



TELEOGRAM



The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Spring/Summer 2020

Laura Schmidt– Editor

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- Resources from the R-
Expo that took place
in Eau Claire:

<https://wi-afs.org/r-expo/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE– Max Wolter



Greetings Wisconsin Chapter members!

The world has changed a lot since we all got together in Eau Claire back in February, and I am sure all our members are being impacted by the current health crises in both their professional and personal lives. I wish everyone and their families health and safety during this time, and I encourage you to stay diligent in all you are doing to protect yourselves and your communities.

That word community is so important to me right now, as I am sure it is to all of you. Unlike what we see in disaster movies, in times of crisis communities pull together, they don't fall apart. We're seeing that all over the country as people play whatever role they can to help those in their own communities.

Above all else, Wisconsin AFS is a community, and we, too, will pull together to support each other professionally. There are already a lot of exciting ideas in the mix for how we can do that. Weekly webinars are being planned that might serve as a substitute for now-cancelled student subunit meetings. One-on-one remote student-professional mentoring is available to anyone who is interested (contact: Stephanie.Shaw@wisconsin.gov to get set up with that). You may see opportunities coming for virtual happy hours and other social functions, too, because we all need some of that as we navigate through a more isolated life.

If you have suggestions about how WI-AFS can support you (or the public at large) please let us know (contact: max.wolter@wisconsin.gov). Managing this moment is going to require creativity and adaptability, things our membership has in spades. We are particularly interested in ways we can support students and continue their professional growth so that this crisis doesn't fully rob them of the critical experiences they would otherwise be getting on campus or in the field.

It's also notable that this moment highlights the importance of our field of work. As festivals and concerts are canceled, movie theaters sit empty, and bars are shut down, people are turning to outdoor recreation, including fishing, to enjoy themselves. Yesterday I had a chance to slip out for a few hours to fish early season trout on the Namekagon River. On a March weekday in a normal year, I would have my pick of any spot on the river.

Continued on page 2

Spring/Summer 2020



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

On this day there were cars parked at every bridge crossing. Wardens in our area are also reporting upticks in fishing activity. People will benefit from all the work that WI-AFS members have done leading up to now, whether that is stocking fish, setting appropriate regulations, or developing points of access. In many quiet ways, this is our moment to shine.

I want to conclude by expressing my gratitude to everyone who makes our WI-AFS community function (this was going to be the main thrust of this message before COVID came on the scene). We have so many dedicated committee members who work tirelessly and often thanklessly to keep this all together. We've also had a lot of new folks stepping into leadership roles, and they've been knocking it out of the park. My thanks to all of you.

Stay safe. Stay adaptable. Stay optimistic. Go fishing!

Max Wolter, President



Photo by Laura Schmidt

WI-AFS Wednesday Webinars

As mentioned in the President's message, WI-AFS members have come together to put on some excellent webinars over the past few weeks, with more to come. If you have been unable to view them live, you are in luck! You can view past webinars here: <https://vimeo.com/wiscosinafs>

Available webinars include:

- Dam of Escapement of Muskellunge, presented by Max Wolter
- Guide to Age and Growth, presented by Dan Isermann
- Mississippi River Fish Assemblage, presented by Jeff Janvrin
- And more!

MEETING MINUTES



EDITORS NOTE: Committee and budget reports in this issue of the newsletter are from the 2020 Winter Business Meeting Wednesday February 05, 2020 in Eau Claire.

**Spring
2020**

Call to Order - President Dan Dembkowski 4:32 pm (85 members present)

Recognition of Executive Committee, past presidents and special guests - President Dembkowski recognized the Executive Committee for their work over the last year, and Max Wolter for setting up the meeting.

Determination of a quorum - A quorum was reached as 85 members present at the meeting exceeded the requirement of 1/3rd of the Chapter membership (approx. 75) being present. Thanks to all in attendance for their participation in the business of the chapter.

Review and Approval of Agenda - President Dembkowski outlined the agenda which had been distributed electronically prior to the meeting and asked for any amendments. Ethan Brandt asked to add an update on the Fishing Contest to the new business.

Approval of 2019 Business Meeting Minutes - President Dembkowski asked for comments on the minutes which were published in the Spring/Summer 2019 newsletter. There were no amendments to the 2019 Business meeting notes that were shared online and the minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

President's Remarks - Dan thanked all who helped with setting up the meeting, including past presidents, NCD, and Executive Committee, stating it has been an honor to act as president. Also thanks to Max for all his work in getting the meeting together. Thanks to the presenters at this meeting, and those involved with the Communications Continuing Education course, especially all of those who were on the panel. Thanks to those put together the R Expo Peter Euclide lead, Alex Latzka, Zach Feiner, Zach Driscoll, Paul Frater, Derek Ogle, and Holly Embke contributing.

We have 198 members present at this meeting, one of our largest. This year we have over 300 (307?) members, making us one of the largest chapters. Thanks for those who make WIAFS what it is, with things like the Fisheries Bootcamp, the Fishing Contest, and Continuing Ed as this is what encourages participation in the chapter. One note, the NCD leadership is looking to promote between chapter communications and are looking to continue this into the future.

Treasurer - Yearly Report - Treasurer/Secretary Tate summarized the 2019 finances. Expenditures - We have \$983 in savings from the projected 2019 budget. The raffle is on target with expenditures. We had expenditures for the Hutton program. There were no requests for student fundraising match (\$250 each unit). We awarded the Norden, Kroeff, and Duffy scholarships, and supplemented the Frie Scholarship with \$498 to bring it to \$1000 as we have done in the past. Lori also reminded student officers that WIAFS will reimburse them for their required National AFS memberships. There was no cost for president travel, as Dan Dembkowski traveled on UWSP funds. There were no expenditures for T-shirts this year. There was no award of \$1000 for student unit gear purchases. Web fees were up this year for conversion to AFS site, not sure how this will affect 2020 costs. Cost of PO Box increased again. We supported the Catfish Symposium with a donation of \$500.

MEETING MINUTES



Treasurer - Yearly report cont. - Income - Our dues and meeting income were similar to what was budgeted. Raffle brought in \$1600. Net worth - Investments are valued at \$46,567, and with \$9,615.12 in checking and \$26,056.59 in the Midwest Account, we have a total of \$82,000.

Committee Reports - please see detailed annual reports from the committee chairs on the chapter website (wi-afs.org/business-meeting/). Specific discussion are actions taken with respect to committees at this Business meeting are described below:

- **Scholarship:** Tammie Paoli updated the membership on scholarship activity. We had 5 applicants for the Norden (\$1,000); the winner was Ben Martin. We had 10 applicants for the Kroeff Scholarship (\$1,000); the winner was Joe Mrnak. Ethan Brandt was awarded the Duffy, and WIAFS matched the NCD contribution (\$100). Dan Dembkowski thanked the Scholarship committee for all their work.

Old Business:

- Dan Dembkowski acknowledged receipt of the NCD Most Active Large Chapter Award for the 4th time.
- This is the 150th anniversary of AFS, which will be celebrated at the Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio. AFS is asking for displays from chapters covering history/unique info/etc. Steve Gilbert will be leading the effort for WIAFS. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact him.
- President Installation - Dan Dembkowski asks all past presidents to stand up and be acknowledged. Steve Gilbert and Justine Hasz escort Max Wolter up the aisle and he is installed as Chapter President. Max Wolter recognizes Dan D. for all his work and efforts over the past year.

New Business:

- **Voting for Officers** - Derek Ogle (nominations chair) asks for nominations from the floor for President-Elect. As there are none, he indicates that Ben Heussner has accepted a nomination and then is elected in a unanimous voice vote by the quorum. Derek then asks for interest/nominations for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. There are none and he indicates that Jen Bergman has accepted a nomination (in absentia). Jen is elected in a unanimous voice vote by the quorum.
- **President Remarks** - Max Wolter thanks all who have made this meeting happen, including but not limited to: Lori Tate & Tony Rieth (Registration), Joseph Gerbyshak and Ben Heussner (raffle), Jeff Janvrin, Steve Gilbert, Ted Treska, Zach Driscoll, Max Reynolds, and Dave Schumann (judging), and Dan Dembkowski, Derek Ogle, and Ron Bruch for plenary presentation.
- **New Budget** - Lawrence Eslinger informs members that the Walleye Tech Committee will be holding a symposium on System Change in 2021 at the Midwest Conference in St. Paul, MN, and they are looking for donations from Chapters to support publishing the proceedings which will cost about \$20,000 in total. NCD has pledged to contribute \$5,000, and they are looking for \$1,000 from state chapters.

MEETING MINUTES



- **New Budget (cont)** - There was discussion about previous support from WIAFS for things like this. Given our involvement, members supported it. Lawrence Eslinger makes a motion to donate \$1,000 to the effort, with a second by Jordan Weeks. Ethan Brandt asked for up to \$50 for the fishing contest to establish a trophy and a plaque of winners. Greg Sass asked for continued support of the Fisheries Bootcamp project and for folks to get the word out as they only had 6 applicants last year and if it falls more, they will discontinue the program. The program only spent \$683 last year, but would like to keep funding at \$2,000. There is talk of developing T-shirts this year, with interest from a few folks to work with Steve Gilbert and Laura Schmidt to make it happen. It was indicated that we should increase the web site budget to \$600 just in case costs stay higher than expected.

Historical Display - Steve Gilbert had asked for up to \$1,000 for display, archival of historical documents, etc. It was brought up that there may be a need for support for others to go and man the booth at National AFS. Costs were discussed and it was determined that \$3,000 should be sufficient to cover travel for others if they can get permission to attend, and may be less if agency support is available.

Total Budget - Proposed at \$33,640, which is higher than previous years, but this is a special year in many ways and we have sufficient cash on hand to support proposed expenditures with plenty remaining.

Duffy recipient Ethan Brandt indicated that NCD would match up to \$200 (rather than assumed \$100) and asked if we could increase that to \$200 so match would be optimized. No disagreement.

There was a discussion about increasing the Student subunit support in 2020 to \$2,000 as the \$1,000 from 2019 was never spent. Discussion followed about how this money was intended to be disbursed, whether by rotation or by request, and the lack of knowledge about it. The question was asked about what units were spending the money on, and Derek mentioned that UWGB had bought a flow meter with it in 2018. The original intent was to purchase needed equipment, with the idea being waders and other consumables, but it is up to the units. The proposal to increase to \$2,000 was not approved, based on concerns about how the money would be distributed (2 units or?) and how it would affect eligibility for funds in future. More work needs to be done to clarify this topic, with revisit of the minutes from past meetings where it was established. There was also discussion about the need to communicate with student subunits as membership is constantly changing and information passing may not occur. Eggold offered up that we could have a web page specifically for student subunits that would outline this info.

A motion was made to approve the proposed budget by Kubisiak and was seconded by VanDeHey.

- **Judging** - Dave Schumann, thanks Max R. and Zach D. for help with posters and proposed the idea of naming the speed talks that have become more prominent. Any suggestions can be sent to Dave.
- **Raffle and Revenue** - Heussner was going to step up to lead this, but as he is President, Joseph Gerbyshak is stepping in. Always looking for assistance, especially locals for next meeting.
- **NCD Reservoir Team** - Still looking for a representative.
- **NCD Walleye Team** - Lawrence Eslinger volunteers to be the representative.

MEETING MINUTES



- **Final remarks**

Dan Isermann brought up the idea that to increase the number of talks, we would limit beginning talks to be speed talks, and knock the 20 minute talks to 15, with presenter able to use time however they like (all talk, questions, etc). Someone brought up the idea of indicating what type of presentation you would be open to on the abstract submission form, so preference could be given to new presenters if need be. Sass agreed, saying WIAFS is a good place to get experience giving talks and get feedback.

Max Wolter brought up idea of stopping on site registration, as it is a hassle and affects ability to plan for meeting (food, etc). It was proposed to up the registration cost after some cut off date as was done in the past to try and reduce the occurrence.

Eslinger put in a plug for the joint Walleye/Esocid/Centrarchid committee meeting this summer (week of July 20) at Kemp Station in WI, and encouraged participation.

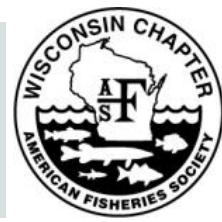
- **Time and Place 2021 Annual Meeting** - Madison? Stay tuned for more from Ben Heussner.

Adjourn 5:52 p.m.



Right: Fearless leader Justine Hasz and Steve Gilbert escort Max Wolter, new President.

Budget Report



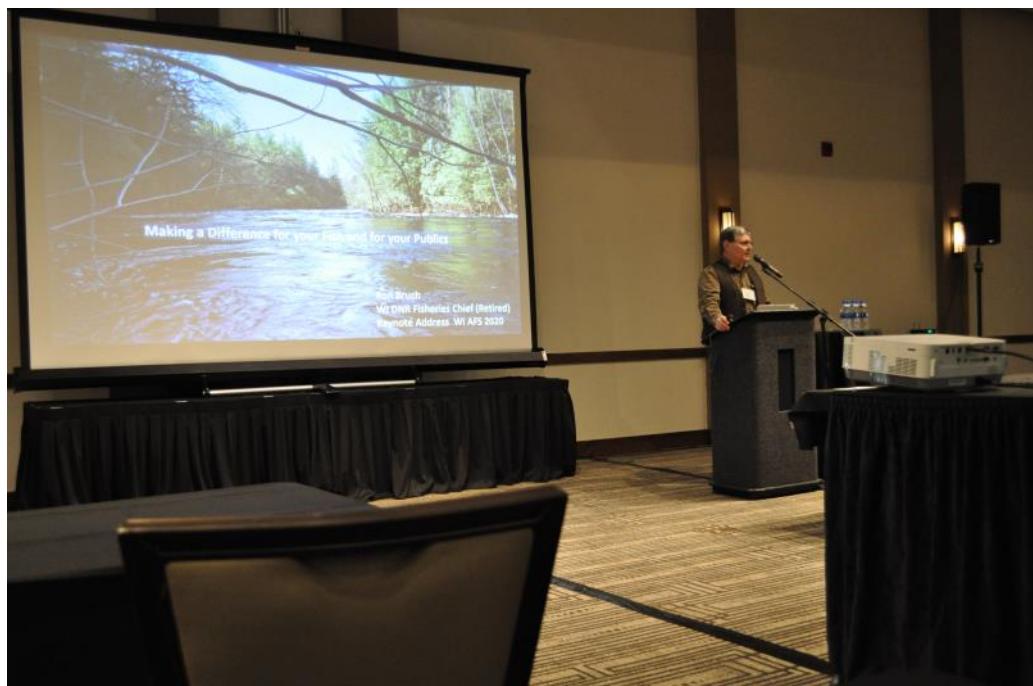
Expense Budget Review - 2019 & Recommendation

	Expense	2020 DIFF	<u>Budgeted</u> 2020
State MTG	Chapter Meeting	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500
	Raffle expenses - State Meeting	\$ 650	\$ 650
Awards, Donations	Hutton Program (AFS)	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
	Skinner Memorial (AFS)	\$ 500	\$ 500
	EOS (AFS)	\$ 500	\$ 500
	Student Subunit Fundraising Match	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
	Norden Student Scholarship	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	Tim Kroeff Scholarship	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	Duffy Award	\$ 200	\$ 200
	Awards, Plaques, Best Papers	\$ 400	\$ 400
	Frie Scholarship Funding	\$ 500	\$ 500
	Fenske Scholarship	\$ 250	\$ 250
	Members Fishing Contest	\$ 50	\$ 50
	Student Subunit AFS membership	\$ 250	\$ 250
Miscellaneous Fees	President travel	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
	Fisheries Bootcamp	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
	Continuing education	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	T-Shirts	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,350
	Equipment Purchase for Subunits	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	National Chapter Insurance	\$ 150	\$ 150
	Web Fees	\$ 600	\$ 600
	PO Box	\$ 120	\$ 120
	Discretionary	\$ 150	\$ 150
	Executive Committee AFS Membership	\$ 320	\$ 320
One-Time Expenses		\$ -	
	Event sponsorship	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	150th Anniversary Display	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
		\$ 33,740	
	EXPENSE TOTAL		\$ 33,740

Budget Report



		2019 Actual	2020 Anticipated
Income			
Annual Meeting registration		\$ 15,100	\$ 15,000
Membership dues & AFS Mem. Rebates		\$ 1,790	\$ 1,500
Continuing education		\$ -	\$ -
T-shirt sales		\$ -	\$ -
State Meeting Raffle Income		\$ 1,602	\$ 1,500
National AFS Investment Interest		\$ -	\$ 100
GNMA Investment Interest		\$ 435	\$ 450.00
Tim Kroeff Scholarship Fund		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000.00
Midwest Walleye Symposium (transfer from MW Acct)		\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
INCOME TOTAL		\$ 19,927	\$ 20,550
INVESTMENTS		2018	2019
VanGuard (Parent Society)		\$ 26,559.00	\$ 30,762.00
GNMA		\$ 15,640.98	\$ 15,805.47
INVESTMENTS TOTAL		\$ 42,199.98	\$ 46,567.47
Main Account Balance as of 12/31/2019		\$ 9,615.12	
Midwest Account Balance as of 12/31/2019			\$ 26,056.59
Total Worth			\$ 82,239.18



Retired WDNR Fisheries Chief Ron Bruch gives the keynote address.

Scholarships and Awards



Above: Ben Martin, UW - Madison, was awarded the Carroll Norden Scholarship.



Right: Joe Mrnak, UW - Madison, was awarded the Tim Kroeff Fisheries Scholarship.

Scholarships and Awards



Left: Tom Cichosz was awarded the Steve Serns Best Paper Award.



Right: Dan Dembkowski was presented with the Best Poster Award.

Scholarships and Awards



Left: Ethan Brandt was presented with the Best Student "Speed" Paper Award.



Right: Joe Gerbyshak was presented with the Best Professional "Speed" Paper Award.

Scholarships and Awards



Above: Poster/paper winners pose for a group photo.



Right: Dan Dembkowski is recognized for his service.

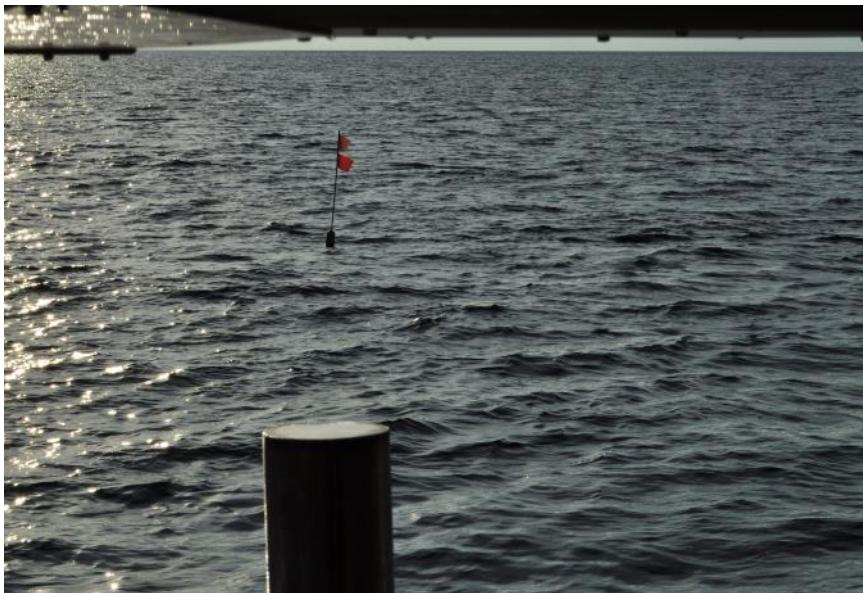
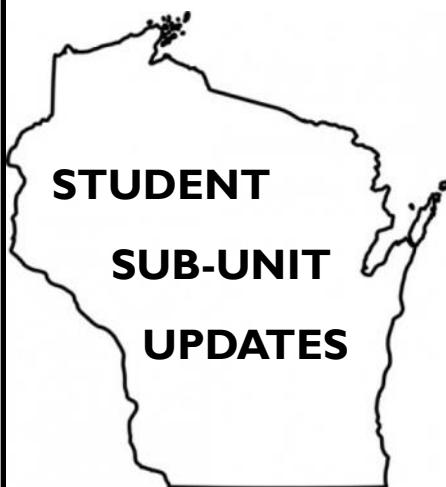


Photo by Jason Meacham

UW - Madison: The Madison subunit has had a productive first year of growth. Our main goal for the last year has been to build connections between the pockets of fisheries and aquatic scientists spread out across the UW Madison campus. Forming just before the 2019 Wisconsin AFS State Conference, our email list has expanded to include thirty-seven members including faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students. Last winter, our subunit sent members to assist in the DNR lake trout survey on Trout Lake. Over the summer, we gained new members through events held at UW Trout Lake Station. New subunit members went backpack electrofishing to collect fish samples for educational use in the Ecology of Fishes Lab course held on the Madison campus. During the fall semester, the subunit has held monthly meetings to discuss how best to continue to expand our reach and engage members in fisheries education and research on and around our campus. The Madison subunit now has a social media presence and a website in order to advertise upcoming events. We are currently working on designing a subunit logo. The Madison subunit is looking forward to sending members to the upcoming 2020 state conference in order to showcase student research and ground ourselves in the broader organization and its goals.

UW - GB - Last semester the UW-Green Bay subunit focused on giving students a variety of opportunities to engage with fellow students as well as professionals in the fisheries field. We had a small handful of speakers from around the area come in and speak about their research. This included Steven Hogler of the Wisconsin DNR as well as Professor Houghton of UW-Green Bay. Additionally, we had a CV and resume review for students on campus. For the review event we contacted the USFWS Green Bay office and had Jessica Collier, Anthony Rieth and Bradley Smith completing the reviews with both graduate students and undergraduates. Additionally, we focused on giving students volunteer opportunities with various government agencies. This upcoming semester we hope to focus on volunteer work once again. Additionally, we will be assisting in the Fox River watershed cleanup this upcoming spring.



UWSP - Fall Semester Activities included the Little Plover River electrofishing survey and the Wisconsin River fyke net survey. These surveys allow members to gain hands on experience. UWSP – subchapter brings in fisheries professionals from around the state to present recent research to inform students of what is happening around the state. Weekly meetings also give current graduate students a platform to present their ongoing research and practice presenting before conferences if they so desire.

Scenes from WI AFS 2020



Thanks to everyone who participated in the Inaugural AFS Casting Game! In Eau Claire, 24 people participated in total.

If you have ideas for this game in the future, contact Steve Gilbert.



Left: 1st place winner Brandon Wambach (Fisheries Technician, WDNR Milwaukee).
Time: 1:22:618



Right: 2nd place winner Kyle Von Ruden (US Fish and Wildlife Service, La Crosse).
Time: 1:49:289

Scenes from WI AFS 2020

Continuing Education Workshop



2020 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 the AFS Chapter meeting on Feb 6, 2020 and officially end **2 weeks prior** to the WI AFS Meeting in 2021 (date TBD).

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 Menomonie in stretches where they border WI. Any species of fish can be entered (point system discussed below). **Fish caught while working (when you are on the clock) or for the purpose of research do not count.**

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 tenth 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, but you need to at least include county). 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: wafs.fishing@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, flathead catfish, and pumpkinseed. We will award 2 points each for the largest inland and Great Lakes (+ tributaries) catch for brown trout, lake 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.

Awards will be presented at the annual meeting.

Good luck!