



## PISCATORIAL PRESS

OREGON CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year

As we kick off 2024, this is a friendly reminder to renew your AFS membership if you haven't done so already. Or if you are not a member, now is a good time to become an AFS member. There are very affordable membership options for Students and Early Career Professionals (5 years post-graduation). Before you renew or submit your membership, don't forget to check the box to also be an Oregon Chapter member. With each AFS membership you get a monthly subscription of the Fisheries magazine and online access to the five AFS peer-reviewed journals.

One of the biggest benefits I have obtained from being an AFS member is growing my network of fisheries friends by meeting new to me fisheries professionals that I would not normally meet through my daily work. Additional benefits for students are the opportunities for travel grants to attend the society and division annual meetings.

Speaking of annual meetings, Michele Weaver and the planning team are putting together a great program for the 2024 ORAFS annual meeting. This will be the Chapter's 60th Annual Meeting with the theme "Better Together – Celebrating 60 Years of Partnerships, Collaboration, and Teamwork". You will find information in this newsletter about the plenary speakers and technical sessions occurring during the meeting. Don't forget about the workshops being held on the Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning where you can learn about Beaver-based considerations for restoration, Federal & State Funding Opportunities, or how to Navigate Difficult Conversations. More information on these can be found at the Annual Meeting website section for [Workshops](#).

If you haven't registered for the Annual Meeting yet, you can find more information about

registration in this newsletter. New this year, we have the opportunity to provide reimbursement for registration and lodging for a limited number of Early Career Professionals. If you are not an Early Career Professional and need financial assistance to attend the meeting we have a Registration Fee Assistance Waiver process you can apply for. We also have Registration Fee Assistance Waiver specifically for Tribal Members and Indigenous Peoples.

And if you find that you just can't travel to Bend for the Annual Meeting we have a live stream option this year. Live stream registrants will have access to posters and presentations through the meeting app.

Finally for the students still looking for any scholarship opportunities, the Albert G.

Lassuy Memorial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Scholarship along with the Gerald R. Bouck Memorial Scholarship are still open for applications. For the non-students that might have some extra funds sitting around after the holidays that you would like to donate, here is a link to [Contribute to ORAFS](#) that take you right to the Paypal accounts for Albert G. Lassuy Memorial DEI Fund and the Gerald R. Bouck Memorial Scholarship. These scholarships along with our other ORAFS student scholarships are a great way to invest in our diverse group of Oregon students that will be our future leaders.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Bend at the end of February.



American Fisheries Society



Gary Vonderohe, President  
[President@orafs.org](mailto:President@orafs.org)

## EXTERNAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

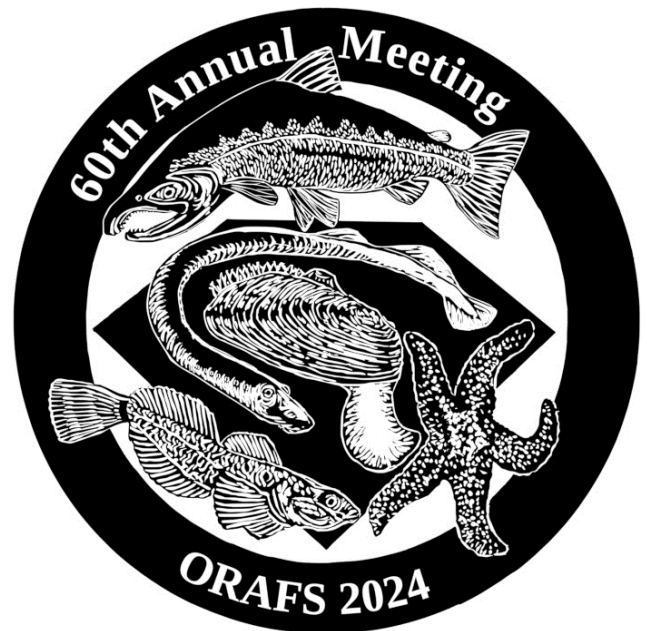
Hello ORAFS members,

The 2024 annual meeting is rapidly approaching and so too is your opportunity to get involved. It's also the time of year to think about New Year's Resolutions – why not resolve to take advantage of the opportunities available through ORAFS this year? You can volunteer with external or internal committees to support the chapter and connect with colleagues. Our [website](#) is a great place to learn more about these opportunities. Also, check out our awards and scholarships and our job board (and if you're recruiting, don't forget to send your job to share with the Oregon fisheries community).

Of course, one of the best ways to be involved with ORAFS is to attend the annual meeting. If you're on the fence about attending, I encourage you to go for it. There's no better place to connect with the diverse group of people who are dedicating their work and studies to Oregon's fish. While attending in person is an especially effective way to plug in to this network, this year we will be using a meeting app and livestreaming sessions. This is a new approach for us, but hopefully one that will make it possible for more people to attend and more interactive features for in person and remote attendees.

If you are able to join us in Bend, consider making time to attend an external committee meeting. External committees vary widely in the type and frequency of activities they do, so whether you're looking for a major commitment or not there's something for everyone. You can find out more about the focal topics for these committees on the final page of this newsletter or at our website.

Hope to see you all (in person or on the app) in February,



Alex Harrison, External Director  
[ExternalDirector@orafs.org](mailto:ExternalDirector@orafs.org)

# MHCC STUDENT SUBUNIT UPDATE

With the end of Fall term and the start of this Winter term, the students at Mt. Hood community college are excited for the opportunities that the new year can offer. Our student subunit has been hard at work planning club events and meetings, along with handling coursework and volunteering/working at the campus hatchery. Our first-year students have continued to be extremely involved in the subunit, helping decorate for club meetings and even bringing in a Christmas tree for our "Fishmas" holiday party. The annual party was a huge success, with a large turnout from both the first year and second-year students. Kate Self was also kind enough to attend and give a brief overview of the student scholarships that are available through Oregon AFS and details about the upcoming annual meeting in Bend, OR.

The first-year students have successfully completed their first term of the program and finished up their salmon spawning surveys on Beaver Creek. They were able to collect some excellent data about the stream and the salmonids that are present within it, along with adding another year of information to the program's continued monitoring of the creek. With the start of the winter term, they will begin studying more detailed biological processes of fish and learn about the internal structures commonly found in fish anatomy.

Our second-year students have taken over handling the hatchery responsibilities for the around 4,000 rainbow trout we are currently rearing on-campus. This has allowed us to

get a tremendous amount of hands-on experience along with learning the necessary skills to keep the fish healthy and thriving. Our fish husbandry classes have introduced the students to a variety of techniques necessary to be successful in fish culture and has given the second years the opportunity to visit multiple hatcheries where we can learn practical skills while working with different species. Some examples include spawning Coho at Bonneville Hatchery and spawning summer steelhead at Merwin Fish Hatchery. The second-year students have also finalized their project proposals and will begin collecting data for their field projects this winter term.

Some club members of the subunit were able to attend the Northwest Fish Culture Concepts meeting this year in Boise, Idaho. We all had an excellent time and enjoyed learning about what's new in fish culture. It was an excellent opportunity for the students to network and visit with professionals within the industry. Everyone is also looking forward to the upcoming annual Oregon AFS meeting this year, and we are eager to volunteer wherever we can. Please reach out to any of our student subunit members if you need help with your AFS meeting functions.

All of us at MHCC want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and we look forward to what this year could bring!

Emma Schaffers  
President, ORAFS Student Subunit  
[mhcc.orafs.subunit@gmail.com](mailto:mhcc.orafs.subunit@gmail.com)



## Do you have something newsworthy to share?

**Hot Topics, Fishery Features, Upcoming Events...**

**Submissions from ORAFS members are welcome!**

Do you have an update on interesting work you would like to share with the membership? Are you interested in providing a Fishery Feature or a Hot Topic to tell the membership about your recent project? Do you have an upcoming event that you would like to advertise to the membership? If so, please submit your story or thoughts to Stacy Strickland at:

[stacy.a.strickland@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:stacy.a.strickland@odfw.oregon.gov).



**Follow the chapter online!**

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/ORChapterAFS>

X – <https://twitter.com/OregonAFS>

LinkedIn – <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4833367/>

Instagram – [https://www.instagram.com/or\\_afs/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/or_afs/?hl=en)

The 2024 Annual Meeting Logo was created by Patrick Norton - <http://www.patricknortonillustration.com/>



## **“Better Together – Celebrating 60 years of partnerships, collaboration, and teamwork”**

**RIVERHOUSE ON THE DESCHUTES IN BEND,  
OREGON**

**FEBRUARY 27 – MARCH 1, 2024**

[Annual Meeting Website](#)

### ***Get Involved!***

Volunteer, moderate a session, join a committee, participate in the Student-Mentor Mixer, attend a workshop, compete in the Spawning Run/Carcass Crawl, network.

*We are happy to be sharing 20 symposia topics with over 150 presentations including: Beavers and Restoration, Bridging Aquatic and Riparian Areas and Research, DEI, Deschutes Basin Spotlight, eCreel, eDNA, Fire Response, Fish Health, Freshwater Mussels, Habitat Conditions, Harvest Management, Klamath and Great Basin Suckers, Marine Fishes, Native Fishes, Pink and Chum Salmon, Monitoring Fish Movements, Predator and Prey Interactions, Working with partners, Habitat Restoration Techniques, Marine Invertebrates and Nearshore Ecology, and more!*



## PLENARY SPEAKERS

### Laurie Weitkamp

Dr. Laurie Weitkamp has been a Salmon Biologist at NOAA Fisheries' Northwest Fisheries Science Center since 1992, where she works on salmon conservation,



salmon management, and salmon research. On the conservation side, she has been involved in the scientific basis for Pacific Salmon listings and recovery under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. She works on salmon management as a member of the Coho Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission, which implements the US-Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty. Her research focuses on the ecology of salmon (and recently lamprey) in estuarine and marine environments, specifically how physical conditions influence biological processes that are important for growth and survival. Since 2019, Laurie has been involved in an international effort to understand salmon ecology on the high seas in winter, a part of the salmon life cycle about which little is known. She helped plan and participate in the 2022 International Year of the Salmon Pan Pacific Winter High Seas Expedition, which involved five ships sampling 2.5 million km<sup>2</sup> of high seas salmon habitat across the North Pacific Ocean in late winter. Laurie earned her B.S., M.S., and PhD degrees from the University of Washington.

### Brian Erickson

Brian Erickson is a conservation social scientist based at Oregon State University and member of the ORAFS Human Dimensions External Committee. He is a postdoctoral scholar supervised by Dr. Megan Jones in the Human Dimensions lab in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences. Brian's research focuses on applying psychology and behavioral science to

conservation practice to support human wellbeing and environmental sustainability. His current projects seek to understand how to support private landowner coexistence with beavers, describe and segment fish-interested community perceptions of Oregon salmonid hatcheries, and help USGS develop training modules on the science behind successful interdisciplinary team science.

Brian's training includes a B.A. in Biology from Lewis &



Clark College, an M.S. in Teaching Secondary Science from Fordham University, an M.S. in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University, and a Ph.D. in Fisheries (Social) Science from Oregon State University. He has a highly varied professional background with an emphasis on formal and informal education and social and ecological research.

In his talk, Brian will present a model of the reasons why people trust and distrust others in natural resource management contexts. He will highlight how understanding the causes of trust and distrust can help us build trust and navigate distrust when interacting with other humans.

In his talk, Brian will present a model of the reasons why people trust and distrust others in natural resource management contexts. He will highlight how understanding the causes of trust and distrust can help us build trust and navigate distrust when interacting with other humans.

## ORAFS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS!

To reward and promote the education and development of future fisheries professionals

- \* [OR AFS Student Scholarships](#): (Now closed)
- \* [Carl Bond Scholarship](#) (Now closed)
- \* [Jerry Bouck Memorial Scholarship](#) (graduate students) extended to 1/31/2024  
Applications for above due to Helena Linnell at ([scholarships@orafs.org](mailto:scholarships@orafs.org))
- \* [Albert G. Lassuy Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Scholarship](#) (undergrad students, \$2000): To promote the education and development of future fisheries professionals who are commonly under-represented in the fisheries field, including people of color, women, and other historically marginalized communities. Applications due to Alexis Harrison ([externaldirector@orafs.org](mailto:externaldirector@orafs.org)) by 1/31/2024.
- \* [Steven Berkeley Marine Conservation Fellowship](#) (graduate students, \$10,000) This fellowship comprises a competitively based award to a graduate student engaged in thesis research relevant to marine conservation (for more information: [https://mfs.fisheries.org/?page\\_id=155](https://mfs.fisheries.org/?page_id=155)). Applications are due to [Lauren Maza](#) by Feb. 1, 2024.

For more information on these scholarships as well as information on other exciting Scholarship and Award opportunities for students, please visit: <http://orafs.org/student-scholarships/>.

Each award includes an award certificate and recognition at the 2024 Annual Meeting, in *Fisheries*, and in the Piscatorial Press.

**How do I become a Student Member of AFS?** Go to [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org) and apply online and be sure to check the Oregon Chapter box (\$30 total cost for annual membership).

**Where do I go for complete application instructions?** <http://orafs.org/student-scholarships/>.

## Spawning Run and Carcass Crawl

Continuing with the long established tradition, we will have another Spawning Run/Carcass Crawl. Join in the fun and run (or walk) to get your blood flowing after a great day of talks. The run/walk will be held after talks but before the banquet on Thursday February 29th. In Bend, there is always a chance for snow, which makes this event even more fun.

Register for the event (\$25) before the early registration deadline (February 5th) to secure your commemorative silipint swag.

Contact Stefan Kelley at [stefan.kelly@ctwsbnr.org](mailto:stefan.kelly@ctwsbnr.org) for more information.



# SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Tuesday, February 27		
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration / Information	Cascade Lobby
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Workshops	Cascade D, E, F
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Coffee & Refreshment Service	Cascade Lobby
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Workshop Social	Cascade A
Wednesday, February 28		
7:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Registration / Information / Sales Desk Open	Cascade Lobby
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Coffee & Refreshment Service	Cascade Lobby
8:00 a.m. - Noon	Workshops	Cascade D, E, F
8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Trade Show Display Setup	Exhibit Hall
1:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Welcome	Cascade ABJ
1:10 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Plenary Session (2 speakers)	Cascade ABJ
2:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Trade Show	Exhibit Hall
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break & Refreshment Service	Exhibit Hall
12:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Poster Session Setup	Exhibit Hall
3:00 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	See Sessions at a Glance
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Student – Mentor Mixer	Cascade ABJ
8:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.	Poster Session and Trade Show Social	Exhibit Hall
9:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.	Cornhole Tournament – Round 1	Exhibit Hall
Thursday, February 29		
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration / Information / Sales Desk Open	Cascade Lobby
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Coffee & Refreshment Service	Exhibit Hall
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Trade Show	Exhibit Hall
8:00 a.m. - Noon	Concurrent Sessions	See Sessions at a Glance
10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Break & Refreshment Service	Exhibit Hall
Noon – 1:45 p.m.	Awards Luncheon, Professional Awards, Scholarships	Exhibit Hall
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	OR AFS Business Meeting (All are encouraged to attend)	Cascade C
2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break & Refreshment Service	Exhibit Hall
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	See Sessions at a Glance
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Spawning Run / Carcass Crawl	Meet in Lobby
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Happy Hour and preview Silent Auction	Cascade ABCDJ
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Banquet Dinner (Meal Ticket Required)	Cascade ABCDJ
7:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Auction/Raffle/Entertainment (All are welcome to attend)	Cascade ABCDJ
9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Cornhole Tournament – Round 2	Cascade Lobby
9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Entertainment: Band TBD	Cascade ABCDJ
Friday, March 1		
8:00 a.m. - Noon	Registration / Information / Sales Desk Open	Cascade Lobby
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Coffee & Refreshment Service	Exhibit Hall
8:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Trade Show	Exhibit Hall
8:40 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	Concurrent Session	See Sessions at a Glance
10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Break & Refreshment Service	Exhibit Hall
12:00 p.m.	Meeting Ends, thank you for attending, enjoy the weekend	

# SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE

## *Draft - Sessions At A Glance*

### Wednesday, February 28

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Welcome and Plenary Speakers

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Break & Refreshment Service

3:00 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions					
	Beavers and Restoration	Predator Prey Interactions	Habitat	Monitoring Fish Movements	Deschutes Basin Spotlight	Freshwater Mussels

### Thursday, February 29

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions					
	Nearshore/ Offshore Ecology	Fish and Fire Response	eDNA	Fish Health	Native Fish	Harvest Management and eCreel

10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Break & Refreshment Service

10:20 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions					
	Nearshore/ Offshore Ecology	Fish and Fire Response	Marine Fishes	Fish Health	Native Fish	Harvest Management and eCreel

Noon – 1:45 p.m. Awards Luncheon, Professional Awards, Scholarships

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. OR AFS Business Meeting

2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Break & Refreshment Service

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions					
	Film Festival	Aquatic-Riparian Links	Marine Fishes	Klamath and Great Basin Suckers	Native Fish	Harvest Management and eCreel

### Friday, March 1

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions				
	Working With Partners	Pink and Chum Salmon	DEI		Habitat Restoration Techniques

10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Break & Refreshment Service

10:20 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions				
	Working With Partners	Pink and Chum Salmon	DEI		Habitat Restoration Techniques

12:00 p.m. 60<sup>th</sup> ORAFS Annual Meeting Concludes, thank you for attending, enjoy the weekend



## REGISTRATION DETAILS

**[Click here to register today!](#)** If you register before the early registration deadline of **February 5th, 2024**, you will receive \$50 off the General Registration Fee (\$25 off for students).

Additionally, AFS members\* save \$125 off the general registration fees (\$25 off for students). **Not a member of the American Fisheries Society?** Please consider joining the oldest and largest professional society for fisheries scientists in the world online at <http://www.fisheries.org>; don't forget to add the Oregon Chapter to your membership!

The **Early** and General Registration Fees are:

- **\$300 (\$350)** for AFS members\*,
- **\$425 (\$475)** for non-members,
- **\$55 (\$80)** for student AFS members\*,
- **\$80 (\$105)** for student non-members,
- **\$150 (\$200)** for retired AFS members\*, and
- **\$275 (\$325)** for retired non-members.
- **\$100** Live-Stream viewing of presentations only.

The General Registration fee includes access to all technical sessions and social events including the Poster Session and Trade Show Social, the awards lunch, raffle/auction, and more. Additional activities for purchase include the banquet dinner (\$41), and the 5K Spawning Run/Carcass Crawl (\$25 with silipint). ***Please note that all attendees, including oral and poster presenters, are required to register for the conference.*** Reduced cost registration waivers are available; see below for more information.

Please **[click here](#)** to access the meeting website which includes a link to the online registration form. If, after checking the websites, you have any questions about registration, please contact Jorden Smith at [treasurer@orafs.org](mailto:treasurer@orafs.org).

Register early and join AFS if you're not already a member! We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting in Bend!

### Attention members:

Be on alert for scammers! We will never ask for your help covering last minute expenses or other "urgent" needs. Legitimate funding requests will come as an invoice from our treasurer and should be expected.

# REGISTRATION FEE ASSISTANCE WAIVERS

## ORAFS is offering up to 36 opportunities for reduced registration at the 2024 Annual Meeting!

### **NEW! – Registration and Lodging for Early Career Professionals**

This year we are proud to offer annual meeting registration and lodging reimbursements to up to 16 early career professionals! This reimbursement is intended to cover the cost of attendance for early career professionals that are not able to get registration and lodging covered through their employer. The reimbursement will cover both the \$300 early registration fee and up to \$325 in lodging expenses. To be considered an early career professional, you must have attended school within the last 5 years. Reimbursements will only be granted to AFS members. Those selected will be provided a code to register online and will need to provide their hotel booking confirmation for the lodging reimbursement. In the event of voluntary cancellation, reimbursements must be returned to the Chapter. Reimbursements will be granted on a first-come, first-serve basis so get your application in ASAP!

**To apply, email the following materials to the ORAFS Treasurer ([treasurer@orafs.org](mailto:treasurer@orafs.org)):**

- Contact information;
- AFS membership number;
- Documentation most recent school enrollment;
- A statement of lack of funding or financial support from your employer to attend the Annual Meeting.

### **Registration Fee Assistance Waiver (formerly the Fish Out of Water waiver)**

With this waiver, the Chapter offers an opportunity for reduced registration (\$50) to the Annual Meeting and/or a related workshop. This waiver is intended to reduce the registration fee for those who require financial support to attend the Annual Meeting. Professionals, students, and community members may apply. Selection criteria will include financial need, dedication to the fisheries field (including AFS membership and service), reasons for attendance (e.g., presenting, networking), and available space at the meeting and/or workshop.

**To apply, email the following materials to the OR AFS Treasurer ([treasurer@orafs.org](mailto:treasurer@orafs.org)):**

- Resume and contact information;
- AFS membership number (if a member, but not required);
- Brief summary of your financial need;
- Brief summary of your reasons for attending the annual meeting; and
- If employed, a statement of lack of funding or financial support from your employer to attend the Annual Meeting or that your work is not fisheries-related.

### **Registration Fee Assistance Waiver for Tribal Members and Indigenous Peoples**

With this waiver, the Chapter offers reduced registration (\$50) to the Annual Meeting and/or a related workshop for any Tribal member or member of an Indigenous community. Professionals, students, and community members who self-identify as Tribal members or members of an Indigenous community may apply.

**To apply, email the following materials to the OR AFS Treasurer ([treasurer@orafs.org](mailto:treasurer@orafs.org)):**

- Contact information;
- Tribal affiliation(s) (optional); and
- Brief summary of your reasons for attending the annual meeting (e.g., presenting, networking, attending a workshop)

Waivers are limited and applications are open until filled. Those selected must register online and will receive instruction on how to register at the reduced rate. Besides the Waiver, we can assist in locating other registrants for ride-sharing and room-sharing opportunities.



Jorden Smith, Treasurer  
[treasurer@orafs.org](mailto:treasurer@orafs.org)

# 2024 RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION: DONATIONS WANTED!



Whether you'll be able to attend in person or not, consider supporting the future of ORAFS with a donated item or experience for the auction and raffle to be held at the upcoming 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, our biggest fundraiser of the year!



How about that awesome piece of artwork that sits on the floor waiting to be hung in an office that you never work in anymore? Or you can put those new woodworking skills you picked up during Covid to work! (Sorry, we can't take sourdough donations). Do you know someone else who might be interested in donating?

These funds go directly towards student scholarships, supporting student subunit groups, supporting conference and workshop attendees, OR AFS representation at Western Division and Society meetings, legislative activities, and public outreach.

OR AFS has updated the Chapter's vision and objectives to promote an inclusive and equitable professional environment to support diverse membership by increasing access to the annual meeting, workshops, funding opportunities, and fisheries science and management information. Your donations support this!



Please contact Kate Self at [vicepresident@orafs.org](mailto:vicepresident@orafs.org) to coordinate your donation. We will need a description of the item or activity, photos if applicable, value, and a suggestion for the starting bid.

***Generous donors like you are vital to the continuation of this important work.***

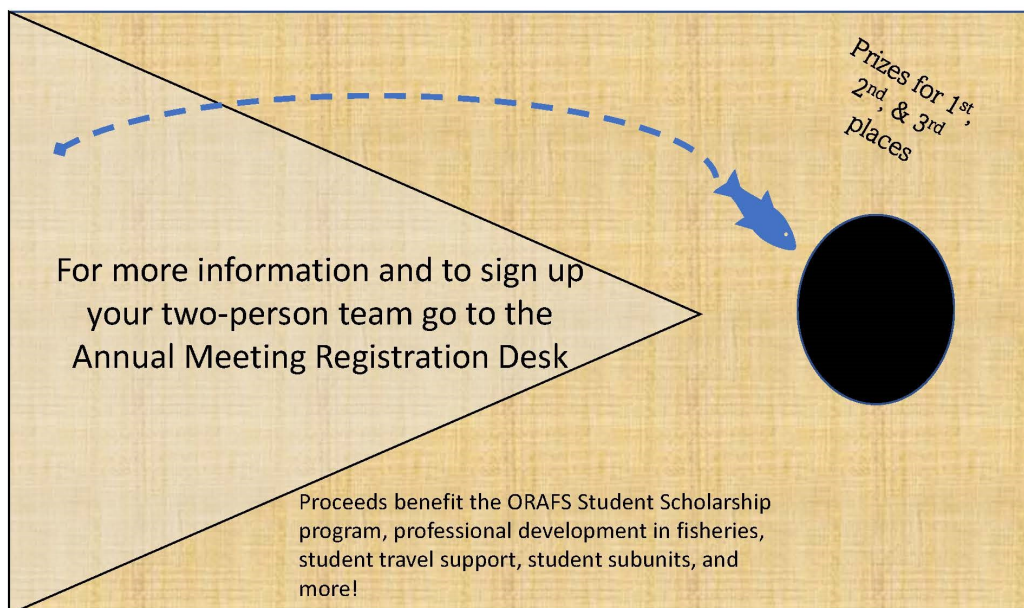
*Your donation to OR AFS, a 501(c)(3) organization, is tax deductible.*





## ANNUAL ORAFS

## CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT



Located in Bend along the Deschutes River, [Riverhouse on the Deschutes](#) is the venue and primary hotel for the 2024 ORAFS Annual Meeting.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

ORAFS has reserved a block of rooms for attendees at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes!

- Make yourself comfortable in the completely re-imagined guest rooms, each with their own private patio or balcony.
- The comfortable guest rooms offer free high-speed Wi-Fi and guests have access to an indoor pool, hot tub, and fitness center.
- Nightly rates for conference attendees are **\$120 for standard rooms** and **\$165 for riverside rooms**.
- The block of rooms are available now, and will be held until **5pm PST on February 5th, 2024**. After this date, the block of rooms will be opened to the general public, and the Riverhouse on the Deschutes cannot guarantee that rooms will be available.

Reservations can be made [Here](#), or by calling the Riverhouse on the Deschutes at 1-866-453-4480 and requesting the meeting rate for the **Oregon Chapter of American Fisheries Society**.

**PLEASE NOTE: the Riverhouse on the Deschutes cancellation policy states if you cancel less than 7 days prior to arrival, you will be charged one night's room and tax.**

For more information about the Riverhouse on the Deschutes, [click here](#), or to reserve a room, call 1-866-453-4480.



# CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE EXCOM 2024-2025 CANDIDATES!

## VOTE ELECTRONICALLY FEBRUARY, 2024



We are excited to have some fantastic candidates for your Executive Committee (ExCom) officers this year! E-ballots will be emailed to Oregon Chapter members and the polls will be open in February 2024. Elected officers will be announced during the 2024 Business Meeting on February 29th, 2024. Your potential officers for 2024-2025 are:

**President-Elect: Cory Sipher**

**Internal Director: Chris Derrickson or Stephanie Messerle**

**External Director: Scott Lightcap or Amy Unthank**

**Vice President: Kate Self (incumbent)**

**Secretary: Sarah Sapienza (incumbent)**



### President-Elect: Cory Sipher

I'm humbled to accept this nomination for President-elect of the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. I grew up about as far away from the Pacific Northwest as one can get, on a dairy farm in rural New York. Having spent much of my youth outdoors, I chose to pursue a career that would allow me to continue to stay involved in natural resources. I attended undergraduate school at the State University of New York, in Cortland, where I majored in Biology and coincidentally where I first learned to fly fish. There, I developed a passion for working with fisheries and aquatic resources and a desire to further my career to that end. After several years working seasonal jobs in fisheries around the West, I returned to graduate school at Colorado State University where I got my Master's Degree in Fishery Biology.

I started my professional career in Roseburg, Oregon working as a fish biologist for the Bureau of Land Management. I currently serve as the District Fish Biologist for the Northwest Oregon BLM. Throughout my career, I have been a strong advocate of building partnerships and working across boundaries. I have worked with private, state, and other federal entities to continue the advancement of fisheries resources in Oregon. One of the most challenging duties of federal land management is working across resources and disciplines, compromising where needed to achieve the best possible outcome for the landscape. Working in this team environment has helped me learn how to find balance among competing resources.

I first became a member of the AFS in 1999 when I was in graduate school and since then I have been an active member of the National, Western Division, and Oregon Chapter. I am a Certified Fisheries Professional with the AFS, served as the Western Division Representative for



the Fish Management Section, and served two terms as External Director for the Oregon Chapter. I hope you will give me an opportunity, as President-elect of the Oregon Chapter, to work with you to further the goals and objectives of the Oregon Chapter and help continue the stellar work of one of the most effective chapters in the AFS.

# CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE EXCOM 2024-2025 CANDIDATES!



## Internal Director: Chris Derrickson

My name is Chris Derrickson and I work for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife out of Enterprise, working with the early life history of salmon and steelhead in the Grande Ronde basin. I live near Joseph with my wife Summer and our horse Misty and enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking and enjoying all the beauty that Wallowa County has to offer. I have lived in Oregon all my life and have been

passionate about fishing from an early age, which lead me to Oregon State University to pursue a career in fisheries. My first experience with Oregon AFS was during my senior year of college, where I gained a tremendous number of connections and experience that

prepared me for a career in fisheries. From Klamath Falls to Clackamas, and Newport to Enterprise, I have gained an appreciation for all the native species that call our state home.

I am running for the Internal Director because this would provide me with an opportunity to give back to the state that I love, and an organization that has helped many fisheries professionals, including myself, obtain crucial knowledge, connections and skills that aid in a career to sustain fisheries throughout the state. Between balancing competing demands, organization, scheduling, and attention to detail, the skills that I have developed over my career have prepared me well for this position. I would be honored to be chosen for this position and am excited for the opportunity to give back and grow! Thank you for the consideration and I will see you all at the annual meeting!



## Internal Director: Stephanie Messerle

Hello Oregon Chapter of AFS! My name is Stephanie Messerle and I'd be honored to be your next Internal Director for ORAFS. I have been a long-time member of ORAFS and have benefited from the organization. From attending the annual meetings and workshops to learning through the newsletters and everything else, ORAFS is truly a chapter that has deserved the many awards and recognition it has received over the years. Running for Internal Director is not something I feel I need to do or should do or am obligated to do. Rather it's something I want to do. I realize all the work behind making ORAFS the amazing organization it is, doesn't just magically happen. Maybe if elected I'll discover there really are fairies that do the work, but I kind of doubt it. I've gained from all that ORAFS has done and I want to contribute and be a part of the team behind the logo.

I work for the Oregon/ Washington Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a fish biologist. Prior to joining the BLM State Office, I was the District Fish Biologist for the Coos Bay BLM for ten years. I was a fish biologist for the Myrtlewood Resource Field Office, Coos Bay BLM for six years and a fish biologist for the Medford BLM District for four years. I've also had seasonal fisheries technician jobs for ODFW and BLM as well as a stint with the National Park Service in Utah in their biological resource division. Working for a public land management agency in fisheries has been an excellent career for me. I thoroughly enjoy working to improve fish habitat on public lands as well as partnership involvement to improve conditions at watershed scale across land ownership. After high school, I worked at an Oregon Coastal State Park for three summers, which gave me my first



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# CAST YOUR VOTE



experience in the benefits of public land. I'm involved with the National AFS as steering committee member of the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology program and have been a mentor to over a dozen Hutton Interns. I received an Environmental Science bachelor's degree from Southern Oregon University with additional classes at OSU.

I live in Coos Bay along the southern Oregon Coast, where I'm originally from, with my husband and our two sons. I'm a firm believer in sharing my love of the outdoors with my kids and teaching them how special the rivers, fish, and environment is, particularly where we live. As they've gotten older, I'm trying to keep up with them as we enjoy our beautiful state.

Thank you for your consideration as your next Internal Director. I feel my communication and organization skills will serve ORAFS well. When I sign up for a project or position I do my very best to give it my all and will pledge to you that if elected as Internal Director I will deliver nothing short of high-quality work.

## External Director: Scott Lightcap

Hello from the other side! My name is Scott Lightcap, and I'm a recently retired Fisheries Biologist from the Bureau of Land Management. I'm running for the position of External Director, because after a year of abundant flyfishing (~100 days) and working on my house and property – its time to start giving back to the organization that helped and influenced me so much throughout my career.

For those who don't know me, I grew up on a ranch in Gold Beach, OR – within sight of the mouth of the Rogue River.



After moving around to several towns in SW OR for different jobs, my family eventually settled in the Umpqua Basin near Roseburg – where we've lived for the past 22 years. From a career standpoint – all of it was focused on public land management

in Oregon – first with the Forest Service (10 years) and then with the BLM (23 years). Like many of my peers, I

started as a field biologist and gradually worked my way up through the ranks as the next challenges presented themselves. I closed out my career as one of the co-leads for the BLM Aquatics Program in Oregon and Washington.

In my last leadership role, I got to see behind the curtain a bit – in terms of how all of the pieces interact and influence the larger, daunting task of successful land management. I also quickly learned that my most important task was often to get out of the way of some very talented people and provide support in whatever way I could.

Considering the wide variety of focal areas represented by our various external committees, I think there are some similarities between my last role, and that of External Director. Therefore, I would be honored to have your vote, and if elected – would look forward to working with all of the committees to help further the various missions of the Oregon Chapter! Thank you for considering me, and tight lines.

## External Director: Amy Unthank

Greetings! As they say, opportunities to give back come along and I'm offering up my time to serve as the Oregon Chapter AFS External Director. I retired in 2022 from a 33-year career with the U.S. Forest Service, having served my first three years as a Fisheries Biologist in NE Oregon, followed by ten years on the Willamette NF and a year on the Wenatchee NF. From there I moved on to the SW as the Regional Fisheries Program Leader for the National Forests in Arizona and New Mexico. Then I moved on to serve in Washington DC as the National Fisheries Leader. One of the highlights of my career was helping with Gila trout recovery in the SW, but I also enjoy supporting the education and mentoring of the next generation. I arrived back in Oregon to supervise the Fisheries and Watershed programs on the Malheur NF in 2014. I've been an AFS member since 1984 while attending graduate school in Fisheries at the University of



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# CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE EXCOM 2024-2025 CANDIDATES!

Washington. My most active years of service to AFS were during my time in Albuquerque, helping put on one of the Western Division meetings. I would be honored to become part of the ExCom for Oregon AFS and to learn about and support the external committees to do their important work.

## Vice President: Kate Self

Hello ORAFS!

If we have yet to cross paths, my name is Kate Self and I am a Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist for the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. I am running for re-election to Vice President of the Oregon Chapter of AFS.



Serving on the Executive Committee during 2023 has reinforced my network and connections from the annual meetings and the Society in general to help get myself and our members back on track following those Covid meeting years.

Over the past year, I have witnessed ORAFS continue to focus on issues such as inclusivity, representation, and diversity and I hope that we continue down that path by examining systems already in place and looking to new resources.

As the VP, I have the honor of interfacing directly with the student subunits. I have attended meetings in person both at Oregon State University and Mount Hood Community College. We are in good shape if the future of the Oregon Chapter is in these capable students' hands! I have been especially impressed by the wide array of study interests, the level of engagement both within and outside of their academic communities, and the organizational skills

evident at the top of both subunits. I am looking forward to taking some field trips with both groups in 2024!

If re-elected, I will strive to bring my current and previous skillsets together to be an inclusive, thoughtful, and effective Vice President. Thank you for your consideration!

## Secretary: Sarah Sapienza

Hello! I've worked for over 14 years at ODFW and currently work as the Fish Division Office Manager. I've had many positions within ODFW including tagging sturgeon, spawning ground surveys, and coded wire tagging salmon at fish hatcheries across the state. I have a River Restoration certification from Portland State University Environmental Professionals Program and a B.A. in Environmental Science from Marylhurst University.



I decided to run for re-election as ORAFS Secretary to stay involved in the American Fisheries Society and have really enjoyed the camaraderie that being involved brought. I am an organized, detail-oriented, people person that is looking to expand my fisheries knowledge and make lasting connections.





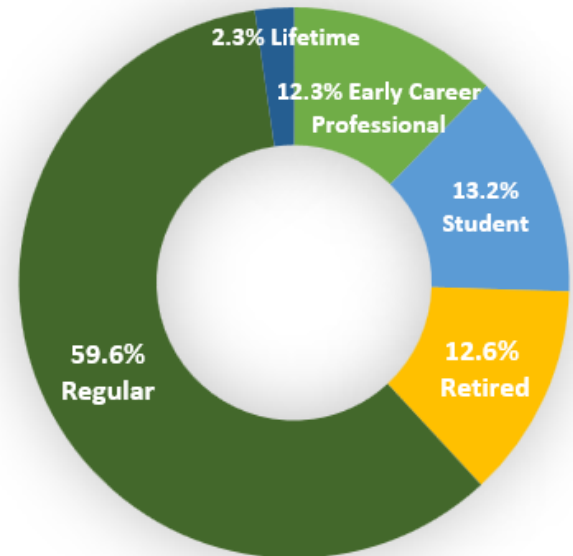
## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

### DON'T FORGET TO RENEW FOR 2024!

Start the year off right and renew your membership or join as a new member if you have not already. Your National AFS membership is important to Chapter sustainability as it receives a 3% rebate on Regular dues paying members, but your Oregon Chapter membership is even more important, because all Chapter dues are passed through National AFS to ORAFS. When you renew your membership for 2024, don't forget to check the Oregon Chapter box! Chapter dues are critical for sustaining and improving member professional development opportunities, and also in helping ORAFS meet its mission and operate sustainably. If you have questions about membership, or have ideas about how to broaden our membership, please contact Sarah Sapienza.



Sarah Sapienza, Secretary  
[secretary@orafs.org](mailto:secretary@orafs.org)



*Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society membership breakout; as of December 28, 2023 we have 349 members.*

## OR AFS LIFE MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Are you an AFS Life Member and interested in showing your life-long dedication to the Oregon Chapter? We have an Oregon Chapter Life Membership that allows you to do just that! The Oregon Chapter Life Membership costs \$125.00 or 12.5 times the Oregon Chapter annual membership rate. This relative cost difference mirrors the AFS Life Member cost. Show your dedication to the ORAFS legacy and invest in a membership that will pay off for a lifetime! Please contact Sarah Sapienza ([secretary@orafs.org](mailto:secretary@orafs.org)) for more information.

**2023-2024 OREGON CHAPTER AFS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS  
(ORAFS EXCOM)**

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**President-Elect:** Michele Weaver;  
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**Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Mission**

*Improve the conservation and sustainability of Oregon fishery resources and their aquatic ecosystems for long-term public benefit by advancing science, education, and public discourse concerning fisheries and aquatic science and by promoting the development of fisheries professionals.*

**Native Fish:** Jim Capurso  
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**Resolutions and Bylaws:** Kate Self;  
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*Additional contact information (mailing addresses, fax numbers) for all officers, committee chairs, and support personnel are available at: <http://orafs.org> under "Officers & Committees".*



**Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**

[www.orafs.org](http://www.orafs.org)

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS & MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:**

To join or change address, go to [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org) and be sure to sign up for the Oregon Chapter. Also visit [www.orafs.org/membership](http://www.orafs.org/membership) to join our listserv and get other Chapter information.