

No. 33c	Outstanding Chapter Committee	Philip C. Downey
----------------	--------------------------------------	-------------------------

Report of the Outstanding Chapter and Student Subunit Committee

July 19, 2013

To: **John Boreman, AFS President**

From: Philip C. Downey, AFS Outstanding Chapter Committee Chair

RE: Outstanding Chapter Awards

The Outstanding Chapter Awards Committee was composed of the four AFS division past-presidents as follows:

Northeastern Division: Philip C. Downey, Committee Chair
North-Central Division: Gwen M. White
Southern Division: Stephen E. Lochmann
Western Division: David L. Ward (Christina Swanson, voting-proxy)

The nominations were open during the fall and winter and closed on April 1, 2013. A total of two nominations (Oregon Chapter, Western Division; Missouri Chapter, North-Central Division) were received for the large chapter Outstanding Chapter Award. No chapter nominations were received for the small chapter award. One nomination (Lake Superior State University) was received for the Outstanding Student Subunit Award.

Voting followed the AFS procedures manual and ballots were received during May, 2013. A voting proxy was established for the Western Division (David Ward) since he was also a member of a nominated outstanding chapter.

Votes received were tallied and resulted in the following award recipients.

Large Chapter Outstanding Chapter Award: **Oregon Chapter**
Small Chapter Outstanding Chapter Award: **None**
Student Subunit Outstanding Subunit Award: **Lake Superior State University**

The committee congratulates these recipients on the fine examples of AFS traditions. Their accomplishments are summarized below.

There seems to be a realization that these awards are not viewed as actively as they should. Soliciting nominations should be straight-forward from each of the divisions, since the committee is made up of the division past-presidents, AFS members who are typically active in AFS business. However, as demonstrated this year, there are few nominations and even some 'arm twisting' to get nominees. As one committee member opined:

"However, I have to say that I think these outstanding chapter awards at the Division and Parent Society level are less effective than they could be. It seems like the same chapters/subunits win over and over again. They are active. They do deserve recognition.

But it doesn't seem to be helping the Society advance in the grand scheme of things. Eyes glaze over when their accomplishments are read at the Society business meeting. Just doing a lot of things or even a wide range of things doesn't mean the unit is really being creative about its work. Other units/subunits respond somewhat demoralized when the same well-endowed units (small or large) win all the time. Where's the "hand up" in the process?

I'm wondering if it wouldn't be more useful to at least ask for examples of something truly novel that a unit is doing? Or keep a running list of truly novel activities that other units could learn from. Or something different than just the same old give us your extensive list of activities in an action plan. "

Perhaps, this is an area where new ideas could be explored by the governing board to breathe new life and enthusiasm into these important awards.

Outstanding Chapter Awards Highlights

Oregon Chapter

Goal 1: Global Fisheries Leadership

1. Annual Chapter Meeting (420 professionals including more than 90 students)
2. Hosted an anadromous run forecasting workshop attended by over 50 professionals from the Columbia River Basin and Canada.
3. Co-hosted (with the USFWS) the 2012 Northwest Fish Culture Conference in Portland

Goal 2: Education

1. Promote Participation and Diversity

◆ Oregon Chapter annual meeting is comprised of people from all aspects of fish-related work including: All of the local tribes (e.g., Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Burns Paiute Tribe, Yakama Indian Nation, Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Siletz) Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Cow Creek Umpqua Tribes, and Shoshone Bannock Tribe), academia, and all branches of local state and federal governments.

2. Scholarships and Travel Funds

- ◆ Pledged \$3,000 travel funds for professionals to attend the 2014 WDAFS meeting in Mazatlan, Mexico.
- ◆ Awarded four scholarships to students from BS, MS, and PhD programs.
- ◆ Awarded a Carl Bond Memorial scholarship of \$5,000 to support PhD research
- ◆ Awarded four scholarships totaling \$8,000 to students from BS, MS, and PhD programs.
- ◆ Awarded a Carl Bond Memorial scholarship of \$5,000 to support PhD research on developing a decision analysis to compare the conservation value of various bull trout reintroduction strategies.

Goal 3: Value of Membership

1. Sponsorships

- ◆ 2013 Western Division Meeting in Boise
- ◆ 2013 AFS Meeting in Little Rock, AR
- ◆ Oregon 'State of the Beaver' Conference
- ◆ Research Advances in Fish Wildlife and Ecology (RAFWE) conference at Oregon State University

2. Enhanced Participation

- ◆ Chapter recently sent a letter to congressional representatives supporting the formation of an Elk River Fishery Emphasis Area in SW Oregon.
- ◆ The Freshwater Habitat Committee conducted a scientific peer review of NMFS Southern Oregon-Northern California Coastal Coho Recovery Plan.
- ◆ ExCom reviewed and commented on an Amicus Brief for a case brought before U.S. Supreme Court

Lake Superior State University Subunit

Goal 1: Global Fisheries Leadership

1. Public Outreach

- ◆ Building interest in the next generation of stewards is essential to future conservation of aquatic resources.
- ◆ Hosted tours of the LSSU Aquatic Research Laboratory to local elementary and high school students
- ◆ Subunit members assist with highlighting LSSU's biology department during large high school visits to LSSU

2. Community Support and Donations

- ◆ Sault Ste. Marie Kid's Fishing Pond
- ◆ Thanksgiving food baskets support

Goal 2: Education

1. Invited Seminar Speakers

- ◆ Scott Collins, Ph. D candidate, Idaho State University
- ◆ Dave Jentoft, Michigan DNR Wildlife Division
- ◆ Neal Godby, Michigan DNR Fisheries Division
- ◆ Gary Whelan, AFS NCD, Michigan DNR Fisheries Division

Goal 3: Value of Membership

1. Enhanced Participation

- ◆ The subunit organized or participated in several technique building experiences involving fisheries management:
 - ◆ Volunteered at the annual Soldier Lake, lake assessment looking at the status of yellow perch as well as fluctuating recruitment of largemouth bass
 - ◆ Student volunteers helped with lake trout brood stock sorting and egg fertilization with Sullivan Creek National Fish Hatchery

2. Membership Support

- ◆ Funds raised by members ensure that members can attend professional conferences and meetings and contribute to various charities and organizations including raffles, whitefish dinner, chili-cook-off and club shirt sales

3. Membership Recruitment Activities

- ◆ Members are involved in several student recruitment activities throughout the year to engage more students in the field of fisheries and wildlife management.
 - ◆ Spring Games (picnics with fun activities open to all LSSU students; the Subunit helps organize these events and provides the food and refreshments)
 - ◆ Organized a Facebook summer fishing tournament so that Subunit members would remain active and connected over summer break
 - ◆ Meeting flyers are always posted across campus and meetings are listed on the LSSU and Subunit web sites.
 - ◆ The Subunit staffed a table with information on the Subunit at six LSSU orientation events, at LSSU Fall Fling.