

Summary of 1963 Meeting (compiled by Joe G. Dillard)

Since there were no officers at this first meeting of what would later become the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, no official minutes were taken. This summary of that meeting is based on notes and personal knowledge from having attended.

The obvious highlight of 1963 was organizing and conducting this very first meeting of aquatic workers in Missouri. The stated purpose of the meeting was to have fishery workers become acquainted with one another, to discuss mutual problems and to learn about the fishery work being done in Missouri.

According to legend, the basic idea for this conference arose from a discussion of how to resolve some perceived differences of philosophy and opinion between the fisheries biologists and the hatchery workers in the state. John L. Funk, Superintendent of Fisheries Research and Training for the Fisheries Division and P.G. Barnickol, Superintendent of Fisheries for the Missouri Conservation Commission (now called the Missouri Department of Conservation) conferred and agreed that general lack of communication and lack of recognition of common goals were chief causes of the differences. Thus, one way to attack the problem would be to have an annual Missouri Fisheries Conference.

This Missouri Fisheries Conference, the precursor of the Chapter, was co-sponsored by the Fisheries Section of the "Missouri Conservation Commission" (the official name of the Missouri Department at that time) and the Cooperative Fishery Unit of the University of Missouri. (Pre-meeting publicity indicated that the conference was supported by the Missouri membership of the American Fisheries Society.) One of the meeting highlights was the Welcome Address given by P.G. Barnickol, who was Vice-President of the North Central Division of the AFS at that time. A follow-up questionnaire after the meeting helped to evaluate this first meeting and to plan for successive ones.

Registered attendance totaled 88 people.

The main decision emanating from this meeting was to make it an annual affair.