

Compiled NASPS 2018 Election Bios

Name: James Crossman

Affiliation: BC Hydro

Position Nominated for: President

I am truly honoured to have been nominated for the position of President for the North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society. My time on the NASPS governing board the past four years has been very rewarding and I'm fortunate to work with the talented membership we have in the society. We have been successful in building a significant amount of engagement and momentum for the society including reaching record membership levels, initiating a new student subunit, holding three successful standalone meetings and technical workshops, publishing newsletters, and continuing to strengthen the relationship between NASPS and the World Sturgeon Conservation Society through collaborative initiatives and significant support for ISS8. As president, I will continue to promote NASPS as a platform to discuss research and conservation strategies, stressing the importance of collaboration amongst researchers to improve the efficacy with which we conduct our research. One approach will be to continue to find ways to use our standalone meetings to tackle problems facing recovery. This will include symposia and working groups that are dedicated to issues facing multiple species as well as significant barriers specific populations may be facing. Further, ensuring that a NASPS membership facilitates professional growth, especially for students and young professionals, is an important personal goal and I look forward to continuing to help recruit new members and soliciting new ideas. NASPS membership is made up of a talented group of individuals with diverse skill sets and experiences. This gives us a great opportunity to continue to build NASPS momentum by developing practical workshops that meeting the training and development needs of our members and other fisheries professionals. Personally, I feel that collaborative and interdisciplinary research efforts are more important than ever in conservation and recovery efforts for sturgeon across North America and NASPS has a unique ability to support this. I appreciate your consideration as President for the North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society.

Name: Andrea Schreier

Affiliation: University of California Davis

Position Nominated for: Vice-President

I'm honored to be nominated for NASPS Vice President! I began studying sturgeon in 2003 and I'm excited that much of my research program at UC Davis is still devoted to Acipenserid fishes. A member of the IUCN Sturgeon Specialist Group and participant in California's Sturgeon Project Work Team, I joined NASPS at the society's inception and have served two terms as Treasurer. Over the past two terms I've streamlined our accounting, worked with our president to attain 501c3 status, filed taxes, found a non-profit tax accountant to manage future taxes, and worked with the Governing Board to plan three annual meetings. If elected to serve as Vice President, I will contribute to the society's forward momentum in the next term, continuing to

grow and stabilize our membership. I'd like to work with the next Treasurer to develop a cash reserve and long-term budget to provide for the society's financial future. I'd also like to continue the excellent level of engagement we have with our student membership and further develop training opportunities for students and young professionals.

Name: Gary Anderson

Affiliation: University of Manitoba

Position Nominated for: Secretary

Dr. W. Gary Anderson received his BSc (1987) and PhD (1991) from the University of St. Andrews Scotland. After working as an environmental consultant in Canada and a post-doctoral fellow in the UK he joined the Biological Sciences Department as an Assistant Professor at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada in 2004. His research on Lake Sturgeon has focused on environmental (biotic and abiotic) effects on phenotypic development and physiological adaptation with additional interests in movement and behavioural ecology of Sturgeon within river impoundments, particularly during the early life history phases. Since 2005 he has supervised or co-supervised 11 MSc, 6 PhD, and 4 PDF's on aspects of Lake Sturgeon biology with 26 of his 93 career publications to date on Lake Sturgeon biology. Most recently he was the recipient of an NSERC/Manitoba Industrial Research Chair in Conservation Aquaculture of Lake Sturgeon, which he will hold until 2020. He has been a member of NASPS since 2015 and served as a member at large on the NASPS governing board since 2017.

Name: Stephania Bolden

Affiliation: NOAA Fisheries

Position Nominated for: Treasurer

After very much enjoying the couple of terms serving on the Governing Board as a Member at Large, and seeing retirement on the horizon, I wanted to step up my involvement with NASPS and run for a position on the Executive Committee. I have been active as a Member at Large in planning NASPS meetings; both NASPS stand-alone meetings as well as special symposia associated with AFS meetings. I have also worked on re-writing some bylaws such as the process for Order of Acipenser nomination and qualifications. I was delighted to be invited and subsequently participate on the Science Advisory Committee for the recent World Sturgeon Meeting. I have worked with sturgeon for nearly 20 years as a fishery manager for three sturgeon species listed under the Endangered Species Act: Atlantic, Gulf, and Shortnose where I have been fortunate to meet and connect with many researchers and resource managers across the southeast US. My qualifications for being Treasurer include: Treasurer of the PTA where I was elected because I knew how to use Excel; program and grants management; and managing my personal finances.

Name: Ken Lepla

Affiliation: Idaho Power Company

Position Nominated for: Governing Board Member at Large

Ken is a Senior Fishery Biologist with Idaho Power Company based out of Boise, Idaho. He grew up in Manitoba, Canada before traveling to North Dakota State University to earn an A.S. in Wildlife Management followed by B.S. and M.S. degrees in Fisheries Resources at the University of Idaho. Ken's thesis focused on understanding white sturgeon abundance and habitat use in Lower Granite Reservoir in the lower Snake River, which ultimately led to working with white sturgeon throughout much of the Snake River during the past 25 years as part of Idaho Power Company's sturgeon conservation program. His interests lie in understanding mechanisms that lead to recruitment failure and developing management options that conserve population genetic diversity while rebuilding abundance among fragmented population segments. Ken is honored to be nominated for Board Member at Large and would be a committed candidate excited to work with the NASPS governing board and its community of sturgeon and paddlefish researchers.

Name: Ryan Koenigs

Affiliation: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Position Nominated for: Governing Board Member at Large

I am running for re-election as a member at large position with the North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society (NASPS). I am currently the lead biologist managing the lake sturgeon population on the Lake Winnebago System in Wisconsin. As part of my job responsibilities, I sustainably manage the world's largest lake sturgeon spear fishery. I also serve as the chair of Wisconsin's Sturgeon Team, of which we are in the process of updating Wisconsin's Sturgeon Management Plan for lake and shovelnose sturgeon. As a member of the NASPS Governing Board, I was the lead organizer for the 2015 meeting in Oshkosh and co-planned a sturgeon symposium and NASPS social as part of the 2014 American Fisheries Society Meeting in Quebec City. My primary objective has been to promote awareness and interest in NASPS in hopes to recruit new members. If I were re-elected I would continue efforts to promote and advance our society.

Name: Jason Schooley

Affiliation: Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Position Nominated for: Governing Board Member at Large

As a Senior Fisheries Biologist with Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation who primarily focuses on paddlefish management and research, I'm excited to bring a bit of diversity to the NASPS governing board. I've been involved with range wide paddlefish and sturgeon management through active participation in MICRA, led and published multiple paddlefish research endeavors, co-authored the Oklahoma Paddlefish Management Plan, co-administered the Paddlefish Research Center while potentially amassing the world's largest paddlefish database over ten years, and developed a research internship program where, to date, I have mentored >80 young scientists on fisheries conservation, research, and stock management. I

have been honored by the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Fisheries Society as the Outstanding Fisheries Worker in 2012 and by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies as the Professional of the Year in 2018. Though I participate in multiple fisheries societies on the local, regional, and national level, NASPS holds particular significance and importance to me because of the species-level focus of my career with ODWC. I would be honored to serve on the NASPS governing board to represent paddlefish and I hope that my skills and experiences with a state-managed fish can add diverse value to the society leadership.

Name: Gayle Barbin Zydlewski

Affiliation: Maine Sea Grant College, School of Maine Sciences

Position Nominated for: Governing Board Member at Large

My current position is Director of the Maine Sea Grant College Program and Associate Professor in the School of Maine Sciences. In the latter role, I have been studying Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon biology in the Gulf of Maine for over 10 years. That research has entailed the use of mark-recapture techniques to document species' presence, demography, and abundance while also implanting acoustic telemetry tags to document behavior and habitat use. The research started out river-specific but quickly became a Gulf of Maine-wide collaborative project with multiple institutions, researchers, and countries. Collectively we have documented critical spawning habitats and are implementing new methods for understanding age structure and marine habitat use, particularly for Atlantic Sturgeon. I have been a member of the World Sturgeon Conservation Society for some time and NASPS for a short time. I would like to be more engaged in the organization and see joining the Governing Board as an opportunity to make that happen.

Name: Cam Barth

Affiliation: North/South Consultants

Position Nominated for: Governing Board Member at Large

I am honoured to be considered for a governing board member at large position with NASPS. I have enjoyed conducting research on Lake Sturgeon for the better part of two decades and have had the opportunity to study the species across most of its range. During this time, I have met and had the pleasure of working with a multitude of researchers, attended many conferences/workshops, and benefitted from the many contacts and relationships I have made along the way. If elected to the NASPS board, I will continue to work towards accomplishing the societies goals and objectives, while ensuring that members continue to benefit from joining the society. Most of my Lake Sturgeon focused work has been conducted in rivers impacted by the hydroelectric sector. For example, my PhD research, completed in 2010, focused on juvenile Lake Sturgeon ecology, results of which have particular relevance to the potential influences of hydroelectric development on Lake Sturgeon recruitment. More recently, I have worked on many projects aimed at assessing how best to utilize/design mitigation strategies to improve Lake Sturgeon populations impacted by hydroelectric facilities. I continue to live in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where I was born and raised. I enjoy, hockey, running and curling.

Name: Laura Heironimus

Affiliation: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Position Nominated for: Governing Board Member at Large

I graduated with a B.S. in Fisheries Science from Virginia Tech in 2012 and M.S. from South Dakota State University in 2014. I became passionate about sturgeon conservation while completing my thesis work, development of a bioenergetics model for larval Pallid Sturgeon, and discovered NASPS at the AFS meeting in Quebec City, 2014. After graduate school, I went to work for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, researching White Sturgeon habitat use and spawning success in the San Joaquin River, California and in January 2018, I accepted a position with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife facilitating research and monitoring of White and Green sturgeon populations within Washington waters. I've now attended several NASPS meetings, which enabled me to network and collaborate with sturgeon biologists nationwide. I'm delighted by the opportunities NASPS has provided me and am offering my time as an at large Governing Board member in return.