



TELEOGRAM



The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Spring 2017

Max Wolter— Editor

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE— Dr. Dan Isermann



First off, I want to thank all of you who attended our joint meeting with The Wildlife Society in Milwaukee about a month ago. Not our typical venue and we struggled through some AV hurdles along the way, but it was important for us to get familiar with the venue. The Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (January 28-31, 2018) will be held right

across the street at the Wisconsin Center and the Hilton will be our primary hotel for the meeting. The Midwest will be an extraordinary undertaking and will require that many of you get involved at some level to make things happen. If someone asks you to volunteer for something, please do and also plan on attending the meeting where we will need an army of volunteers to make things happen. I also want to thank all of the people who helped make our joint meeting happen this year, it was a great time.

I'm always a bit of a skeptic, but the turkeys gobbling behind my house the last few mornings suggest that spring is near. I know some of you are already out and about with nets in the water. Be safe in your endeavors and take some good pictures to send to Max for the newsletter. Also, remember that we have a vibrant student component to our state chapter and these folks are always looking for experience of any kind. When something big comes up or you are just short on bodies for the week, reach out to the student subunits and see if they might be able to help.

I know spring can be a blur and we sometimes make it to mid-June and wonder how we got there, but I encourage you to get out on the water with rod and reel in hand. Most of us got into this business because we loved to fish and we live and work in a place with an extraordinary diversity of great fishing opportunities. These many opportunities are due in no small part to the hard work that all of you do. Thanks for all you do and have a great spring.



Logo for the 2017 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, IN WI!

MEETING MINUTES



EDITORS NOTE: Committee and budget reports in this issue of the newsletter are from the 2017 Winter Business Meeting Wednesday, March 1, 2017 in Milwaukee

WIAFS Business Winter Meeting

March 1, 2017, Hilton Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Call to Order – Greg Sass 3:20 pm (108 members present)

Recognition of Executive Committee, past presidents and special guests President Sass recognized the past presidents in the audience. Also voiced his thanks to many people for their help on putting together the meeting including but not limited to: Brad Eggold, Max Wolter, Gily, Doug Zentner, Student subunits, Lori Tate, the Continuing Education committee, and the Scholarship committee.

Review and Approval of Agenda - President Sass outlined the agenda and asked for any amendments, though none were requested. Motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Jordan Weeks and seconded by John Kubisiak, and was passed with no dissenting votes.

Approval of 2016 Business Meeting Minutes - President Sass asked for comments on the minutes which were published in the newsletter, no comments were made. Motion to approve minutes as published in the newsletter made by Ben Huessner and second by Jordan Weeks, the motion passed with no dissenting votes.

President's Remarks – President Sass indicated that it had been a pleasure to serve as president of the Chapter, and again iterated the need for more involvement from the new people in the organization, as a lot of work has been done by a few folks in the chapter and it is time for new blood to step in.

Treasurer –Yearly report – Ted Treska summarized the 2016 finances. On 12/31/2016, WIAFS had total worth of \$67,517. With a checking account balance of \$19,976, CD that feeds the Scholarship at \$11,049, the Midwest CD which was put into a checking account at \$9,588, Vanguard short term bond \$5,019 and Vanguard GNMA \$15,940. Total expenses for 2016 were \$24,789 and total income was \$20,736, for a net loss of \$4,053. National AFS donations (Hutton, Skinner memorial, etc) were intended to be paid out double in 2016, though a bank error only resulted in extraction of \$680, rather than the full \$6,800, so the \$6,120 will be on the 2017 books. A proposal was made by the treasurer and Tim Kroeff to use the principal from the BMO CD (~\$11K) and from the Short Term Bond Acct (~\$5K), both of which were returning <\$3 a month, and put the money in the Fund managed by the parent society, bringing the WIAFS total investment to ~\$26K, with the intent to remove the complement to the dividends from the GNMA fund to fully fund the Norden, and likely sustain the Frie scholarships. After discussion, a motion was made to accept this recommendation by John Lyons and seconded by Mike Keniry. It is hoped **that the UWSP account will start to carry its own weight so we don't have to subsidize it in the future. It was also** noted that both the Frie and Norden scholarships are not producing enough income to be paid out in full and were subsidized from the chapter coffers in the amount of \$480 for the Frie and \$780 for the Norden (a number of interest checks were delayed in mail and had to be reissued). Greg Sass talked about the success of the Fisheries Bootcamp that was put on in 2016 and gave a short summary of the project, suggesting that they can keep it going in the next year with some cost saving ideas that will cut down on overall costs. Motion to approve the treasurer report as presented was made by Allen Lane and Seconded by Dan Isermann, the motion passed with no dissenting votes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS



EDITORS NOTE: Committee and budget reports in this issue of the newsletter are from the 2017 Winter Business Meeting Wednesday, March 1, 2017 in Milwaukee

Awards: Nothing new to report

Continuing Education: Big shout out to Lori, Josh and Allen for putting together some great classes. Telemetry course and fish health workshop. Thinking of doing a poster and presentation development workshop, but will be working on Midwest classes in the near future.

Scholarship: committee would be adding Justin VanDeHey and Allen Lane to the roster to increase the representation and review. More applicants than many recent years, good to see.

Membership: Lori reported a total membership currently at 328, with about 215 here at the meeting.

Raffle: Thanks to Cheryl Masterson and Tom Burzynski for working to get some great prizes, always looking for new blood.

Website: Everything going well, a few hiccups with paypal, but good.

Newsletter: Spring issue coming out soon, looking for new content, continuing the fishing contest.

Student SubUnits – Summaries will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Old Business There was no old business to be discussed.

President Installation – Mike Seider and Ted Treska install Dan Isermann as president, who gives thanks to Greg Sass and recognizes him with the Past Presidents plaque, and thanks to Ted Treska and Mike Seider. Also a big hand to Brad Eggold for helping with all the meeting communication. He also indicated that any help we can get on the committees would be greatly appreciated. Thanks to Doug Zentner for bringing the professionals and students together. Everything has gone very well, and we hope the students get as much out of it as the professionals. Thanks to the Subunits and the volunteers that help them get experience.

Voting for Officers – The executive committee decided to increase the number of members of the Nominations committee as Joe Hennessy is swamped this year with twins, Mike Seider announced that Derek Ogle (Northland College) accepted the offer to run for president of WIAFS in the upcoming year. Mike then asked for other nominations, Derek was installed by acclamation after a Motion by Jordan Weeks and a second by John Kubisiak.

New Business—2016 Budget – Dan Isermann presented his 2017 budget which was very similar to the last year, and can be found in this issue. The line item of \$1,000 was carried forward to purchase equipment the student subunits need such as waders to carry out the field trips they want to work on and this will be coordinated by the new student liaison working with the treasurer. With the amendments inserted into the budget a motion was made by Brad Simms and seconded by Allen Lane to approve the Budget as amended, the motion passed without dissenting votes.

- President Isermann asked for members to consider volunteering to be a point of contact between the student subunits and the Executive Committee, coordinating activities, helping with equipment purchases, etc.
- Newsletter editor Max Wolter encouraged members to participate in the on-going WIAFS Photo Fishing Challenge.
- Steve Gilbert provided a summary of the progress regarding the Midwest F&W meeting to be held in at the same location in late January of 2018. Many WIAFS members are involved as this is a joint effort between AFS, TWS and WIDNR and this is our year after a 10 year rotation. We are going to need staff and volunteers and Steve will contact folks in the near future to commit to a role. This will be a large effort and any help is appreciated. Gilbert will be the lead representative for fisheries. More information will be coming in the near future.

Time and Place – **Next year's meeting will be at the Midwest in Milwaukee on Jan 28-Feb 1**

Adjourn 4:34 p.m.

BUDGET REPORT



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Expense		2016	2016 Actual	Difference	2017 Proposed Budget
State	Raffle expenses - State Meeting	\$ 600	\$ 630	\$ (30)	\$ 650
MTG	Chapter Meeting	\$ 15,500	\$ 16,937	\$ (1,437)	\$ 17,000
	Duffy Award	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
	Awards, Plaques, Best Papers	\$ 200	\$ 378	\$ (178)	\$ 400
	Hutton Program AFS	\$ 4,000	\$ 680	\$ 3,320	\$ 2,000
Awards, Donations	International membership challenge AFS	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 800	
	Skinner memorial AFS	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 500
	EOS AFS	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 500
	AFS Memberships for Norden winner		\$ -	\$ -	
	Norden Student Scholarship	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
	Student sub unit AFS membership	\$ 160	\$ -	\$ 160	\$ 160
	UWSP Student Unit	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250
	Northland Student Unit	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250
	Green Bay Student Unit	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250
	UW-Stout Student Unit	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250
	Wisconsin Conservation HOF	\$ 100			
	Continuing education	\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	Web Fees	\$ 150	\$ 147	\$ 3	\$ 150
Miscellaneous Fees	PO Box	\$ 66	\$ 70	\$ (4)	\$ 70
	Discretionary	\$ 150	\$ 132	\$ 18	\$ 150
	President travel	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,406	\$ 594	\$ 2,000
	T-Shirts	\$ 1,350	\$ -	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,350
	National Chapter Insurance	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ 150
	Event sponsorship		\$ -	\$ -	
	Executive Committee AFS Membership	\$ 320	\$ 240	\$ 80	\$ 320
	Frie Scholarship Funding	\$ 500	\$ 480	\$ 20	\$ 500
One-Time Expenses	Equipment Donation to SubUnits	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
		\$ 600	\$ -	\$ 600	
	Boot Camp funding	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,689	\$ 311	\$ 1,600
	Donation to Natl AFS meeting		\$ 250	\$ (250)	
EXPENSE TOTAL		\$ 34,746	\$ 24,789		\$ 31,600
INCOME TOTAL			\$ 20,736		

Award Winners from AFS 2017



Thank you to all who participated in this year's best presentation and best poster competition. Also, thank you to all of this year's judges!

- Ben Huessner

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STEVE YEO STUDENT PAPER AWARD

Douglas Zentner

*Using GIS to predict near
shore habitat composi-
tion in lakes*



STEVE SERNS BEST PAPER AWARD

Ryan Koenigs

*Downstream passage
survival of lake sturgeon
at two dams on the Wolf
River, Wisconsin*



BEST POSTER AWARD

Benjamin

Schleppenbach

*Genetic Origin of Walleye
Stocked in the Mani-
towish Chain of Lakes,
Vilas County, WI*

Scenes from 2017 AFS/ TWG Meeting in Milwaukee

Paul Kanehl wins the coveted
Menard's shirt.



Four past, current, and future presidents.
“The Mount Rushmore of Fisheries”



Mardi Gras bus set to em-
bark.



Ted Treska defeated
the wildlifers in
“Name that Roadkill”

Best advice I ever got...

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With WDNR's Laura Stremick-Thompson

What was the best advice you got during your career?

As an undergraduate with an undecided major, I responded to an index card posted on a bulletin board (yes, that's how we communicated back then) seeking a work-study student in Fish Ecologist Dr. Timothy Ehlinger's lab. I was struggling between opting for a nursing degree (family pressure to get a degree to support me financially) and my passion for working with animals. I had never thought of getting paid to work with fish! Dr. Ehlinger pointed out that the general workforce is comprised of many unhappy, high-paid workers, but loving your job and looking forward to going to work (most days) had its own value. I'm glad I listened to his advice. The fisheries profession has provided me with so many unique opportunities and introduced me to a wonderful group of dedicated professionals.

Looking back on your career as a fisheries professional

what is one thing you know now that you wish you'd

known on day 1?

Perhaps like many fisheries professionals, I chose fisheries in part because I wanted to work with animals, not humans! My WDNR fisheries biologist job quickly taught me that I should have had more human psychology, sociology, public speaking, and communication courses in college, even if it meant taking fewer biology courses. If you have a passion for science and biology, understanding the biological principles comes easily. Being able to communicate those principles to the public, verbally and in writing, is the difficult part. Being surrounded by like-minded biologists in college or career is great for idea-sharing and intellectual growth, but it can become a social bubble if you never step outside of it. I've learned that you can't be an advocate for and protect the resource if you can't speak well to the public on its behalf.

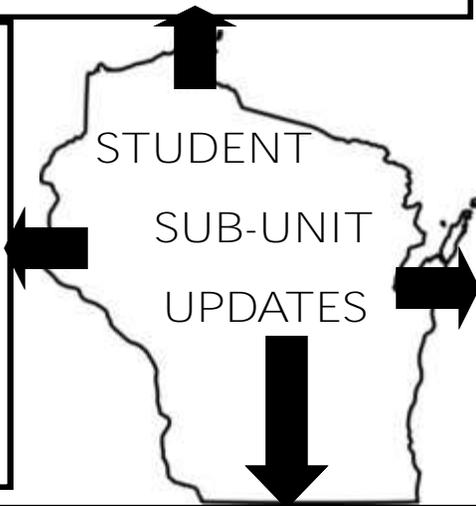
Can you identify any one experience or moment in your life that you would consider a professional turning point that set you on the path to where you are today?

My first undergraduate ichthyology course at UW-Milwaukee is what sealed my fate in the fisheries profession. The taxonomy, Latin binomials, dichotomous keys and diverse, brilliantly-colored life under the water really spoke to my inner, introverted fish-geek self. The class sparked my passion for fish identification and documenting the distribution of non-game and rare fish species. It also made me a vegetarian for many years after our class killed hundreds of yellow perch in test gill net sets on Lake Michigan. I got over the latter.



Northland College—Since the beginning of the school year, the Northland College student sub-unit has been busy. Members have spent many hours volunteering for state and federal agencies in the Ashland area. Last fall, students volunteered at the LesVoigt fish hatchery, the Iron River National Fish, Hatchery, and on the Whittlesey Creek Wildlife refuge. A highlight of last fall was being invited to assist the Wisconsin DNR for a seine survey below Big Rock fish refuge for Brown Trout and Coho Salmon. Once again this winter, several members assisted the Wisconsin DNR in Oshkosh for sturgeon registration during the annual sturgeon-spearing season. We would like to thank everybody that has given us a volunteer opportunity, spoke to the sub-unit, or helped us out throughout the school year thus far!

UW Stout—No update at this time



UW Green Bay—Our UWGB subunit would like to thank all the local professionals who have joined and spoken with our subunit and offer opportunities for us to get involved. In the spring of 2015 we had members head a small **crew on the lower Fox River in April's** coordinated Fox-Wolf Watershed Cleanup effort, spanning multiple counties. In May we took a trip to the Shedd Aquarium where we got to **meet their researchers and see fish we don't** normally find in Green Bay. Over the summer months we had members find time to volunteer **at the Shedd's World Fish Migration Day, help** with a bass fishing tournament in Sturgeon Bay, and assisted our local Trout Unlimited chapter with river restoration efforts. We also had a **group of students assist with the "Phuture Phoenix" and "Grandparents U" outreach programs** at UWGB, where they shared various sampling techniques with local youth. The past fall we had members help with the muskellunge fin clipping in Kewaunee and the salmon harvest at Strawberry Weir. This past fall we helped to put our local Trout Unlimited chapter in touch **with UWGB's Environmental Business program** to start an intern program. We are currently preparing to host our 2nd Spawning Run 5k fundraiser, which will be held on April 22nd (contact linkam05@uwgb.edu for more information). We hope to have another great turnout for our run and we look forward to an active sampling season.

UW Stevens Point—The UWSP Fisheries Society is back at it again and is as strong as ever with over 89 members! This past fall we conducted numerous surveys including two annual surveys and one new project. The annual surveys include Little Plover River brook trout electrofishing survey and the Wisconsin River fyke netting survey. In the Little Plover River, we sampled over 476 brook trout and tagged 183 brook trout over five inches. The tagged fish assist in an undergraduate research project evaluating the seasonal movement of brook trout throughout the entire stretch of the Little Plover River. In the Wisconsin River fyke netting survey, we collected our usual mixed bag of fish species but primarily consisted of walleye, yellow perch, black crappie, and bluegill. Our brand new project this year was the Isherwood Lateral stream survey. During this survey, we collected brook trout via barge electrofishing and evaluated how stream habitat restoration was influencing brook trout abundance within the Isherwood Lateral. We sampled an overwhelming 3,471 brook trout in 1,500 feet of stream with many fish over nine inches. We had the unique opportunity to present the results of our survey in a Public Hearing at the Buena Vista Town Hall, Bancroft, WI, to decide the future of the habitat restoration projects on the Isherwood Lateral. We emphasized the importance of stream restoration to the health and density of the brook trout population in the Isherwood Lateral and encouraged the WI DNR, the Drainage Board, and the public in attendance to continue efforts to restore trout habitat in the Isherwood Lateral. Besides being in the field conducting surveys, we have been busy with workshops. We have **already had our Wisconsin "Minnow" Identification workshop where our members learn how to distinguish between the state's minnow, shiner, chub, and stoneroller species. We will also be having a Fish Age & Growth workshop, which allows** our members to get hands on lab experience with boney structures that are used to evaluate the age and growth of a fish and an Aquatic Insects workshop, where members will get hands on experience learn the defining characteristics between the 10 orders of aquatic insects within Wisconsin waters. Currently, UWSP Fisheries Society members are anxiously awaiting the lake sturgeon spawn to assist with gamete collecting and PIT tagging on the Wolf River and for the 2nd Annual AFS Fisheries Bootcamp at the Escanaba Lake Research Station, both coming up in April. They will be a blast as usual! Thanks again to our society officers, advisors, and guest speakers for making this another successful and exciting year. Go Point!

Subunit Happenings



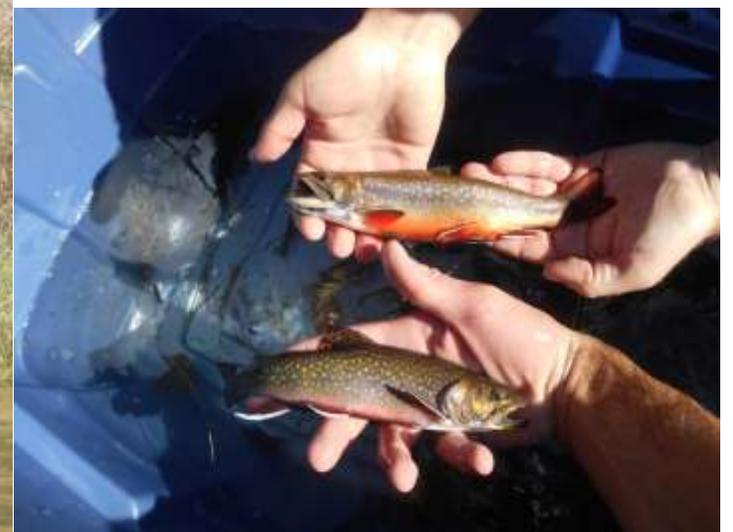
(Left) Northland Student Sub-unit with a big haul during their trip to seine at Big Rock. (Right) "I said it's length in millimeters not furlongs!"



Northland Student Sub-unit volunteering at the Iron River National Fish Hatchery.



Members of the UW Green Bay subunit at the Shedd Aquarium



(Top and right) UW Stevens Point students conducting their yearly Little Plover River survey.

WI AFS Congratulates Eric Geisthardt on winning the 2016 photo fishing contest!

Eric turned in the top specimen for 12 different species including: alewife, black bullhead, bluegill, brown trout, channel catfish, freshwater drum, goldfish, green sunfish, rainbow trout, walleye, yellow bullhead, and yellow perch.



Check out the next page for rules and info on the 2017 contest!

2017 AFS Photo Fishing Contest Info and Rules

Contest details and rules are as follows:

Who can participate?: All WI AFS members. Note: You must have paid your dues for that year to submit entries.

How long does the contest run?: The contest will be open year round and will start after AFS 2017 in Milwaukee and officially end at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in 2018 (January 28, 2018).

What fish qualify?: Any fish caught legally (within an open season, not in refuges) with hook and line methods and from public waters of Wisconsin will be eligible for entry. This includes WI portions of Lake Michigan and Superior and border rivers such as the Mississippi, St. Croix, St. Louis, and Menomonee in stretches where they border WI. Any species of fish can be entered (point system discussed below).



How do I enter a fish?: All submissions must consist of a photograph of the angler and the fish (**"fish selfies" are acceptable**). **For very small fish, a second close-up photo** that does not include the angler is suggested for species verification. Each submitted fish must include a measured length (down to the half or quarter inch **OR** mm) and the **location of catch** (this can be as simple as **"Vilas County Lake"** if you don't want to give up a honey-hole). This will predominantly be an honor system, but a photograph of the fish on a measuring board may be submitted if the angler chooses and these photos may be used in tie-breaker situations. The contest administrator reserves the right to call B.S. or the right to convene a panel of B.S. experts to review submissions.

ALL SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO: maxwolter3@gmail.com

Scoring: ANY species of fish can be submitted. The angler possessing the largest specimen of any species will be awarded a minimum of 1 point. The angler who holds the largest specimen for the following high-profile species will receive 3 points: Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, muskellunge, northern pike, black crappie, bluegill, yellow perch, channel catfish (New 3 point species this year). **NEW RULE:** We will award 2 points each for the largest inland and great lakes (+tributaries) catch for brown trout, rainbow trout, and brook trout. Once a bigger specimen is caught by another angler, the points for that species transfer to the new angler. Identifiable hybrids including tiger musky, tiger trout, saugeye, and splake will count as a unique species (panfish or minnow hybrids will not). In the case of a legitimate tie, points will be awarded to both anglers for that species. The angler with the most points at the end of the contest will be declared the winner. Bragging rights are guaranteed, other prizes may be worked out as well.

Side competitions: To make things more interesting we can also do competitions between subunits (cumulative points for all members with entries, faculty included!) and within WDNR (Region v Region v CO).

Updates and photos will be included in the annual newsletter and distributed via email occasionally throughout the year. Awards will be presented at the annual meeting. Good luck!

-MHW

Muskies Emasculated by “Adopt a Musky” Program

SPOONER WI—A new program put on by F.I.S.H (Friends Into the Spooner Hatchery) is getting rave reviews from humans but sharp criticism from its ichthyoid participants. The program allows people, often children, to “adopt” a PIT tagged musky after making a small donation to the hatchery friends group. Many children chose to name the musky they adopted rather than use the string of numbers from the PIT tag. It was the selection of names that upset some members of the musky community.

“I am the state fish of Wisconsin, I’m going to grow up to be 30 plus pounds with a mouth full of razor sharp teeth, but how can I command any respect with a name like Princess Elsa?! Seriously, the little girl named me Elsa!” remarked one musky, who now apparently goes by Princess Elsa.

“My kid just named me Boogers” said another dejected esocid.

A spokesfish for of the school released a statement: “I hope in the future they put some side boards on the naming. We are a noble species. A name like “Ragnar,” or “Slash,” or “Perch Crusher” would be an excellent fit. Names like “Daisy”, “Fishy McFishface” and “Kevin” have no place among our kind.”



WIAFS President Isermann goes on 5AM tweetstorm

MILWAUKEE WI— Shortly after his inauguration, president Dan Isermann of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society sent out a series of early morning tweets about the inauguration ceremony. Among other things, Isermann made several unsubstantiated claims about crowd size.



Dan Isermann
@POTWIAFS

Following

A lot of people are saying the crowd at my inauguration was the largest EVER! Much bigger than President Sass' crowd. Not reported by the fake news media (@CNN @NBC @Teleogram). Sad!

Reply Retweet Favorite More

RETWEETS 272 FAVORITES 225





Isermann went on to tweet about his love of taco bowls, that he felt he should have won the Steve Serns Award in 2012, and escalated his feud with Rosie O'Donnell.