ONE WOMAN’S PERSPECTIVE ON GENDER IN AQUACULTURE

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Women have been involved in aquaculture for centuries.
Raising fish.....
Harvesting fish.....
Selling fish...
Current President-Elect is woman: 50% of board are women
New Personnel
UAPB Fish Health

Dr. Suja Aarattuthodyil
Lab Director

Dr. Nilima Renukdas
Extension Associate

Over half of applicants were women!
Women in UAPB Aquaculture/Fisheries

Associate Director
Women can farm fish for a living!

Like Louise Pieroni
Louise farms an 88-acre farm in S.E. Arkansas.
Louise has been named Catfish Farmer of the Year in Arkansas
Margie and her husband, James, were Arkansas Farm Family of the Year.
Margie hauls golden shiners to customers across the U.S. 3 days a week.
Margie handles accounts, sales of the business.

Also serves as Treasurer of the Arkansas Bait and Ornamental Fish Growers Assoc.
Debbie Frisbee
• Farms rice
• Goldfish
• Red tuffies
• On 300 acres of
• Water in Arkansas
She does the marketing and accounting for the family business, and is active in the Arkansas Bait & Ornamental Fish Growers Association.
What is the biggest barrier to women’s participation in aquaculture?
From my perspective:

How do we generate interest among young women to pursue a career in aquaculture?
It Starts Young!!!!
If you’re a woman in aquaculture, what do you need to know?

LEARN THE SKILLS OF THE TRADE

BE THE BEST AT WHAT YOU DO!
KEYS TO SUCCESS

- Choose a career path doing what you love to do
- Prepare yourself as well as you possibly can
- Give it your very best effort, every day, every moment.
Read the announcement and address it!!!!

Do your homework –
- Study their web site
- Mission & values of employer
- History & background
- What are they looking for?
WHAT DO EMPLOYERS WANT?

- Someone who will do the job they need done.
- Do that job very well.
- Not cause extraneous problems while doing the job that the employers need done.
SUCCEEDING & BEING PROMOTED ON YOUR JOB

- Train yourself at a high level in every skill important for your career path
- Carry your weight on every project
FOCUS ON BEING THE BEST POSSIBLE AQUACULTURE PROFESSIONAL!!!!
There are challenges:

- Dual-career families
- Raising a family

Women are the ones who bear the children, breastfeed them.
Both spouses need to be supportive of each other’s careers

Some employers more flexible & supportive of dual careers than others.
Make time for family – you will never regret it.
Questions?