



MIDWEST

Association of
Fish & Wildlife
Agencies



TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018

June 23, 2019

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

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**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES
ACCOUNT BALANCE SUMMARY**

	As of December 31		
	2017	Change	2018
MAFWA Accounts			
Banking Services	\$169,456.05	\$16,090.23	\$185,546.28
Conference	180,392.21	27,560.02	207,952.23
Southern Wings	18.29	5.91	24.20
Federal Grant	64,397.30	(11,221.02)	53,176.28
Credit Union Share Account	25.61	0.12	25.73
Money Market & Securities Account	454,132.22	(18,801.87)	435,330.35
Total MAFWA Accounts	\$868,421.68	\$13,633.39	\$882,055.07
Conservation Enhancement Fund (CEF) Accounts			
CEF Funds Held at the Credit Union	\$0.00	\$55,081.38	\$55,081.38
CEF Funds Held at the Broker	4,983.39	(394.07)	4,589.32
Total CEF Accounts	\$4,983.39	\$54,687.31	\$59,670.70
Total MAFWA and CEF Accounts	\$873,405.07	\$68,320.70	\$941,725.77

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES
CALENDAR YEAR 2018 CASH FLOW SUMMARY
BANKING SERVICES ACCOUNT**

Line #

1	Balance as of January 1, 2018		\$168,456.05
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Receipts

2	Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLFT) Contributions	\$52,631.60	
3	National Pheasant Coordinator Contributions	80,500.00	
4	2018 Midwest Furbearers Conference - WI	47,976.15	
5	2019 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference - OH	5,000.00	
6	Interest	<u>355.56</u>	
7	Total Receipts		188,463.31

Disbursements

8	Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLFT)	\$30,000.00	
9	Pheasants Forever - National Pheasant Coordinator	74,681.32	
10	Delaney - 2019 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference - OH	1,500.00	
11	Midwest Furbearers Workshop - 2018	625.00	
12	2018 Midwest Furbearers Conference - WI	47,852.80	
13	Transfer to Conservation Enhancement Fund - KS & WI	10,000.00	
	Administrative Fee:		
14	Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLFT)	1,814.96	
15	National Pheasant Coordinator	4,164.00	
16	2019 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference - OH	125.00	
17	Total Disbursements		<u>170,373.08</u>
18	Balance as of December 31, 2018		\$185,546.28 *

19 * Note: - Designations of the ending balance are:

20	\$3,250.00	2019 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Ohio	
21	2,375.00	2021 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Minnesota	
22	32,471.81	2012 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Kansas	
23	20,000.00	Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLFT)	
24	44.92	National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee	
25	<u>116,134.56</u>	National Pheasant Plan Coordinator Contributions	
26	<u>\$174,276.29</u>	Total Designations of the Banking Services Account	

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES
CALENDAR YEAR 2018 CASH FLOW SUMMARY
CONFERENCE ACCOUNT**

Line #			
1	Balance as of January 1, 2018		\$180,392.21
	Receipts		
	Conference:		
2	Sponsors	\$56,500.00	
3	Registrations	38,350.00	
4	Hotel Commissions	1,559.25	
5	Total Conference Receipts	<u>\$96,409.25</u>	
6	Affiliate Dues	825.00	
7	Membership Dues	55,042.84	
	Administrative/Banking Fees.		
8	Southern Wings	1,125.00	
9	National Pheasant Coordinator	4,164.00	
10	Indirect Cost - USFWS and NFWF	15,858.87	
11	Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLT)	1,614.96	
12	Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference	3,254.00	
13	Interest	<u>356.54</u>	
14		Total Receipts	179,660.46
	Disbursements		
	Conference:		
15	Dalaney Meeting and Event Management	\$10,902.94	
16	Room, food, beverages, hospitality, etc.	36,798.44	
17	Credit Card Fees	1,986.29	
18	Prizes and Awards	17,318.45	
19	Total Conference Disbursements	<u>\$67,006.12</u>	
	Executive Secretary		
20	Pay	53,000.00	
21	Travel Reimbursements	5,509.35	
	Treasurer		
22	Pay	16,446.73	
23	Travel Reimbursements	4,088.98	
24	Recording Secretary - Travel Reimbursements	1,847.27	
25	North Central Section of the Wildlife Society	362.62	
26	Insurance	663.00	
27	Tax Form Preparation	1,606.25	
28	Web Site Maintenance	59.99	
29	Miscellaneous	<u>1,510.13</u>	
30		Total Disbursements	<u>152,100.44</u>
31	Balance as of December 31, 2018		\$207,952.23

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES
 CALENDAR YEAR 2018 CASH FLOW SUMMARY
 SOUTHERN WINGS ACCOUNT**

Line #			
1	Balance as of January 1, 2018		\$18.29
	Receipts		
2	Contributions	\$22,500.00	
3	Interest	<u>5.91</u>	
4	Total Receipts		22,505.91
	Disbursements		
5	American Bird Conservancy	\$21,375.00	
6	Banking Fee (5%)	<u>1,125.00</u>	
7	Total Disbursements		<u>22,500.00</u>
8	Balance as of December 31, 2018		\$24.20

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES
CALENDAR YEAR 2018 CASH FLOW SUMMARY
FEDERAL GRANT ACCOUNT**

Line #

1	Balance as of January 1, 2018	\$64,397.30
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Receipts

2	State Contributions - Monarch NFWF Project	\$38,676.63	
3	Federal Reimbursements - USFWS	93,890.52	
4	NFWF Reimbursements	90,090.11	
5	Interest	<u>114.14</u>	
6	Total Receipts		222,771.40

Disbursements

USFWS State Liaison			
7	Pay	\$61,490.00	
8	Travel	11,667.40	
Monarch Coordinator:			
9	Pay	79,205.00	
10	Travel	8,589.23	
11	Monarch Planning Travel & Meeting Exp.	43,401.90	
12	Monarch Steering Committee Participation	12,780.02	
13	Indirect Cost Transfer to Conference Acct	<u>16,858.87</u>	
14	Total Disbursements		<u>233,992.42</u>
15	Balance as of December 31, 2018		\$53,176.28

Note: Designations of the ending balance are State Cash Matching Contributions for the NFWF Monarch Conservation Strategy Project of \$45,832.57.

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES
 CALENDAR YEAR 2018 CASH FLOW SUMMARY
 CREDIT UNION SHARE ACCOUNT**

Line #			
1	Balance as of January 1, 2018		\$25.61
	Receipts		
2	Interest	\$0.12	
3	Total Receipts		0.12
	Disbursements		
4	Total Disbursements		<u>-</u>
5	Balance as of December 31, 2018		\$25.73

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES
 CALENDAR YEAR 2018 ACCOUNT SUMMARY
 MONEY MARKET AND SECURITIES ACCOUNT**

Line #

1 Balance as of January 1, 2018 \$454,132.22

Receipts

2 Interest \$12,462.41

3 Dividends 6,398.02

4 Capital Gains 12,703.73

5 Total Receipts 31,564.16

Disbursements

6 Total Disbursements -

7 Change in market value (50,366.03)

8 Balance as of December 31, 2018 \$435,330.35

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES
 CALENDAR YEAR 2018 ACCOUNT SUMMARY
 CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT FUND
 HELD AT THE CREDIT UNION**

Line #			
1	Balance as of January 1, 2018		\$0.00
	Receipts		
2	Contributions From The States	\$55,000.00	
3	Interest	<u>81.38</u>	
4	Total Receipts		55,081.38
	Disbursements		
5	Total Disbursements		<u>-</u>
6	Balance as of December 31, 2018		\$55,081.38

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES
 CALENDAR YEAR 2018 ACCOUNT SUMMARY
 CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT FUND
 HELD AT THE BROKER**

Line #			
1	Balance as of January 1, 2018		\$4,983.39
	Receipts		
2	Dividends	\$79.55	
3	Capital Gains	<u>197.40</u>	
4	Total Receipts		276.95
	Disbursements		
5	Total Disbursements		-
6	Change in market value		<u>(671.02)</u>
7	Balance as of December 31, 2018		\$4,589.32

MAFWA Audit Report

Roger Luebbert, MAFWA Treasurer sent the Banking Services Account and –Receipts & Disbursements Detail to SD Game Fish and Parks on February 8, 2019. President Hepler had Jeremy Tentinger, his chief accountant with Administrative Services, do an audit of the Banking Services Account. Mr. Tentinger requested Roger to provide him with copies of 56 transactions that were distributed throughout the receipts and disbursements within the Banking Services Account. Mr. Tentinger found the documentation to be sound and had only a few minor questions that Roger provided satisfactory answers to. Overall, Mr. Tentinger reported that the Banking Services Account appeared to be in good order.

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Investment Committee:

Jim Douglas (NE) Chair, Brad Loveless (KS) member, Roger Luebbert (MAFWA) member

Background

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) has employed Shane Hessman, an independent investment broker of Wichita, Kansas (area) from American Investments for consultation and investment services.

As of May 28, 2019, current investment allocations are divided between Money Markets (\$177,053.04), Bond holdings-Southwest Securities (\$220,474.90), Mutual Fund holdings-American Funds (\$235, 493.45) with a total account market value of (\$633,021.39).

(See attachment)

MAFWA has seen the total account balance grow from \$220,332.22 to \$633,021.39 between 6/22/2006 and 5/28/2019.

Investment mix has been approximately 50/50 between bonds and mutual funds.

* Mr. Hessman advises that the mix be adjusted to 60/40 bonds/mutual funds when future conditions warrant.

Money Market funds need to be sufficient to allow flexible access to cash for more immediate expenses such as facilitating conference cash flows.

* Mr. Hessman recommends moving approximately \$150,000.00 of Money Market Funds (current balance of \$177,053.04), or whatever the board believes prudent, with a 70% Mutual Funds 30% Bonds division.

Upcoming Bond Maturity

The bond ladder held at Southwest Securities consists of bonds all yielding in excess of 5% interest with only one Genworth Financial (face value \$20,000.00, interest rate 7.7%) maturing before 2026. Genworth Financial matures 6/15/2020 and is advised to be replaced with another bond.

Overall, advice and current allocations appear to be sound and suitable for the needs of MAFWA.

* It is recommended that a board decision be made regarding the amount to transfer from the Money Market Account.

It is further recommended that the Investments Committee vacancies and Audit Committee vacancies be filled by the president; a joint meeting of the two committees may be beneficial.

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

Current Investment Allocation
5/28/2019

Money Market	Amount	Int. Rate	Est. Ann. Int.
	\$ 177,053.04	0.150%	\$ 265.58

Bond Ladder Held at Southwest Securities

Security	Face Value	Int. Rate	Maturity	Mrkt. Value	Annual Interest
Genworth Financial	\$ 20,000.00	7.700%	6/15/2020	\$ 19,850.00	\$ 1,540.00
SML Corp	\$ 10,000.00	6.05%	12/15/2026	\$ 8,358.40	\$ 605.00
Safeway	\$ 20,000.00	7.45%	9/15/2027	\$ 19,200.00	\$ 1,490.00
Nations/BOA	\$ 20,000.00	6.800%	3/15/2028	\$ 23,831.00	\$ 1,360.00
SML Corp	\$ 10,000.00	5.50%	6/15/2029	\$ 7,616.90	\$ 550.00
SML Corp	\$ 12,000.00	6.25%	9/15/2029	\$ 9,669.12	\$ 750.00
Safeway	\$ 20,000.00	7.25%	2/1/2031	\$ 18,900.00	\$ 1,450.00
Albertsons	\$ 20,000.00	8.00%	5/1/2031	\$ 18,900.00	\$ 1,600.00
Limited Brands	\$ 20,000.00	6.95%	3/1/2033	\$ 16,600.00	\$ 1,390.00
Citi Group	\$ 10,000.00	6.00%	10/31/2033	\$ 11,847.60	\$ 600.00
Bristol Myers	\$ 10,000.00	5.88%	11/15/2036	\$ 11,618.00	\$ 587.50
YUM Brands	\$ 20,000.00	6.88%	11/15/2037	\$ 20,600.00	\$ 1,375.00
Goldman Sachs	\$ 14,000.00	5.75%	5/15/2039	\$ 15,666.98	\$ 805.00
MDC Holdings	\$ 20,000.00	6.00%	1/15/2043	\$ 17,720.00	\$ 1,200.00
Total Face Value	\$ 226,000.00				\$ 15,302.50

Current Annual Interest Income	\$ 15,302.50	\$ 220,474.90
Average Interest Rate	6.77%	

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	\$ 56,743.10	
High Income Trust	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,636.87	
Investment Co. of America	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 26,510.06	
Income Fund of America	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 31,280.63	
Capitol Income Builder	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 19,791.48	
Cap. World Grwth & Inc.	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 34,946.46	
American Funds EuroPacific Fund	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 17,675.47	Total
American Funds Fundamental Investors	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 27,909.36	Mutual Fund
			Growth
Total	\$105,000.00	\$ 236,493.46	124.28%

Total Account Market Value May 28, 2019

\$ 633,021.39

Balance of account 6/22/2006

\$ 220,332.22

Shane Hessman 620-339-2257 cell

**Awards Luncheon
Monday, June 24, 2019**

Members of the Awards Committee are: Terry Steinwand, North Dakota; Mark Reiter, Indiana; Dale Garner, Iowa; Jim Douglas, Nebraska; and Kendra Wecker, Ohio. I want to thank them for their assistance in choosing the winners. We had 18 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 **Mitch Boyum, MN**; *award accepted by Mitch Boyum.*

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 **Laura Kearns, OH**; *award accepted by Kendra Wecker.*

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 **Paul Michaletz, MO**; *award accepted by Sara Pauley.*

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 **Bill White, MO**; *award accepted by Bill White.*

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 **Kansas Certified Angler Instructor Program**. *Award accepted by Brad Loveless.*

Special Recognition award goes to the **Carolyn Caldwell, Ohio** for all of the work she has done as MAFWA's CITES representative. *Award accepted by Carolyn Caldwell.*

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 rate and serve on one or more committees.

This award is going to Mark Reiter, Indiana and Wayne Rosenthal, Illinois. *Award accepted for Mark by Amanda Westefeld; for Wayne by Colleen Callahan.*



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Award Nomination Form 2019

Award Categories (check only one per form)

I want to nominate: Minnesota Conservation Officer Mitch Boyum

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

Nominator information

Name: Lt. Tyler Quandt

Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Title: District 18 supervisor

E-mail: tyler.quandt@state.mn.us

Phone number: (651) 301-5258

I am very proud to nominate Conservation Officer Mitch Boyum for the 2019 Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies “Law Enforcement Officer of the Year” Award.

Officer Boyum understands and promotes the true meaning of our mission statement and how important it is to provide quality natural resources law enforcement services to all Minnesotans. He utilizes a well-balanced approach to providing service to all of the citizens he serves on behalf of the DNR Enforcement Division. Officer Boyum strives to be the best he can each and every day. He carries forth that attitude on a daily basis as he performs the duties of a Minnesota conservation officer.

Officer Boyum has dedicated his career as a conservation officer to the preservation and protection of Minnesota’s natural resources through quality law enforcement work. He strives to find better methods for apprehending violators at every opportunity. He is a “go-to person” in the district for his wide variety of skill sets such as trapping, big-game enforcement, turkey-hunting enforcement and ginseng issues. Officer Boyum has a no-quit attitude and does not complain about needing to do whatever it takes to get the job done.

Like he is in his home district, Officer Boyum is an invaluable resource on a statewide basis. He serves on a variety of committees – the Ginseng Committee, Turkey Committee and the Deer Committee, among them – and also been intimately involved in working through the multitude of issues that have arisen as a result of the discovery of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in the southeastern part of Minnesota. He has worked with multiple divisions inside the DNR and multiple agencies outside the DNR to help with the enforcement issues related to CWD. Earlier this year, for example, Fillmore County objected to some of the DNR’s plans for removing and testing potentially diseased deer. Officer Boyum himself attended the following meeting, answering all questions from the board of commissioners and people in attendance. In an illustration of the esteem with which local citizens and officials hold Officer Boyum, the board reversed its earlier decision.

Officer Boyum has also taken a lead role in assisting our division with working through the multiple enforcement issues related to enforcing our game farm laws. He has attended multiple meetings with other DNR staff and the state Board of Animal Health in an effort to help protect the wild deer herd in the state. Not only is Officer Boyum a leader in the district when it comes to enforcing game farm laws but he has staff from across the state who contact him for advice in dealing with game farms – especially the issues related to understanding the complexities that come with dealing with the Board of Animal Health, which is responsible for regulating game farms in Minnesota.

Officer Boyum is also no stranger to getting out of his truck and putting miles on his boots to enforce our game and fish laws. He walks miles of streams on a regular basis to enforce our trout fishing regulations. He utilizes trail cameras, aircraft and decoys and is so well known and respected in the communities he works in that he gets a large volume of TIP calls made directly to himself.

Officer Boyum is also well respected in the law enforcement community. He works with several different sheriff's offices in his area and they are all very complimentary of his efforts. They commonly refer to Officer Boyum for his expertise in natural resources law enforcement.

Officer Boyum has also been instrumental in assisting with putting on our CO academies at Camp Ripley, where we train our newest officers. He has either helped out or been the lead instructor in the following classes at the Academy: Trespass, Trapping, Game Week, Ginseng, Observation Class and the Interview and Interrogation class. Officer Boyum does not complain about the long drive to Camp Ripley or the multiple extra nights of staying at there, away from his family and station. He knows the help is needed so he steps up to the plate to help, just like he does in so many other aspects of the job.

Education and Community Relations

Officer Boyum has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to helping educate the public about many natural resources-related issues. He believes that education is a key to the success for our youth when it comes to getting them involved in the outdoors. Officer Boyum displays a willingness to assure coverage for classes in neighboring stations when help is needed. He is a shining example for other officers in the division.

In 2005, Officer Boyum started a youth turkey hunt in conjunction with the Olmsted County Parks Department. He worked hard to get the program off the ground and make sure it was run in such a manner that it was safe for the youth. The intent of the program was to get youth involved in turkey hunting who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to hunt or be involved in the outdoors. The program specifically targeted youth who had never hunted turkeys before. Over the years, Officer Boyum has gotten other organizations, such as the National Wild Turkey Federation, involved in the program. This has not been one of those short-term projects; 13 years later Officer Boyum is still involved with the program and working hard to make sure it stays successful.

In the past, he has also been involved with putting on appreciation banquets for area volunteer safety instructors. Over the years Officer Boyum has worked closely with outdoor-related organizations to help educate not only the youth but

also adults in these organizations about a wide range of issues that are affecting people using the outdoors.

Whether he's enforcing laws or serving the citizens of Minnesota, Officer Boyum routinely goes above and beyond the call of duty. That was evident during a blizzard this past winter when his response to the emergency drew accolades, including this letter to the editor, entitled "Our hero at the DNR," in the local newspaper: *"During the coverage of the February 24 blizzard, local reports noted that several government agencies participated in rescuing people stranded in the storm. One of those agencies was the Minnesota DNR. The DNR was out in the blizzard that night, saving people long after the police cars and plows had been recalled due to the severity of the storm."*

My daughter, Amanda, was caught in that storm. For nearly six hours her car was buried in drifts of snow on a desolate stretch of Highway 74 near St. Charles. She was terrified. 911 couldn't tell her when they could get to her. And then nightfall set in and she was all alone in the storm and in the dark. With no hope.

That is until her hero arrived – Mitch Boyum – a conservation officer with the DNR in St. Charles. He rescued her from that horrific storm and may have saved her life.

But this story gets even better. Amanda had no place to stay that night. Mitch's wife, Katrina, graciously took her into her home. Not only that, she also opened her home that night to our dear friend Tom Heilman, who also got stranded while out trying to rescue Amanda.

Amanda, Ann and I will be eternally grateful to Mitch and Katrina Boyum and to Tom Heilman. They were Amanda's guardian angels that night!

Professional Relationships

Officer Boyum is a well-respected member of the law enforcement community. He is commonly called upon by multiple members of other law enforcement agencies due to his reputation and vast knowledge of natural resources-related issues. He consistently makes himself available to local and state agencies as needed.

Officer Boyum is also highly respected by the other DNR divisions he works with. It is very common for me to get compliments about him from employees in other divisions after they have worked with him.

Officer Boyum also goes out of his way to maintain great working relationships with multiple other stakeholder groups that interact with the DNR. Some of them include the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Minnesota Trappers Association, the Coon Hunters Association, TIP and the Bluffland Whitetails Association.

Administrative

In dealing with the recent CWD issues and game farm cases, Officer Boyum has frequently gone through large volumes of paperwork while reviewing records and pertinent information. He has done this without complaining and in many instances, he has made great cases for violations that have occurred. He has even assisted the Section of Wildlife in meeting at the Board of Animal Health headquarters to review records there.

Officer Boyum also does not shy away from other complicated cases that require either search warrants or dealing with a large volume of other information or paperwork. He is commonly called upon by other officers in the district to help them with more involved cases.

In the past Officer Boyum has received the following awards that are another good indicator of his hard work and dedication to being an excellent conservation officer: National Wild Turkey Federation Officer of the Year; Coon Hunters Association Award; Olmsted County Lifesaving Award; Appreciation Award from the city of St. Charles for apprehending a bank robber.

I believe Officer Boyum is deserving of the award and I appreciate your consideration.





Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Award Nomination Form 2019

Award Categories (check only one per form)

I want to nominate: Laura Kearns, Ohio

- 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.

Laura Kearns is a wildlife research biologist with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife and excels in her position within our agency.

Laura has a demonstrated ability to excel in an academic professional program. She holds advanced degrees from the University of Michigan and The Ohio State University. Laura served as a Stone Lab instructor for years and

mentored many high school students during this time. Her strong research and teaching background helps her communicate science to make policy changes and develop conservation programs in her current position.

Laura has taken an active leadership role for bird conservation at state, regional (MAFWA) and national levels. Laura collaborates with researchers across the Midwest and the nation on wildlife research projects. She is chair and co-chair for committees both within ODNR and multi-state conservation partnerships like the Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture and the Mississippi Flyway Council. Laura is the agency liaison with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for cormorant control – a program aimed at protecting habitat for state imperiled species. Her excellent communication and interpersonal skills help the agencies navigate this sensitive issue. She is a champion for all aspects of bird conservation. Her recent work includes developing videos and guides for private landowners to manage small forest patches for migratory birds.

Her academic credentials are outstanding and her work as an agency biologist is of the highest quality. ODNR is privileged to have Laura as a staff member and believes she is an excellent candidate for the MAFWA award Wildlife Biologist of the Year.

Committees:

- Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative: Conservation and Research Planning Committee – Chair, Steering Committee – Member
- Mississippi Flyway Council – Nongame Bird Technical Section- Chair
- Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture Technical Committee -Member
- Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture Technical Committee – Energy Working Group-Chair
- Division of Wildlife Forest Habitat Team –Co-chair
- Division of Wildlife Website Reporting Team –Chair
- Division of Wildlife Stewardship Tactical Plan Team – Member
- Stone Lab Course Instructor– Ecology and Conservation of Birds
- Union County Bird Club (volunteer activity) - President



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Award Nomination Form 2019

Award Categories (check only one per form)

I want to nominate: Paul Michaletz, Missouri

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

Nominated by:

Name: Dr. Vince Travnichek

Organization: Missouri Department of Conservation

Title: Conservation Research Center Chief

E-mail: Vince.Travnichek@mdc.mo.gov

Phone number: 573-815-7901 x2889

Provide a brief (one page or less) overview explaining why the individual/agency meets the criteria for the award:

Paul Michaletz has a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from the University of North Dakota and a Master of Science in Fisheries Biology from the University of Missouri. Paul spent the first five years of his career as a biologist for South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks where he worked on a variety of projects related to the Missouri River reservoir system in South Dakota, including prey size selectivity among zooplanktivorous age-0 fishes; validation of daily growth rings on otoliths to age young walleye; hydro-acoustic assessment of rainbow smelt populations; habitat utilization of spawning walleye; and effects of a proposed pumped storage project on fishery resources. In 1986 South Dakota's loss was Missouri's gain when Paul decided to return to Missouri and begin working for the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) as a Fisheries Research Biologist in Columbia, where he continues to work today as a Resource Scientist. Paul has given over three dozen presentations at professional meetings and countless others within MDC to fellow biologists. Paul is recognized as an expert in his field, particularly as it relates to gizzard shad population dynamics. His work has resulted in over 25 peer reviewed published articles in such journals as Transactions of the American Fisheries, North American Journal of Fisheries Management, Journal of Freshwater Ecology, Proceedings of the Annual Conference Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Fisheries, Hydrobiologia, Environmental Biology of Fishes, The Progressive Fish-Culturist, Fisheries Management and Ecology, and The American Midland Naturalist. Paul has also published four non-scientific articles on his work for the Missouri Conservationist and other similar type magazines. Paul has been a member of the American Fisheries Society since 1978. He has served as AFS North Central Division's representative on the Society's Fisheries Management Section, and is currently a member of the AFS-NCD Ictalurid Technical Committee. Paul also served the Society as an Associate Editor for both the Transactions of the American Fisheries Society and the North American Journal of Fisheries Management for five years, and was recently appointed as an Editor for the latter journal. Paul is a professional in every sense of the word. He is respected by fisheries managers for his applied research that has real world applications and is also held in high regard by aquatic ecologists for his well-designed studies that shed insight into trophic dynamics in aquatic ecosystems. Paul's dedication to understanding small impoundment and reservoir ecosystems and his desire to relay this understanding to fellow professionals and the public are the main reasons why he should receive MAFWA Fisheries Biologist of the Year Award.

Please list and/or describe specific projects, work or accomplishments relevant to the award.

- His Master's thesis was on paddlefish-zooplankton interactions in hatchery ponds. He specifically examined young-of-year paddlefish feeding ecology and growth in hatchery ponds as well as factors affecting *Daphnia* declines in these rearing ponds. His research was an important component in the development of MDC's current paddlefish propagation program at Blind Pony Hatchery that is necessary for maintaining this popular and unique fishery in Missouri.

- During his tenure with MDC Paul has work on a variety of issues. These include sampling methodologies for gizzard shad and channel catfish in impoundments, techniques currently used by biologist across the US; population dynamics of gizzard shad; predator-prey relationships in reservoir ecosystems; feeding ecology of gizzard shad; evaluation of walleye stocking success in reservoirs; effects of channel catfish stockings on food web dynamics in small impoundments; role of macrophytes and gizzard shad in structuring bluegill populations in small impoundments; influence of productivity, vegetation, and fish on macroinvertebrate populations in impoundments; use of red-ear sunfish to control snail populations in hatchery ponds; determining optimal stocking rates of channel catfish in small impoundments, and use of hybrid striped bass to help restructure crappie populations and in turn provide another angling opportunity in small impoundments.
- Management-oriented applied research where he routinely works with fisheries managers to apply new information to Missouri's fisheries management challenges.
- Co-editor of the AFS book "Conservation, Ecology, and Management of Catfish: The Second International Symposium" that contains almost 65 peer-reviewed research articles on catfish.
- A few of his most cited peer reviewed publications include:
 Michaletz, P. H. 1998. Population characteristics of gizzard shad in Missouri reservoirs and their relation to reservoir productivity, mean depth, and sport fish growth. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 18:114-123.
 Michaletz, P. H., and J. G. Dillard. 1999. A survey of catfish management in the United States and Canada. *Fisheries (Bethesda)* 24(8):6-11.
 Michaletz, P. H., C. F. Rabeni, W. W. Taylor, and T. R. Russell. 1982. Feeding ecology and growth of young-of-the-year paddlefish in hatchery ponds. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 111:700-709.
 Michaletz, P. H., and K. P. Sullivan. 2002. Sampling channel catfish with tandem hoop nets in small impoundments. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 22:870-878.



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Award Nomination Form 2019

Award Categories (check only one per form)

I want to nominate: Bill White, Missouri

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

Nominator information

Name: Jason Jensen & Kevin Borisenko

Organization: Missouri Dept. of Conservation

Title: Field Management Chief

E-mail: Jason.Jensen@mdc.mo.gov

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Phone number: 573-522-4115 ext. 3223 or ext. 3836

1. Provide a brief (one page or less) overview explaining why the individual/agency meets the criteria for the award:

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

This nomination is for Private Lands Division Chief, Bill White with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). I can't think of a better candidate that would be more deserving or better represent the ideals of Aldo Leopold than Bill. He embodies the ideals we all strive to achieve to keep conservation relevant and, wildlife and their habitats, healthy and sustainable. Whether as a biologist, partner, leader, or change influencer, Bill tirelessly strives to instill a conservation land ethic through many avenues.

To say Bill White has a passion for quail would be an understatement. Known nationally for his efforts to advance quail conservation, Bill is more like a warrior for quail than a hunter. With Bill's leadership, Missouri now has 17 cooperative positions with Quail Forever to expand the conservation footprint and reach more Missouri landowners each year. These positions all involve partners that help leverage funding to make the most of state funding. Positions like these have led to unprecedented cooperation with partners and more boots on the ground to implement conservation practices especially through utilization of Farm Bill programs.

Quail populations have responded as well. Quail focus areas encourage landowners to work together resulting in landscape level changes. Missouri's quail focus areas have seen dramatic improvements in quail populations. Bill has also recognized the immense opportunity and interest in monarch and pollinator conservation. His outstanding leadership and vision helped the MDC to create a Monarch Coordinator position with partner organizations to lead action for the Monarch Butterfly. This position and Bill's continued leadership with Missouri's for Monarchs has made Missouri the national leader for conserving Monarchs and pollinators. Bill's efforts even scale back to his local community as he even conducted a neighborhood "backyard Monarch and pollinator habitat" workshop for his neighborhood in Jefferson City.

Bill completely understands that conservation is much bigger than the agency he works for and partnerships are yet another way to influence the adoption of a conservation land ethic. As a result, The Department of Conservation now has many partnerships that would have previously been considered non-traditional. Like Leopold, Bill recognizes the importance farmers play in conserving the land. Today the conservation community still faces some of the same challenges Leopold faced in 1930's. Under Bill's leadership that is changing. MDC now has a cooperative position with the Missouri Farmers Association (MFA) and are working on an additional cooperative position with the Missouri Soybean Association. MDC is also in discussions with the Missouri Cattleman's Association on a potential cooperative position to further expand the conservation footprint. MDC continues to find new ways to work cooperatively with agricultural partners that were considered adversaries just a few years ago. These partnerships will potentially lead to a dramatic increase in buffers and unproductive areas converted to habitat that benefit pollinators, monarchs, and small game, as well as our soil and water resources. Additionally, Bill pushes to make significant changes to our fescue grassland landscapes due to partnering

with Missouri State University, University of Missouri, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), the Missouri Cattleman's Association and other partners.

Looking towards the future, Bill realizes that for conservation to stay relevant we need to reach our urban constituents also. This is especially important considering that 70% of our population lives in our urban areas. Through his leadership we are pioneering new approaches to bring nature closer to our urban populations. The Green City Coalition in St. Louis is one example. The coalition is made up of many partners that are working cooperatively to integrate nature to meet the economic, environmental and social problems within the city. The initial phase of the coalition will result in an additional 24 acres of green space within the city of St. Louis. With approximately 1,500 acres of vacant lots within the city, opportunities are abundant.

Bill has been instrumental in the development, adoption, and implementation of the MDC's new strategic plan. Change in a government agency often comes with tension, opposition, and resistance. Bill's continued involvement and willingness to communicate openly as to why the changes are necessary, has led to greater willingness by staff to get on board and move forward, together. This is a direct result of his leadership style. His leadership has promoted a culture that empowers staff to make decisions. Staff know that their leader cares and supports them.

The examples provided here are simply the highlights of Bill's career so far. His continued passion for the resources and vision for the future make him a model leader for any conservationist or conservation organization. His relentless pursuit of conservation and the adoption of a conservation ethic at all scales make him a deserving candidate for the Spirit of the Shack Award.



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Award Nomination Form 2019

Award Categories (check only one per form)

I want to nominate: Kansas Certified Angler Instructor Program

Spirit of the Shack

Wildlife Biologist of the Year

Excellence in Conservation

Fisheries Biologist of the Year

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Nominated by:

David Breth, Sportfishing Education Coordinator

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

To Whom It May Concern, I would like to nominate the Kansas Certified Angler Instructor Program.

The Fisheries Division of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism would like to submit the FishKS Certified Angler Instructor Program for consideration for the 2019 WAWFA Excellence in Conservation Award.

In 2010, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) developed Aquatic Education into a dedicated component of the agency within Fisheries. A Sport Fish Restoration Grant obligated state and federal Dingell-Johnson dollars to fund fishing and aquatic education programs provided by employees. This allowed the statewide coordinator to better track effectiveness of agency efforts. It became clear that demand for these programs far exceeded the agency's ability to accommodate the requests.

In 2012, the statewide coordinator worked with Fishing's Future (FF) representatives to establish a certified volunteer program modeled after one employed by Texas Parks and Wildlife. FF is a non-profit organization whose mission is to reconnect families with each other and nature through fishing. Under this program, volunteers attend a training hosted by agency staff and Fishing's Future Master Anglers. Master Anglers are trained instructor volunteers who establish state chapters of FF. The partnership with KDWPT included using these Master Anglers to help the agency conduct certification classes and promote fishing education in Kansas through events.

The first certification class was held in August of 2013 in Wichita, KS. Volunteers representing the public, parks and recreation, and schools participated in the class. Since then, over 500 people have attended classes and signed up to become FishKS Certified Angler Instructors. As with most volunteer programs, we struggle to get the majority of instructors to actively participate on a yearly basis. However, we have an exceptional core of energetic volunteers, spearheaded by FF Master Anglers, that drive the program at the state and local level.

The performance of the aquatic education program significantly benefited from this endeavor. First, since these instructors represent the state and act on behalf of the fisheries division, the number of public events offered by KDWPPT doubled since 2012. A recent multi-state study conducted by Southwick Associates attributes Kansas' volunteer program as a positive impact on fishing participation. Second, the volunteer hours recorded (over 4,000 yearly) count as the state match towards the SFR grant. This frees up tens of thousands of state license dollars to fund stocking, access, habitat, research, and/or management projects by making the aquatic education grant nearly 100% self-funded.

In 2018, the department followed many states in developing R3 staff and directives. A position was created to oversee the aquatic education program as the primary job duty – Sportfishing Education Coordinator – and an agency R3 Coordinator was hired at the end of the year. Both employees are tasked with building upon the success of these certified instructors and increasing the effectiveness of the program as it relates to public service and fishing participation in Kansas.

Special Recognition Award Presented to
Carolyn Caldwell
MAFWA CITES REP
For your faithful, dedicated service representing
the Midwest in CITES

(no nomination written)

President's Award (from Kelly Hepler)

Dave Nomsen (PF/QF)
For invaluable contributions to the Farm Bill
and habitat conservation