CURRICULUM VITAE
BENTON L. FRY
1538 John Kimbrough Blvd. College Station, TX 77845
651-269-6322, bfry@tamu.edu,
ORCID:0000-0003-2977-079X

Research Interests

Aquatic ecosystem ecology and biogeochemistry; ecology of freshwater fishes; natural resource conservation and fisheries management.

Education

Texas A&M University, College Station
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Ph.D

- August 2025, planned completion
- Admitted to candidacy February 2024
- GPA 4.0

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, B.S.

- December 2020
- GPA: 3.71

Awards and Honors

Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Graduate Student Research Grant **Fall 2023 & Spring 2022**

- EEB Graduate Reasearch Grant are awarded to facilitate preliminary data collection by EEB Ph.D. students.

Texas A&M University **Spring 2023**
Ecology and Conservation Biology Travel Grant

- Travel grant awarded to students conducting international research

Texas A&M University **Fall 2021**
HEEP Graduate Fellowship

- The HEEP Graduate Fellowship is awarded to those who demonstrate outstanding academic performance, research ability, potential and leadership qualities.

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities **Spring 2020**
President's Student Leadership and Service Award

- Student Union and Activities award to recognize outstanding leadership and service to the University of Minnesota campus and surrounding communities

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities **Spring 2020**

James C. Underhill Memorial Scholarship

- Awarded to conduct biological research through the University's Itasca Biological Station and Labs

Research Experience

Texas A&M University, 538 John Kimbrough Blvd, College Station, TX 77845 August 2021- Current
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Doctoral Student

- Developed novel methods for detecting fish environmental DNA in turbid Texas rivers & streams
- Led a three-month field expedition to the Essquibo River Basin in Guyana to collect data on *Cichla spp.* Population structure, diet, reproduction, and habitat use
- Mentored undergraduate student (Calvin Young) to develop an independent research project

University of Minnesota, Itasca Biological Station and Labs, Shevlin, MN January 2021-July 2021
Research Technician

- Collected and processed water samples from various lakes in Minnesota
- Maintained long-term limnological monitoring equipment
- Developed novel *in situ* methods for measuring under ice algal nutrient requirements

University of Minnesota, Itasca Biological Station and Labs, Shevlin, MN May 2020-July 2021
Underhill Scholar

- Project manager for data synthesis and analysis
- Joint project with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to study the shifts in oxygen depletion rates in lakes following the establishment of zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha)* in Minnesota Lakes
- Funded by James C. Underhill Scholarship ($10,000)

University of Minnesota, College of Biological Sciences, Ecology, Evolution and Behavior
May 2018-present
Aquatic Research Assistant

- Collected and processed water samples from various lakes in Minnesota
- Processed particulate and dissolved nutrient samples
- Provide lab and field assistance to graduate students

University of Minnesota, Itasca Biological Station and Labs, Shevlin, MN May 2019-September 2019
Summer Research Intern

- Assisted researchers with conducting various aquatic and limnological sampling
- Aided academic courses by setting up learning labs and providing hands on assistance

University of Minnesota, College of Biological Sciences, Ecology, Evolution and Behavior May 2019-September 2019
Directed Research

- Studied nutrient and temperature effects on phytoplankton growth in lakes of Itasca State Park
- Conducted *in situ* and *in vitro* experiments on what nutrients are limiting phytoplankton growth at various temperatures
- Drafted an abstract to present at ASLO-SFS 2020 Joint Summer Meeting

University of Minnesota, Biology Teaching/ Learning, Twin Cities September 2019-December 2019
Teaching Labs Assistant

- Provided daily care and maintenance for the University's zebrafish lab
- Served as an assistant to setting up academic labs

Publications

- Knoll, Lesley B., **Benton Fry**, Nicole M. Hayes, and Hailey M. Sauer. 2024. "Reduced Snow and Increased Nutrients Show Enhanced Ice-Associated Photoautotrophic Growth Using a Modified Experimental under-Ice Design." *Limnology and Oceanography* 69 (1): 203–16. https://doi.org/10.1002/lno.12469.

Presentation and Scientific Conferences

Oral Presentation
Ecological Integration Symposium April 2024
Texas A&M University

- Presented on niche diversification of cryptic *Cichla* species

Poster Presentation
Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society February 2024

- Presented on niche diversification of cryptic *Cichla* species

Oral Presentation
153rd Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society August 2023
Grand Rapids, MI

- Presented initial findings on the size, diet and distribution of *Cichla cataractae* and *C. ocellaris* in the Essequibo River Basin, Guyana
- Networked with fisheries management professionals from all over the country

Poster Presentation
Ecological Integration Symposium April 2022
Texas A&M University

- Presented on the determinants of hypolimnetic oxygen depletion in Minnesota Sentinel Lakes
- Networking opportunity with prominent ecologist with diverse research interests

Virtual Presentation July 2021

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

- Presented on the determinants of hypolimnetic oxygen depletion in Minnesota Sentinel Lakes
- Discussed future implications of my project with limnologists around the country

Virtual Presentation **January 2021**
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

- Presented on the determinants of hypolimnetic oxygen depletion in Minnesota Sentinel Lakes
- Discussed future implications of my project with limnologists around the country

Virtual Presentation **November 2020**
North American Lake Management Society

- Presented on the determinants of hypolimnetic oxygen depletion in Minnesota Sentinel Lakes
- Discussed future implications of my project with limnologists around the country

Virtual Presentation **September 2020**
Midwest Glacial Lake Partnership

- Presented on the determinants of hypolimnetic oxygen depletion in Minnesota Sentinel Lakes
- Networked with other limnologist to expand project beyond Minnesota Lakes

Itasca State Park, MN **August 2019**
Science in Nature

- Presented on the aquatic ecology of the Headwaters of the Mississippi river through and interactive river walk
- Part of a joint outreach program between the state park and University of Minnesota

Professional Service

Itasca State Park, MN **August 2019**
Wet and Wild River Days

- Hosted a table on behalf of the University of Minnesota Biological Station and Labs on how to determine the health of a lake though algae communities
- Served as the sample collector and demonstrator

University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN **September 2017-December 2020**
Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity

- Social and Professional Agricultural Fraternity that serves to broaden and strengthen agricultural and life sciences
- President (2020) and Vice President (2019)
- National Constitution and Statutes Committee
- House Director Search Committee Chair

University of Minnesota Emergency Medical Services, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
September 2017-September 2020
Volunteer Emergency Medical Technician

- Provide basic emergency medical care at University sponsored activities
- Provide first aid to community emergencies such as the Minneapolis protests (June 2020)
- Attend monthly continuing education courses