

Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

1990 Annual Report

October 31, 1990

Under the leadership of President Steve Weithman, the Missouri Chapter, now 170 members strong, has undergone a year of unprecedented growth and transition. Several of Steve's initiatives have paved the way for improved organization and more effective operation in the future.

The highlight of the year was our 28th Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the third Missouri Forest, Fish and Wildlife Conference in January 1990 at Lodge of the Four Seasons in Lake Ozark. We were fortunate to be addressed by North Central Division President Lee Redmond and AFS President Joe Dillard, who brought us up to date on Society activities at all levels. The 100 members present then discussed several by-laws and procedural issues. One result was an endorsement by the membership to return Missouri Chapter officer's terms to coincide with the time period between annual chapter meetings in January. This change was put to a vote and passed. The issue of "associate memberships" was again discussed at length, and Membership Committee Chairman Ron Dent did considerable background work to see how we might best communicate and interact with resource managers who were not professional fishery scientists. An intense recruiting drive is currently underway. Our goal is to have 200 members by 1992. Resolutions Committee Chairperson Norm Stucky introduced six resolutions which passed unanimously, among them an endorsement of a wetlands approach to wastewater treatment by the City of Columbia, a request urging Congress to appropriate full funding of the Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Management Program, a proposal to develop regulations controlling the importation, possession, and release of non-native species, a request for the Missouri Legislature to support DNR's Water Pollution Control Program, a conclusion of significant resource values related to streams, and support of a variety of programs related to stream protection. Also during the year, our Chapter supported legislation that would help keep ATVs out of streams; and commented on a variety of other environmental issues ranging from protection of wetlands to management of old growth forests and farmland, to mining proposals. Another highlight of the meeting was continued discussion of draft goals and objectives of a new 30-member standing committee on Rivers and Streams, chaired by Bill Turner. The primary goals of this committee are to foster public awareness of streams issues and to advocate wise use of stream resources, many of which have become seriously degraded in Missouri and the midwest in general.

Any successful program of environmental advocacy involves recognition of people who have contributed to our causes in exemplary fashion. At the banquet following our business meeting, we presented one Citizen's Award and two Letters of Recognition to Missourians who made significant contributions to stream resource conservation in 1989.

Fund-raising projects started under the leadership of Past-President Steve Eder continued to earn money for the Missouri Chapter in 1989. At our annual meeting, Steve took numerous orders for Missouri Chapter caps and T-shirts

which help publicize our chapter. We continued to sell stationery showcasing art work by Missouri artist Al Agnew. We also conducted an "incentive" raffle for members who had paid their 1989 dues before the business meeting. In other efforts, we also raised about \$800 through a raffle of wildlife art prints that were graciously donated by a few nationally recognized wildlife artists.

This year, we were pleased and privileged to have two Missouri Chapter members -- Lee Redmond and Joe Dillard -- serving the Society at high levels of leadership. We are also proud of our many members who are serving on several North Central Division committees. Next year promises to be even more challenging than the last, but a good slate of officer candidates and improved organization and funding makes us optimistic that we will meet upcoming challenges with effectiveness and professionalism.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Weithman

A. Stephen Weithman
President