

THE ANGLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE COLORADO/WYOMING CHAPTER OF
THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

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EDITED BY KENDALL BAKICH & BEN FELT

2021 Meeting of CO/WY Chapter February 23-24

It will be a virtual meeting.

Registration opens: January 11

Abstracts due: January 22

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A year ago during the CO/WY annual meeting a colleague of mine asked me if I had been following the news on this new "Corona" virus. Busy with the meeting events, I said no not really but that I thought it would be no big deal – well, you know the rest of the story! Our past-president Jason Burckhardt opened his Vent last year with "Happy 2020" and I get to end it with "Good Riddance 2020". So let's try this again, Happy 2021, it can only be better!

The 55th Annual Meeting of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be held on February 23rd and 24th, 2021 in a virtual format.

The theme is "Science and Storytelling".

Given the tumultuous year we just went through, I can't think of a better way to communicate what we do as fisheries scientist than to sit around the "warm glow" of a computer screen, listen, share, and learn about the really innovative and passionate work everyone in this Chapter does. I know I am always excited to learn something new, I hope you are too!

I would like to formally invite you to the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. We will hold two virtual afternoon sessions on February 23rd and 24th starting at 1PM and ending at 5PM. The meeting will be bracketed by two excellent Continuing Education courses. The first course will be taught by Dr. Steve McMullin, former AFS President (2017-2018) on Monday, February 22nd. The title of the class is Plain, Simple, and Concise Writing.

The goal is to improve your skills when writing for a non-technical audience. The second course will be taught by Dr. Mevin Hooten, Professor at CSU, on basic Bayesian Statistical concepts and ideas. This class is aimed at assessing fisheries and will be held on Thursday, February 25th. I encourage you to attend one or both. These classes will be free to registered attendees and offer an incredible value to the CO/WY AFS membership.

I am really excited about our Plenary Speakers! Dr. Kurt Fausch and Jeremy Monroe. Dr. Fausch will give a talk titled "The Power of Stories for Reaching Public Audiences with Science". Jeremy Monroe is the founder and director of Freshwaters Illustrated and will screen "Hidden River", a visually stunning and beautifully composed story about aquatic conservation work in the Appalachian Mountains.

I think it goes without saying that it is a bummer we can't meet in person this year. So much of what we learn, who we meet, and how information is communicated occurs not just during formal presentations, but informally at socials. While there is no way to replicate that during a virtual meeting, I would encourage everyone to participate at some level. Participation could simply be the act of registering for the meeting - it will be cheap! \$50 for professionals and \$20 for students – or giving a formal presentation, submitting a cool photo for the photo contest, or even writing up a fun field story (or video) for everyone's reading/viewing pleasure. As a Chapter, we can make this meeting one to remember!

Please read on to get the details on how to register, submit a presentation or poster, sign up for the continuing education webinars, submit a photo, peruse the schedule of events, nominate a worthy colleague for one of the Chapter awards, and find out who our newest Secretary/Treasurer will be! If there is one upside to a virtual meeting, it is lots of folks who would not normally devote a week to a meeting will have the opportunity to attend at a very reasonable price and a schedule that works around them. Please encourage your colleagues, co-workers, friends, that weird neighbor next door, anybody that might have an interest in fisheries, to take a look at this year's meeting and to register to support the CO/WY AFS Chapter and student sub-unit Chapters.

See you all in late February!

WELCOME OUR NEW SECRETARY-TREASURER!

STEVE GALE

Brief summary of my AFS background - Member of the Parent Society of AFS since 2000, Montana Chapter Member 2002-2005, Parent Society Education-Student Subsection Committee 2002-2004, Montana Chapter Continuing Education Committee 2004, Montana State University Student Subsection Secretary 2004, Montana State University Student Subsection Member 2004- 2005, CO/WY Chapter Member 2005-present, Parent Society Fisheries Management Section Member 2006-present, CO/WY Chapter Membership Chair 2006-2012, CO/WY Chapter Trade Show/Vendor Committee 2006-2008, CO/WY Chapter Arraignment Committee Co-Chair 2010, CO/WY Chapter Trade Show Committee 2011, Western Division 2012 Annual Meeting Trade Show Committee 2012, Certified Fisheries Professional 2012, CO/WY Chapter Arraignment Committee CoChair 2014, CO/WY Chapter Mentor Program Committee Co-Chair 2014-2018, CO/WY Chapter Arraignment Committee Chair 2019.

Brief summary of my background - Grew up a Husker in North Platte, fished for trout and bass in the sparkling NE waters, hunted for pheasants, ducks, and geese in the Sandhills, played basketball, golf, and tennis not very well, raised flies, grew my beard long, maybe stayed out too late a time or two, wanted to be an architect, grew my hair long, started to lose my hair, graduated high school, attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, realized I didn't want to be an architect, landed my first fisheries job at 19 with the NEDEQ, had a Flathead Catfish knock me over while electrofishing, spent a summer in Green Bay, WI tracking Lake Sturgeon, worked for the NE Game and Parks, graduated with a B.S. degree, moved to Yellowstone National Park for fish tech job, dispatched many Lake Trout over three years, spent my nine lives on Yellowstone Lake, started grad school in Bozeman, fell in love with the Bitterroot Valley, studied fish entrainment, graduated with my M.S., moved to Laramie, started with the WY Game and Fish in 2005, and I have a wonderful wife, Chrissy and two great sons Tyler (13) and Carter (10).

I think the public and sometimes we as peers forget we are all more than just Biologists, Culturists, Scientists, Administrators, Students, Researchers, etc. We all have other roles in life (Father, Mother, Sibling, Daughter, Son, Friend, Volunteer, etc.) and issues in those roles can affect our professional lives. Let us be kind to each other, let us focus on celebrating the diversity of backgrounds in our Chapter, and enjoy sharing stories from our unique work experiences.



STUDENT ROUNDUP

Student Subunit Updates

Colorado State University

warnercnr.colostate.edu/student-organizations/american-fisheries-society

AFS CSU currently has 19 due paying members. Our subunit meetings have transitioned to the Zoom platform for the 20'-21' academic year. This past fall semester, we welcomed three guest speakers. We are anticipating six guest speakers for our spring semester. Typical Zoom meeting attendance is between 18-25 individuals. If regulations allow for it, we are hoping to execute our 35th annual Evan Lefort Memorial All-Ages College Lake Fishing Derby during the last weekend of April 2021. This past October, we were able to create protocols and execute an in-person undergraduate research opportunity. With the help of the Stream Fish Ecology Lab, we were able to run a micro-fishing catchability study on Creek Chub. Over the span of the five day experiment, we were able to provide a volunteering opportunity to 22 individual students, both members and non-members. If anyone is interested in supporting the subunit through buying a t-shirt, stickers or pins, please email afscsu@gr

President: Sasha Maxey

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Yoichiro Kar



Colorado Mesa University

The Colorado Mesa University subunit has been having regular outside meetings. A recent project completed involved cleaning up trash on the Grand Mesa. Future planned activities include socially-distanced ice fishing, and potentially inviting speakers to present virtually for subunit meetings.

President: Allyne Austin

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Eriek Hansen

University of Wyoming

uwyo.edu/uw/degree-programs/wildlife-fisheries-biology-management

The UW Student Subunit of AFS held all monthly meetings virtually during the fall 2020 semester. UW AFS chapter members were able to gain some field sampling experience by helping Laramie region Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) fish biologists sample game fish populations on Wheatland Reservoir #3. Good planning, extra precautions and a lot of space ensured the safety of both our members and WGFD employees. UW AFS was involved in the AFS Western Division student colloquium this fall and discussed how to maintain community during remote learning with other subunit officers. As the UW Student Subunit of AFS moves into the 2021 spring semester they plan to re-launch an updated chapter website. This new website will have both useful information and resources for chapter members and the public.

President: John Fennell

Chapter advisers: Dr. Annika Walters, Dr. William Fetzer

Western Colorado University

Western Colorado University has requested to join the CO/WY Chapter! The student subunit will be led by Reese Samuelson (President), Alexander Stogsdill (VP/Treasure) and Fred Hays (Secretary) and has 5 student members. Derek Houston will be the faculty advisor. The CO/WY Chapter will have to change our Bylaws to incorporate the new subunit. We are currently in that process. We want to take this opportunity to welcome the new subunit to the CO/WY fold!



BLM Fish Biologist, Tom Fresques, regales aspiring fish biologists with his fish tales at last year's annual meeting during the student social.

2021 CO/WY ANNUAL MEETING DETAILS

All meeting information is available on the Colorado/Wyoming AFS website:

<https://units.fisheries.org/cowyafs/>

Register for the 2021 annual meeting here:

Registration is a two step process this year.

- Step 1: Register as a professional (\$50) or Student (\$20) on our website
- Step 2: Register for the Zoom Meetings

All of these links are found on our website at:

<https://units.fisheries.org/cowyafs/>

Submit abstracts here:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1tV5urH0KsmHS6Y7-p-uRU2eRI9JVALQVievKnJHiKwk_!!PUG2raq7KiCZwBk!KT2dDHdPLgT-ria6oilT4A1rVnNnnlZgDiNJzKakl74-ev8xiW0oWq3TLz75UctGA\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1tV5urH0KsmHS6Y7-p-uRU2eRI9JVALQVievKnJHiKwk_!!PUG2raq7KiCZwBk!KT2dDHdPLgT-ria6oilT4A1rVnNnnlZgDiNJzKakl74-ev8xiW0oWq3TLz75UctGA$)

Win a prize for attending!

Instead of a raffle, the Chapter will randomly draw attendees and award a prize. Prizes range from fly rods to \$100 gift cards.

2021 CO/WY Meeting Agenda at a Glance

Monday, February 22, 2021

8:00 am - 5:00 pm: CE - "Plain, Simple, and Concise Writing" (LIMIT 30 ATTENDEES)

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm: Opening remarks, Plenary session
2:00 - 5:00 pm: Contributed papers

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm: Business Meeting and Chapter Awards
2:30 pm - 5:00 pm: Contributed papers

Thursday, February 25, 2021

8:45 am - 5:00pm: CE - "Bayesian Concepts for Aquatic Scientists"

MEETING DEADLINES

January 22: Abstracts Due

January 29: Award Nominations Due

February 5: Photos for Contest Due

2021 CO/WY AFS Photo Contest

Please consider submitting your high quality fish, people, and landscape photos for the 2021 Member Photo Contest. Visual media is a great way to tell your story. A special sub-committee will vote on the top three photographs and a prize awarded for the best artistic depiction of...I guess we will have to wait and see! The deadline for submissions is **January 29th**. Please email your high resolution digital photographs (limit three submissions per person) for the Photo Contest to John Woodling at woodling@colorado.edu



2020 Photo contest winner: Bobby Compton

Fish Tales!

The theme of this year's meeting is "Science and Storytelling". We put together a google doc that anyone can edit (link below). The sole purpose of this document is to regale us with your field stories or photos (and maybe get a little creative writing practice). It is meant to be fun, humorous, and entertaining. It is not meant to be a forum for, well, anything else! Please feel free to edit directly or cut and paste from a word document into the shared doc. The document won't be presented at the meeting so nobody is going to judge your sentence syntax, structure, or spelling! I hope after the meeting, we can all grab a cold one and laugh a little (at someone else's expense)!

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Xn91NRlcU9dwfqWDJQbjdX00uO7JuFtEm_3EN1-L0Wo/edit?usp=sharing

SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS



CHECK THIS OUT!

How to record a presentation on Zoom

<https://www.ou.edu/cas-online/website/documents/Using%20Zoom%20to%20Record%20Presentations.pdf>

How to upload and link to your presentation on Youtube

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/202291078-Sharing-a-Local-Recording>

LAST CALL! We are still looking for members to share the great work they have been doing over the past year by giving a live or pre-recorded presentation or poster at the 2021 Annual Meeting. All papers are welcome, including formal scientific papers and general informational papers. Authors will be notified of their acceptance for live presentations two weeks prior to the meeting; all pre-recorded presentations will be accepted and posted as long as they are received by the posting deadline. Abstracts can be submitted through the Colorado/Wyoming AFS website (cowyafs.org) then following the link provided.

The final deadline for abstract submissions is January 22, 2021.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Annika Walters at 307-766-5473 or annika.walters@uwyo.edu, Eric Fetherman at eric.fetherman@state.co.us, John Walrath at john.walrath@wyo.gov, or John Woodling at woodling@colorado.edu.

Oral presentation guidelines: Oral presentation guidelines: Live oral presentations are limited to a 10-minute time slot and we recommend limiting your presentation to 8 minutes to allow for questions. Pre-recorded oral presentations can be up to 20 minutes. Pre-recorded talks will be posted to the website or YouTube prior to the start of the meeting so that the membership can view them at their leisure. Live talks will be recorded as they are given and posted in the same location after the meeting for folks that were unable to attend the live sessions.

Poster presentation guidelines: Poster presentation guidelines: Please restrict your poster to a single PowerPoint slide. Posters will be posted to the website or YouTube prior to the meeting so that the membership can view them at their leisure. Please include a three-minute “elevator speech” video that summarizes the work on your poster.

Since there will not be a formal poster session this year, be sure to include your contact information on the poster so that folks can contact you with questions.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Exciting Continuing Education classes offered at the 2021 Virtual Meeting!

Organized by Dan Kowalski

SIGN UP FOR CLASSES HERE:

[HTTPS://DOCS.GOOGLE.COM/SPREADSHEETS/D/1JPPN6Q2MWTDAORXFO_MWA2FQ_ZPRUP468AAQZXKX-A/EDIT?USP=SHARING](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JPPN6Q2MWTDAORXFO_MWA2FQ_ZPRUP468AAQZXKX-A/edit?usp=sharing)

Continuing education classes at this year's virtual meeting will offer something to chapter members interested in improving their ability to effectively communicate technical information to a non-technical audience as well as furthering their understanding of the application of Bayesian statistical analyses to fisheries data. Two full-day courses are being offered: *Plain, Simple, and Concise Writing* and *Bayesian Concepts for Aquatic Scientists*.

Plain, Simple, and Concise Writing will be **Monday, February 22nd**, from **8:00 am to 4:45 pm**. The course focuses on how to communicate technical information to a non-technical audience, will be taught by Dr. Steve McMullin. Dr. McMullin is a former AFS President (2017-2018) and currently owns McMullin Training and Consulting, where his focus is on leadership development and the interactions between humans and natural resources. Throughout this course, Dr. McMullin will teach how to effectively communicate with non-technical audiences using the following strategies:

1. Use action verbs and concrete nouns in the active voice to convey information more concisely and effectively; generally reducing length of existing documents by 20-30%.
2. Make intelligent choices about the words used (and omitted) to make writing clearer and more easily understood.
3. Write sentences of varying length, effectively design paragraphs, and arrange those paragraphs appropriately to produce more interesting documents.
4. Design and use lists, tables, and figures more effectively to summarize information in ways that non-technical audiences can easily understand.

This class is limited to the first 30 people!

Bayesian Concepts for Aquatic Scientists commences on **Thursday, February 25th**, from **8:45 am to 5:00 pm**. This course will cover basic Bayesian statistical ideas with applications to aquatic science data and will focus on concepts and interpretation. The course will be taught by Dr. Mevin Hooten, Professor at Colorado State University and the Assistant Unit Leader in the USGS Colorado Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. The course will include traditional lecture material, computer demonstrations, and interactive discussion. Using examples involving fish and other aquatic organisms and environments, time will be devoted to addressing frequently asked questions, as well as questions from the audience. Due to time constraints, all computing will be performed as demonstrations; however, concepts and detailed computer code will be adapted.

Relevant textbooks:

Hobbs, N.T. and M.B. Hooten. (2015).
Bayesian Models: A Statistical Primer for
Ecologists. Princeton University Press.

Hooten, M.B. and T.J. Hefley. (2019).
Bringing Bayesian Models to Life.
Chapman and Hall/CRC

YOUR HELP WILL MAKE THE ANNUAL CO/WY MEETING A SUCCESS!



Judges Needed

Live presentation time is limited this year. We believe students who need to hone their presentation skills should take precedence over professionals. Therefore, we will only be judging student live talks, pre-recorded, and posters. We need about 20 judges so please contact Tyler Swarr at 303-291-7159 or tyler.swarr@state.co.us to volunteer

DONATE TODAY!

Want to help out?! Donate to the Chapter here:

<https://checkout.square.site/buy/AVP6LHVVTM5ECPAX5QHJVGHW>

Anything helps!

Awards Nominations

The pandemic has not stopped our great work. The Colorado/Wyoming Chapter has four awards for recognizing our fisheries professionals. The Awards Committee needs your help in identifying qualified candidates to receive awards at the 2021 Annual Meeting. This is an opportunity to recognize your peers for their outstanding work and contributions through the American Fisheries Society.

1. **Award of Excellence:** Recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions in the fishery-aquatic resource field.
2. **Max Award of Merit:** In honor of Max Rollefson (WGFD), this award recognizes a short-term professional accomplishment in management, administration, research, or culture.
3. **Outstanding Mentor Award:** This award recognizes a fisheries professional who has demonstrated substantial devotion in assisting or mentoring prospective and/or current fisheries students and professionals.
4. **Leaky Boot Award:** Recognizes the most outrageous behavior of any fisheries student or professional in the year prior to the Chapter's Annual Meeting.

The deadline to nominate will be January 22nd. For more information and to nominate your peers please contact Travis Neebling at (307) 233-6410 or travis.neebing@wyo.gov.

GIFT CARDS NEEDED FOR THE RAFFLE

Annual meetings, whether in person or virtual, are an opportunity for the Chapter to raise money to cover meeting costs and provide membership services like travel grants, student subunits, and governance. **To maximize our fundraising efforts, we are asking that attendees find donations for our cause that are easy to mail.** We plan to randomly award attendees prizes. The raffle committee is asking members to **donate gift cards** or other items that can easily and inexpensively be mailed to winners. **Please take a few minutes to consider and coordinate your gift with Stephen and Clay.**

Want to make a contribution?

Please contact:

Stephen Siddons

stephen.siddons@wyo.gov

(307) 760-7597

and

Clay Kampf

clayton.kampf@usda.gov

(970) 749-9259

2021 AFS NATIONAL MEETING TRAVEL GRANTS



One student and one professional member of the CO/WY Chapter will be selected for a travel grant of up to \$1,500 to attend the 151st Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society from November 6-10, 2021 in Baltimore, Maryland. Covered costs include transportation, food, lodging, and meeting registration. Chapter members will be selected on a competitive basis. To apply an applicant must:

1. Be a current CO/WY AFS Chapter member in good standing.
2. Submit a one to two page cover letter detailing: 1) why you want to attend the 150th Annual Meeting of AFS; 2) AFS involvement, including, but not limited to, committee service and presenting experience at AFS meetings; 3) fisheries background; and 4) the subject matter of your presentation for the meeting, how it meets the goals of the CO/WY Chapter, and why it will be appropriate to present at the meeting.

All applications should be sent to CO/WY AFS Chapter Past-President Jason Burckhardt at jason.burckhardt@wyo.gov by February 5, 2021. The recipient will be selected in February 2021 by the CO/WY AFS Chapter Executive Committee and announced at the CO/WY Chapter Annual meeting to be held February 23-24, 2021 online.



Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program

<https://hutton.fisheries.org/>

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program is a paid summer internship and mentoring program for high school students to stimulate interest in careers in fisheries science and management among groups underrepresented in the fisheries professions, including minorities & women. Hutton Class of 2021 student and mentor applications are now both open and are due by **February 15** for students and March 1 for mentors (check out the website for more information).

2020-2021 CO/WY Chapter Officers and Committee Member List

Chapter Officers	Name	Email
President	Jim White	j.white@state.co.us
Vice President	Christina Barrineau	Christina.barrineau@wyo.gov
Secretary/Treasurer	Ashley Ficke	aficke@geiconsultants.com
Past-President	Jason Burchkhardt	jason.burchkhardt@wyo.gov
UW Subunit President	John Fennel	jfennel1@uwyo.edu
CSU Subunit President	Sasha Maxey	sasha.maxey2@gmail.com
CMU Subunit President	Allyne Austin	
Standing Committees		
Arrangements	Eric Fetherman	eric.fetherman@state.co.us
	Yoichiro Kanno	yoichiro.kanno@colostate.edu
Chapter Archivist	Lori Martin (chair)	lori.martin@state.co.us
Continuing Education	Dan Kowalski (chair)	dan.kowalski@state.co.us
	Vacant	
Environmental Policy	Christina Barrineau (chair)	Christina.barrineau@wyo.gov
	Kevin Gelwicks	kevin.gelwicks@wyo.gov
	Laura Burckhardt	laura.burckhardt@wyo.gov
Membership	Ashley Ficke	ashleyduncanficke@gmail.com
	Wes Gordon (co-chair)	wes.gordon@wyo.gov
	Tom Fresques (co-chair)	t1fresqu@blm.gov
Newsletter	Kendall Bakich	kendall.bakich@state.co.us
	Ben Felt	benjamin.felt@state.co.us
Nominating Program	Jason Burchkhardt	jason.burchkhardt@wyo.gov
	Annika Walters	annika.walters@uwyo.edu
	John Woodling	woodling@colorado.edu
	John Walrath	john.walrath@wyo.gov
Special Committees		
Aquaculture	Toby Mourning	toby.mourning@state.co.us
	Greg Lehr	greg.lehr@wyo.gov
Audio-Visual	Josh Nehring	josh.nehring@state.co.us
	Jessica Dugan	jessica.dugan@wyo.gov
Awards	Travis Neebling	travis.neebing@wyo.gov
Diversity and Inclusion	Mark Smith (chair)	Mark.smith2@wyo.gov
	Liz Crone	elizabeth.krone@state.co.us
	Cheyenne Owens	cheyenne_owens@fws.gov
	Sarah Collins	sarahmcollins@gmail.com
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	Eric Gardunio	eric.gardunio@state.co.us
	Matt Kondratieff	matt.kondratieff@state.co.us
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	Anna Senecal	anna.senecal@wyo.gov
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Mentoring	Chance Kirkeeng (chair)	chance.kirkeeng@wyo.gov
Paper/Poster Judging	Tyler Swarr	tyler.swarr@state.co.us
Raffle	Stephen Siddons (co-chair)	stephen.siddons@wyo.gov
	Clay Kampf (co-chair)	clayton.kampf@usda.gov
	Eric Gardunio (CO gaming license)	eric.gardunio@state.co.us
Registration	Ashley Ficke	aficke@geiconsultants.com
Student Liaison	Eriek Hansen	erihansen@coloradomesa.edu
Website	Joe Skorupski	joe.skorupski@wyo.gov