



The Tributary

The Newsletter of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society

Winter 2015
Vol 39 Issue 3

2015 AFS Annual Meeting in Portland

Meeting recap, page 4



Photos by Richard Grost

In this Issue

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|---------|
| President's Hook | Page 2 | Student News | Page 12 |
| 2015 AFS Portland Meeting Recap | Page 4 | Fishy Foto Contest Winners | Page 15 |
| 2016 Reno and upcoming meetings | Page 6 | Rivers from Beijing to Boise | Page 14 |
| WDAFS Awards | Page 8 | Remembering Kelly Meyer | Page 15 |
| Sculpins of the Necanicum River | Page 9 | ORAFS Event Financial Policy | Page 16 |
| Dace Recovery | Page 10 | Dates to Remember | Page 18 |

President's Hook

By WDAFS President, Jim Bowker



Greetings, Western Division AFS members,

Now that I'm a few months into my term as President, I'd like to ask readers to grab a cup of coffee and sit back while I say a word or two about what inspires us to give so selflessly to our Society. Initially, as I was sitting down to write my first President's Hook, I was thinking I'd be writing about how the WD is ramping up our activity. I soon realized that the officers, Executive Committee members, standing and ad hoc committee chairs and members, and a myriad of Chapter members never really ramped down.

Through my previous involvement with the WD and the Society, I have had the privilege of seeing what WD Past Presidents, Dave Ward and Tina Swanson, brought to the table – energy and action. I've also had the privilege of working side-by-side with our most recent Past Presidents, Pam Sponholtz and Hilda Sexauer, and have been pretty well blown away by how much time and energy they brought to the table to help make the WD what it is – one of the most active Divisions in the Society. What inspires these folks to consistently give so much of their time to the American Fisheries Society?

Over the years, I've found that what motivates me is the chance to help move the needle a little bit—I get tremendous personal and professional satisfaction from helping to make a difference. When the project or initiative is over, I take great pride in what was accomplished or the product that was generated and the knowledge that I was able to give back to the profession and Society that have given me so much. I relish working with other highly motivated professionals around the country to tackle difficult projects, knowing that the finished product will be so much better than anything I could ever do by myself. The 2015 annual meeting in Portland is a great example of the kind of project that gets me motivated. The time and effort put into organizing AFS2015 was mind-boggling and it wouldn't have been nearly the success it was without the selfless contributions by the dozens WD and OR Chapter members and over 200 (mostly student) volunteers. I'm still amazed at how much time and effort folks like Dave and Neil Ward, Nancy Leonard, Michelle Weaver, Mike Gauvin, Colleen Fagan, and a host of others (see the AFS2015 meeting update for a complete list of committee chairs and members) who invested their time for this meeting. I'm not sure that "fear of failure" didn't pop up every now and then, but we all dug deep, supported each other, and did what was needed to make AFS2015 the best meeting possible. Throughout the week of the meeting—while we were setting up, in between sessions and meetings, and as things began to wind down-- we felt the satisfaction of a job well-done and positively glowed when attendees stopped to tell us how much they were enjoying the meeting. It's very satisfying to look back through the meeting metrics—attendance, number of presentations, revenue, etc. — and revel in those quantifiable measures of our shared work. It was certainly rewarding to find out that after all the bills had been paid that the WD and OR Chapter had generated about \$50k and (HOOK *continued on Page 3*)

(HOOK *continued from Page 2*)

\$100k in revenue, respectively. For the WD, this revenue will go a long way to help fund student and professional travel grants to attend our annual meeting in Reno in March, small grant projects, and a variety of other projects and scholarships that the WD supports. Knowing that we are in a much better financial position to fund these projects makes me feel that much better about the time and effort we all put in. It's also worth mentioning the less tangible rewards of our hard work, like the knowledge that other fisheries professionals were able to take away something from AFS2015 that will enable them to do their job better, like sitting in on pertinent presentations and making new contacts. I was motivated to help with the planning of AFS2015 because I knew my investment of time and energy would pay off—though I'll admit to being a bit surprised at just how much!

I am inspired to get involved in professional service because of the end-product, the thing that comes out of the pipe at the end of the day, and the associated benefits of the product or outcome. But it doesn't end there. I'm also inspired by those working directly or indirectly on things I'm working on, who are carrying much of the load. I get inspired working with Travis Neebling (WD Sec/Treas) because of his budgetary and meeting planning experience, and that he's one of those "let's get this done" kind of people. I'm inspired by Hilda because she brings of the same energy and effort that Travis does to the things she does to benefit the Division and Chapters. I've been inspired by Pam when I think back on how invested she was in making Mazatlan 2014 the success that it was. I find that I'm inspired by the unbridled enthusiasm of members like Tracy Wendt, Jane Sullivan, and Sharon Lashway for tackling new (or relatively new) responsibilities. I could go on and on about the people who have stepped up to serve on scholarship selection committees, resurrected the Native Western Fishes committee, are tackling Reno2016, or Chapter Presidents who are engaged Executive Committee members, but I think you can see a pattern here – I'm inspired working side-by-

side with those that are active, who bring energy and enthusiasm to the table, and who dig in to help make the project we're working on the best that it can be and the Division all that it is.

All the parts and pieces required of a functioning and effective society are moving somewhat independently, but they are also part of the WD machine that is trucking down the road toward our shared goals. Each part is serving a different purpose, just as each of the individuals I mentioned above likely has a different skill set and a reason for them getting involved. But without them and their unique talents, the machine wouldn't function properly and we'd soon be stranded on the side of the road. I am inspired by these folks, all whom I now call my friends, for what they bring to the table, every day, to help our profession and our Division.

Seeing all these people come together to get things done gives me tremendous personal satisfaction. I'm hoping that after reading this you will take a moment to think about what inspires you to do what you do, and what inspires you to go the extra mile to ensure that the product or outcome is the best it can be. I'm hoping that if you're somebody who gets inspired working with other motivated volunteers to make the sum better than the individual parts, you will consider what it is you can bring to the table to benefit our profession and Society and become more involved in the WD or your Chapter (or both).

Wishing you all a happy healthy holiday season.
Cheers.

WDAFS wants to hear from you!!!

To submit an article to the Tributary Newsletter,
contact Tracy Wendt at
westerndivnewsletter@gmail.com.
Issues are published quarterly.

2015 AFS Annual Meeting in Portland

By Jim Bowker



Photo by Richard Grost

Now that most of the AFS2015 dust has settled it's time to ask the question, "Was the meeting a success?" Every year, the team of volunteers and staff involved in organizing the meeting, developing the program, and serving on the many meeting-related committees hope to prepare a great meeting experience for the membership and attendees and to pull it off without a hitch. AFS 2015 was no different, and we hope that everyone able to join us in Portland found the meeting a resounding success. Though calculating meeting metrics isn't the only way to measure meeting success, here is AFS by the numbers:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Meeting attendees | 3,310 |
| Oral presentations | 2,172 |
| Poster presentations | 404 |
| Spawning run participants | 224 |
| International guests | 173 |
| Exhibition booths | 112 |
| Total sessions | 140 |
| Symposia | 101 |
| Short films | 61 |
| Max no. of concurrent sessions | 34 |
| Countries represented | 32 |
| CE courses offered | 9 |
| Estimated revenue for WD AFS | \$50K |
| Estimated revenue for OR AFS | \$100K |

If the success of a meeting is determined by the metrics listed above, then AFS 2015 was a

tremendous success. It was a large meeting with up to 34 concurrent daily sessions. Based on record-breaking attendance at the last annual meeting in the West (Seattle 2011) and the difficulties many encountered in securing international travel authorization to attend AFS 2014 in Quebec City, we knew AFS 2015 was going to be big. Annual meeting attendance fluctuates depending on the year, agency budgets, and the location of the meeting—each year is a little different and there are pros and cons to both large meetings and smaller ones. We heard from a number of folks who thought that there was just too much going on at this meeting. On the other hand, we heard from many attendees that it was one of the best annual AFS meetings they had ever attended. One long-time AFS member told us it was likely the best meeting he had ever attended, period. Although we're reluctant to draw any conclusions from a single observation, the numbers and the anecdotes all largely point to AFS 2015 being one for the record books.

The success of AFS 2015, as with all AFS meetings, is dependent upon those that volunteer their time to serve on committees essential to hosting a meeting. For that reason, I'd like to give one more shout out to the 76 committee chairs/members, 17 AFS paid staff, and the 200+ (mostly students) volunteers that contributed so much of their time to make this meeting a success:
(2015 continued on Page 5)

(2015 continued from Page 4)

AFS 2015 TEAM

AFS President
Donna Parrish
General Meeting Co-Chair
Dave Ward
General Meeting Co-Chair
Neil Ward
Program Co-Chair
Jim Bowker
Program Co-Chair
Nancy Leonard
Western Division President
Hilda Sexauer
Oregon Chapter President
Mike Gauvin

PROGRAM

Nancy Leonard (Co-Chair)
Jim Bowker (Co-Chair)
Craig Busack
Peter Galbreath
Tom Friesen
Josh McMormick
Julie Harris
Des Maynard

ACCOMMODATIONS

Michele Weaver (Chair)
Jason Kent
Pete McHugh
Brooke Penaluna
Shannon Richardson
Jason Seals
Annie Birnie
Tim Harden
Ken Loffink

FINANCE

Mary Buckman (Chair)
Travis Neebling
Tony Siniscal

INFORMATION

Dave Marvin (Chair)
Shivonne Nesbit
Matt Hutchinson
Lenora Oftedahl
Jeremiah Osborne-Gowey
Donna Parrish
Dave Ward
Neil Ward

Nancy Leonard
Jim Bowker
Hilda Sexauer
Troy Brandt

NETWORK EVENTS

Colleen Fagan (Chair)
Tucker Jones
Tony Siniscal
Karen Hans
Gary Vonderhoe
Ian Tattam
Mike Gauvin
Elizabeth Moats
Katie Pierson
John Quintela
Josie Thompson
Guillermo Giannico
Jeffrey Jackson

PROMOTIONS

Jen Bayer (Chair)
Mike Reed
Michael Milstein
Katherine Cheney
Rich Grost

PRINTED PROGRAM

Amy Mai (Chair)

SIGNS AND BANNERS

Jack Williamson (Chair)
Mike Gray

VOLUNTEERS

Becky Flitcroft (Chair)
Todd Buchholz
Christine Hirsch

STUDENT EVENTS

Christy Fellas (Chair)
Tony Siniscal
Jeff Jolley
Holly Huchko
Karen Hans
Brook Silver
Scott Heppel
Selina Heppel
Andrew Futerman
Andrew Carlson

MASTER SCHEDULER

Demian Ebert (Chair)

TRADE SHOW

Shawn Johnston
Jeff Fryer
Troy Brandt

AFS STAFF

Douglas Austen (Executive Director)
Beth Beard
Thomas Bigford
Daniel Cassidy
Juanita Flick
Sarah Gilbert Fox
Gail Goldberg
Laura Hendee
Shawn Johnston
Debby Lehman
Aaron Lerner
Jackie Machado
Eva Przygodzki
Jasmine Sewell
Denise Spencer
Kurt West
Howard Williams

FUNDRAISING

Bob Hughes (Chair)
Hilda Sexauer
Mike Gauvin
Troy Brandt
Mike Hudson
Sean Janson

VISITOR SERVICES

Tom Wolf (Chair)
Rosemary Furfey
Mike Reed
John Johnson

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Adrienne Averett (Chair)
Phil Simpson

2016 WDAFS Annual Meeting in Reno

Get ready for Reno 2016 – coming to you March 21-24!

It's still a few months off, but it seems like the 2016 Western Division AFS meeting is right around the corner. A lot of places in California and Nevada were considered as the site for this year's meeting, and thanks to help of the fine folks from HelmsBrisco (a full service global leader in meeting procurement under contract with AFS) and a group of hard working folks from the Cal/Neva Chapter, this year's meeting will be held in Reno, NV at the Grand Sierra Resort (GSR) the week of March 21. The GSR offered many perks and very reasonable room rates.

With help from Sarah Gilbert Fox (AFS HQ), we have been able to put together a very slick website for the meeting (<http://wd2016.fisheries.org/>) that our webmaster is keeping fresh with cool pics of the area and frequent updates. Joe Merz (Cal Neva President-Elect and meeting co-organizer) came up with a brilliant theme for the meeting: Fisheries, Society, and the Scientific Method: Challenging our Perception of Science, Policy, and Management. We are lining up a plenary session to peel away some of the layers on this complex issue. We received 13 proposals (see list below, deadline November 30, 2015), and are now accepting oral and poster abstracts (due January 21, 2016).

In addition, we've lined up four field trips so far: Driving tour of Lake Tahoe, Truckee Trout Unlimited trout, Cruise with MS Dixie across Lake Tahoe, and Lower Truckee River Tour.

We will have six continuing education workshops: Fish

Passage and Fish Screening, PIT-tagging, R for Biologists, Section 7 Consultation with NOAA Fisheries, State Research Permits, and Federal Research Permits. All classes are slated for Monday, March 21. Check out these activities and more tours at our events page: (<http://wd2016.fisheries.org/events/workshops-trips/>).

Make sure to get in town on Monday for the opening social at the Discovery Center. Cold beer will be provided, and food will be available from several food trucks that will be on site. Renew connections and explore the touring Monster Fish Exhibition (which, incidentally, was partially funded through the WDAFS Small Grant Program). Students will get a kick out of the venue for the Student Social - the world famous National Automobile Museum, which is advertised as one of America's five greatest automobile museums (<http://www.automuseum.org/>). For more information, please check out the Schedule at a Glance (<http://wd2016.fisheries.org/schedule/>).
(RENO continued page 7)



Photo: tripadvisor.com

(RENO continued from page 6)

Registration is now open and the GSR is taking reservations. Great room rates (\$79/night Sun-Thu, \$93/night Sat) are available if you want to come a day or two early or stay late (<http://wd2016.fisheries.org/travel-lodging/>). Hope to see you in Reno in March.

WDAFS 2016 Symposia

1. A framework for riverscape genetics: integration of spatial, ecological, and genetic data in the study of lotic systems
2. Ecosystem management, breaking down the silos
3. Protecting fish consumers by protecting water quality: the struggle to develop new Human Health Criteria water quality standards in the Pacific Northwest
4. Ecology and management of western native fishes
5. Verification of fish design criteria for the built world
6. Biology and management of threatened Santa Ana Sucker in highly urbanized Southern California
7. Lahontan Cutthroat Trout: Advancing biology, conservation, and management
8. Use of acoustic tagging to evaluate survival and migratory behavior of juvenile salmonids
9. Tidewater Goby biology, metapopulations and Management
10. Process-based restoration - How are we doing?
11. Desert fish conservation - restoring habitat, passage and watershed connectivity in the interior basins of the Western United States
12. Captive propagation and domestication selection in fishes: a conservation dilemma
13. Professional development

Save the Date!

2017 WDAFS Annual Meeting will be held in Missoula, Montana



Photo by Tracy Wendt

In the heart of the *Last Best Place*, Missoula is where the Clark Fork, Bitterroot, and Blackfoot Rivers meet. The conference will take place at the University of Montana, with supplemental events and hotel options along the Clark Fork River.

2017 also marks the

50th Annual Meeting of the Montana Chapter of AFS

Opportunities are still available to join the planning committee – Contact Pat Saffel if you are interested in chairing a committee: psaffel@mt.gov.

2016 49th Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) of the Arizona-New Mexico Chapters of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society

February 2 – 6, 2016

Get more information at <https://aztws.com>



ARIZONA / NEW MEXICO CHAPTER
of the American Fisheries Society



Western Division Awards

WDAFS has many awards available to acknowledge excellence and commitment to fisheries, conservation, and to the Division. Deadlines for nominations are just around the corner, so this is the perfect time to share descriptions of the Division's many awards and the most recent recipients. Please consider nominating a deserving individual or group. Award deadlines are **January 15, 2016**. If you have any questions, contact Hilda Sexauer (hilda.sexauer@wyo.gov) for all awards except Riparian Challenge. For questions about Riparian Challenge, contact Tracy Wendt (tracywendt@gmail.com) <http://wdafs.org/awards/>

Award of Excellence

This is the most prestigious award offered by the Division. The award is intended to recognize sustained professional excellence. This award 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.

2015 - Dan Isaak
2014 - Dr. Tim Beechie
2013 - Dr. Andre Punt

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.

2013 - Mary Buckman
2012 - Julie Meka Carter
2011 - Philip Loring, Vaughn Paragamian,
Alicia Seesholtz

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.

2013 - Tracy Wendt
2012 - Venice Beske; Kevin Gelwicks; Dave Lentz; Travis Neebling; Eric Wagner
2011 - Paige Ackerman; Henry Booque; Kelly Stockton

Riparian Challenge Award

This award is given annually to an individual (AFS member or non-member) who has significantly contributed to fishery conservation within the Division.

2015 - BLM:Roseburg District BLM Office –
Brush Creek Watershed Restoration
Forest Service: Okanogan Wenatchee
Ranger District – Methow Beaver Project
Other:Coeur d'Alene Tribe – Hnmulshench
(West Fork Lake Creek) Restoration Project
2014 - BLM: Klamath Falls Resource Area for
Wood River Wetland Restoration – Klamath
Falls
Forest Service: Cascade Ranger District,
Boise National Forest for the SF Salmon
River Watershed Improvement
Other: BioEngineering Associates, Inc. in
partnership with Odd Fellows Recreation
Club for the Lower Russian River Riparian
Restoration
2013 - BLM: not awarded
Forest Service: Pike and San Isabel National
Forests, the Cimarron Comanche National
Grasslands, and the South Platte and Pikes
Peak Ranger Districts for the Hayman
Restoration Project
Other: Westervelt Ecological Services for the
Cosumnes Floodplain Mitigation Bank
project



WDAFS Past-president Hilda Sexauer with 2015 WDAFS Riparian Challenge winners Jeff McEnroe, Kent Woodruff, and Stephanie Hallock. Photo by Richard Grost.

(AWARDS continued on page 11)

The Sculpins of the Necanicum River

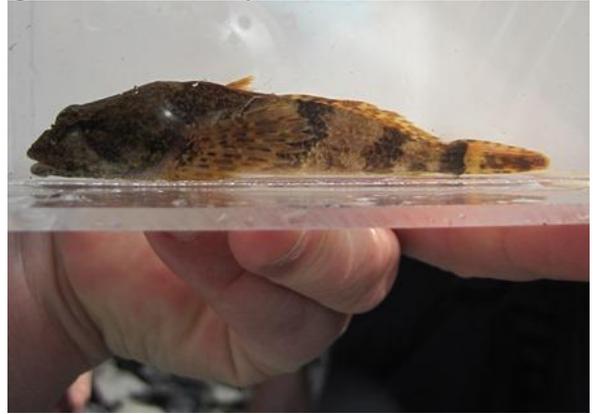
Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society Native Fish Committee
2015 Nongame Native Fish Workshop Summary

In early September, nearly 20 fisheries biologists convened for the 3rd annual Nongame Native Fish Workshop at the Necanicum River, near Seaside, Oregon. They intended to study the sculpin of that coastal river. The Native Fish Committee of the Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society organized the 24-hour workshop and it was sponsored by the Oregon Chapter. The workshop started September 2nd at noon, in a meeting facility of the Nehalem Bay State Park Campground where participants enjoyed a half day of sculpin presentations and discussions. Presenters included Roger Tabor (USFWS), Jason Dunham (USGS), Thaddaeus Buser (OSU), and Doug Markle (OSU). Sculpin discussions continued late into the night while camping at the State Park. The workshop

continued the next day while seining the Necanicum River for sculpin. The biologists collected 2 of the 5 sculpin species believed to occur in the river; Torrent (*Cottus rhotheus*) and Riffle (*Cottus gulosus*) sculpin. Research biologists collected specimens for the Oregon State University fish collection and 2 separate genetic studies. The annual Nongame Native Fish Workshop started in 2013 featuring Modoc and Warner suckers of Southern Oregon and continued in 2014 featuring Blitzen River Whitefish and Borax Lake Chub of East Oregon. The Oregon Chapter Native Fish Committee will select the 2016 workshop featured species over the upcoming winter. The 2015 participants included agency and university biologists and university students.



The 2015 Nongame Native Fish Workshop participants



Torrent Sculpin (*Cottus rhotheus*)



Ivan Arisemendi (OSU) and Troy Laws (ODFW) set seine



Bruce Hansen (USFS), Jason Dunham (USGS), Dave Skelton (USFS), and Doug Markle (OSU) check seine

Foskett Spring Speckled Dace Recovery

By Paul Scheerer, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



Foskett Speckled Dace, photo by Paul Scheerer

The Foskett Spring speckled dace, *Rhinichthys osculus* ssp., is represented by a single population that inhabits Foskett Spring on the west side of Coleman Lake (Warner Lakes subbasin) in Lake County, south-central Oregon. Foskett speckled dace was listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1985. The Foskett speckled dace became isolated in Foskett Spring at the end of the Pluvial period, approximately 10,000 years ago. Foskett Spring is a natural spring that rises from a springhead pool, flows through a narrow spring brook into a series of shallow marshes, and then disappears into the soil of the

normally dry Coleman Lake. A second population in Dace Spring, located approximately 0.8 kilometer south of Foskett Spring, was established in a large cattle trough in 1979-1980; however the introduction failed due to lack of suitable spawning habitat. In 1987, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acquired, through exchange, the 65 hectare parcel of land containing Foskett and Dace Springs. Both sites were fenced to exclude livestock.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW's) Native Fish Investigations Project has been monitoring the status and abundance of the population since 2005. Dace were found to be abundant (~3,000 adults) with multiple age-classes present and evidence of recent recruitment. However, we noted over time that population abundance was in steady decline as open water habitat was being lost by the encroachment of aquatic vegetation.



Before



After



During



8 months later

In 2009, a cooperative project between the US Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife was completed creating two permanent ponds at nearby Dace Springs. In 2013, ODFW introduced 200 dace from Foskett Spring into these ponds to reduce the risk of (DACE continued on page 11)

(DACE *continued from page 10*)

extinction and aid in recovery of this species. In 2014, this introduced population totaled over 500 fish. In 2012, the BLM conducted a prescribed burn in the Foskett spring marshes to restore open water habitat and hand excavated 11 open water pools. This increased open water habitat three fold and the dace population increased from ~1,800 fish in 2012 to nearly 25,000 fish in 2014. In 2015, ODFW, USFWS, and BLM signed a cooperative management agreement to manage these habitats and prevent future declines. In 2015, the USFWS completed a “five-year review” and recommended delisting the species.

(AWARDS *continued from page 8*)

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.

2012 - North Pacific Fishery Management Council

2011 - Cherry Creek Working Group,

Montana; Grunion Greeter’s Project

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.

2011 - Eileen Ryce

2010 - Krissy Wilson

Outstanding Chapter

2015 - Idaho

2014 - Idaho

2013 - Oregon

Outstanding Student Subunit

2015 - University of Alaska, Fairbanks

2014 - University of Montana

2013 - University of Alaska, Fairbanks

See “Student News” on Page X for information regarding the WDAFS Scholarship.

What are you up to?

Share your latest research or news with the rest of WDAFS by submitting an article to The Tributary newsletter.

Email your submittal to

westerndivnewsletter@gmail.com.

AFS Now Accepting Applications for

2016 Class

Planning and Executing Successful Rotenone and Antimycin Projects

The 2016 AFS continuing education class Planning and Executing Successful Rotenone and Antimycin Projects is now accepting applications for enrollment. The 4 ½ day course is recommended training by EPA for those using rotenone and antimycin and has been accredited for continuing education hours in state Qualified Applicator License/Certificate programs. The course will be held at Utah State University, Logan from May 23-27, 2016, and interested applicants can apply by contacting Shawn Johnston at (301) 897-8616 ext. 230 or sjohnston@fisheries.org or by registering on line at <http://fisheries.org>. For more information contact Brian Finlayson (briankarefinlayson@att.net) or Don Skaar at (dskaar@mt.gov).

Student News



Palouse Unit member Bart Taylor (right) and IDFG Regional Fisheries Manager Joe Dupont (left) show off their catch (9'5") during the White Sturgeon sampling outing on the lower Snake River

University of Idaho Student Subunit - Palouse President: Phil Branigan

The Palouse Unit has had a busy and successful fall semester. Membership has increased and attendance at guest presentations and field trips has been great. This fall, the Palouse Unit hosted two guest presenters: T.J. Ross, Senior Fishery Research Biologist with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), and Brita Olson, Watershed Coordinator for the Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group. Additionally, members of the Palouse Unit assisted IDFG with Bull Trout red count surveys on the St. Joe and Little North Fork Clearwater rivers, and White Sturgeon sampling on the Lower Snake River. They are currently planning activities for spring semester. Please contact Phil Branigan at bran4826@vandals.uidaho.edu if you have an interest in working with the Palouse Unit. And mark your calendars: the Annual Wild Game Feed Fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, April 22 in Moscow, Idaho. More details to come!

Join AFS Today!

Did you know that AFS has special membership rates for students and early professionals?

\$20 student membership
\$40 early professional membership

www.fisheries.org/membership

University of Idaho Student Subunit - Portneuf President: James Paris

This fall, the Portneuf Unit was involved with several community events aimed at local water resources. They volunteered at the Pocatello Riverfest, a fundraiser for that town's riverside trail system, assisting with a youth activity program encouraging kids to investigate river organisms. They also volunteered at the annual Portneuf River Cleanup, collecting trash within the city's main waterway. Finally, they are planning the subunit's annual Ice Fishing Derby, which will take place in early February.



Colorado State University Subunit President: Estevan Vigil

The CSU student subunit has had an exciting and productive fall. This semester they submitted our new by-laws to the AFS parent chapter for approval ensuring recognition as a student subunit. The subunit has been recruiting members and is proud to have a current active membership of 33 students.

CSU hosted their first Youth Only College Lake Fishing Derby, which had a great turnout and was a big fundraising success. Thanks to event sponsors, every kid went home with a great prize, from a brand new rod and reel combo to a largest bass trophy. They also collaborated with 5 Smooth Stone Restoration to conduct a river restoration short course for interested students within the College of Natural Resources. This 2-day weekend course involved both classroom learning of such topics and fluvial geomorphology and stream classification to hands on learning in the field at a (STUDENT continued Page 13)

(STUDENT *continued from Page 12*)
local stream.

CSU has had a wide variety of fisheries professionals speak at biweekly meetings and are currently looking for exciting speakers for next semester. Any potential speakers or employers should contact afscsu@gmail.com. Follow CSU on Facebook for coming events and information.

University of Wyoming Subunit
President: Tyler Firkus



The University of Wyoming student subunit has been busy this fall semester. They have hosted monthly meetings with guest speakers that have presented on various fisheries topics. The first meeting of the semester kicked off with aquatic-focused UW professors introducing themselves to the subunit and describing their research. At the October meeting, Bobby Compton discussed why being part of AFS is important, as well as the associated benefits. In November, Kevin Gelwicks discussed the role of the Wyoming Brown Trout red counts on Spring Creek with Steve Gale in late October. The subunit is beginning a project with Gale, looking at a population of Iowa Darters from Huck Finn pond in Laramie to potentially help supplement low populations of darters in the Laramie and North Platte Rivers. The subunit is currently in the process of planning the Western Division Student Colloquium, which they will host in Lander this April, and securing a venue for the Student Social for this year's CO/WY Chapter Meeting.

Colorado Mesa University Subunit
President: Kelsi Antonelli

Membership in Colorado Mesa University's Fish and Wildlife Club continues to grow! The Fall 2015 semester brought in a whole new round of officers and quite a few new members. Several speakers have enlightened club members this semester. Trina Romero of Colorado Parks and Wildlife described her work as Watchable Wildlife and Volunteer Coordinator, and gave the club helpful tips and insight into finding a job with the CPW. Dr. Chris Myrick of CSU spoke at the November meeting about his work in designing fish passages and fish barriers, his personal scholastic experiences, and helpful hits for navigating the confusing world of graduate school. As a small fundraiser in September, the club sold tickets for the Costa Fly Fishing Film Tour, and a handful of lucky members got the chance to attend the showing in Grand Junction. The club also joined up with the Grand Valley Anglers in late September to do a trash clean-up around Carson Lake (and to get in a little fly fishing) on the Grand Mesa. Looking ahead, they plan to organize a club ice fishing trip for January, put on a spring fundraiser, and continue to hear from local wildlife and fisheries professionals at monthly meetings.



(STUDENT *continued on Page 14*)

(STUDENT continued from Page 13)

UC Davis Subunit

President: Jesse Vargas

The Davis Subunit held the second annual Carpe Carpio welcome event at the UC Davis Arboretum to kick off the year. The subunit began publishing the Davis Fish Tales Newsletter last year and for which Emily Miller has continued serve as Editor this year.

This year they added a new component to the newsletter. Emily recruited six interested undergraduate students to join as a Science Writing Staff. They were each assigned a recent fish publication by a UC Davis graduate student, staff, or faculty to read and report on. They also had to get a quote from the authors about the study's significance. It's a way to connect undergraduates with current research being conducted on campus and with the researchers producing it. It also gives students a chance to practice their science writing skills and ability to interpret published research. They are providing a service to the UC Davis fisheries community as well by connecting researchers across departments and disciplines.

**Submit news about your
student subunit for the next
Tributary newsletter**

westerndivnewsletter@gmail.com

Don't forget to include pictures!

Utah State University Subunit

President: Jamie Reynolds

Over the summer and fall, graduate students of the USU AFS Student Subunit conducted field work for their projects, which include:

- PIT tag detection techniques in the San Juan River, southern Utah;
- Assessing impacts of climate change on arctic lakes in Alaska;
- Population and habitat assessment for bluehead sucker (*Catostomus discobolus*) in the Weber River, Ogden, Utah;
- Determining the impacts of lake level fluctuations on endemic species in Bear Lake, Utah/Idaho (Hayley Glassic, MS Candidate);
- Researching Bluehead Sucker (*Catostomus discobolus*) population decline in the Weber River (Bryan Maloney, MS Candidate);
- Determining the impact of an invasive species on an endangered species in Utah Lake, Utah (Jamie Reynolds, MS Candidate);
- Investigating the potential impact of American white pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) on fishes in Strawberry Reservoir, Utah; and investigating the impacts of wildfire on stream fish habitats in the Tushar Mountains, central Utah.

The subunit has plans to go ice fishing this winter, participate in the Burbot Bash on Flaming Gorge Reservoir (Utah/Wyoming), participate in the Cisco Disco on Bear Lake (Utah/Idaho), prepare for the Utah AFS Chapter Meeting in March, and help our local Trout Unlimited chapter with their activities.

WDAFS Scholarship Deadline January 1

The WDAFS deadline for graduate-level student scholarship applications is January 1, 2016.

This scholarship program provides up to \$5,000 annually in scholarships to masters or doctoral students in the general area of fisheries science; awards will be presented to one to three individual students. The Sustainable Fisheries Foundation augmented this scholarship program by establishing the William Trachtenberg Memorial Scholarship fund in 2002. This fund provides up to \$600 annually to a graduate-level student conducting studies on fisheries sustainability. Applications for the Western Division Scholarship program will automatically be considered for the Sustainable Fisheries Foundation scholarship program as well. The application form and details can be found at wdafs.org.

If you have questions, please contact Bob Gresswell (bgresswell@usgs.gov)

Fishy Foto Contest Winners

By Jane Sullivan, WDAFS Student Representative

We received 14 submissions from 7 universities for the 2015 WDAFS Fishy Foto Contest. The winning photographs were selected by a panel of WDAFS Executive Committee members. The goals of the contest were to capture students engaging in fisheries research and to highlight the natural beauty and diversity of fisheries across the West.

Winning photographs will be framed and auctioned off at the 2016 WDAFS Annual Meeting in Reno, NV (March 21-24, 2016), and all proceeds will be donated to the awardee's student subunit. Thank you to all the students who submitted. Keep snapping photos in the field for next year's contest!

1st PLACE: TYLER FIRKUS AND RANDY STEWART

M.S. Students at the University of Wyoming

Faculty Advisors: Drs. Harold Bergman and Frank Rahel

Electrofishing in the South Platte River through downtown Denver, CO. Not all fisheries research occurs in pristine ecosystems. In this picture, a crew consisting of University of Wyoming students and Denver Metro employees is electrofishing the South Platte River in search of Johnny darters (*Etheostoma nigrum*) for use in a study examining the effects of warmed winter temperatures in heavily impacted urban streams on native fish reproduction. Mile High Stadium and Elitch Gardens Amusement Park can be seen in the background.



2nd PLACE: EMILY MILLER

PhD Student at the University of California, Davis

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Peter Klimley

U.C. Davis graduate student Jonathan Rose studies invasive banded watersnakes in California Central Valley wetlands and the potential impact they will have on native fishes and food webs. Here, he holds an invasive green sunfish, one of the most commonly captured fish. Despite their beauty, these abundant, nonnative fish are representative of these highly invaded suburban and agricultural runoff habitats. Jonathan's research will help agency scientists manage these novel ecosystems and the interconnected relationships between native and nonnative species.



3rd PLACE: SHAWNA WAREHIMER

Undergraduate Student at Eastern Washington University

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Allan T. Scholz

Photo was taken by Shawna Warehime at an Ichthyology Lab, at Silver Lake, WA September 28, 2015. The purpose of this class and lab is to engage and educate students on fish species, populations, data collection, and what can be learned from data collection for fishery management decisions. Additionally, it is important to teach proper handling and release techniques. This instance captured a fish release after all data had been collected.



YOU'RE INVITED

Student AFS members, and those interested in fisheries, you are cordially invited to the 2016 Western Division Meeting of the American Fisheries Society. The meeting will be in **Reno, Nevada, March 21 – 24, 2016** at the Grand Sierra Resort.

Present your work, network with your peers, meet future employers and professors, engage with leaders in your field, attend continuing education courses and field trips.

Benefits unique to this meeting include:

- Reduced priced registration for students and recent grads, and low hotel costs (\$79/night)
- Student travel grants will be available
- Catered Student Social at the National Automobile Museum
- Access to great local nightlife, skiing, and fishing



For more information visit:
<http://wd2016.fisheries.org/>



If you are interested in volunteering (or getting paid) to help with this meeting, please contact: jysullivan@alaska.edu

Rivers from Beijing to Boise

By Lauri Mannot, Idaho Chapter Public Education Committee

The Idaho Chapter AFS partnered with the College of Idaho to provide an outdoor classroom experience for 14 high school students from Beijing, China. Students were immersed in the study of water quality and in determining if a body of water is swimmable-fishable, as defined by the Clean Water Act. For two weeks, students and mentors experienced the diversity of resources and culture between Idaho and China.



Teachers presented water quality, aquatic species, and habitat lessons in the classroom. Then students applied their knowledge at six field sites on the Boise River. Their water quality data were brought back to the classroom for evaluation and analysis. Students were also able to explore the Snake River on a raft trip from Swan Falls Dam to Celebration Park. This trip allowed informal interaction with professional scientists and fish biologists. Idaho Power demonstrated electrofishing to observe the fish community. Students recorded their experiences with pictures, journals and demonstrated their new knowledge in student showcase presentations on the last classroom day.



The students' questions, observations and comparisons between rivers in China and Idaho were insightful. Over two weeks they conquered unfamiliar concepts and the riparian 'jungle'. Observing their trepidation and then exhilaration while swimming in the Snake River was rewarding for both students and mentors. We are hopeful that this brief experience will influence the students as they continue their education and embark on their professional lives. Idaho Chapter members are proud to have had a part in this unique experience.



Remembering Kelly Meyer



Kelly Meyer
Arizona Game and Fish

On the evening of Wednesday, November 4, 2015, at 11:58 P.M., Kelly Joseph Meyer, unexpectedly, passed away from a massive pulmonary embolism at Honor Health Scottsdale Shea in Scottsdale, Arizona. Kelly was 54 years old. He was born on October 24, 1961, in Riverton, Wyoming. Kelly was the second child, and the 1st son of B Joe and Mary JoAnn (Schaffer) Meyer. Kelly graduated from Riverton High School in 1980 as a National Merit Scholar. Kelly graduated as valedictorian from Utah State University, College of Natural Resources in 1984 and achieved a Master's Degree from Virginia Tech University.



While Kelly served his time in the Peace Corp, in Africa, he gained a love for travel and world peace (HED) He Studied Spanish in South America. He loved the Spanish language and studied daily to learn it.

Kelly was a volunteer firefighter for the Lakeside Fire Department from 2001 to 2015. Kelly was proud of his professions. He was a Fisheries & Wildlife Biologist. He and his crew were instrumental in the process of listing the Apache Trout. Kelly worked for the White Mountain Apache Tribe Game and Fish Department and for the Arizona Department of Game and Fish up until the time of his death. He was also an active real estate agent in the White Mountains from 1998 to 2015.

He loved sports and the outdoors. He ran a 1/2 marathon, played basketball and was a wrestler, placing 2nd in state, while in high school. He loved taking his boys and friends fishing, camping and anything else outdoors. Kelly coached his children in youth soccer and basketball.

Kelly loved his wife, and best friend, Denise, and was so proud of his sons, Andrew and Jack.

Kelly is survived by his wife, Denise Christine (Throckmorton) Meyer; 2 sons: Andrew Joseph Meyer, John Jacob "Jack" Meyer; parents, B Joseph and Mary Meyer; his sister, Barbara Diane (James Allen) Brown of Riverton, Wyoming; brother, Jay Joseph Meyer of Laramie, Wyoming and by his brother-in-law, Jake (Leanne) Throckmorton.

*Kelly was a hell of a
biologist and a friend to all.*

- Sally Petre, Arizona Game and Fish

ORAFS Chapter Event Financial Policy

Determining financial assistance or fee waivers is a complex aspect of planning Chapter-sponsored meetings and events. The policy employed by the Oregon Chapter is thorough and may provide an example or guidance for chapters struggling to establish their own guidelines. Thank you, ORAFS for graciously sharing your policy with WDAFS!

Financial Assistance and Fee Waiver Policies and Guidelines for Chapter Sponsored Events

Participation by members of the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries (ORAFS or Chapter) in annual meetings and symposia is critical to the function and success of the Chapter. Registration fees generate revenue that is essential to functionality and attaining the Chapter's goals. This document is a guide for determining eligibility of ORAFS members or associated participants (defined below) for financial assistance or fee waivers for Chapter-sponsored events, including annual meetings, conferences, and special symposia (Chapter-sponsored event). To request financial assistance or waivers from ORAFS, an applicant must first determine if they are eligible using the guidelines below. After determining their eligibility, the applicant should contact the ORAFS President at president@orafs.org or access waiver documents at www.orafs.org.

1. Participants Eligible for Financial Assistance or Fee Waivers

Interested persons who have a demonstrable financial need may qualify for financial assistance or fee waivers, provided that they meet the eligibility requirements stated below, and are at the discretion of the ORAFS External Committee. The Chapter cannot guarantee financial assistance or fee waivers to all applicants.

Workshop Organizer and/or Lead Presenter- Registration fees may be waived for the workshop organizer or the lead presenter of a Chapter-sponsored event.

Legislative Liaison- Registration fees may be waived for the ORAFS Legislative Liaison to attend a Chapter-sponsored event.

Executive Committee- Registration fees may be waived and lodging fees may be reimbursed for

ORAFS Executive Committee officers for a Chapter-sponsored event.

Plenary Speakers- Registration waiver, lodging fees, travel expenses (within a pre-defined, mutually agreed-to and reasonable amount), and a \$500 honorarium may be provided to Plenary Session speakers at a Chapter-sponsored event.

Professionals- "Fish Out of Water" waivers may be issued to off-set registration fees for a Chapter-sponsored event for professionals who are ORAFS members. Fish Out of Water waiver application forms will be posted to orafs.org. Waivers will be issued on a first come, first served basis to qualifying professionals. The number of waivers for a Chapter-sponsored event will be determined by the ORAFS Executive Committee prior to the event.

Students- Discounted student registration fees are generally available for students at Chapter-sponsored events. The "Student" registration rate will, at a minimum, cover the estimated per person food and beverage cost for the student attendee. When available, ORAFS will provide a limited number of rooms for student volunteers at a Chapter-sponsored event. For students to qualify for these rooms, they will be required to volunteer a nominal number of hours during the Chapter-sponsored event. Student volunteer responsibilities, number of volunteers needed, and the number of volunteer hours required will be determined by the ORAFS Executive Committee prior to the event. Volunteer requirements will be posted on the ORAFS website. The ORAFS Vice President or a volunteer coordinator will be responsible for overseeing and assigning volunteers.

Media- A limited number of reduced registrations may be provided for members of the media. The number and price of the discounted registration will be determined by the ORAFS Executive Committee prior to the event.

Vendors- One registration waiver will be included as part of the vendor registration for Chapter-sponsored events.

Sponsors- Sponsorships may include a limited number of registration waivers depending on the level of the sponsorship (see table below). Sponsorship by an organization does NOT provide a blanket registration for all its employees/members to attend.
(ORAFS continued on Page 17)

(ORAFS continued from Page 16)

| Sponsorship Level | Amount | Registration Waivers |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Platinum | > \$10,000 | 4 |
| Gold | \$5,000 - \$9,999 | 3 |
| Silver | \$1,000 - \$4,999 | 2 |
| Bronze | \$ 500- \$999 | 1 |

2. Participants Not Eligible for Financial Assistance or Fee Waivers

The following participants are not eligible for financial assistance or fee waivers, unless they are covered under section 1.

Moderators- Attendees who moderate a session or series of presentations at a Chapter-sponsored

event are not eligible for waivers or cost reimbursements.

Presenters- Attendees who are either invited, volunteer to give a presentation, or prepare a poster at a Chapter-sponsored event are not eligible for waivers or cost reimbursements.

Groups- Attendees, who register for a Chapter-sponsored event as part of a larger group, are not eligible for waivers, group discounts, or reimbursements of costs.

3. Refunds/Cancellations

Cancellations and refunds will only be accepted up to the cancellation date, which will be posted on the ORAFS website. After the cancellation date, registrations can be transferred to another person if necessary at no cost. All refunds will be charged a \$25 cancellation fee to cover the service charges associated with the registration website.

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program is seeking 2016 Summer Mentors!

Apply to be a 2016 Hutton Mentor at: <http://hutton.fisheries.org/mentor-application/>

Application deadline: **February 27, 2016**

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program is a paid summer internship and mentoring program for high school juniors and seniors interested in pursuing fisheries science, marine biology, and STEM-related fields, and is sponsored by the American Fisheries Society (AFS). From the beginning of the program in 2001 to 2015, the program has offered scholarships to 572 Hutton scholars with the help of 270 mentors in 137 host and financially sponsoring institutions. Our mission is to increase diversity within the fisheries professions. The principal goal of the Hutton Program is to stimulate interest in careers in fisheries science and management among groups underrepresented in the fisheries professions, including minorities and women. Selected students known as "Hutton Scholars" are matched and mentored by a fisheries professional to enjoy an 8-week hands-on fisheries science summer experience in a marine and/or freshwater setting.

Hutton Scholars:

- Receive a \$4000 scholarship award
- Learn about the importance of healthy aquatic systems
- Participate in resource conservation and management projects
- Gain hands-on work experience
- Learn about career opportunities in the field, and receive course study resources.

The Hutton J.F.B. Program continues its mission every summer to diversify the fisheries profession by engaging, inspiring, and enriching next generation fisheries professionals. Mentors and their organizations not only have the opportunity to have a positive effect on the life of a high school student, but also receive assistance with important summer projects and may even discover a potential future employee. AFS simplifies the mentor's involvement by providing guidance and administrative support. For any questions, please contact AFS Educational Program Coordinator, Cynthia Oboh at coboh@fisheries.org or visit <http://hutton.fisheries.org>

Important Dates and Deadlines

2016

January 1

WDAFS Scholarship Deadline

Masters and doctoral fisheries students apply now! More information is available at wdafs.org or on page 13 of this newsletter.

January 15

WDAFS Award Deadline

Make your nomination today!
More information is available at wdafs.org or on page 8 of this newsletter.

January 15

WDAFS Riparian Challenge Deadline

Nominate a qualifying project now!
More information is available at wdafs.org or on page 8 of this newsletter.

February 4-6

Arizona-New Mexico TWS and AFS JAM

Register for the AZ-NM Joint Annual Meeting for TWS and AFS at <http://aztws.com>. Meeting to be held in Flagstaff, AZ.

February 16-19

Montana Chapter AFS Annual Meeting

The MCAFS meeting will be held in Helena. Registration and room booking information is available at <http://www.montanaafs.org/events>

February 19

2016 WDAFS Annual Meeting Early Registration Deadline

Visit the meeting site and register today!
<http://wd2016.fisheries.org/>

February 27

AFS Hutton Program Mentor Deadline

Find more information on page 17 of this newsletter or at <http://hutton.fisheries.org>.

March 1-3

Colorado/Wyoming Chapter Annual Meeting

This year's meeting will be held in Laramie, WY. Watch the website for more information: <http://www.cowyafs.org/>.

March 2-4

Oregon Chapter Annual Meeting

"Communication, Brokers in Information" is the theme – Seaside, Oregon is the location. Watch for information here: <http://orafs.org/annual-meeting/>

March 8-10

Idaho Chapter Annual Meeting

Join the Idaho Chapter at the scenic Coeur d'Alene Resort for the annual meeting. Details to come:
<http://www.idahoafs.org/2016AnnualMeeting/>

March 15-17

Utah Chapter Annual Meeting

The meeting will be held at the Hidden Springs Ranch in Altamont. Watch for details at:
<http://utah.fisheries.org/annual-meeting-2016/>

March 21 – 24

2016 WDAFS Annual Meeting – Reno, NV

Visit "The Biggest Little City in the World!" Thank you to the Cal-Neva chapter for hosting. Register now:
<http://wd2016.fisheries.org/>.

May 23-27

AFS Planning & Executing Successful Rotenone & Antimycin Projects Workshop

This training has been accredited for continuing education hours in state Qualified Applicator License/Certificate programs. For more information, see page 11 of this newsletter.

August 21-25

AFS Annual Meeting – Kansas City

Details to come – watch www.fisheries.org for updates.

2017

May 22-25

WDAFS Annual Meeting – Missoula, MT

Save the date! See page 7 of this newsletter and watch www.montanaafs.org for information.

August 20-24

AFS Annual Meeting - Tampa, FL

Details to come – watch www.fisheries.org for updates.

Got a date?

Submit dates and deadlines for your chapter or committee events to: westerndivnewsletter@gmail.org.

Presentations

Workshops

Field Trips

Banquet

Vendors

THE 41st ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

In Collaboration with the California-Nevada Chapter

***“FISHERIES, SOCIETY, AND THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD: CHALLENGING
OUR PERCEPTION OF SCIENCE, POLICY, AND MANAGEMENT”***

Over 200 presentations on fisheries and aquatic resource issues

Information: <http://wd2016.fisheries.org/>

21-24 March 2016

Grand Sierra

2500 E 2nd St, Reno, NV 89502



CALL FOR SYMPOSIA AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Call Opens: December 7, 2015

Deadline: February 1, 2016

We are pleased to announce that the call for Symposia, Workshops and pre-Conference Training Courses at The World of Trout – 1st International Congress is now open. The theme of the Congress is *Conversations to Promote a Global Trout Conservation Network*.

We welcome proposals related to the theme of the Congress that include **trout conservation and science, literature, art, culture and education**. Scientific and conservation topics may include trout systematics, conservation, management, and restoration. We especially encourage **writers, artists, and educators** to organize activities around the Congress. The Congress will be held in **Bozeman, Montana USA** from 2-6 October 2016, with pre-Conference Training Courses taking place prior to the meeting.

Activities associated with the Congress include a **film festival, fiction writing competition, and photo competition**. We'll have other events throughout the Congress.

If you would like to contribute to the Congress program by organizing a symposium, leading an interactive workshop or conducting a training course in conjunction with the conference, we encourage you to **submit your proposal by February 1, 2016**.



INTERNATIONAL
TROUT CONGRESS

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL
at

[http://troutcongress.org/
content/session-proposal](http://troutcongress.org/content/session-proposal)