

WDAFS 2019 OFFICER CANDIDATES

VICE PRESIDENT

DAN BRAUCH

Background

My younger years included many horseback trips to high elevation lakes in the White River National Forest and the Flat Tops Wilderness area near Meeker, Colorado. These trips were cherished father-son bonding time that also provided opportunities to fish for ravenous ice-off Brook and Cutthroat Trout. These fishing trips laid the foundation of my desire for a career working with fish and wildlife, and, along with additional interest gained during Meeker High School biology class field trips, started me on my current course. I attended Colorado State University and received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and I was fortunate to expand my education by working summers for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the predecessor to Colorado Parks and Wildlife. These summer jobs, including intern, creel survey, and fisheries technician positions, eventually led to full time employment as a fish culturist at the Roaring Judy State Fish Hatchery near Gunnison, Colorado. A significant part of our work at Roaring Judy included maintaining the Blue Mesa Reservoir kokanee fishery through an annual wild spawntake. This work, in part, led to a position as an aquatic biologist in the upper Gunnison basin.



As an area aquatic biologist for now Colorado Parks and Wildlife, I can truly say that I have my “dream” job in my “dream” location. I feel incredibly fortunate and am thankful to be able to manage aquatic resources for such a great agency in such beautiful country. There are certainly days that our work can be challenging, often when we are working with programs that may be controversial or that do not have full support of the public, but these challenges are what make our jobs more interesting and often lead to opportunities for continued personal and professional growth. Through this position, I have been able to work with many extremely talented fish culturists, biologists, and researchers to help me manage fisheries in my area and this work has led to co-authorship of three papers published in AFS Journals.

I have been fortunate to work in a leadership role with several organizations through the years including serving as secretary/treasurer and chapter and regional chairman for Ducks Unlimited (DU) while helping to organize and host 20 Gunnison Chapter and one Colorado DU fundraising banquets. I also have participated in 4-H since I was just a wee young lad as a member, a Collegiate 4-H officer and, now, a 4-H Leathercraft project leader. I always have been most energized when engaged with great organizations and great people.

AFS Participation

My active participation with AFS started shortly after I began my fisheries biologist position with Colorado Division of Wildlife, in 1997. This involvement started with an invitation to serve when my supervisor, a soon-to-be Colorado-Wyoming AFS (CWAFS) Chapter President, asked me to become active by participating as a CWAFS Raffle Committee Co-Chairman. I recall being excited to be asked to be part of our professional society and to have an opportunity to contribute. I served as the CWAFS Raffle Chairman or Co-Chairman for 16 years, prior to being elected as our Chapter Secretary-Treasurer. This position on our Chapter Executive Committee provided an opportunity to work with a great group of people to complete CWAFS business, put on our annual meeting, and to continue the great work that AFS does. It was exciting to be engaged at this level, to grow personal relationships through this involvement, and to serve the CWAFS as, eventually, Chapter President. I have enjoyed continuing to serve CWAFS as a member of the Budget Review and Awards Committees, serving as a paper judge, and presenting at the annual meeting.

My involvement with the Western Division of AFS (WDAFS) began when the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter hosted a WDAFS meeting in Telluride, Colorado in 2000. Hosting this meeting was a wonderful experience and was my first

opportunity to engage directly with Society and WDAFS leadership. Later, while serving as the CO-WY Chapter President, I appreciated participating with WDAFS business through monthly business conference calls, the fall retreat, and the business meeting associated with the WDAFS annual meeting in Mazatlan, Mexico.

Vision

One of the greatest strengths of AFS is in providing a forum for exchange of valuable information to help us all grow as fisheries professionals. This is done through annual meeting paper and poster presentations, published articles in AFS journals, books and newsletters, and through continuing education sessions or web seminars. I have highly valued the many “aha” moments I have had participating through these integral parts of AFS. Of perhaps even greater value has been the many opportunities to build personal relationships with other fisheries professionals at annual meetings. I have found many of these relationships to truly be life-changing. The WDAFS plays a valuable role in providing opportunities to share information and to form new personal relationships beyond the chapter level. WDAFS does a great job providing information through publication of The Tributary and dispersing information via email and on the WDAFS web page. Current initiatives to expand communications via social media platforms are also underway. I am very interested in getting more involved in supporting the great work that WDAFS does while looking for new opportunities to allow for more “aha” moments and opportunities for personal and professional growth for members.

I am humbled and inspired to see the great work done by the WDAFS Executive Committee and committee members. I am excited for the potential opportunity to work with and learn from these incredible people! Thank you for considering me for this position to serve as your representative on the Western Division Executive Committee.

VICE PRESIDENT

KIMBERLY CONLEY

Hello. My name is Kimberly Conley and I’m running for the position of Vice President of the AFS Western Division. I am a fisheries biologist with the U.S. Forest Service in Portland, Oregon and a 10-year member of AFS. My work in fisheries extends throughout Oregon and Washington, improving stream habitat for native freshwater fish and collaborating with federal and state agencies on fish conservation. As longtime resident of Oregon and graduate from Oregon State University, concern about the ecosystem is not just part of my job. My passion for the outdoors and all things wild drives my desire to protect these animals for future generations.



Part of my role in AFS, as I see it, is to continue to give back to the AFS community and encourage new biologists to embrace our vision. Many AFS members are concerned about critical issues such as the need to improve coordination between agency stakeholders. We also need leadership that vigorously supports policy proposals and research from AFS members. Working together across invisible boundaries is becoming a determination of mine, especially at a time in which all agencies and landowners are challenged to effectively manage our streams and waterways with limited resources. I want to create better pathways that improve coordination across boundaries to promote fisheries conservation.

My interest in serving AFS as Vice President is to rally our member resources to ensure fish in the west can persevere against drought, climate change, and constantly challenging anthropogenic activities. With active, inclusive leadership, we can build a better future for fisheries.

SECRETARY-TREASURER

TRAVIS REHM

Travis is a new Fisheries Biologist for the Spokane Tribe of Indians. He is seeking election to the office of Secretary-Treasurer, with the goal of being a contributing member of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society. Travis has served as the President of the South Dakota State University Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society and also as a member of the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Executive Committee. Travis grew up in the small town of Dillon, Montana where the world class trout fisheries were formative to his career as a fisheries professional. During the summers of his undergraduate degree and before he began his Master's program, Travis gained extensive experience throughout the western U.S. working as a fisheries technician for the: U.S. Forest Service, USGS, Madison River Foundation, Hickey Brothers Research, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and Idaho Fish and Game. He graduated from Montana State University with a B.S. in Fish and Wildlife Management and South Dakota State University with a M.S. in Fisheries Science, where his research has focused on Brown Trout ecology in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Currently, Travis is a Fisheries Biologist working for the Spokane Tribe of Indians on the Lake Roosevelt Fisheries Evaluation Program.



STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

EMILY CHEN

I am running to be the student representative for the Western Division because the American Fisheries Society has benefited my career, and I want to contribute towards creating resources for fellow students. Attending Cal-Neva's and Oregon's Chapters' annual meetings for the past few years has helped me network with fisheries professionals and build connections with students at other universities. I enjoy working with and learning from others and hope as student representative, I can improve the access student sub-units have in receiving benefits from the American Fisheries Society. I am hoping as student representative I can be involved in all chapters of the Western Division and increase connectivity among them.

I am currently a fisheries master's student at Humboldt State University in northern California, where I am modeling the importance of estuaries to Pacific salmonids. Next year, I will remain in the Western Division and pursue a PhD studying salmonid ecology and population dynamics. Having been involved in AFS in multiple states and attended different fisheries programs on the West Coast, I believe I can serve as a bridge for student sub-units at different universities.



STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

BRYAN MAITLAND

Statement of interest: My name is Bryan Maitland, and I want to be your next Student Representative to WDAFS. I'm excited for the opportunity to promote the interests of our robust and growing student collective among the WDAFS community and greater public. We students are the future of our profession, but perhaps more importantly, we are the future of our freshwaters. And I believe when we are effectively organized, we can contribute much more than any individual. Given the opportunity, I would endeavor to advocate for WDAFS student members' interests – from facilitating student involvement in diverse activities, to ensuring that issues important to students are addressed at WDAFS committee meetings.

Who I am: My work is motivated by a love and fascination for freshwaters and the animals that depend on it – especially fishes. Wild fish and freshwater ecosystems are spectacularly diverse things. Yet loss of aquatic biodiversity and disruptions to ecological communities are occurring at accelerating rates. Effective management and conservation of fishes requires understanding their ecology and evolution to inform our ability to predict and mitigate the cumulative effects of multiple, interacting stressors on aquatic systems. It is this underpinning that drives my curiosity and research in fish ecology and conservation, as well as a keen appreciation for the myriad fisheries professionals and students engaged in freshwater science and management. This drive has led me to my current position as a PhD candidate in Dr. Frank Rahel's Fish Ecology lab at the University of Wyoming, where I am working toward my doctorate studying fish community ecology and food web dynamics.



I also believe that we are in dire need of advancing science literacy and promoting evidence-based decision making. So, in addition to research, I enjoy engaging my community through outreach and teaching to help foster an appreciation for rivers, streams, lakes, fish, and bugs. This includes mentoring students at the University of Wyoming: to date, I've mentored 12 undergraduates through field- and lab-based work. Many of these students have gone on to technician positions with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department or Colorado Parks and Wildlife, or on to graduate school.

AFS Involvement: As an undergraduate at SUNY: College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 2008, I joined the NY AFS chapter and local Student Subunit. I planned and organized multiple events (e.g., hatchery visits, fishing derbies), organized invited speakers, mentored incoming freshman students, and served as treasurer of the Subunit. During my M.Sc. work at the University of Alberta, my advisor –Dr. Mark Poesch – and I worked to revitalize the Mid-Canada Chapter of AFS. I also helped plan a workshop for Early Career Researchers at the 2015 CCFFR annual meeting in Ottawa, from which I wrote a paper summarizing the collective research experience and tips for success that panel members provided (Maitland et al., 2015; Fisheries 40(8): 399-403). In fall 2015 I started my doctoral research program at the University of Wyoming, where I first became involved with AFS's Western Division and joining the CO-WY Chapter and the UW Student Subunit. I have been involved with planning the 2015-2018 CO/WY State Meetings (e.g., the student-hosted social), and helped organize the 2016 WD student colloquium (hosted in Lander, WY). I then served as the UW Subunit President from 2016-2017.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

KATHARINE ONOFRYTON

Katharine is new to the American Fisheries Society this year, but was part of a student chapter at Cornell University during her undergraduate degree. She spent her formative years traveling between Phoenix, AZ, where she was fascinated with desert fishes, and Minocqua, WI, where she spent countless hours running around outdoors and fishing. Katharine and her dad currently raise desert pupfish for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. She pursued an undergraduate degree in Science of Earth Systems, concentrating in oceanography, and double minoring in Marine Biology and Natural Resources. She completed a field program in Waimea, HI studying volcanology, forest ecology, coral health, and invasive species management. Katharine also completed an Honors Thesis in paleontology, graduated *cum laude*, and with distinction in research. After graduation, she spent time working at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and then moved to South Africa to work as a research assistant at Stellenbosch University and White Shark Africa helping on projects concerning great white sharks and hammerheads.



Always fascinated with fish health, Katharine decided to pursue a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at the Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine at Oregon State University. She is currently in her 3rd year of the program and is focusing on a non-traditional veterinary curriculum of aquatic animal health and medicine. She spent her recent summers during veterinary school learning about aquatic animal health in Wisconsin, Hong Kong, Mexico, Grand Cayman, Florida, Washington, and Oregon. Katharine is currently excited for her upcoming final clinical year of veterinary school, where she will be researching lamprey health with the Yakima Nation and the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and Dungeness crab hematology at Hatfield Marine Science Center. She is hoping to help improve seafood safety and practice aquaculture medicine after graduation.

Katharine is running for Student Representative for the AFS Western Division to facilitate interdisciplinary communication and improve discussion amongst student subunits. If elected, she is excited to serve as student liaison to the WDAFS Executive Board.