



Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

2025 Lee Redmond Citizen's Award

The Lee Redmond Citizen's Award honors individuals or organizations that have made substantial contributions to Missouri's aquatic resources, even without direct employment in the aquatic field. This year's recipient has become a cornerstone of the Missouri River community — offering not just a place to rest, but a place to learn, explore, and connect with one of our state's most treasured natural resources.

Since its founding in 1989, Cooper's Landing has served as a vital gathering place for the Missouri River community. As a campground, music venue, and general store along the KATY Trail, Cooper's Landing has welcomed a diverse range of visitors—anglers, bikers, barge operators, college students, campers, and paddlers—whether they are exploring local river reaches or embarking on a journey to the Gulf of Mexico.

Beyond its role as a recreational hub, Cooper's Landing has played a crucial role in educating Missourians about the state's aquatic resources, as well as its natural and cultural heritage. Through hosting numerous events, from native plant sales to festivals, Cooper's Landing has fostered a deep appreciation for Missouri's waterways. It has partnered with organizations such as the Missouri River Cultural Conservancy, Missouri Coalition for Clean Energy, Raptor Rehab, and Missouri River Relief to support programs that engage the public with the Missouri River. These include:

- Missouri River Explorer Program
- Mornings on the River
- Missouri River Days
- Missouri River Adventure Camp.... and
- Catfishing Lessons near the mouth of Little Bonne Femme Creek

Cooper's Landing also hosts "What's at the Bottom of the Missouri River?"—an educational display created in partnership with the USGS Columbia Environmental

Research Center—which showcases the advanced technology used to map the Missouri River’s underwater habitat.

Experiencing the nation’s longest river can be daunting, and understanding the value of Missouri’s aquatic resources is an ongoing journey. Through its commitment to education, conservation, and community engagement, Cooper’s Landing has created an inviting space where Missourians can connect with their natural heritage.

For its unwavering commitment to conservation, education, and community engagement, we are honored to present the **2025 Lee Redmond Citizen’s Award to Cooper’s Landing**. Through their dedication to preserving Missouri’s natural heritage, future generations will have the opportunity to experience, appreciate, and protect our state’s incredible aquatic resources.