

Investments Committee Proposal

The funds shall be allocated at least approximately 50% in fixed income investments such as CD's, Bonds or High Quality preferred stocks. The interest from these investments may be reinvested or may be used to fund current projects upon approval of the Executive Committee. The remaining up to 50% shall be invested in a well balanced portfolio of mutual funds geared toward consistent growth with some income possibilities or in other interest-bearing accounts. The investment allocation will be reviewed at least annually, and at such other times as the chairman of the investment committee may deem necessary. At any time should this allocation become out of balance, the chairman of the investment committee may request that the accounts be rebalanced to reflect the 50/50 allocation.

Justification:

The proposed changes would reflect current practice and enable more responsiveness to changing market conditions. In addition, investing more in liquid assets may also be beneficial as MAFWA engages in more reimbursable grant and contract activities to ensure the necessary cash-on-hand to keep work under those grants and agreements continuing while reimbursements are being sought.

Submitted:

MAFWA Investments Committee
September 6, 2016

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

**Current Investment Allocation
6/21/2017**

Money Market	Amount	Int. Rate	Est. Ann. Int.
	\$ 74,468.81	0.150%	\$ 111.70

Bond Ladder Held at Southwest Securities

Security	Face Value	Int. Rate	Maturity	Mrkt. Value	Annual Interest
Dean Foods	\$ 15,000.00	6.900%	10/15/2017	\$ 15,200.10	\$ 1,035.00
Genworth Financial	\$ 20,000.00	7.70%	6/15/2020	\$ 19,770.00	\$ 1,540.00
SLM Corp	\$ 10,000.00	6.05%	12/15/2026	\$ 7,226.70	\$ 605.00
Bank of America	\$ 20,000.00	6.800%	3/15/2028	\$ 24,456.60	\$ 1,360.00
SLM Corp	\$ 10,000.00	5.50%	6/15/2029	\$ 8,035.00	\$ 550.00
SLM Corp	\$ 12,000.00	6.25%	9/15/2029	\$ 9,201.96	\$ 750.00
Safeway	\$ 20,000.00	7.25%	2/1/2031	\$ 19,550.00	\$ 1,450.00
CitiGroup	\$ 10,000.00	6.00%	10/31/2033	\$ 11,843.80	\$ 600.00
Bristol Myers Squibb	\$ 10,000.00	5.88%	11/15/2036	\$ 13,213.00	\$ 587.50
YUM Brands	\$ 20,000.00	6.88%	11/15/2037	\$ 21,800.00	\$ 1,375.00
Goldman Sachs	\$ 14,000.00	5.75%	5/15/2039	\$ 15,807.68	\$ 805.00
Total Face Value	\$ 161,000.00			\$ 166,104.84	\$ 10,657.50

Current Annual Interest Income **\$ 10,657.50**
Average Interest Rate **6.62%**

Mutual Fund Holdings (American Funds)

Purchased \$50,000.00 A Shares 9/13/2005
Purchased \$25,000.00 A Shares 8/24/2007
Purchased \$20,000.00 A Shares 4/18/2013
Purchased \$10,000.00 A Shares 9/15/2015

Name of Fund	Invested	Curr. Val.	
Growth Fund of America	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 46,574.98	
High Income Trust	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 18,959.81	
Investment Co. of America	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 23,535.24	
Income Fund of America	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,319.69	
Capitol Income Builder	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 18,886.84	
Cap. World Grwth & Inc.	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 32,093.28	
American Funds EuroPacific Fund	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 16,901.80	
American Funds Fundamental Investors	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 24,474.51	
Total	#####	\$ 191,746.15	82.62%

Total Account Market Value June 23, 2015 **\$386,289.66**

Total Account Market Value June 30, 2016 **\$432,319.80**
Increase/ Decrease **\$ 46,030.14**
Increase/ Decrease **11.92%**

Points of Comparison:

Balance of account 6/22/2006 **\$ 220,332.22**
Eleven year avg return **not** including w/d **8.75%**
Eleven year dollar growth **not** including w/d **\$ 211,987.58**
S & P close on 6/26/2006 **1270**
S & P close on 6/21/2017 **2440**
Eleven year avg return of S & P **8.38%**

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

**Current Investment Allocation
6/30/16**

Money Market	Amount	Int. Rate	Est. Ann. Int.
	\$ 26,437.31	0.150%	\$ 39.66

Bond Ladder Held at Southwest Securities

Security	Face Value	Int. Rate	Maturity	Mrkt. Value	Annual Interest
ALCOA	\$ 10,000.00	5.550%	2/1/2017	\$ 10,200.00	\$ 555.00
Dean Foods	\$ 15,000.00	6.900%	10/15/2017	\$ 15,562.50	\$ 1,035.00
AK Steel Corp	\$ 20,000.00	7.625%	5/5/2020	\$ 19,100.00	\$ 1,525.00
Genworth Financial	\$ 20,000.00	7.70%	6/15/2020	\$ 17,800.00	\$ 1,540.00
Goodyear Tire & Rubber	\$ 20,000.00	7.00%	5/15/2022	\$ 21,325.00	\$ 1,400.00
SLM Corp	\$ 10,000.00	6.05%	12/15/2026	\$ 7,233.70	\$ 605.00
Bank of America	\$ 20,000.00	6.800%	3/15/2028	\$ 24,285.20	\$ 1,360.00
Country Wide	\$ 15,000.00	6.00%	7/23/2029	\$ 14,872.80	\$ 900.00
SLM Corp	\$ 10,000.00	5.50%	6/15/2029	\$ 6,426.40	\$ 550.00
SLM Corp	\$ 12,000.00	6.25%	9/15/2029	\$ 8,307.72	\$ 750.00
Safeway	\$ 10,000.00	7.25%	2/1/2031	\$ 9,640.00	\$ 725.00
CitiGroup	\$ 10,000.00	6.00%	10/31/2033	\$ 11,648.20	\$ 600.00
Bristol Myers Squibb	\$ 10,000.00	5.88%	11/15/2036	\$ 13,502.30	\$ 587.50
Goldman Sachs	\$ 14,000.00	5.75%	5/15/2039	\$ 16,347.24	\$ 805.00
Total Face Value	\$ 196,000.00			\$ 196,251.06	\$ 12,937.50

Current Annual Interest Income **\$ 12,937.50**
 Average Interest Rate **6.60%**

Mutual Fund Holdings (American Funds)

Purchased \$50,000.00 A Shares 9/13/2005
 Purchased \$25,000.00 A Shares 8/24/2007
 Purchased \$20,000.00 A Shares 4/18/2013

Name of Fund	Invested	Curr. Val.	
Growth Fund of America	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 38,052.89	
High Income Trust	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 17,002.45	
Investment Co. of America	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 20,323.31	
Income Fund of America	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 9,391.35	
Capitol Income Builder	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 17,462.57	
Cap. World Grwth & Inc.	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 27,111.56	
American Funds EuroPacific Fund	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 13,843.92	Total
American Funds Fundemental Investors	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 20,413.24	Mutual Fund Growth
Total	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 163,601.29	72.21%

Total Account Market Value June 23, 2015 **\$ 379,940.56**

Total Account Market Value June 30, 2016 **\$ 386,289.66**
 Increase/ Decrease **\$ 6,349.10**
 Increase/ Decrease **1.67%**

Points of Comparison:

Balance of account 6/22/2006	\$ 220,332.22
Ten year avg return not including w/d	7.53%
Ten year dollar growth not including w/d	\$ 165,957.44
S & P close on 6/26/2006	1270
S & P close on 6/30/16	2076
Ten year avg return of S & P	6.35%
One year S&P Return 6/23/15-6/30/16	1.05%

RESOLUTION NO. 1

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES SUPPORT FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON SUSTAINING AMERICA'S DIVERSE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND ONGOING WORK.

WHEREAS, the states play an essential role in the conservation and management of fish and wildlife and their habitats which contribute to our quality of life and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts established a fund to support conservation and science-based management of wild birds, mammals and sport fish species financed by hunters, recreational shooters, fishermen, and boaters; and

WHEREAS, a similar dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism is lacking for the many species of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates that are not game species; and

WHEREAS, the states, territories and District of Columbia developed and recently updated historic, comprehensive and scientifically-based State Wildlife Action Plans that identify over 12,000 species of greatest conservation need; and

WHEREAS, there is a recognized need to expand the funding base for wildlife conservation throughout the Nation as effective implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans would require an annual investment of over \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, was tasked with recommending a new funding mechanism to support state fish and wildlife conservation to ensure the sustainability of all fish and wildlife for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel recommends that Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and water to the existing unfunded Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel also recommended that the impact of societal changes on the relevancy of fish and wildlife conservation be examined and recommendation made on how programs and agencies can transform to engage and serve broader constituencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes and appreciates the valuable contribution of co-chairs Mr. John Morris and former Governor David Freudenthal and the business and conservation leaders of the Blue Ribbon Panel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies notifies the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies by copy of this resolution that it stands ready to support and participate in national efforts and events of the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife campaign and the Blue Ribbon Panel to work with the US Congress and the Administration to pass legislation to create a 21st century conservation funding model that provides states, territories and the District of Columbia with sustained and dedicated funding to conserve all fish and wildlife and their habitats; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies also stands ready to support and implement continuing efforts by the Blue Ribbon Panel to develop recommendations that will ensure state fish and wildlife agencies remain relevant and supported by all citizens into the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

SUPPORTING RESTRICTING IMPORTATION OF HUNTER-HARVESTED CERVID CARCASSES FROM KNOWN CWD-INFECTED STATES AND PROVINCES.

WHEREAS, chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease of mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, moose and reindeer/caribou;

WHEREAS, CWD has been detected in captive and/or free-ranging cervid populations in 24 states (including Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming), 2 Canadian provinces (Alberta and Saskatchewan), the Republic of Korea, and Norway;

WHEREAS, the geographic distribution and prevalence of CWD continue to grow; yet there is a lack of consistency among states in CWD surveillance activities, and this poses increased risk of undiscovered areas with disease;

WHEREAS, CWD poses a threat to the health of cervid populations wherever it occurs;

WHEREAS, consequent to the ongoing spread of disease, domestic livestock and human exposures to the causative agent of CWD are increasing;

WHEREAS, all states have a percentage of resident hunters that travel out-of-state to pursue game hunting opportunities and, if successful, return to their home state with their harvest;

WHEREAS, some states already have regulations that prevent importation of cervid carcasses harvested from known CWD-affected areas or from anywhere outside their borders (e.g., blanket ban), with the exception of cut/wrapped meat, quarters with no part of the spinal column attached, deboned meat, cleaned skulls or skull cap, shed antlers, hides, canine teeth, and finished taxidermy mounts;

WHEREAS, efforts to educate hunters on importation laws remain a challenge; hunters are often directed to search for the CWD status of areas they intend to hunt or hunting regulation books in the destination state;

In an effort to minimize risk of further disease spread and simplify carcass importation laws for out-of-state hunters, all states should consider adoption of consistent language that

does not allow intact cervid carcasses to come from the entirety of any state or province where CWD is known to occur, with the exception of cut/wrapped meat, quarters with no part of the spinal column attached, deboned meat, cleaned skulls or skull cap, shed antlers, hides, canine teeth, and finished taxidermy mounts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Directors, at its annual meeting in Ashland, Nebraska on June 28, 2017, supports restricting importation of intact cervid carcasses from the entire states and provinces where CWD has been detected in either captive or free-ranging cervid populations, with the exception of cut/wrapped meat, quarters with no part of the spinal column attached, deboned meat, cleaned skulls or skull cap, shed antlers, hides, canine teeth, and finished taxidermy mounts. Nonresidents transporting whole or partial cervid carcasses on a direct route through states (e.g., interstate movements) are exempt from this restriction.

RESOLUTION NO. 3

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

SUMMER MEETING, JUNE 25-28, 2017

ASHLAND, NEBRASKA

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has very effectively and enthusiastically organized and conducted the 2017 summer meeting of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; and

WHEREAS, Director Jim Douglas and his staff have worked tirelessly together with local, regional, and national conservation organization partners making all attendees of this great meeting welcome; and

WHEREAS, the rural venue of the meeting has added greatly to the enjoyment and productivity of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies summer meeting; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies wish to express their gratitude for all the efforts of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at its annual meeting at Eugene T. Mahoney State Park on June 28, 2017 acknowledges the effort and hospitality of Director Douglas and his staff and hereby passes this resolution as a gesture of great appreciation.

Awards Luncheon June 26, 2017

Members of the Awards Committee are: Terry Steinwand, North Dakota; Gregory Johnson, Kentucky; Mark Reiter, Indiana; Jim Leach, Minnesota; and myself. I want to thank them for their assistance in choosing the winners. We had 20 nominations for the five main awards.

Award winners are:

The Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award is given to the individual who in the past year has shown superior leadership, initiative, and dedication in their duties. This person should personify achievement, public service, education, and above all natural resource conservation. This award goes to **Jerrod Alley, Kentucky**; *award accepted by Ron Brooks.*

The Wildlife Biologist of the Year award is given to the individual who has shown an unparalleled initiative towards the better understanding of wildlife and their conservation. This award goes to **Max Alleger, Missouri**; *award accepted by Max Alleger. READ NOMINATION*

The Fisheries Biologist of the Year award is given to the individual who has shown an unparalleled initiative towards the better understanding of fishes and their conservation. This award goes to **Mark Flammang, Iowa**; *award accepted by Mark Flammang. READ NOMINATION*

The Spirit of the Shack award is given to the individual who exemplifies the ideals of the great conservationist and educator, Aldo Leopold, and who has contributed to conservation in a superior way. This individual should epitomize stewardship and dedication to fish and wildlife conservation. This award goes to **Thomas Draper, Missouri**; *award accepted by Tom Draper. READ NOMINATION.*

Excellence in Conservation award is given to the agency that has shown excellence in conservation through a specific project. Each member agency would select one project completed in the awards year that exemplifies the goal of fish and wildlife conservation. This award also has a perpetual plaque. This award goes to: **Joe Caudell and Indiana Bovine TB Team**. *Award accepted by Mark Reiter.*

Sagamore of the Forest, Fields and Streams – “A sagamore is the head of northeastern Native American tribe. The word is generally synonymous with sachem, although sometimes a sachem is considered a chief of the first rank, and a sagamore one of the second rank. Sagamore can also refer to great man among the tribe to whom the chief would look for wisdom and advice.” This honor is bestowed on any Director or upper level staff member that has contributed significant service to MAFWA. To qualify for this recognition, recipients must provide 4 years of service to MAFWA, have a 75 percent meeting attendance and serve on one or more committees. None this year.

Special Recognition award given to deserving individual that has shown commitment to MAFWA and natural resources. This award goes to Kelley Myers, USFWS and in recent past Iowa DNR. *Award accepted by Kelley Myers.*

The Past President's Award is given to **Jim Douglas, Nebraska** who has served as the MAFWA President for the past year. Jim will receive this award at the business meeting on Wednesday.

President's Award – *(presented by Jim Douglas, NE)* – **Nebraska Audubon with special recognition to Marian Langan.** *Award accepted by daughter of Marian Langan and Nebraska Audubon member.*



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Award Nomination Form 2017

Award Categories (check only one per form)

I want to nominate: Conservation Officer Jerrod Alley, KY

- Spirit of the Shack
- Wildlife Biologist of the Year
- Excellence in Conservation
- Fisheries Biologist of the Year
- Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

2. Please list and/or describe specific projects, work or accomplishments relevant to the award. Please limit your information to one page.

Outreach: Officer Alley participated in 27 outreach events including a water safety event for 4H, annual "Wear It" pfd promotion at Conley Bottom Resort, 2 fishing events held in his county, multiple conservation camp visits, several career day events at local schools. He also routinely visits high school fishing team activities and events and also sets up a booth at local fundraising events for Hooked On Fishing events and Back to School Bash events. Officer Alley also makes himself available to his local sportsmen club and passes out department literature to multiple sporting goods stores and remote stores in his area.

Excellence: Officer Alley strives to be the best he can be at his job duties. He maintains high activity year round. He is willing to work whatever shift and locations are needed and is willing to adjust his working time to cover whatever task is at hand. He maintains a good working relationship with his court system as at times serves as a liaison to the court system. He also keeps up to date on regulation and law changes.

Attitude: Officer Alley maintains a good attitude and abides by department policy. He maintains good relationships with his coworkers and supervisors as well. Officer Alley maintains a positive image to the public and has been recognized multiple times with letters and phone calls to supervisors and office personnel regarding positive experiences with the public. He abides by deadlines set and is routinely early on assignments.

Teamwork: Officer Alley maintains a positive relationship within his unit, district and training staff. Alley works with other officers regularly and willingly assists with areas of need. He often times arranges service on other officers equipment and is always willing to help facilitate in the procurement of services. Officer Alley maintains a positive relationship with other divisions including Information and Education, Fisheries and Wildlife.

Achievements: Officer Alley was awarded a Governor's Award for Impaired Boating Enforcement for leading the state in BUI arrests which has become an annual achievement for him. He has also been selected to assist with the boating training within our academy. He also led his district in activity for the year. Officer Alley was also the first responding officer at multiple medical emergencies and facilitated advanced medical help for the victims.

Efficiency/Innovation: Officer Alley consistently tries to achieve above and beyond what has been perceived as the standard. He focuses his attention on getting the best result possible while limiting the amount of time and resources needed. He was able to find local service personnel for department equipment to save time and funding from long travel to and from previous service area. He is also very active in maintaining his as well as other officers' equipment by sharing experience and knowledge in those areas.

Leadership: Officer Alley is thought of as a leader by many of his peers and supervisors. He keeps everyone informed of upcoming events and takes responsibility for laying the groundwork for others. He helped in the planning of a detail for the annual Poker Run event on Lake Cumberland. He also is routinely called from other officers to seek his advice on their decision making. Officer Alley also continues to apply for additional training to continue gaining knowledge and follows through with the sharing of information gained.



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Award Nomination Form 2017

Award Categories (check only one per form)

I want to nominate: Max Alleger, Grassland Coordinator,
Missouri Department of Conservation

- Spirit of the Shack
- Wildlife Biologist of the Year
- Excellence in Conservation
- Fisheries Biologist of the Year
- Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

2. Please list and/or describe specific projects, work or accomplishments relevant to the award. Please limit your information to one page.

I wish to nominate Max Alleger, Grassland Coordinator, Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), for MAFWA Wildlife Biologist of the Year. Over the last few years Max has been building strong partnerships, strategically planning, and planting seeds of innovation, all to set the stage for monumental grassland conservation reform within Missouri and the greater Midwest Region. Acting as a tremendous grassland advocate and sounding the horn for needed change, Max has worked diligently with a variety of conservation partners, including state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities, and private citizens, to take grassland conservation efforts from planning to on-the-ground implementation. Some of Max's greatest accomplishments over the past year(s) have included:

- **Audubon's Conservation Ranching Program**
 - Max has been the primary grassland technical advisor collaborating with The National Audubon Society to develop its Conservation Ranching Program. Audubon launched proof-of-concept pilots of this program in Missouri, Colorado, Wyoming, the Dakotas and Texas. This program seeks to link beef producers who voluntarily improve grassland conditions to premium pricing opportunities in the retail marketplace. This unique public / private partnership is expected to improve grasslands and serve as a model for future market-based conservation programs.
- **MDC's Interdivisional Grassland Technical Team (IGTT)**
 - Max serves as chair of MDC's IGTT—a multi-division working group which identifies grassland management issues and priorities, identifies priority grassland landscapes, coordinates species recovery and restoration projects, identifies and staff training needs, identifies research and monitoring priorities, and coordinates outreach to MDC staff and administration as well as grassland partners and stakeholders. The IGTT has recently developed conservation grazing best management practices and a conservation grazing communication strategy to act as information resources for internal staff to better implement grazing as a grassland management tool and facilitate interaction and consistent messaging with the public and stakeholders.
- **Missouri Grassland Bird NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Awards**
 - Max has been the primary grassland technical advisor collaborating with MDC's Private Land Services Division to secure NRCS RCPP funding, totaling nearly 6.5 million dollars, to improve the functionality of Missouri grasslands for native flora and fauna (esp. birds) dependent upon them.
- **Missouri Large-Scale Grassland Restoration Project**
 - Max serves as project leader working with grassland managers on a large-scale grassland restoration project, totaling 2,100 acres, on MDC's Schell-Osage Conservation Area, Helton Conservation Area and Linscomb Wildlife Area. The project restoration phase wraps up in 2017.

In addition to the above highlights, Max ensures outstanding customer service both within MDC and among partners and private citizens by offering both public and private land advisement and assistance service and ensuring agency staff and administration are continuously updated on grassland operations and advancements through workshops and presentations, including multiple grassland presentations to MDC's Commission. During 2016 and 2017, collaborating closely with Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Max was the primary organizer and leader of the Greater-Prairie Chicken translocation efforts from North Platte, Nebraska, to the Grand River Grasslands of northwest Missouri and southwest Iowa. Max is also the 2017 chair of the Patch-Burn Grazing Working Group, which will be hosted in Joplin, Missouri in August 2017, and is also involved in the Prairie Grouse Technical Council (PGTC) and was chair of that group when Missouri hosted a meeting of the PGTC in September 2015.

Max's long-term dedication and significant contributions to grassland conservation within the Midwest are second to none.



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Award Nomination Form 2017

Award Categories (check only one per form)

I want to nominate: Mark Flammang, IA

- Spirit of the Shack
- Wildlife Biologist of the Year
- Excellence in Conservation
- Fisheries Biologist of the Year
- Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

2. Please list and/or describe specific projects, work or accomplishments relevant to the award. Please limit your information to one page.

I would like to nominate Mark Flammang for the 2017 Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Fisheries Biologist of the Year award. Mark has been the Fisheries Management Biologist for the eight county district in south central Iowa, including the 11,000 acre Rathbun Reservoir, for the past 21 years.

Over the past 21 years Mark has dedicated himself to initiating new approaches to refine fish management techniques including but not limited to how and when fish surveys are conducted; determining the most appropriate gears for sampling fish; methods to manipulate fish populations; fish tagging and marking techniques; fish movement behaviors; and improving water quality through lake and watershed management. Some of this work has had a profound effect on how fish management is conducted, not only in Iowa, but throughout the Midwest. Mark continually goes above and beyond what is expected of him in his current position.

Mark has the reputation of not only being a highly regarded fish management biologist, but he also has the skills and insight to conduct relevant fish research investigations. One such research project he provided leadership for was researching a better sampling technique for assessing Channel Catfish populations in Iowa lakes. Mark evaluated the use of baited tandem hoop-nets in a comparison with standard gill net efforts for capturing adult Channel Catfish. The results concluded that tandem baited hoop-nets were significantly better than gill nets at capturing sufficient numbers of Channel Catfish. This technique has become part of Iowa Fish Management Section's standard operating procedures (SOPs), and has been adopted by other state agencies. In addition, Mark has taken an active role in enhancing other SOPs for fish sampling techniques such as comparing catch rates for large 3'x6' versus small 2'x4' fyke nets, evaluating un-baited hoop-nets for panfish population assessments, and fish management database improvements to name a few.

Rotenone use in fisheries is an important management tool for controlling undesirable species and improving water quality. Mark has taken a leadership role in the utilization of rotenone in fish management. He is one of the co-authors involved with the rewrite of Iowa's rotenone SOP and is also a representative on a national American Fisheries Society (AFS) committee working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on reviewing the rotenone label. A recent study in which Mark was the lead author evaluated the use of low-concentration rotenone treatments to eliminate Gizzard Shad following illegal introductions, while having minimal impacts to desirable sport fish populations. This proactive study evaluated the effect of four different low concentrations of rotenone on the eradication of Gizzard Shad and overall impact on other fish species including important gamefish populations both in trial and field experiments. Results of this work has provided a useful tool to help managers eliminate specific problem species like Gizzard Shad with minimal impacts to important gamefish and lessening the need for total fish eradication.

Flood related fish emigration from large reservoirs has become an important issue with the concerns about climate change and higher precipitation events. Recent documented higher flows at Rathbun Reservoir, coinciding with declining Walleye populations, motivated Mark to initiate a study of Walleye emigration through the sluice gates at Rathbun Reservoir. Since 2009 Mark has been tagging and monitoring Walleye emigration from Rathbun Reservoir, and through this work he has been able to confirm significant Walleye losses from the reservoir. This has since prompted further research, in collaboration with Iowa State University (ISU), on potential methods to minimize Walleye escapement in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers. Mark, along with an ISU graduate student, evaluated various fish barriers. Efforts are currently underway to secure funding for an electric fish barrier to minimize fish escapement from the reservoir. Navigating through this complex research

project requires exceptional organizational, technical, and communication skills, along with a good dose of stick-to-itiveness, which is a testament to Mark's competencies.

In addition to the special fish management investigations he conducts, Mark has also been active with numerous lake restoration projects within his district. Over the past few years Mark has used his leadership skills to collaborate with stakeholders to improve water quality at selected lakes by employing Best Management Practices (BMPs) first in the watershed and when necessary within the lake basin. Recent lake restoration projects completed at Hawthorn Lake, Lake Miami and Red Haw Lake have resulted in improvements to water quality and the recreational fishery at these popular lakes. Mark is currently involved in three additional lake restoration efforts at Lakes Keomah and Lacey-Keosauqua, and Rathbun Reservoir, along with other smaller man-made lakes around his district.

In addition to all of these efforts, Mark is also a very productive writer for professional reports and spends a fair amount of time peer reviewing research papers by other authors. During Mark's career he has authored or co-authored at least 20 published scientific papers in professional journals such as the North American Journal of Fisheries Management, North American Journal of Aquaculture, River Research and Applications, the Journal of Freshwater Ecology, Prairie Naturalist, Journal of the Iowa Academy of Science and the North American Lake Management Society's Lakeline. He has also presented his work at numerous professional fisheries meetings. Mark continues to be an active member in AFS, holding varied positions at both the Parent and chapter levels of AFS. Currently Mark is an active participant on the AFS Fisheries Management Chemicals Committee (Rotenone Task Force) and the AFS Fish Management Section. Mark also teaches part-time at Indian Hills Community College instructing an Environmental Science course. Mark is an outstanding fish management biologist and has the respect of his peers, not only in Iowa, but throughout the Midwest. Mark's peers describe him as an excellent biologist because not only does he efficiently collect data, but he utilizes it to make sound management decisions. During Mark's 21 year career he has never taken his foot off the gas to understand and improve the management of fisheries. For this and many other reasons I believe these accomplishments make Mark very deserving of consideration for MAFWA's Fisheries Biologist of the Year award.

Sincerely,

Chris Larson, Small & Large Impoundment Fisheries Supervisor

Fisheries Bureau, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

57744 Lewis Rd.

Lewis IA 51544

Phone: 712-250-0001

Email: chris.larson@dnr.iowa.gov



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Award Nomination Form 2017

Award Categories (check only one per form)

I want to nominate: Thomas A. Draper, MO

Spirit of the Shack

Wildlife Biologist of the Year

Excellence in Conservation

Fisheries Biologist of the Year

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

2. Please list and/or describe specific projects, work or accomplishments relevant to the award. Please limit your information to one page.

I am pleased to nominate **Mr. Thomas A. Draper** for the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies ***Spirit of the Shack*** Award. Tom's efforts have improved the quality of Missouri's forest resources, informed and engaged Missouri citizens, improved the regulations process and because of his leadership has set conservation of all of Missouri's natural resources on a path of success for future generations.

It is this work and much, much more that makes him worthy of this consideration. *“Excellence”* best describes Tom’s passion and abilities, and we are fortunate to have him in Missouri. I can think of no one that is more deserving of this award than Tom. The required information is summarized below.

Raised in cold and windy northern Illinois, a short hike across two (2) corn fields, an asparagus patch, and a wood lot from the Illinois River, young Tom Draper experienced outdoor adventures that helped instill his passion for forest, fish, and wildlife.

Tom has always been a “go-getter”. He received a B.S. in Forest Resource Management from Southern Illinois University in 1975. Prior to his career in natural resource management, Tom spent 2 years as a Peace Corps Forester working in West Africa with the Liberian Government and timber concessionaires located throughout that country.

Following his Peace Corps service, for 14 years Tom worked to facilitate construction of erosion control structures on grain and livestock farms in western Illinois, managed Corps of Engineers lands along the Missouri River’s mainstream reservoirs for the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department, and worked with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture to assist farmers and ranchers with implementation of natural resource management practices.

For more than 20 years, Tom served the Missouri Department of Conservation in various capacities at the “forks of the road” in Missouri’s Ozarks holding positions including: Forest Products Marketing Specialist in Houston, Assistant District Forester and Forestry District Supervisor in Piedmont, and Forestry Regional Supervisor in West Plains.

In January 2010, he was selected as the Missouri Department of Conservation’s Deputy Director – Resource Management. In this role, Tom is responsible for supervision of six resource divisions (Fisheries, Forestry, Wildlife, Protection, Private Land Services and Resource Science). Tom serves as Chairman of the Department’s Regulations Committee.

Mention the name “Tom Draper” and words immediately flash into your mind: military time, direct communication style, results driven, unwavering integrity, and a man that loves his family.

In Tom’s current role as Deputy Director, he has helped lead the Missouri Department of Conservation in many challenges and opportunities. Just a few examples include: implementation of agency and employee programs; leadership in developing an expenditure plan that is transparent and accountable to staff and the public, his involvement and leadership with species restoration activities (hellbenders to alligator gar to prairie chickens to elk); wildlife and forestry diseases (feral hog eradication, thousand canker, Emerald Ash Borer); development of and successful implementation of the new blue catfish regulations at Lake Ozark and Truman Reservoir, and smallmouth bass and rock bass regulation improvements in Ozark streams. All of this while continuing discussions, management and regulation of the States deer herd and CWD management... these opportunities confirm Tom is the right person for the Deputy Director position. Whether fighting a wildfire deep in the Ozarks, meeting with the public at “the forks in the road” or testifying at the state capitol, Tom is a leader, an excellent communicator and dedicated conservationist.

Tom is always “all in!” His loyalty, generosity, commitment and level of sacrifice to advance conservation are trademarks he has become known for. Conservation is more than a job for Tom...it’s his calling! He serves as a

model and mentor for many inside and outside the agency. The ultimate professional demeanor is the hallmark of his work with staff, other government agencies, non-governmental agencies and most importantly, the public.

In thinking about this nomination, words like: **Expert, Leader, Professional, Teacher, Coach, Mentor, and Friend** come to mind. Tom Draper has exemplified what it means to be a ***Conservation Professional***, and we are fortunate to have him, his talents and his energy in Missouri. I can think of no one more deserving that **Tomas A. Draper** for this recognition.

Nomination respectfully submitted by Brian D. Canaday, Fisheries Division Chief – Missouri Department of Conservation.
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Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Award Nomination Form 2017

Award Categories (check only one per form)

I want to nominate: Indiana's Bovine TB Team and Joe Caudell, Indiana's Deer Biologist

- Spirit of the Shack
- Wildlife Biologist of the Year
- Excellence in Conservation
- Fisheries Biologist of the Year
- Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

2. Please list and/or describe specific projects, work or accomplishments relevant to the award. Please limit your information to one page.

In 2016, a wild white-tailed deer tested positive for bovine tuberculosis (bTB) on a Franklin County cattle farm. In response, Indiana's Division of Fish and Wildlife changed its bTB response to establish a bTB management zone in Franklin and southern Fayette counties and a bTB surveillance zone in northern

Dearborn County. This strategy sought to collect biological samples from deer harvested during the 2016-17 hunting season to 1) determine the prevalence rate of bTB in Franklin and Fayette counties; and 2) determine whether or not bTB was present in Dearborn County.

To implement this strategy a partnership of state and federal agencies, local businesses, DNR Divisions and Fish and Wildlife staff came together to implement the Plan. Joe Caudell, Indiana's Deer Biologist shared his strategy and the Plan with Fish and Wildlife Staff, with the local community and partners and it seems like an impossible feat to all of us. In general, his plan was to collect nearly 2000 samples from hunter harvested deer and push those samples to older age class deer as much as possible. The strategy was to incentivize hunters to shoot 2yr old or older bucks and bring them to be sampled so that they could get an opportunity to shoot an additional older buck during the same hunting season.

Joe's Plan to sample of hunter-harvested white-tailed deer during the 2016 season was an overwhelming success. Thanks to the outstanding cooperation from deer hunters, 2,042 samples were collected, of which 2,015 tested negative for bTB. Results from the remaining 27 samples ultimately tested negative as well. The samples collected included a greater-than-expected number of animals older than 2 years of age, which have a higher value for disease surveillance. As a result, the IDNR cancelled plans to use sharpshooters to reduce the deer population throughout southern Fayette and Franklin counties in winter 2017.

Seven months later, we are more than excited to say that due to the outstanding effort of this partnership, the bTB surveillance plan was an overwhelming success. Lymph nodes from more than 2000 hunter-harvested deer were collected from throughout the 3-county targeted region, none of which tested positive for bTB. The surveillance goal was exceeded in Dearborn County and the IDNR withdrew its evolving plans to use sharpshooters to reduce the deer population in southern Fayette and Franklin counties. The net result of this collective effort saved the DFW from spending an estimated \$1.3 million in license sales revenue to respond to the chronic bTB situation in Indiana. And maybe more importantly won us a lot of professional credibility with hunters and the affected communities.