

Mainstream

President's Message by Mark Porath

Spring is a busy time in the fisheries arena, as winter loosens its grip and water begins to flow, it signals the beginning of spring and the onset of environmental cues for both the aquatic communities and those responsible for their inhabitants. Over the last few weeks, brood stock collections have been underway and in our slice of the Great Plains that means pulling together a diverse group of colleagues (agency biologists, university researchers, students, and even interested local anglers) to put forth a coordinated effort in a short time span. It's refreshing to meet with this diverse group who all share a common view on the value of the resource but work in/for different offices, agencies and on multiple aspects of aquatic systems (resource protection, fish management, water quality, irrigation & power generation etc.). The NCD officers found a very similar environment while visiting chapters earlier this year. Each meeting we attended brought a new level of respect and admiration for the uniqueness of each chapter's membership. Although diverse in terms of education, background, and work experiences between and within each chapter, the combined pool of talent is truly a marvel and the primary reason why AFS members are leaders on aquatic ecosystem issues. And there is no shortage of issues to face, both in terms of natural resource threats and how we as a professional society remain effective in their stewardship.

At last December's annual business meeting in Springfield, a

motion was carried recommending the Division adopt a position clarifying the tradeoff between a growing economy [including growing population per capita consumption] and conservation of fish populations and habitats. A big part of the discussion on this issue prior to the vote involved how the AFS Policy Statement on "Economic Growth and Fish Conservation" eventually died and was never presented to the membership (the entire saga is relayed in Bill Franzin's Presidents Hook in the March 2009 issue of Fisheries). It was immediately clear that our members, who had just attended a great plenary session highlighting many of the impending natural resource issues that the human population is bringing upon itself, wanted to make a statement as professionals on this issue but were very concerned that our request would suffer the same fate. In order to get a Divisional consensus on record, the NCD Resolutions Committee ably led by Phil Moy, will be developing an external resolution for consideration first by the NCD Governing Board and then by the full membership later this year if advanced by the NCD Governing Board (as per our current and proposed versions of bylaws). The successful development and passage of a resolution would serve as the Division's formal expression on this topic, and could then be considered by the Parent Society if our members choose to request it.

I believe the intent of the resolution process is to make sure

that issues are appropriately vetted and completely supported by the represented membership prior to being considered by the next larger organizational level. To assist our members in sharing current or developing resolutions, a new NCD Resolutions webpage feature has been added to our website and can be found at <http://www.ncd-afs.org/Default.asp?mid=22&sid=65>. Eventually the question becomes at which level should a specific resource issue arise? Local issues are generally covered by chapter resolutions which are by far the most numerous within AFS. National and global resource issues are addressed at the Parent Society level. Although I didn't find any clear guidance on this, it's logical that when a resource issue is regional and those chapters have acted by passing resolutions with common elements, then a request for the development of a Divisional level resolution is appropriate. This year, several of our chapters have passed resolutions promoting the ecological separation of the Great Lakes ecosystem from invasive species threats through manmade canal systems. This sounds like an opportunity waiting to happen.

Stay tuned as these issues unfold. More importantly, continue to raise questions and voice concerns on issues that threaten the resources that have brought us together as professionals.

This newsletter is published twice a year. Deadlines for submission are April and September 1st. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the NCD.

Editors: Tom Slawski
Sara Teske

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Continuing Education Committee by Becky Papke

Have you been looking forward to learning new skills in your job? Would you like to learn how to create new research avenues? The continuing education committee of the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society will be offering “three” excellent workshops at the 71st Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference being held in Minneapolis on December 12, 2010. These workshops will not only give you the opportunity to meet researchers and scientists in fisheries and wildlife, but will give you the chance to discuss projects and new concepts with the knowledgeable instructors that will be offering the courses. Since registration is limited, early registration is highly recommended.

Dr. John Roesse, Dr. Geoff Steinhart and Dr. Ashley Moerke from the Department of Biological Sciences at Lake Superior State University will be instructing “Getting the Most From Excel: Tips, Tools, & Techniques”. This full day workshop will introduce participants to features of Excel that can simplify and clarify complex or repetitive tasks. Topics to be covered include named and dynamic arrays, graphing, “power” functions, conditional formatting, Pivot-Tables, Goal-Seek, Solver,

and What-If Analysis. Dr. Roesse teaches a variety of courses in the area of vertebrate biology and is particularly interested in computational and quantitative approaches to population dynamics. Drs. Steinhart and Moerke are co-directors of LSSU’s Aquatic Research Lab and will be available to provide one-on-one assistance during the workshop.

Dr. David Fulton a Professor in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology at the Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit will be teaching a half-day workshop on “The Role of Human Dimensions in Fisheries and Wildlife Management”. This workshop is an introduction to basic approaches, conceptual frameworks, and methods used in applied human dimensions research. After the workshop, participants will have an understanding of the key concepts used in the human dimensions field and an understanding of study design and methods using these concepts to address applied management questions in fisheries and wildlife. Dr. Fulton specializes in human dimensions of fish and wildlife, natural resource policy, wildlife and fisheries planning, natural resource negotiation and decision processes,

along with benefits-based management of fish and wildlife resources.

Finally Dr. Daniel Hayes, Professor, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife Michigan State University will be instructing a full day workshop on “Building and Interpreting Fishery and Wildlife Models”. The intent of this course is to provide an overview of a systems modeling approach. After taking the course, students will have a basic understanding of how to build conceptual and basic mathematical models, learn approaches for fitting models to data, and if time permits, have an appreciation for the principles of model selection. Instruction will be accomplished with a mix of lecture and computer exercises, as well as group discussions. Dr. Hayes is well known for his research in how fish habitat affects their population dynamics. He is heavily involved in outreach activities, primarily with the Fisheries Division of the Michigan DNRE.

Be sure to watch the website for updates on the workshops and registration information. <http://www.midwest2010.org>. You can contact me for more information, Becky Papke at papker@michigan.gov or call me at 906-399-8817.

Centrarchid Technical Committee by Mark A. Kaemingk

The Centrarchid Technical Committee (CTC) currently has an active representative from each state except Michigan. This was one of the committee's goals this past year because several representatives had either stepped down from the position or relocated to a different part of the country. We are hoping that by having an active representative from each state this will encourage more participation within the committee. Another goal we accomplished was to update the

CTC website with the new representatives and their contact information, in hopes to better facilitate communication among committee members.

Our summer meeting will be held July 27-29th in conjunction with the Walleye and Esocid technical committees in LaCrosse, WI. We hope that many of the representatives and others who are interested in the committee are able to attend. Representatives will be given a

chance to share current management and research objectives and results associated with centrarchids within their respected state. In addition, future goals, objectives, and direction of the committee will be discussed. If anyone has any questions or suggestions for the committee please contact Mark Kaemingk (mark.kaemingk@sdstate.edu).

Rivers and Streams Technical Committee by Kraig McPeek

Our annual winter meeting was held in December 2009 in conjunction with the 70th Annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Springfield, IL. We co-sponsored both a workshop and symposium on Evaluation of Biotic Response to Instream Restoration Practices with Illinois SeaGrant. Mr. Luther Aadland (MN DNR) and Dr. Bud Fischer (Eastern Illinois University) were on hand to give presentations and facilitate discussion on stream restoration techniques and monitoring.

Stream restoration and channel design has become a very prominent activity in recent years, not only through agency driven efforts, but also by private entities as part of commercial development for mitigation and to promote conservation design approaches. While many different techniques for instream restoration have emerged, critical evaluation of these practices is often lacking or inadequate. Determining the biotic response to these instream modifications is

necessary in order to identify the most effective approaches and to provide opportunity for improvements, especially in terms cost-benefit analyses. Many funding agencies recognize this problem and are including monitoring studies as part of restoration grants. The symposium provided training to attendees that included: basic study design principles, importance of pre-data and controls (review of BACI), selection of sampling site locations, considerations for target organisms and appropriate collection techniques, and determining seasonal and annual sampling schedule and frequency. Statistical analysis including aggregate- and community-based methods, selection of proper testing techniques, considerations for study design, with an emphasis on examples from existing studies and literature review was also provided.

The RSTC held our annual spring meeting at the Rock Island Conservation Club in Milan, Illinois on March 23rd and 24th, 2010. There

were 35 people in attendance, representing seven state chapters, one Canadian chapter, and multiple private consulting firms. Chapter reports were heard from Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Ontario, and Wisconsin. Kraig McPeek (US FWS) was elected to a 2 year term as chair, while Andy Selle (Interfluv) was elected as sec/treas. As usual, the meeting facilitated good information exchange from across the north central division. Presenters from city, state, federal and private sector gave wonderful talks on stream restoration techniques and aquatic monitoring to support these efforts. If you are interested in more information on the RSTC, please email Kraig McPeek at kraig_mcpeek@fws.gov.

Salmonid Technical Committee by Mark Ebbers

The STC has been dormant for the last ten years. The last activity of this committee was the Trout and Trout Angler II held in LaCrosse, WI in July 2000. If you are interested in revitalizing the STC, plan to attend the Salmonid Technical Committee business meeting at the

Midwest in Minneapolis MN in December 2010 (date, time & location TBD). If you cannot attend the Midwest but are interested in the STC, please contact me. There will be a full day Trout and Trout Angler Symposium at the Midwest. Mark Ebbers, Chair

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Walleye Technical Committee by Justin VanDeHey

2009 Sander travel award winners:

Jason DeBoer (University of Nebraska—Lincoln) and Jordan Allison (Grand Valley State University, Michigan) were presented

with the travel awards to the 2009 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Jason and Jordan were each given \$100 from the WTC as well as Jordan received a matching \$100 from the Michigan state

chapters. Both students are conducting research on bottlenecks affecting walleye recruitment in their respective states.

Illinois

No report.

Iowa by Randy Schultz

Iowa: Randy Schultz reports that the state is working very closely

with the Army Corps of Engineers to minimize losses of walleye at

reservoirs, especially at Rathbun reservoir.

Indiana by Sandy Clark-Kolaks

Sandy reports that their fall continuing education workshop featured a presentation by Mark Mychreest of the Michigan DNR, who shared research and techniques presented at the 2009 Michigan AFS meeting. The hands on workshop described methods for the collection, preparation, and reading

of walleye fin rays. Previous work conducted by Michigan DNR on known-age walleye fin rays was used to determine aging accuracy between readers. The purpose of this effort were to investigate growth patterns that may occur in natural settings, create a catalog of known-age fish aging structures to

use as a staff tutorial and support the use of walleye fin rays as a method to determine ages of wild fish. The workshop was informative and helpful and DNR fisheries biologists are already putting the new techniques to use. Hopefully this will lead to fewer walleye being sacrificed.

Kansas by Jason Goeckler

Jason Goeckler reports that a publication on recruitment overfishing of walleye is in the

works in conjunction with Mike Quist (Iowa State University). The state is also

working on evaluation of triploid saugeye survivability research.

Nebraska by Daryl Bauer

Things are looking up in many Nebraska reservoirs as water levels have improved dramatically in the past couple of years. Walleye anglers will likely find some tough fishing in all the newly flooded habitat, but we will benefit from higher water levels in a few years. Walleye fishing at Merritt Reservoir in north-central Nebraska was excellent this year, as good as it

has been in several years. We had a high density of walleyes in Merritt last fall and then a significant winter die-off of alewives, the primary prey species in Merritt. That was a prescription for great walleye fishing and that good fishing lasted through most of the summer. We have completed VHS testing of wild fish throughout the state. At this point all of Nebraska is VHS-

free and we hope to keep it that way. We have several walleye research projects on-going. Most of that work is being done by graduate students at both the University of Nebraska—Lincoln and the University of Nebraska—Kearney. Some of that work has been shared with the Walleye Technical Committee already and we should see more of that in the future.

South Dakota by Matt Ward

Matt Ward reported that walleye raised in lined ponds at Blue Dog Hatchery have similar survival to those raised in un-lined ponds. However, the fish were larger thus increasing production. Matt presented this research at the confer-

ence. Justin VanDeHey added that the state is evaluating stocking success and stocking density of OTC marked yellow perch. The OTC markings were good; however it will take a few years to evaluate if the stockings actually contribute to

a year-class. Other on-going research includes impacts of gizzard shad and rainbow smelt in reservoirs and glacial lakes, smallmouth bass and walleye competition, and smallmouth bass and yellow perch interactions.

Michigan by Patrick Hanchin

Pat reports that Michigan is still dealing with VHS issues. Only stocking walleyes in inland lakes that are isolated from other waterbodies, or that have a connection to the Great Lakes. No walleye stocking in Lake Superior drainage at all. Policy will likely not change until there is a rapid VHS test, or

until disinfection techniques are proved effective. Number of walleye stocked is approximately 25% of pre-VHS years. Michigan DNR instituted a change in recreational fishing regulations for the walleye (reduced bag limit and shortened season) on an inland lake (Mullett) in response to a combination of

low walleye abundance, tribal harvest declaration (50% of safe harvest), and the Parties' desire to maintain self-sustaining walleye populations. Also, the state is being sued by a Saginaw Bay (Lake Huron) commercial fisher for the right to harvest walleyes

Wisconsin

No report.

2010 Chair Elect

2010 Chair-elect:

The 2010 chair-elect for the walleye technical committee is Andrew Jansen, a fisheries biologist from

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Andy received his BS from Iowa State University and an MS from South Dakota State Univer-

sity before taking his position as District Fisheries Biologist in Shawnee Kansas. Welcome aboard Andy!

North Dakota *by Jeff Hendrickson*

North Dakota continues to use OTC marking as a means of determining stocking success and efficiency. In 2009, stocking success and natural reproduction of walleye were very good statewide. Devils Lake led the way with a catch rate of 107/net night in 6x125x1/2 inch mesh gill nets, which was all natural reproduction. This catch rate was approximately six times higher than the long-term average. Walleye fishing was phenomenal in the Missouri River below Lake Sakakawea and that portion of Lake Oahe in North Dakota. Quantity and quality were both very good. Our biologists annually evaluate the need for specific length regulations, such as a “one-over” type of maximum length limit, or a “slot limit.” Over time, the conclusion

has generally been the same: such regulations are not biologically necessary to protect the stocks for reproductive purposes. However, some anglers still request length-based harvest regulations for social reasons (e.g., to catch more big fish). This fall, we utilized data from our creel surveys and long-term tagging dataset to evaluate whether a one-over limit would enhance fishing quality. During the months of May-August, anglers on the Missouri River and Lake Oahe harvested approximately 300,000 walleye. Of that total, about 37,000 were greater than 20 inches, and 8,000 were greater than 22 inches. If a one-over 20 inches regulation had been in place this summer, anglers would have had to release about 6,600 of the fish over 20

inches. Based on our tagging data for multiple returns, about 21%, or 1,400, of those fish would be re-caught at some point in time by another angler. The other 5,200 would likely die of natural causes and never be caught again. If a one-over 22 inches regulation had been in place, anglers would have had to release about 650 walleye, with about 140 of those eventually caught again. None of the interviewed parties had more than one fish per angler greater than 24 inches, so any larger limits would have been completely ineffective. During the same survey, anglers voluntarily released 77,000 walleye, many of which were over 20 inches.

2010 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference *by Justin VanDeHey*

Justin VanDeHey reports that the planning committee for the 2010 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Minneapolis, MN has requested that the WTC sponsor a symposium at the conference. Brad

Parsons mentioned that the WTC has historically had involvement in previous meetings held in Minnesota and that it might be good to continue. It was also discussed that the WTC could team up with the

ETC and possibly sponsor a “coolwater fishes” symposium. It was decided that this item should be sent out to the entire membership via e-mail to increase discussion on the subject.

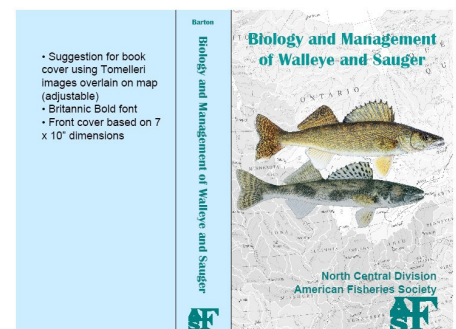
Update on the Biology and Management of Walleye and Sauger *by Patrick Hanchin*

Most chapter reviews are completed and the last few are rolling in. Authors are incorporating reviewer comments and several final drafts are being forwarded to the AFS Books Department. Although it looks like we will not make the June 2010 deadline for all chapters, the authors, reviewers, and editor have made significant progress. Additionally, at the 2009 winter WTC meeting, members voted to change the title of the book from

“Biology and Management of Walleye and Sauger” to “Biology, Management, and Culture of Walleye and Sauger.”

*Update provided by Patrick Hanchin (contract manager for WTC book project)
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UPCOMING EVENTS

2010 Summer Walleye Technical Committee Meeting

The 2010 summer Walleye Technical Committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the Esocid and Centrarchid Technical Committees July 27-29th in La Crosse, WI at the Stoney Creek Inn <http://www.stoneycreekinn.com/locations/index.cfm/LaCrosse>. The

theme for the meeting will be age and growth. In addition to the meeting, Dr. Dan Isermann from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Dr. Brian Graeb from South Dakota State University are planning a 1 day age and growth workshop to be held prior

to the technical committee meetings. This will be a highly informative, practical, "hands-on" experience (see flyer below). So, please join us for an informative and fun meeting and workshop. We may even wet a line!

Please join us in attending the **HANDS ON**, informative workshop

Age and Growth: Modern Techniques and Applications

Presented by
Dr. Daniel Isermann
and
Dr. Brian Graeb

1 day workshop
Lots of microscope time!

Topics include:

- Preparation and reading techniques for otoliths and spines
- Digital imaging for aging and back-calculation
- Age validation techniques
- Techniques for comparing among readers and structures
- The use of oxytetracycline

Workshop will be held in conjunction with the summer 2010 joint WTC, ETC and CTC meetings in La Crosse, WI. Date will either be July 26th or 27th. More details will be available soon. Watch the WTC website for future updates. Questions can be directed to Justin Vanderhey via email at Justin.vanderhey@sdsu.edu

Introduction to Aquatic Toxicology Understanding Impacts of Organic Chemicals and Metals on Aquatic Ecosystems



Course ID: ETOX - 410
July 21-22, 2010, 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Department of Environmental Quality Building
629 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219
Instructor: Ruth M. Sofield, Toxicology Professor, Ph. D., WWU

Register Online – https://www.nwetc.org/registration_process/reg_etox-410_07-10_richmond/registration.htm

Description: This introductory course provides participants with a

strong foundation in aquatic toxicology and the way these concepts are applied to managing pollutants in aquatic environments. The course covers terminology, common test designs and endpoints such as lethality, cancer, and endocrine disruption. Discussion includes fate and transport as it relates to bioavailability and pollutant partitioning in aquatic environments, as well as important preexisting and emerging pollutants. Other topics include Water Quality criteria from the Clean Water Act, 2007 EPA updates for Aquatic Life Copper Criteria, and site-specific

criteria for metals using hardness correction, water effects ratio (WER), and the biotic ligand model (BLM).

2010 Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society Mussel ID Workshop

For more information and registration forms please contact Steve McMurray (Stephen.McMurray@mdc.mo.gov ; 573.882.9909) or Heidi Dunn (hdunn@ecologicalspecialists.com; 636.281.1982)

2010 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

The Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference is coming to Minneapolis this December! Go to <http://www.midwest2010.org> to learn

about plenary speakers, see schedules, get registered, find information about submitting abstracts, or even become a Facebook friend!

The 71st Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference is December 12-15, 2010 at the Hyatt in downtown Minneapolis.

You're invited to attend and present your catfish science!



"I have seen a Mississippi catfish that was six feet long and weighed two hundred and fifty pounds" -Mark Twain

June 19-22, 2010 – St. Louis, Missouri

Over 100 presentations relating the recent advances in conservation, ecology and management of worldwide catfish populations and their habitats.

Early Registration Deadline is June 1st! (Save \$100)

**Come Friday night and take in a Cardinal's game!
Or get it on the Bass Pro Shops Big Cat Quest Tournament!**

Bookmark www.catfish2010.org for the latest information, to register online, reserve a room, or view presentation abstracts.

*Co-hosted by the Ictalurid Technical Committee of the North Central Division
and the Catfish Management Technical Committee of the Southern Division
of the American Fisheries Society*



Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society
2010 Workshop – Regional Fauna
Identification and Sampling

'Show-Me' your umbones!

The 2010 workshop of the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society will be held October 19 – 21, 2010 in Kirkwood, Missouri. The workshop will focus on regional fauna identification and sampling techniques. A panel of regional fauna experts representing Texas, Gulf Coast, upper Ohio Basin, Southeast U.S., Mobile Basin, Atlantic Slope, Cumberlandian, Interior Basin, Western U.S., and the Ozark regions has been assembled. The experts will give presentations on mussels unique to their area, common species shared with other regions that “just look different here”, and the ever popular “problem children”. They will also give tips and pointers on unique collecting methods used in the region. Additional experts will give presentations on general freshwater mussel identification and sampling techniques. In addition to presentations, there will be ample time to view representative specimens from the regions, and time to spend discussing characters with the experts.

The workshop will be held at Missouri Department of Conservation’s Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center (<http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder>), located in a 112 acre oak-hickory forest just southwest of St. Louis, Missouri in the lower Meramec River watershed. In addition to 2 floors of exhibits, a large aquarium, and 3 hiking trails, the center has 3 classrooms and a 250 seat auditorium. Powder Valley is located at the intersection of Interstates 270 and 44 just southwest of St. Louis, Missouri, and is easily accessible from multiple Interstates and Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. We have secured a block of rooms for workshop attendees at the Holiday Inn Southwest Viking Conference Center (www.stlouis.com/holiday-inn-southwest). Registration will include box lunches for Tuesday and Wednesday and a social on Tuesday night. There are numerous nearby dining and entertainment options and downtown St. Louis is reasonably accessible.

Following the workshop, field trips to the nearby Meramec River, Mississippi River and the U.S. Geological Survey’s Columbia Environmental Research Center are planned.

Be sure to register early, as we will have to limit the workshop to 200 attendees.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Dakota Chapter by Mark Barnes

The Dakota Chapter's annual meeting was held in Spearfish, South Dakota in the heart of the Black Hills on February 22 through 24. The theme was New Fisheries Solutions for a New Decade. With over 125 participants and 50 presentations, the meeting was well attended and full of information. The meeting started with a fish disease continuing education course taught by Rick Cordes. A special retiree social was held, during which former member Dennis Unkenholz was recognized for his induction into the Fisheries Management Hall of Excellence. Also, in keeping with the positive spirit of engagement stressed by the Chapter leadership, angler groups, such as the Black Hills Fly Fishers and the Rapid City and Sioux Empire Chapters of Walleyes Unlimited, were involved both financially and in the technical sessions. The meeting closed with the awards ceremony and banquet.

South Dakota State University students dominated the best student presentation awards ceremony with Jessica Howell winning the Best Undergraduate Paper with her presentation "Diet Overlap Patterns Among Age-0 Common Carp and Four Native Fishes." The Best Graduate Student Poster was awarded to Michael Weber, for his poster titled, "Effects of Morphology, Size and Location on Survival Growth, and Tag Retention using Passive Integrated Transponders". Best Graduate Student Paper went to Justin VanDeHey for his paper titled, "Effects of Stimulated Coldfronts, on Hatch Success and Survival of Yellow Perch."

Greg Wanner of the US Fish and Wildlife Service won the award for Best Professional Presentation, "Spatial and Temporal Patterns in the Niobrara River Fish Community."

Matt Wipf from Black Hills State University was recognized for his work as Associate Editor of the Dakota Chapter Newsletter.

Several scholarships were awarded, including the Schmulbach Scholarship presented to Bobbi Adams from SDSU. Two Alven Kreil Memorial Scholarships were presented to Nikki Lorenz and Jake Mertes.

The Sauger Scholarships were presented to Donna Ablor, Bobbi Adams, Jessica Howell and Nikki Hegna from SDSU.



Awards were presented for recognition of professional service and contributions toward improving the appreciation and use of aquatic resources in their communities. Bob Hanten and Greg Simpson won the Distinguished Professional Service Awards. A Special Recognition Award went to Norm Kopecky for his efforts introducing recreational angling to special needs individuals. Aquatic Resource Conservation Awards were

presented to the Rapid City Area Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited and Ken Edel.

Will Saylor was presented with a "Parliamentarian Extraordinaire" Award.



The Dakota Chapter also held a photography contest and accepted photographs from chapter members who had to be present to win. The categories and winners were: Angling, Breanne VanDeHey; Kids & Fishing, Justin VanDeHey; Fisheries in Action, Michael Weber; Just Fish, Wes Bouska; Scenery, Joshua Peters; Humor, Luke Schultz; Wildlife, Will Schreck; Outdoor Activities, Matt Wipf; Miscellaneous, Tyler Berger; People's Choice, Breanna VanDeHey; Best in Show, Michael Weber.

New chapter officers were elected at the meeting. Bill Haase (Secretary/Treasurer), Paul Bailey (Vice-President) and Chris Longhenry (President-Elect) join President Mike Barnes.

Illinois Chapter by Jeremy Tiemann

The Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society has had some big accomplishments this year. Thanks to the hard work of Past President Ann Holtrop, the Chapter won the North Central Division Most Active Large Chapter award. The past year has been a busy one, with the Chapter co-hosting the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Springfield, IL (December 2009) in addition hosting our normal annual meeting at Rend Lake (February 23-25, 2010) and continuing education activities, drafting position papers, and promoting the science through student research grants, student and professional travel grants, and special recognition awards (maybe list the people and the awards from this year?). Some of our members of specific notice are: Bob Schanzle who keeps our archival records collected and organized; Matt Diana

who keeps track of our membership; Jim Lamer who collects raffle prizes for our meetings, and Brian Metzke who coordinates the judging of posters and presentations for our meetings as well as dealing with student concerns. To deal with specific fish species and concerns, the Chapter has several committees including: Rivers and Streams, Centrarchid, Esocid, Ictalurid, Walleye, and Environmental Concerns committees. Also, the Chapter is attempting to "go green" by encouraging members to sign up for e-newsletters and by maintaining our membership data using Constant Contact. Student chapters in Illinois are very active. The three student sub-units perform independent research, put on game-feed meals, host fishing workshops, provide pond evaluations, and volunteer at local outreach events such as the Illinois Natural

History Survey Science Fair. The UIUC Student Subunit has visited the Illinois River Biological Station to gain field experience in the management of Asian carp. Members also worked with the Illinois Natural History Survey in teaching aquatic ecology to a local grade school class over a two day field trip by the students, and co-sponsored a documentary on fisheries depletion. AFS will be represented by UIUC Student Subunit members at several upcoming community events including the Annual Boneyard Creek & Kickapoo River Clean-up days. The SIU subunit sponsors pond management program, kids fishing program, and urban fishing programs.

Larua Sass and Cory Suski, Ex-Com At-Large Members

Indiana Chapter by Jason Doll



The Indiana Chapter held its 40th anniversary meeting this spring in Elkhart, IN. The plenary session title was

“What We Have Learned as We Continue to Migrate Upstream”. We tapped some seasoned IAFS members to deliver the plenary session talks and included both founding and long time members. Dr. Tom McComish shared his experiences and history of IAFS with its connection to academia, Gary Doxtater covered the role of private consultants in Indiana fisheries and their support of IAFS, and Bill James, IDNR Chief of Fisheries, discussed the long standing relationship between IAFS and state government. All three also shared their unique perspective on the history of the Chapter. We also hosted a special guest for our conference, Dr. Don Jackson, AFS President. Dr. Jackson spoke at our

business meeting to give us an update on business at the Parent Society level. Our technical presentations covered everything from detecting Asian carp with eDNA (environmental DNA) to flathead catfish population characteristics on the Wabash River. The full list of presentations and abstracts as well as a meeting summary are available at our website. Stu Shipman, NCD Past President, was awarded our highest honor, “Excellence in Fisheries Science Award”. Stu’s long time and continued dedication and support of IAFS and Indiana fisheries is reflected in many of the initiatives IAFS is involved in today.

We have passed two resolutions this year. The first is a resolution to honor IAFS charter members and first officers. The second was a resolution to support closure of the Chicago waterway system (see below). This resolution urges all agencies in charge of the Chicago waterway system to biologically separate it from Lake Michigan. Both resolutions are published in our April 2010 newsletter which is available from our website.

IAFS once again participated in Indiana Conservation Day at the State House hosted by the Indiana Conservation Alliance (ICA). Three priorities ICA is focused on include 1) net metering and renewable energy standards, 2) limiting phosphorus application on lawns, and 3) reauthorization of the Lakes Management Working Group. IAFS is also planning another day at the State Fair fishing pond. This event allows IAFS members to teach children how to fish. On the horizon our fall business meeting will be held at Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge and will be held in conjunction of our continuing education course. We are also looking into recording and streaming our 2011 technical presentations on the web. I noticed a few other chapters are already doing it so if you are we may be contacting you for some pointers.

We are now on Facebook and Twitter! Search Indiana AFS or follow the links from our home page to join <http://www.fisheries.org/units/indiana>



. IAFS Founding Members at the 40th Anniversary Conference (From left, Bob Robertson, Ed Braun, Gary Doxtater, and Dr. Tom McComish)



Jason Doll (left), IAFS President, presents Stu Shipman (right) with the “Excellence in Fisheries Science Award”.

*American Fisheries Society
Indiana Chapter*



RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CLOSURE OF THE CHICAGO WATERWAY SYSTEM

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission estimates the sport and commercial fishing industry is worth \$7 billion dollars annually (Barnhart 2005) and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes were not originally connected with the Mississippi River watershed and,

WHEREAS, over 182 non-native species are now found in the Great Lakes (NOAA 2010) and,

WHEREAS, Asian carp are within miles of invading Lake Michigan and pose a significant ecological threat to the Great Lakes and tributaries (Fields 2005; ACRCC 2010) and,

WHEREAS, a number of non-native species including zebra mussel, quagga mussel, and round goby have been introduced to the Mississippi River Watershed through the Chicago Waterway System and,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Indiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society urges all state and federal governments and the natural resources agencies under their charge to take immediate steps to biologically separate the Chicago Waterway System from Lake Michigan, thus closing the biological connection between the Mississippi River Watershed and the Great Lakes and implement strict and enforceable ballast water legislation thus halting the further introduction of future aquatic invasive species.

References and Resources

ACRCC (Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee). 2010. Asian Carp Management Frequently Asked Questions. Available: <http://asiancarp.org/RegionalCoordination/faq.asp>. (February 2010).

Barnhart, G. 2005. The threat posed to the Great Lakes Basin by Asian carp. Available: http://www.glfrc.org/fishmgmt/testimony_AsianCarp.pdf. (February 2010).

Fields, S. 2005. Great Lakes Resource as Risk. Environmental Health Perspectives 113(3): A164-A173.

NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). 2010. Aquatic Invasive Species, Program Background. Available: <http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/res/Programs/ais/>. (February 2010).

Passed unanimously on April 1, 2010 via electronic vote.

Michigan Chapter by Mark Tonello

The fall of 2009 was very eventful for the fisheries community in Michigan. A new world record brown trout (41 lbs 7 oz.) was caught from the Manistee River in September, and we also had a new state record northern muskellunge (over 50 lbs!) caught from Torch Lake in October. The Michigan Chapter of AFS was also busy during the fall of 2009. We hosted a "GIS in Fisheries" continuing education workshop in September of 2009, which was taught by Christine Joseph from the Institute for Fisheries Research in Ann Arbor. It was well-attended, and by all accounts very insightful.

The Michigan Chapter held its annual meeting at the Au Sable Inn and Conference Center in Grayling, Michigan, on February 24th and 25th, 2010. On March 23rd and 24th, the chapter hosted an "Advanced Excel in Fisheries" workshop taught by Dr. John Roesse and Dr. Geoff Steinhart, both of Lake Superior State University. The morning of the 24th featured a meeting of the Chapter's Water Quality Committee.

The meeting itself went very well, with 23 oral and 9 poster presentations, with presenters representing five universities, three agencies, one non-profit, and one company. The concurrent sessions included topics such as Water Quality, the Great Lakes, the Muskegon River watershed, and Great Lakes tributaries. We also hosted a "Sportfishing Regulations" symposium, with a panel discussion featuring Dr. Mary Bremigan from Michigan State University, Andy Nuhfer and Todd Grischke from the Michigan DNR, and Doug Craven from the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians. The Key-

note Presentation at the annual meeting was given by Brad Jensen of Huron Pines, a non-profit conservation group that works on watersheds in the northeastern Lower Peninsula. Thanks to all those who contributed their work to the great program!

During the business meeting, the Michigan Chapter passed two resolutions, both of which dealt with preventing the further spread of aquatic invasive species. The first was in support of separating the Mississippi River watershed from the Great Lakes, and the other was in support of closure of the St. Lawrence Seaway. These can be found on our website for those that are interested. Also during the business meeting, Troy Zorn's service as Chapter president was recognized, Mark Tonello was installed as president, and Dr. Geoff Steinhart was announced as president-elect. Thanks to the many volunteers who chaired or served on committees this past year. You are the engines that keep the Chapter running.

A number of awards were presented at the meeting. Joe Kutkuhn was posthumously honored with the Grayling Award for his outstanding contribution to the field of Fisheries in Michigan. James Roberts of the University of Michigan was awarded the 2009 Best Student Paper for his presentation "Implications of hypoxia for yellow perch habitat quality in Lake Erie's central basin: a spatially-explicit bioenergetics modeling approach". Tyler Buchinger of Lake Superior State University won the 2009 Best Student Poster award for his poster entitled "Localization of the retention and spawning-behavior inducing com-

ponents of the male sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) sex pheromone". The recipient of the 2010 Albert S. Hazzard Award for "excellence in student research in fisheries or aquatic biology at a college or university in Michigan" was Amy Schueller of Michigan State University, under the direction of Dr. Daniel Hayes. The Michigan Chapter awarded two travel grants in 2009, to Brienne Lunn of Lake Superior State and Paul Atwood of Central Michigan University. The Janice L. Fenske award winners for 2009 were Rebecca Burch (Fisheries) from Iowa State University, and Dan Elbert (Wildlife) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The fun continued into the evening with a Chapter social and a raffle, which included such prizes as guided fishing trips and high-quality fishing equipment. Thanks to the Lake Superior State University Student Subunit for rounding up the donations and running the raffle. After the raffle, we settled down and watched "End of the Line", a new motion picture about the devastating effects that overfishing is having on fish stocks worldwide. It was a very eye-opening experience, and we recommend that all fisheries professionals see the film.

We're looking forward to the rest of 2010. We are in the midst of planning another workshop for this coming fall, along with the 2011 annual meeting. We're also hoping to celebrate more state and world record fish from Michigan waters in the near future. Check out our website at <http://www.fisheries.org/units/miafs/index.html> to see what we're up to!

Wisconsin Chapter by Tom Slawski

Wisconsin Chapter and UW-Stevens Point & Northland College Student Subunits by Tom Slawski

We kicked off our year with one of our most successful annual meetings of more than 200 persons strong. Despite the recession, we continue to be able to provide scholarships and opportunities for fisheries students and our Subunit Chapters to attend meetings. Our Chapter remains strong due to a continual effort by our entire membership to be frugal and we have a dedicated group of members that help with our raffle and fundraising. In addition, we also are very proud of our fellow member Michael Hansen, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, for receiving the *Excellence in Fisheries Education Award* at the American Fisheries Society's 139th Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN, last fall.

The Student Subunits have been involved in a variety of activities over the past year. The UW-Stevens Point Subunit hosted an annual kid fishing day, participated in a fish habitat improvement (crib building) project on Sunset Lake, assisted with sturgeon registration and tagging, conducted their annual spring survey on the Wisconsin River that included assisting implanting PIT tags and telemetry units for musky research with WDNR staff, completed a net survey on a Cedar Springs lake, and successfully conducted their annual alumni banquet. The Northland College Student Subunit successfully conducted an Ice Fishing Tournament, took a trip to Grand Portage, MI to help fin-clip 80,000 fish at the hatchery, and they plan to host a boater's safety workshop in the coming year. The Northland

Student Subunit also recently hosted a screening of film "The End of the Line" this past March at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland, WI. This documentary film on global overfishing was produced in the UK and focuses not only on the major impacts of overfishing on species such as bluefin tuna, but other environmental impacts. If you would like more information or to watch a trailer, it can be found here at the film's website: <http://endoftheline.com/film>.

We hosted two courses last year. The biostatistics class taught by Mike Hansen was conducted at UW-SP and had a total of 20 participants as well as several AFS members who helped as aids to the class. The Genetics class was held in conjunction with the NCD technical committee meetings in La Crosse, WI. This class had a total of 26 participants and was co-instructed by Brian Sloss and Ryan Franckowiak.

A number of important environmental issues have come up in the State of Wisconsin over this past year from total phosphorus to shoreland management to groundwater to invasive species regulation. However, the Asian Carp issue within the Chicago and Sanitary Ship Canal was probably the biggest issue we tried to address this past year. Since 2007, our Chapter has adopted a resolution to supporting actions to limit the spread of invasive species including Asian carp (see website <http://www.wi-afs.org/pdf/shippingresfinal.pdf>). Recent activity including Asian Carp movements via Environmental DNA testing evidence, completion of the proposed Asian Carp control strat-

egy framework report, and public meetings held by EPA and US Army Corps of Engineers triggered action by our Chapter to re-emphasize our resolution by providing formal written comments to key agencies and persons (see below). Resolutions are important and necessary; however, a written letter can often go beyond a resolution and help formulate multiple actions to address the problem associated with such a complicated issue as Asian Carp such as human health and safety, flooding, and stormwater.



American Fisheries Society
Wisconsin Chapter

February 18, 2010

Major General John W. Peabody
Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division
550 Main Street, Room 10032
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-3222

Dear MG John W. Peabody:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS), we appreciate your efforts to control the Asian Carp and protect the Great Lakes ecosystem by preventing the establishment of these fish in the system. After reviewing the February 2010 draft of the Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework and participating in the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee's public meeting held on February 12, 2010, we provide the following comments related to the proposed Asian carp control efforts.

As you are aware and have identified in the Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework:

- "Experience has shown that controlling populations of AIS, once established in the Great Lakes, is far more expensive and difficult than preventing their entry to the Great Lakes in the First Place." (Page 1)
- "Following introduction of Asian carp into the Great Lakes basin, controlling their spread throughout these areas would be nearly impossible." (Page 5)
- "A 2002 workshop convened by the Great Lakes Protection Fund as well as the 2003 Aquatic Invasive Species Summit convened by Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that introduction of Asian carp into the Great Lakes ecosystem would threaten the sport and commercial fisheries, and could result in ecological and economic damages exceeding those caused by the sea lamprey and zebra mussel invasion." (Page 5)

The Wisconsin Chapter of AFS agrees that once AIS are established in the Great Lakes they are nearly impossible to control. Therefore, the only long-term viable option to preserve the ecology of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River systems (science based) is to sever the linkage between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basin to ensure that aquatic invasive species are not allowed to expand their populations into either of these Nationally significant waters.

MG John W. Peabody
February 18, 2010
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Further the Wisconsin Chapter of AFS suggests that the separation of the Great Lakes system and the Mississippi River basin is likely to be the only long-term, fiscally affordable (economically sound) policy.

To this end we recommended that the long-term goal outlined in the draft Strategy report be revised to provide for full ecological separation of these waterways at this “Critical Control Point” (CSSC on page 4). Experience with other species has clearly shown the need to immediately pursue this goal concurrent with study of additional actions to control Asian carps.

We understand that the Chicago and Sanitary Ship Canal (CSSC) is intimately linked with the lives and livelihoods of the Chicago metropolitan area in terms of economics as well as public health and safety issues such as flooding, stormwater, and wastewater treatment. Therefore, we recommend that the following short-term goals be addressed in order to achieve the ultimate long-term goal of ecological separation of the CSSC from the Great Lakes:

- Develop and implement plans with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) to expand the deep tunnel or reservoir capacity and other measures necessary to control flooding to allow for the permanent closure of the lock and sluice gates along the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS). These elements would include measures to prevent Asian carp from crossing over the locks and sluice gates, dams, and/or pumping stations during flooding events.
- Develop and implement plans with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) to address necessary operating and construction changes to address stormwater and wastewater treatment plant improvements to allow for the permanent closure of the lock and sluice gates along the CAWS.
- Develop and implement plans to reroute shipping commerce to mitigate the economic impacts associated with the closure of the lock and sluice gates along the CAWS. These actions should be geared towards preservation of jobs and businesses and infrastructure to protect the local economy. In addition, these plans should include elements such as expanding fleeting areas for barges, regulations, tourism, transportation safety and security, among others as necessary.

Of the many proposed studies set forth in Chapter 2 of the Strategy report, the Wisconsin Chapter of AFS is especially disturbed by the suggestion that toxic kill zones be created by using plant effluent (section 2.2.12, page 29) to increase ammonia concentrations and decrease dissolved oxygen concentrations to lethal levels. This approach is non-selective and more toxic to desirable native species that lack the ability to use atmospheric oxygen than the Asian carp. Recall that Asian carps were brought into the U.S. in part to improve water quality in highly eutrophic waters. In addition, this approach could exacerbate the expanding “dead zone” in the Gulf of Mexico. Further, the reduction in level of effluent treatment has the potential to offset many of the environmental gains achieved at great cost since the 1970s. While proposals such as

MG John W. Peabody
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this demonstrate a non-traditional approach to managing invasive species they fail to address the primary risk associated with the movement of Asian carp into the CSSC namely to sever the link between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes.

The Corps of Engineers has been provided a tremendous opportunity to serve the interests of the navigation community, the civil engineering needs of Chicago and the environmental protection of the Great Lakes. The eDNA results, while difficult to interpret in terms of the potential for Asian carps to establish a self-sustaining population in the Great Lakes in the near term, certainly underscores the needs to move towards the long-term goal of ecological separation with all due diligence. Short-term actions such as lock closure and additional barriers buy time but fall far short of a permanent solution. We need the Corps to identify, design and implement a solution that addresses the needs of the navigation industry and the storm and waste water conveyance in the Chicago region as well as the environmental protection of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River drainage basins.

Therefore, the Wisconsin Chapter of AFS strongly recommends that the open aquatic link between the Mississippi River basin and Great Lakes ecosystem be eliminated. The Wisconsin Chapter of the AFS through its Environmental Issues Committee would be willing to comment further as this draft framework is developed.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas M. Slawski, Chair
Environmental Issues Committee
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
13850 W. Foxwood Drive
New Berlin, WI 53151

cc: Rep. Judy Biggert, 13th District of Illinois
Patrick Carey, City of Chicago
Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
Cameron Davis, US Environmental Protection Agency
Chris Goddard, Great Lakes Fishery Commission
Gary Gulezian, US Environmental Protection Agency
Dick Lanyon, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
Adm. Peter Neffinger, US Coast Guard
John Rogner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Rep. Louise Slaughter, Co-chair of the Congressional Great Lakes Task Force
Charlie Wooly, US Fish and Wildlife Service

South Dakota State University Student Subunit by McLain Johnson & Mark Kaemingk

Greetings from the South Dakota State University's Student Subunit. Our spring semester started off with a guest presentation by Greg Wanner from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His presentation covered spatiotemporal patterns of fishes within the Niobrara River. In early February, the Subunit hosted a job fair for undergraduates that included positions from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Later in February, the Subunit sent many graduate and undergraduate students to the Dakota Chapter Meeting in Spearfish, SD. Several awards were won

by members including best student paper and poster. The SDSU student subunit also sponsored a raffle at the meeting to help raise funds for future undergraduate scholarships. March saw another guest speaker, Jim Lamer from Kibbe Field Station, IL, in which he presented his research on Asian carp hybridization. In an ongoing effort to bolster experience for undergraduate students, we worked in collaboration with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks to help with their annual walleye egg take near Webster, SD this spring. Our annual chili feed was also held in April, raising money for future club activities.

Our future goals include helping the local Boy Scouts of America chapter with a fun day of fishing activities and to offer members more field experience on some graduate research projects this summer. In the fall, our plans are to collaborate with other student organizations for some interclub activities to help promote our organization. We hope to kick off our fall semester with our annual fish fry, which allows new interested members the opportunity to learn more about our chapter.

Mid-Canada Chapter Subunit by Brianne Lunn

As some of you may know already the old Mid-Canada chapter has been revived and with it a new student sub-unit. Due to the large geographical area that our chapter covers (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut) it has been hard to inform prospective student members

about the new sub-unit. We are looking forward to promoting the conservation and sustainability of our fisheries resources in the Mid-Canada region and especially to promote the development of fisheries professionals through the student sub-unit. Please e-mail blunn@ualberta.ca if you are inter-

ested in joining the sub-unit. The sub-unit will also be looking for executive committee members and ideas to help promote the new sub-unit. Advisors please let your students know about the sub-unit as well!

Kansas State University Student Subunit by Andrea Severson

The Kansas State University Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society hosted a free screening of the overfishing documentary film *The End of the Line* on Wednesday, April 7, in Manhattan, Kansas. The K-State Student Subunit advertised the event across the community, from sidewalk chalk on the K-State campus to fliers in local businesses. The screening attracted 45 audience members, including several members of the local community and students from

a variety of majors and interest areas. This was the first public outreach event of its kind for the K-State Student Subunit, and members were happy to receive positive feedback from attendees. Upcoming spring events for the K-State Student Subunit include the Tuttle Creek Riverpond flathead catfish and habitat sampling trip, the Milford Reservoir fishing tournament, and officer elections for next year. The Subunit is facing some big changes in the 2010-2011 school

year, including the departure of faculty advisor Craig Paukert and the graduation of two officers (Michael Proffer, Vice President, and Andrea Severson, Secretary/Treasurer) and several active members. Recruitment of new members and future leaders will be a strong focus for the upcoming school year, and the Subunit looks forward to sharing its future achievements with fellow members of the NCD.

News and Announcements

AFS Student Writing Contest Call for Submissions by Tom Lang

Deadline: May 5, 2010: The Student Writing Contest recognizes students for excellence in the communication of fisheries research to the general public. Undergraduate and graduate students are asked to submit a 500- to 700-word article explaining their own research or a research project in their lab or school. The article must be written in language understandable to the

general public (i.e., journalistic style). The winning article will be published in Fisheries. Students may write about research that has been completed, is in progress, or is in the planning stages. The papers will be judged according to their quality and their ability to turn a scientific research topic into a paper for the general public and will be scored based upon a grad-

ing rubric. Check the AFS web site on the main awards page for the grading rubric. For examples of past winning papers, see Fisheries 32(12):608&609 and Fisheries 34(1):39. Contact: Tom Lang, 320 North Jackson Street, Pratt, KS 67124, Phone: 620-672-0722, Email: toml@wp.state.ks.us

Time to Vote! by Mark Porath

The polls are now open for an electronic vote on whether or not to accept the complete revision of the "North Central Division Bylaws,

Rules and Procedural Manual". Please visit the NCD main webpage www.ncd-afs.org/ to view the recently completed revision and to

cast your ballot. Voting **will close** on **May 7th, 2010**.

Be Part of the Future—Join NCD Strategic Planning Committee by Gwen White

The AFS North Central Division (NCD) Strategic Plan 2005-2009 needs an update. We have delayed working on the NCD plan so that we can sequence it properly with the Parent Society strategic planning process. Now that the Parent Society 2010-2014 Strategic Plan has been completely revised and accepted by members, we are ready to work on the Division plan. The new AFS plan is shorter, more accessible, and keyed to future trends. We will follow suit with the Division plan.

If any of you are interested in be-

ing a part of the future of NCD, please contact me to join the committee that will prepare a draft NCD Strategic Plan update for 2011-2015.

We will conduct all business by email and conference calls over the next few months with the goal of having a draft to post for membership review early in the fall and approval by the membership by electronic vote before the annual meeting in December. I don't anticipate this taking a lot of time, but having input from a variety of experiences within the NCD would

be very helpful.

In case you're curious, the current NCD 2005-2009 Strategic Plan is posted at: http://www.ncd-afs.org/pages/60/NCD%202005_2009%20Strategic%20Plan.pdf

The newly revised AFS Parent Society 2010-2014 Strategic Plan is posted at: http://www.fisheries.org/afs/docs/about_sp.pdf

I look forward to hearing from you!

2010 Meritorious Service Award Nominations by Robert Curry

The American Fisheries Society is seeking nominations for the 2010 AFS Meritorious Service Award. This award, first presented in 1986, is awarded annually to an individual AFS member for unwavering loyalty, dedication, and meritorious service to the Society throughout the years; and for exceptional commitment to the Society's programs, objectives, and goals. The award recipient will be honored at the annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 12-16.

Details for the Meritorious Service Award and information on other AFS awards are available at http://www.fisheries.org/afs/docs/award_nominations.doc. You can also contact Gail Goldberg, AFS awards coordinator, at ggoldberg@fisheries.org, or 301-897-8616 X 201 for more information.

Nominations for the *AFS Meritorious Service Award* require the candidate's name, full contact information, biographical information and/or history of service to the Society. Letters supporting the nomination are welcome. Nominations (email, in PDF format preferred) should be submitted to Bob Curry at the address below **NO LATER THAN midnight, May 7, 2010**.

Outstanding Chapter and Student Subunit Award Nominations by Jessica Mistak

We encourage all Chapters and Student Subunits to apply for the AFS Outstanding Chapter and Student Subunit Awards. These awards recognize outstanding professionalism, active resource protection, and enhancement programs, as well as a strong commitment to the mission of the Society.

AFS MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

1986:Robert F. Hutton
 1987:Mercer H. Patriarche
 1988:Elwood A. Seaman
 1989:Reeve M. Bailey
 1990:Carl R. Sullivan
 1991:Arden J. Trandahl
 1992:Mary R. Frye
 1993:Kenneth Carlander
 1994:C. Richard Robins
 1995:Christine M. Moffitt
 1996:Nick C. Parker
 1997:Gerald R. Bouck
 1998:Lee C. Redmond
 1999:John G. Boreman, Jr.
 2000:Billy J. Higginbotham
 2001:Dick Ryder
 2002:Larry Olmsted
 2003:John Ney
 2004:Carolyn A. Griswold
 2005:Stan Moberly
 2006:Christopher Goddard
 2007:Paul J. Wingate
 2008:Roger A. Rulifson

2009: Joe Margraf

2009 Award Winners by Randy Schultz

Here is a list of this past year's award winners:

Most Active Large Chapter: Illinois
 Most Active Small Chapter: Indiana
 Most Active Student Subunit (tie): Iowa State & Lake Superior State
 Best Communications: Dakota Fisheries Excellence: Don Bonneau
 Meritorious Service: Dan Sallee

2009 Duffy Award Winners:
 Paul Atwood, Central Michigan University
 Candice Miller, Eastern Illinois University
 Joe Gerken, Kansas State University
 Stephen Jacquemin, Ball State University
 Landon Pierce, South Dakota State University
 Justin VanDeHey, South Dakota State University
 Rebecca Burch, Iowa State University
 Jesse Fischer, Iowa State University

Rebecca Burch (Iowa State University) was also the Fisheries recipient of this year's Janice Fenske Award.

Three awards are given: one for small chapters (less than 100 members), one for large chapters (more than 100 members), and one for a student subunit of a chapter. Chapters and Student Subunits should submit an application to NCD President, Mark Porath

mark.porath@nebraska.gov to be considered. Mark will nominate one student subunit and two best chapters (small and large) from the NCD by **June 1, 2010**. Applications can be obtained from the AFS website: http://www.fisheries.org/afs/docs/award_outstanding.pdf

Fourth “Beginning Your Professional Journey” by Rebecca Christoffel

Twenty-five students attended the fourth iteration of the “Beginning your Professional Journey” workshop, hosted by the 70th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Student Affairs Subcommittee. Thank you to Gary Potts (IL DNR) and Stacy Lischka (IL NHS) for their work to secure funding for the workshop and for their help with workshop logistics. We also thank Critter Control for their generous financial support: And thank you to the many professionals who volunteered their time and expertise during the workshop!

At the start of the day, in addition to a copy of the AFS “Guide to Fisheries Employment”, each student participant was presented with a binder full of resource materials for their use as they prepare for their first post-baccalaureate positions and a supply of “business cards” to be used while networking with professionals during the conference.

“Beginning your Professional Journey” consisted of four sessions. Mike Pagel, Natural Resources & Sciences Employment Specialist at University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, kicked off the day with a presentation entitled, “10 Ways to Cut your Journey Short.” Students were given advice in an entertaining and memorable fashion on how not to land a position in graduate school or as an employee. Mike next presented a session that focused on professional correspondence, particularly resumes. After a mid-morning break, participants heard from academic and employer

panels. The academic panel presented information pertaining to the requirements for getting into graduate schools, and tips for developing a dialogue with a faculty member with whom a student would like to work. The employer panel consisted of four individuals from federal and state agencies, a non-profit organization and an employer from the private sector. Panel members discussed the desired skill sets, variety of positions, and current and predicted opportunities within their organizations, along with a little information about their own professional journeys. A question and answer period followed the panel presentations. Following the lunch break, Mike Pagel led a session on interviewing. The day’s final session, Networking, was presented by Rebecca Christoffel, an assistant professor in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Iowa State University. Students were invited to meet with Mike Pagel during the conference to receive individual consultation regarding their job or graduate school searches, and 10 indicated that they would do so.

Students and professionals greatly appreciated their participation in the workshop. Nineteen of twenty responding participants indicated that the workshop had been worth the time and money they spent in order to attend. The business correspondence and networking sessions seemed especially helpful to students based on their assessments. All of our participants indicated that they would recommend

participation in the workshop to others! Selected student comments in reply to the question, “Would you recommend this workshop to a friend? Why or why not?” included:

“The workshop covered such a broad range of topics and discussed such small details that are important. Even better, the workshop proved to be engaging the whole day without losing my attention.”

“Oh yes, because there is very little info of this type available to science students.”

“Yes because everyone needs to be reminded of key points from time to time so that they can be at their best as well.”

Students were asked to use the backside of their evaluation forms to share any other comments that might be helpful in improving future workshops. These comments will be used by co-organizers in preparation for the 2010 “Beginning your Professional Journey” workshop.

Plans are underway for the next “Beginning your Professional Journey Workshop” to be held at the 2010 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota. If you plan to attend the conference and would like to be involved in the workshop as a professional leader or potential session leader, please contact Rebecca Christoffel (515-294-7429 or christof@iastate.edu). We look forward to seeing you in St. Paul!

Members Forum

Fish Habitat Partnership Update by Patrick Rivers

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan in the Midwest - Assessing Fish Habitats in Lakes and Streams.

Last September, five Midwest Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) produced a successful Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP) proposal to develop a first of its kind aquatic habitat condition assessment scalable from the stream reach or individual lake to a national scale. Funded through the Sportfish Restoration program, the MSCGP helps fund projects that address regional or national level priorities of state fish and wildlife agencies. The FHPs are working together to assess aquatic habitats in Midwest lakes and rivers. This effort will also create a regional fish data collection system and is intended to guide efforts to preserve and restore fish habitats in the Midwest. The FHPs involved and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff met on April 7-8, 2010 with Downstream Strategies, a West Virginia contractor hired to conduct these assessments. The ambitious timeline concludes in December 2011, when completion of the assessments is expected. Progress on this work will be featured at the upcoming Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference this December, in Minneapolis.

Specific objectives for the MSCG include:

- Build a Coordinated Science Network of representatives from FHPs, committees of the National

Fish Habitat Action Plan (Science and Data; Communications) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- Design and build a data management system and provide data management services to the Midwest FHPs.
- Complete watershed/lakeshed assessment of habitat conditions throughout the geographic area of the five Midwest FHPs.
- Develop an approach to assessing the causal relationships between absentee landowner occurrence and Midwestern riverine fishes and their associated habitats. Develop and populate an interactive website for the Midwest FHPs that allows any user to identify projects, priority water/lakesheds, and determine what steps they can take locally to support fish habitat conservation.

The assessments will be used to prioritize conservation activities. While details are still being discussed, one potential output of the assessments is a color-coded scoring of habitats (e.g., green= intact, yellow= stressed; red= severely compromised). In addition to scoring the condition of lakes and streams across the region, the leading cause(s) of impairment, or potential thereof, will be part of the output from the models used. In this way partners can determine where and what management actions have a likely chance of conservation success. Coordination with the National Science and Data committee will ensure Midwest data and information will be scal-

able up to the national level.

For those of you not familiar with FHPs, they are a collaboration of entities working to conserve fish and aquatic habitats, and are the piscatorial equivalent of joint ventures (partnerships responsible for putting National Wetlands Conservation Act funding to work for waterfowl and other avian species). FHPs are the “working units” of the **National Fish Habitat Action Plan** (NFHAP) and are formed around important aquatic habitats, distinct geographic areas, “keystone” fish species, or system types. FHPs involved in this collaborative effort include:

- Driftless Area Restoration Effort- focusing on the stream resources of the driftless area of WI, MN, IA, and IL.
- Fishes and Farmers Partnership of the Upper Mississippi River- focusing on the stream/river resources of the Upper Mississippi River that feed the mainstem river
- Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership- addressing habitat issues from the top of headwater streams out to open lake habitat
- Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership- focusing on natural lakes of the Midwest
- Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership- focusing on rivers and streams including the mainstem Ohio

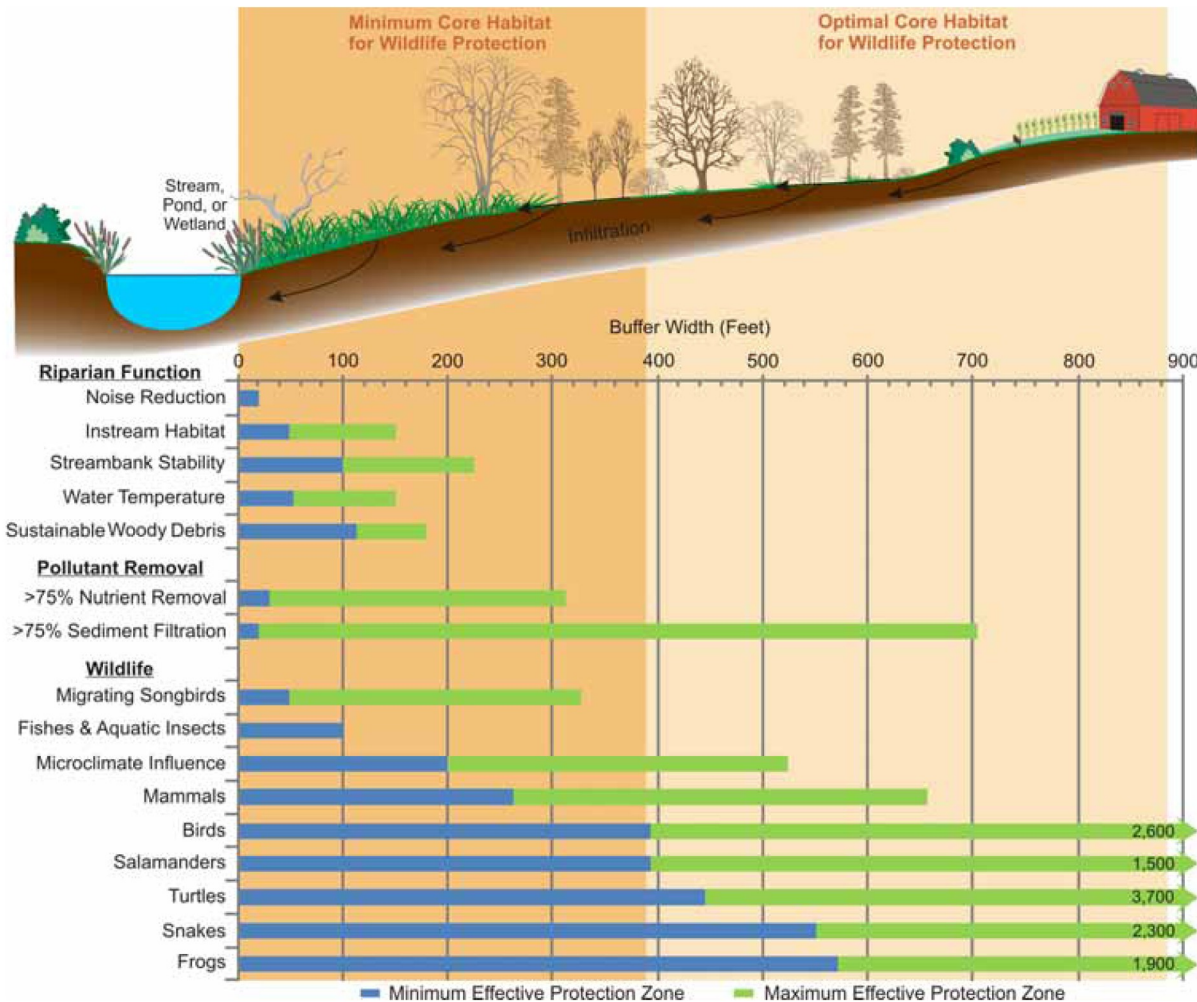
For more information, please contact Maureen Gallagher, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 3 NFHAP Coordinator, at Maureen_gallagher@fws.gov.

Managing the Water's Edge by Tom Slawski

In an effort to convey the importance of riparian buffers in the protection water quality and wildlife habitat the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission recently completed a document with the financial support of the US EPA and Chicago

Metropolitan Agency for Planning. The science summarized in the document is relevant to both rural and urban areas in the Midwest, especially in the southeastern Wisconsin and the Great Lakes basin, but certainly more widely applicable.

The full document is available at the following website: <http://www.sewrpc.org/SEWRPCFiles/Environment/RecentPublications/ManagingtheWatersEdge-brochure.pdf>



Managing the Water's Edge highlights the water quality, wildlife, and human benefits to be achieved through providing appropriate buffers around our water resources. It also notes that these benefits are human choices, but in exchange provide significant ecological and economic benefit when the buffers provided are of greater width. In rural agricultural areas, the buffers help to retain soil on the land surface, and to maintain free-flowing streams, a number of which may have additional economic benefit as trout and

cold water fish waters of the state. In urban areas, these waterways have historically provided the motive power to support our industrial growth and currently continue to play a role on the state's economic well-being by providing the focal points for water-based recreation and tourism. Surveys completed by the Regional Planning Commission, the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the University of Wisconsin-Extension all show the popularity of water-based recreation in

the state and to our visitors. Surveys completed by the Regional Planning Commission and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater go beyond this and clearly document the economic worth of these resources, as well as the value people place on good water quality in our lake resources. In short, both humans and the natural environment benefit from the placement of appropriate and adequate buffers along wetland, streams, and lakes.



Websites:

*Parent company: <http://www.fisheries.org>
North Central Division: <http://www.ncd-afs.org>
NCD Listserve email to: ncdlist@lists.fisheries.org*