration techniques at improving conditions for fish. The objective of my research is to quantify the effects of watershed landuse on stream quality and fish condition using physiological techniques, providing insights into which restoration activities will most improve conditions for fish. Physiological techniques are powerful tools because they provide information on the health, condition and 'stress' of resident fishes that supplement data on presence/absence or abundance, and provide insight into how animals are interacting with their environment. More specifically, these physiological techniques will allow me to quantify how, and to what extent, landuse practices are affecting resident stream fishes, and which restoration activities can be successful at improving conditions for fishes.

To accomplish this objective, I collected blood and tissue samples from fishes in tributaries of the St. Lawrence River, which have a variety of watershed landuse characteristics. We used these samples to quantify indices of health and condition (e.g. cortisol, triglycerides and total protein). We have also developed a whole-body cortisol extraction protocol to examine its efficacy in stream assessment. Whole-body cortisol quantification allows a physiological assessment of younger individuals and smaller species than otherwise possible. By relating these physiological indices to watershed landuse characteristics, we are able to determine their effect on resident fishes.

With my study, we intend to improve the success rate of restoration projects using this novel, physiological approach. There are a wide variety of restoration strategies available, such as improving agricultural practices, decreasing runoff from impervious surfaces, and natural habitat maintenance. By determining which landuse practices have the largest impacts on resident fishes, our research can help restoration practitioners select the strategy that will result in the largest benefit to the system. This is important both for the health of the fishery within my study area and to improve the toolset available to restoration ecologists.



## Announcements



### ILMA 29th Annual Conference

Mark you calendars!

ILMA- Lakes upcoming conference is April 10-12, 2014, at the Timber Creek Inn and Suites, located in Sandwich, IL. Timber Creek Inn & Suites is nestled against 10 acres of woodland, at the crossroads of four counties, Kendall, DeKalb, Kane and LaSalle.

#### General Conference Information:

Dick Hilton, [wildick@comcast.net](mailto:wildick@comcast.net),  
800-338-6976 access code 01

#### Hotel Information:

<http://www.timbercreekinnandsuites.com/>  
Local Phone: 630.273.6000 | Toll Free: 866.992.7335

#### For More Information:

Illinois Lake Management Association  
P.O. Box 20655, Springfield IL, 62708  
Tel: 800-338-6976 (access 01)  
FAX: 815-653-5097  
Email: [ilma@ilma-lakes.org](mailto:ilma@ilma-lakes.org)



## 74th MIDWEST FISH & WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

Please Join Us!



January 26 - 29, 2014 at the Sheraton Kansas City in Kansas City, Missouri.

Save the Date. The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Illinois Chapter of the AFS Meeting will be held March 4-6, 2014 at the Parke Hotel in Bloomington, Illinois.

The annual conference attracts over 800 biologists and students from state, federal and tribal natural resource agencies across the 12 Midwestern states. Highlights include: over 400 technical talks, poster displays, plenary sessions, networking opportunities and social events.

For more information, visit <http://www.midwestfw.org/>

# Announcements

## *The Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Founded 1963*



## 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. See attached packet for further instructions.

**DEADLINE:** Completed proposals must be received by the Chair of the Student Concerns Committee of Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society by **November 29, 2013**. Send applications to:

**Nerissa McClelland**

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

700 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St.

Havana, IL 62644

**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.

**CONTACT:** Nerissa McClelland at the above address or phone: (309)543-3316 or e-mail:

[Nerissa.McClelland@Illinois.gov](mailto:Nerissa.McClelland@Illinois.gov)

**\*Note:** a full packet with grant application details will be provided to each subunit.

## Announcements

### \$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, 2014 in Kansas City, Missouri.**

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.

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 A PAPER!!!**

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

**by: October 25, 2013**

**to: Nerissa McClelland**

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

700 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St.

Havana, IL 62644

Phone: (309)543-3316; Fax: (309)241-7638;

E-mail: Nerissa.McClelland@illinois.gov

# Announcements

## Changes to Chapter Bylaws

During the annual meeting, the Executive Committee proposed a separation of duties held by the Secretary-Treasurer officer and creation of a new Treasurer officer position. Under the proposal, the Executive Committee would be comprised of a President, President-Elect and Secretary. Officers would serve one year in each position and progress through the officer positions. The Treasurer would serve a three year term. The purpose of this change is to add consistency to the treasurer's tasks within the Chapter because the position is complex. Here is a summary of the proposed changes to the bylaws:

### Section 3. Officers

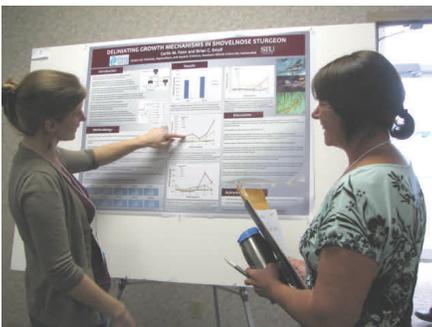
1. The officers of the Chapter shall consist of a President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and immediate Past President
5. The term of all officers except Treasurer shall be one year. The Treasurer shall serve a three year term, which may be renewed.

### Section 4. Duties of Officers

3. The Secretary shall:
  - A. Keep the official records of the Chapter;
  - B. Submit minutes of the annual Chapter business meeting to the Executive Director and to the secretary-treasurer of the Division within 30 days after the annual Chapter meeting is held;
  - C. Forward any proposed Bylaw changes to the Executive Director for review by the AFS Constitutional Consultant prior to presentation of changes to the Society's Governing Board for approval;
  - D. Serve on the Executive Committee;
  - E. Advance to the office of President-Elect;
  - F. Conduct the election of officers; and,
  - G. Perform such duties as may be requested by the Secretary-Treasurer of the American Fisheries Society and of the North Central Division.
4. The Treasurer shall:
  - A. Collect and be custodian of any fees or assessment authorized by these Bylaws and any funds which may be allotted to the Chapter;
  - B. Disburse funds as may be authorized by either the membership or Executive Committee;
  - C. Submit a record of receipts and disbursements at the Annual Chapter meeting and maintain financial records in standard accounting format for review by Society officers and staff as needed or required.

Members in good standing with the Chapter and the Parent Society will be asked to review the specific changes to the bylaws and vote electronically. Watch your email in mid-October for more information.

## Save the Date



The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Illinois Chapter of the AFS Meeting will be held March 4-6, 2014 at the Parke Hotel in Bloomington.

