



# TELEOGRAM



The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Fall/Winter 2020

Laura Schmidt- Editor

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE- Max Wolter



I looked back at the president's message I wrote in March before starting in on this edition. A lot has happened since then, including a summer of protest for racial justice, devastating wildfires and hurricanes, and a major election.

Of course, one big thing hasn't changed. The pandemic continues to be the defining issue in our professional and

personal lives. It is the reason the WI-AFS Executive Committee made the decision, like so many other organizations, to hold our annual meeting virtually. We have some recent achievements that lead me to believe that our virtual meeting will be a success.

Just after the last newsletter came out in spring of 2020, we embarked on a weekly webinar series. We began with 97 people tuning in to listen to Dr. Dan Isermann talk about age and growth on March 25<sup>th</sup>. We continued with weekly (sometimes twice weekly) events through late July. By the time we wrapped the series we had 1,637 in-person attendees and an additional 2,723 views on our Vimeo page, totaling about 3,000 hours of training and education on topics ranging from occupancy modeling to aquatic plant ecology.

What our little Wisconsin Chapter was pulling off was the talk of the country. We were contacted by National AFS staff who were interested in what we were doing. Other chapters in the Midwest considered hosting their own series, but ended up deciding to just join in on ours. We pulled several speakers from other states, and staff from agencies and universities all over North America became some of our most frequent attendees. I was on an NCD call last month, they're still bringing up the phenomenal talks put on by the Wisconsin Chapter this year.

So, while the last year has been filled with anxiety and loss, we've also shown what we are capable of. Our spirit of ingenuity and resilience didn't end when the webinars stopped either. We continue to see WI-AFS members stepping up to support each other. In December, Governor Thompson Hatchery is offering a virtual tour to students. We are continuing to create more student-mentor relationships (an experience I highly recommend for any student, contact: [stephanie.shaw@wisconsin.gov](mailto:stephanie.shaw@wisconsin.gov)), and building a deep roster of potential mentors. The photo fishing contest is ongoing. The scholarship committee is making sure checks still go out to get students access to conferences.

**Special thanks to Brad Eggold for all of his work in updating the WI AFS webpage!**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

The next big event on the horizon for WI-AFS will be our annual meeting (Feb 8-11, 2021). President-Elect Ben Heussner has been hard at work developing what will certainly be an engaging and enjoyable meeting. Ben and all our wonderful committee members are scheming up ways to provide most of the usual components of an in-person AFS, in virtual setting. I'm personally looking forward to seeing everyone and talking about the future of fisheries and our incredible professional community. There will be no registration fee for the meeting! So please sign up and pitch in where you can.

I'd like to close by acknowledging that this letter is coming to you during an unprecedentedly challenging holiday season. I'd like to wish everyone health, safety, and happiness at a time when we need it most.

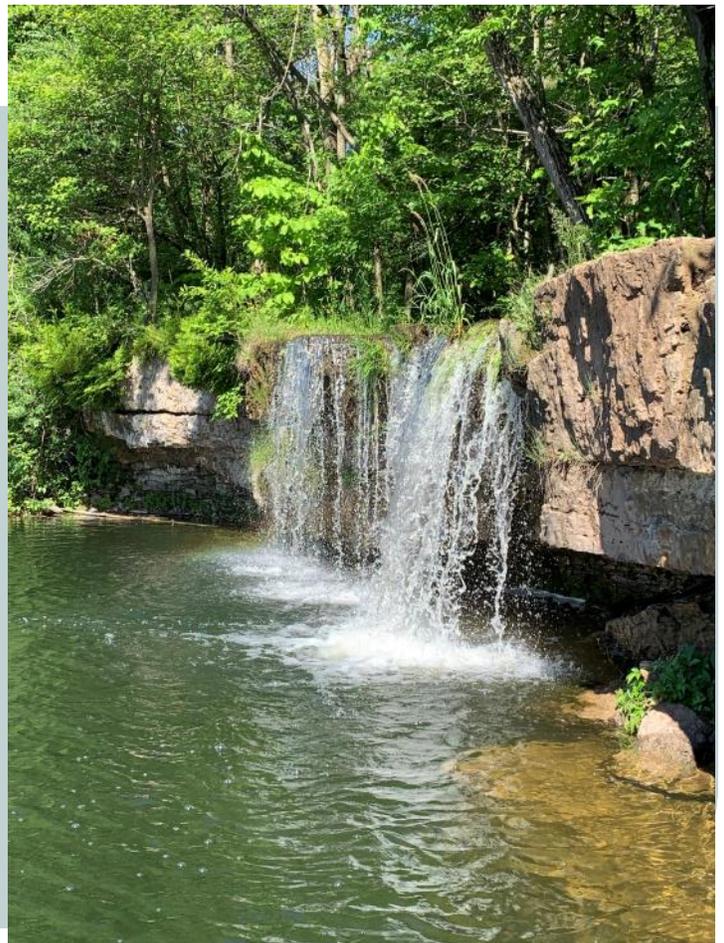
It has been an honor serving as president of this impressive collection of professionals and students over the last year. I am excited to see where we go next.

Max

### WI-AFS Webinars

- If you missed any of the WI-AFS webinars, or would like to watch any of them again, you can find all webinars archived here: <https://vimeo.com/wiscosinafs>

Photo by Laura Schmidt



# WI-AFS Meeting 2021



## 50th Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Virtually Embracing our Changing Environment

This year's annual meeting will be held virtually from **1 pm until 4:30 pm, Monday 8-Feb through Thursday 11-Feb**. The virtual format will include Live Events hosted on Zoom including plenary speakers, scientific presentations, workshops, student chapter updates, annual business meeting, awards presentations, social events and the raffle drawing. Registration for the meeting will be **FREE** this year with your annual membership dues.

For more detailed information on registration, membership or our **Virtual Meeting Guide**, please see the meeting webpage: <https://wi-afs.org/annual-meetings/>. The Virtual Meeting Guide is a working document that contains valuable information such as the fluid schedule, technological support for presenters, important raffle information, presentation and poster rubrics, mentorship and resume workshop information. The deadline for submitting an abstract was December 4<sup>th</sup>. The executive committee has added an optional 9-10 am technical workshops which includes two Biomark tech talks and two R-expos.

If you have any specific questions, please contact Ben Heussner or Max Wolter:

benjamin.heussner@wisconsin.gov or  
max.wolter@wisconsin.gov

# Student Scholarships



**Students:** See information below on two scholarships and 1 travel award given out by WI-AFS. **Application deadline is December 15.**

## **Carroll Norden Memorial Scholarship**

The purpose of the Carroll Norden Memorial Scholarship is to provide financial support to fisheries students attending a Wisconsin university other than UW-Stevens Point. Junior, Senior or Graduate Students who do not attend the UW-Stevens Point are eligible to receive the scholarship which is \$1000. For more information and application form, go to <https://wi-afs.org/carroll-norden/>

## **Tim Kroeff Fisheries Scholarship**

The purpose of the Tim Kroeff Fisheries Scholarship is to provide financial support to fisheries students. Junior, Senior, or Graduate students who are studying aquatic or fisheries biology/science at a Wisconsin university or college, and are student members of the Wisconsin Chapter of AFS are eligible to receive this \$1000 scholarship. For more information and application form, go to <https://wi-afs.org/tim-kroeff-scholarship/>

## **Joan Duffy Student Travel Award**

To financially assist students who might not otherwise be able to attend the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference to be held virtually on February 1-3, 2021 (<http://www.midwestfw.org/>). Typically, this is one award for \$200 from WI-AFS with a match from WI-AFS North Central Division. However, for 2021, WI-AFS will award two separate \$100 awards. We do not anticipate WI-AFS NCD to provide a match this year. This is because the conference will be held virtually and there are only registration costs (\$75 for student early registration) and no travel costs. The recipients of this award must be currently enrolled in a Wisconsin college or university for a degree program. For more information and application form, go to <https://wi-afs.org/joan-duffy-student-travel-award/>

# Photo Fishing Contest



The WI-AFS Photo Fishing Contest now has a webpage! For contest rules, the Facebook link, email, and the most up-to-date leader board, visit here:

<https://wi-afs.org/wisconsin-afs-fishing-contest/>

**Current leaders listed below. There's still time to submit!**

## Current Leaders

Name	Points
Brandon Wambach	20
Stefan Tucker	16
Dray Carl	6
Tony Rieth	6
Steve Gilbert	5
Matt Kornis	4
Skip Sommerfeldt	4
Andrew Stevens	4
Eric Brown	3
Dave Seibel	3
Jared Krebs	3
Nick Berndt	2
Max Wolter	1
Dan Dembkowski	1
Brian Spangler	1
Jason Meacham	1



Group	Points
DNR	44
Non-govt	20
Fed	16

Affiliation	Points
North	22
South	21
Academia	20
USFW	15
West	1
USFS	1



# **2021 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference**



The 81st Annual Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference will be held **virtually, Monday, February 1 - Thursday, February 4, 2021.**

The theme of the 2021 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference will be “Fostering Diversity”.

Registration is now open, and costs are reduced as a result of holding the conference virtually.

Interested in attending? Find all of the details here: <http://midwestfw.org/>