

People & Places

Scientist focuses on solving problems facing aquaculture

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

HAGERMAN, Idaho — The University of Idaho's newest and only second-ever extension aquaculture specialist, Jake Bledsoe, is from Indiana but is no stranger to the Gem State.

He did his graduate research and was a teaching assistant at the university in Moscow from 2016 to 2020. He was also a postdoctoral researcher with USDA Agricultural Research Service at the Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station.

That postdoctoral work involved genetically characterizing fish that could tolerate a plant-based diet and working with Ken Overturf, a USDA ARS fish geneticist. When that project concluded in October 2021, Bledsoe took a position with USDA ARS as a research geneticist in Orono, Maine, working on genomic selection in Atlantic salmon.

"I loved the work we were doing out there, but this position opened up," he said.

In addition to being an extension aquaculture specialist, the job offered an assistant professor position directly affiliated with the university's Aquaculture Research Institute. He returned to the university and Idaho in February. "I'm really fortunate to have spent time here. I already established a lot of relationships and really love the Idaho industry. I couldn't turn it down," he said.



Jake Bledsoe displays a rainbow trout at the University of Idaho fish hatchery in Hagerman.

Another big appeal was working with graduate students, mentoring them on projects and overseeing grants. On the flip side, working with fish farmers will keep him from getting into a "science bubble," he said.

He met quite a few fish farmers while doing his postdoctoral work and is familiar with the big players. Now he'll get to meet a lot more and find out more about their challenges, he said.

"Meeting with stakeholders, in general, is a big priority. The goal is to get to know them so I know their problems, then use research to

solve the problems," he said.

Bledsoe's research background is in fish physiology and genomics, with a particular expertise in understanding the roles that microbes play in aquaculture — from healthy gut microbiota to disease-causing environmental pathogens.

"I plan to use an integrative and collaborative approach to come at research questions from multiple perspectives to overcome problems related to feed costs and sustainability, losses to disease, water quality management and genetic improvements," he said.

One of his early extension priorities is workforce devel-

opment to recruit, retain and provide continuing education to make sure the industry has employees capable of meeting its needs.

Another is water policy to ensure aquaculture operations are regulated fairly and maintain compliance.

Yet another is marketing to help identify new regional and national markets and hosting community-engagement marketing opportunities.

"I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve Idaho aquaculture, an industry I've learned to love over my last six years in the area," he said.

His predecessor, Gary Fornshell, left big shoes to fill



Western Innovator

JAKE BLEDSOE

Age: 33

Position: Assistant professor/aquaculture research and extension specialist, University of Idaho

Location: University of Idaho Aquaculture Research Institute, Hagerman

Education: Doctorate, natural resources and fish physiology, University of Idaho, 2020; master's degree, animal science, Southern Illinois University, 2015; bachelor's degree, aquatic sciences and associate's agricultural economics, Purdue University, 2012

with all the great impacts he had on the industry, he said.

"But thanks to all the warm welcomes, support and guidance I've received in the first few months on the job from Gary and the industry, I feel very well positioned and am excited to get to work on solving industry problems," he said.

Services planned for Anne Marie Moss

Anne Marie Moss, 52, of Salem, died of metastatic breast cancer on April 22.

She was the communications director for the Oregon Farm Bureau.

She was at her home when she died, surrounded by her family who adored her. She was pain free and at peace.

She was born Feb. 1, 1970, in Muncie, Ind., the daughter of James Hamm and Dianne (Doke) Moss.

Anne Marie spent her entire childhood in DeKalb, Ill. She was a graduate of DeKalb High School class of 1988 and graduated from Indiana University in 1992, with a double major in journalism and Spanish and a minor in art history. Anne Marie earned a master's degree at the University of Texas with a major in international communications.

Between these degrees, she served as a VISTA volunteer in Albuquerque, N.M. There she worked with impoverished families, tutored, acquired computers for a local community center and organized a mural project.

Following her graduation from the University of Texas, Anne Marie



Anne Marie Moss

worked for magazines in London, Chicago, New Orleans, Portland and Salem, where she held a variety of jobs in writing, photography and editing.

Her favorite, and most long lasting job, was with the Oregon Farm Bureau. She served as its communications director for over 18 years.

While there, Anne Marie won numerous national awards for her writing, photography, publications and social media. As an editor, one colleague reported, "She could take 100 of someone else's good words and turn them into 20 great words."

Anne Marie loved travel and adventure. She was a lifelong learner. Her curiosity about different cultures inspired her to live in England, Costa Rica, Spain and Mexico. She also visited many other countries around the world.

She admired and collected art, loved music and attended many concerts. Anne Marie enjoyed a great cup of coffee and some quality chocolates.

She was a disciplined athlete and

a graceful dancer. She participated in half and full marathons, triathlons, and many races of varying distances. On two occasions, she participated in Oregon's famous Hood to Coast team race. Anne Marie climbed mountains, biked, hiked and camped. She could build a fire from scratch within minutes.

She loved being outside and enjoyed the beauties of nature. Flowers, trees, oceans and mountains all spoke to her soul.

Anne Marie was a person of exceptional kindness and generosity. She always put others before herself. She was modest and uncomplaining (even when beset by extraordinary emotional or physical pain). Anne Marie had a fabulous sense of humor and was known for her hysterical one liners and puns. She was a dotting daughter, sister, aunt and caring friend. She will always be remembered for her gorgeous smile.

She is survived by her parents, Jim and Dianne Moss; her sisters, Sarah Robinson (fiancé Terry Briggs), Jenny Boisselle (Kris) and Amy Keck (Jason); nieces and nephews, Logan, Drew, Jessica, Pierson and Campbell; and a long list of

aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Anne Marie was predeceased by her grandparents, Mary Rose and Ernest Doke and Mildred and E. Herbert Moss and several other aunts, uncles and cousins.

The world has lost a beautiful soul who was cherished by many.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm, 33814 South Meridian Road, Woodburn, Ore. Colorful clothes are encouraged.

Donations can be made, in memory of Anne Marie, to the Anne Marie Moss Scholarship started by Oregon Farm Bureau. Make checks to the Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation and note, on the check, the money is for the Anne Marie Moss Scholarship. Mail to OAEF, 1320 Capital Street N.E., Suite 200, Salem, Ore., 97301 or METAVIVOR, a 501c3 nonprofit that focuses 100% on metastatic breast cancer research.

Condolences to the Moss family may be mailed to, 227 West Royal Drive, DeKalb, Ill., 60115.

The family wishes to thank Dave Dillon, Barb Iverson, Bethann Lyons and Dr. John Strother.

Scientists grow plants in lunar dirt, next stop moon

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — For the first time, scientists have grown plants in soil from the moon collected by NASA's Apollo astronauts.

Researchers had no idea if anything would sprout in the harsh moon dirt and wanted to see if it could be used

to grow food by the next generation of lunar explorers. The results stunned them.

"Holy cow. Plants actually grow in lunar stuff. Are you kidding me?" said Robert Ferl of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Ferl and his colleagues planted thale cress in moon soil returned by

Apollo 11's Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, and other moonwalkers. The good news: All of the seeds sprouted.

The downside was that after the first week, the coarseness and other properties of the lunar soil stressed the small, flowering weeds so much that they grew more slowly than seedlings planted in fake moon dirt from Earth. Most of the moon

plants ended up stunted.

The longer the soil was exposed to punishing cosmic radiation and solar wind on the moon, the worse the plants seemed to do. The Apollo 11 samples — exposed a couple billion years longer to the elements because of the Sea of Tranquility's older surface — were the least conducive for growth, according to scientists.

CALENDAR

Submit upcoming ag-related events on www.capitalpress.com or by email to newsroom@capitalpress.com.

SUNDAY-TUESDAY MAY 22-24

Alltech One Conference: Central Bank Center, Lexington, Ky. The conference will focus on collaborative solutions for agriculture. Website: <https://one.alltech.com>

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY MAY 24-25

Habitat Working for Farmers (online): 8 a.m.-noon. Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Oregon IPM Center have teamed up to bring you a virtual conference on practices Western farmers are currently using to develop habitats that conserve agricultural biodiversity and

their associated benefits. Website: <https://bit.ly/3iflti9>

WEDNESDAY MAY 25 Becoming Firewise — Fire Resistant Landscapes and Homes: 6-8 p.m., Treasure Valley Community College Science Center, Room 104, 650 College Blvd., Ontario, Ore. Scheduled instructors are Al Crouch, fire mitigation specialist with U.S. Bureau of Land Management Vale District, and John Rizza, regional wildland fire specialist with Oregon State University Extension. Contact: 541-881-5755 Website: <http://tvc-cfirewise.eventbrite.com>

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY MAY 25-26

Roots of Resilience Grazing Conference: Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate, Pendleton, Ore. Dave Pratt, a Ranching for Profit emeritus, will kick off the conference Wednesday morning with "Three Secrets to Increasing Profit," how livestock managers can improve sustainability by improving their financial bottom line. After lunch, Chris Schachtschneider, OSU Extension, will demonstrate low-stress livestock handling in the Happy Canyon Arena. Thursday's events move north to the Gardena School, Touchet, Wash., for a presentation by internationally known soil health expert Nicole Masters. After lunch, the conference moves to Tumac Farms, where there will be a field practical with Masters. Website: <https://rootsofresilience.org/grazing-conference-2022>

WEDNESDAY JUNE 1

2022 Wheat College: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Ritzville Fairgrounds, 811 E. Main St., Ritzville, Wash. AMMO — the Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization — continues to support the ag industry by offering this year's Wheat College in person, providing information on the opportunities available to maximize yield in the Pacific Northwest. An event of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, sponsored by the Washington Grain Commission and AMMO partners. Pesticide credits requested. Register by emailing lori@wawg.org or call 509-659-0610. RSVP by May 25 to be entered to win a Blackstone grill.

THURSDAY JUNE 2

Sustainable Produce Summit: 1-7:30 p.m. Marriott Desert Springs

Resort, Palm Desert, Calif. The summit will focus on sustainability. Website: <https://www.events.farmjournal.com>

FRIDAY-SATURDAY JUNE 3-4

West Coast Produce Expo: Marriott Desert Springs Resort, Palm Desert, Calif. The expo will focus on marketing and managing risks. Website: <https://www.events.farmjournal.com>

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY JUNE 8-10

World Pork Expo: Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines. The world's largest pork industry trade show will feature education, innovation and networking. Website: <https://www.worldpork.org>



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EMPOWERING PRODUCERS OF FOOD & FIBER
Established 1928

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EO Media Group
dba Capital Press

An independent newspaper
published every Friday.

Capital Press (ISSN 0740-3704) is
published weekly by EO Media Group,
2870 Broadway NE, Salem OR 97303.

Periodicals postage paid at Portland, OR,
and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to
Capital Press, P.O. Box 2048 Salem, OR
97308-2048.

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2 years U.S. \$115
1 year Canada \$230
1 year other countries call for quote
1 year Internet only \$ 52

Visa and Mastercard accepted

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Mailing address:

Capital Press
P.O. Box 2048
Salem, OR 97308-2048

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