

The Tributary

A Newsletter of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society

Volume 33, No. 2, April 2009



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Editor

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American Fisheries Society Western Division Annual Meeting

Evolution of the Western Landscape:
Balancing Habitat, Land, and Water Management for Fish.

Albuquerque, New Mexico
May 3-7, 2009



Photo courtesy of Ron Behrman

Lift off is here for the Western Division AFS Annual Meeting. Call the Hyatt Hotel (505) 842-1234, and get a room deal for \$80 per night!

Visit <http://www.aznmfishsoup.org/wdafs09/> and get all the information you need regarding registration, the hotel, New Mexico, Continuing Education, the Plenary Session, and more!

WDAFS Elections



Please vote! It is time again for you to participate in your professional organization by voting for new officers. It will only take a few minutes of your time. This year we are electing both a new Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer. The Vice President winner will serve a 4 year term, transitioning from Vice-President to President-Elect, to President, to Past-President. Each position has different responsibilities (see WDAFS bylaws online at <http://www.wdafs.org>). The Secretary-Treasurer serves for 2 years. Thanks to all the candidates for offering to serve the American Fisheries Society and represent its members. For more information on the candidates, see their biographies in this issue.

Please vote online **before 12:00 pm PDT on April 24th, 2009** using the link below.

Candidates this year are:

Secretary-Treasurer: Mary Buckman
Vice-President: Cindy Hartmann Moore
and Dave Ward

Western Division AFS Officers

President

Scott Bonar
Arizona Cooperative Fish and
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Vice President

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Secretary-Treasurer

Dave Ward
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Past President

Eric Wagner
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
1465 W. 200 North
Logan, UT 84321

VOTE ONLINE:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=D_2bSMglOas2Uy55YaSIVkHg_3d_3d

Candidate Biographies

Dave Ward, Candidate for Vice-President

Statement:

Hello. My name is Dave Ward and I'm a candidate for Vice-President of the Western Division AFS. For the last four years I have been the Division's Secretary-Treasurer, and have enjoyed being part of the Division's Executive Committee very much. Immediately prior to my four-year term as Secretary-Treasurer, I served as President-Elect, President, and Past-President of the Oregon Chapter. My additional AFS experience includes being one of the planners of the highly successful 2008 Western Division meeting in Portland, and co-chairing the Audit Committee for the Parent Society in 2007 and 2008.

I think the Western Division is on an excellent path, and I would like to keep it that way. Despite tough economic times, the Division is in solid financial shape, and is now well positioned to support chapters, subunits, and individual members. One example of this is a newly created fund to support student travel to Western Division meetings. One of my priorities will be to ensure that the Division remains useful in this manner. Another priority will be to continue the Aquatic Education Initiative recently implemented by current Division leadership. Reaching out to educators and their students was a priority when I was President of the Oregon Chapter, and it will remain a priority if I am elected Vice-President of the Western Division.

As for my non-AFS career, I have been the Anadromous Fish Management Coordinator for the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority in Portland for about 3 years. Prior to that, I worked in numerous positions for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for 22 years. I look forward to continuing my service to the Western Division, and am confident that the skills and experience I have acquired throughout my career will enable me to fulfill the duties of Vice-President.

Cindy Hartmann Moore, Candidate for Vice-President

Statement:

I consider it an honor to run for the vice president position for the Western Division AFS. My work experience includes marine and freshwater fisheries, wildlife and subsistence management, and habitat issues. I am fortunate to have had a fairly diverse professional career. I believe this diversity of experience would be beneficial in my role as an officer in the Western Division AFS.

Professional Background:

I earned a bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Iowa State University (ISU) and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Alaska Southeast.

I have been working in natural resource related jobs for over 30 years, if I include my summer job experience during college. My summer work during college included being a Girl Scout camp counselor, doing passerine bird research, and working two seasons for the Iowa Conservation Commission, one season in fisheries management and one in fisheries research. After graduation from ISU I worked for an environmental consulting firm at a nuclear power plant on the Mississippi River. I left that job for a conservation internship with The National Wildlife Federation in Washington, D.C. After the internship, I worked for the USDA Forest Service (FS) in the Fish and Wildlife Staff Office in Washington, D.C. After two years in the FS headquarters office, I transferred to Ketchikan, Alaska. In

Ketchikan, I was a fisheries biologist on the Ketchikan Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest for eight years. My focus was on fisheries enhancement and habitat protection. I moved to Sitka, Alaska, in 1991 to work as a wildlife and subsistence biologist on an interdisciplinary timber sale planning team. My focus was primarily on the subsistence analysis.

In 1995, I accepted my current job with the Habitat Conservation Division of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in Juneau, Alaska. In this job I promote the protection and restoration of habitats that are essential to marine life. I consult with other agencies and prepare technical recommendations pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other statutory authorities. I review proposed coastal development activities to evaluate effects on habitat and I formulate recommendations to agencies to avoid, minimize, or offset adverse effects on habitat. I develop cooperative partnerships and other proactive approaches to facilitate marine habitat conservation. I was leader of the Alaska Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Team for the 1998 EFH fishery management plan amendments. I also completed two short-term assignments in NMFS headquarters office in Silver Spring, Maryland. One assignment was with international fisheries and one was with the Ecosystem Goal Team.

Community Involvement

I volunteer for several Juneau based non-profit art and music organizations. In recent months I was the co-coordinator for two fund-raisers for two women needing cancer treatment in Seattle. Approximately \$32,000 was raised.

AFS Experience

I have been involved in AFS for many years. I am Past-President of the Alaska Chapter AFS. I was the meeting chair for the 1998 joint meeting of the Western Division AFS, Alaska Chapter AFS, and Sea Grant Lowell Wakefield Symposium. The meeting theme was Ecosystem Considerations in Fisheries Management. I was the local arrangements chair for the Alaska Chapter meeting in Sitka in 1994. I was responsible for putting the bid together for the 2005 AFS Parent Society (national) meeting in Anchorage. I set-up the local arrangements committee for the 2005 meeting and recruited committee leads prior to Bill Wilson accepting the role of local arrangements chair. I received the Alaska Chapter Service Award in 2006. I have chaired symposia at national AFS meetings and at Chapter meetings. I have presented papers at the Chapter meetings and organized sessions. For the Alaska Chapter 2007 meeting, I organized a session on ShoreZone Mapping and for the Chapter's 2008 meeting I organized a session on mining and fisheries.

Goals for Western Division AFS

I believe the future of AFS lies with our young professional members. My goal is to encourage and nurture the participation of all age groups in AFS. I will continue to support the on-going programs we have for students and young professionals (for example travel scholarships to attend meetings and mentorship programs) and I will look for new opportunities to engage them in AFS activities. At the same time, I want to take full advantage of the volunteer base we have in our long-term members and utilize their wisdom and knowledge.

I think it is important for us to continue to be a broad-based fisheries organization. My goal is to maintain the diverse interest base we have and expand that if possible. It is important that our members include both freshwater and marine biologists; professionals in management and professionals in research; practitioners, retirees, and even the interested public. I believe that our strength lies in membership diversity. I understand that it may create some challenges accommodating that diversity, and I am prepared to meet those challenges.

I think that good communication and information sharing is important. I am personally committed to relaying information to others, whether that is to AFS members or to the public. I intend to make sure the great information sharing Western Division AFS has now continues, and my goal is to improve on that as needed. Communication includes our resource education and advocacy roles.

If elected, I promise to do my best to represent the Western Division's interests at the national AFS level and in our interactions with our international members.

Mary Buckman, Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer

Current Position and Background:

Biometrician, Recreational Fisheries Program, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Corvallis, OR. I have a B.S. in Fisheries and an M.S. in Statistics from Oregon State University. I began my career with ODFW in 1977 on a large research project on the Rogue River system. Since 1986, I have served as Biometrician for ODFW, consulting with staff throughout the agency on design and analysis of experiments and surveys.

AFS Involvement:

Member since 1986; Oregon Chapter Secretary-Treasurer 1996; Oregon Chapter Webmaster, 1997 – 2000; Oregon Chapter President-Elect, President, Past-President, 2001-2003; Various annual meeting program committees; Instructor for two statistical workshops for Oregon Chapter meetings.

As Secretary-Treasurer of the Oregon Chapter, I worked to bring the bookkeeping actions of the Chapter into modern times by computerizing the financial records, using credit card payments for membership, and developing a Web presence. During my term as Secretary-Treasurer, the Oregon Chapter hosted the Western Division meeting with its accompanying responsibilities. I continued work with the Chapter when I developed and maintained the Chapter's first web page. This involvement led to a 3 year rotation in the cycle of Chapter President. Duties included organizing the annual meeting; testifying at the Oregon legislature; writing for the newsletter; outreach to the Student Chapter; coordinating committee work; communicating with members; interacting with agencies, non-profits, and other organizations; and participating in Western Division Executive Committee.

Statement:

I see three primary roles for the Secretary-Treasurer. First is to ensure our financial house is in order. This includes collecting fees and disbursing funds in a timely manner and maintaining secure and accurate financial records. I will seek to ensure Division finances are transparent and easily available for member review. Secondly, as Secretary, I will keep accurate records of Division action and decisions, conduct correspondence as authorized by the membership or Executive Committee, and ensure the information about Division proceedings and actions are available to the membership and the Society.

Finally, as a member of the Executive Committee, I will participate in decision-making, review policy statements and position papers authored by the Division and its committees, contribute to development and execution of the annual meeting, work to keep the membership informed and involved in Division activities, and assist with the exchange of information among the chapters in the Division.

I am honored to be nominated for this position and look forward to the opportunity to serve as Secretary-Treasurer of the Western Division.

Award nomination deadline will be April 24th this year!

Eric Wagner, ericwagner@utah.gov

I will be accepting nominations for **Chapter of the Year, Student Subunit of the Year**, as well as **Award of Excellence, Award of Merit, Award of Special Recognition, R. Borovicka Conservation Achievement Award** (individual), and **Conservation Achievement Award** (group). For nominations of Chapter or subunit of the year, briefly summarize activities and achievements during the May 2008 to April 2009 period. Bullet lists with a summary paragraph should make the process easier for everyone concerned. For the other awards, a brief letter (1 page maximum, half page or less preferred) identifying the nominee, their affiliation, and their achievements is requested. For more information, visit <http://www.wdafs.org/committees/awards/awards.htm>.



Every year we solicit nominations to honor individuals or groups who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to the American Fisheries Society, to our profession, and to fisheries research, conservation and management. This is your opportunity to nominate and honor someone you have professionally admired and ensure that your peers receive the recognition they deserve. Please take a moment and think about people you know that meet the Division's award criteria and should be recognized for their significant contributions and accomplishments. The Division has five prestigious awards for individual and group achievements, some of which are given to non-AFS members. Please consider a nomination within the following categories:

Award of Excellence. This is the most prestigious award offered by the Western Division and it is intended to recognize sustained professional excellence. It is given annually to an **AFS member** who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and exceptional competence in fishery resource applications through monumental works, new methodologies, or multiple successful contributions that benefit our resources and profession. Successful nominees have usually excelled in research or management programs at the regional, national, or international levels. Other examples include fresh, innovative approaches to improving our understanding of aquatic resources, and imaginative and successful programs in education at any level of teaching.

Award of Merit. This award is given to an **AFS member(s)** who has made a regionally significant and worthy contribution to our Division, our profession, or our fishery resources.

Award of Special Recognition. This award is given to an individual or to an entity (**AFS member or non-member**) making a significant contribution to the development and success of the Western Division.

Robert Borovicka Conservation Achievement Award. This award is given annually to an individual (**AFS member or non-member**) who has significantly contributed to fishery conservation within the Division. The individual may be a member or non-member of AFS.

Conservation Achievement Award. This award is typically given to an entity (such as an agency, tribe, or organization) that has demonstrated a significant contribution to the conservation of fishery resources within the Division.

Obituary



Susan B. Martin

Susan B. Martin, the first female President and a long-time member of the Idaho Chapter AFS, passed away on September 15, 2008, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, after a two-year battle with cancer. She was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, on May 27, 1951. She spent most of her younger years in Blackfoot, Idaho where she graduated from Blackfoot High School. Susan initially attended the University of Oregon, and later graduated from the University of Idaho with a B.S. in Biology in 1973 and an M.S. in Microbiology in 1976.

Susan spent her initial years with the U.S. Forest Service and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, but joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1988. Her most recent assignment was as the Field Supervisor of the Upper Columbia Fish and Wildlife Office in Spokane, WA. Susan was dedicated to the conservation and protection of fish, wildlife and plants, and consistently emphasized the need for more discussion by all interested parties in order to reach resolution on highlighted issues. Susan was proud of her twenty years as a member of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service family. She was a respected and respectful negotiator on behalf of the conservation and recovery of bull trout, Kootenai River white sturgeon, Canada lynx, grizzly bears, woodland caribou and pygmy rabbits.

In the early 1980s she served for several years as the Idaho Chapter's newsletter editor and has been credited with leading the Chapter's efforts to request funding from the Idaho Congressional Delegation in support of the Idaho Cooperative Fishery Research Unit. These efforts were ultimately successful. In 1982, in recognition of her efforts, the Chapter awarded Susan the first Award of Special Recognition. In 1986 she was elected Chapter President. Susan was committed to the idea that AFS should provide members with professional development opportunities. As President, she organized a special session on "how to become a more effective biologist in this highly political field."

Susan influenced a number of professionals during their career development. During her two year battle with cancer, she and her family were pleasantly surprised at the number of cards and letters of support expressing gratitude for her role developing the careers of others. Susan influenced careers as a mentor, a role model, and a leader. She respected and believed in hard working, dedicated scientists who deliver science in a manner that other stakeholders understand and, therefore, ultimately agree with. Her leadership involved letting people know she believed in and supported them.

She married Donald Martin in 1975, and they lived in Star, Idaho, for twenty-five years before moving to Coeur d'Alene in 2000. She loved to be with family and friends in the outdoors camping, fly fishing, whitewater rafting, backcountry skiing, creating delicious dinners, and was an avid reader. Susan's family and friends fondly remember her grace, composure, patience, kindness, loyalty, organizational skills, endurance, honesty, steadfastness and tenacity, as well as her sparkling eyes and skinny long legs.

The family has worked with the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society to establish the **Susan B. Martin Memorial Scholarship** award for Idaho graduate students in aquatic sciences and fisheries. This scholarship is intended to continue doing in Susan's name what she did best in her career—help other scientists to be successful. Tax deductible donations to this scholarship fund can be sent to: Idaho Chapter AFS, Attn: Christine Kozfkay, 1800 Trout Road, Eagle, ID 83616. *--Don Martin, husband, Past President ICAFS, WDAFS and Jim Fredericks, President, ICAFS*



WDAFS Aquatic Education Initiative

The Western Division is taking on aquatic education through a new initiative – please join us!

Do you participate in school science programs or other education activities? Does your Chapter have educational projects and ideas? If you have ideas or would like to become more involved, please contact your chapter president or e-mail Leanne Roulson leanne.roulson@myportal.montana.edu or Scott Bonar sbonar@ag.arizona.edu.

Watch for more information and opportunities at your local chapter meeting this spring!

Research Note: MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF WESTERN STREAMS WITH IMPAIRED AQUATIC VERTEBRATE ASSEMBLAGES, *submitted by Bob Hughes.*

In a recent paper published in the Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, Pont et al. developed a predictive aquatic vertebrate Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) model through use of 871 stream sites sampled as part of the USEPA's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program survey of 12 conterminous western USA states. The final IBI metrics (calculated from both fish and aquatic amphibians) were vertebrate species richness, benthic native species richness, assemblage tolerance index, proportion of invertivore-piscivore species, and proportion of lithophilic reproducing species. Mean model IBI scores differed significantly between least-disturbed and most-disturbed sites, and among ecoregions. Based on a model IBI impairment criterion of 0.44, an estimated $34.7\% \pm 5.3\%$ of stream miles in the western USA were deemed impaired, compared with $18\% \pm 3\%$ for a set of traditional IBIs. Also, the model IBI usually displayed less variability than the traditional IBIs, presumably because it was better calibrated for natural variability. See Pont et al. 2009 TAFS 138:292-305.

Featured Education Resource



<http://www.projectwet.org/>

Educate. Empower. Act. The mission of Project WET is to reach children, parents, educators, and communities of the world with water education. We invite you to join us in educating children about the most precious resource on the planet — water. Since 1984, Project WET, an award-winning 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has dedicated itself to the mission of reaching children, parents, teachers and community members of the world with water education. Project WET achieves its mission of worldwide water education by:

- publishing water resource materials in several languages.
- providing training workshops on diverse water topics (i.e., watersheds, water quality, water conservation).
- organizing community water events, such as Make a Splash with Project WET water festivals and the Global Water Education Village™.
- building a worldwide network of educators, water resource professionals and scientists.

Project WET publications, training workshops and community events are grounded in Project WET's core beliefs:

Water connects us all: Water moves through living and nonliving systems and binds them together in a complex web of life.

Water for all water users: Water of sufficient quality and quantity is vital for all water users (energy producers, farmers and ranchers, fish and wildlife, manufacturers, recreationists, rural and urban dwellers).

Managing water sustainably: Sustainable water management is crucial for providing tomorrow's children with social and economic stability in a healthy environment.

Personal responsibility for water resources: Awareness of and respect for water resources can encourage a personal, lifelong commitment of responsibility and positive community participation.

Project WET is implemented through international and local partnerships. Check out Project WET near you with some of these ideas:

Arizona Project WET

<http://ag.arizona.edu/arizonawet/>

California: Project WET through the Water Education Foundation

<http://www.watereducation.org/default.asp>

Colorado: Project WET through the Foundation for Water Education

<http://www.cfwe.org/SchoolPrograms/>

Idaho: Project WET through the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute

<http://www.boise.uidaho.edu/default.aspx?pid=33434>

Montana: Project WET through the Montana Watercourse

<http://www.mtwatercourse.org/default.htm>

Nevada: Project WET through the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

<http://ndep.nv.gov/BWQP/wet01.htm>

New Mexico: Project WET through New Mexico State University

http://www.werc.net/outreach/K-12_programs/Project%20WET/project_wet.htm

Washington: Project WET through the Department of Ecology

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/services/ee/curricul.html>

WDAFS CHAPTERS



Alaska Chapter

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/>

Arizona-New Mexico Chapter

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/aznm/index.htm>

California-Nevada Chapter

<http://www.afs-calneva.org/>

Colorado-Wyoming Chapter

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/co-wy/>

Idaho Chapter

<http://www.idahoafs.org/index.php>

Mexico Chapter

http://www.ecosistemico.org/afs_mexchap/

Montana Chapter

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/AFSmontana/>

Washington-British Columbia Chapter

<http://www.npic-afs.org>

Montana Chapter Update

Carter Kruse

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/AFSmontana/>

The Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (MCAFS) and the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society held a joint annual meeting in Kalispell, Montana, February 9-13th, 2009. The theme of the conference was “Adapting Fish and Wildlife Management to Human Demographic Change in Montana.” More than 450 resource professionals attended the meeting.

A plenary session explored how human demographics have shaped the history of fish and wildlife management in Montana, and then looked ahead to the challenge that changing human demographics present to future fish and wildlife management in the state. The plenary session concluded with a stimulating multi-disciplinary panel discussion about these challenges and potential solutions. The general meeting agenda included symposia ranging from large carnivores to salmonid conservation. The opportunity to cross-pollinate between the fish and wildlife disciplines was positively received by attendees.



Preceding the conference were two continuing education workshops organized by Continuing Education Chair Lisa Eby. The topics of these workshops were *Human Demographic Impacts: Invasive Species and Other Species of Concern*, and *Human Demographic Impacts: Solutions to Fish and Wildlife Management Challenges*. Todd Koel, Yellowstone National Park, was elected to serve as President Elect of the Montana Chapter. Also, Leo Rosenthal, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, was elected to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer. They will assume these roles in September.

The opportunity to acknowledge and honor the exemplary work by individuals on behalf of our aquatic resources across the state is unique and important role of MCAFS, and one we take great satisfaction in. This year we had many exceptional nominations for individual and group achievement. Our outgoing officers, Past President David Schmetterling and Secretary Treasurer Windy Davis, were acknowledged for their tireless service to MCAFS. Their substantial contributions will be missed. In addition, we recognized 9 individuals and one group with the following awards:

- **Hilary Billman** (Idaho State University) was presented with the “Best Student Presentation Award” for her talk “Toxicity of Rotenone to Larval Amphibians.”
- **David Schmetterling** (Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks) was presented with the “Best Professional Presentation Award” for his talk “Climate Change Mediates the Spatial Partitioning of Sculpin and Longnose Dace Leading to Trophic Cascades in Riverine Ecosystems of Western Montana.”
- **Ben Cox** (M.S. candidate) and **David Garfield** (undergraduate) were awarded the Wally McClure Scholarship.
- **Bruce Malcom** was presented with a landowner of the year award for his contributions to Montana fisheries.
- **Mike Koopal** (Whitefish Lake Institute) was awarded an individual achievement award for his contributions to the conservation of Montana’s fisheries resources in the Whitefish Lake Area.

Washington-British Columbia Chapter

Rachel Keeler

Annual General Meeting, April 20-23, 2009

The Washington-British Columbia Chapter of AFS is having its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Little Creek Casino in Shelton, Washington, April 20-23, 2009. The theme of our meeting is "New Science for Managing Uncertainty in Fisheries." The Little Creek Casino Resort is a spacious and comfortable venue amidst some of Washington's most breathtaking scenery and promises to contribute to a fantastic AGM.

The 2009 AGM Program Executive Committee is pleased to present the 2009 AGM Concurrent Program Schedule ([2009-symposia-schedule2](#)). We have over 150 fabulous abstracts and a diverse collection of Symposia, including:

- Toward an improved understanding of the impacts of toxic compounds on the health of fish in the Pacific Northwest
- Using hydroacoustic telemetry tools to understand movement and ecology of critical species and improve management applications
- Management of salmon and steelhead in uncertain times
- Climate change and the future security of salmonids and their habitat
- Remote sensing for ecological monitoring and analysis
- Identifying and resolving uncertainties associated with meeting biological performance standards for hydropower mitigation
- AFS 2000 policy statement on management of Pacific rockfish: nine years later - how far have we come?
- Challenges in monitoring outmigrating juvenile salmonids
- On the trail of JAWS - Salish Sea Sharks
- Habitat restoration
- Environmental drivers of *Oncorhynchus mykiss* life-history diversity
- Genetic stock identification
- Invited: "How the Puget Sound Action Plan will benefit salmon recovery, PS marine fisheries, estuaries, and rivers." Puget Sound Partnership Representatives
- Contributed papers on various topics and species

We will have our plenary session on Tuesday, April 21st. Our plenary speakers include:

- [Ray Hillborn](#), Professor of Aquatic and Fisheries Science, of the University of Washington, *Precautionary Principle*
- Phil Anderson, Interim Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Jim Peters, Policy Analyst, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Tribal Perspectives and Precaution in Habitat and Fisheries Management
- John Williams of [Still Hope Productions](#), a specialist in digital underwater video

On the evening of Wednesday April 22nd, join conference attendees and Squaxin Island Tribal Community for a great social night that includes buffet-style dinner, chapter awards, a raffle and on the rise, and Native American comedian [Mitch Factor](#). Learn more about our exciting program at <http://www.npic-afs.org/agm/program/>. Don't miss your chance to attend, **register for WA-BC AMG today at <http://www.npic-afs.org/agm/registration/>** and we'll see you in Shelton!

Western Division AFS Student Groups!

- [University of Alaska Student Unit](#)
- [New Mexico State University Student Chapter](#)
- [Palouse Unit - University of Idaho Student Chapter](#)
- [Colorado State University Student Chapter](#)
- [University of Wyoming Student Chapter](#)
- [Oregon State University Students Chapter](#)
- [Montana State University Student Subunit](#)
- [USU Student Subunit of the Bonneville Chapter](#)

New look to the Western Division Newsletter coming soon!

A few years ago, the Western Division AFS began to distribute our newsletter electronically. Instead of mailing paper copies, we distributed pdf documents to our members via email. This saved the Division money on printing and postage, and provided a newsletter service that used fewer resources and produced less waste. The system has worked fairly well, but we see there is still room for improvement. Communication among the Western Division membership is vitally important and there are great technologies available to help us share information faster and more effectively.

In the coming months, the Western Division Electronic Communications and Newsletter Committee will be drafting a new format for our electronic newsletter. Modeled after successful e-newsletters utilized by our chapters and other organizations, we plan to shift into an html-based newsletter that you will receive by email. Instead of downloading and printing a pdf document three or four times a year, we will send e-news announcements that are web-based. These newsletters will be distributed more often and will be shorter, with references back to our Western Division website and other internet resources. We'll be adding functions for you to manage your own subscription and other features.



So, watch your inbox! The next newsletter will test the new format and gather feedback from the membership. In the meantime, if you'd like to participate or share your ideas, please contact Kajsa Stromberg at Kajsa.Stromberg@deq.idaho.gov or (208) 666-4633. Thank you!

About the Tributary

The Tributary is the newsletter of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society published three times per year.

Editor

Kajsa Stromberg

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About the American Fisheries Society

The mission of the American Fisheries Society is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

<http://www.fisheries.org>

About the Western Division AFS

Established as the first Division of the [American Fisheries Society](#) in 1948, the Western Division now includes [Chapters](#) from thirteen western states, British Columbia, Yukon Territories, and U.S. Islands and Trust Territories of the Western Pacific.

Our members represent a tremendous array of fisheries workers involved in all aspects of the fisheries profession. The collective diversity and expertise of Western Division members is the basis of an intimate and unparalleled familiarity with fisheries resources and issues within our geographic region.

Division objectives are to provide a forum for exchanging technical and policy information, promote understanding by regional, Federal, and state policy-makers of the nature and extent of fishery matters of concern to the membership, facilitate timely exchange of information to chapters and the general membership, and provide a vehicle for the active participation of individual members in Society business and professional activities.

<http://www.wdafs.org>

Upcoming Events

Washington-British Columbia Chapter Annual Meeting

April 20-23, Shelton, WA

WDAFS Annual Meeting 2009

May 3-7, 2009, Albuquerque, NM

WDAFS Student Colloquium

Fall 2009, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

See the full listing online:

<http://www.fisheries.org/afs/aboutus/calendarofevents.pdf>

