



# Gill Raker Gazette

Newsletter of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Volume 41, Issue 2

August 2022

Editor: Lauren Andrews

## President's Message – "Listening and Learning"

The theme of our 2022 annual meeting was "Removing barriers: Opening pathways to the fisheries profession." Although I received overwhelmingly positive input on theme-related content, some attendees asked how the tribal perspectives presented in workshops and plenary talks lead to concrete measures that open pathways to the fisheries profession. This is a legitimate question that indicates the planning committee's primary goal for the meeting was met: we started a conversation. And, my answer to the question is simple: this conversation starts with listening to and learning from each other.

Stepping away from the perspectives of Native American tribes for a moment, I will relay a personal experience that profoundly changed my approach to working with others—to the great benefit of my professional growth and my organization's fisheries conservation work.

In 2016, the Henry's Fork watershed was in the fourth consecutive year of drought that turned out to be the worst extended dry period in the watershed since the 1930s. Very warm spring-time temperatures melted a poor snowpack nearly a month early, resulting in poor water

quality, excessive reservoir draft, and some of the worst fishing conditions experienced in decades. Armed with over 20 years of professional experience in water and fisheries management, numerous peer-reviewed publications on the subject, and confidence that I knew what I was talking about, I thought I was well prepared to communicate with our constituents and stakeholders. I was decidedly not. The more I tried to present the facts of water rights, water supply, and water-quality data, the more our stakeholders were convinced that we did not know what we were talking about and were not meeting our mission of conserving one of the most popular trout fisheries in the country. For a non-profit, lack of trust and confidence among members and donors is a death knell.



## President's Message (continued)

As luck would have it, we had recruited four early-career professionals into our organization over the previous year. All were much younger than me, three were women, one was a first-generation college graduate and daughter of a Central American immigrant, and one was a “non-traditional” aged professional who returned to college after a decade spent as an artist. They convinced me that I was not communicating the right information in the right way to our stakeholders and brought forth a host of new ideas and new perspectives that this middle-aged white man did not have.

Over the next few years, those ideas and perspectives literally transformed our organization from one that was struggling to adapt to change—in climate, demographics, and natural resource demands among other things—to one that is now considered a leader in water conservation and adaptation to change. Personally, I have become a better supervisor, mentor, and program administrator, increasing my own career productivity and satisfaction.

The single most important thing I did to get there was listen and learn. A faculty colleague of mine once told me that one can tell when a graduate student is ready to defend—we start to learn more from them than they learn from us. These four young professionals—still with us and now transitioning into experienced professionals—continue to teach me more than I teach them and are now mentoring students of their own.

Back to the 2022 ICAFS meeting. From the parent society down to chapters and chapter committees, the AFS community has been talking for many years about how to increase career opportunities for traditionally under-represented groups in our profession—including tribal members. Fish are central to the culture of Native American tribes in Idaho, and their perspectives—much different than those of European descendants like me—are critical to the future of fisheries in our state. Allowing those perspectives to thrive in our profession starts with listening and learning at the individual level, not from the assumption that “we know best” because we are in supervisory and administrative positions. I assumed I knew best, and that attitude didn't serve me, my organization, or my profession.

In his workshop on cultural competency and relevancy, Sammy Matsaw gave some simple advice that will stick with me the rest of my career. He said the best way to provide a voice to those who have different perspectives and experiences is to “Step up, and step aside.” Stepping up is taking the initiative to provide a safe space for others to share perspectives that are different from the status quo. Stepping aside is letting others share those perspectives in their own words and their own ways.

All of us can step up and step aside to give others a voice and to listen and learn from them. That's the first step in removing barriers and allowing us all to pursue productive and fulfilling careers as fisheries professionals. In the long run, the profession will be more effective at advocating for the species and ecosystems we all value.

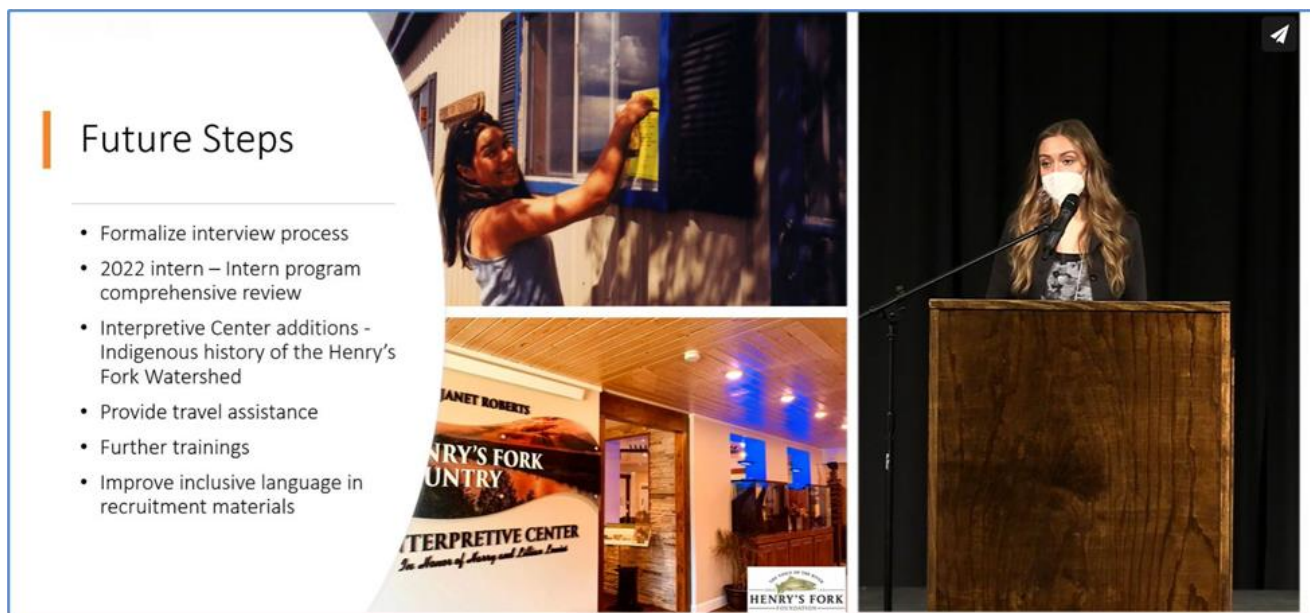
Rob Van Kirk, ICAFS President





## 2022 ICAFS Annual Meeting Summary (continued)

A number of ICAFS members and peers were recognized for their service and contributions to Idaho natural resources, the Chapter, and the fisheries profession. This year, the R.L. Wallace Native Fish Conservationist of the Year was awarded to Patrick (Paddy) Murphy for his tireless work on salmon and steelhead conservation in central Idaho. The Excellence in Aquatic Habitat Improvement Award was given to Matt Green with Trout Unlimited for the Beyeler Ranch-Upper Lemhi Enhancement Project. The Excellence in Aquaculture Award was awarded to Wayne Fowler, Steve Stowell, and the rest of the Idaho Fish and Game Grace Fish Hatchery Program for their contribution to Lake Trout M<sub>YY</sub> feminization research and culture. Rob Van Kirk and Joe Kozfkay were both awarded the Outstanding Mentor Award, and Herb Roerick, Josh McCormick, and Tim Copeland were each awarded the Outstanding Fishery Professional Award. The prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award was bestowed to Jeff Dillon and to Sue Ireland for their career dedication to the Idaho Chapter and the fisheries profession. In addition, student scholarships, Awards of Merit, and Distinguished Service awards were presented at the business meeting. And the Best Student Paper and Poster awards went to Brandy Smith and Colton Turner, respectively, while the Best Professional Paper and Poster awards went to Josh McCormick and Justin Furby, respectively.



Virtual attendee's screenshot of Kamberlee Allison's in-person presentation describing how the Henry's Fork Foundation incorporates diversity, equity, and inclusion into their Internship Program.

### 2022 ICAFS Scholarship Winners

The development of fisheries professionals is an important part of the mission of the Idaho Chapter. As part of this effort, the Chapter sponsors several scholarships. Here are our 2022 scholars!

- ICAFS High School Scholarships:
  - Miles Peters, Rocky Mountain High School in Meridian
  - Halee Angell, South Fremont High School in St. Anthony
- ICAFS Undergraduate Scholarship: Hannah Swain, BYU-Idaho
- ICAFS Graduate Scholarship: Brandy Smith, Idaho State University
- Susan B. Martin Scholarship: Jeremy Brooks, Idaho State University



## ICAFS Financial Summary, Fiscal Year 2021-2022

### Communicated by Rebekah Horn

Each fiscal year (FY: May 1st to April 30th) Idaho AFS operates under two budgets, an operating budget sourced from income from fundraising and a meeting budget that is covered by registration fees. In the 2021-2022 FY, there was a surplus of \$5,900 in the operating budget and a net loss of \$7,000 from the annual meeting with \$25,500 raised in fundraising.

| <b>Operating Budget</b> |   |                      |                      |                      |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Committees              | Activity/Expenditure                    | Anticipated Expenses | Actual Paid by ICAFS | Actual Paid by Other |
| Education               | High School student scholarship         | \$ 500.00            | \$ 1,000.00          |                      |
|                         | Undergraduate student scholarship       | \$ 1,500.00          | \$ 1,500.00          |                      |
|                         | Graduate student scholarship            | \$ 1,500.00          | \$ 1,500.00          |                      |
|                         | SB Martin Scholarship                   | \$ 2,000.00          | \$ -                 | \$ 2,000.00          |
| Native Fish             | Richard L. Wallace fish mount           | \$ 500.00            | \$ -                 | \$ 500.00            |
| Mentoring               | Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program | \$ 5,000.00          | \$ -                 | \$ 5,000.00          |
| Fundraising             | Fundraising Outlay                      | \$ 4,500.00          | \$ 620.67            |                      |
| 2022 Annual Meeting     | Award Plaques                           |                      | \$ 2,712.90          |                      |
|                         | Enhanced Registrations                  |                      | \$ 1,308.32          |                      |
| EXCOM                   | In-Person Mtgs                          | \$ 1,500.00          | \$ 2,219.50          |                      |
|                         | Website Maintenance                     | \$ 1,100.00          | \$ 1,444.00          |                      |
|                         | Fees                                    | \$ 300.00            | \$ 270.00            |                      |
|                         | Shipping                                | \$ 100.00            | \$ 22.10             |                      |
| <b>Totals</b>           |   | <b>\$ 18,500.00</b>  | <b>\$ 12,597.49</b>  | <b>\$ 7,500.00</b>   |

| <b>Meeting Budget</b>      |                           |                      |                      |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2022 Annual Meeting        | Expenditure               | Anticipated Expenses | Actual Paid by ICAFS |
|                            | Venue room rental/AV      | \$ 7,000.00          | \$ 1,004.00          |
|                            | ANDX: livestream, website | \$ 11,000.00         | \$ 10,771.12         |
|                            | Student rooms             | \$ 2,475.00          | \$ 2,313.36          |
|                            | Plenary + workshops       | \$ 2,960.00          | \$ 2,257.04          |
|                            | Friday EXCOM lunch        | \$ 425.00            | \$ 531.25            |
|                            | Spawning run insurance    | \$ 150.00            | \$ -                 |
|                            | Meeting Swag              | \$ 2,100.00          | \$ 2,087.31          |
|                            | Workshop breaks & lunch   | \$ 2,450.00          | \$ 2,081.25          |
|                            | Tuesday reception         | \$ 3,648.00          | \$ 2,556.43          |
|                            | Wednesday food/drink      | \$ 16,983.18         | \$ 14,498.43         |
|                            | Thursday food/drink       | \$ 19,901.50         | \$ 17,048.43         |
|                            | Friday food/drink         | \$ 2,650.00          | \$ 1,992.75          |
| <b>Totals</b>              |                           | <b>\$ 71,742.68</b>  | <b>\$ 57,141.37</b>  |
| Total Registration Revenue |                           |                      | \$ 50,059.00         |
| Net profit/loss            |                           |                      | \$ (7,082.37)        |
| Total Fundraising Revenue  |                           |                      | \$ 25,503.00         |

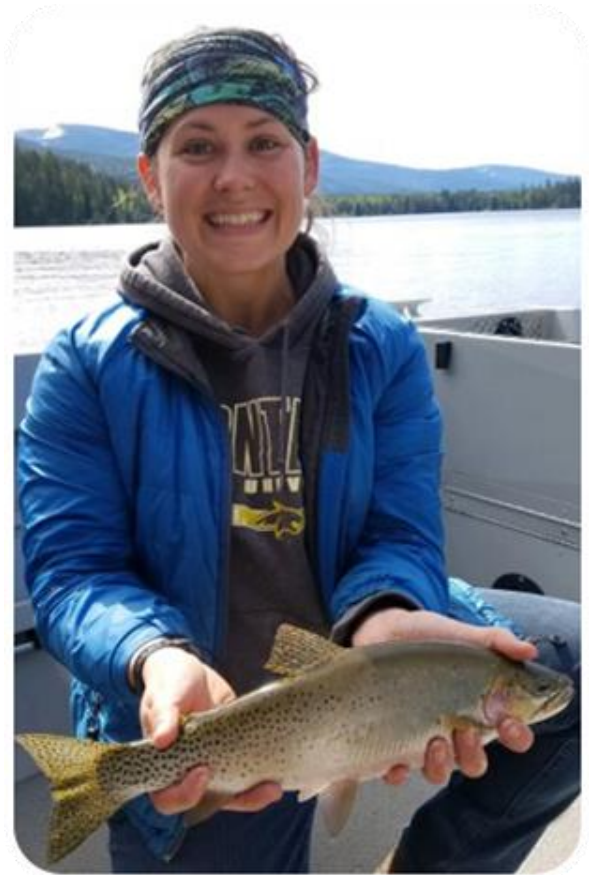
## Student Spotlights—Palouse Unit

### Susie Frawley

**M.S. Candidate (Fishery Sciences)**

**Thesis title:** Seasonal food habits and growth of non-native Walleyes in Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho

**Bio:** My research interests lie in evaluating the effects of non-native species. In particular, I am interested in the interactions between native and non-native species, how the introduction of a non-native species influences interactions between native species, and how the information can be used to develop effective management strategies.



### Nick Voss

**Ph.D. Candidate (Fishery Sciences)**

**Dissertation title:** Factors influencing the distribution and abundance of Bull Trout across multiple spatial scales in Idaho

**Bio:** Generally, I enjoy answering research questions that help fisheries biologists more effectively manage and conserve aquatic resources for future generations. I am currently interested in how invasive species and climate change interact to affect native fishes of conservation concern.



## Committee/Subunit Updates

### *Aquaculture Committee*

This spring the Aquaculture Committee secured AFS funds to sponsor a student/young professional to attend the Coldwater Fish Culture Course in Hagerman the first week of August. This involved using Committee funds (\$500) and applying for the TOP Grant (\$750) to fully fund the trip for the selected individual. Course registration, lodging, and additional funding for food and transportation were covered for the weeklong course. After putting out a questionnaire, the Aquaculture Committee selected the most qualified individual, Conrad Robbins, and he attended the class earlier this

month. Conrad is an undergraduate fisheries student at the University of Idaho and also an IDFG Bio Aide at Mackay Fish Hatchery. The intense 5-day course offered by the University of Idaho was geared toward young professionals working with salmonids in culture facilities within State, Tribal, Federal, and Private entities. This course focused on cold water aquaculture and included anatomy and physiology, fish health and reproduction, biosecurity, genetics, nutrition, and much more. The course was also a great opportunity to refresh on aquaculture techniques and learn about new methods and technologies. Daily lectures were followed up with labs and practical hands-on activities.

### *Public Education Committee*

The Idaho Chapter AFS supports the Trout in the Classroom program through an annual support grant administered by the Public Education Committee. Schools can apply for grants to pay for bus transportation for classroom field trips to learn about aquatic resources and release trout raised in Idaho Trout, Steelhead, or Kokanee in the Classroom programs. This year as field trips are resuming, grants were awarded to 4 schools in spring 2022 allowing about 220 students in grades 2-12 to get outside and learn more about fisheries resources. Classrooms got a chance to practice angling skills, learn to clean and cook fish, tour fish hatcheries, visit education centers, and participate in educational activities mentored by fisheries professionals.

### *Habitat Committee*

The Habitat Committee is proud to announce they have put a symposium together for the upcoming AFS conference in Spokane entitled "Restoring cold-water habitats for climate resiliency in the Upper Columbia basin". Members of the ICAFS Aquatic Habitat Committee will be well represented, including Committee Co-Chair Ken Bouwens (as a contributor to the IDFG presentation), Stephanie Hallock from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and Andy Johnsen and Committee Co-Chair Eric Berntsen from the Kalispel Tribe.



Attendees at the Coldwater Fish Culture Course at the Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station in early August 2022. Photo credit: Riley Brown.



## Committee/Subunit Updates

### *Jim Reynolds Electrofishing Class*



This May Idaho AFS hosted Dr. Jim Reynolds to teach the Theory and Techniques of Backpack Electrofishing. The course included 24 participants from state, federal, and tribal agencies, the City of Boise, and students from the University of Idaho. Students spent a day and a half in the classroom learning electrofishing theory including waveform shapes in water, fish behavior and fish health, and standard sampling techniques. In the field, students watched a demonstration of different electrofishing equipment, then broke into groups to apply knowledge they learned in the classroom. Links to the recorded

lectures are available on the Idaho AFS website at this link: <https://www.idahoafs.org/webinars.php>.

### *AmazonSmile—A Great Way to Support ICAFS!*



Recently Treasurer Rebekah Horn set up an AmazonSmile account for ICAFS. AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your Chapter every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop with AmazonSmile, 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be donated directly to ICAFS.

You can sign up by going to this [link](#), where it will ask you to support “American Fisheries Society.” Despite the name, this account is linked to the Idaho Chapter. Once you’ve linked your Amazon account to ICAFS, shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) any time you shop. It can also be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones.

### *Join ICAFS EXCOM in 2023*

Working on ICAFS’s Executive Committee is a great opportunity to expand your knowledge of the Idaho Chapter and further your fisheries career. We are looking for candidates to run for office in 2023. These positions include Nominations Chair (1-year commitment), Secretary/Treasurer (2-year commitment), and Vice President (4-year commitment, start at Vice President in year 1, President-Elect in year 2, President in year 3, and then Past President in year 4).

If you are up to the challenge of running for office in 2023, please contact Christine Stewart at [christine.stewart@usda.gov](mailto:christine.stewart@usda.gov).



## Other 2022 Fisheries Meetings in the PNW



The Wild Trout Symposium, held every 3-5 years in West Yellowstone, Montana, offers a unique forum to exchange viewpoints on wild trout research, management, and public policy. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to join other biologists and anglers to hear about world-class wild trout research and management innovations in an area known for its world-class trout fishing. For more information please visit the symposium [website](#). Hurry, early registration ends September 1!



Male brook trout captured in Upper Middle Inlet, a small stream in northeastern Wisconsin. Photo credit: Matt Mitro.



PNAMP and StreamNet are teaming up once again to bring together monitoring professionals, project managers, field data collectors, data managers, and data consumers for a three-day event focused on emerging technologies in aquatic monitoring. Whether you attend in person or virtually from your office, we hope to see you there!

**When:** November 14th, 12:30 pm – November 16th 12:00 pm (½ day, full day, ½ day)

**Where:** In person in Hood River, Oregon or virtually from your office

Call for abstracts is closed. Registration will open September 1, 2022. Click [here](#) for more details.



# Executive Committee



President  
Rob Van Kirk  
Phone: 208-881-3407  
[rob@henrysfork.org](mailto:rob@henrysfork.org)

President-Elect  
Kevin Meyer  
Phone: 208-854-8916  
[kevin.meyer@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:kevin.meyer@idfg.idaho.gov)

Vice President  
Lauren Andrews  
Phone: 208-342-0091  
[lauren@quadrant.cc](mailto:lauren@quadrant.cc)

Past President  
Tim Copeland  
Phone: 208-287-2782  
[tim.copeland@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:tim.copeland@idfg.idaho.gov)



Treasurer  
Rebekah Horn  
Phone: 208-837-9096  
[rhorn@critfc.org](mailto:rhorn@critfc.org)

Secretary  
Jesse McCane  
Phone: 208-939-6713  
[jesse.mccane@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:jesse.mccane@idfg.idaho.gov)

Nominations Chair  
Christine Stewart  
Phone: 208-879-4103  
[christine.stewart@usda.gov](mailto:christine.stewart@usda.gov)

Portneuf Student Unit President  
Tyler Breech  
[tylerbreech@isu.edu](mailto:tylerbreech@isu.edu)



Palouse Student Unit President  
Sage Unsworth  
[unsworth@uidaho.edu](mailto:unsworth@uidaho.edu)

BYU Idaho Student Unit President  
Lonnie Parry  
[svyettlana@gmail.com](mailto:svyettlana@gmail.com)

*The EXCOM wants your ideas...*

*Please do not hesitate to contact any EXCOM member about questions or ideas.*

*This is your Chapter!*

