

Compiled NASPS 2020 Election Bios

Name: James Crossman

Affiliation: BC Hydro

Position Nominated for: President

I am honoured to have been re-nominated for President of the North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society. My time on the NASPS governing board the past six 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 four 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. 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 re-nominated for NASPS Vice President! A member of the IUCN Sturgeon Specialist Group and California's Sturgeon Project Work Team, I joined NASPS at the society's inception and have served two terms as Treasurer and one as Vice President. As Treasurer, I streamlined our accounting, helped our president to attain 501c3 status, found a non-profit tax accountant to manage our taxes, and worked with the Governing Board to plan three annual meetings. As Vice President, I drafted member communications and chaired the local organizing committee for what will be our 2021 meeting in Folsom, California. If re-elected, I will work to continue our society's forward momentum, growing and stabilizing our membership. I'd still like to see NASPS develop a cash reserve and long-term budget to provide for the society's financial future. I will also continue to support the excellent level of engagement we have with our student membership.

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: Molly Webb
Affiliation: US Fish and Wildlife Service
Position Nominated for: Treasurer

I am honored to be nominated for Treasurer of the North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society (NASPS). I am a founding member of the NASPS and was the NASPS Treasurer from 2012-2014 and the NASPS President from 2014-2018. I am currently the Secretary General for the World Sturgeon Conservation Society and have assisted with the transition of the NASPS website to a new platform over the last year. The opportunities that the NASPS provides for dissemination of information, education, and professional development is extraordinary. I am proud to be a part of the NASPS community, and I appreciate your consideration as Treasurer of the NASPS for 2021-2022 so that I may continue to contribute to the conservation and restoration of sturgeons and paddlefish.

Name: Ryan Koenigs

Affiliation: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Position Nominated for: Governing Board Member at Large

I am running for re-election for 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 recreational harvest of lake sturgeon. I also serve as the chair of Wisconsin's Sturgeon Team that guides management activities for lake sturgeon and shovelnose sturgeon populations within the state. 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. If I were re-elected, I would continue efforts to promote our society and expand our footprint within the sturgeon community.

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: Micah Kieffer

Affiliation: US. Geological Survey

Position Nominated for: Governing Board Member at Large

For the past few years, I have been tentatively seeking a place to participate in a fisheries society to serve the fisheries community, expand my professional experience, and participate in the development of broader fisheries activities. My experience has been employment as a fisheries biologist at the Conte Anadromous Fish Research Laboratory in Turners Falls Massachusetts since 1991 where I worked primarily as a co-investigator on shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon movement and ecology studies in New England and later as lead investigator for the continuation and development of these study efforts. I maintain contributing memberships in the NMFS S.C.U.T.E.S educational program, the NMFS sturgeon carcass recovery team, the Gulf of Maine Sturgeon Research Collaboration, and serve as Sturgeon Subcommittee Chair for the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission. I lead active sturgeon field research efforts including the development of inter-agency research, pursuit of research funding, and participation in public education actions wherever opportunities occur.

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, competitive running and recreational curling.

Name: Laura Heironimus

Affiliation: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Position Nominated for: Governing Board Member at Large

Laura has worked in sturgeon research, monitoring, conservation, and harvest management, beginning with her graduate studies at South Dakota State University studying larval Pallid Sturgeon bioenergetics. She's been fortunate to work with White Sturgeon in the murky waters of the San Joaquin River and the mighty Columbia River, as well as Green Sturgeon in Washington's coastal estuaries. Laura currently serves as Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's technical and policy lead on sturgeon conservation and management, promoting the advancement of sturgeon research and monitoring. For the past two years, Laura has served on the NASPS Governing Board as a Member at Large and is ready to offer another two years of service. She is interested in growing NASPS virtual presence to engage a broader audience, increasing membership diversity and involvement, and improving member access to the many benefits NASPS has to offer.

Name: Jason Kahn

Affiliation: NOAA

Position Nominated for: Governing Board Member at Large

I have managed Atlantic, Gulf, green, and shortnose sturgeon for the National Marine Fisheries Service's Office of Protected Resources since 2006. At NMFS, I protect listed sturgeon through interagency cooperation. I work with other governmental agencies to ensure their projects are not likely to jeopardize these species. As a component of that work, I have been researching Atlantic sturgeon in the Chesapeake Bay since 2012 and recently began exploratory sampling in the Tar and Neuse Rivers of North Carolina. My research is intended to provide managers at NMFS, like myself, much needed information on sturgeon population dynamics. That research has led to understanding spawning run abundance, total population abundance, survival, reproduction, sex ratios, and movement throughout the year. I look forward to bringing my experience as both a sturgeon manager and researcher to NASPS.

Name: Jake Hughes

Affiliation: Idaho Power

Position Nominated for: Governing Board Member at Large

Early in my career I never imagined working with a species in which I may not see a response to my actions for a decade, or longer. I remember thinking “No way will I become a sturgeon-guy.” However, here I am, studying dinosaurs in a place known as Hells Canyon, and I love it. I earned a B.S. from Eastern Oregon University (2007), a M.S. from North Carolina State University (2012), and for the past seven years I’ve worked for Idaho Power Company researching juvenile recruitment, sonar technologies, and entrainment past dams. Through my research, collaboration, and NASPS meetings and workshops, I have developed a deep appreciation for how magnificent, resilient, frustrating, and yet amazingly rewarding the sturgeon-world can be. I welcome the opportunity to serve the NASPS membership, its governing board, and further the mission of NASPS by offering my perspectives and experiences to this invaluable society.