

Mainstream

President's Message by Gwen White



Writing about a confusing and unsettling economic future in a recent Harvard Business Review blog titled *What to Do When You Don't Know What to Do*, Leonard Schlesinger and others stated, "The way we were taught to think and act works well in a predictable future, but not so much in the world as it is now."

These are uncertain times for fisheries too. We face predicaments never imagined by our predecessors. They could assume that if they got to know a resource through long-term sampling, its response would be predictable enough for management.

With global climate change, invasive species, human pressures, food security, alternative energy, economic fluctuations, multiple generations in the workforce, demographic shifts, and rapid advances in knowledge and technology, only the laws of physics and human interactions haven't changed.

How to keep from making errors based on old assumptions?

The authors suggest that to conquer uncertainty, successful entrepreneurs: 1) start with a desire to solve a well-defined problem; 2) take a smart step (a well-reasoned pilot action towards that goal); and 3) reflect and build on what you learn.

In engineering design, this is rapid prototyping. In fisheries, we call it adaptive management.

Where to find the cross-pollination of ideas that will help you along the way? Listen to how constituents talk about their interests, explain your work to kids who have limited access to nature, read broadly from other disciplines, work with a range of people who weren't brought up in your world—and keep in touch with your colleagues in AFS.

The NCD also has two new tools to prompt your exploration of innovative approaches.

First, thanks to your survey input and the reflections of a wonderful committee, the NCD has just completed its 2012-2015 Strategic Plan. Take a look at how today's challenges and approaches were distilled into this guiding document. Build on it

to develop or update a plan for your unit. We appreciate the sustained work of co-chairs Ann Marie Holtrop and Joseph Conroy, along with members Dale Burkett, Neil Fisher, Corrine Higley, Jim Perry, Mark Pyron, and Jeremy Tiemann.

Second, take advantage of the opportunity to participate in this year's AFS Annual Meeting in St. Paul, MN. The organizers are working hard to ensure that you will find this an enjoyable and thought-provoking event along the Upper Mississippi River. Get involved in as many section meetings as you can, attend symposia and present your own research. See what other colleagues are doing to address today's challenges. You will come away energized and with new perspectives.

And finally, congratulations to Phil Moy who was elected as NCD First Vice President and to Brad Parsons who will serve as NCD Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee. We are grateful for all of you who are willing to run for office and serve the NCD in any leadership capacity.

If you are looking for ways to be involved in AFS, learn some new skills and meet great colleagues, please contact me or any unit leader. We would be delighted to have you!

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.

Editor: Tom Slawski

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Continuing Education Committee by Mark A. Kaemingk

We are gearing up for the 73rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife meeting in Wichita, Kansas and are in the planning stages for continuing education opportunities for all those who plan to attend the meeting. Currently, we have two courses that will be offered.

One of these courses focuses on how to effectively and efficiently archive key items to be stored at the DC Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives. This course will be highly beneficial for state and federal agencies and others who are interested in the techniques on how to preserve historical information/items that will prove to be extremely important for future generations in our disci-

pline. Randi Smith (randi_smith@fws.gov), who is the Museum Curator and Archivist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, has generously volunteered to put on a half day workshop on this topic.

The second course pertains to the analysis of before and after control impact studies (BACI). We think this course will also be of great interest to many people due to the many existing datasets (pre-regulation vs. post-regulation, pre-disturbance vs. post-disturbance, etc.) that can be analyzed using this technique. Dr. Steve Chipps (USGS Unit Leader at South Dakota State University – Steven.chipps@sdstate.edu) and

Dr. Daniel James (USFWS, Pierre, SD – Daniel_James@fws.gov) have graciously volunteered to put on this half day workshop for those who are interested.

Since we are still in the planning stages we would encourage anyone who is interested in any other workshops to please contact me (Mark Kaemingk – mark.kaemingk@sdstate.edu) if you have any ideas or would like to put on a workshop. These continuing education courses provide a great opportunity for many people to learn new skills or enhance those already developed, so take advantage of them if you can.

Hope to see many of you in Wichita!

Centrarchid Technical Committee by Daniel Dembkowski

The Centrarchid Technical Committee held its winter business meeting on December 5, 2011 at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Des Moines, IA. Despite foul weather and travel restrictions, representatives from the Dakota, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin chapters were able to attend the meeting. Discussion among representatives was centered on providing project updates (available on our newly-updated webpage at: <http://www.ncd-afs.org/Default.asp?mid=23&sid=31>) and planning for the summer technical committee meeting, which is scheduled jointly with the Walleye and Esocid summer meetings. We also discussed

the possibility of holding a centrarchid symposium during the 2013 AFS National Meeting in Little Rock, AR. The symposium is still in the early stages of planning – updated information will be provided on the webpage and through the CTC member list-serv.

The 2012 joint WTC/CTC/ETC meetings will be held from July 24 to July 26 at the Lac Courte Oreilles Casino Lodge and Convention Center in Hayward, WI. Please thank Paul Christel (WTC chair) for arranging meeting accommodations. The theme of the meeting will likely be sampling and evaluating recruitment but, as always,

papers and presentations of all types are welcome. As a continuing education course, Dr. Derek Ogle from Northland College will be providing an introduction to Program R using basic fisheries methods. Please thank Jon Meerbeek (ETC chair) for organizing the continuing education course. More details and concrete information will be provided on the CTC webpage as it comes available. Questions regarding the summer technical committee meetings and/or thematic suggestions for the centrarchid symposium in Little Rock should be directed to Dan Dembkowski (daniel.dembkowski@sdstate.edu).

Rivers and Streams Technical Committee

No Report

Salmonid Technical Committee

No Report

Walleye and Esocid Technical Committee

See Walleye, Esocid, and Centrarchid Joint Meeting within Upcoming Events section below.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2012 UW-SP/NADF Field Day and Vendor Fair

May 31, 2012 Registration

Name(-s) _____

Business Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Workshop - includes hands-on sessions, breaks, lunch, Thursday evening fish fry and handouts

Number people attending:

___ \$40.00/person, WAA member

___ \$50/person, non member

Choose one of each:

Morning
 Hybrid Walleye OR Pond Aeration

Afternoon
 RAS Component OR Pond Fertilization

Join WAA and save \$10

Basic (Associate) membership \$25/yr

Full (Active) membership \$50/yr

Checks: Payable to WI Aqua Assoc (WAA)

Credit Card:
 Credit card # _____

Credit card expire/security code _____

Billing Address if different than above _____

Send to:
 WAA, PO Box 1408, Bayfield, WI 54814

Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of this event. Please do so as early as possible so that proper arrangements can be made. Requests are kept confidential. Contact Ron Johnson, UW Extension, at (715)779-3189 or ron.johnson@uwsp.edu to make arrangements.



NADF is located at
 36445 State Hwy 13
 Bayfield, WI 54814

Lodging:
 We have a room block reserved under "NADF Field Day" at the new Legendary Waters Resort & Casino in Red Cliff.

Rates for Wednesday and Thursday nights are \$89/night plus tax. Room block will be released on April 30, and rooms will be on an as available basis after that.

Legendary Waters Resort & Casino
 37600 Campground Road
 Red Cliff, WI 54814
 800-226-8478
LegendaryWaters.com

Lodging is also available in Bayfield. For up to the minute pricing and availability, go to the Bayfield Chamber web site at www.Bayfield.org, go to "Where to Stay" and check on the "Online Availability

**2012
 UW-SP/NADF
 Field Day
 And Vendor Fair
 "Aquaculture
 Unplugged"**

**May 31, 2012
 1-Day Hands-on
 Workshop at
 Northern
 Aquaculture
 Demonstration
 Facility**

Sponsored by:
 UW-Stevens Point
 College of Letters & Science

UW-SP/Northern Aquaculture
 Demonstration Facility

UW- Extension

In Conjunction with:
 Wisconsin Aquaculture Association, Inc.

AGENDA

Thursday, May 31

The location of our sessions will be at NADF, the entrance is across from Bradum Rd, located approximately 1.5 miles north of Red Cliff, which is 4 miles north of Bayfield

- 8:30 - 9:00 Workshop Registration
- 9:00 - 9:15 Welcome and Introductions
- 9:15 - 12:15 Hybrid Walleye Project - Greg Fischer, Kendall Holmes and Robert Summerfelt
OR
 Proper Pond Aeration and Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring - Darrin Honious and Bob Robinson
- 10:00 - 10:15 Break
- 9:00 - 5:00 Aquaculture Vendors
- 12:15 - 1:30 Lunch
- 1:30 - 4:30 RAS Component Engineering (Arctic Char & Saugeye) - Ed Aneshansley, Greg Fischer, Kendall Holmes, Robert Summerfelt and Tom Waldrop
OR
 Pond Fertilization: Inorganic and Organic - Chris Hartleb, Jim Held and Charles Mischke
- 4:30 - 5:30 One on one time, visit with vendors, socialize
- 5:30 - 6:30 Fish Fry



Aquaculture Field Day

The Aquaculture Field Day and Vendor Fair will be fun, informative and provide opportunities to exchange ideas with others. The Aquaculture Field Day and Vendor Fair offers:

- Hands-on sessions highlighting practical knowledge and skills that can be put to use at your farm.
- Aquaculture Vendor Fair - vendors will be available with information and equipment demonstrated at NADF.
- Fish Fry Friday evening featuring NADF produced fish.
- Friday (June 1) following the workshop will be pickup day for the preordered saugeye fingerlings. All workshop attendees are welcomed to stay to watch.

SPEAKERS

Ed Aneshansley - Ed is an RAS engineer and designer for Aquatic Eco-Systems in their Waterlife Design Group.

Greg Fischer - Greg is the Facility Manager of Operations & Research Projects at UWSP-NADF.

Dr Chris Hartleb - Chris is the Co-Director of UWSP-NADF, and Professor of Fisheries Biology & Aquaculture, at UW-Stevens Point.

Jim Held - Jim is the UW-Extension Aquaculture Outreach Specialist for the southern half of Wisconsin.

Kendall Holmes - Kendall is the Lead Advanced Technician at UWSP- NADF.

Darrin Honious - Darrin is YSI, Inc's representative for its Water Quality Systems

Charles Mischke - Chuck is Research Professor of Aquaculture at Mississippi State University and is an international expert on pond fertilization.

Bob Robinson - Bob is a Fisheries Biologist and the Director of Sales & Marketing at Kasco Marine, Inc.

Dr. Robert Summerfelt - Bob is a Professor of Aquaculture, Emeritus, at Iowa State University. He has done extensive research on walleye rearing.

Tom Waldrop - Tom is an Aquaculture Production Manager at the Freshwater Institute in West Virginia.

You will need to choose which morning session and which afternoon session you want to participate in. Space is limited for each session. Please choose your preferences on the registration form.

For more Workshop information, contact Greg Fischer 715-779-3461

This brochure is also posted online at WisconsinAquaculture.com

For registration, contact Cindy Johnson, 715-373-2990 or go online at WisconsinAquaculture.com



NWETC 2012 Electrofishing Courses

The Northwest Environmental Training Center (NWETC), a Washington-based, non-profit organization dedicated to environmental education, is seeking U.S. venues for its 2012 electrofishing courses. Two 3-day courses are available: backpack electrofishing and boat electrofishing. Both courses consist of classroom work on the first and third days and field exercises on the second day. A 4-day course covering both

backpack and boat systems, including two days of fieldwork, is also available.

To schedule a venue, NWETC seeks to (1) identify a local fisheries biologist willing to serve as field trip coordinator and (2) achieve an enrollment of at least 12 participants. (Those serving as coordinator earn a course tuition waiver.)

Individuals interested in scheduling a course in their locale should contact Ingrid Kimball, ikimball@nwetc.org, at NWETC for further information. Technical questions about course content should be directed to Jim Reynolds, jbreyolds@alaska.edu.

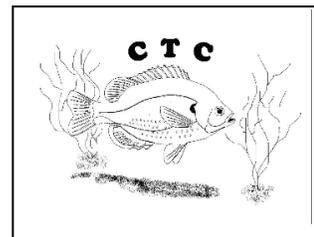
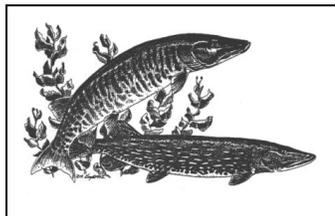
North Central AFS Walleye, Esocid, & Centrarchid Joint Meeting

NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

JOINT MEETING

Walleye, Esocid, and Centrarchid Technical Committees

<http://www.ncd-afs.org>



2012 SUMMER MEETING AND FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

DATES:

July 24th, 2012 – R Introduction Using Basic Fisheries Methods Workshop (Instructor: Dr. Derek Ogle)

July 24-26, 2012 – Joint meeting of Centrarchid, Esocid and Walleye Technical Committees

PLACE: Lac Courte Oreilles Casino Lodge and Convention Center. 13767 W. County Road B, Hayward, Wisconsin

ACCOMMODATIONS:

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Lac Courte Oreilles Casino Lodge (1-800-526-5634).

Discounted rates range from \$57.60 - \$75.60, depending on room type. Block reserved under "Group 0724". Rates do not include breakfast.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE:

Tuesday, July 24 (8 am – 5 pm) – R Introduction Workshop (see separate announcement)

Tuesday evening – 6 pm social at LCO Casino Lodge

Wednesday July 25 (8 am – 5 pm) – Technical Committee presentations and discussion.

Wednesday lunch tour/cookout at Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame and evening social (?).

Thursday July 26 (8 am – noonish) – Technical Committee wrap-up and separate business meetings.

PRELIMINARY COST (subject to change): \$60 for professionals and \$30 for students – Technical Committees joint meeting, including Tuesday social, Wednesday evening cookout and breaks.

CALL FOR PAPERS: The topic of this summer's meeting will be sampling and evaluating recruitment.

Other topics of interest are also encouraged, especially participation by students. The summer meeting is a great forum for informal exchange of information about fisheries biology and management.

Submit the title and topic of your presentation with your meeting registration by June 22, 2012 to Donna Muhm (see email below).

Presentations will be allotted 15 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions and transition and should be sent to Donna Muhm in Power-Point format by July 16, 2012.

Please register by June 22, 2012 with Donna Muhm, Donna.Muhm@dnr.iowa.gov Meeting fee will be collected at the door (cash or check only).

ESOCID TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Jonathan Meerbeek, jonathan.meerbeek@dnr.iowa.gov
Immediate Past Chair: Rodney Pierce, Rodney.Pierce@state.mn.us

CENTRARCHID TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Daniel Dembkowski, daniel.dembkowski@sdstate.edu
Immediate Past Chair: Mark Kaemingk, mark.kaemingk@sdstate.edu

WALLEYE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Paul Christel, pchristel@cheqnet.net
Immediate Past Chair: Andy Jansen, andrew.jansen@ksoutdoors.com
Secretary/Treasurer: Donna Hanen Muhm, donna.muhm@dnr.iowa.gov

American Fisheries Society 142nd Annual Meeting



**142nd Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society
August 19-23, 2012
Minneapolis – Saint Paul,
Minnesota**

The meeting focus is Fisheries Networks: Building Ecological, Social and Professional Relationships.

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to network with fisheries professionals and students, stay current on the latest in fisheries science, and enjoy the sights and scenes of the Twin Cities and beyond.

For more information and news and updates **visit** the following link:

<http://www.afs2012.org/>

NALMS International Symposium and Conference

The 2012 *North American Lake Management Society International Symposium and Conference* will be held in Madison, Wisconsin (USA) between 7 and 9 November 2012. The conference theme is “Lakes in the Landscape: Values, Visions, Actions”. Abstracts for this Symposium are being accepted at: <https://nalms.conference-services.net/authorlogin.asp?conferenceID=3171&language=en-uk>.

Interested persons should contact NALMS through the Society website, www.nalms.org, for further information.

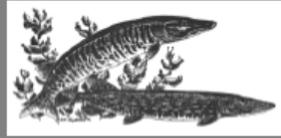


In addition, as a NALMS Chapter, we would like to invite you to consider organizing a special session(s) on Michigan Lakes which would help us place the focus on the Upper Midwest lakes that we are highlighting in this year's

program. Please feel free to let me know if you would consider this partnership with NALMS and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Nelson Institute, and help us make this conference an outstanding showcase for Midwestern waters. On behalf of the organizing committee, we feel that this is a great opportunity to demonstrate the management of both Great Lakes and inland waters in this part of the country/world!

Thank you for this courtesy. Jeff Thornton PhD PH CLM, Conference Co-Chair

WTC, ETC, and CTC Joint Meetings and Workshop

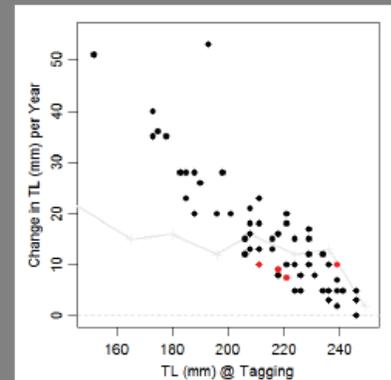
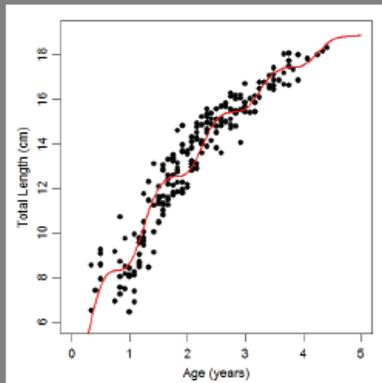


R Introduction Using Basic Fisheries Methods

Presented by

Dr. Derek Ogle

Professor of Mathematics & Natural Resources
Northland College



Topics:

General philosophy underlying the use of R • Differences among and uses of various types of R objects • Constructor and extractor functions • Reading data into R from common formats • Simple data manipulations and graphics • Linear regression models and one-way ANOVA

Workshop held in conjunction with the joint WTC, ETC and CTC meetings in Hayward, WI

Date & Time: Tuesday, July 24th, 8 AM - 5 PM.

Location: Lac Courte Oreilles Casino Lodge and Convention Center

Registration space is limited to 25 individuals to ensure more student-instructor interaction.

Please register by July 1st.

Price: \$35 students, \$60 professionals

To register or if you have any questions please contact Jonathan Meerbeek
jonathan.meerbeek@dnr.iowa.gov

CHAPTER REPORTS

Illinois Chapter by Jeremy Tiemann

The Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held its annual meeting 21-23 February 2012 at Starved Rock State Park near Utica. With this being the 50th ILAFS meeting, we wanted to take a moment to remember our past. Our goal was to bring together as many of the retired or retiring members and have them interact with the next generation of biologists to share experiences and offer advice. We established a committee to secure sponsorships to lower the registration costs to \$50 for regular members and \$25 for students and retirees. The "50@50" celebration, although a little cheesy in its title, had a nice ring to it and was something that we felt could be easily obtained. We crunched a few numbers and found that with \$5,000 worth of sponsorship, we could nearly break even with the lowered registration costs. Obviously values were dependent upon the number of folks attending and what food/beverages were being served.

We created a crude list of sponsors that guided us in our \$5,000 goal.



Panel discussion (left to right: Al Lopinot (IDOC), Leonard Durham (EIU), Roy Heidinger (SIUC), Larry Jahn (WIU), Ken Russell (IDOC/IDNR), Rod Horner (IDOC/IDNR)).

With the economy being the way it is, we knew some folks couldn't sponsor us or couldn't sponsor us at the level suggested. We took the approach that the larger fisheries-employing groups (e.g., universities, state and federally agencies) could hopefully sponsor more (\$500), and the smaller, peripheral groups (e.g., consultants and other groups that typically employ fewer biologists) could hopefully kick in something (\$250 or \$100). We asked various outfitters but were told we didn't fit the profile of groups they support.

We told sponsors that they would be acknowledged during the meeting, in the program, on our website, and in our newsletters for a year (3 issues). We had sponsorship categories (\$500, \$250, and \$100) with group name and logo under each level. We were a little surprised by some folks who didn't donate but equally surprised by folks who did when we really didn't ask. For the most part, it was a smooth process and well received.



Past-presidents (order follows name) and charter members gathered to celebrate the 50th IL AFS meeting. First row (Left to right): Dale Burkett (28), Vic Santucci (36), Don Helms (charter member), Larry Jahn (13), Leonard "Bull" Durham (charter member and 8), Al Lopinot (charter member and 1), Rod Horner (charter member and 34), Ken Russell (charter member), T. Miller (charter member). Second row (left to right): Sam Dennison (27), Mike Hooe (37), Ann Marie Holtrop (46), Julie Claussen (35), Dave Phillip (22), Dave Bergerhouse (39), Dan Sallee (38), Jim Garvey (45), Bruce Lippincott (42), Jim Smithson (20), Roy Heidinger (15), Jeremy Tiemann (47), Steve Pallo (43), Debbie Bruce (33), John Tranquilli (25), Bill Bertrand (23), Jeremiah Haas (48), Trent Thomas (49). Present but not pictured, Bob Schanzle (41).

We also reached out to charter members and past presidents with hopes they could attend and share stories. We had 7 charter members and 25 past presidents in attendance. We had a panel discussion with a few of the charter members and past-presidents. Folks in the audience were encouraged to ask questions, and we had a good moderator in place to help guide the discussion and had a few questions lined up in case the discussion slowed.

Lastly, we gave out a free pint glass with registration. The glasses had a special 50th ILAFS logo. We went with DiscountMugs.com as they had the best prices and turn around time.

In the end, more than 150 people attended the Chapter meeting. We had more than 30 presentations including talks on exotic species, freshwater mussels, and the history of the Illinois AFS.

University of Illinois Student Subunit by Greg Gaulke



On January 20th and 21st, the American Fisheries Society student subunit at the University of Illinois hosted the 5th Annual Midwest Student Fisheries Colloquium. This two-day event brought students from all academic levels to the University in order to showcase their current research, practice giving a professional talk, receive valuable feedback, strengthen their professional networks, and promote the inter-institutional exchange of ideas.

On Friday the 20th, a dinner was hosted for all the attendees with an accompanying poster session. In all, we had 6 posters that were presented among the attendees which were received with excellent discussions and helped “break the ice”. The dinner, catered by a local barbecue restaurant, was a huge success and was well received by all who attended. Following the dinner, our keynote speaker, Dr. Dave Philipp, gave a talk on bass management and angling effects on recruitment. At the conclusion of his talk, people were invited and encouraged to talk with the handful of fisheries professionals from the University who attended the dinner (Dr. Dave Philipp, Jeff Stein, Julie Claussen, Dr. Cory Suski, Dr.

Yong Cao) before heading to the social held at a local establishment.

The following morning, the attendees were invited to a small breakfast outside the symposium room where coffee, tea, juice, and assorted breakfast items were set out. Throughout the day, 15 people gave oral presentations on their research, with topics including (but not limited to) larval fish community structures, thermal effluent impacts on sport fish, and stress responses of pallid sturgeons. Participants were respectful and posed thoughtful and insightful questions in response to the different topics being presented.

The symposium was an incredible success, with the majority of participants commenting on the professionalism of the event, as well as the high level of organization. In total, there were seven Universities represented at the colloquium (South Dakota State University, University of Toledo, Missouri University, UW-Stevens Point, Southern Illinois University, Eastern Illinois University, and Univer-



sity of Illinois). Of those seven schools, we had nearly 40 participants over the two day colloquium. Without the generous help from the Education Section of AFS, we would not have been able to make this event a success, and we would like to thank you for sponsoring this event.

Indiana Chapter by Jeremy Price



Dr. Sweeten (third from left) talks about a dam removal project along the Eel River in North Manchester, Indiana. (Photo credit: Ron Everhart)

Since the last edition of *Mainstream*, the Indiana Chapter has held two meetings. The first was our fall meeting which was held at Manchester College in early October of last year. Manchester is home to Indiana's newest student sub-unit, so the meeting gave the students and faculty an opportunity to showcase the Environmental Studies program. Following the business meeting Dr. Jerry Sweeten, a professor and the director of Environmental Studies at Manchester College, provided an overview of the program which included site visits to projects the college is partnering on. These include three dam removals on the Eel River as well as a two-stage ditch project in the Eel River watershed. Manchester proved to be a great host, and the meeting was a big success.

The Indiana Chapter held its annual spring meeting in late February in Indianapolis. This was a joint spring meeting with the Indiana Chapter of the Wildlife Society. The plenary session title was "How do we market and evaluate our success as fish and wildlife professionals?" The panel of speakers included Phil Seng of DJ Case & Associates who spoke about attitudes and public outreach efforts relating to trapping, Tim Beck from the IDNR Division of Law Enforcement who spoke about the successes of Indiana's hunter education efforts and the National Archery in Schools Program, and Courtney Mycroft from Southwick Associates who spoke about factors impacting retention of anglers. The meeting was well attended with 161 professional and student registrants. The program also

included 21 technical presentations and 15 poster presentations. Award winners from the meeting included: Best Student Paper: Kevin Gaston—*Morphological differences between lake and stream bluegill and green sunfish*, Best Professional Paper: Aaron Cole—*Seasonal distribution and thermal ecology of muskellunge in Melton Hill Lake, Tennessee*, Best Student Poster: Stephen Jacquemin—*Temporal variation in cyprinidae morphology – 100 years of habitat alteration and effects*, and Best Professional Poster: Jason Doll—*Estimating abundance and detectability of fish in wadeable streams*. Congratulations to all the award winners!

Highlights from the Spring Business Meeting included the election of Dr. Mark Pyron as the incoming vice-president. Mark is a professor of biology at Ball State University where he teaches and conducts research focused on stream ecology. Other highlights include the presentation of the 2011 NCD Best Communications Award to the Communications Committee co-chairs: Jason Doll, Michelle Cain, and Janel Palla.

Further details on the fall and spring meetings as well as other news can be found in the chapter newsletter at:

<http://www.fisheriessociety.org/indiana/Newsletter.php>

Ohio Chapter by Joseph Conroy

Ohio Chapter (www.biosci.ohio-state.edu/~ocafs/) activities during the past year ranged from the mundane and procedural, to emphasizing our commitment to fisheries students of all ages, and to seeking to gain state-wide traction by sponsoring an annual meeting. On the humdrum bureaucratic side, our former President-Elect (and now President), Joe Conroy led an effort to revise our Chapter Bylaws and Procedures, modifying our officer roster while also adding a Student Sub-unit representative to our Governing Board.



The Ohio Chapter has a long history supporting students through Chapter awards and a lot of activity on this front has occurred during the last year. John Navarro, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, has led our efforts at the Middle and High School levels judging posters at State Science Day for the last decade or so. In spring 2011, five awards were presented to students in grades 5–11.

Eugene Braig, Past-President and current committee chair, helped initiate and continue our efforts to give college students more practical field experience by initiating two full scholarships for students participating in the workshop “Fish-sampling Techniques of Ohio’s State Agencies” held at The Ohio State University’s Stone Laboratory on Lake Erie. This workshop has been taught by biologists from

the ODNR Division of Wildlife, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and The Ohio State University each autumn since 2007, with the dual objectives of making undergraduate students more competitive for seasonal agency work and providing state agencies with a better trained entry-level workforce. Recipients in October 2011 were Hillary Dean (University of Toledo) and Megan Shortridge (The Ohio State University).

Curt Wagner, last year’s Chapter President, worked with Nick Rada-baugh, last year’s Past-President, and Rich Carter, another Past-President, to start the Chapter’s Partnership Award. This award sponsors student attendance at the Ohio Academy of Science Annual Meeting, engaging graduate students currently pursuing degrees in

fisheries science and management. In its inaugural year, nine students sought the award with three award winners presenting their studies on 14 April 2012. The best paper was presented by Jesse Filbrun, a doctoral student at The Ohio State University, and was titled, “Is Artificial Feeding Important for Age-0 Channel Catfish Growth and Survival?”. Jesse will attend the 2012 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference as the Ohio Chapter’s Joan Duffy Award winner.

Finally, in a process begun by the board in response to member wishes, the Ohio Chapter is working towards conducting its first stand-alone annual meeting in at least a couple decades. Kicking this meeting off presents many opportunities and challenges—any advice from other NCD chapters would be appreciated!

Ontario Chapter by Steven Kerr

Results of the 2010 national recreational fishing survey have recently been released. This survey has been conducted at regular five year intervals since 1975. This nationally-coordinated study provides the most comprehensive information on recreational fisheries activities and harvests in all regions of the country. Almost 3 million adult anglers participated in recreational fishing in Canada during 2010. The provinces of Ontario and Québec accounted for 60% of all active resident anglers. Analysis of the age distribution reveals the aging population of active anglers in Canada. In 2010, 55% of Canadian anglers were in the 45-64 age group. Anglers fish a total of 43 million days, caught over 193 million fish and retained nearly 63 million fish. More than half of all reported 2010 fish harvests were caught in Ontario (96 mil-

lion). The overall proportion of fish retained by Ontario anglers was only 21%. Walleye was the top species caught in Ontario and accounted for 54% of the walleye harvest in the country during 2010. Anglers spent in excess of \$2.5 billion in direct expenditures in 2010. The next survey is scheduled for 2015.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is about to initiate a provincial policy review on the use and management of live bait. A scan of policies and regulations in other North American jurisdictions has recently been completed. Among the issues to be resolved is preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species and pathogens such as VHS.

Results of several volunteer muskellunge angler diary projects from

2011 has recently been summarized. Participants in the program included members of Muskies Canada Inc., Muskies Inc. as well as participants in MNR programs on Lake St. Clair and Lake of the Woods. Anglers participating in the 2011 program reported 20,812 rod hours of angling effort to catch a total of 1,235 muskellunge. This represents an angling success rate of 0.059 fish per rod hour. Based on a sample of 5,936 muskellunge, the mean size of muskellunge angled from Ontario in 2011 measured 36.7 inches (93.2 cm) in length. The largest muskellunge angled during the 2011 fishing season measured 55.75 inches (141.6 cm) and was angled in Lake of the Woods. In terms of trophy-sized (> 50 inches) muskellunge there were a total of 173 trophies angled from 19 different Ontario waterbodies in 2011.

Recent Fisheries Publications

Funnell, E. 2012. The smallmouth bass in Ontario. Fisheries Policy Section, Biodiversity Branch. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Peterborough, Ontario. 61 p. + appendices.

Kerr, S. J., A. Kirkpatrick, and T. J. Haxton. 2012. Characteristics of trophy-sized muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy*) angled from Ontario waters, 1917-2011. Fisheries Policy Section, Biodiversity Branch. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Peterborough, Ontario. 7 p. + appendices.

Iowa Chapter—*No Report*

Kansas Chapter—*No Report*

Michigan Chapter—*No Report*

Mid-Canada Chapter—*No Report*

Minnesota Chapter—*No Report*

Missouri Chapter—*No Report*

Nebraska Chapter—*No Report*

North Dakota Chapter—*No Report*

South Dakota Chapter—*No Report*

Wisconsin Chapter—*No Report*

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sixth “Beginning Your Professional Journey” workshop held at 72nd Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in 2011!

By Rebecca Christoffel, Jim Schneider and Mike Pagel

Thirty-seven students attended the sixth iteration of “Beginning your Professional Journey,” a full-day professional development workshop for undergraduate students. Thank you to Donna Muhm (IA DNR), Steve Dinsmore (ISU) and Clay Pierce (ISU), fellow members of the Student Affairs Subcommittee for the 72nd Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, for their help with organizing several student events at the conference, including the workshop. And thank you to the many professionals who volunteered their time and expertise during the workshop!

Each student was equipped with a binder full of resource materials at the start of the day, and a sheet of business cards that they were encouraged to use while networking during the conference. Students received a copy of the AFS “Guide to Fisheries Employment”, as well as resource materials from federal and state agencies that hire fisheries and wildlife professionals and job preparation resources that fit into the topics of interviewing, business correspondence, networking and graduate school.

Rebecca Christoffel of Iowa State University kicked off the workshop with some introductory information, including what students could expect and what was expected of students at the workshop and afterward at the conference.

Jim Schneider of Michigan State University then gave 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. Afterward, Jim followed up with a session that focused on professional correspondence, particularly resumes. After a mid-morning break, two panels were presented, an employer and an academic panel. 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 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, Jim Schneider and Rebecca Christoffel co-led a session on interviewing. Rebecca presented the next session, Networking, where students learned of the importance of networking and were able to start practicing this skill. A final session on Professionalism was presented by Gary Potts of IL Department of Natural Resources, in which Gary emphasized the importance of involvement in your

professional society to students. At the day’s end, students provided feedback to us about the workshop and we encouraged students to attend the Sunday evening social and make use of the contacts they made during the workshop to further their network during the social.

Evaluations from the workshop indicated that students were very thankful and satisfied with their workshop experience. Thirty-two of 34 responding participants indicated that the workshop had been worth the time and money they spent in order to attend. The single student who had reported “no” to this question stated that she was in graduate school and that most of the information was geared toward undergraduate students. Another student stated both “yes” and “no” and wrote that there should be different levels of the workshop, as many students may have already had much of the material covered elsewhere. We’re pleased to learn that more schools are adopting this sort of workshop into their curricula or as part of their student chapter’s activities. By far, the session that was indicated to be the most useful to attending students was the academic panel (15/34 students indicated this as the most useful session). One student wrote, “The next step I intend on completing is graduate school and this discussion gave me things to think about.” Thirty-three of 35 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:

“This workshop gives each attendee a significant advantage when applying for positions throughout the natural resources community.”

“It is a good resource for several steps of your professional journey and can apply to students and grad-

uates at multiple experience levels.”

“This workshop puts you in the mindset of professionalism and helps you focus on why you are here.”

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

If you plan to attend the 2012 Midwest Fish & Wildlife 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 Wichita!

MEMBERS FORUM

Lake Sturgeon Making a Comeback on Lake of the Woods and the Rainy River

(Released April 23, 2012)

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The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Section of Fisheries is celebrating a major milestone in the recovery efforts of the lake sturgeon population on Lake of the Woods and the Rainy River. According to DNR fisheries biologists, short-term population recovery goals have been met, which is a big step toward full recovery.

“The population is recovering nicely and it’s a testament to a how

successful long-term cooperative efforts on international and border waters can be when coupled with strong clean water legislation,” said Phil Talmage, DNR area fisheries supervisor in Baudette.

The lake sturgeon recovery has been a cooperative effort between the Minnesota-Ontario Borders Waters Fisheries Management Committee, which includes fisheries biologists from the DNR north-west and northeast regions and Canada Ministry of Natural Resources.

Since the early 1980s, fisheries biologists in Minnesota and Canada have engaged in cooperative research and management of the fisheries resources along the U.S.-Canada border. Cooperatively, the Border Waters Lake Sturgeon Committee drafted short- and long-

term goals for the lake sturgeon population. The underlying objective was to re-establish and then maintain a self-sustaining sturgeon stock in all suitable habitats within the Minnesota-Ontario border waters. The population goals were based on what would be expected from a lightly exploited population. All of the goals were based on age, size, abundance and brook stock characteristics.

To monitor the recovery, DNR and Canada Ministry of Natural Resources biologists have aggressively surveyed the population. Early efforts included tagging studies to determine lake sturgeon movement. More recently biologists have conducted population estimates and annually monitored spawning locations. Through this cooperative effort, there are now almost 5,000 tagged lake sturgeon

that are used to monitor the sustainability of the fishery and ensure this great recovery continues. As a result of this monitoring program, biologists have determined the short-term goals of the plan have been met. The Lake of the Woods/Rainy River population, like other lake sturgeon populations in Minnesota, has been threatened by the combined effects of past overharvesting, decades of industrial water pollution, and habitat degradation caused by dams that have changed water flows and short-stopped fish migration routes to breeding waters.

Lake sturgeon recovery efforts on Lake of the Woods began in the 1960s when pollution controls were put in place through the U.S. Clean Water Act and reciprocal legislation in Ontario. However, recovery has been gradual because of the low reproductive capacity of this species. The lake sturgeon, sometimes called the living dinosaur of the fish world, can live to more than 100 years of age and weigh more than 200 pounds. It is

a long-lived, slow-growing, late-maturing fish. In Lake of the Woods, males do not reach sexual maturity until 17 years old and females until 26 years old. Unlike most fish species, they do not spawn annually.

Due its slow growth and late maturing characteristics, the lake sturgeon is highly susceptible to overharvest. Only under low levels of harvest will a depleted population be able to fully recover.

According to DNR fisheries biologists, during the recovery phase the allowable harvest on this population has been conservative and held to a level that would provide some harvest opportunities while allowing the population to recover at an accelerated pace. The DNR is not anticipating any adjustments in lake sturgeon fishing regulations at this time.

“While our short-term recovery goals have been met, this does not trigger any changes in the management framework,” said Kevin Peterson, DNR area fisheries

supervisor in International Falls. “This framework will still include an innovative harvest management tag system, a defined harvest, catch-and-release seasons and a closed season to protect spawning fish.”

Lake sturgeon fishing regulations on the Minnesota side of Lake of the Woods and on all other state waters will remain the same. Anglers can purchase a tag to harvest one lake sturgeon between 45 and 50 inches, or one more than 75 inches per calendar year. Mail-in registration cards are required for anyone wanting to harvest and possess a lake sturgeon. Party fishing for lake sturgeon is illegal. Gaffs may not be used to assist in landing sturgeon.

The spring harvest season on the Rainy River runs from April 24 – May 7. From May 8 to May 15, anglers can fish for lake sturgeon, but must release all fish they catch. The fishing season for lake sturgeon is closed May 16 – June 30. There is a second harvest season that runs July 1 – Sept. 30.