

**MINUTES OF THE
MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
46TH ANNUAL MEETING**

February 4, 2010

Tan-Tar-A Lodge

Osage Beach, Missouri

Call to Order and Quorum: Secretary John Calfee

Welcome: President Kenda Flores

Recognition: Kenda Flores

Members in Attendance: 88 individuals signed the sign-up log

Past Presidents:

International AFS – Lee Redmond, Joe Dillard

North Central Division – Lee Redmond, Joe Dillard

Missouri Chapter – Mike Kruse, Brian Canaday, Gary Novinger, Lee Redmond, Joe Dillard, Chris Vitello, Harold Kerns, Mike Roell, Rich Wehnes, Bill Turner, Vince Travnichek

Committee Chairs: Mike Kruse - *Nominating Committee*; Mike Kruse - *Awards Committee*; Mary Scott - *Anglers with Disabilities Committee*; Joe Dillard - *History Committee*; Darren Thornhill - *Finance Committee*; John Fantz - *IT Committee*; Mark Zurbrick - *Legislative and Environmental Concerns Committee*; Mike Siepker - *Membership Committee*; Mike Smith - *MNRC Steering Committee*; Jennifer Gironde - *Student Support Committee*; Matt Matheney - *Newsletter Committee*; Trish Yasger - *Publicity Committee*; and Chris Riggert - *Rivers and Streams Committee*.

North Central Division: Greg Pitchford updated on North Central Division (NCD) board meeting. Gus Rassum reported a dues increase maybe coming, biggest expense is publications. Save money with electronic communication, Live Meetings and networking. NCD business can be obtained at the NCD website at www.ncd-afs.org.

Awards: Kenda Flores

Letters of Recognition: Kenda presented a letter of recognition awarded to Phil Pitts for his many years of service as a pesticide applicator trainer of aquatic resource professionals in Missouri.

Kenda presented a letter of recognition awarded to Missouri Natural Resources Steering Committee for their exceptional teamwork enthusiasm and planning that resulted in an outstanding conference. The members of the team were: *Steering Committee Chair* - Michael S. Smith; *Treasurer* - Jason Persinger; *Registration* - Megan Halford; *Arrangements* - Peggy Barry; *Program Committee* - Vince Travnichek; *Exhibits and Sponsors* - Wes Swee; *Social Committee* - Scott Voney; *Workshop Committee* - Joanne Grady, Doug Novinger, Andrew Branson; *Web Liaison* - Paul Spurgeon; *Student Job Fair* - Paul Horner, Chris Williamson; *Fitness Challenge* - Jane Cotton; and *Equipment Committee and Visual Aids* - Denise Otto. Mike Smith accepted the award in behalf of the committee and was very appreciative for the award. Mike thanked the committee predecessors who made for a smooth transition and he especially wanted to recognize and thank the committee members for all of their hard work and coordination efforts.

Dave Murphy, presented a brief message thanking MoAFS for the 2008 Citizen Award he received at last year's meeting, that he was unable to attend. Dave thanked MOAFS for the award and conveyed; "this was one of his highest honors".

Kenda presented the A. Stephen Weithman, Jr. Leadership Award to Trish Yasger. Trish is employed by the Missouri Department of Conservation as a Fisheries Biologist. Trish was recognized for all of her hard work with reservoirs specifically with paddlefish issues. Trish coordinates the State Fair activities for MDC's Fisheries Division and is very active in the MOAFS where she serves on the publicity committee. Trish was very surprised and thanked everyone for the honor.

2009 Business Meeting Minutes: Secretary John Calfee submitted the minutes from the 45th annual business meeting of the MOAFS. Matt Matheney made a motion to accept the minutes; Wes Swee seconded the motion; the minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Scott presented a written treasurer's report; a detailed report is posted on the MOAFS website. After Mary's presentation, Mark Zubrick made a motion to accept and Dave Mayers seconded the motion. The report was accepted.

Words from our President: Kenda thanked the committee members and chairs for their hard work. She acknowledged the progress that had been made on the Student Support Trust Fund and thanked everyone for purchasing raffle tickets.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee: Mike Kruse thanked everyone for that agreed to run for MOAFS office this year. Treasurer - Jason Persinger and Andrew Branson were nominated for treasurer. President - Mark Van Patton and Travis Moore were nominated for President. Mike stated that a total of 80 votes were cast this year, higher than the 67 votes the previous year. Mike announced that Travis Moore was the new President-elect and Jason Persinger was the new treasurer.

Awards Committee: Mike Kruse thanked the members for serving on the Awards Committee in 2009.

Anglers with Disabilities Committee: Mary Scott reported that the committee conducted a nice event at Rolla this past year. Mary thanked MOAFS for providing fish, hats and T-shirts. The event is scheduled again for Rolla for the third weekend in September 2010. Mary plans to request funds in the committee's budget to give participants a commemorative T-shirts and caps in 2010, since these items were a big hit in this year's event.

History Committee: Chapter historian Joe Dillard reported that within five years our chapter will be 50 years old, he recommends appointing a committee in the next two or three years to organize a 50 year MOAFS celebration. He stated that he must have the chapter records in the University of Missouri Historical Library and out of his basement within the next five years.

Continuing Education Committee: The chair is vacant. No report was given.

Finance Committee: President-elect Darren Thornhill discussed the proposed budget and reviewed the line items in the budget. Darren discussed a possible fundraising at the upcoming catfish symposium and will be contacting individuals for "volunteers". Darren indicated that the MOAFS is very close to meeting of its goal of \$100,000 saved for student support. No further discussion was made on budget. Mary Scott made a motion to accept the proposed budget; Matt Matheney seconded the motion; the proposed budget was accepted.

Information Technology Committee: John Fantz reminded members to make sure that MOAFS has everyone's current email address in order to receive information updates. Please let John or Matt know if any members have problems with the MOAFS website.

Legislative and Environmental Concerns Committee: Mark Zurbrick is the new Legislative and Environmental Concerns chair. Mark indicated there are no new concerns as of the new legislative session. Mark stated that Dave Murphy (Executive Director Conservation Federation) is doing a great job watching legislative issues as they arise. There is a complete list of pending legislation posted on the MOAFS website.

Membership Committee: Mike Siepker reported he is seeking volunteers for the membership committee. Mike reported that the committee has been working on updating the membership form available online and also began the process of updating the MOAFS membership roster. Mike also reported the committee is working on an AFS membership survey. This survey is modeled after the survey conducted by Lauber et al. (*Fisheries* 34(1):9-19) and should help MOAFS better understand our members' professional needs. The committee hopes to have the survey completed and distributed sometime in 2010.

MNRC Steering Committee: Mike Smith thanked all of the committee members for all of their hard work contributing to a "very successful conference". Mike reported we had 772 paid registrations up from 675 the previous year and a significant increase in student registration 166. 2010 MNRC committee chairs: *Treasurer* - Jason Persinger; *Registration* - Megan Halford; *Arrangements* - Peggy Barry, Leanna Zweig; *Program* -

Vince Travnichek; *Workshop* - Joanne Grady, Doug Novinger, Andrew Branson; *Publicity* - Julie Caffey; *Web Liaison* - Paul Spurgeon; *Exhibits and Sponsors* - Wes Swee; *Social* - Scott Voney; *Equipment and Visual Aids* - Denise Otto; *Student Job Fair* - Paul Horner, Chris Williamson; *5K Run* - Jane Cotton. This was this first year with fully electronic planning of events. Next year's MNRC will be hosted by the Wildlife Society.

Student Support Committee: Jennifer Girondo announced that MOAFS now has 3 student subunits: Missouri State University; University of Central Missouri and University of Missouri. She thanked Mary Collier (Litvan) for serving as the liaison for the Missouri State subunit and Bob DiStefano for serving as the liaison for the MU subunit (Fisheries and Aquatic Science Society; FASS). Jennifer again stated that travel for students is MOAFS's major focuses. Corey Meyer (MU FASS subunit President) gave a nice overview of FASS activities. Corey stated that students would appreciate more hands-on lab and field work. The student colloquium will be moved from spring to fall and FASS is organizing a kids fishing clinic and stream team clean-up

Newsletter Committee: Matt Matheney announced that he will be stepping down as newsletter editor and is seeking volunteers Matt indicated he would be happy to mentor the next individual or committee members. Please send any news for the newsletter or the newsroom to Matt or John Fantz. The newsletter is generally published three times each year – April, August, and December.

Publicity Committee: Trish Yasger reported that MOAFS made \$224 at raffle.

Rivers and Streams Committee: Chris Riggert reported the committee met August 11 2009 at Bennett Springs and had several excellent speakers, the speakers and topics are posted on the MOAFS website. The Rivers and Streams Committee will hold a brief meeting immediately after the 2009 MoAFS Business Meeting in the same room (Room 62-64).

Old Business:

Vince Travnichek recognized the efforts of FASS for holding the student colloquium. Vince and his wife cooked for the students attending the colloquium.

Mike Kruse relayed a request from Suzanne Femmer that our members please pay their annual dues in a timely fashion.

Joe Dillard reminded the members about the Stegner Scholarship (\$1000). The money for the scholarship comes from the Missouri Conservation Federation. Bob DiStefano and Joe review the applications on behalf of MOAFS and recommend the winner to the Conservation Federation. The applications are due around November or December. Mike Kruse suggested that our subunit liaisons encourage the students in the subunits to apply.

New Business:

Greg Pitchford urged everyone to attend the International Catfish Symposium this year to be held in St. Louis, June 19-22. He invited everyone to visit the web site for further information.

Ann Allard thanked MOAFS for contributing for the International Crayfish Symposium to be held in July in Columbia. Jacob Westhoff will be organizing for student support. Jen Gironde encouraged everyone to attend the international meeting.

Steve McMurray thanked MOAFS for support for the upcoming Mussel Workshop to be held October 19 – 21, 2010 in Kirkwood, Missouri. The workshop will focus on regional fauna identification and sampling techniques. A panel of regional fauna experts representing Texas, Gulf Coast, upper Ohio Basin, Southeast U.S., Mobile Basin, Atlantic Slope, Cumberlandian, Interior Basin, Western U.S., and the Ozark regions has been assembled. The experts will give presentations on mussels unique to their area, common species shared with other regions that “just look different here”, and the ever popular “problem children”. They will also give tips and pointers on unique collecting methods used in the region. Additional experts will give presentations on general freshwater mussel identification and sampling techniques. In addition to presentations, there will be ample time to view representative specimens from the regions, and time to spend discussing characters with the experts.

The workshop will be held at Missouri Department of Conservation’s Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center. Following the workshop, field trips to the nearby Meramec River, Mississippi River and the U.S. Geological Survey’s Columbia Environmental Research Center are planned. Steve urged everyone to be sure to register early, as we will have to limit the workshop to 200 attendees. For more information please contact Steve McMurray (Stephen.McMurray@mdc.mo.gov; 573.882.9909) or Heidi Dunn (hdunn@ecologicalspecialists.com; 636.281.1982).

Brian Canaday encouraged everyone to attend the awards banquet to support their peers.

Kenda express her gratitude to serve as President and thanked Mike Kruse for mentoring her.

Passing the Presidency: Kenda turned over the gavel to Darren Thornhill. Kenda thanked everyone that donated items to the MOAFS booth.

Darren presented letters of appreciation to Kenda Flores for serving as MOAFS President and to Mary Scott for serving as MOAFS Treasurer.

Denise Otto gave a brief message thanking everyone for helping with the GO Fish program and introduced Bob Temper. Bob Temper discussed what the GO Fish

program meant to him and the kids that participate. Bob thanked Denise for all of her hard work making the GO Fish program a success.

Darren expressed the need to get more fisheries professionals involved with AFS; both new professionals and individuals who have dropped from the ranks over time. Darren noted that there are a lot of professional meetings being held in Missouri in which MOAFS is involved with and this is a great opportunity for professional development and he would like to see many volunteers to help with upcoming events.

Mike Smith suggested that MOAFS write up a resolution to extend its appreciation to the Missouri Department of Conservation for supporting the 2010 Missouri Natural Resources Conference. Matt Matheny motioned to accept; Joe Dillard seconded; the motion passed. Mike stated he would write up the resolution.

No further items were brought before the meeting.

Brian Canaday motioned to adjourn; Jason Persinger seconded; the meeting was adjourned.