

**MINUTES OF THE
MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
47TH ANNUAL MEETING**

February 25, 2011

Columbia Environmental Research Center (CERC)

(Meeting was scheduled to be held February 3rd, at Tan-Tar-A Lodge Osage Beach, Missouri, postponed due to weather)

Call to Order and Quorum: The meeting was called to order by Secretary John Calfee, at 10:06 am.

Welcome: President Darren Thornhill; Darren thanked everyone of attending the meeting considering the weather again and the meeting held on a Friday.

Darren expressed that is was a very tremendous year for the MOAFS and was very excited out the past years accomplishments.

Members in Attendance: 35 individuals signed the sign-up log.

Recognition: Darren Thornhill

Past Presidents:

International AFS – None in attendance

North Central Division – None attendance

Missouri Chapter – Duane Chapman, Robert DiStefano, Kenda Flores, Mike Roell

Awards: Darren Thornhill

Letters of Recognition:

Darren read a letter of recognition that was awarded to Robert and Barbra Kipfer. Dr. Robert and Barbara Kipfer have been active conservationists in the Springfield area for many years and own 300 acres of property that borders Bull Creek in Christian County. In addition to the many watershed improvement practices implemented on their property, the Kipfer's were instrumental in the formation of the Bull Creek Association in Christian and Taney counties in

southwest Missouri during the spring and summer of 2010. They helped organize landowners and stakeholders in the Bull Creek Watershed with the goals of conserving the water quality, habitat, and biodiversity of the watershed.

Citizen's Award:

Darren recognized Mr. Joe Brown Science Instructor Southern Boone Middle School for all of the work he has accomplished introducing students to our aquatic resources. Mr. Brown has taught natural resource related classes specific to Missouri's aquatic resources, for the past 5 years including a Fishing Unit that included the basics of: needed equipment, knot tying, mechanics of casting, angling, fish identification, population management, regulations, dissection (yes, the kids actually learn to clean the fish), outdoor ethics, invasive species, habitat, pond ecology and water quality monitoring. In concert with the fishing unit, Mr. Brown's classes have worked with information from the STREAM TEAM program to conduct clean ups and monitor water quality in the headwater tributary within the park.

Kenda Flores announced that the Award of Excellence and the Leadership Award have a new design this year thanks to the efforts of Mark Van Patten. Kenda stated Mark was kind enough to update and redesign these awards making them looking very nice. Kenda thanked Mark for his efforts.

John L. Funk Award of Excellence:

Darren presented the John L. Funk Award of Excellence to John Fantz for all of his hard work throughout his career promoting and teaching stream stewardship both to landowners and professionals.

John has been a member of AFS for 20 years and is a Lifetime Member of MOAFS. John has been very active in MOAFS by serving on many committees, participating in fundraising events, working with the newsletter and creating and updating the MOAFS website and list serve.

Darren thanked to John, for his many years of hard work and dedication to the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

John was very appreciative of the award.

A. Stephen Weithman, Jr. Leadership Award:

Darren presented the A. Stephen Weithman, Jr. Leadership Award to Jen Girondo for all of her hard work and dedication with the student subunits. Jen is serving as chair for the Student Support Committee and has been working

tirelessly with the student subunits getting them involved and online. Jen was instrumental in assisting the Missouri State University and University of Central Missouri student aquatic organizations becoming official subunits.

When the Student Support Trust Fund neared its goal of \$100,000, Jen led the charge to develop gifting strategies for future students. She developed a list of possible scholarships, with descriptions, application procedures, and selection criteria.

Darren thanked Jen for all of her hard work and commitment to mentoring the students and future fisheries professionals.

Jen thanked everyone for all of the help with this and for the award.

MOAFS Student Scholarship Award:

Jen Girondo announced that Ethan Klecamp of Truman State University was the first recipient to the MOAFS Scholarship Award.

2010 Business Meeting Minutes: Secretary John Calfee submitted the minutes from the 46th annual business meeting of the MOAFS for discussion. Matt Matheney made a motion to accept the minutes; Wes Swee seconded the motion; the minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Jason Persinger presented a nice overview of the 2010 treasures report along with a 2011 proposed budget and a overview of the student support trust fund account. A detailed report will be posted on the MOAFS website. After Jason's presentation, John Calfee made a motion to accept and Nick Girondo seconded the motion. The report was accepted.

Words from our President: Darren began by expressing "this has been a great year for our Chapter." We have advanced fisheries and aquatic research through our support of and participation in four national/international symposia held in this state in the past year. We shared the excitement of recreational fishing with anglers of all ages and abilities. Finally, we reached a milestone in our commitment to student achievement by exceeding the \$100,000 goal for the Student Support Trust Fund and presenting our first scholarship today. These accomplishments, and I'm sure there are many more that have been unmentioned, came from the dedication, hard work, and motivation of members—past and present—of this Chapter.

This has been an exciting year for me, professionally. I can honestly say that serving the Chapter in this position and role has been a goal for me since I first joined as a student several years ago. I am a testament to the investment this Chapter has made

to ensuring today's students become tomorrow's professionals and leaders. Several of you here made an investment in me through mentoring and training, and it is my hope that I have been able to pay the Chapter back through my service. But, I'm not ready to quit. As you will see, there is still a lot happening in the Chapter that is going to require more dedication, hard work, and motivation. 2010 was a great year for our Chapter. Let's make 2011 even greater.

Darren thanked the committee members and chairs for their hard work over the past year. Darren thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked everyone for purchasing raffle tickets and encouraged everyone to buy at least one ticket.

Committee Reports:

Committee Chairs: *Nominating Committee* - Kenda Flores; *Awards Committee* - Kenda Flores; *Anglers with Disabilities Committee* - Mary Scott; *History Committee* - Joe Dillard; *Continuing Education Committee* - Vacant; *Finance Committee* - Travis Moore; *IT Committee* - John Fantz; *Legislative and Environmental Concerns Committee* - Mark Zurbrick; *Membership Committee* - Mike Siepker; *MNRC Steering Committee* - Mike Smith; *Newsletter Committee* - Matt Matheny; *Publicity Committee* - Trish Yasger; *Rivers and Streams Committee* - Chris Riggert; and *Student Support Committee* - Jennifer Girondo.

Nominating Committee: Kenda Flores thanked everyone that agreed to run for MOAFS office this year. Secretary – Andrew Branson, Melissa Schepeler and Dave Woods were nominated. President – Nick Girondo and Wes Swee were nominated. Kenda announced that Wes Swee was voted in as the new President - elect and Melissa Schepeler was voted in as the new Secretary.

Awards Committee: Kenda Flores urged MOAFS members to submit more nominations this upcoming year, there are many disserving individuals of these awards. Kenda thanked the members for serving on the Awards Committee and the members for submitting nominations in 2010.

Anglers with Disabilities Committee: Mary Scott was not present at the meeting however overviews of this year's activities are posted on the web.

History Committee: Chapter historian Joe Dillard was not able to attend the meeting. Darren reported that within three years our chapter will be reaching a mile stone of 50 years since its inception. Joe recommends that we start planning and the need to appoint a committee to organize a 50 year MOAFS celebration.

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

Finance Committee: President-elect Travis Moore discussed the proposed budget and reviewed the line items in the budget. Travis presented an overview of the Finance Report. Travis stated we met our goal of the \$100,000 for the Student Support Trust Fund. We had a very low turnout at the MNRC this year due to the snowstorm and so far the money we took in for the raffles does not cover the cost of the items. Travis encouraged everyone to sell (or buy) one raffle card, they can be purchased online and drawing to be held at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, March 23rd. Winners will be notified shortly thereafter.

Information Technology Committee: John Fantz announced and thanked Joe McMullen and Andrew Branson for agreeing to take on the responsibilities of the MOAFS website and newsletter.

Legislative and Environmental Concerns Committee: Mark Zurbrick indicated that "things are starting to get going" with a new legislative session and many new committee chairs, due to a turnover in the legislature. Mark stated since 1994 there has been 18 bills introduced concerning hand fishing. This year another bill has been introduced in the Senate concerning this topic. Mark, with the help of Greg Pitchford have put together a White Paper, overviewing what is known and the potential impacts this would have on Missouri's catfishery.

Mark stated that there are several bills being introduced that may impact Missouri's Natural Resources. Mark again emphasized 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 and these will be updated throughout the year.

Membership Committee: Mike Sieper reported that last year MOAFS had 184 paid members, this year only 94 primarily due to the weather at the MNRC, Mike urged everyone to pay their 2011 dues. Mike indicated he needed updates of memberships from the student subunits.

Student Support Committee: Jen Girondo restated again that 2011 was an exciting time for the student support committee. MOAFS reached its goal of \$100,000 and awarded the first student support scholarship. Jason Persinger gave an overview of Student Support Trust Fund (SSTF) and investing strategies. Jen announced that Ryan Dunnaway of UCM was this year's recipient of the Ed Stegner Scholarship.

Since MOAFS has met their goal for the SSTF Jen proposed for a vote:

- 1) Student scholarship be given annually (\$500)
- 2) Student subunits \$25 membership
- 3) 2 presentation awards annually

- 4) Specific funding requests:
- subunits can request
 - granting requests for meetings
 - all unspent money will be rolled over
 - submit a budget
 - a cap on individual request
 - MOAFS may require "helpouts" at meetings (help with a booth, audiovisual, etc.)

Mark Van Patton motioned to approve; Mike Siepker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

John Fantz asked, "how much can we (MOAFS) bring in before we lose our tax exempt status?" Jason Persinger answered no problem if we are under \$25,000 annually.

Jen stated that communication with the student subunits is still a challenge: other avenues to reach the students; Facebook; MOAFS website. Jen is reaching out to other universities: SEMO; Rolla. Jen noted that MSU is having trouble keeping active, there does not seem to be a lot of interest from students and Professors. UMC FASS subunit still fairly active Bob DiStefano has taken a leadership role helping to generate student interest.

Stephanie Payne UCM subunit gave an overview of the unit's activities. Stephanie thanked everyone for their support on getting the subunit active again.

Darren thanked Jen and everyone for all of their hard work working with the students.

MNRC Steering Committee: Clint Hale was not in attendance; Darren relayed a message from Clint stating that there are several committee chairs still open for MNRC 2014, contact Clint at if interested in helping.

Newsletter Committee: Joe McMullen announced summer newsletter submissions due sometime in May.

Publicity Committee: John Fantz discussed possible fundraising and publicity strategies such as polo and T-shirts with the logo embroidered on them, this would help with recognition of the society when worn at professional meetings. John would like MOAFS to be more active in soliciting donations and name recognition.

Rivers and Streams Committee: Chris Riggert reported that DNR is working on nutrient level requirements on Missouri's Rivers and Streams.

The committee met August 3, 2010 was scheduled to be at Bennett Springs but was moved to the USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center for more space. The meeting minutes are posted on the MOAFS website. The Rivers and Streams Committee will hold a brief meeting immediately after the 2011 MOAFS Business Meeting.

Old Business:

Crayfish Symposium: Bob DiStefano gave an overview from the Crayfish Symposium hosted by the International Association of Astacology (IAA), held in Columbia July 18-23, 2010. MOAFS contributed \$630 for the support of the meeting. Bob stated that it was a very productive meeting, attended by many public agencies, academics and lots of private individuals and organizations. First meeting in the US in 30 years with 125 attendees from 15 countries!

Bob thanked MOAFS for the support for this event.

Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society 2010 Workshop: Darren passed along in behalf of Steve McMurray that the FMSC workshop held in Kirkwood at the Missouri Department of Conservation's Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, on October 19-21, 2010 was a great success and wished to thank MOAFS for their support. The workshop focused on regional fauna identification and sampling techniques. A panel of regional 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 led field trips and training classes.

Catfish Symposium: Darren gave an overview from the Catfish 2010: The Second International Catfish Symposium that was held in St. Louis, June 20-22, 2010. Darren stated that this was an outstanding conference. MOAFS had a fundraising booth at the front near the registration table. MOAFS did well on fundraising selling T-shirts and beer mugs.

New Business:

MNRC: A lot of discussion was made concerning the MNRC. Many in attendance agreed that the MNRC needed to be its own entity. Darren proposed to vote on if MNRC should move forward with 501c3 (nonprofit organization) status for the MNRC.

Mark Zurbrick stated that we should form a committee to help draft by laws.

Wording can be posted on the MOAFS Webpage and all members can decide and vote.

Mike Smith presented a motion that stated: "the MOAFS in collaboration with other working societies explore the feasibility of 501c3 status for the MNRC." Travis Moore seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Change in dues: Darren stated that general accounts have been losing revenue; all profits have been put toward SSTF. Expenses have increased and money has remained the same. Darren motioned that MOAFS dues should increase to \$10 beginning 2012. Mark Van Patton seconded the motion. Duane Chapman asked, what about the student subunits? It was decided each subunit would set their own amount. The motion passed.

Mark Zurbrick wanted to discuss strategies on how to handle noodling issues.

- "we need to contact legislators."
- Mark is going to provide to John Fantz the names and numbers of the legislators – very important to contact these individuals.
- Information will be posted on the web site.

Passing the Presidency: Darren turned over the gavel to Travis Moore, Darren expressed his gratitude to serve as Chapter President and thanked MOAFS for all of their hard work during this past year.

Travis presented letters of appreciation to Darren Thornhill for serving as MOAFS President and to John Calfee for serving as MOAFS Secretary.

Travis Moore thanked all the new committee members for stepping up and volunteering and we need additional committee members.

No further items were brought before the meeting.

Darren Thornhill motioned to adjourn; Jason Persinger seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 12:22 pm.