



FISH SOUP

AZ-NM CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

Established 1967, Volume 46

Summer 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message Officers

Chapter News

- ✓ JAM 2015
 - Awards
 - Business Meeting Notes
 - Budget
 - 'My First JAM'
 - By Hilda Sexaur
- ✓ Branded Catfish
 - By Shawn Denny
- ✓ Roundtail Chub in Gap Creek
 - By Sharon Lashway
- ✓ Discussion forum and volunteer database on website
- ✓ Facebook Photo Contest
- ✓ New Members
- ✓ AZ/NM AFS Chapter History

Western Division News

- ✓ WDAFS Meeting in Portland
- ✓ Statement on Susitna-Watana hydropower project

Parent Society News

- ✓ Student info for Annual Meeting
- ✓ AZ/NM Happy Hour in Portland
 - 8/18, 7pm StormBreaker Brewery

Student Updates

- ✓ ASU
- ✓ U of A

President's Message:

Hello Chapter Members,

Wow how time flies! It seems like just yesterday we all convened in Las Cruces, NM for the 2015 JAM. I will always remember the 2015 JAM because it was where I was handed the AZ/NM AFS gavel from my dear friend and current President, Bill Stewart. I would like to applaud Bill for his term as AZ/NM AFS President. Bill brought energy and a multi-year vision for our chapter that I plan to follow and expand. I consider it an honor to hold the title of Arizona/New Mexico Chapter of American Fisheries Society President and I hope when my term expires that I too have moved the chapter forward.

I would also like to acknowledge the rest of the AZ/NM AFS EXCOM. Jessica Gwinn, Sharon Lashway, Amberle Jones, Lisa Winters and Sally Petre all put a significant amount of time into AZ/NM AFS and their ability to brainstorm and bring projects to life is extraordinary. Just to name a few, EXCOM has been developing a Small Grants Program,

Have you checked out the website lately? What about our Facebook page?

commenting on Environmental Affairs, exploring ideas for a fall Continuing Education Course, participating in 2016 JAM planning meetings and participating in Western Division EXCOM meetings. Have you checked out the website lately? What about our Facebook page? Both are continuously being updated and there several tabs on the website that can benefit you as a member-volunteer database and forum section. Take the time and check it out. Regarding the small grants program and fall continuing education course, AZ/NM AFS is able to create these opportunities for our members because of monies earned when AZ/NM AFS last hosted JAM. Our chapter is financially stable and we hope future JAM's will also be financially successful so we can continue to expand opportunities for you.

As you read this, several AZ/NM AFS Members will be attending the AFS Annual Meeting in Portland, OR. I am proud to say that AZ/NM AFS will have a strong showing at this meeting. For those attending, enjoy and bring back as much information as you can in order to share amongst your peers. If you are not able to attend the Portland meeting, start planning for the 2016 Kansas City meeting.

Each of the activities I have mentioned is not going unnoticed. Current Western Division President, Hilda Sexauer attend the Las Cruces JAM and was thoroughly impressed. She participated in the Piscicide Applicator CE course and was excited to see how we are sharing knowledge amongst each other. I have also heard from other Western Division EXCOM members that AZ/NM AFS is active and doing great things. At the Las Cruces JAM, AZ/NM AFS sponsored a Resume/Interview workshop for students. What a success! Over 40 students were able to get firsthand knowledge on how to fill out state and federal applications and also work through mock interviews. Our hope is that these students will be ready to shine the next time one of you is hiring.

Finally, just like the six months that followed the Las Cruces JAM, the next six months leading up to the 2016 JAM in Flagstaff, AZ will also fly by. Start summarizing your work and submit an abstract. I would love to approach the JAM host and ask for additional presentation slots. Also think about becoming more involved with AZ/NM AFS. There are so many opportunities to participate-JAM planning, committee chairs, EXCOM, etc. If something you are interested in is already filled, ask to assist. I am pretty sure none of the leads will turn down help.

I hope each and every one of you is having a wonderful summer, both professionally and personally. Enjoy the last few weeks of summer and stay safe.

-James Dominguez, 2015-2016 AZ/NM AFS President



Poster Session at 2015 JAM

OFFICERS

President:

James Dominguez

NM Dept. Game & Fish
1 Wildlife Way
P.O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87507
Office: 505-476-8163
James.Dominguez@state.nm.us



President Elect:

Jess Gwinn

USFWS Arizona Ecological Services Office
2321 West Royal Palm Rd, Suite 103
Phoenix, AZ 85021
602-242-0210 ex.249
jessica_gwinn@fws.gov



Past President:

Bill Stewart

AZ Game and Fish Department
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086
623-236-7368 Office
BStewart@azgfd.gov



Secretary-Treasurer:

Sharon Lashway

AZ Game and Fish Department
7200 E. University Dr.
Mesa, AZ 85207
480-324-3541 Office
slashway@azgfd.gov



CHAPTER NEWS



2015 Joint Annual Meeting Arizona/New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

February 5-7, 2015
Las Cruces, New Mexico

We had a great representation of fisheries professionals at JAM this year with a total of 26 presentations, 8 of which were student presentations, and 5 posters all of which were student posters.

Awards

We had the opportunity to honor our peers and those outside our profession for their outstanding work related to fisheries and aquatic resources through awards given at the Friday night banquet during the JAM.

Best Student Paper Award

The 2015 **Best Student Paper Award** was presented to **Elizabeth L. Roesler** a graduate student at Texas Tech University for the paper entitled “Assessing habitat-use patterns and survey methodologies of the endangered snail, *Pecos assiminea*, at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge.” The paper was coauthored by Timothy B. Grabowski and David Rogowski.

Best Student Poster Award

The 2015 **Best Student Poster Award** was presented to **Meredith Campbell** a student at New Mexico State University for the poster entitled “Detection of Asian tapeworm utilizing a non-lethal molecular screening tool.” The paper was coauthored by Teresa D. Lewis, and Colleen A. Caldwell.



Chapter President James Dominguez presents the Best Student Paper Award to Elizabeth Roesler (Left). Chapter President James Dominguez presents the Best Student Poster Award to Meredith Campbell (Right).

Miles McInnis Memorial Student Award

The two recipients of the 2015 **Miles McInnis Memorial Student Award** are **Hunter Falco** and **Hannah Moore**.

Hunter Falco graduated from the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology at New Mexico State University (NMSU) in December 2015. Hunter served as the NMSU AFS Student Sub-Unit President for two years. As president her goal was to make the sub-unit more active in the community and raise awareness about New Mexico's fishes. Through her efforts, the sub-unit established a working relationship with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) and a local fly fishing club, Mesa Valley Fly Fishers Association, (MVFF). Through these relationships, students participated in kids fishing clinics, hosted fly-fishing and fly-trying clinics for students and the community, and various projects through NMGF including Walleye surveys in New Mexico.

Hannah Moore graduated from the University of Arizona (UA) with a major in Natural Resources - Fisheries Conservation and Management. Hannah served as the Vice President of the UA AFS Student Sub-Unit and The Wildlife Society. As Vice President Hannah raised awareness of fisheries science and the American Fisheries Society among students and the community, a challenging task since she was one of few fisheries majors in the club. She was also dubbed "The Fishhead" on the UA Quiz Bowl Team, a title she is very proud of. Hannah has many awards for the research she has conducted as an undergraduate including Best Student Poster and People's Choice Award at the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Poster session and the Carl L. Hubbs Award for best student paper at the Desert Fishes Council Annual meeting in 2014. Hannah plans to acquire a PhD and continue to study the diverse native desert fishes in the United States.



Chapter President James Dominguez, Past President Bill Stewart, Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Lashway, and President Elect Jess Gwinn (L to R) present the Mile McInnis Memorial Student Award to Hannah Moore and Hunter Falco (L to R).

Professional of the Year Award

Scott Rogers was selected for Professional of the Year because of his outstanding contribution to the Virgin River rotenone treatment and for his continuing Lees Ferry Management Planning efforts. The



Virgin River rotenone treatment was no small feat. In fact it was the largest rotenone treatment in Arizona history. It consisted of over 17 miles of habitat, and its dynamic sandy substrate made the treatment extremely difficult to apply rotenone. Having to deal with constant changing flows and river dynamics was difficult at times. As the Operations Chief, Scott had to coordinate over 100 people. He showed great poise and leadership throughout the entire treatment. It was due to these qualities he possesses that together with the Incident Command Team, the Department was able to successfully and safely complete this project. The Virgin River rotenone treatment is a true career accomplishment and couldn't have been completed without Scott and his commitment to excellence. His assistance in this treatment will help ensure sustainable water resources to cities of St. George, UT, Beaver Dam, AZ, and Mesquite NV.

Also in 2014, Scott began working with anglers and partners to plan management approaches for a World Class Fishery, Lees Ferry. The Lees Ferry fishery is one of the most economic drivers to an economically depressed region of Arizona and Utah. Recent studies indicate the value of this fishery creates an economic impact to Arizona of close to \$17 million and creates more than 200 jobs. The loss of this world class fishery, even for a short period, would be an unacceptable impact to a valued resource. As such, Scott began working with our constituency and partners in the development of a fisheries-based management plan for the Lees Ferry and Marble Canyon sections of the Colorado River. This effort will ensure preservation of the Blue Ribbon trout fishery in the Lees Ferry and work toward providing a compass for developing recommendations for this important fishery.



Past President Bill Stewart, Scott Rogers Professional of the Year, President James Dominguez, Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Lashway, and President Elect Jess Gwinn (L to R).



Conservationist of the Year Award

The Conservationist of the Year Award goes to an individual or group not employed in the fisheries or aquatic resources profession who have played a significant role in Fisheries conservation. The 2015 Conservationist of the Year is **John Jordan**.

Over the last decade, John has been volunteering his time with the Northern Arizona Flycasters, Arizona Flycasters, Trout Unlimited, Federation of Fly Fishers, and the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group advocating for native and wild trout conservation projects in Arizona. John was a consistent member of the planning group that included the Arizona Game and Fish Department, US Forest Service, US Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Northern Arizona Flycasters throughout the project development phase of the West Fork Oak Creek Gila Trout Restoration project, a project which extended for over 10 years.

Over the past four years, John has also represented angling interest groups as part of the Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Program which is a federal advisory committee that makes recommendations on Glen Canyon Dam operations. As a member of the technical working group, John served as the Chairperson from 2013-2014, working extensively with the angling community at Lees Ferry, tribal groups, and state, federal, and non-governmental organizations in an effort to preserve and improve the tailwater fishery at Lees Ferry through dam operations. John has gone above and beyond with his role as a representative of fly fisherman. He has volunteered countless hours in meetings, webinars, and conference calls all in the name of the Lees Ferry fishery.

Furthermore, in 2007, John approached the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Native Trout Program with a desire and potential opportunity to create a Gila trout population in the upper Haigler Creek watershed, which included a portion of his property. His interest in developing this project was to support native trout conservation efforts and to contribute to the species' recovery. John has been involved in this project closely throughout the process, including attending and answering questions at public meetings, working with biologists to develop project implementation plans, and work towards ensuring that this potential population of Gila Trout will be protected in the future. John has been a great guy to work with; he is dedicated and above all is passionate about native and wild trout conservation.



Past President Bill Stewart, John Jordan Conservationist of the Year, President James Dominguez, Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Lashway, and President Elect Jess Gwinn (L to R).



Business Meeting Agenda

4:30 February 5, 2015

Soledad Room – Hotel Encanto Las Cruces, NM

1. Welcome/Call to order- Bill Stewart
2. Determination of quorum- Bill Stewart
 - a. 25 voting membership
3. Introduction- Bill Stewart
4. Approval of 2015 agenda- Bill Stewart
5. Approval of 2014 minutes- Bill Stewart
 - a. Amberle makes a motion to approve
 - b. Doug seconds
 - c. Minutes approved
6. President's Address- Bill Stewart
 - a. EXCOM has monthly phone calls and wants to thank all during the year
 - b. Sally sent out 2 news letters
 - i. Fall
 - ii. Spring
 - c. We have a new website
 - i. Parent soc offered free service through word press
 - ii. Old website is running as we have paid but will be discontinued
 - d. FB photo contest
 - i. Dave Weedman winner
 - ii. Matt O'Neil second
 - e. New welcoming committee established to help inform new hires about the Chapter
 - f. First annual EXCOM retreat at Sipe Wildlife area
 - i. Helps drive the goals and direction for the Chapter to move in
 - ii. Wanted to get back to the basics on how to communicate and give back to the members
 - g. 2 CE courses at 2015 JAM
 - i. Resume Building
 - ii. Piscicide
7. Western Division Update- Hilda Sexauer
 - a. First Chapter meeting and attended Piscicide training with positive feedback
 - b. Changes in WD
 - i. Doug Austin is the new Director of AFS
 1. He wants to be involved and wants the members to be involved
 2. Would love to hear your thoughts and Chapters updates about AFS
 3. Chapter, President, and Conference CAUSE
 - a. Open to any officers and wants to hear about Chapters
- ii. Donna
 1. Working on communication and strategic plan
 2. Ways to improve communication
 3. Implementation of strategic plan will happen
- iii. AFS/WD AFS officers switch roles at Annual meeting in Aug
 1. Hilda Sexauer- President
 2. Cleve Steward- Vice President
 3. Jim Bowker- President-Elect
 4. Travis Neebling- Secretary-Treasurer
 5. Pam Sponholtz- Immediate Past President
 6. Jane Sullivan- Student Representative
- c. Hilda wants to focus on recruitment and if communication between chapters and WD is occurring
 - i. Wants to know what we want from AFS and WD
 - ii. Wants to talk with Presidents and develop living document of what each Chapter want from AFS
 1. All incoming officers can work off of document
- d. Mid-Year meeting
 - i. Budget was approved
 - ii. \$\$ for travel grants to Portland
 - iii. Small grant \$10,000 to professional and student
 - iv. Small travel grant for travel
 1. Helps pay for registration and a little more
 2. Undergrad can apply
 - v. Undergrads are encouraged to apply for small grants but currently only available for Grad
 1. Discussion to change by laws will occur
 - vi. Grants can only go to AFS members
- e. New Members for Parent can get 50% discount
- f. Advocacy notes
 - i. Alaska Dam
 - ii. KSM mine –Alaska and Canada
 1. AFS WD was approached to be involved but before they can, they



- have to make sure the Chapter is behind WD as an advocate
- 2. WD discusses whether they have impact
- 3. Looks at geographic boundaries and the related issues
- iii. If we have environmental issues in our AZ/NM Chapter and don't want to get involved due to agency issues, send it to WD to represent the Chapter
- g. Portland Meeting-Joint WD/Annual –August
 - i. 110 symposia currently proposed 2015
 - ii. 47 concurrent sessions
 - iii. Going to be a very large meeting
 - iv. Symposia should be available on WD website by the end of the month
- 8. Committee Reports
 - a. Welcoming Committee- Sally Petre
 - i. Recruit new members
 - 1. Students
 - 2. New employees
 - 3. TU
 - ii. Information about what AZ/NM AFS and AFS in general is all about
 - iii. Brochure includes websites, “who we are”, what AFS is, resources available, and how to become a member
 - iv. We need a volunteer from NM to help distribute and spread the word
 - b. Newsletter- Sally Petre
 - i. Format has changed
 - ii. Most members have seen the newsletter
 - 1. Wants to know what the biologists/universities are doing
 - iii. Ask for pictures with a description of the activity shown
 - iv. Winners of the FB contest went into the newsletter
 - v. Meeting updates
 - vi. Calendar
 - vii. We need more feedback and involvement in the newsletter
 - c. Continuing Education- James Dominguez
 - i. Piscicide short course
 - 1. Last 5-6 years at JAM
 - 2. Needed to be more applicable to our use
 - 3. 39 registrants
 - 4. Webinar seemed to work
 - 5. Informal workshop where presenter and audience can participate
 - ii. Resume/Interview class- Bill Stewart and Shelly Shepherd
 - 1. Mainly geared towards students to go over application forms from various agencies
 - 2. Beef up resumes
 - 3. Mock interviews and a general understanding of how hiring panels are formed
 - iii. Part of our excess funds survey ranked CE classes really high and we would like to add additional courses in both states outside of the JAM
 - iv. We need a new CE Chair
 - d. Membership- Sharon Lashway
 - i. 82 paying chapter members for AZ/NM
 - ii. Alaska and CO/WY have the set up where if you pay AFS national dues, you automatically become a Chapter member
 - 1. Disadvantage was it didn't encourage members to join Parent but there are a lot of advantages
 - 2. Could add information about membership into the Newsletter
 - iii. When Chapter members pay, we get the rebate and there have been talks to increase the price
 - e. Environmental Affairs- Jess Gwinn
 - i. If there are environmental issues going on in the community, let Jess know
 - ii. Wants chapter members to look at the open comment period and make sure there is adequate time to respond
 - iii. Consider who the comments should come from per the project proposals
 - iv. Alaska Dam
 - v. Southern Falls, OR to decommission dams
 - vi. Copper Land exchange in Superior AZ to drill down 7,000ft and connected to watersheds
 - vii. Doug suggested posting on FB
 - viii. Can comment on EAs, copper mining in general
 - f. Student Affairs- Amberle Jones
 - i. Student Spammer
 - 1. Grant opportunities, volunteer opportunities, scholarships, etc.
 - ii. Students have responded really well this year
 - iii. Students always voice the desire to participate in field work
 - iv. Volunteer database on the website



1. 12 students have signed up with name, contact info, interests, grad date, region of interest
2. Database is searchable based on provided criteria
3. Professionals and students need to take advantage of it
- v. Techniques Class
 1. Fish ID
 2. Electrofishing
 3. We need help the professionals
9. Student Chapter Updates
 - a. NMSU- Hunter Falco
 - i. 24 paid members
 - ii. Helped NMGFD with walleye surveys on reservoirs
 - iii. Community science night for Elementary schools and do fish imprints
 - iv. Work with local fly fishing group and go on a trip
 - v. Trying to work with USFWS and want students to have volunteer work
- b. ASU- Brett Montgomery
 - i. Club is both TWS and AFS
 - ii. Attended the JAM and trying to AGFD with clinics or EXPO
 1. Guests speakers from AGFD to club meetings
 - iii. EXCOM retreat participation and came back with good ideas
 - iv. Canyon Creek Fish Hatchery tour
 - v. Really excited about the new volunteer database
- c. UofA- Hannah Moore
 - i. Joint TWS/AFS chapter
 - ii. T-shirt/calendar/sticker sales
 - iii. Some students have had internships with AGFD
 - iv. Aravaipa survey trips
 1. 15 members attended this fall
 2. Some students want to convert to fisheries!
 - v. Sent one student to DFC
 - vi. One member hired by AGFD

10. Secretary/Treasurer Report- Sharon Lashway

2014-2015 AZ/NM Chapter Annual Budget		
Category and Description	Proposed Budget	Actual Income & Expenses as of 12/31/2014
INCOME		
2014 JAMeeting (includes all dues)	\$0.00	
Registration		\$38,385.20
Dues Collected (AFS & TWS)		\$585.00
Raffle		\$2,160.00
Logo Merchandise Income		\$580.00
Dues from Parent (2013)		\$840.00
Chapter Rebate (2013)		\$160.00
Membership Dues		
TOTAL INCOME		\$42,710.20
EXPENSES		
<i>2014 JAMeeting Pinetop, AZ</i>		
Meeting Room Reservation at Hon Dah		\$200.00
Best Student Poster	\$50.00	\$50.00
Best Student Paper	\$50.00	\$50.00
Plaque for Conservationist of the Year	\$45.00	\$0.00
Plaque for Professional of the Year	\$45.00	\$25.00
Plaque for Fishhead Award	\$45.00	\$25.00
Past Past Past President Award		\$32.00
Past President Award	\$50.00	\$50.00
Past President Plaque	\$25.00	\$0.00
Student Workers	\$800.00	\$780.00
Photo Contest	\$200.00	\$200.00
Plenary Travel Expenses		\$344.00
Programs - Printing	\$0.00	\$0.00
Raffle Prizes		\$121.04
Conference Fees to Hon-Dah		\$19,555.24

AZ TWS Dues Refund		\$185.00
NM TWS Dues Refund		\$120.00
SW TWS Dues Refund		\$40.00
Firearms Course Refund		\$1,120.00
Venomous Reptile Course Refund		\$570.00
Refunds & Reimbursements		
Tribal Member Registration Costs (x10)		\$1,300.00
Total 2014 JAM expenses		\$24,767.28
Mid-Term ExCom Meeting and Cont. Ed (2014)		
Retreat Travel	\$400.00	\$0.00
Retreat Lodging	\$300.00	\$0.00
Retreat Reimbursed Meals	\$100.00	\$0.00
Total Retreat Expenses	\$800.00	\$0.00
Excom/Student/ Committee Retreat		
Food		\$78.00
Travel Reimbursement for NM		\$50.00
Other Excom Travel Expenses:		\$128.00
Student Colloquium Travel Award	\$0.00	
Parent Society Meeting 2014 (Quebec)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
WDAFS Meeting 2014 (Mazatlán)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Total Excom Travel Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$2,128.00
Environmental Activities		
Arizona Activity	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Mexico Activity	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Environmental Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Newsletter Expenses:		
Publication/Mailing	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Newsletter Expenses	\$0.00	
Awards:		
Miles McInnis Student Scholarships (Mazatlán Travel 2014)	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Total Awards		\$2,000.00
Miscellaneous Expenses:		
Web Site Domain	\$200.00	\$131.88
Web Site Hosting plan	\$400.00	\$16.99
Donation to AZGFD Partnering for Wildlife	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donation to WDAFS for 2015 Annual Mtg (Portland)	\$750.00	\$500.00
logo merchandise/letterhead	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bill Gift Card		\$20.00
Total Miscellaneous Investments		\$668.87
Endowment contribution 2014	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total Investment Contribution	\$500.00	\$500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$5,296.87
NET BALANCE		\$30,722.12
Endowment Balance		\$8,887.62 (12/31/14)

11. Old Business

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Awards- Bill Stewart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Fishead ii. Conservationist iii. Professional iv. Miles McGinnis Scholarship v. Please submit nominations b. Retreat- Bill Stewart | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. At Sipe, AZ ii. EXCOM, student presidents, committee chairs iii. Focused on how to get more people involved iv. Focused on excess funds v. Focused on communication |
|---|--|



- vi. Membership-how to make it a benefit for members
- vii. How to continue to stay involved in Parent and WD
- viii. Really helps the incoming president form an agenda
- c. Recognition of Past-President- Bill Stewart
- 12. New Business
 - a. Installation of new officers- Bill Stewart
 - i. President-James Dominguez
 - ii. Secretary/Treasurer- Sharon Lashway
 - iii. Past President- Bill Stewart
 - b. Voting of President-Elect- James Dominguez
 - i. President-Elect- Jess Gwinn
 - c. Results of survey (spending)- James Dominguez
 - i. EXCOM sent out a survey on how to spend excess funds
 - ii. We don't want to hold onto \$\$ and still save it but we are wanted to give back to the Chapter
 - 1. Stephanie Coleman won the drawing
- iii. Training was number one
 - 1. We need to narrow down the option
 - 2. Find location and a time
 - 3. Potential site could be silver city and could be in spring and fall
- iv. Small Grants
 - 1. Will require a committee
 - 2. Hilda can provide guidelines for small grants
 - 3. Desert Fish Counsel and Desert Tortoise have small grant programs
- v. Student small grants
- d. Member benefits website, Facebook, listserv- Lisa Winters/Amberle Jones
 - i. New website has a lot of information
- e. Call for committee chairs- James Dominguez
 - i. Continuing Ed
 - ii. Membership
 - iii. Welcoming committee (NM)
- 13. Adjourn- James Dominguez



Great attendance at the business meeting!



Bill Stewart, now AZ/NM AFS Chapter Past President, passes the gavel to James Dominguez, the new AZ/NM AFS Chapter President, at the business meeting. Congratulations James!



Board members listen as Hilda Sexauer, Western Division AFS President (right), updates us on the Western Division and her vision as president.



WESTERN DIVISION PRESIDENT, HILDA SEXAUER'S, FIRST JAM

My first JAM was in sunny Las Cruces, New Mexico! The meeting kicked off with two continuing education courses: Piscicide Training and Recertification and a course on How to Interview and Write a resume. Both are excellent courses to offer at an AFS meeting. I choose to attend the piscicide training course since the class was more applicable to my past and future work in Wyoming. The course was organized by James Domínguez (AZNM President) and primarily taught by Don Skaar (MT AFS Chapter). The class kicked off with a presentation from Kirk Patten (Assistant Division Chief) which focused on New Mexico piscicide treatments followed by presentations from Don Skaar which provided an overview of the SOP. Many of the other presentations discussed individual projects and addressed some of the issues with implementation - lessons learned. I was impressed with how many people attended the class in person and remotely. The overview of piscicide treatment implementation and the rehash of lessons learned were excellent. The other continuing education course was for students and young professionals to learn how to interview and write a resume. Wow, I wish that course was offered when I was just graduating!

Later that day, I participated in the AZNM Business Meeting. Yes, they serve beer at their business meeting. I thought that was only a rumor. Now this might be how you get members to attend your business meetings! The Chapter business meeting was well attended and good updates from the President Bill Stewart, membership committee, environmental affairs committee update and other committees. The newsletter editor also provided an update and distributed the Chapter's brochure which nicely outlines the benefits of AFS, Western Division AFS and the local Chapter. Nice work from your Chapter Student Sub-Units also ...they are our future!! I appreciated the opportunity to give an update on WDAFS and AFS at the meeting. The enthusiasm from the members and their desire to promote AFS is above all. Nice job promoting AFS membership and being "spammed by Sharon". Anyway, Thanks for the enjoyable business meeting.

Overall, I want to thank all of the AZNM Chapter members. I greatly appreciated the wonderful hospitality. Some of the best memories come from interactions with AFS members during socials. I had a great time renewing old friendships and building a few new ones. Thanks for the great discussions and your tremendous support of AFS.

Hilda

Western Division AFS President



BRANDED CATFISH

BY: SHAWN DENNY, NMDGF

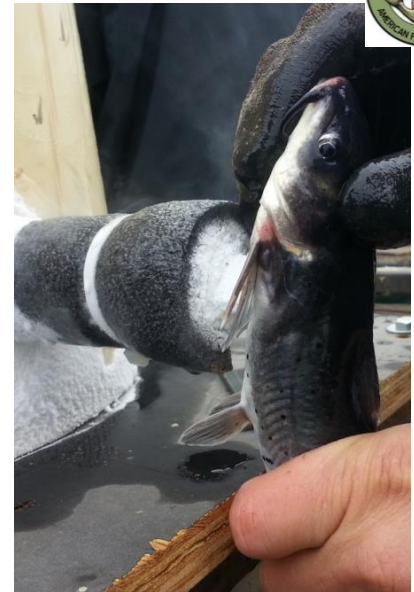


“You are gonna what?”.... This is a common response when I am pitching my scams and ideas to people both within and outside of the fisheries and wildlife professions. In this case I am explaining to the local welding supply store that I need some liquid nitrogen so I can try to **freeze brand catfish**.

In order to maximize the use of hatchery product, NM Department of Game and Fish had a need to mark channel catfish cohorts produced at our warm water hatchery to evaluate stocking strategies. Various methods were considered and most discounted for one reason or another. PIT tags to expensive, anchor tags are associated with derbies, and on down the list.

Cold branding has been used in the livestock industry for many years and has been used in fisheries since the 1960's. Freeze branding is currently used by several states to evaluate fingerling walleye stocking programs. With little information available on cold branding for catfish we conducted a short term mark retention study and implemented a long term mark retention study.

Our branding apparatus was based on a paper from Lajeon and Bergerhouse (1991). Unlike traditional hot branding where the heated branding iron is placed on the livestock we use an insulated, liquid nitrogen filled reservoir to cool the attached branding iron and the fish is held against the iron (much like implanting a coded wire tag).



Through personal communications and literature reviews we decided to concentrate on bold symbols since intricate symbols were known to become unidentifiable over time. During a pilot study we tried dots, bars, and angles (Δ). We found the angles and bars to be easily identifiable and could also be oriented in different directions on the fish so one symbol can be used for multiple year classes.

During our short term mark retention evaluation we found that marks on the upper half of the fish seemed to blend in and fade within our 8 month test period (photo below). Marks on the ventral surface did remain readily identifiable after 8 months on both fingerlings (bar) and sub-adults (Δ). We found no difference in growth or mortality between our marked and control fish.



In October 2014 approximately 9,000 sub-adult channel catfish were double marked (cold branded and adipose clip) and stocked into three small reservoirs. Four thousand fingerlings were double marked and stocked into another small reservoir. We expect to recapture some of the sub-adults in the fall of 2015 and the fingerlings in the fall of 2016 to hopefully better understand our stocking strategies and validate our marking process.

For more information contact: Shawn Denny, Warm Water Fisheries Biologist at shawn.denny@state.nm.us.



In March 2015, AGFD fisheries biologist released 472 roundtail chub into Gap Creek as part of a population establishment project for the Conservation and Mitigation Program. This was the third augmentation of chub and biologists will conduct recruitment surveys this fall.

Submitted by Sharon Lashway, Aquatic Wildlife Specialist, AZGFD

Photo: Sharon Lashway releasing Roundtail Chub.

New Discussion Forums and Volunteer Database on the Website!

AFS members now have access to a discussion forum on our new website. The goal of the forum is to promote the dissemination of information, pose questions and concerns, and obtain feedback from other professionals in the field. The forum is very user friendly, just enter in the password and the forums will appear. You can then go into different forums and create new topics or share your knowledge and reply to other topics. Keep an eye out; we will be emailing the password to all members in the next few weeks. If you are not a member it is never too late! Just register to be a member to get access to this great new tool.

As the field season is going into high gear, don't forget about the Volunteer Database. As a member, you have access to volunteers from Arizona and New Mexico to help you complete your field surveys. All you have to do is go to the website and click on Volunteer Database under the Member Area tab and enter in the password. You can then search by location and get a list of volunteers and their email address to get all the help you need on your surveys. If you are a member and have not received the password, email akjones@azgfd.gov.

New Members!

Lori Walton (USBR)

Renee Martin (FWS)

Nathan Fyffe (ASU student)

Facebook Photo Contest

What:

Theme: Wildlife and scenery

When:

Submit photos: Sept 1-21

Voting: Sept 22-30

How:

Submit photos to aznmafs@gmail.com

Include: short description of area/project and picture title

Only 2 entries per person

Winners determined by most FB likes

Why?!

1st place: Cabelas \$25 gift certificate & AZNM AFS T-shirt

2nd place: Cabelas \$10 gift certificate & AZNM AFS T-shirt

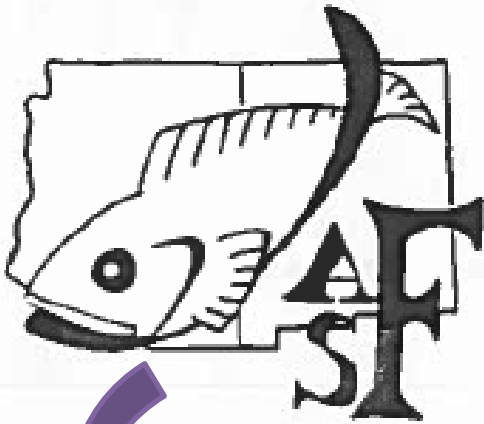




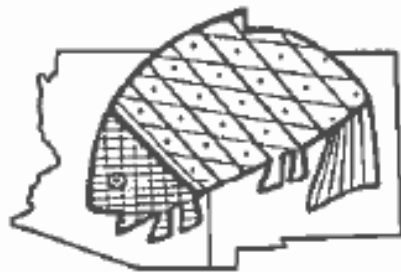
AZ/NM AFS Chapter History

Did you know...the Chapter's 50th Anniversary is in 2017?

Check out the succession of the Chapter's Logos!



Arizona-New Mexico Chapter



American Fisheries Society



WESTERN DIVISION NEWS



Western Division Officers:

President:

Hilda Sexauer
Hilda.Sexauer@wyo.gov

Vice President:

Cleve Steward
cleve.steward@gmail.com

President Elect:

Jim Bowker
Jim_bowker@fws.gov

Past President:

Pam Sponholtz
longfin@infomagic.net

Secretary-Treasurer:

Travis Neebling
Travis.Neebling@wyo.gov

Student Representative:

Jane Sullivan
jysullivan@alaska.edu



Western Division and Parent Society Annual Meeting in Portland, OR

WDAFS will hold their meeting in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Society. A handful of Chapter members will be attending. Sharon Lashway, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, was awarded the Chapter's Travel Award to attend the meeting.

The Oregon Chapter and Western Division of AFS cordially invite you to attend the 145th Annual Meeting to be convened in Portland from August 16 to 20, 2015. A diverse program, unconstrained by a single theme, will allow you to learn how freshwater and marine resources are managed, conserved, and restored globally.

WDAFS Statement on the Proposed Susitna-Watana Hydropower Project

WDAFS issued a statement letter on the proposed Susitna-Watana Hydropower Project. The State of Alaska submitted an application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in the early 1980s seeking a federal license to construct a hydroelectric dam on the Susitna River. It is the Division's understanding that the Alaska Energy Authority has proposed to revive this project. The statement letter requested the FERC and Alaska Legislature to consider the comprehensive and cumulative impacts the project will create for the fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems of the Susitna River Basin.



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
PORTLAND, OREGON
145TH ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 16-20, 2015

AZ/NM Happy Hour in Portland

7PM Tuesday Aug 18
Stormbreaker Brewing Company 832 N. Beech St.
~2miles from Convention Center
<http://www.stormbreakerbrewing.com/>
Bring a friend!

Student Information for Annual Meeting

Student-Mentor Lunch and Career Fair – Tues Aug 18th, 12-3 pm

During the luncheon, students will have an opportunity to meet and network with professionals who will provide occupational information and career advice. The job fair will provide a setting for employers to meet with prospective job seekers. Once you've registered for the meeting, please take our Student/Mentor survey to let us know that you are participating and what kind of mentors you'd like to talk to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/K5ZJK66>

Student Subsection of the Edu Section-Business Meeting - Tues Aug 18th, 2-3 pm

Directly after the Student-Mentor Lunch and Career Fair head over to the Student Subsection of the Education Section Business Meeting. This will let you have a voice in AFS and keep up to date with what is going on. Business Meeting new business involves undergrad travel award, communication (social media and website), recruitment and retention, young professionals, education (How to...series, mentorship program) and other new business).

Student Reception...All aboard the Portland Spirit! - Tues Aug 18th, 6:30-9:30pm

The AFS 2015 Student Networking Event will occur aboard the Portland Spirit (a 150 foot cruising Yacht!) on the evening of Tuesday the 18th. Come join your fellow fisheries students for an evening of food, beverages, dancing, and the scenic view. The Portland Spirit will board near the Salmon Street Springs Fountain in Tom McCall Waterfront Park (where Salmon Street meets Naito Parkway/Front Avenue). We will begin boarding the boat at 6:30 and cruise along the Willamette River from 7-9:30 pm. **Please bring your meeting badge and a student ID for admission as well as appropriate age verification if you choose to imbibe.** A nautical costume theme will be in effect for this event. Apparel and/or accessories befitting a yacht captain, yacht party attendee, sailor, sea captain, pirate, fisher, Team Zissou etc. are highly encouraged! *Argghh!* As there is a limited capacity on the boat, this event will be operated on a first-come first-served basis. Event attendees will be directed to a nearby venue (TBA) if they wish to continue networking after the boat ride.

Awards

- Stephen Weithman Award: The award will be presented for the best platform or poster paper presented by a student at the annual AFS meeting. Completed papers will be judged on content, originality, organization, contribution to the field of fisheries science, and overall presentation of the study. The winner will receive \$150 and an award certificate following the annual AFS meeting.
- John E. Skinner Memorial Fund: The John E. Skinner Memorial Fund provides monetary travel awards (up to \$800 per award) for deserving graduate students or exceptional undergraduate students to attend the AFS annual meeting.

Volunteer and reduce your costs:

Volunteers are needed to assist during presentations, posters, events, and much more. A minimum of one 4-hour commitment is required. Eligible student volunteers will be paid \$10.00 per hour to help defray their meeting costs. Sign up to be a volunteer when you register for the conference. Registration will be available starting in May 2015 but you can contact Becky Flitcroft, volunteer coordinator, now to get started: rflitcroft@fs.fed.us.

Student Updates

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY; SUBMITTED BY BRETT MONTGOMERY AND NATHAN FYFFE

The Arizona State University Wildlife and Restoration Student Association (WRSA) decided to spend a portion of our spring break up in the cool pines of northern Arizona while everyone else was headed to warmer weather. On March 12th and 13th we volunteered with the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Region 1, Pinetop, to help with the removal of northern pike from Rainbow Lake. This was to aid in the survival of stocked rainbow trout. Also, we removed crawfish and speckled dace from Silver Creek Hatchery that were transmitting disease to the Apache trout being raised at the hatchery. For the removal of northern pike we ended up using an experimental gill net to catch northern pike that ranged in size. We ended up removing a handful of pike from the lake, but we also got to handle grass carp, largemouth bass, and black bullheads that were released back into the lake. When we went to Silver Creek Hatchery we were able to use a backpack electroshocker for the removal of the speckled dace and crawfish. Afterwards Ken, the hatchery manager, at Silver Creek let us feed the Apache and Rainbow trout being held in the raceways. This trip was a great experience for me and the others who went to get hands on experience in various fisheries techniques and management. **We all had a great time volunteering with AZGFD, and you can bet we are all now hooked on fisheries!**



Photos: Top right, Speckled Dace (photo taken and submitted by Nathan Fyffe) at Silver Creek Hatchery; Middle right, Nathan Fyffe feeding fish at Silver Creek Hatchery; Bottom left, Nathan Fyffe (L) with Brett Montgomery (R) holding a Channel Catfish at while gillnetting at Rainbow Lake with AZGFD; Bottom right, Lonnie Young and Nathan Fyffe gearing up for gillnetting on Rainbow Lake with AZGFD.



This past winter we toured the Canyon Creek Fish Hatchery and camped out up there, and even though it was freezing cold, it was an awesome experience getting to see eggs hatching and learn all about the hatchery process.



The JAM was an awesome time for a variety of students. There is something there for every student, no matter what they specialize in. We even took an aviation major and he was able to attend the unmanned aerial systems talk, and really enjoyed it! Students attended workshops such as the resume workshop, the species of greatest concern, and the reptile enforcement workshop, and they were all very informative. Everyone who attended the JAM this year would definitely do it all over again next year!

Photos: Top left: ASU quizbowl contestants, Middle left: ASU crew that attended JAM, Bottom: Nathan Fyffe holding a Largemouth Bass caught with a gillnet at Rainbow Lake.



UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA; SUBMITTED BY NEIL DUTT UA AFS/TWS HISTORIAN

The University of Arizona student chapter has had a great few months since 2014. We continue to have high turn outs to our bimonthly meetings this is in part due to our great speakers that come and give the students presentations on various organizations, research, and volunteer opportunities.

In 2014 we had some members participate in Dr. Peter Reinthal's biannual fish population survey in Aravaipa Creek with the BLM and The Nature Conservancy. Dr. Reinthal has the spring trip planned for mid-April and we have several members signed up to attend that as well. These trips give members that chance interact with and see the diversity of Arizona's native fish populations in a location that most people do not get to experience. Students also get introduced to sampling techniques such as seine netting and electro shock fishing.



We had a record high turnout from our club to the JAM conference in 2015 hosted in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Several members that participated in the resume building workshop at which they learned many aspects of what potential employers are looking for. We also had many students presenting on research they had conducted. We had two teams participate in the quiz bowl competition at JAM both teams did great and learned a lot. We're so proud of all of our members and all of the hard work they put in. JAM was an amazing networking opportunity for everyone, and the whole club is already looking forward to next year!

With the semester coming to an end we have a joint camping/fishing trip planned with the U of A's Terra Secca Club. This trip will give our members with less fishing experience a chance to learn from our more experienced members. Also our very own Hannah Moore, a fisheries student and former vice president will be graduating this semester. We are sad to see her go but we are so proud of her and wish her luck in all her future fishy endeavors. On that note, if any organizations or agencies need volunteers in the fall please email either our club President Kaycie Waters at kayciewater@email.arizona.edu or our club email at uafishandwildlife@gmail.com.



Photos: Top, UofA ladies in Aravaipa; Bottom left, Quizbowl team; Bottom right, seining in Aravaipa

Calendar

<u>August</u>			
16-20	AFS Annual Parent Society and Western Division Meeting	Portland, OR	http://2015.fisheries.org/
<u>September</u>			
1	Desert Fishes Council Travel (DFC) Grant due		http://www.desertfishes.org/?page_id=1030
<u>October</u>			
1	Early Registration ends for DFC meeting		http://www.desertfishes.org/?p=1858
	Abstract deadline for DFC		
<u>November</u>			
18-22	Desert Fishes Council Annual Meeting	Death Valley National Pa	http://www.desertfishes.org/
<u>December</u>			
1	Western Division Small Project Grant Deadline		http://wdafs.org/awards/small-project-grants/
<u>February</u>			
4-6	AZ/NM AFS/TWS Joint Annual Meeting	Flagstaff, AZ	http://arizona-newmexico.fisheries.org/jam/
17-18	Using Hydroacoustics for Fisheries Assessment	Seattle, WA	http://www.HTIsonar.com/ha_short_course.htm
22-26	Aquaculture America Meeting	Las Vegas, NV	www.marevent.com

Notes from the Editor...

Thank you to those who contributed to this newsletter. I strongly encourage every member to contribute to the newsletter. I appreciate all articles, photos and input! This is a great opportunity to let the rest of the chapter know about the work that you are doing.

I would love to see any **photos** of fish, or of you working! Also, this is a great place to post opportunities and other **announcements**.

If you have any suggestions/comments, please let me know!

Your editor,
Sally Petre
AFS AZ/NM Chapter
SPetre@azgfd.gov



Webpage and Facebook

If you have any comments about the webpage or have items you would like to see on the webpage, please contact Lisa Winters at: LWinters@azgfd.gov

New webpage!

<http://arizona-newmexico.fisheries.org/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ArizonaNewMexicoChapterAFS/>

Contact us!

aznmafs@gmail.com

AFS Arizona-New Mexico Chapter Officers

President	James Dominguez NM Dept. Game & Fish 1 Wildlife Way P.O. Box 25112 Santa Fe, NM 87507 James.Dominguez@state.nm.us Office: 505-476-8163
President-Elect	Jess Gwinn USFWS AES Office 2321 West Royal Palm Rd, Suite 103 Phoenix, AZ 85021 602-242-0210 ex.249 jessica_gwinn@fws.gov
Secretary/ Treasurer	Sharon Lashway AZ Game and Fish Department 7200 E University Dr. Mesa, Arizona 85207 slashway@azgfd.gov Office: 520-388-4453
Past President	Bill Stewart AZ Game and Fish Department 5000 W. Carefree Highway Phoenix, AZ 85086 bstewart@azgfd.gov Office: 623-236-7368

Environmental Affairs	Dave Weedman
Continuing Education	James Dominguez
Student Affairs	Amberle Jones
Nominations/Awards	Bill Stewart
Membership	Sharon Lashway

Student Sub-unit Contact Information

Brett Montgomery, ASU, brettmontgomery@live.com
Kaycie Waters, UA, kayciewater@email.arizona.edu
Hunter Falco, NMSU, hrfalco@nmsu.edu

