



TELEOGRAM



The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

FALL 2016

Max Wolter— Editor

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"27 inch walleye caught by Greg Sass on Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday in 2016. In the background, please note that this fish was caught on a Ben Heussner custom tip-up won at the 2015 WIAFS meeting raffle. Get ready to buy your raffle tickets at the joint WIAFS-WCTWS meeting in Milwaukee in 2017!"

Leaf color is changing from green to brown, steelhead are running, and musky fishing is in full swing. With colder temperatures, drier air, and the first frost of the season, fall is here. That being the case, I would like to focus this fall President's message on our upcoming 2017 joint meeting between WIAFS and the Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society and what fisheries students and professionals might learn from wildlife ecologists and vice versa. As just one older example, many of the mark-recapture techniques used in fisheries today were developed by wildlife ecologists. More recently, one aspect that has become clear in inland fisheries management is how we lag behind wildlife ecologists in the recognition of habitat and its importance for sustainable and resilient fisheries. A comprehensive literature review revealed that the cumulative number of publications regarding "freshwater or inland habitat and fisheries management" was 60-95% lower than those considering "habitat and wildlife management". Potential reasons for this gap between disciplines in the consideration of habitat may be a result of humans sharing habitat with wildlife and that positive/negative responses of wildlife to habitat restoration/loss are directly observable by humans. Therefore, fisheries may benefit by increasing the number of fish habitat conservation and

restoration projects and by increasing the visibility of the positive outcomes of these projects with our stakeholders. Such efforts may be critical given recent predictions of species-specific declines implicated by environmental change and other abiotic and biotic factors. For example, a recent publication concluded that only 85 Wisconsin lakes would support natural walleye recruitment by the mid- to late-2000s due to environmental change. Although this outcome may not happen, because all models are inherently wrong, these dire predictions for walleye in Wisconsin beg for a comprehensive management approach to increase resiliency by better understanding and improving habitat conditions, stocking in lakes with the greatest probability of restoring natural recruitment, and managing angler and tribal harvest accordingly. Because we cannot halt or reverse environmental change in the short-term, it is critical that we use all applied aspects of fisheries management systems to conserve sensitive, yet extremely important, fish species and fisheries. Similar challenges face wildlife ecologists. Therefore, let's use these challenges to foster networking and collaboration with our wildlife ecology colleagues at the joint meeting to broaden our perspectives to benefit fisheries and wildlife resources as a whole. Our joint meeting is shaping up nicely and includes an interdisciplinary plenary session with plenty of networking opportunities planned. Lodging, registration, and call for abstracts information will be coming soon at www.wi-afs.org. Until our winter get together in Milwaukee, have a safe and great fall finishing up field work, stocking fish out, teaching, taking courses, conducting research, and getting out in the woods or on the water to enjoy and learn about our natural resources.

Greg G. Sass, Ph.D.

WIAFS President



See Page 2 and 3
for everything you
need to know
about the 2017
WIAFS Meeting

2017 WIAFS-WCTWS Joint Meeting

Hilton Milwaukee City Center

February 28-March 2



Please plan to join the Wisconsin chapters of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society at our annual meetings, being held jointly February 28 through March 2, 2017 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We will be gathering at the [Hilton Milwaukee City Center](#) Hotel (509 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI)

Lodging: Blocks of rooms have been reserved for the nights of February 28 and March 1 at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center Hotel. Rates are \$90.00 (Standard One King) and \$135.00 (Standard Two Queen). Reservations for the Hilton Hotel can be made by calling (414)-271-7250 or on the web [here](#). Over the phone, you may need to specify “Joint Meeting of the WI American Fisheries Society-Wildlife Society” and our group code is MFWILD.

Reservations must be made by January 28, 2017 and State of Wisconsin and federal employees should bring a copy of their state tax exempt form with them when checking in.

Visit the WI AFS website for more details:

<http://www.wi-afs.org/AnnualMeetings.aspx>

Telemetry Course Offered at WI-AFS

The Wisconsin Chapter of AFS is offering a short course for biologists, managers, and technicians interested in telemetry techniques and applications in their fisheries projects. Fisheries professionals will gain hands-on experience with surgical techniques and applications for PIT, acoustic, radio tags tracking, and array setup. This course is limited to 40 attendees.

For more details and to register, click [here](#).

Please note: This course is geared towards fisheries professionals. If space in the course is still available as of February 15, 2017, remaining spots may be filled by interested undergraduate and graduate students.

First call for papers!!!

AFS: Submissions for oral (*10 and 15 minute slots*) and poster presentations from all areas of fisheries and aquatic biology are welcome. We will again have “speed” presentations using a 10-minute time format intended for folks looking to share a brief overview of novel field techniques, “works in progress”, graduate student proposals, or future research projects. If you have something interesting to share, but worried you may not have enough to fill a 15-minute time slot, please consider submitting a speed presentation.

Joint AFS-TWS Plenary Session: Riparian Ecology and Management: We would like to put together a joint session (AFS-TWS combined) regarding this topic. Ideally, papers in this session will be of broad interest to fish and wildlife biologists.

Submission deadline for oral and poster presentation abstracts is January 15th, 2017.

If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Isermann (dan.isermann@uwsp.edu) for fisheries-related topics and Derek Johnson (derekj.johnson@wisconsin.gov) for wildlife-related topics.



The UWSP Subunit conducting an electrofishing survey on the Little Plover River

From the Judging Committee

Greetings Fisheries Folks,

2017 brings another year of the annual best presentation and poster competition focused on increasing our knowledge of fisheries management. How would you like to be a larger influence in the continued development of fisheries science? Well then; **sign up as a judge of either the poster or presentation sessions at the 2017 WiAFS conference!** Members that judge will benefit from the conference more by becoming more engaged and focused. Judges will also be able to provide feedback on improvement of the existing AFS judging process.

Please contact me at: benjamin.heussner@wisconsin.gov if you are interested in judging and I will put you on the waiting list. I hope to see you at this years' conference!

Ben Heussner

Best advice I ever got...

With US Fish and Wildlife's Ted Treska

What was the best advice you got during your career?

That advice came from my major advisor in undergraduate, Don Cloutman. An enthusiastic little southerner, he helped me pick classes, and upon seeing that I had taken more than the required math classes, told me to keep pursuing that avenue in addition to science. He

told me if you are good at it and don't mind it, a good math background will go a long way in setting yourself apart from others when it comes time to apply for jobs. Though I will likely never know how much of a role my math background had in getting jobs, I am pretty sure it was considerable. People used to ask me what I was going to do with my aquatic biology and applied math degrees, "what are you going to do, count fish?" and lo and behold, that is a lot of what I do.



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?

I think one of the main things is the importance of networking, and being willing to put yourself out there to be noticed. I didn't do enough of this early on in my career, so it set me back a bit, but nothing is impossible to overcome. You never know who might think of you when they hear about an opportunity.

That, and to remember how small the fisheries world is. Nothing has ever come back to bite me, but I have seen it happen. I strive to keep good relationships with most everyone I meet because you never know when you will need to call on them.

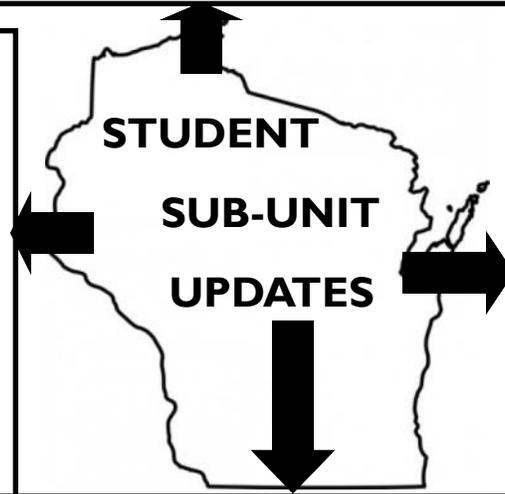
Can you identify any one experience or moment in your life that you would consider a professional turning point that set you on the path to where you are today?

There are actually 2. The first was in undergraduate at Bemidji State University. I knew I wanted to be in the biology field, but not exactly sure beyond that. Looking into the course requirements, I was pretty intimidated by the Inorganic Chemistry requirement for the regular biology degree, while at the same time, I noticed that the Aquatic Biology degree didn't have that requirement, and off I went to become an Aquatic Biologist. That fateful decision probably sent me down the path that I am on today, and I wouldn't change a thing. And no, a lack of knowledge of Inorganic Chem has not held me back, but I haven't been on Jeopardy yet either!

Northland College—Logan Sikora

Following the annual meeting, the Northland College student sub-unit hosted its annual ice-fishing tournament. In April, members were able to participate in a few successful nights of smelting on the Chequamegon Bay. May brought several volunteer opportunities with the US Fish and Wildlife service doing habitat work on Whittlesey Creek, as well as the annual sucker-seining project on Pikes Creek with the Wisconsin DNR. The summer brought many opportunities for students to get out into the job field to gain fisheries experience. As the school year comes back into full swing, we have been actively volunteering at local fish hatcheries and have been bringing in speakers to talk about fisheries related topics. We are very excited for the events that we are planning and for what the year has in store for us.

UW Stout—No update at this time



UW Green Bay—No update at this time

UW Stevens Point—Zach Mohr

As usual, we have been keeping busy at UWSP. Since school started back up and the semester got rolling, we've had some awesome events along with a diversity of amazing guest speakers at our weekly meetings. We've been fortunate to have many opportunities to gain some fisheries field experience. Many of our members assisted the WI DNR at the Strawberry Creek Chinook Facility with gamete collection during the salmon run. Others have participated in some muskie electrofishing as part of a study being conducted here on campus. We conducted our first society survey on the 7th and 8th of October in which we barge electrofished the Little Plover River for brook trout. Over the duration of two days of sampling, we collected data on 476 brook trout as well as PIT tagged 183 brook trout over five inches, to assist in a brook trout movement study being conducted. Not only was our survey very successful, but many new members were able to gain some quality experience in the field.



Coming up, we have two more surveys scheduled to finish out the semester. We will be barge-electrofishing the Isherwood Lateral for brook trout. The survey has never been conducted by the fisheries society before so we are very excited to take advantage of this opportunity to get to sample more brook trout. The last survey we have planned for the semester is the Wisconsin River Fyke netting survey. This survey is always a fun time as there is a mixed bag of fish species for our members to handle. We are looking forward to these upcoming surveys as well as the rest of the guest speakers we have planned for the semester!

Student Research Highlights

EDITORS NOTE: Welcome to this section of the Telegram dedicated to highlighting exceptional research done by student members of WIAFS. In each issue we plan to highlight at least one exceptional student, nominated by their advisor or another faculty member, from each of the four universities with an AFS subunit. Featured research can be undergraduate or graduate, and can include work done outside of WI during internships or through previous jobs. Professors and faculty members can nominate students to the Telegram editor: max.wolter@wisconsin.gov

Callie Kopp– Northland College

I am Callie Kopp, a senior at Northland College. Last summer I worked as a Fisheries Intern with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). One of our main projects was to monitor adult spawning Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) abundance in the Bad River in collaboration with the Bad River Natural Resources Department, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and the USFWS Sea Lamprey Control Program. As part of this larger project, I am examining the fecundity of Sea Lamprey in Lake Superior. Sea Lamprey fecundity was last studied in 1972. Since then, Sea Lamprey populations in Lake Superior have declined, largely due to continual control with lampricide treatments. My objective is to update our understanding of Sea Lamprey fecundity and determine if it has changed in the last 45 years.

I have measured (360-466 mm total length), weighed (105-264 g), and preserved the ovaries from 35 Sea Lamprey harvested from the Bad, Brule, and Middle Rivers in Northern Wisconsin. I am currently counting eggs in three subsamples from each ovary, which will be expanded to estimate the total number of eggs in each ovary. I will also assess egg size by measuring the diameter of ten eggs from each subsample. Once these data are collected, I will determine if (a) there is a significant relationship between fecundity and fish length, (b) egg size is related to fish length, and (c) my current estimates of fecundity and egg size differ significantly from those reported in 1972. Results from my study will be presented to Lake Superior fisheries managers so that they may be used within the Sea Lamprey control program.



Callie Kopp bonding with one of her study organisms

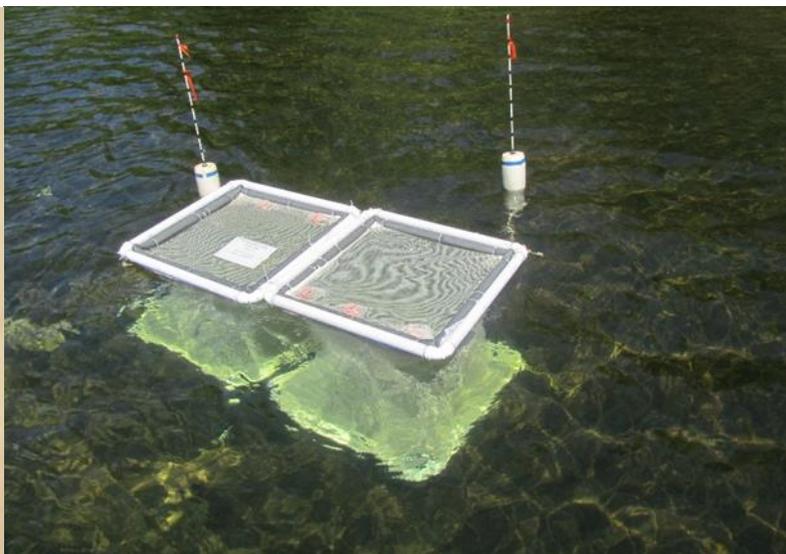
Nick Rydell– UW Stevens Point



Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) *Myriophyllum spicatum* is one of the most problematic invasive macrophytes not only in Wisconsin, but also throughout the United States. The aquatic herbicide 2, 4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2, 4-D) is widely used to control EWM. However, little is known regarding the effects of 2, 4-D on zooplankton and fish, especially in natural systems. Sampling for this project takes place on six lakes in northern Wisconsin to determine if 2, 4-D treatments affect fish or zooplankton, with a specific interest in larval fish.

This research takes place over three years with a pre-treatment year (2015) a treatment year (2016) and a post-treatment year (2017). During the treatment year, three lakes received whole lake treatments of 2, 4-D while the remaining lakes served as reference systems. Each year, sampling took place from May through August including electrofishing, seining, light traps, and ichthyoplankton tows. Zooplankton, chlorophyll-*a*, algal samples, and 2, 4-D concentrations were also collected and aquatic plant surveys were completed.

Herbicide treatments were successful with no EWM detected during post-treatment aquatic plant surveys. To assess direct mortality from the chemical, juvenile fish were placed into net pens during the treatment and held for 48 hrs. Preliminary results indicate herbicide treatments did not increase mortality of juvenile fish when compared to net pen trials on reference lakes. Laboratory work is currently ongoing to determine changes in zooplankton diversity, size structure and relative abundance. Additionally, examinations of larval fish relative abundance, diets, daily growth rates and hatch dates are under way to identify fine-scale changes that may have occurred following chemical treatments.



A larval black crappie (left) and the net pens used in the juvenile fish mortality studies (right)

2016 Photo Fishing Contest Highlights

Check out a sample of what's been submitted so far. You can still submit you own 2016 catches for the contest. For rules click [here](#).



Catostomid Family Takes Offense to the Term “Bottom-feeders”

Madison WI- An often overlooked family of fish are speaking out against a term that they find personally offensive. The term in question is the common insult of referring to someone as a “bottom-feeder”, a phrase that the fish community only recently realized was being used derogatively.



Suckers everywhere are speaking out against misuse of the term “bottom-feeder”

“The first time I heard someone being called a bottom-feeder I thought ‘hey, that guy must be really cool, he serves an important ecological function, nice to see him get credit for that’ said Tom Hefford, a northern hogsucker living in the Marengo River. “But then, through context clues I realized it was meant as an insult. I was shocked”

A spokesfish for the Catostomid family released a statement on Tuesday condemning the use of the term bottom-feeder as a derogative phrase:

“During this heated election season a lot of insults have been thrown around. We, the catostomid family, object to ‘bottom-feeder’ being one of them. First off, the politically correct term is ‘benthivorous individual’, bottom feeder is more of a slang term. Second, suggesting that someone feeds off the bottom of a lake or river should not be viewed negatively. Our family has proudly been doing this for millennia.”

Members of the catostomid community went on to say that in addition to feeling unappreciated, they often felt misunderstood. Recently #SuckersDontSuck has been circulating on social media defending catostomids.

“Everyone assumes we just suck mud off the bottom of the river. That couldn’t be farther from the truth. We use a sophisticated method of vacuuming food off of the river bed. It’s totally different” said Nancy Weiss, a white sucker that lives in the Plover River but spends her winters in the Wisconsin River. “Now if you want to talk about sucking, we can talk about Petromyzontidae. Those guys suck,”



Glenn Feldman, a lawyer representing the Catastomid family of fishes says that those using the term “bottom-feeder” derogatively can expect legal repercussions.

In other news:

All Iron County Brook Trout Were ‘Coasters’ for a Few Days in 2016



WI-AFS Congratulates WDNR’s Kent Bass on Winning the World Series

