

Hey NCD, turning in my August Presidents Blog, my last one, here on the last day of the month. The page will turn to President Joe Conroy in September, and I will begin my ride off into the sunset. I hope it has been a good ride for you all!

This month I am going to reflect on the things I tried to accomplish as your President. Some stuff went well, and others not as good. I feel very good about the Ambassador Program that I initiated for the Division, and I pledge to keep bugging Chapter Presidents for their meeting agendas well into the future. I think it is a great idea to “share the wealth”, the great stuff that is being presented at each chapter meeting. This gives our neighbors a chance to see what we are up to, and vice versa. I also think that the NCD Hero of Fisheries went over really well. I still have a couple of stickers to hand out, and hopefully we will be able to meet in St. Paul this winter to give out these awards.

I cannot say that I am satisfied with my results in push AFS to recognize the importance of our state and provincial agency members. In fact, I am quite disappointed with how a few recent things turned out. But I can tell you that one recent “issue” I raised on this topic with AFS was heard loud and clear. My “complaint” resulted in a telephone conversation between myself, AFS Executive Director Doug Austen, AFS 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Brian Murphy, and a former NCD President who I will leave nameless to protect his innocence. I think they now have a much clearer understanding of this issue I have been trying to raise for a couple of years now. They have promised action, and I will keep after it, you have my word on that.



I have always advocated trying to always be learning something new. On August 10, the new thing I learned was “derecho”. I’m not so sure I ever want to learn a new meteorological term again. Experiencing an inland hurricane is no fun. The photo on the left shows an Iowa cornfield, and the photo



on the right show the satellite view of numerous Iowa cornfields that look the same way from space. My home in Ames, Iowa was without power for a week. Many other folks in Cedar Rapids were without power for much longer. No fun, no fun at all. Plus, I didn’t get to do any fishing in August.

Thank you all for your support in the last year. I tried to put the needs and thoughts of field biologists and technicians at the front this past year. Keep up the good work, you are the folks most attuned to what is going on with the fish, and with the anglers.

Thanks,

*Jeff*