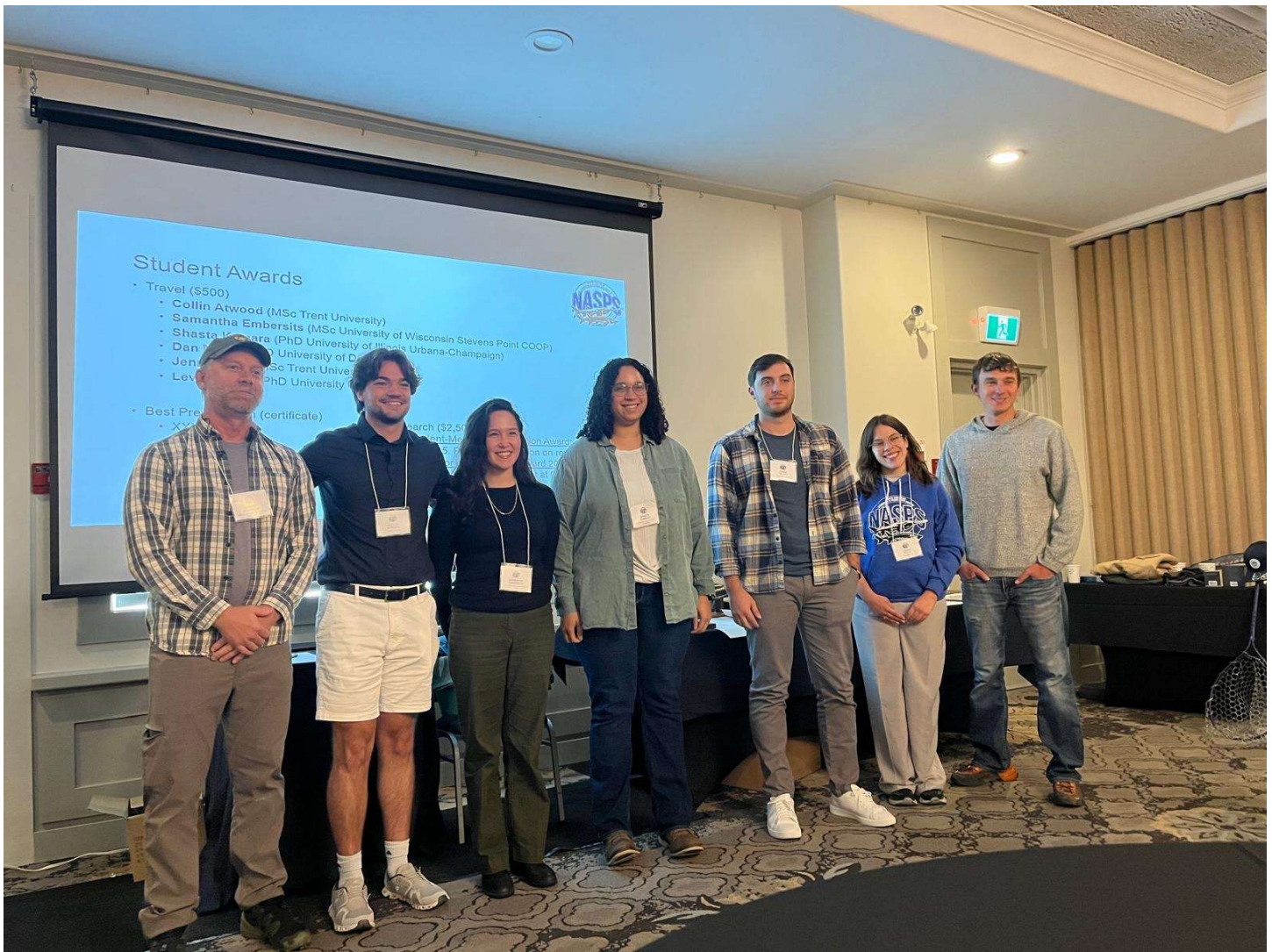


NASPS 2025 Annual Meeting

The NASPS 2025 annual meeting was a huge success in Nelson, British Columbia. We had 70 attendees of which 11 were students. There were 39 oral presentations and 7 poster presentations. We held our annual business meeting, went on a group hike, hosted our first Dodge Ball Tournament, and supported a workshop entitled “Lake and NOW FISH MAPPING with Consumer Sonar and BioBase: Features, Methods, and Field Demo”.

The NASPS awarded six student travel awards to support student attendance at the NASPS meeting. Collin Atwood (MS student at Trent University), Samantha Embersits (MS student at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point), Shasta Kamara (PhD student University of Illinois), Daniel Millea (PhD student at University of Delaware), Jenna Scott (MS student at Trent University), and Levi Umland (PhD student at University of Missouri) were the 2025 recipients of the travel awards.



Student Travel Award recipients (from right to left) Levi Umland, Jenna Scott, Daniel Millea, Shasta Kamara, Samantha Embersits, and Collin Atwood with NASPS President Jason Schooley.

The best student presentation awardees were Samantha Embersits (oral presentation MS student; University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point), Avery Dextrase (oral presentation PhD student; University of Northern British Columbia), and Shasta Kamara (poster presentation, University of Illinois). Samantha's presentation was entitled “Evaluating lake sturgeon spawning site use and the relative contribution of spawning tributaries to

harvest in the Lake Winnebago System”; Avery’s presentation was entitled “Movement and activity of endangered Nechako River white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) on the spawning grounds”; and Shasta’s poster presentation was entitled “Allometric variation in egg characteristics across the range of paddlefish”.



Best student presentation awardee Samantha Embersits (MS student at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point) with NASPS President Jason Schooley.



Best student presentation Avery Dextrase (PhD student at University of Northern British Columbia) with NASPS President Jason Schooley.



Best student poster presentation Shasta Kamara (PhD student at University of Illinois) with NASPS President Jason Schooley.

The Order of Acipenser is an achievement award given to an individual or group for their significant and documented 1) scientific, educational, and/or managerial successes for sturgeon or paddlefish recovery and/or management, 2) work applicable to recovery and/or management of more than one species of sturgeon or paddlefish within North America, and 3) broader impact of work applicable to sturgeon and paddlefish throughout the Northern Hemisphere. Past awardees include Serge Doroshov, Ronald Bruch, Mike Parsley, Tim King, Dennis Scarnecchia, Ethan Mora, Tim Haxton, Joel Van Eenennaam, Kim Scribner, Ed Baker, Frank Parauka, and Jim Clugston. The Order of Acipenser was awarded in 2025 to Gary Anderson (awarded in 2024 but received award in person in 2025), Patrick Braaten, and Larry Hildebrand.



Order of Acipenser recipient Dr. Gary Anderson (middle left) with nominating committee members Cam Barth (far left), Cheryl Klassen (middle right), and Andrea Schreier (far right).



Order of Acipenser recipient Larry Hildebrand holding the sturgeon with nominating committee members from left to right Wendy Horan, James Crossman, Molly Webb, Mike Parsley, Jason McLellan, Steve McAdam, and Andrea Schreier.



Order of Acipenser recipient Dr. Patrick Braaten awarded over zoom.

The NASPS Student and Early Career Professional Subunit hosts a raffle and trivia night at the society's banquet. It was a great success this year, and the trivia team winners were on team "Table 8" or maybe it really was "Table 6"?



Trivia night team “Table 8” winners (from left to right Carolyne Northover, Cheryl Klassen, Kelly Hannan, Cam Barth, and Scott Lankford.

The NASPS hosted its first group hike and Dodge Ball Tournament that were a “hit”. The team that seems to have won the most games was the Gulf Sturgeon team comprised of Mike Andres, Morgan Segrest, Olivia St. Germain, and paddlefish interloper Jason Schooley.



NASPS members on a group hike to Pulpit Rock after a day of presentations.



Gary Anderson, Cam Barth, and Tyler Edwards (from left to right) mid-game at the Nelson Squash Club.