24TH ANNUAL

WISCONSIN AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE 2019

FOR INTERESTED FARMERS, BEGINNERS AND CURRENT PRODUCERS...

“EXPANDING HORIZONS”

FEBRUARY 15TH & 16TH
EAU CLAIRE, WI

RESERVE YOUR STAY:
HOLIDAY INN SOUTH I-94
ROOMS AVAILABLE UNDER WI AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION CONF.
FRONT DESK: 1-715-830-9889

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:
AQUACULTURE.UWSP.EDU

Sea Grant
University of Wisconsin

NCRAC

Sea Grant
Minnesota
TENTATIVE AGENDA

Thursday, February 14th: Meetings & Set Up

➢ 2:00-5:00pm WI Aquaculture Association & Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry Advisory Council Meetings

➢ 5:00-7:00pm Trade Show Set Up

Friday, February 15th: WAA Conference

Industry Updates

➢ 8:00-8:30 “Welcome & Updates in WAA”
  Peter Fritsch - Rushing Waters Fisheries of Palmyra, WI

➢ 8:30-9:00 “Moving the Needle for US Aquaculture: The Critical Importance of National and State Association Partnerships”
  Paul Zajicek – National Aquaculture Association

➢ 9:00-9:10 “Sea Grant’s Aquaculture Vision”
  John Downing- MN Sea Grant & LaDon Swann- MS/AL Sea Grant Consortium

➢ 9:10-9:25 “Supporting Aquaculture in Wisconsin Through Outreach and Education”
  Titus Seilheimer- University of Wisconsin-Sea Grant Institute

➢ 9:25-9:45 “MN Aquaculture Workshop Synthesis Outcome”
  Don Schreiner- Minnesota Sea Grant

9:45-10:00 BREAK- SPONSORED BY: MINNESOTA SEA GRANT

➢ 10:00-10:15 “Premiere Supplier for Fresh & Frozen Seafood- Respect at Every Step”
  Josh Nelson- The Fish Guys, Inc. of St. Louis Park, MN

➢ 10:15-10:30 “Rainbow Trout from the Driftless Area”
  Zach Lind- Driftless Fish of Rushford, MN

➢ 10:30-10:45 “Contract Growing”
  Peter Fritsch- Rushing Waters Fisheries, WI & Bill West- Blue Iris Fish Farm, WI & Zach Lind-Driftless Fish, MN

10:45-10:50 TRADE SHOW SHORT INTRODUCTIONS
10:50-11:20 TRADE SHOW SHOW BREAK
11:20-12:00 EXPERT PANEL
WI, MN, MI Representatives: Changes & Updates to Rules & Regulations

12:00-12:30 KEYNOTE SPEAKER
➢ “Building a Better Food System Starts with Great Food”
   Steven Summerfelt – Superior Fresh of Hixton, WI

12:30-1:30 LUNCH & TRADE SHOW BREAK

Species & Technology
➢ 1:30-2:00 “Atlantic Salmon for Wisconsin”
   Nicole Larson- Riverence of Olympia, WA
➢ 2:00-2:20 “Walleye Advancements in RAS”
   Greg Fischer- UW-Stevens Point Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility
   Mark Schmitz- Concordia University-Wisconsin

Education & Outreach
➢ 2:40-3:00 “Consumer Attitudes Toward Wisconsin Farm-Raised Fish”
   Bret Shaw- UW-Madison
➢ 3:00-3:30 “Assessing & Reducing Risks of Fish Diseases”
   Myron Kebus- WI DATCP
➢ 3:30-3:45 “How to Raise Walleye Intensively- Video Series”
   Emma Wiermaa- UW-Stevens Point Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility

3:45-4:00 BREAK- SPONSORED BY: WISCONSIN SEA GRANT

4:00-5:00
- GENERAL WAA MEMBERSHIP BOARD VOTING
- TRADE SHOW/SILENT AUCTION

5:00-6:30pm
➢ “TASTE OF WISCONSIN” RECEPTION- Hosted by Dani Klontz- Safeway, Inc., Idaho
➢ AUCTION WINNERS

DINNER ON YOUR OWN
Saturday, February 16th: Fish Health Workshop
“Making Fish Health & Water Quality a Priority!”

Presentations by experts and hands on activities led by fish health professionals, guiding each registrant to perform a fish necropsy, conduct a fish health assessment and water quality monitoring activities. An additional Perch Forum is offered as a concurrent session to the hands-on activities.

Provided by: The North Central Region Aquaculture Center, NCRAC.

Organized by:
➢ Matt Smith- The Ohio State University
➢ Dr. Nick Phelps-University of Minnesota
➢ Dr. Alexander Primus-University of Minnesota

7:30-8:30am Arrive & Continental Breakfast
8:30-8:40 Welcome, Introductions

Presentations
8:40-9:10 Fish get sick too: Identification and Treatment of Disease
9:10-9:40 Stress Management at Every Stop
9:40-10:00 Eating Right: Why Nutrition Matters for Fish Health
10:00-10:20 Fish Health Regulations: Why We Need Them
10:20-10:30 DIY Fish Health

10:30-10:45 BREAK

OPTION 1- FISH NECROPSY
10:45-11:20 VFDs and Your Farm
11:20-12:00 Know Your Risks: Planning Biosecurity

OPTION 2- YELLOW PERCH FORUM
10:45-12:00 Big Picture- Needs of Perch Production
12:45-3:30 Identify Culture Bottlenecks & Potential Areas of Research
A. Discuss 9 Focus Areas
B. Prioritize Needs
C. Most Immediate Areas to be Addressed
D. Determine Need for Working Group

12:00-12:45 LUNCH/NETWORKING

Hands on- Enrollment up to 60 people
➢ Group 1
12:45-1:30 DIY Fish Necropsy
1:30-2:15 DIY Fish Health Assessment
➢ Group 2
12:45-1:30 DIY Fish Health Assessment
1:30-2:15 DIY Fish Necropsy
2:15-3:30 Monitoring Water Quality to Manage Fish Health

3:30pm Adjourn, Safe Trip Home!
Speaker Profiles:

➢ **John Downing: “Minnesota Sea Grant Aquaculture Vision”**
Downing is the current Director of the University of Minnesota Sea Grant Program. He is also Research Scientist for the University of Minnesota Large Lakes Observatory and Professor of Biology at University of Minnesota-Duluth. Downing’s research and teaching dossiers concern many aspects of the aquatic sciences. His 150+ peer-reviewed books and journal articles cover diverse topics in limnology, marine science, environmental economics, and terrestrial ecology. He has founded and run several small businesses in the U.S. and Canada and has a long-standing record of success in securing research funding from federal, state, provincial, and local agencies. Downing has served as the Director of the University of Minnesota Sea Grant Program since 2016.

➢ **Greg Fischer: “Walleye Advancements in RAS”**
Fischer has been the Facility Operations Manager at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Aquaculture Demonstration Facility (NADF) located near Bayfield, Wisconsin for 17 years. He has worked with various university, state, tribal, private and federal agencies in designing, constructing, and managing multi-species facilities for conservation and aquaculture purposes with a variety of cool and coldwater fish species. He has 25+ years of experience with over 20 different species of warm, cool and coldwater fish in various rearing systems such as recirculation, flow through, and outdoor ponds. His present responsibilities at UWSP NADF include pursuing new species and research projects for aquaculture; overseeing applied research and demonstration projects at the facility; supervising facility staff, interns, and volunteers; and all day to day activities involved with the successful operation of the facility.

➢ **Peter Fritsch: “Welcome and Status of WI Aquaculture: Changes, Collaborations, Looking Forward”**
Fritsch is President and co-owner of Rushing Waters Fisheries of Palmyra, Wisconsin and President of the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association. He started working at Rushing Waters in 1997 as a delivery driver and fish cutter. He graduated from The University of Wisconsin Steven’s Point College of Natural Resources with a bachelor’s degree in biology and water resources limnology. He has served on the board of directors for the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association, the Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry Advisory Council and the U.S. Trout Farmers Association.

➢ **Dave Geihtbrock: Expert Panel- Wisconsin Representation**
Geihtbrock is the Fisheries Culture Section Chief of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This position supervises the Fisheries Bureau management section staff and develops, implements, and evaluates statewide policy for the fisheries management program. This position oversees budget, policy development and implementation for various statewide programs. The position may also represent the Department and Bureau on committees for the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission and is a liaison to other State, federal and tribal agencies. The Fisheries Management Section Chief also represents the Department on various review panels for programs like the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act.
Todd Kalish: **Expert Panel- Wisconsin Representation**
Kalish is the Deputy Bureau Director for the Wisconsin DNR based in Madison. He is responsible for administering the statewide fisheries management program. He earned his BS degree in Field Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and MS degree in Aquatic Science from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He has worked for the US Forest Service as Fisheries Biologist in California, the MI DNR as a Fisheries Management Biologist, Unit Manager of Central Lake MI, Lake Erie Basin Coordinator, and Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator. Kalish was also the Planning and Regulations Manager with the Minnesota DNR, responsible for administering the Fisheries Section budget, cold water hatchery system, rules and regulations, Pathology Lab, and survey and monitoring programs.

Myron Kebus: **“Steps Toward Fish Health Management”**
Kebus is Wisconsin’s State Fish Epidemiologist. He directs the Fish Health Program of the Division of Animal Health, in the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection. The program administers rules regarding fish farm registration, fish importation, and fish health regulations, and provides educational material to fish farmers and veterinarians on preventative fish medicine (1999-present). He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Veterinary Medicine and received his master’s degree in aquaculture/veterinary science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research investigated stress in fish, particularly as it pertains to fish hatcheries. In 1993 he started the Wisconsin Aquatic Veterinary Service, the first fish-only private veterinary practice in the Midwest. He helped found and is past president of the American Association of Fish Veterinarians, past Chairman of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Aquatic Veterinary Medicine Committee and served as a liaison for the AVMA’s Environmental Issues Committee and the American Fisheries Society, Fish Health Section. In addition to fish, he also directs Wisconsin’s National Poultry Improvement Plan and the Poultry Epidemiologist for Avian Influenza in the Division of Animal Health.

Dani Klontz: **“Taste of Wisconsin Reception”**
Klontz has worked for Safeway, Inc. for the past 20 years. Her current position is as a Front End Manager, which means managing employees as well as making sure all of the customers leave with a positive experience. Klontz is also responsible for the bookkeeping of the store as well as the hiring of personnel. She travels to various Aquaculture meetings and participates in cooking presentations. She graduated from the University of Idaho with a Bachelors degree in Aquaculture. She has attended The South African Culinary Institute while working for Machado Trout. She first started working as Seafood Department manager for several retail operations before finding her niche at the front end.

Nicole Larson: **“Atlantic Salmon for Wisconsin”**
Larson is Aquaculture Specialist for Riverence, LLC, of Olympia, Washington. She received a B.S. degree from University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire in Biology with a minor in Environmental Science. From Ashland, Wisconsin she began her aquaculture journey at UWSP NADF, hired in 2014 as aquaculture technician. Previously, she worked throughout the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming as a Resident Naturalist as well as Exhibit Production for Science Works Museum in Oregon. At Riverence, she assists in the company’s production and distribution of cold-water species including Coho salmon, Atlantic salmon and steelhead trout.
➢ **Zach Lind: “Rainbow Trout from the Driftless Area”**

Lind is the Owner and Operator of Driftless Fish Company located in Spring Valley, MN. Lind has been involved with farming in southeast Minnesota from a young age. After high school he went on to study mechanical engineering for several years, then was bitten by the aquaculture bug. He and his partners restored much of the old Minnesota Aquafarms facilities at five locations in southeast Minnesota. In spring 2017 they harvested their first crop of Rainbow Trout for the food-fish market. Lind and his partners have additional plans in the works and are excited to be a part of this growing industry.

➢ **Elliot Nelson: Expert Panel- Michigan Representation**

Nelson is an Extension Educator with Michigan Sea Grant and MSU Extension based out of Sault Ste. Marie and Lake Superior State University. He received a B.S. in Biology from MSU and M.S. from University of Michigan, Natural Resources and Environment. Nelson works with a large number of K-12 and post-secondary schools to help develop educational curriculum around aquaculture. He also works on issues of social perceptions, market potential, and new facility sighting, working in the areas of ecotourism and Great Lakes education.

➢ **Josh Nelson: “Premiere Supplier for Fresh & Frozen Seafood- Respect at Every Step”**

Nelson is the Retail Account Manager and Sustainability Specialist for The Fish Guys, St. Louis Park, MN, a high-quality wholesale fish distributor. Nelson is also a restaurant operator and owns a retail store in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. He is a lifelong resident of Saint Paul, Minnesota and holds a bachelor’s degree in history. Previous careers include chef, fishmonger, and Minnesota Zoo program coordinator leading “Fish Smart,” a program that focused on increasing the availability of sustainable seafood in the Twin Cities. His passions include fly fishing and chasing salmonids.

➢ **Mark Schmitz: “Growth Performance of Four Varieties of Sweet Basil Grown in a Greenhouse with Both Aquaponic Effluent and Soil”**

Schmitz is the Director of the Concordia Center of Environmental Stewardship and he is also the Associate Professor of Environmental Sciences at Concordia University Wisconsin. Schmitz has been working in the field of aquaculture and aquaponics for over 20 years. Mark received a B.S. from UW-Stevens Point’s College of Natural Resources in 1996 with an emphasis in fish biology. Dr. Schmitz then went on to examine the production of yellow perch using RAS while completing a Master’s Degree at Virginia Tech In 1999. Mark’s experience in aquaculture was further enhanced as he managed a private fish hatchery for over 5 years specializing in the production walleye and other fish for stocking. Dr. Schmitz then earned a PhD from UW-Milwaukee while exploring an unusual blue colored walleye in Ontario, Canada. Mark then established and managed an aquaponics system at UW-Sheboygan for over 5 years. Construction is underway on a zero-discharge aquaponics system as well as a walleye hatching and culture system.

➢ **Don Schreiner: “MN Aquaculture Workshop Synthesis Outcome”**

Schreiner is MN Sea Grant’s Fisheries Specialist, stationed out of Duluth, MN. He has recently retired from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources where he spent about 34 years managing wild fish stocks both inland and in Lake Superior. During the last two years he has been working with Minnesota Sea Grant on a limited basis providing outreach to Minnesota’s citizens on a variety of fisheries topics that range from aquaculture to Lake Superior to zebra mussels. Don has worked with the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association, Wisconsin Sea Grant staff and others to assist in organizing this conference. He hopes you find it interesting, informative and valuable.
**Titus Seilheimer: “Supporting aquaculture in Wisconsin through Outreach and Education”**

Seilheimer is a fisheries specialist with Wisconsin Sea Grant and is based at the Manitowoc Field Office. He is an aquatic ecologist with 18 years of research and outreach experience. He has worked with Wisconsin commercial fishery to better understand catch with new fishing gears and to help inform management decisions. He has a B.A.in Biology from Lawrence University and a Ph.D. in Biology from McMaster University.

**Bret Shaw: “Consumer Attitudes Towards Wisconsin Farm-Raised Fish”**

Shaw is Environmental Communication Specialist for University of Wisconsin Extension and an Associate Professor in the Department of Life Sciences Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His work includes conducting social science research to promote local food systems (including Wisconsin farm-raised fish) and helping producers use this research to be more competitive and economically sustainable. He has published broadly in the areas of environmental and health communication, and has worked in marketing, advertising, technology and journalism.

**Sean Sisler: Expert Panel- Minnesota Representation**

Sisler is the Commercial Aquatics Program (includes aquaculture) and Fish Health Consultant with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. He received his B.S. from Lake Superior State University in Fish and Wildlife Management and M.S. from the University of Minnesota Conservation Biology (Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences). Sisler worked for several years with the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab and the Great Lakes Fish Commission working with sea lamprey control in the Great Lakes. He has worked for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), Section of Fisheries since 2007. In 2015, Sisler began working directly with private aquaculture producers. He was hired for his present position in October 2018 where he maintains the MNDNR programs on private aquaculture and continues to work with the private aquaculture producers.

**Steven Summerfelt: “Building a Better Food System Starts with Great Food”**

Summerfelt is Chief Science Officer at Superior Fresh, LLC in Hixton, Wisconsin. He manages the scientific research and technological designs of Superior Fresh, promoting efficiency and profitability at the company’s current and future facilities. Superior Fresh is an industry-leading aquaponics facility specializing in producing Atlantic salmon and steelhead trout in state-of-the-art recirculation aquaculture facilities in conjunction with premium, organic produce grown in ultra-modern hydroponics glass greenhouses. Summerfelt is passionate about expanding controlled-environment farming systems that have minimal environmental impact. He was formerly Director of Aquaculture Systems Research at the Conservation Fund’s Freshwater Institute, where he worked for 26 years. He has authored or co-authored over 100 refereed journal papers. He is a professional engineer and has BS, MS, and PhD degrees in engineering. In 2014, he received the Aquacultural Engineering Society Award of Excellence.
LaDon Swann: “Sea Grant’s Aquaculture Vision”
Swann is the Director of the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium and the Sea Grant Aquaculture Liaison. He received BS and MS degrees from Tennessee Technological University and a Ph.D. from Purdue University. Swann has over 34 years of experience in implementing practical solutions to coastal and Great Lakes issues through competitive university-based research, graduate student training, and extension and outreach and K-12 education. He is a former President of the National Sea Grant Association and former President of the U.S. Aquaculture Society. Swann and his wife were also Peace Corps Volunteers in Togo, West Africa.

Bill West: “Contract Growing” & “Yellow Perch Forum”
West is President and a senior scientist with Blue Iris Environmental, Inc. of Black Creek, Wisconsin as Water and Wastewater Specialist. He is also the co-owner and President of Blue Iris Fish Farm LLC also in Black Creek. His areas of expertise encompass the disciplines of biological and chemical assessment of aquatic environments with over 40 years of experience in these areas. In the past 20 years, West has become involved in the aquaculture program in Wisconsin. He specializes in outdoor culture and conducts research on intensive outdoor aquaculture – specifically pond-side tank culture. He has been awarded six grants to conduct aquaculture research at his facility in Black Creek. He currently serves on the Wisconsin Aquaculture Assoc. Board and as Wisconsin’s industry representative to the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center as a Board member.

Emma Wiermaa: “How to Raise Walleye Intensively- Video Series”
Wiermaa is the Outreach and Education Specialist for the UWSP NADF. She graduated from University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in 2012 with a Bachelor's in Ecology and Environmental Biology. Her duties include conducting tours for the facility, social networking and website building, connecting and providing assistance to schools, private fish farms and tribal, federal or state organizations, attending conferences, analyzing data, assisting in research, and writing reports and proposals. This UWSP NADF outreach position is also in collaboration with WI Sea Grant Institute. Some of her past experiences include researching the pupfish species, working with commercial fisheries, leading Outdoor Education camps, and program coordinator for the Alliance for the Great Lakes.

Zajicek joined the National Aquaculture Association (NAA) in 2014 and was appointed as Executive Director in 2016. His prior experience includes 27 years with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as their aquaculture regulatory program manager working in a variety of capacities to grow and expand Florida aquaculture as authorized by the Florida Aquaculture Policy Act. While with the agency Paul authored, co-authored and managed $1M in grants to resolve species, production, regulatory or market issues. He was a longtime NAA member believing that US aquaculture needed farmer representation at the federal level and served on two NAA committees (marine and aquatic nuisance species). Prior to joining the state agency Paul managed a saltwater bait and tackle retail and wholesale business on Sanibel Island. Paul was also a field biologist with two non-profit organizations working with the loggerhead sea turtle and osprey, respectively. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in marine biology from the Florida Institute of Technology and a Master of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of Florida.
THANK YOU SPONSORS!!