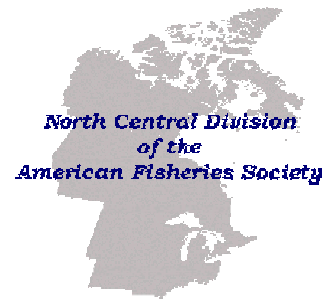


Mainstream

Spring 2005, Volume 22(1)



Dakota - Illinois - Indiana - Iowa - Kansas - Michigan - Mid-Canada - Minnesota - Missouri - Nebraska - Ohio - Ontario - Wisconsin



President's Message

By Mike Brown
Greetings!

Spring has arrived in full force and I am sure that both work and recreational activity levels have increased exponentially in recent weeks for everyone. Fish folks, in particular, also observe the genesis of new life and renewed growth during this season. Thus, as we go about our routines during this biologically vigorous period please keep in mind the health and growth of the Division and Society. Our professional health is dependent upon sustaining an active, vibrant membership.

In that vein, the NCD membership has increased by 78 members since last year. Much of this increase is attributed to an increase in Canadian regular memberships (n = 243; U.S. regular, n = 843). The recent decision by the AFS Governing Board to provide low-cost student memberships (\$19, includes access to all AFS online journals and InfoBase) should bolster recruitment opportunities beginning in 2006. These reduced student membership fees are critical to recruitment efforts because the Society age structure is becoming heavily skewed toward "advanced" (or, more mature depending upon your perspective) age groups; therefore, recruitment of students and subsequent retention through the young professional and regular member levels is critical to our future. Also, the Division recently contributed \$500 to a developing country membership fund sponsored by the International Fisheries Section. This category will support abroad AFS membership opportunities for students, faculty, and biologists who were previously unable to afford member dues. The dues for this category will be \$5 (*Fisheries*, electronic format) or \$25 (*Fisheries*, print format).

Several events have occurred since the last posting of the Mainstream, including the Midwest Conference and most of the annual chapter meetings. The Midwest Conference was very successful, particularly given the state travel restrictions experienced by many NCD members. Several action items were approved for budgetary support at our business meeting including: membership recruitment initiatives, student affairs initiatives, Hutton Junior Biologist program support, International Membership fund support, and NCD website development. I am happy to report at this time that a new NCD webpage is currently under development, courtesy of Keith Hurley (NE) and Joe Hennessy (WI). Aside from the numerous bells and whistles, the new page will be fully capable of receiving updates from chapter representatives and committee chairs.

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This is 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. From the website:

<http://www.fw.umn.edu/ncdafs>

Editor: Rich Zweifel



Hopefully, providing key individuals access to their group's folder will ensure that our website is kept up to date.

The 135th annual meeting (September 11-15, 2005) in Anchorage is shaping up to be perhaps the largest in AFS history. Because of the multitude of submissions, the program committee had to be highly selective. Fifty of 64 symposium proposals submitted were accepted to provide 13 concurrent sessions. In addition there will be at least three concurrent sessions for contributed platform papers. Regular member registration fees for this meeting were held steady at \$295 to encourage participation. Conference motels are filling fast, so if you plan on attending it would be wise to make reservations ASAP. Complete meeting information may be found at <http://www.wdafs.org/Anchorage2005/index.htm>.

I have sincerely appreciated the opportunity to work with Steve Fischer, Brad Parsons, Don Kline, Stu Shipman, Rich Zweifel, and Randy Schultz during the first half of my tenure as president. These folks do a lot for the Division and I look forward to working with them through the duration of the year. Since the Midwest meeting, Randy has taken over Don's secretary/treasurer duties. Don has provided years of service to the NCD and deserves a break. Accordingly, the governing board members express their sincere gratitude to Don for his administrative efforts.

I hope to see many of you in Anchorage!

P.S. A contact list is appended to this issue, some of which I suspect is out-dated. If you detect an error please send me the current contact information. Thanks!

Committee Reports

Awards

By Rich Zweifel (OH)

I would like to congratulate the Ontario chapter for winning the newsletter of the year award for the North Central Division of AFS. They have put a lot of time and effort into putting together an outstanding newsletter. Their newsletter can be read online at: <http://www.afs-soc.org/>.

Continuing Education

by Steve R. Chipps (SD)

Dear NCD members,

As the new Chair of the NCD Continuing Education Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to first thank Dr. Trent Sutton for his hard work as previous CE chair. Both Trent and NCD President, Mike Brown, have made this an easy transition by providing guidance and advice. Having served on the AFS Continuing Education Committee for 5

years now, I've seen many opportunities for professionals and students alike to increase their knowledge and skills through participation in technical workshops. Because advances in fisheries technology and theory evolve quickly, it is important that we take advantage of educational opportunities if we are to succeed as professionals. Like many folks, I believe that one of the most important functions of AFS is to maintain and enhance the technical, professional, and administrative knowledge of its members. With that said, I look forward to serving the NCD as the Continuing Education Committee Chair.

Whether at the local (State), regional or national level, one of the most important challenges faced by any CE committee is prioritizing educational needs of its membership. With such a diverse array of professionals (administrators, managers, researchers), it is important that we try to provide educational activities for everyone. In a recent survey conducted by the AFS Continuing Education Committee, the following areas were identified as important educational needs:

- (1) statistics and analysis (83%)
- (2) restoration and enhancement (81%)
- (3) population dynamics (81%)
- (4) multi-species interactions (79%)
- (5) technical writing (79%)

Of course many other topics were also recommended, including short courses in public administration (62%) and computer skills (72%). In an effort to help prioritize needs among the NCD membership, the CE Committee will be conducting a survey at this year's annual meeting in Grand Rapids, MI. We hope to make this as painless as possible by providing an efficient questionnaire that can be easily completed and returned to us at the meeting.

As part of our effort to promote educational opportunities, we have included a "Call for Workshops" announcement in this issue of *Mainstream*. For those interested in organizing and/or sponsoring a continuing education workshop at the 66th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, please review this announcement for details on how to submit a proposal. We look forward to working with workshop organizers in helping make this year's meeting a productive one. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions/comments. Until then, have a fun and safe summer!

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS

66th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
Grand Rapids, Michigan
December 10-14, 2005

Deadline: June 10, 2005

Proposals for workshops are invited for the 66th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Grand Rapids, MI, December 10-14. Workshops should be structured to provide technical training on a specific skill, technique or process. Workshops are intended to enhance learning through participation, discussion and/or hands-on activities.

Workshop proposals for the 66th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference should include the following information: (1) title of workshop, (2) duration of workshop (half or full day), (3) workshop organizer(s) (name, affiliation, address, phone number, fax, and email), (4) statement of workshop purpose, (5) description of workshop, including topics to be covered, (6) assessment of learning outcomes (i.e., method of evaluation), (7) registration fee, (8) minimum and maximum number of attendees, (9) estimated budget (honorarium for instructors, travel reimbursements, materials/supplies), and (10) resume or C.V. for workshop instructors. Also, please indicate in the budget section, the number of refreshment breaks; the Steering committee may add these estimated costs to the proposed registration fee.

To submit a proposal, please forward a file of the document in MS Word (preferred) or WordPerfect by June 10, 2005 to: Steve Chipps (steve_chipps@sdstate.edu). Proposals received after June 10 will only be considered if space permits. Upon receipt of proposals, organizers will receive an email notification.

The North Central Division Continuing Education Committee strongly encourages workshop organizers to submit their proposals to the AFS Continuing Education Committee. The Continuing Education Committee is charged with reviewing education activities and approving continuing education credits. Approval forms, that request the same information as outlined above, can be obtained at <http://www.fisheries.org/html/Education.shtml>.

On behalf of the NCD Continuing Education Committee, I thank everyone for their time and effort in organizing workshop opportunities -- your efforts provide a valuable service to AFS members.

Steve Chipps
NPBL 2140 B
USGS South Dakota Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
South Dakota State University
Brookings, SD 57007
Ph: 605.688.5467
Fax: 605.688.4515



Centrarchid Technical Committee

By Keith Hurley

The Centrarchid Technical Committee (CTC) is planning a Bioenergetics Continuing Education Workshop during the summer of 2005. The workshop will take place at Wyalusing State Park, WI (Prairie Du Chein) from noon on July 19th through noon on July 20th. This is an entry-level workshop into bioenergetics aimed at students and professionals with little to no understanding of the field. While you won't be leaving an expert, we hope that after the

workshop you will have a better understanding on when and how bioenergetics modeling can help you and be better able to evaluate and use the results of bioenergetic studies in your own daily work. Registrations will be limited to the first 65 to sign up. Free lodging and some meals are available at the park as part of your registration fee. The workshop will be presented by Dr. Rob Hayward and Dr. Przemek Bajer from the University of Missouri. Further details including a workshop agenda, biographical information on Dr. Hayward and Dr. Bajer, and online registration can be found at <http://ctc.khurley.net>.

The 2005 summer meeting of the CTC will take place at Wyalusing State Park, WI immediately after the bioenergetics workshop and will run from noon on July 20th to noon on July 21st. Attendance of the CTC meeting is NOT limited to CTC representatives. The CTC is currently soliciting presentations on upcoming, ongoing, or finished research dealing with any centrarchid species. The CTC prides itself on being an outlet and sounding board for students entering into thesis or dissertation research and welcomes the opportunity to provide thoughts and input into experimental designs and planning for students and professionals. Presentations are informal and do not need to be completed research! Contact Keith Hurley at khurley@ngpc.state.ne.us if you are interested in speaking at the CTC summer meeting. Further details including online registration can be found at <http://ctc.khurley.net>.

At the 2005 Midwest Fisheries and Wildlife Conference in Grand Rapids, MI the CTC will be sponsoring a symposium titled "Conflict Resolution in Black Bass Fisheries". Anyone, professional or laymen, who has been involved with settling conflicts arising from the management of black bass populations, black bass fisheries, black bass fishermen, or even black bass biologists are invited to be part of the CTC symposium. Of particular interest are viewpoints and case studies of the decision-making processes used, methods of resolving particular conflicts, and advice for others entering similar conflict resolution roles. Potential conflict topics could include tournament disputes, regulation implementation and disputes, and resource use conflicts. If you are interested in participating in the symposium, please contact Keith Hurley at khurley@ngpc.state.ne.us.



Esocid Technical Committee

Interested persons should contact Steve Pallo at spallo@dnr.state.il.us.



Genetics and Biodiversity Technical Committee

Interested persons should contact Brian Sloss at brian.sloss@uwsp.edu.



Ictalurid Technical Committee

Interested persons should contact Lynn Schlueter at lschluet@state.nd.us.



Rivers and Streams Technical Committee

By Paul Kanehl

Our spring meeting was held on March 23-24, 2005 in Rock Island, IL at the Rock Island Conservation Club. First, I would like to thank the members of the Rock Island Conservation Club for the use of their facilities for our annual spring meeting. We have been using their facility for many years now and we really appreciate their kind hospitality. We had over 30 people attend from seven different states and provinces. The meeting consisted of state chapter reports, which outline various projects and studies being conducted by state and federal agencies, and twelve presentations were given. The first day of presentations consisted of habitat improvement projects and aerial stream recon methods. The second day of presentations consisted of statewide monitoring and assessment programs from four different states, a proposal for a flathead catfish study, restoration efforts in the Waukegan River, IL, and a geomorphic assessment approach for evaluating stream channels. Discussions were also held on several projects that the Committee is currently working on which include:

1. An article entitled: "A survey of stream habitat assessment and remediation: Programs and practices in the AFS North Central Division."
2. A subcommittee was formed to start the process of conducting a symposium at the 2006 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. The symposium will focus on statewide monitoring and assessment programs and statewide databases. More information will follow as this subcommittee works out the details.
3. A workshop is being planned for this fall featuring Dr. Marc Gaboury and the topic of river restoration, riffle construction, and fish passage. This would be a 2 – 2 ½ day workshop. Again, more information will follow as details are worked out.

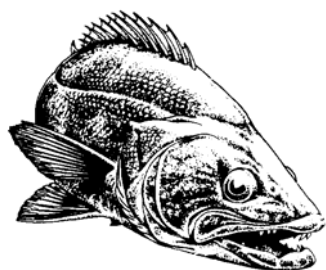
4. A Who's Who of Stream Management in the AFS – NCD is finally completed. This project is a list of biologists from the various states in the NCD for 25 different stream categories. This project is an update from a similar project conducted in 1989.

Please check out our website at www.fw.umn.edu/ncdafs under NCD Committees for all of the latest state chapter reports, meeting minutes, our current projects, Chapter Representatives, and current Committee officers.



Salmonid Technical Committee

Interested persons should contact Mark Ebbers at mark.ebbers@dnr.state.mn.us.



Walleye Technical Committee

By Jeff Reed

Jeff.reed@dnr.state.mn.us
320-634-4573

The WTC will hold its annual summer meeting July 26th – 28th at the University of Minnesota's Cloquet Forestry Research Station located near Duluth (www.cnr.umn.edu/cfc). Anyone interested in presenting material related to walleye or sauger should contact Jeff Reed. Registration costs for the meeting – including lodging, meals, and a social or two - will be about \$100 (fees are currently being negotiated).

Students!! Have a walleye/sauger related project? Are you willing to give a presentation at the summer meeting? If so, you are eligible for reduced registration fees! The summer WTC meeting is an excellent chance to present materials in an informal setting.

Lodging is first come – first serve for cabins. Other lodging will be in student dorm-style rooms. To reserve a cabin contact Jeff Reed ASAP.

Walleye Synopsis Update:

AFS has been contacted about working on the project as a book. Authors for chapters will be sought shortly. There is also a need to find an editor or co-editors for the project.

Anyone interested in participating in the project should contact Jeff Reed and if possible plan on attending the summer meeting. A good portion of the business meeting will be devoted to the synopsis project.

For more information regarding the WTC's 2005 activities, please refer to the winter meeting minutes.

Hope to see you all in Cloquet!

Winter Meeting Minutes:

A small, but productive group attended the winter meeting in Indianapolis.

Walleye Technical Committee
Winter 2004 Meeting Minutes
Indianapolis, IN

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair-elect Jeff Reed.

Old Business

Summer Meeting: JR noted that the summer meeting held at Delta Marsh was an unqualified success with 30 to 35 members attending. Mike Sullivan (AB) did a great job setting up the meeting and Steve Gilbert (WI) provided the group with plenty of refreshments and raffle prizes.

Financial Report: As of 1 December, 2004, WTC had just over \$10,000 in the NCD Treasury.

Synopsis Update: Plans are to pursue the synopsis update as an AFS book. Peter Colby has outlined an update and plans would be to find authors for individual chapters that have been outlined. Neil Billington and Brian Sloss have agreed to work on the genetics chapter. There is still a need to identify one or two editors for the project. Reed, Steve Neuman, John Pitlo, and Jeff Hendrickson will work on finding authors for the outlined chapters and an editor or two. Steve Gilbert has agreed to direct a fundraising subcommittee for the project as well. The goal is to have the project underway by the summer (2005) meeting.

New Business

Jeff Reed assumed the WTC Chair and thanked Mike Sullivan for his contributions to the WTC over the past year. Tim Haxton will take the reigns as Chair-elect for 2005.

JR handed out an Action Agenda for 2005.

Goals for 2005 include:

1. Information Exchange. This includes hosting the annual summer meeting. The Summer 2005 Meeting will be held at Itasca Biological Station in Itasca State Park, Minnesota. Dates are still pending but are likely to be August 2 – 4 with alternative dates August 9 – 11. Lodging will be in cabins, meals will be provided and there are ample opportunities for fishing and other recreational endeavors. A

complete schedule and registration packet will be available in late March. Registration including meals, lodging and registration should be between \$100 and 120.

2. Information Exchange/Scientific and Stewardship. The WTC Sub-committee for the FAO Synopsis Update will continue progress to getting this published. The goal is to have authors for chapters, editor(s), and fundraisers will be named in 2005.
3. Student Involvement. The WTC will work to increase student involvement in the committee and participation at the summer meeting. A motion was made and approved at the meeting to waive registration fees (up to \$50) for students that give presentations at the summer meeting. JR will make contacts within chapters and at universities to encourage student involvement at this summer's meeting as well.
4. Collaborative Projects. In the past, the WTC has facilitated cooperative projects. The goal is to have at least one cooperative project in the planning stages by 2006. Any WTC members with ideas/suggestions are encouraged to bring them for discussion to the summer meeting or send them to JR.
5. Develop a symposium for an upcoming Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. JR noted that upcoming meetings in Wisconsin and Ohio might be good locations for a walleye symposium focusing on Great Lakes walleye issues. Other topics are welcome as well.

Other new business

The WTC currently has slightly more than \$10,000 in an account managed by the North Central Division. Combined with monies from other technical committees there is slightly more than \$30,000 in NCD accounts. The NCD Governing Board is looking to invest a portion of that money into accounts that will benefit (in terms of yield) these committees and the NCD. It was noted that even if the WTC funds are encumbered into these accounts there is other money available to the WTC to cover expenditures over the short-term. A discussion of placing some of the WTC funds into these types of accounts followed and a motion to support the concept of the NCD moving these funds into higher yielding accounts was made. The motion passed.

Frank Jennejcic (WV) distributed copies of the WV Ohio River walleye and sauger investigations.

Thanks to Greg Gelwicks (IA) for taking meeting notes!

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



Upcoming Events

135th AFS Annual Meeting

Creating a Fisheries Mosaic: Connections Across Jurisdictions,
Disciplines, and Cultures

Sept 11-15, 2005 Anchorage, AK.

66th Annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

December 11-14 Grand Rapids, MI.

Reservations can be made by contacting the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids at 1-866-608-9330.

Other Fisheries Events:

A good source of these happenings is: <http://www.fisheries.org/Calendar.shtml>

Chapter Reports

Dakota Chapter

By Scott Elstad

The 2005 DCAFS Annual Meeting was held February 28 - March 2, 2005 at the Comfort Inn in Bismarck, ND. There were 22 total paper presentations - 18 professional and 4 student, along with 11 posters - 7 student and 4 professional presented at the meeting. The meeting got underway with early registration on Monday 12:00pm and the Continuing Education Workshop: Aging with Otoliths began at 1:00pm. The EXCOM meeting followed the workshop at 5:00pm. The Monday evening social began at 5:00pm at pool side.

Refreshments were available throughout the evening. The program began at 8:10am Tuesday with opening remarks by DCAFS President Scott Elstad and Director of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Dean Hildebrand. Presentations began immediately after the opening remarks. Presentations resumed after lunch followed by the poster session. The DCAFS annual business meeting convened at 3:00pm and concluded approximately 4:45 pm.



The Dakota Chapter AFS received a letter of appreciation from Chuck Berdan, for its support of the "Kids All-American Fishing Event" held at McNenny State Fish Hatchery every year. Social hour started at 5:30 pm in the banquet room and by 6:30pm the catered buffet dinner arrived. Entertainment provided by Mylo Hatzenbuhler "The Rock-n-Roll Farmboy" began at 7pm and lasted approximately 1 hour. President Scott Elstad then presented the Annual Awards and was followed by the student raffle. Wednesday morning presentations got underway at 8:30am and the meeting concluded following Best Student and Professional Paper Awards at 11:30pm. President-Elect John Lott stated that the February 2006 meeting would probably be in Brookings, Watertown or Chamberlain, SD. Awards and results of the election are as follows:

Distinguished Professional Awards

Jack Erickson – SDGFP

Emil Berard – NDGF

Aquatic Resource Conservation Award

Mark and Becky Wald – Mandan, ND

Sauger Scholarship Award Winners

Mark A. Kaemingk, SDSU

Michael J. Weber, SDSU

Student Best Poster Winners

Nick Radabaugh and BJ Bauer (co-authored)

A Comparison of Fall Movement Patterns of Adult Yellow Perch in Dissimilar Glacial Lakes

Student Best Paper

Michael J. Weber (Professor David W. Willis), SDSU

Early Life History of Fishes in Missouri River Reservoirs

Professional Best Paper

Michael E. Barnes, SDGFP

Bacterial Numbers Determined by Scanning Electron Microscopy and Bacteriological Culture Methods from Landlocked Fall Chinook Salmon Eyed Eggs Subjected to Various Formalin Treatments

Alvin Kreil Memorial Gift AFS Membership

(Donated by Randy & Karen Kreil)

Mark A. Kaemingk, SDSU

American Fisheries Society Membership

(Donated by AFS)

Kris Edwards

Officer Elections (Winner in Italics)

President Elect

Jason Lee – unopposed, NDGF

Vice President

Robert P. Hanten, SDGFP

Craig Alan Soupier

Secretary-Treasurer

Kyle Potter – unopposed, SDGFP

Indiana Chapter

By Trent Sutton

The Indiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society hosted its annual spring meeting on March 3 and 4 in Bloomington, Indiana. The meeting began with a half-day plenary session entitled, "Aquatic Invasive Species: Is It Already Too Late?". This session included a total of seven (7) presentations on a range of topics including issues associated aquatic invasive species at national and regional perspectives, legislation and funding initiatives, and assessment and management programs designed for species invasive species.



At the business meeting later on Thursday afternoon, Dave Meuninck was elected as the next President-Elect and Kevin Hoffman was elected as the Secretary-Treasurer. Topics discussed at the meeting included a revision to the Chapter by-laws, the creation of a Student Affairs Committee, continuing education courses involving cyprinid identification and mussel kill investigations, and redevelopment of the Chapter's website.

Following the dinner on Thursday evening, the chapter sponsored a combination mixer and poster session. A total of five (5) posters were presented, with topics ranging from shovelnose sturgeon reproductive biology, goldfish and common carp invasions, effects of half-log introductions in warm-water streams, morphological variations in spotfin shiners, and growth and behavioral interactions between western mosquitofish and northern starhead topminnows. The best poster award went to Anthony Kennedy, Trent Sutton, Thomas Stefanavage, and Brant Fisher on "Reproductive biology of sexually mature female shovelnose sturgeon during the spring spawning migration in the Wabash River, Indiana".

A total of ten (10) papers were presented during the second day of the meeting as part of the technical presentation session. The contributed papers covered a wide range of topics ranging from the use of half-logs in warm-water streams by aquatic macroinvertebrates, freshwater mussel diversity, population dynamics of shovelnose sturgeon, largemouth bass management, control of Eurasian watermilfoil, aging techniques for yellow perch, and stock assessment of alewives. The best professional paper award went to Paul Allen for "The Lake Michigan yellow perch task group: a decade of cooperative effort". The best student paper award went to Cassandra May and Thomas Lauer for "Comparison of techniques used to age yellow perch in southern Lake Michigan".

Iowa Chapter

By Dan Kirby

The September 2004-August 2005 Iowa AFS Chapter officers are as follows: President: Dan Kirby, President-Elect: Donna Muhm, Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Hawkins, Past-President: Scott Gritters.

A joint meeting was held between the Iowa Chapter of the TWS and the Iowa Chapter of the AFS in Ames, Iowa on February 1-2, 2005. The meeting focused on wildlife diversity and landscape management topics in the state of Iowa. About 165 people attended and included IA AFS Chapter members, IA TWS Chapter members, Iowa State University Faculty, and Iowa State University Students.

A continuing education course was held in Ames, Iowa on January 28, 2005. The course provided an overview and hands-on experience with The Iowa Rivers Information System (IRIS) and The Iowa Aquatic Gap Analysis Project (IAGAP). These web-based products were developed jointly by Iowa State University and the Iowa Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit for fisheries and natural resources in Iowa.

The Iowa Chapter provided \$775 in chapter funds for two Iowa Fisheries Projects in 2004 (discussed further below). These funds were used to assist in the completion of a habitat improvement project on a coldwater stream, and covered material costs for a handicap access on a popular trout stream.

The Iowa Chapter has "adopted" a cove in the soon to be completed Lost Grove Lake in

southeast Iowa. The chapter has submitted a habitat plan and will join nine other local organizations (e.g., QC Bass Club, Gander Mountain, Davenport Izaak Walton League), on work days for installing habitat features (e.g., artificial reefs, stake beds) in the lake basin.

In April 2004, the Iowa Chapter awarded a \$500 scholarship to Daniel Rosauer. Daniel is currently a junior at Iowa State University majoring in Animal Ecology, with an option of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.

The Iowa Chapter has been working with students from Iowa State University that wish to form a student sub-unit of the Iowa AFS Chapter. At the Chapters' annual meeting, the Chapter membership voted to support the students in this endeavor and a committee was formed to begin the process of revising Chapter bylaws to accommodate the proposed student sub-unit.

Iowa Chapter of the AFS Provides Funds for Fisheries Projects

In the spring of 2001, the membership of the Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society voted to create a \$1000 fund for fisheries related projects within the state of Iowa. This decision was in response to a healthy treasury and a desire to actively support projects with fisheries benefits. Since that time, the Iowa Chapter of the AFS has provided funding for five fisheries projects with a total allocation of \$2090 in chapter funds.

Fisheries issues are diverse, and this is reflected in the projects monetarily supported by the Iowa AFS Chapter. In 2003, chapter funds were allocated for an aquatic display at a Washington County interpretive center, and helped pay for the production of an educational video focusing on the plight of freshwater mussels in the Upper Midwest. In 2004, chapter funds provided materials needed to construct a walkway along a popular Delaware County coldwater stream, and helped a private landowner pay for bank stabilization and fish habitat structures on a trout stream in Clayton County. Recently, the Iowa AFS has contributed funding for the purchase of passive integrated transponder tags (PIT tags) for use in a study of shovelnose sturgeon in the Upper Mississippi River. Collectively, these projects have helped Iowa fisheries through habitat improvement, public access, public education, and research support.

The dollars available for the Iowa Chapter fisheries project fund are determined by membership vote on an annual basis. To this point, \$1000 has been available in each fiscal year with a maximum allocation of \$500 per project. The process for submitting proposals, determining acceptable projects, and fund allocation is simple. Project proposals must be submitted by an Iowa Chapter member, and the EXCOM committee of the Iowa AFS scores the submitted proposals to determine priority.



Picture on left - Trout stream stabilization and bank hides on the Maquoketa River (Clayton County) completed in August of 2004, with funding contributed by the Iowa Chapter of the AFS.

Picture on right - Walkway along Spring Branch Creek (Delaware County) completed in June of 2004 with materials paid for by the Iowa Chapter of the AFS.

Michigan Chapter

By Doug Workman

The Michigan Chapter held its annual meeting in Roscommon, MI on February 8 and 9, 2005, and included a workshop on fish population estimation that was instructed by Dan Hayes, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University. The meeting and workshop were a success and included a strong student turnout, great presentations, and a fun evening social and raffle (thanks to the WI Chapter for showing us how to have more fun at our meetings). During the meeting, Jessica Mistak assumed Past President duties following the installation of Doug Workman as Chapter President. The Chapter membership voted Todd Wills as President-Elect.



Our Continuing Education Committee has a full agenda this year. Including our recent workshop held in conjunction with the Chapter's annual meeting, we are sponsoring a Fluvial Geomorphology and Stream Classification Workshop, and are co-sponsoring a Fish/Mussel Kill Workshop with the Indiana Chapter. The Fluvial Geomorphology and Stream Classification Workshop will be held June 20-24, 2005 in Marquette, MI, and will be instructed by Luther Aadland, Ph.D., Research Scientist Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and Sandy Verry Ph.D., Consulting Hydrologist with Ellen River Partners in Grand Rapids, MN. The Fish/Mussel Kill Workshop will be held September 20, 2005 in Niles, MI, and will be instructed by Wayne Davis and Rob Southwick of Southwick Associates. In response to our Student Concerns Committee, our Chapter

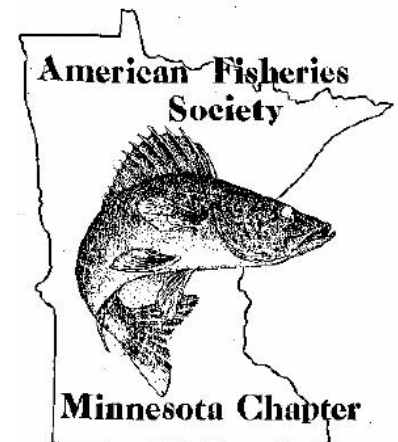
now provides financial assistance for two students to attend each Chapter-sponsored workshop.

Finally, we are excited to be involved with the 2005 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference that will be held December 11-14 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, MI. Our Chapter is working with the conference steering committee to provide affordable options for student participation and to provide support where possible to help make the upcoming conference a great success!

Minnesota Chapter

By Loren Miller

The Minnesota Chapter recently had its annual meeting in conjunction with the Minnesota Society for Conservation Biology. We had about 175 people at the 1.5 day meeting that included 42 presentations and 11 posters. Minnesota Sea Grant sponsored cash awards for best student presentation to Julie Zimmerman for "Interactions between trout and sculpin: effects of native versus nonnative trout on sculpin growth and diet" and best student poster to Ben Twaits for "Electrophysiological recording supports a possible role for water-borne bile acids in home stream recognition by anadromous rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss* Kamloops)," both of the University of Minnesota. Other highlights included an evening social, banquet, raffle and business meetings. At the business meeting we approved resolutions in support of legislation to clearly define vegetative buffers for ditches and a proposed Clean Water Legacy fee dedicated to improving impaired waters. We also approved a Long-Range Plan for chapter activities in the upcoming years consistent with the strategic plan of AFS.



Nebraska Chapter

By Steve Lydick

We held our 2005 annual meeting at Ponca State Park on February 8-9, and it was one of our best attended meetings in our history. This year we mixed it up a bit from our standard program by hosting the one-day fishkill evaluation workshop graciously offered by the Socioeconomics Section. Wayne Davis and Rob Southwick traveled to Nebraska and put on a great workshop for the Chapter. Given the rave reviews from the membership, we'd certainly recommend the workshop to other chapters that may be considering it.



Following the workshop, we held our annual business meeting. Two awards of special note were presented this year. The Chapter's Distinguished Service Award was posthumously awarded to Darrell Feit, who passed away this year after a long and meritorious career with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Dr. Edward Peters was the recipient of our Chapter's Award of Excellence, which has been very seldom awarded by the Chapter (picture below). He will be retiring this year from a long and distinguished career at the University of Nebraska. A show of hands following the presentation of the award revealed that about half of the current membership owed at least some part of their formal education to Dr. Peters.

The second day of the meeting consisted of a technical session. A number of first-rate papers were presented, including a greater proportion of contaminants-related presentations than is typical for the Chapter.

The meeting ended with a tour of the new pallid sturgeon propagation facilities at Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery in Yankton, SD.



Ohio Chapter by Ken Cunningham



The 2005 Coolwater Fish Culture Workshop, co-sponsored with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, was held January 9-11 in Newark, Ohio. The workshop was attended by 91 fisheries professionals representing several states across the Midwest. A total of 19 papers were presented, with topics ranging from fish culture techniques to fisheries management in reservoirs.

The 45th Annual Fish and Wildlife Conference, co-hosted with the Ohio Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the Ohio Fish and Wildlife Management Society, was held February 4th in Columbus, Ohio. The conference was attended by well over 400 fisheries and wildlife professionals. A total of 17 papers were presented, of which six were fisheries related.

The Chapter, in collaboration with several Ohio sportsmen's organizations, has created the *Ohio Aquatic Sciences Scholarship*. This scholarship will support students who will be taking college credit courses through The Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory

Program. The total amount of the scholarship is \$1500 and first consideration will be given to those students majoring in fisheries science.

Wisconsin Chapter

By Joe Hennessy



New Scholarship available

In 2005, the Wisconsin Chapter will offer its first, \$500.00 "Statewide Scholarship," which is available to any junior, senior, or graduate student attending a Wisconsin University other than the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) and enrolled in a fisheries or aquatic science program. Please visit the Chapter website for details (www.fisheries.org/wiafs).

Scholarship winner announced

The Richard Frie Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to a deserving UWSP student annually since 1997. This year's recipient is Erich Parizek of Two Rivers, Wisconsin. Erich is a junior studying fisheries and hopes to attend graduate school in fisheries.

News and events

In late March, the Wisconsin Chapter hosted its first continuing education course of 2005: Fisheries Genetics. Drs. Brian Sloss (UWSP) and Greg Moyer (Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center) were co-instructors of this 2-day course. More than 30 Chapter members attended, and the consensus was that a similar offering may be of interest to Division members in both fisheries management and propagation. Brian and Greg's presentation was straightforward and enlightening, and course topics covered everything from laboratory techniques to mating schemes to incorporating genetic principles in policy decisions, with ample time provided for group discussions.

The Chapter is exploring up to three more CE offerings for 2005, including fish kill investigation and fish disease identification, stream road crossing design (in conjunction with USDA Forest Service), and fisheries statistics. Details will be forthcoming as planning progresses.

The new Northland College student subunit continues to charge ahead with a spate of activities completed and scheduled. Their official recognition by AFS is pending a Chapter vote on by-law amendments, but the leadership and membership of the subunit should be recognized for their activity. More details may be found in the April issue of

The Teleogram, the Chapter newsletter (available at the Chapter website). Breaking news from the subunit is the unveiling of their logo (photo)! Northland student and subunit member Laura Myers designed the logo. T-shirts will be available soon.

The 2005 Chapter meeting was a great success, with 26 contributed papers, 4 posters, and more than 140 attendees. Brian Sloss (*Utility of Molecular Genetic Analyses for Assessing Coaster Brook Trout Rehabilitation in Wisconsin*) and Ryan Franckowiak (*Temporal Genetic Change in the Escanaba Lake Walleye Population: Implications for Managing the Genetic Resources of Naturally Reproducing Populations*), won the Steven Serns Best Paper and Best Student Paper awards, respectively. Both represented the UWSP Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit. Abstracts of these papers and others presented at the meeting may be found at the Chapter website. Our raffle take was the largest ever- \$1866.69. A custom-made bow anchored the prizes and effectively encouraged donations. Steve Gilbert continues to impressively demonstrate his persuasive skills!

Contributions

You are invited to submit articles, editorial replies, notes, pictures, etc. for this space.

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

North Central Division Membership Survey Report

Melissa Smith and Mark A. Pegg
February 22, 2005

INTRODUCTION

Understanding the perceptions and needs of its membership is a critical element for the North Central Division (NCD) administration to better serve its constituents. One means to gain insight into the perceptions of the membership at large is to conduct attitude and informational surveys. The NCD has conducted similar surveys in the past (e.g., 1999 survey conducted by D. Pereira and P. Thiel) but there has potentially been a change in both the physical makeup of the membership and fiscal needs of the NCD since that time. Therefore, we conducted a follow-up membership survey using an approach and questions similar to that used previously. This survey will assist in shaping future work plans to improve NCD services based on members' viewpoints. See Appendix I for specific details from the survey sent in 2004.

We randomly selected 200 NCD members to participate in the survey from the entire NCD membership. Each selected participant was sent, via mail, a letter and survey outlining the purpose of the survey in June 2004. A follow-up email was also sent to all participants in September, 2004 in an effort to increase sample size. The email message also included an electronic copy of the survey to facilitate responses. Specific questions included in the survey dealt with five general categories: 1) membership profile that includes education, employment, and AFS involvement; 2) NCD financial issues including fund raising, treasury levels, and technical committee support issues; 3) newsletter evaluation; 4) Electronic information and technology uses; and 5) opinion ratings on AFS membership itself. Responses from this survey were then compared to the survey summarized by Pereira and Theil (1999; hereafter referred to as the PT survey).

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

A total of 82 (41%) surveys were returned from the 200 surveys initially sent in 2004. This response was considerably lower than the PT survey that had a response rate of 73.5 %. Figures showing the complete percentages of responses for many of the questions are shown in Appendix II.

MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

The majority of respondents were male (85%), but was a 5% decline from the PT survey. The average length of membership and number of years as a fisheries professional for AFS North Central Division members surveyed was 18 years. The mean age of respondents was 46, up 2 years since the PT survey. Ethnic background for all respondents was 100% Caucasian. Most respondents indicated that their highest level of education completed was a Master's degree (46%) whereas, Bachelors degrees accounted for 32% and Doctorates 19% of the responses.

Most respondents hold a State job (43%), while others are employed through a Private Company (17%). University employees and students both comprised 13% of the total responses. Most respondents predominantly work in areas that focus on research (34%), followed by administration (10%) and fisheries management (8%). Expected incomes for 2004 were quite variable with the \$40-49,000 and \$70,000+ categories comprising about 40% of the total responses.

Many of the NCD members reported belonging to other professional societies including the American Association of Advanced Science (58%), the American Society of Ichthyology and Herpetology (14%), the American Institute of Biological Sciences (11%), and the American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists (11%).

During the past five years, NCD members have been active in many AFS activities. Almost 67% of the respondents have served as an officer of a Chapter, while 36% chaired a committee for either the Division or a Chapter. The percentage of respondents for those who served on a committee for the Parent Society and a Chapter were both 38%. More members helped organize meetings and symposiums for a Chapter (56%) than for the Parent Society, a Division, or Section. However, 30% of members did help with the Parent Society meetings and symposiums.

Likewise, NCD members are heavily involved in communicating technical information at society meetings. Forty-three percent of the respondents reported giving

a paper at an annual meeting of the Parent Society. Participation in presentations given at annual Chapter meetings (25%) and Division annual meetings (27%) were also well represented.

Over half of the respondents (55%) attended an annual Parent Society meeting within the past five years. Attendance at Division (22%) and Chapter (22%) meetings was lower than attendance at the Parent Society meeting.

Continuing education courses, for those that participated in such courses, were largely attended at the Chapter level (80%). Respondents reported a fairly low level (12%) of enrollment in Division continuing education courses at the Division level.

Nearly 60% of the respondents authored or coauthored an AFS Journal paper or book chapter as well as reviewing a manuscript. Many also reported authoring or coauthoring Non-AFS publications (24%) and reviewing Non-AFS publications (20%).

NCD FINANCIAL EVALUATION

The NCD is continually examining ways to increase the treasury. With a larger treasury, the Division can eventually use the interest income to fund additional projects and activities. Most members felt that \$50,000 - \$100,000 (51%) was reasonable for the NCD treasury, followed by the \$30,000 - \$50,000 category (26%). Interest income is primarily generated from certificates of deposits. However, the NCD is currently exploring the idea of a more aggressive investment plan, including mutual funds that may create more revenue at a greater risk. When asked if members would accept a more aggressive investment program, almost 60% replied yes.

Technical Committees are the cornerstone committees of our Division and are designed to be financially self-sufficient. However, when asked, nearly 50% of respondents indicated that the NCD should provide additional financial support to these committees while 37% of the respondents were unsure and the remainder opposed the idea. Conversely, 42% of those surveyed were opposed to the technical committees raising additional funds for the NCD Treasury.

NEWSLETTER EVALUATION

Surprisingly, only 53% of respondents read the *Mainstream* newsletter; a considerable decline from the PT survey that reported a 93% readership. However, 74% believe that electronic notification that the newsletter is available is adequate. Technical committee meeting announcements and agendas were the most common information requested in the *Mainstream* (96%), though only 3% would like to see Technical committee meeting minutes reported in detail.

NCD MEETING EVALUATION

Attendance at the 2001, 2002, and 2003 NCD Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conferences have been low at less than 10%. The most common reason for not attending was the time of year. Specifically, the meeting time conflicted with classes, fieldwork or other engagements.

Contribution in Technical Committees was largely dominated by participation in the Walleye Technical Committee (46%). Future technical committees that members would like to participate in are the Salmonid Midwest technical committee (57%).

The survey also posed a few questions about workshops. If the Parent Society were to hold a two to four hour continuing education workshop, 63% of respondents agreed they would attend. The day of preference for the workshop was the Sunday before the Midwest meeting (67%).

Most respondents (77%) indicated that the format and scheduling for the NCD technical committee sessions held at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference should be conducted concurrently on Sunday afternoon. Additionally, 92% of the responses thought the NCD business meeting would work best on Monday afternoon.

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

This section of the survey was aimed at gaining information about the use of technology for information dissemination and also what areas of interest NCD members had for continuing education workshops and courses in the future. Most respondents (87%) indicated that they access electronically available information from the Parent Society web site 4-9 times a year. Similarly, the AFS-NCD web site was visited 1-4 times a year by 41% of the respondents. Only 33% of the respondents belong to the AFS listserv.

Continuing education issues that received the most interest from the membership include: stock assessment and monitoring (28%), habitat restoration (21%), fish tagging (16%) and GIS in fishery research (6%). Most felt that scheduling continuing education workshops would work best in conjunction with Chapter meetings (56%) rather than with technical committee meetings or with the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference with a maximum length of one day. If workshops were conducted independently, the maximum acceptable length (~60%) would be two days.

YOU AND YOUR AFS MEMBERSHIP

The most important reason why members belong to AFS is for the satisfaction of belonging to and being connected to a professional society (31%). This differs from the PT survey where most respondents said it was to receive Fisheries. The second most common reason of being an AFS member was to attend educational sessions and visit with colleagues at professional meetings (17%). The PT survey showed the second reason being to promote increased national, regional, statewide, or provincial public awareness of fisheries issues.

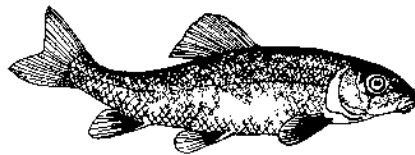
FUTURE PRIORITIES

The final portion of the survey asked participants to decide whether or not the NCD should reduce, maintain, or expand efforts for each of thirteen activities. They were also asked if they were willing to pay more or donate time to each activity. Below is the table that shows these results.

	Reduce	Stay the same	Expand	Pay More Y or N	Donate Time Y or N
Distributing public education materials about aquatic resources and their sustainable use	6%	55%	38%	79% NO	79% NO
Promoting "state of the art" practices within the fisheries profession	-----	47%	53%	81% NO	81% NO
Preparing positions and policy statements on aquatic resource issues	3%	69%	28%	88% NO	87% NO
Communicating AFS position statements to legislators and policymakers	1%	43%	56%	72% NO	79% NO
Lobbying legislators to address AFS positions in legislation	6%	45%	48%	73% NO	89% NO
Disseminating fisheries career information	1%	76%	22%	86% NO	88% NO
Funding worthy publications if other funding sources are unavailable	-----	67%	33%	80% NO	94% NO
Encouraging entry of under-represented groups into the fisheries profession (scholarships, meeting fees paid, recruitment initiatives)	16%	57%	26%	80% NO	88% NO
Maintaining a World-Wide web presence	1%	81%	18%	93% NO	97% NO
Publishing scientific books and symposia	-----	78%	22%	88% NO	91% NO
Continuing education workshops	3%	65%	32%	79% NO	88% NO
Support for the AFS profile in Canada	7%	69%	24%	86% NO	91% NO
Support for NCD technical committees	3%	76%	21%	84% NO	90% NO

Division Business Stuff

Randy Schultz has taken over the NCD's Secretary-treasurer duties from Don Kline. In conjunction with this change, the NCD is now doing business with a new bank that provides greater interest rates on the NCD's checking and money market accounts. Membership approved purchase of several CD's at the last business meeting to help us regain some of the interest we have lost with lower interest rates now being provided to checking and money market accounts.



Contacts



Websites:

Parent Society
North Central Division
Walleye Tech. Comm.
Ontario's Life History Database

<http://www.fisheries.org>
<http://www.fw.umn.edu/ncdafs>
http://ws3.coopfish.siu.edu/walleye_tech
<http://www.afs-soc.org/fishdb/home.htm>

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