

# President's Newsletter

April 2026



## Introduction



March was a very busy month. Hibernation is officially over! Between travel to Utah to see family, spring cleaning, teaching/grading, fishing, lab work, and writing, I've had very little time to think about ASIH...but that doesn't mean that we aren't rapidly approaching and preparing for the biggest JMIH bash of all time!! Big thing that's changed a little bit from previous years: THERE WILL BE NO ABSTRACT DEADLINE EXTENSION THIS YEAR!!!! The planning committee is meeting immediately after the April 11 deadline to create the schedule...so get those [abstracts](#) in by April 11!!!!

I've had some discussions recently with our representatives from KGL on how to make our [members' hub](#) more useful. Currently, the only reason to ever go to this hub is for renewing your membership (which you should do if you haven't already) and to get access to the membership

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directory. Apparently we can do more with this hub; e.g., password protected discussion forums, an easy access to society documents, etc... If you have any ideas of what you might like to see featured on the members' hub that would make you use it more, reach out and [let me know](#).

March was also a big month for global events. One of the memories etched in my brain from my childhood was listening to Sunny 95 on the radio from 22nd Street in Newark, Ohio while getting ready for school every morning. To this day I can still hear the Sunny 95 jingle in my head between awesome tunes by [Kix](#) and Britny Fox. Anyways, for about six months in 1990 Sunny 95 would play Lee Greenwoods, "God Bless the USA," every morning in the background while locals from the listening area would call in and wish their kin good luck in the War in the Middle East (Desert Storm), many of them crying. Sometimes I feel like I'm stuck in the movie *Groundhog Day* because here we are again. I've never been a very political person, but I hope for a speedy resolution to this war and recovery for all those touched by the most recent conflict in the middle east, recognizing that my latter hope will be impossible for some.

## Important information and dates

### REPEAT: JMIH SITE OPEN!!!

The new [JMIH website](#) is up and running! Click this link to go right to registration: [REGISTRATION](#). Click this link to go right to abstract submission if you want to present: [ABSTRACT SUBMISSION](#). Through this site you can also find directions for signing up for [childcare](#), finding a [roommate](#) to cut costs, and applying to participate in the [student volunteer program](#).

### REPEAT: Student/post-doc travel awards

Traveling to conferences can be expensive. Consider applying for a travel award to help defray the cost of your travel if planning to attend JMIH in New Orleans: The [Clark Hubbs' student travel award](#) applications for fish and herp students are due by 15 May 2026.

### REPEAT: ASIH leadership positions

The ASIH Nominating Committee is constantly looking for people willing to take leadership roles in ASIH. If you are interested in a leadership role in ASIH, please contact the current Nominating Committee chair, [Dr. Lisa Barrow](#).

### REPEAT: Award nominations

[Nominate](#) your deserving colleagues for recognition! You've already run out of time for some awards, and are rapidly running out of time for others!!!!

### REPEAT: Renew your membership

Please [renew](#) your membership for 2026 as soon as possible. You don't want to miss out on all these awesome newsletters, free publication cost, discounted JMIH in New Orleans, student/professional awards, etc... If your membership has lapsed, please [rejoin](#) by going to the new member application page.

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## Community news

### Probably the most important ASIH appointment!



In case you didn't realize, Mark Sabaj (Drexel University) has stepped down as acting Secretary for ASIH. We thank Mark for his years of service to ASIH, his ability to mispronounce every name at awards ceremonies (even the easy ones), and his willingness to help the new Secretary transition into this important society role. Mark has been replaced by Dr. Carol Spencer (University of California Berkeley) who has been doing such a good job that we forgot that she was a new appointment! Word on the street is that she is also really good

at pronouncing names.

### Fish of the week podcast dives into American Ichthyofauna



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been hosting weekly conversations with ichthyologists and fish enthusiasts across North America and beyond since 2021. At an average of 30 minutes per episode, these conversations have resulted in an in-depth and growing body of work highlighting common fish threads across vast geographies. The podcast is structured to engage listeners in critical thinking about the true value of America's native fish and the waters they call home and has also become a resource for students of ichthyology. New episodes every Monday

wherever you get your podcasts. We are happy to accept ideas about potential fish and guests to feature. Contact: [Katrina Liebich](#).

Quick links:

- [FWS landing page](#)
- [Apple podcasts](#)
- [Spotify](#)

### Your community news HERE!!!

If you have community news that you want featured in this newsletter, please click [here!](#)

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If you have any queries or questions, comments or concerns, or just want to chat, please do not hesitate to contact me: [Dustin Siegel](#)

\*Also, if you ever get an email from someone claiming to be me that asks you to send money somewhere, that isn't me.

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Check out the [ASIH threadless store](#) if looking for new ich/herp related clothing.

