

## Compiled NASPS 2022 Election Bios

**Name:** Andrea Schreier  
**Affiliation:** University of California Davis  
**Position Nominated for:** President

I'm honored to be nominated for NASPS 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 two 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 (in person) annual meetings. As Vice President, I drafted member communications and helped organize two virtual meetings and the upcoming in person meeting in Folsom, California. If elected as President, I aim to continue our society's forward momentum, growing and stabilizing our membership. I will work with the Board to develop a schedule for future meetings (mix of virtual and in person) and work with our Treasurer set up an online bank account and do some long-term budgeting 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:** Jason D. Schooley  
**Affiliation:** Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation  
**Position Nominated for:** Vice President



Jason D. Schooley has been a NASPS member since 2015 and has served two terms on the NASPS governing board as a member at large since 2019. He is a Senior Fisheries Biologist with Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and is chiefly responsible for sustainable management of recreationally fished paddlefish stocks throughout Oklahoma. He has researched paddlefish intensely since 2009 and has overseen a transformation in social status of paddlefish in Oklahoma with the species now regarded as a prized trophy worthy of worldwide recognition. His other research interests prioritize the life history and conservation of native nongame fishes often targeted by bowfishing. One of Jason's proudest career accomplishments has been the development of the Paddlefish research

Internship program in 2011, which just surpassed 100 interns in 2022. The program has mentored college students on sustainable fisheries management, data collection, public outreach, and customer service. Jason has been an active member of the society, representing state agency perspectives and paddlefish. A problem solver by nature, Jason looks forward to continued service to the society where his skills and insights can benefit paddlefish and sturgeons in the role of Vice President.

**Name:** Jason Kahn

**Affiliation:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**Position Nominated for:** Secretary

My background is in marine ecology and since 2006, I have managed sturgeon for the National Marine Fisheries Service. As an undergraduate, I completed a double major in Marine Biology and Ecology. I went on to complete my Master's in ecology at Michigan Tech University, estimating abundance and distribution of macroinvertebrates along the Keweenaw Peninsula in Lake Superior. I ultimately finished my Ph.D. at West Virginia University studying Atlantic sturgeon demographics in the Chesapeake Bay.

I have managed threatened and endangered species with NMFS' Office of Protected Resources since 2003. In 2006, I became our division's sturgeon expert working on Atlantic, Gulf, green, and shortnose sturgeon. I am now the national Endangered Species Act Section 7 Training Coordinator, leading all ESA Interagency Cooperation Training nationwide, but remain our sturgeon expert. For the past 10 years, I have had 75% of my job devoted to regulations and policy, including helping to write the ESA section 7 joint NMFS and Fish and Wildlife Service regulations (50 CFR 402) with the other 25% of my annual job requirements allocated to sturgeon research activities. The cross-over between ESA training and sturgeon research has provided a platform to increase awareness of sturgeon-related issues as I use many of my field observations in the trainings I provide.

I have served on the NASPS governing board for the past two years and look forward to contributing more in the future. I particularly think there is a greater role to be played by NASPS membership in helping to establish management and recovery strategies for threatened and endangered sturgeon.

**Name:** Molly A. H. 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 2020-2022 and the NASPS President from 2014-2018. I am currently the Secretary General for the World Sturgeon Conservation Society. 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 2022-2024 so that I may continue to contribute to the conservation and restoration of sturgeons and paddlefish.

**Name:** Laura Heironimus

**Affiliation:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Position Nominated for:** 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 four 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:** Ken Lepla

**Affiliation:** Idaho Power Company

**Position Nominated for:** Member at Large

Ken is a Resource Scientist Leader 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 30 years as part of Idaho Power's White Sturgeon Program. His interests lie in the conservation of Snake River sturgeon populations and understanding mechanisms that lead to recruitment failure. 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:** Mary Moser

**Affiliation:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**Position Nominated for:** Member at Large

Dr. Mary Moser has been with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Fisheries Science Center for over 20 years as a research fisheries biologist in the Fish Ecology Division. During this time, she has worked on developing a better understanding of the biology and protections needed for green sturgeon. Prior to that, she was on the research faculty at University of North Carolina-Wilmington and studied shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon. She specializes in the use of acoustic, radio, and PIT technologies to document migration behavior. Due to her expertise with sturgeon, Mary served as a member of the Shortnose Sturgeon Recovery Team, developed protocols for handling Atlantic and Shortnose Sturgeon, and served on the Green

Sturgeon Biological Review, Critical Habitat, Recovery, and SAIL teams. While Mary is planning to retire from federal service at the end of this year, she plans to keep in touch with sturgeon researchers, and serving NASPS is a great way to do so.

**Name:** Steve Rider

**Affiliation:** Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**Position Nominated for:** Member at Large

As the River and Stream Fisheries Program Supervisor for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources I guide and direct Alabama's effort to conserve and manage imperiled and at-risk fishes. Sturgeon and paddlefish have always been a main focus. I lead efforts to assess the current status of Tennessee River basin and Mobile River basin paddlefish populations. Developed a proactive commercial paddlefish plan and managed the commercial paddlefish fishery. Sampled tirelessly for Alabama sturgeon, assisted with developing eDNA protocols for Alabama and Gulf sturgeon. Currently working in close partnership with several university sturgeon researchers to examining habitats and movements of Gulf sturgeon fall and spring spawning groups in the Choctawhatchee River. I participate in various fisheries societies and represent Alabama on the MICRA paddlefish and sturgeon committee. I am also a lifetime member of NASPS. I would be honored to serve on the NASPS governing board to promote and further the goals of this society for the conservation and management of paddlefish and sturgeon.

**Name:** Kim Scribner

**Affiliation:** Michigan State University

**Position Nominated for:** Member at Large

I am an evolutionary ecologist with academic training and research interests in population ecology and genetics, with emphasis on aquatic vertebrates, including sturgeon. I am a Professor in the Departments of Fisheries and Wildlife and Integrative Biology at Michigan State University. I have also worked as a research biologist for the US government. I am co-director of a 20 year lake sturgeon research and restoration hatchery program on the Black River in northern Michigan. I have published 290 peer reviewed papers including 64 papers on sturgeon. I have supervised 37 graduate students, including 7 Masters and 6 PhD students working on sturgeon. Many students are currently in senior positions with resource management agencies, NGOs, industry, and in academia. I have engaged extensively with citizen groups and agency personnel concerning our research findings about sturgeon. I have developed Citizen Science place-based and virtual K-12 curricula for students and workshops for teachers.