

Mainstream

President's Message by Phil Moy



I'd like to begin with a thank you to you, the members of the North Central Division for providing me the opportunity to serve as your president this year. I also want to extend a welcome to our newest student subunit, Bemidji State University. This has been a year of change for AFS with a new Executive Director as well as new roles and responsibilities for the AFS Governing Board and Management Committee.

You may recall my work plan this year was relatively "simple" having only four main tasks:

- 1) Maintain connectedness with the chapters and student subunits
- 2) Fill the open committee chair positions
- 3) Being to develop online continuing education offerings
- 4) Update the bylaws

I hope that most of you enjoyed a visit from our NCD leadership at your winter chapter and student subunit

meetings. While we could not make all the meetings primarily due to overlapping meeting dates, I felt we had very good coverage. If we missed some of this year, we will try to get to your meetings in the future. It's good to hear about the diversity and commonality of fisheries issues throughout the division.

Several people have stepped up to fill the open committee chair positions, though we still have some vacancies. Titus Seilheimer will chair the Salmonid Technical Committee and will help determine if there is enough interest to revive the Great Lakes Committee. Joe Conroy will reenergize the Reservoir Committee. Jason Goeckler will help with the Audit Committee and Melissa Wuellner will lead the Continuing Education Committee. Thank you too to all the current committee chairs who have agreed to continue in their positions.

Melissa will soon be developing an NCD membership survey to assess what types of online continuing education offering interest you.

The 2010 membership survey indicated the NCD membership was interested in online training, but did not identify the types of

training that might be desired. Melissa, who is our president elect, identified online training as one of her objectives as president so we are pleased she was willing to take on the Continuing Education committee leadership this year.

As we were preparing for the NCD meeting at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, it became apparent that the bylaws need to be updated so I am working with the NCD executive committee and Jessica Mistak to get that accomplished.

I will close on a personal note. I will be leaving Wisconsin Sea Grant in May to take a position with Smith-Root, Inc. in Vancouver, WA. I plan to finish out my term as NCD president and will hand over the gavel to Vince Travnichek in Quebec City in August. I will miss the Great Lakes and the waters of the Midwest, but mostly I will miss the wonderful people I've come to know and work with in the last 25 years. I hope to see many of you at AFS gatherings in the future.

Phil Moy
President
North Central Division
pmoy@aquawisc.edu
(608) 263-5133

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Editor:
Thomas M. Slawski, PhD
Principal Specialist-
Biologist
Natural Resources Planning
and Management Division
Southeastern Wisconsin
Regional Planning
Commission
P.O. Box 1607
Waukesha, WI 53187-1607
(262) 953-3263
tslawski@sewrpc.org

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Centrarchid Technical Committee by Kjetil Henderson

Chair: Kjetil Henderson

Dakotas Representative: Brad Smith (bradley.smith@sdstate.edu)

Illinois Representative: Josh Sherwood (jsherwo2@illinois.edu)

Indiana Representative: Rod Edgell

Iowa Representative: Lewis Bruce (lewis.bruce@dnr.iowa.gov)

Kansas Representative: Sean Lynott (sean.lynott@ksoutdoors.com)

Michigan Representative: Heather Dawson

Minnesota Representative: Michael Knapp (michael.knapp@state.mn.us)

Missouri Representative: Chris Williamson (chris.williamson@mdc.mo.gov)

Nebraska Representative: Jordan Katt (jordan.katt@nebraska.gov)

Ohio Representative: Steve Tyszko (stephen.tyszko@dnr.state.oh.us)

Ontario Representative: Scott Gibson (scott.gibson2@ontario.ca)

Wisconsin Representative: Jon Hansen (jonathanf.hansen@wisconsin.gov)

Goal 1: Regional Fisheries Leadership

AFS will be a global leader providing information and technical resources for the sustainability and conservation of fisheries resources.

Strategies

1. The Joint Summer Meeting of the Centrarchid, Esocid, and Walleye Technical Committees for the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society was held in Wausau, Wisconsin from July 23-25, 2013. Approximately 60 participants mingled at the socials, attended the sessions, and participated in business meetings. There were approximately 12 professional papers presented at the meeting.
2. The next Joint Summer Meeting of the Centrarchid, Esocid, and Walleye Technical Committees of the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society will be held in La Crosse, Wisconsin from July 21-24, 2014.
3. The Winter Centrarchid Technical Committee meeting will be held Sunday January 26th, 2014 from 5-6 pm in Kansas City during the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.

4. Update the Centrarchid Technical Committee website during 2014 including drafting a mission statement.

Goal 2: Education/Continuing Education

AFS will facilitate life-long learning through world-class educational resources at all academic levels and provide training for practicing professionals in all branches of fisheries and aquatic sciences.

Strategies

1. During the American Fisheries Society Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, a symposium was sponsored by the North Central Division CTC committee led by Dan Dembkowski (previous chair) and Lewis Bruce (Iowa Representative) titled "Centrarchid Conservation, Ecology, and Management". Seven presentations were given during the symposium and six posters were presented during the trade show. The positive feedback received after the symposium has encouraged us to continue this in Quebec City.
2. Determine during the La Crosse, Wisconsin Joint Technical Committee meeting if a small student

travel grant would enable meeting attendance for student/s presenting Centrarchid related research at future annual summer meetings.

3. Identify and enable potentially valuable continuing education opportunities for future Joint Technical Committee Meetings.

Goal 3: Value of Membership

AFS will serve its members and fisheries, aquaculture, and aquatic science constituencies to fulfill the mission of the Society.

Strategies

1. The committee disseminates state and provincial updates from representatives during biannual meetings.
2. The chapter maintains a representative email list for communication. The email distribution list is the primary tool for distributing important meeting announcements, calls for papers, and general chapter business.

River and Streams Technical Committee by Andy Selle and Matt Matheney

The 26th Annual spring meeting of the Rivers and Streams Technical Committee was held on April 1st and 2nd in Milan, IL, at the Rock Island Conservation Club. This year's topic focused on the Economics of River and Stream Management. As we discussed at our meeting last year – we'll try to put a dollar value on the benefits of the work we do. If you would like to be a part of this planning process for future

meetings or more information on past meetings, check us out on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/108113039274880/> or search AFS Rivers and Streams Technical Committee And LinkedIN: http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4261340&trk=hb_side_g

Students interested in fisheries science, restoration, and/or the ecology

of river and streams are highly encouraged to attend the RSTC annual meeting. Also, the RSTC may have available funds to provide lodging awards to students that apply for them. These awards will be made available on a first come, first serve basis. If interested, students should email Matt Matheney at Matt.Matheney@mdc.mo.gov with a request.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<p>DE LA RECHERCHE À LA GESTION DES PÊCHES: PENSER ET AGIR LOCALEMENT ET GLOBALEMENT</p> <p>FROM FISHERIES RESEARCH TO MANAGEMENT: THINK AND ACT LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY</p>	<p>QUÉBEC 2014</p> 
<p>144th RÉUNION ANNUELLE, 17 au 21 AOÛT ANNUAL MEETING, AUGUST 17-21 2014</p>	 AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Northeastern Division, the Atlantic International Chapter and the Canadian Aquatic Resources Section of the American Fisheries Society (AFS), cordially invite you to attend the 144th Annual Meeting that will be held in Québec City from 17 to 21 August 2014.

Located on the bank of the St. Lawrence River, Québec is one of the world's most beautiful cities. The area's European appeal and North American lifestyle, complete with a storied history, thriving art scene, and vibrant French-speaking culture, make it truly one of a kind. For more information visit <http://afs2014.org/>

*International Conference on
Engineering and Ecohydrology for Fish Passage*

June 9-11, 2014 at University of Wisconsin-Madison

On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to encourage you and your colleagues to attend the [Fish Passage 2014 Conference](#) in Madison, WI, June 9-11, 2014. While fish passage is the unifying theme of the conference, we have organized sessions on a [wide variety of integrative topics](#), including prioritization and regional strategies for barrier management (including invasive species concerns) and interactions between hydrology, channel geomorphology, and fish passage. This year's conference includes several sessions that will be of particular interest to managers in the Upper Mississippi and Great Lakes Basins.

In addition, there are [short courses](#) on dam removal and environmental flow analysis on Sunday, June 8 and a [field trip](#) to Ozaukee County, WI on Thursday, June 12 to visit five recently completed fish passage projects. The conference will be held at the [Madison Concourse Hotel](#), which has reserved a block of rooms for us through May 12. [Economical lodging](#) is also available on the UW-Madison campus.

In case you need a few other reasons...

- The [registration](#) fee is a bargain at \$295 (\$149 for students).
- We are still accepting [poster submissions](#).
- Madison is a great place to hang out for a few June evenings.

Please help spread the word to your colleagues who may not be aware of this conference.

Matthew Diebel, Ph.D.

Aquatic Ecologist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Science Services
2801 Progress Road / Madison, WI 53716
Phone: (608) 224-7151 / Fax: (608) 221-6353
Matthew.Diebel@Wisconsin.gov

Upcoming Events (continued)



CHAPTER & STUDENT SUBUNIT REPORTS

Dakota Chapter by Dan Dembkowski, President

The Dakota Chapter reached a major milestone this year as we held our 50th Annual Meeting from Tuesday, February 25 to Thursday, February 27 in Chamberlain, South Dakota. The meeting was another great success (97 attendees representing 10 organizations), largely due to all of those who helped

with planning and budgeting, meeting logistics, presentations, fundraising, and awards.

We kicked off the meeting Tuesday afternoon with a continuing education workshop centered on the new AFS publication *Scientific Communication for Natural Resource Professionals*. The workshop experienced near-record attendance with 51 attendees and was instructed by various university faculty, state and federal agency personnel, and graduate students. Specific topics included effective poster/oral presentations, searching for and archiving scientific information, manuscript preparation, responding to peer review, and style, usage, and grammar for scientific reports. A new addition to this year's meeting was a Tuesday night fish fry



sponsored by the South Dakota State University (SDSU) AFS Student Subunit. Wednesday and Thursday were full of great paper and poster presentations spanning the gamut of aquatic research in the Dakotas. We were honored to have AFS Executive Director Doug Austen as our guest speaker during dinner on Wednesday evening. Doug spoke about the historic, contemporary, and future role of AFS in our profession. Wednesday night's dinner was even capped with a 50th Annual Meeting cake!

The program was jam-packed with 28 paper presentations and 19 poster presentations. Although all were deserving of recognition, a few stood out:

- ◆ The Best Student Presentation Award went to David Schumann et al. for

their presentation entitled "Integrating landscape and local perspectives of aquatic communities to understand restoration effectiveness along the stream mosaic."

- ◆ The Best Student Poster Award went to Morgan Kauth et al. for their poster entitled "Effectiveness of single pass versus multi-pass backpack electroshocking in low-order prairie streams to estimate species abundance and richness."
- ◆ The Best Professional Paper Award went to two studies: Greg Simpson for his presentation entitled, "Opinions and visitor use at eight western South Dakota waters" and Andre DeLorme et al. for their presentation entitled, "Effects of Devils Lake water on Sheyenne River mussels, an *in situ* field bioassay."
- ◆ The Best Professional Poster Award went to Michael Weber and Michael Brown for their poster entitled, "Continuous, pulsed and disrupted nutrient subsidy effects on ecosystem productivity, stability, and energy flow."

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Dakota Chapter (continued)



Congratulations also went to Paul Lepisto as the recipient of the Aquatic Resource Conservation Award, Mark Finchel as recipient of the Outstanding Young Professional Award, and Rob Klumb as post-humous recipient of the Robert Hanten Distinguished Professional Service Award. The Klumb family was unable to attend the meeting but requested that Dane Shuman and Steve Chipps accept the award on their behalf and that the award itself be housed at the USFWS office in Pierre, SD. Mike Olson also deserves plenty of recognition and thanks for his service as past-president.

As always, student participation during the annual meeting was outstanding. Aaron Burgad was recognized as the 2014 recipient of the Schmulbach Scholarship and we recognized five

Sauger Scholarship recipients: Dalton Benage, Morgan Kauth, Matt Phayvanh, Jordon Redmond, and BJ Schall. The Al Kriel Award, which provides an annual Parent Society membership to deserving undergraduate students, was awarded to Dalton Benage of SDSU and Ethan Preston of Valley City State

University. Additionally, Laura Heironimus of SDSU was recognized as recipient of the first annual Robert A. Klumb Memorial Award.

Although the meeting was well-attended and full of great presentations, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the absence of our friends, mentors, and colleagues Maegan Spindler, Rob Klumb, and Dave Willis. Despite their absence, we embraced the fact that their legacies live on within our membership. As I walked around during the socials, I heard many fond memories being shared and saw many smiling faces in their remembrance. To ensure continuance of their legacies, various awards have been established in their names,

to which a portion of the proceeds from the annual meeting have been donated.

Greg Simpson, Todd Caspers, and Zac Sandness have stepped up to the plate and will be assuming the positions of president-elect, vice-president, and secretary/treasurer, respectively. They, along with current president-elect Kurt Eversman, will officially take office at the September 2014 business meeting, and I have no doubt

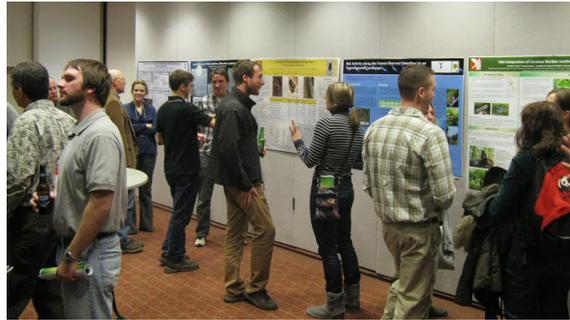


that they will serve as great leaders to our outstanding chapter.

President-elect Kurt Eversman has already scheduled the 2015 Dakota Chapter Meeting for the last week of February, 2015 in Bismarck, North Dakota. Keep your eyes open for the formal announcement – all are welcome!

Indiana Chapter by Sandy Clark-Kolaks

We were very happy to accept the Best Communications Award from the NCD at the National meeting. The Indiana Chapter held our annual spring meeting in February at Ball State University and we had about 140 attendees. It was a joint meeting with the Indiana Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the topic was “Alien Invasion: Combating Invasive Species in Indiana”. Plenary speakers included local, state and national experts on invasive animals and plants and diseases. We had 10 oral presentations and nine poster presentations by students and professionals. Best student poster winner was Austin R.



Prechtel “Home range assessment of bighead carp within the Wabash River, IN”, best student presentation was Jason Doll “Walleye recruitment in Monroe Reservoir”, and best professional presentation was Sandy Clark-Kolaks “An evaluation of

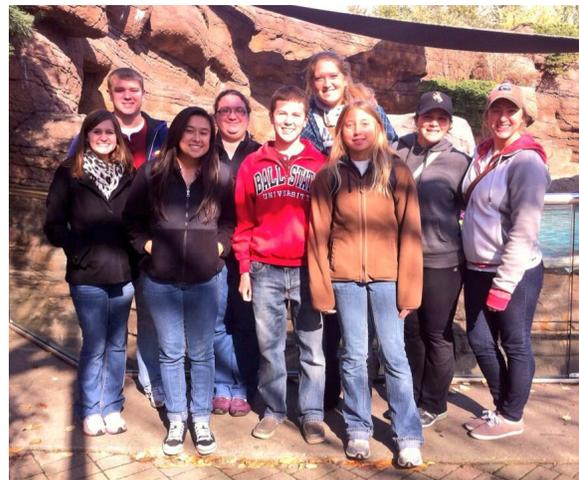
Indiana’s new urban fishing program: Go FishIN in the City”. All presentations were excellent and we had ties for both best student and professional presentations.

We will once again be spending a Saturday teaching youth how to fish at the Indiana State Fair fishing pond. This is a fun event every year and help about 200 kids catch a fish. Our fall meeting is scheduled for September 18th and will consist of an electrofishing workshop led by Dr. Alan Temple from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service .

Indiana: Ball State University Subunit by Nicholas Haunert

The Ball State University subunit of the Indiana Chapter American Fisheries Society started off the school year with an electrofishing demo day on the White River in Muncie, IN. The demo day allowed students to learn how to operate a backpack electrofisher. The Ball State AFS then participated in an activities fair to recruit new members and a Boy Scouts fishing day in which members assisted the scouts to fish at Summit Lake State Park. The students also traveled to the Indianapolis Zoo for a day trip. The Ball State AFS had a gill net repair demonstration. Many Ball State graduate students presented their fisheries related research projects during meetings. Students then attended a fishing lure demonstration which informed students about what lures are used to catch certain fishes. The students were able to have their CV’s edited by their advisor Thomas Lauer during the CV and internship work-

shops. Kevin Gaston informed the students about the Indiana Department of Environment Management. The Ball State AFS recently attended the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Kansas City, MO and The Indiana AFS spring meeting in Muncie, IN. Ball State AFS students were given a knot tying demonstration during the last meeting. Gary Whelan and an Indiana conservation officer will give presentations later this school year. The Ball State AFS will also host a White River Clean-up Day and continues to update its Facebook page, Twitter, and student chapter website to promote events and fisheries research.



Ball State University AFS students at the Indianapolis Zoo

Indiana: Manchester University Subunit by Joshua Wood

Last Spring our student subunit assisted the MAPLE (Environmental club) with getting water bottle filling stations put in an attempt to reduce the level of plastic water bottle use. We also obtained our own water bottles with “Kick the Bottle” logo to be sold at the campus book store. Several of our members also assisted with the piping plover survey on Andros Island Bahamas last January 2013.

Last Fall we conducted a River Clean-up as part of a 319 project in September 2012 which totaled: 1 dump truck trash, 3,280 pounds of metal, and 109 tires. We hosted a mini river clean up in October as well. Drew Holloway

from Muncie Bureau of Water Quality (BWQ) was our guest speaker in January.

This past January we raffled off two fishing rods for our activities fair. We also hosted a movie night in February. Our February guest speaker was Laura Bowley from Muncie BWQ. We also participated in a wetlands project, Scavenger Hunt Hike, Canoe Float, Earth Day activity, Elections, and end of year cookout this past April.

This Summer 2014, we plan to have 9 students working on water quality projects on the Eel River.

Michigan Chapter by Dan O’Keefe

The Michigan Chapter’s annual meeting was held February 24-26 at the Holland DoubleTree. Lacey Mason and Danielle Fosyth of Michigan DNR’s Institute for Fisheries Research taught an introductory GIS workshop on the 24th at the nearby Grand Valley State University Meijer Campus. During the business meeting, Dr. Brian Roth of Michigan State University was installed as our President-Elect for the coming year and Trevor Dunn of Lake Superior State University was appointed to chair of the Student Concerns Committee. The theme for this year’s meeting was “Telling Our Story” and talks kicked off with an invited presentation on this theme from Michigan

Sea Grant Communications Coordinator and former newspaper reporter Stephanie Ariganello.

In addition to awards for best student paper and poster, this year’s meeting included a best student video contest to stimulate interest in producing fisheries-related online videos. The winner of the best student paper award was Seth Herbst of Michigan State University for his presentation “A State-Space Model for Estimating Walleye Spatial Structure in Michigan’s Inland Waterway.” The best student presentation award went to Brandon Harris of Grand Valley State University for his work on “Population Status of

Lake Sturgeon in the Muskegon River.” The video award went to Krista Cole of Central Michigan University.

The Justin Leonard Award was presented to Dr. James Breck for his outstanding achievements and professional competence over the course of his career with Michigan DNR’s Institute for Fisheries Research. The Albert S. Hazzard Award was presented to Abigail Lynch for her doctoral work at Michigan State University “Designing a Decision-Support Tool for Harvest Management of Great Lakes Lake Whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*) in a Changing Climate.”

Missouri Chapter by Michael Smith

The Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (MOAFS) hosted the Missouri Natural Resources Conference at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, MO where it also held its 50th annual meeting on 5 February 2014. The meeting was successful and was attended by 70 members including officers and committee chairs. The Chapter also hosted a continuing education workshop at the conference for students and young professionals entitled “Careers, Qualifications, and Interviewing”; in addition the Rivers & Streams Technical Committee hosted a workshop on ecological flows. The Chapter also approved and welcomed the addition of its fourth student subunit, Southeast Missouri State University.



Outgoing Chapter President Jason Persinger (left) passes the gavel to Mike Smith (right)

Outgoing Chapter President Jason Persinger passed the gavel to Mike Smith who then presented Jason and outgoing Chapter Treasurer Jennifer Campbell-Allison with Certificates of Appreciation for their service. Hope Dodd has taken over as the Chapter’s Treasurer and Amanda Rosenberger is currently serving as President-Elect. Letters of Recognition were also

presented James Civiello with the A. Steven Weithman Jr. Leadership Award and Marlyn Miller with the John L. Funk Award of Excellence.



Mike Smith (left) presents outgoing Treasurer Jennifer Campbell-Allison (right) with a Certificate of Appreciation

The Chapter also recently participated in the 74th annual Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference held in Kansas City, MO where the Chapter’s Continuing Education Committee hosted two workshops. Dr. Jim Reynolds presented “Power-Based Standardization in Electrofishing” and Dr. Jeff Slipke presented “Exploring Fish Population Dynamics with Fisheries Analysis and Modeling Simulator (FAMS) Software.” During the conference Chapter members sold pint glasses, raffle tickets and held a silent auction at the Chapter booth.

Money from the Student Support Trust continues to be put to good use. Ryan Hupfeld (Southeast Missouri State University) was announced as the 2014 winner of the MOAFS Student Achievement Award. Nick Sievert



The Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

awarded to Clint Hale and the rest of the MNRC Conference Steering Committee, the Brook Trout Evaluation Project Team, the National Fish Habitat Initiative Project Team and the Southeast Sinkhole Tire Round-Up Project Team. At the conference awards banquet Jason Persinger

(University of Missouri) received the Duffy Travel Award for the February 2014 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Emily Pherigo (University of Missouri) was awarded the Fenske Memorial Award as well as the Carl Morrow Scholarship and Valerie Jones (Missouri State University) won the Ed Stegner Scholarship funded by the Conservation Foundation of Missouri.

In 1963, John Funk organized the formation of the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and this year the Chapter organized a banquet to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Attended by 143 members and special guests including AFS Executive Director Doug Austen, the banquet included a social hour, dinner, and a program celebrating the anniversary.

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Missouri Chapter (continued)

Jason Persinger (left) awards James Civiello (right) with the A. Steven Weithman Jr. Leadership Award.



Jason Persinger (right) awards Marlyn Miller (left) with the John L. Funk Award of Excellence.



mittee holds multiple fishing clinics annually and provides fishing gear for other groups to use. MOAFS hosted two American Fisheries Society annual meetings

The chapter has much to proud of in its 50 year history, including producing four AFS Presidents, six North Central Division (NCD) Presidents and a seventh that is the current NCD

president-elect. MOAFS has established a \$100,000 Student Support Trust dedicated to supporting fisheries students at its four active student sub-units (University of Missouri,

(the 96th meeting in 1966 and 130th in 2000) and is scheduled to host the 146th in 2016 in Kansas City, MO.



Former Chapter President and NCD President Elect Vince Travnichek (left) and his wife Becky Travnichek (right) prepared dinner for the banquet.



Chapter Historian, Former Chapter President and founding member Joe Dillard (left) and Jason Persinger (right).

Missouri State University, University of Central Missouri, and Southeast Missouri State University) and at any other university in Missouri with fisheries students. The Anglers with Disabilities Com-

After dinner, prepared by Vince and Becky Travnichek, the evening was wrapped up with messages from founding Chapter members, Joe Dillard and Lee Redmond, AFS Executive Director, Doug Austen and incoming Chapter President, Mike Smith. Overall the night was a resounding success and everyone left looking forward to making the next 50 years even more successful than the first, and knowing just how big a task that would be given how great the first 50 years has been.

Wisconsin Chapter by Tammie Paoli

On February 25-27, 2014, the Wisconsin chapter of the American Fisheries Society held their annual meeting in Green Bay. There were 215 attendees, 28 oral presentations, and 11 poster presentations. At the Business meeting, each of the student sub-units (UW-Stevens Point, UW-Green Bay, UW-Stout, and Northland College) gave an update on activities. In 2013, the UW-Stout sub-unit became a part of our Chapter. Also during the Business meeting, Tammie Paoli (WDNR

Peshtigo) was installed as President and Mike Seider (USFWS-Ashland) was voted in as President-Elect. Justine Hasz (WDNR Wisconsin Rapids) remained as the Treasurer/Secretary. At the departing luncheon, the Best Professional Paper was awarded to Jeff Janvrin (WDNR La-Crosse) for his talk "Method for estimating pre-dam distribution of centrarchid over-wintering habitat on the Mississippi River". The Best Student Paper was awarded to Zachary Beard

(UW-Stevens Point) for his talk "Evaluation of dorsal spines and scales as nonlethal alternatives to otoliths for estimating bluegill ages". The Best Poster Award went to Craig Kelling for his work on "Use of DNR barcoding as a method for identifying partially-digested fish in diet studies". Plans are underway for our 2015 meeting. See www.wi-afs.org for more information on our chapter and for instructions on how to be added to our email list.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Need Your Opinion!

The NCD currently has two inactive technical committees: Great Lakes and Salmonid. Are these committees needed? Do other groups already fill the need of these committees?

Please fill out this brief survey to let us know what you think.

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1626366/Inactive-NCD-Technical-Committees>

Thank you for your time.

Titus Seilheimer
Wisconsin Sea Grant
Wisconsin Sea Grant
UW-Manitowoc
705 Viebahn St., Room F103
Manitowoc, WI 54220
(o): 920-683-4697
[tseilheimer \(at\) aqua.wisc.edu](mailto:tseilheimer@aquawisc.edu)

Appreciation!

The DC Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives, Spearfish, SD, was pleased to receive the Archives of the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society on February 20, 2014. The six boxes were delivered by Natalie Scheibel. The hatchery has a large collection of archival material and objects relating to the history of fisheries. For more information, contact the Curator, DC Booth Fish Hatchery, 423 Hatchery Circle, 605-642-7730.

Thank you,

Randi Smith
DC Booth Fish Hatchery
605-642-7730 ext. 215

New Advances!

The NCD now has new listserv capabilities. Please send all announcements directly to me at dworkman@advancedecological.com and I will forward them along to the listserv.

Douglas Workman
Advanced Ecological Management
22071 7 Mile Road
Reed City, MI 49677
www.advancedecological.com
Office: 231.832.3200
Cell: 231.912.0506

Looking for Nominations!

Each year the Fisheries Administration Section of the American Fisheries Society recognizes outstanding fisheries projects completed with Sport Fish Restoration funds. Awards are given in three categories: Sport Fishery Development and Management, Research and Surveys, and Aquatic Education. Outstanding projects will be recognized through national press releases, in Fisheries magazine, and at the 2014 annual AFS meeting in Quebec City. Winning projects will also be presented with award plaques at an appropriate function in the winning state or protectorate.

We are currently soliciting nominations from your state or protectorate for 2014! Instructions for submitting nominations, description of the awards program, judging criteria, and past recipients can be found at <http://afsfisheriesadministration.wordpress.com/2014/04/25/nominations-for-2014-outstanding-sport-fish-restoration-projects/>. As Chair of this year's Awards Committee, I urge you to consider nominating projects that are outstanding examples of the use of Sport Fish Restoration funds (or distribute this information to appropriate personnel in your agency and urge them to submit a nomination). **We will be accepting nominations through June 15, 2014.**

Please contact Ken Kurzawski, FAS President-elect – ken.kurzawski@tpwd.texas.gov or 512-389-4591 for additional information

MEMBERS FORUM

Great Lakes Fish Tag and Recovery Lab Begins Tagging Chinook Salmon by Charles Bronte

Annually, over 20 million trout and salmon are stocked into the Great Lakes to improve sport fisheries, restore native fish populations, and control invasive fishes. Until recently, little was known about how well these stocked fish survived or the relative contribution of each stocking event to the \$7 billion Great Lakes fisheries. Another important piece of information missing was the levels of natural reproduction by non-native trout and salmon. To help “fill in the blanks” of these fishery management issues, the Council of Lake Committees (CLC), a multi-agency group of state, tribal, and provincial fishery managers, agreed in 2005 to support the development a program to tag/

mark all trout and salmon (aka mass marking) stocked in to the Great Lakes. This effort would provide a better understanding of the survival of stocked fish; the contribution of stocked fish to the restoration of native fish populations; and help evaluate and improve hatchery operations.

The CLC requested the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to carry out the mass marking program in U.S. waters based on its successful delivery of Great Lakes basin-wide sea lamprey control and lake trout restoration programs. To address this request, the Great Lakes Fish Tag and Recovery Laboratory was established at the Services' Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Office (GBFWCO) in New Franken, WI. Pilot tagging and marking projects began in 2010 and were expanded in 2011 to annually tag and mark every lake trout stocked into the Great Lakes and every Chinook salmon stocked into lakes Michigan and Huron. Since 2010, nearly 13 million Chinook salmon and over 20 million lake trout have been tagged and marked since 2010, and when recovered, provide state agencies and the Service with an understanding of the levels of natural reproduction, post release survival, movement within and between lakes, inter jurisdictional contributions to the creel, evaluation of stocking locations, and hatchery performance.

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Great Lakes Fish Tag and Recovery Lab Begins Tagging Chinook Salmon (continued)

In early March 2014, the lab began marking and coded wire tagging (CWT) Chinook salmon for the year. Over the next 2 months, Fish and Wildlife Service biologists will travel to seven state operated hatcheries in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. About 2.4 million Chinook salmon destined for Lakes Michigan and Huron will be tagged and marked (Table). Each salmon will receive a 1-mm coded wire tag made of stainless steel and injected into the snout prior to release into the Great Lakes. Each tag has a six digit numerical code that allows fish to be traced back to a hatchery, stocking location, and year class. Along with the CWT, the fish is marked by removing its adipose fin. Removing the fin allows anglers and technicians to identify the fish as one



Figure 1. The AutoFish trailer, exterior and interior views. (Source FWS).

that may contain a CWT.

The centerpiece of the Great Lakes program is the automated tagging and marking trailer, known as the AutoFish system designed by Northwest Marine Technology (Figure 1). The AutoFish system is a self-contained mobile fish marking and tagging system that has the ability to apply coded wire tags (CWTs)(Figure 2) and adipose fin clips to trout and salmon at high speeds (>8,000 fish/hour) with minimal handling stress. The Great Lakes' program currently operates four AutoFish trailers and one manual tagging and clipping trailer.

Throughout the season, Service technicians, working with state agencies, will recovery snouts of fish containing a CWT and all associated data on these fish and their wild counterparts from the sport fishery. Ad-

ditional tagged fish are collected through various agency surveys, spawning returns, and through voluntary angler cooperation. The snouts are sent to the lab in Green Bay to be extracted, read and electronically archived. In 2013, the lab processed 16,300 samples and recovered 15,240 tags from ten agencies. The lab has been designed with the anticipation of processing up to 100,000 CWT recoveries per year as the number of tagged fished at-large increases. A database containing all of the tag and recovery data is made available to all partner agencies but will be maintained at the lab.

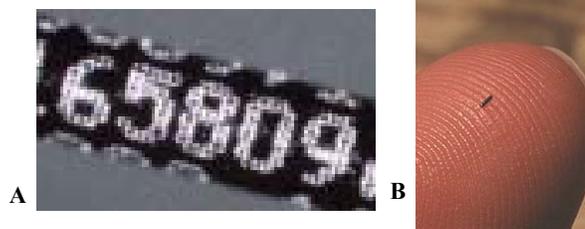


Figure 2. The coded wire tag: the six-digit code is etched on four sides of the stainless steel wire. Magnification is required to read the code (A). A cut tag on a fingertip (B) (Source: Northwest Marine Technology).

2014 Chinook salmon tagging and marking season			
Hatchery	State agency	Dates at hatchery	Salmon to be tagged
Jake Wolf	Illinois DNR	March 11-20 2014	270,000
Mixsawbah	Indiana DNR	March 18-22 2014	210,000
Wolf Lake	Michigan DNR	March 23-27 2014	220,000
Kettle Morine	Wisconsin DNR	April 1-5 2014	100,000
Wild Rose	Wisconsin DNR	April 8-17 2014	660,000
Platte River	Michigan DNR	April 22- May 1 2014	920,000
Thompson	Michigan DNR	May 5-9 2014	50,000
Total			2,430,000

Charles R. Bronte
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office
 2661 Scott Tower Drive
 New Franken, WI, 54229
 (920) 866-1761
charles_bronte@fws.gov

DNR Research Vessels Take to Great Lakes to Learn More About Michigan's Fisheries

by David Clapp

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources operates four survey vessels on the waters of the Great Lakes, conducting annual surveys of Great Lakes fish populations. The surveys are designed to estimate relative abundance, biomass, age and growth, health, diet, survival rates, natural reproduction and movements of fish in the Great Lakes. The DNR's vessels are critical in the department's mission to conserve, protect and manage the Great Lakes for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.

Vessels have home ports at Great Lakes stations in Marquette, Alpena, Charlevoix and Harrison Township, but work throughout the lakes on a variety of lake-specific efforts. They operate from the time ice has cleared the lakes well into November. The DNR has had research vessels on the Great Lakes since the 1960s.

On Lake Superior, the R/V *Lake Char* (the DNR's newest vessel, launched in 2007) is employed primarily to assess lake trout populations and provides information used to generate annual lake trout harvest quotas, as well as to provide information on sea lamprey wounding.

Lake Huron surveys, conducted from the R/V *Chinook* (in operation since 1947 and a research vessel since 1968), include specific assessments of lake trout and walleye, as well as broader fisheries assessments in Saginaw Bay and the St. Mary's River to evaluate fish community changes in these valuable Great Lakes systems. The R/V *Chinook* is often paired with the R/V *Channel Cat* (based out of the DNR's Lake St. Clair Fisheries Research Station since

1968) for Saginaw Bay surveys. The R/V *Channel Cat* is also employed in surveys of Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie fish populations, focusing on walleye, yellow perch and lake sturgeon.

On Lake Michigan, the S/V *Steelhead* (also in operation since 1968) is used in a variety of fisheries assessment operations – including spring evaluations of adult yellow perch, whitefish, lake trout and Chinook salmon populations. Later in summer, the S/V *Steelhead* teams up with vessels from the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to evaluate lakewide forage fish abundance.

Throughout the summer, DNR vessels are visible residents of Great Lakes ports; the public and staff of partner agencies are encouraged to visit the vessels and talk with the crews about fisheries assessment operations. To learn more about Michigan DNR science vessel operations, please visit www.michigan.gov/fishing. Additional information about science vessel operations throughout the Great Lakes can be found at the Great Lakes Association of Science Ship web site, www.canamglass.org.

David F. Clapp
Michigan DNR, Fisheries Division
96 Grant Street
Charlevoix, MI 49720
231-547-2914, XT 237
clappd@michigan.gov



Spring 2014 Update from the Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers LLC by Gwen White

(A periodic news summary on behalf of the Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers LCC, related to the information, tools and partnerships needed to conserve landscapes that sustain nature and people in the Midwest.)

In this Spring 2014 update, we update you on our partnership's progress to build communities of science across the Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers LCC geography. Our work to support trial prairie planting activities continues to expand, and we are busy planning for a series of workshops focusing on urban conservation, Mississippi Basin effects on Gulf hypoxia and professional development for our growing community of natural resource experts.

Also how we're working with the Northeast Climate Science Center to generate cutting-edge science on climate change and grassland bird conservation.

Learn more about these projects and our upcoming workshop and training opportunities on the ETPBR LCC website at: <http://tallgrassprairieecc.org/>

Draft Business Plan Available for Immediate Stakeholder Use

Through online and webinar engagement over the past several months, TAG members have identified immediate priorities in the LCC Business Plan for each of the four focal areas, including integrated strategies related to the two recently-formed expert networks for human dimensions and communications. This Plan will guide project development and will be dynamically updated by TAGs each year. View the latest Business Plan and let the TAG coordinators know how you are using it to align partner actions. Download the FY14 Business Plan from the LCC website and keep an eye out for the FY14 RFP.

Mississippi River Basin/Gulf Hypoxia Structured Decision Making Workshop 2014

How can we jointly solve the complex problems associated with water quality and wildlife conservation in an intensive working landscape? Seven LCCs have joined together to identify key scientific uncertainties associated with design and management of a sustainable ecosystem/floodplain landscape that provides multiple benefits for agricultural productivity, water quality, and wildlife conservation—both locally and in the Gulf of Mexico. Online meetings through the summer are preparing for a Mississippi River Basin / Gulf Hypoxia Structured Decision Making Workshop to be held August 12 - 14, 2014 in Memphis, TN, that will convene 40 key representatives integrating a range of perspectives.

Midwest Urban Conservation Workshop

How can cities and towns contribute to wildlife habitat and connections with nature? The first Midwest Urban Conservation Workshop on April 29 - May 1, 2014 at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, Mo., will convene a working group of representatives from across the LCC to begin understanding the challenges stakeholders are facing, defining needs for collaboration and best management practices, establishing a platform to learn from each other and creating an opportunity for collaboration on new initiatives through a collective impact approach.

Prairie STRIPS Trace a Line for Water Quality, Pollinators and Grassland Birds

The Science-based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairies (STRIPS) team is working to understand impacts of prairie planting practices on farmers' fields, specifically examining impacts on grassland birds, pollinators, water quality and soil health. Experimental work on small watersheds at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge may be expanded to larger farming operations across the Midwest in Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota and Kansas. The team is also exploring application of the STRIPS concept in plantings of perennial grasses for biofuels industry. This intersection between fuels and wildlife may open new opportunities to provide multiple ecosystem services for landowners in Missouri and elsewhere.

Gwen White
Science Coordinator, Eastern Tallgrass Prairie & Big Rivers LCC
812-334-4261 x1217 (o)
812-212-7455 (c)
Visit us at: <http://www.tallgrassprairieecc.org/>