

Arrangements – Mandy Erickson

Arrangements committee update: 2023 meeting went well, 2024 meeting was a lot of work due to the change in venue. Communication with venues is extremely important before picking a venue and ensuring that their billing policies align with requirements for agencies sending representatives critical. I am not interested in planning the 2025 meeting and will be resigning from the arrangements committee.

Awards- Jessie Koehle

For 2023 Awards, I guess the main report is that the committee was handed off to Keith and Kamden so i could scoot over to serve as Pres-Elect. We also updated the bylaws to reflect the current practices for handing out certificates. There has been recent talk of updating awards descriptions to be more clear about who we're looking for as nominees, especially for the Dennis Schupp award. That work will likely come soon with the current awards committee.

Here the summary of awards handed out at Feb 2023 meeting:

Dennis Schupp Award to Luther Aadland

Special Recognition for service to the chapter, for "11th hour team" shifting to virtual 2022 meeting:

Calub Shavlik

Andrew Hafs

Michelle Krecklau

Patrick Schmalz

Special Recognition for organizing presentations and posters sessions: Patrick Schmalz

25-year chapter membership awards to lots of people to "catch up" since it had been several years since these were handed out. Calub did a great job of compiling which folks were active members for how long, and I helped do a little more research/reached out to individuals that year to ask when they thought they had joined MNAFS; records were updated. Folks receiving their 25 year award in Feb 2023 were:

Luther Aadland

Mike McInemy

Brian Borkholder

Loren Miller

Greg Busacker

Neal Mundahl

Paul Glander

Ray Newman

Mark Hove

Brad Parsons

Peter Jacobson

Paul Radomski

Dale Logsdon

Keith Reeves

Ann Schneider

Melissa Tremi

Don Schreiner

Michael Vanderford

Peter Sorensen

Bruce Vondracek

William Thorn

In 2023 the Awards committee (Keith/Kamden) received two nominations for Dennis Schupp award but the overall ExCom didn't feel comfortable approving either one, not because the folks were anything short of amazing, but because the nominations might be better suited for a DNR-wide type award. No Dennis Schupp award will be given in 2024 Feb. Amanda Craft was nominated to receive the special recognition award in service to the chapter for her work on the fish ID continuing education class work.

Science Fair- Mat Ward

Minnesota Regional and State Science Fair season is under way. The locations and dates are posted below. We are fortunate to have great MNAFS coordinators overseeing each event (listed below), and approximately four judges to assist in judging middle school and high school aquatic related science projects. I listed all the volunteers I believe are helping but apologize if I have missed anyone. MNAFS provides a budget of \$60/regional science fair and \$120/state science fair for prizes. Typical prizes for first/second place in middle school and first/second place in high school include the Fish of Minnesota Field Guide, Peterson Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of North America, and Rod and Reel combos, among other things. Science fair participants all receive the Fishes of Minnesota Poster.

Northeastern Regional: Duluth, Saturday, February 10, 2024: Nate Beckman coordinator and judge, volunteer judges Keith Reeves, Bethany Bethke, Jamie Juenemann

Northwestern Regional: Bemidji, Friday, February 23, 2024: Andy Hafs coordinator and judge (Bemidji State University) and a team of BSU students as judges

Southwest Regional: Mankato, Friday, February 23, 2024: Susan Colvin coordinator and judge (Minnesota State Mankato), and a team of Mankato students as judges, and Steve Shroyer

Southeastern Regional: Rochester, Friday, March 1, 2024: Travis Viker coordinator, volunteer judges Scott Sindelar, Tom Devine, and Charmayne Anderson

Twin Cities Regional: St. Paul, Friday, March 1, 2024: Matt Ward coordinator and judge, volunteer judges Genevieve Furtner, Kathrine Miller, April Londo

State Science Fair: St. Paul, Friday, March 22, 2024: Matt Ward coordinator and judge, volunteer judges Jessie Koehle, Rebecca Bullers, April Londo, Brian Nerbonne

Resolutions – Brian Nerbonne

I have nothing report for the resolutions committee. I did not solicit submissions of resolutions, so I guess it is no surprise that none came forward. Something to remind myself to do next year.

Roundtable Committee- Mark Hove

Unfortunately, my annual report as MN AFS representative to the MN DNR Roundtable is short. I did not receive an invitation to the Roundtable last year, and I did not receive an invitation to the Roundtable this year. I wrote to a Roundtable organizer, and Brad Parsons, to inform them that MN AFS did receive an invitation to the Roundtable.

Historian- Brian Borkholder

On the Historian front, I have been woefully negligent in keeping up with things since retirement. I am a dues-paying member, but somehow have fallen off the radar for receiving email correspondence from the Chapter. So without the emails, I have simply forgotten to stay on top of things. I know I have nothing uploaded and archived from 2022 or 2023; no business meeting minutes, no annual meeting programs, no Excom meeting minutes, no committee reports, no Newsletters, no annual meeting images, no nothing. So, if Chapter leadership can get me those items for 2022 & 2023, I'll get them uploaded and archived on the Chapter's google Drive account. While someone is at it, send me whatever you have for 2024, and that will also be uploaded.

Fundraising – Nick Peterson

Raffle fundraising went well this year. Nick sent out 200 (or so) letters to businesses in December, plus emails, and a steady string of donations were sent directly to BSU. BSU students also collected from local businesses. The GoFundMe campaign was a bust this year – too much going on and didn't push it via social media like we did last year – only \$60 total donated online. Not likely to continue with that unless someone wants to volunteer.

Scholarship Committee 2023-24 Summary Report

Committee Members: Linda Erickson-Eastwood, Leslie George, Jay Hatch (Co-chair), John Hiebert, Mark Hove (Co-chair), Peter Sorensen, Bruce Vondracek

We continued our new tactics to increase the number of applicants again this year. Call for applications was sent out 10 October 2023, with a due date of 10 November 2023. In addition to the usual faculty, the call was sent directly to all the students for whom MNAFS has emails and to all other individuals on the MNAFS mailing list. On 2 November 2023, we sent out a reminder to all previous recipients, as we had received no applications as of the 2 November date.

By the 10 November deadline, we received 6 applications, all of which were meritorious, although one was disqualified because the applicant was a Master's student. Each of the remaining 5 applicants was evaluated independently by each of six committee members. Rankings of the top two applicants were clear. A tie-breaker evaluated by Eric Altena (Chapter President) was required to establish the third position. The awards were as follows:

1. Megan Boche, senior at Bemidji State University: NUASF EE Mecklenburg Environmental Scholarship
2. Cristian Hernandez, junior at University of Minnesota–Twin Cities: MNAFS Scholarship
3. Ian Wildeman, senior at Winona State University: MNAFS Scholarship

At their meeting on 5 December 2023, ExCom approved the Scholarship Committee's recommendation to make to the above awards.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Jay T. Hatch and Mark Hove, Co-chairs

Membership – Calub Shavlik

Minnesota Chapter membership ended at 206 for 2023. This number is consistent with previous years. Of the 206, 87 were students. Of the 87 students, 29 of them got a free membership because they attended our annual meeting last year. For folks that are parent society members, our membership level is 134. Of the 134 members, 57 are student. These 57 students came from at least 38 different universities because our student membership is free. However, 21 students came from universities closely related to Minnesota, such as Bemidji State, North Dakota, Minnesota, Minnesota-Duluth, Wisconsin-Lacrosse, and Winona State. Finally, we have 42 Associate members. If you are an associate member, please think about joining American Fisheries Society and help support the Minnesota Chapter. For any member, please think about serving on a committee, running for office or help with the planning of our next meeting. Also, don't forget to renew your membership for 2024.

Esocid Committee: Kamden Glade

The summer 2023 NCD Esocid Tech committee meeting was held in conjunction with the Centrarchid and Walleye Tech committees in June at the Kemp Biological Station in Woodruff, Wisconsin. The winter business meeting was held at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference in Sioux Falls, SD. State reports will be posted on the ETC page of the NCD website soon for anyone that's interested. We recently upped the value of our travel award to \$500 and had 5 applicants for the Midwest conference. Two students (UWSP and SDSU) were given awards. Going forward, the plan will be to give two \$500 awards each year, one each for both the AFS Annual Meeting and the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. These awards are primarily funded through donations from muskie fishing groups (like Muskies, Inc. chapters), feel free

to pass along my contact info if your local group is looking for a place to donate. The summer 2024 NCD meeting will be held at the Kibbe Life Science Station in Warsaw, Illinois on July 23-25.

Salmonid Committee- Doug Dieterman/Nick Peterson

First time in a long time for this group meeting. Doug was able to attend the meeting in Sioux Falls, SD. Discussion around possibly hosting a salmonid-focused symposium at the next Midwest F&W Conference, held in St. Louis in 2025. If we host 2025 symposium, committee will have a couple reps develop associated travel or student awards. Most other chatter at the STC meeting in Sioux Falls was simply reports from other state's reps. Desire to explore hosting a salmonid symposium at next year's Midwest is the biggie.

NCD Ictalurid Committee representative – Tony Sindt

- The NCD Ictalurid Committee held their annual meeting at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference on January 30th. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend and minutes from that meeting have not been disseminated. If you have any questions for or about the NCD Ictalurid Committee please feel free to contact me (anthony.sindt@state.mn.us, 320-753-0333).
- Also, be aware that the NCD Ictalurid Committee awards an annual research grant of \$800 for a research project that aligns with the mission of the committee. Proposals for the annual grant are generally due around January.

Walleye Tech- Dale Logsdon

Dale Logsdon and Rick Bruesewitz represented the state at the summer meeting of the NCD Walleye Technical Committee meeting in Wisconsin (Eric is a bass guy so doesn't count). They were not able to attend the winter business meeting in Sioux Falls but Dale submitted a written update to the group on Walleye activities in Minnesota. The update and minutes of both meetings are available at the NCD Walleye Tech. Committee website <https://ncd.fisheries.org/walleye/>