

Please submit final form to Chair of the USAS Student Subunit Committee
Mick Walsh (michelle.walsh@cfk.edu) by January 15, 2024

2023 USAS Student Subunit Annual Report

Name of Student Subunit: Lake Superior State University Aquaculture Club

Address: 123 Crawford Hall, LSSU, Sault Sainte Marie MI 49783

I. Membership

a. Number of Members: 13

b. Officers (names and emails)

President: Margaret Lawrence

Vice President: Andrew Pothoven

Secretary: Emily Hebert

Treasurer: Kyra Kelley

Advisor: Dr. Barbara Evans

Other (member): Anissa Overly

c. Subunit's Recommendation for \$250 Travel Award to Aquaculture America¹

a. Student member's name, email, what year they are, and major.

Anissa Overly, Sophomore, Forensic Chemistry

ci. Anissa Overly is a sophomore at Lake Superior State University majoring in Forensic Chemistry, she is also a first generation student. As a freshman Anissa took an interest in the aquaculture club. She has been a very active member with the LSSU Aquaculture club, taking on the role of public relations as a sophomore and helping out with managing our social media presence. Anissa also helped with the MSU-LSSU Aquaculture Challenge for high schoolers last year, mentoring the next generation of aquaculture workers and scientists. Anissa has shown considerable interest in the aquaculture world even when her background is focused in Forensic Chemistry. Anissa will be presenting about the successes and struggles of the Lake Superior State University Student Sub-unit at the Aquaculture America meeting in San Antonio, in February 2024. She does not have other travel funds available and has not previously received USAS funds. The aquaculture club is hoping to raise funds to help cover her travel expenses. Given her dedication to our subunit through leadership, entrepreneurship and research initiative, we highly recommend Anissa Overly for this travel award.

¹ From the [USAS Procedures and Policies](#): "Each year, up to four (4) USAS student subunits will be provided with matching funds from USAS to support travel to the Annual Conference. USAS (or industry partner) will provide up to \$250 in matching funds per subunit (\$1,000 total annual commitment). Each subunit will select one (1) student based on merit. Travel award recipients will be selected by the subunit. Each subunit may develop its own selection criteria but we suggest that priority be given to the following: 1. Is the student presenting or bringing a poster? 2. Does the student have other travel funds available? 3. Has the student contributed to the subunit and/or USAS overall (i.e., subunit officer, activities etc.)? 4. Has the student previously received funds from USAS? 5. In addition, subunits may elect to use an abstract competition."

II. Chapter Activities and Events

25 members of the community participated in the "Tie Dye" fundraiser put on by 4 club members.

Our advisor and three student sub-unit members gave talks at the New Orleans 2023 World Aquaculture conference.

5 members and our advisor attended the NCRAC/WAA meeting in Eau Claire, Wisconsin 2023.

Nearly every month a plant sale is put on by 6 club members in efforts to continuously fundraise.

4 members participated in selling orchids at the first ever LSSU Arts and Craft Show Dec 2023. They also sold a variety of craft items they had made.

300 local high school students/teachers toured the Aquaponics Learning Lab and Aquaculture Room run by the club. 1 member guided the tours for the lab.

The Sault Garden Club toured our facility (12 individuals), and gave advice on maintaining our orchids.

One member attended and participated in the ceremony to transplant Eastern White Cedars in front of the Native American Center on the LSSU campus. The cedar trees used for transplantation were grown from seeds in the club's DWC aquaponics system by one member of the subunit. The seeds were obtained from the large cedar tree that was mistakenly removed from the Native American Center.

University open house with 6 community members visited the aquaponics labs. 3 members were present.

2 members participated in "Lakerpalooza" a club meeting event where 100 campus and community members visited.

10 members recognized and participated in "Orange Shirt Day" which recognizes the suffering of indigenous children in residential schools.

The student-run coral reef Marine Tank has partly been placed under club care and fundraising responsibilities have been assumed.

The club was invited to have a table at the local winter market, and sold several orchids and other plants.

The baby Atlantic Salmon have been moved from a small indoor system into one of our Deep Water Culture Systems.

The yellow perch were transferred to the second Deep Water Culture System.

III. Chapter Changes from previous year (if applicable)

Membership has fluctuated with student class schedules conflicting with meeting times, as well as other academic commitments. We have taken advantage of campus activities such as Lakerpalooza to showcase club activities and have been using social media to disseminate our events.

IV. Chapter Struggles/Concerns or areas for improvement

It has been hard to get students to join or stay. More people sign up for the email than they do participate in events or help. So, the level of membership fluctuates each semester to each meeting.

The same members continually volunteered for the plant sales causing some to become burnt out due to heavy school schedules. We hope to broaden the scope of volunteers and not have the same people involved in the plant sales each time.

The club was gifted over 60 orchids by a community member which was greatly appreciated. Although the orchids have posed some problems such as how to care for them due to the lack of knowledge among the club members, many members were involved in the cataloging process to organize the orchid collection. We plan to keep some in pots and try different methods of growing for the others, such as vertical hydroponics or aeroponics.

Social media up-keep has become taxing and we are working on trying to transition to more than one person holding the position. This has been a very difficult position to fill as no one wants to be responsible for constantly updating our social media and flyers around campus. We have also increased our social media presence by having a website, Facebook, Instagram and informative weekly emails.

One aquaponic system has been registering high levels of certain metals and we are actively investigating the cause. LSSU chemistry has been running water samples for us using their ICP/MS. A club member will present this data at Aquaculture America in San Antonio, 2024.

Diversity in club events have changed to encompass local, regional and worldwide issues. Issues such as fresh foods being hard to find in rural areas,

people across the world don't have access to safe drinking water or healthy food. We have been working on getting a higher diversity of people attending our events, participating in projects and fundraising events. We want a mixture of community, students and professors to get involved with the Aquaculture club.

V. Photos



The three sub-unit members who presented in New Orleans 2023 World Aquaculture Conference



Five members who went to NCRAC/WAA conference in Eau Claire Wisconsin



Members who went to "Eat My Fish - Jeremiah's Bullfrog Fish Farm" on the way back from the NCRAC/WAA conference.



Planting two Eastern White Cedars that were grown in the sub-unit's DWC in front of the Native American Center at LSSU



Two members at our monthly plant sale



2023 Tie Dye event



Marine aquarium that gets help with fundraising by the club

VI. Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 1/1/23: \$938.67

Income: \$3599.18

Sources: plant sales, donations, LSSU student government reimbursements

Expenses: \$1827.14

Types: food for meetings/events, USAS registrations, craft supplies, donations to marine tank and greenhouse funds, fish food, nets, pumps

Ending Balance: 12/31/23: \$2710.71

VII. Updated Bylaws (if applicable)