



RYBA

Newsletter of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Year 2000 No. 2
May Issue

INSIDE

Officer and Excom Reports.....	2
Committee Reports.....	2
Minutes.....	6
Division Technical Committees.....	7
Upcoming Events.....	7
Editorial.....	8
Of Interest.....	9
On the Underside.....	9

Quote of the Issue

"If you say no when they ask, you'll disappoint them a little. If you say yes and don't deliver, you'll disappoint them a lot" - Anon.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Mark Hove

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead (1901-1978), quoted in John M. Richardson, ed., *Making it Happen*, 1982.

Our recent annual meeting was successful in many ways. Generally comments were positive, although

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The Chapter publishes *RYBA* four times a year (Jan., May, Sept., and Nov.). Deadlines for article submission are: April 15, Aug. 15, Oct. 15, and Dec. 15. The views and opinions expressed herein are not

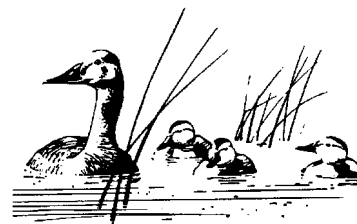
necessarily those of the Minnesota Chapter
there were complaints about room temperature and overlapping presentations. A large audience enjoyed a practical Continuing Education 'Outreach Workshop'. Several people gave interesting presentations during the meeting. Dr. John Testor's discussion of global warming was thought provoking, and the panel discussion on our profession's future was insightful and challenged participants' thinking. Meeting attendees generously supported the Fund Raising Committee's raffle, and with proceeds from the Continuing Education workshop we generated approximately \$2000 to support chapter activities that promote conservation, development, and wise utilization of fishery resources. Thanks to everyone who helped make this meeting a success! A list of abstracts from the meeting is available on the chapter web page (<http://www.fw.umn.edu/mnaf/>). If you have any suggestions for improving the next meeting please share them with Brad Parsons (Brad.Parsons@ dnr.state.mn.us, 320.634.4576) or me (Mark.Hove@fw.umn.edu, 612.624.3019).

Heartfelt thanks go to our colleagues who recently served the chapter and are stepping down, and others who have come forward to fill these positions. Bruce Vondracek has completed his three-year executive term. His broad knowledge and enthusiasm helped resolve many challenges facing our organization. He is still working with me on developing a chapter scholarship for college students. Others who provided integral services include: Jeff Reed and

Andrew Simons (Excom), Doug Kingsley (Membership), Carl Ruetz (Students), Brad Parsons (Procedure Manual), and Jingyin Li (Webmaster). Those filling these positions include: Deserae Hendrickson and Jay Hatch (Excom), Fred Henson (Membership), Deb Brister (Students), Todd Koel (Procedure Manual), and Wansuk Senanan (Webmaster). I'm sorry to report that Fred Henson is moving to his home state of New York where he will undoubtedly serve the resources and community very well. Fred has agreed to continue as Membership Committee Chair during the transition to the next chair. In addition to Fred Henson's Membership Committee Chair, the Historian Chair is open.

I have found that voluntary service is often very gratifying. I recently spoke with a group of freshman and sophomore college students about career path decision-making and professional societies. I told stories about choices I had made. People listened and, at times, laughed. By the end of the discussion some students were asking very thoughtful questions about their future. Consider getting out this spring and sharing a bit of your valuable time and skills to a deserving cause.

Look for Mark's proposed Action Agenda later in the newsletter - ed.



OFFICER and EXCOM REPORTS

Open - by Brian Borkholder

In April, six Chippewa Bands from Wisconsin, along with the Fond du Lac and Mille Lacs Bands, began Treaty-reserved harvest activities in the 1837 Ceded Territory, and in Mille Lacs Lake specifically. This year, year number three in the five year plan, the Bands are allocated 70,000 pounds of walleye from Mille Lacs Lake. For year 2000, the State allocation is 300,000 pounds of walleye. This is down for the State, from an allocation of 495K pounds last year, and an estimated State harvest last year of 579K pounds.

As of 18 April, Tribal harvest by all eight bands stood at approximately 3,605 pounds speared and 37,222 pounds netted. Harvest will probably continue for another week or more, as of this writing.

This year, in an effort to obtain more accurate age data for the walleye population models, and to make Paul Radomski and Rick Bruesewitz happy, the Bands agreed to collect scales, spines, and otoliths from harvested walleye. Bony structures were obtained from 3 walleye per half inch group. Fond du Lac and Mille Lacs creel teams each collected structures from over 100 walleye. Both the Tribal Natural Resources Departments and the State DNR will be examining these structures this year and will report the results back to the 1837 Fisheries Technical Committee.

Federal - by Chantel Cook

The Eastern Region of the Forest Service recently updated its Regional Forester's Sensitive Species (RFSS) List, using information from States, Tribes and The Nature Conservancy, among other sources. On the Chippewa and Superior National Forests, several aquatic species were added to the list, which is required under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). As a result, Biological Evaluations will be

required to determine the effects of any new proposed projects on these RFSS species, and changes to the project proposal/mitigating measures will be made accordingly. The aquatic species added to the list include *Ceraclea vertreesi*, *Lasmigona costata*, *Lasmigona compressa*, *Ligumia recta*, *Acipenser fulvescens*, *Ichthyomyzon fossor*, *Notropis anogenus*, and *Moxostoma valenciennesi*.

In addition to the update of the sensitive species list, the Chippewa and Superior National Forests are also addressing viability of rare species in the revision of their Forest Land and Resource Management Plans. Population Viability Assessment Work Sessions were recently convened to pull together "species expert" panels and gather experience and information not available in published form for rare plant and animal species. This information will be synthesized with existing information to identify those habitats and ecosystem processes needed to maintain species viability. Several MN AFS Chapter members participated in the mussel and fish panels. For more information, contact Chantel Cook, Chippewa National Forest.

Finally, work continues on both National Forests to stabilize shorelines and reduce fire concerns following the July 4, 1999 storm event, which passed through the area and left thousands of acres of trees blown down and several miles of shoreline erosion on Cass Lake and Lake Winnibigoshish. For more information on ongoing efforts on both Forests, visit the websites: www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa (browse Forest Information) or www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards - by Julie Westerlund

The Awards Committee congratulates this year's winners of MN Chapter AFS awards. The following awards were presented at the Chapter's annual meeting in St. Cloud:

The **Award of Excellence** was presented to **Dr. George Spangler**, Professor at the University of Minnesota's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. The following is from the letter nominating Dr. Spangler for the Award:

"Dr. Spangler has had a very productive career as a fisheries scientist and educator in Ontario and Minnesota. Throughout most of his career he has been at the leading edge of efforts to rehabilitate the native fishes of the Great Lakes, addressing critical topics such as sea lamprey control and sustainable harvests of key species such as lake whitefish, cisco and lake trout. His prominent position within the Great Lakes ecological community is evidenced by his appointments to the Board of Technical Experts for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, where he played a primary role in introducing the concept of adaptive management to the Great Lakes basin. He was also a co-organizer of the International Symposium of Stock Assessment and Yield Prediction in 1985.

"George has also made excellent contributions to inland fisheries management in Minnesota, including active collaboration with the DNR on the Lake of the Woods controversy in the early 1980's, and more recently on a team of technical experts to oversee the restoration of the Red Lakes. He continues to provoke constructive, objective dialogue on such important topics as co-management of natural resources and new methods for achieving sustainable uses of our aquatic resources.

"Perhaps his most endearing quality is his sincere interest in all aspects of a student's professional and personal development. His breadth of expertise coupled with his endless, enthusiastic quest for knowledge provide the key ingredients of an outstanding educator. He has been a wonderful mentor for undergraduates, and totally supportive in his duties as major advisor for many graduate students over the past 21 years. Many of his former students now work in a variety of management, academic and research positions in the

state of Minnesota and throughout the country. He has always encouraged his students to be active members in such professional organizations as the American Fisheries Society, and he is a Past President of our Chapter.”

Congratulations, George, on your achievement and this well-deserved award!

The **Best Paper Award** went to **Brian S. Ickes** for his presentation entitled “Habitat Use and Recruitment Processes of Walleye and Sauger in Pool 4 of the Upper Mississippi River”. Brian is a graduate student at the University of Minnesota, and his coauthors are **Don Pereira** and **Al Stevens** of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The **Best Poster Award** was given to **Jay T. Hatch** for his presentation of “Food Habits of the Endangered Topeka Shiner (*Notropis topeka*) in Minnesota”. Jay is an Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota’s General College. Jay’s coauthor is Shawn Dahle, a graduate student at the U of M.

There were four Special Recognition Awards presented this year. **Mark Hove** and **Laurie Sovell** made outstanding contributions to the Minnesota Chapter as co-chairs of the Continuing Education Committee. Their excellent workshops have supported the long-term goals of the chapter by promoting fisheries professionalism through education. **Doug Kingsley** was recognized for his dedication in work with the membership database, registration at annual meetings, and production of mailing labels, which has improved the chapter’s ability to promote its goals by reaching the membership. Finally, **Bruce Vondracek** was awarded for his service as past president. His support and advice to current office holders and his participation on the Executive Committee have strengthened the leadership of the Chapter.

The Awards Committee is **seeking nominations** for awards to be given in 2001. Please keep this in mind as you encounter examples of fisheries

excellence and special contributions to the Chapter in the coming year! If you’d like more details on eligibility or how to nominate, please see former issues of RYBA or contact Julie Westerlund at julie.westerlund@dnr.state.mn.us or 651-772-7938.

Membership - by Doug Kingsley

This is my last report as chair of this committee (at least for this term). It’s been a pleasure to serve, seriously. I accepted the chair of this committee three years ago because I thought it would be a chance to contribute to the chapter, and still be one of the less demanding jobs. It’s been good. There have been demands I didn’t anticipate, I didn’t accomplish some of the things I would have liked to, but I still think it is one of the lesser demanding positions in the chapter.

A few of my disappointments in the position: I would have liked to be more active in recruiting new members, particularly among the private aquaculture community; I would have liked to retain more members; and I wish I had done better at welcoming new members. Past president Tim Goeman did a good job of this, and I should have continued.

A couple satisfactions: I was able to organize and maintain a database for the chapter; I was able to respond to requests for assistance with membership questionnaires from NCD, requests for information from other officers in the chapter, and the normal committee chair reports.

In 1999 the chapter EXCOM voted to waive student chapter dues. Students would receive chapter membership, but no mailings of the chapter newsletter. They could access the newsletter from the chapter website. This presents a logistical problem for membership. Obviously, we need to know when we recruit a new student member, but we also need to know when a student member leaves the chapter, moves on to another affiliation, or no longer qualifies for free membership. At the January

EXCOM meeting it was recommended that sometime during each year students must notify the membership chair of their intent to maintain chapter membership or they would be deleted from the chapter’s membership rolls. Notification can be in the form of paying dues (and receiving mailings of the RYBA newsletter), advising of changes in address or other membership information, or advising the membership chair of continuing student status.

In order to get the word out, we will continue to offer a grace period to students who paid dues or otherwise indicated membership status in 1998, as well as 1999, and haven’t yet indicated their intention to maintain their chapter membership. If you are a student, would like to maintain your membership in the chapter, and haven’t gotten in touch with us in 2000, please let us know your intentions. If you don’t let us know by the end of 2000, you will be dropped from the membership rolls. Please pass on any information to the new membership committee chair, Fred Henson.

If we continue to maintain students from 1998 and 1999 who haven’t renewed their membership yet, we maintained 184 members from 1998 to 1999. That would compare very favorably to maintaining 176 members from 1997 to 1998. We would lose only 36 members from 1998 to 1999, compared to losing 40 members from 1997 to 1998, and we gained 45 members from 1998 to 1999 compared to gaining 44 members from 1997 to 1998. This resulted in a membership of 229 at the end of 1999 compared to 220 at the end of 1998.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve the chapter as membership chair, thanks to Paul Radomski for the nomination and to the chapter for the recognition. I’m looking forward to serving the chapter in the future.

Continuing Education - by Jerry Grant

Overview of January 2000 Continuing Education Workshop

The Chapter hosted 51 participants at its January 19 Continuing Education workshop "*Getting the Word Out: Disseminating Information to the Public*". The workshop was held in conjunction with the Chapter's annual meeting in St. Cloud, and included members of both the MN Chapters of the Wilderness Society and American Fisheries Society. The half-day workshop included presentations by C.B. Bylander (DNR Public Information Officer), Dennis Schupp (DNR Warmwater Research Supervisor), Eric Atherton (Outdoor writer, St. Cloud Times), and Steve Quinn (editor, In-Fisherman magazine). C.B. and Dennis focused on identifying an audience, methods of communication, and making your message interesting and meaningful. Steve and Eric provided insight on needs of the reporter and the media in general. A panel discussion gave participants the opportunity to ask presenters specific questions about communicating a message and dealing with the media. We ended the day by having participants take a stab at interviewing each other on topics of interest. Course evaluations indicated that participants appreciated the diversity of presenters, the panel discussion, and the interview activity.

Upcoming Workshops

The Minnesota Chapter is sponsoring a week long workshop on *Fluvial Geomorphology and Stream Restoration* in early summer. The workshop will run from June 5 through June 9 at the Whitewater River in southeastern Minnesota. Instructors for the course include Luther Aadland, Karen Terry, Jason Moeckel, and Ian Chisholm from the MN DNR, and Sandy Verry from the USFS. We announced the workshop via e-mail on February 22 and reached the limit of 30 participants by early March. We apologize if you did not receive an announcement for the workshop. Please make sure we have

your current e-mail address so you will receive announcements in a timely manner. If you are interested in this course but did not get a chance to register, please contact Jerry Grant at (218) 828-2665 or gerold.grant@dnr.state.mn.us. We may repeat the workshop in the future if there are many requests.

FWLA - by Don Pereira

This report summarizes activities in the current legislative session related to aquatic resource management. I acknowledge Gary Botzek, Executive Director of the Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance, for his tireless efforts in representing the FWLA's official positions on a variety of important bills. Michelle Beeman, MN DNR legislative liaison, also has worked very hard to keep everyone updated on recent developments at the Capitol.

As you may recall from my fall pre-session report, FWLA joined forces with over thirty other organizations to form the Coalition of Minnesota Conservation Organizations, now simply referred to as "the Coalition." The Coalition had a platform with three objectives: short term funding for natural resource management (i.e. badly needed license fee increases for DNR fisheries and wildlife, and appropriation of lottery ticket sales tax proceeds for natural resources), long term funding (i.e. dedication of 3/16 of 1% of state sales tax revenues for natural resources, including fish and wildlife, trails, parks and zoos), and the issue of placing Consolidate Conservation (Con Con) lands under permanent DNR management. As is often the case, these issues and many others followed very convoluted political paths during this session. In fact, the larger issues have not been fully settled, but will be determined when the legislature reconvenes after an Easter holiday recess. Here is what we know so far.

The good news is that it now looks optimistic that we will see approval of an increase in angling and hunting license fees, including general fund matching support. This was in the

Governor's funding package, and thus was openly supported by DNR staff. A late amendment by Sen. Krentz (DFL Stillwater) helped move this forward. Amendment language requesting the lottery tickets sales tax proceeds remains controversial between the two houses, and so this may not survive final debate. A big part of the "horse trading" that initially stagnated movement of the license fee bill was tied to language in the highly volatile wolf management bill. It appears that Sen. Krentz got us around this obstacle by amending wolf bill language to facilitate a compromise on this emotionally charged issue. However, I received word from Botzek last night that the House did not accept the Senate action and wants to go to conference next week (this may be due to the lottery sales tax provision, but I am not sure). At this point we can only hope for the best in conference committee, so keep your fingers crossed!

We are quite pleased with progress this year on the long term sales tax bill. Though it is unlikely to pass this year, it garnered far more attention than we anticipated for its first year, and thus we are optimistic for this bill in future sessions. Please be aware that this bill would require an amendment to the State Constitution, and therefore would have to be voted on by the public in the general November election (e.g. like the "right to hunt and fish" amendment). One future strategy regarding the sales tax bill will be to increase the requested amount from 3/16 to 1/4 of 1% and have some of the proceeds help fund RIM and CREP. There is impetus to do this next year because bonding requests for both RIM and CREP got whittled down to very small amounts this year. Also, we may benefit by having additional supporters on a future sales tax bill by partnering with environmentally oriented components of the agriculture community. So, the short message is that it appears quite likely that we will see a badly needed short term funding fix this year, but we won't know how much the total funding package will be until the end of the session next week.

Unfortunately, the movement on the Con Con issue has been slow to nonexistent. Even though this situation does not look good, there may finally be a hearing in Sen. Lessard's committee soon. However, language in the bill is still evolving, and reaching consensus will be very difficult due to the diversity of involved parties. It looks like this very long running environmental issue will continue to fester for at least another year.

Continuing on the "stagnation" theme, the DNR Fisheries bill (including needed tournament regulations, and eliminating the cap on number of water bodies with experimental regulations) is stuck in the House and Senate because identical language was added into the "omnibus game and fish bill" (SF1288). Unfortunately, the omnibus bill has a number of wildlife provisions that the DNR strongly objects to, so positive progress here may be wishful thinking.

We fared quite well on a variety of smaller issues. Sen. Pariseau's lifetime license bill passed (SF0004), allowing individuals to purchase lifetime licenses for angling and hunting. Actual cost of the license will depend on age of the applicant. One concern that I alerted Botzek to is language in this bill stating that proceeds from these sales will go in to a dedicated "habitat and stocking" fund. The "stocking" part scares me, and may open the door wider for additional legislative micro management in the future. Our only recourse is to carefully watch for such potential legislation and respond accordingly. The FWLA track record on opposing legislative micro management has been quite good. This year we worked hard to ensure that the Southeast Minnesota Trout bill withered on the vine (this was a bill that came out of local interests in the southeast). We also teamed up with DNR and PCA to tame language in a bill that would have relaxed regulations on the aquaculture industry.

Finally, at our recent EXCOM meeting we had a brief discussion on

the communication process related to FWLA activities. If you have a legislative issue that you think our chapter should address, present it to the Chapter President as well as to me and Bruce Vondracek. Bruce and I will gladly respond appropriately following direction from Chapter EXCOM. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas on these issues or any others, either contact a suitable EXCOM representative, or contact me (651-772-7962, fax 651-772-7974, don.pereira@dnr.state.mn.us) or Bruce Vondracek directly (612-624-8748, fax 612-625-5299, bvc@fw.umn.edu).

Fishing Roundtable - by Mark Hove

Fishing Roundtable meetings provide an opportunity for people interested in Minnesota fish and fishing to hear presentations and share ideas. Products for the Fishing Roundtable 2000 included: individual learning, strengthened relationships, and important stakeholder participation. We used several processes to meet these goals: focused agenda, individual presentations, audience questions and answers, informal small group conversations, and individual note taking for creation of Key Messages.

I've served as MN AFS Representative to the Fishing Roundtable for two years and have been impressed with participants' plain talk and efforts to listen. Fishing Roundtable members selected several topics for the larger group to consider. Some of the topics included: perch harvest limits, DNR Fisheries credibility, outreach to anglers, bag limits, DNR Fisheries financial management, and a very interesting presentation by Tom Chapin on illegal fish harvesting. Below are a few items I thought you might find interesting. Please contact me at 651.696.6827 or via email at Mark.Hove@fw.umn.edu if you would like additional information.

- Tom Chapin, MN DNR Conservation Officer, during his presentation on 'Illegal Fish Harvesting' - *The most important factor affecting illegal harvest is*

human behavior, especially ethics. ... The laws are simply management tools.

- Tom Neustrom, fishing guide, from his presentation on 'Bag limits: individual perspective' - *Minnesota guides need to organize so they can communicate more effectively as a group with the state and among each other.*
- *Guides have information to share with the DNR, they listen to biologists, and are probably better at returning information to fisherman than biologists.*

- Ron Payer, MN DNR Fisheries Chief, during his presentation on "Perch Limits" - *Due to accelerated perch harvest in northern Minnesota yellow perch harvest limit changes will be requested; 20 fish daily limit, 30 fish possession limit.*

- Steve Lindow, fisherman, part of his presentation on "DNR Fisheries Credibility" - *Many DNR employees work well with public but some think they must know everything.*

- Allen Garber, DNR Commissioner, 'Commissioner's Message'-*My way of doing business is to keep an open mind and listen carefully.*

- Jay Green, MN Chpt. B.A.S.S. President, from his presentation on "Game and Fish Fund Oversight Committee" - *We review and recommend funding decisions. ... Short term funding is needed to take care of status quo but a long term funding solution is needed.*

- Jack Wingate, MN DNR, Research Manager, during his presentation on '1854 Treaty' - *Bands and DNR are trying to work out harvest levels without a federal judge.*

- Representative Ozment, "Legislator's Perspective" - *Ventura is interested in wildlife and water in Minnesota. - I like the Fishing Roundtable and would like to see Area Roundtables established.*

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETINGS

Minutes of April 11, 2000, EXCOM meeting

10:00 am - Brainerd Public Library
In attendance: Mark Hove, Deserae Hendrickson, Mike North, Brad Parsons, Melissa Drake, Fred Henson, Don Pereira, Todd Koel, John Hiebert, Paul Radomski, and Jerry Grant.

It was determined that there was not a quorum. Mark welcomed the EXCOM and reviewed the agenda. We had a discussion on the last annual meeting, including expenses and receipts. Mark discussed some of his recent activities responding to various inquiries (e.g. Corps, Park Service, FWLA).

Reviewed Treasury Report

Committee Reports:

Brad discussed the next annual meeting arrangements. He has had discussions with Canadian representatives and Dakota Chapter members. A Fargo, ND, meeting location might be an option. The benefits would include a meeting with Mid-Canada Chapter, which would appreciate a joint meeting. Brad noted that he will transfer the Procedure Manual and associated duties to Todd Koel.

Don discussed legislative issues. Funding for DNR proposals are dominating other environmental issues. Details of pending bills were reviewed by Don. Constitution amendment regarding sales tax, sales tax on lottery money, and license fee increases was discussed. Don asked Gary Botzek, FWLA, to keep track of yellow perch bag limit bills working through the legislature. Proposed perch bill has a sunset provision, so that a phase-in of DNR perch regulations appears likely. Four ConCon bills are circulating in the legislature, which makes tracking of where or what, if any, legislation would look like complicated. Don will include a legislative update in next newsletter. Don suggested that Mark and the EXCOM think about

procedures to improve the direction of FWLA representation. Mark suggested increased email communication and forwarding of FWLA updates between EXCOM and FWLA representatives. Mark will discuss procedures for increasing membership participation at next EXCOM meeting.

Deserae mentioned the lighted fishing lure, lifetime licenses, sunken logs, fishing contests, experimental waters bills and regulations on border waters, Winnie walleye, the new Walleye Alliance organization, Red Lake walleye stocking, and 1854 Treaty discussions.

Mark noted that Dr. Ira Adelman is running for President of AFS, and Dr. Anne Kapuscinski has been appointed to a Ag. Dept. committee dealing with genetically engineered organisms.

Fred Henson noted that two new student members have joined recently. He stated that he is moving to NY to take on a new job. He is, however, willing to continue serving as membership chair until a replacement is found.

Todd will receive the Procedures Manual today from Brad.

John discussed working with the schools in his area on fisheries education.

Jerry presented a financial summary of the last continuing education workshop. He discussed the upcoming Stream Workshop to be held this June, which has already been filled (30 people registered). He mentioned the possibility of repeating this workshop if interest is there. Jerry discussed a MidWest Continuing Education Workshop. A half-day, Sunday morning, workshop was discussed as an option. No continuing education workshops are planned for the annual meeting.

Mike North presented information on The Wildlife Society. TWS summer meeting will discuss genetic issues. TWS is also watching several issues in the legislature, as well as, some environmental issues (e.g. Mississippi

River dredging at Little Falls, HWY 371 bypass in Brainerd, and a proposed wind farm on a natural prairie in western MN).

Old Business:

1. Fish Stocking Position Statement – Mark had it posted on the web, and he asked about other distributions. EXCOM recommended sending a copy to the DNR, USFWS, key legislatures (e.g. Stevens, Daggett, Berg, etc.), key members in the aquaculture business, and Band natural resource agencies (Mille Lacs, Leech, and Fond du Lac).
2. Scholarship Endowment – A discussion was had on the criteria we supply to the U of M scholarship administrators. Mark outlined a 2-tiered approach:
Tier I Criteria: (a) major in fisheries, water resources, aquatic biology or aquatic environmental science, (b) junior or senior undergraduate student, (c) MN Chapter member;
Tier II Criteria: preference for (a) intern experience or other experience in fisheries, water resources, aquatic biology, or aquatic environmental science, (b) from a minority group within the profession, (c) Minnesota resident, (d) AFS parent society member.

It was also suggested that the recipient be acknowledged at the annual Chapter meeting.

3. TAFS catch up fund will be sent \$100 from the Chapter.

New Business:

1. Donations requests
 - a. MN DNR Trout Workshop – Mark asked the EXCOM what it thought about contributing to this workshop by sending \$200 to help in the cost of speakers and in keeping the workshop costs for anglers low. EXCOM agreed.
 - b. International Burbot Symposium – Mark asked the EXCOM about contributing with others to get the symposium printed. Mark will ask Steve Quinn for additional information.
2. Requests for additions to the Procedures Manual. Mark suggested that the sections on president and

president-elect responsibilities be expanded to include 'traditional' assignments of the office (e.g. assignment of NCD tech committee representatives, handling of business and annual meetings, and codification of action agenda tasks and deadlines).

Meeting adjourned at 1:00.

DIVISION TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

Rivers and Streams - by Dennis Topp

The winter meeting of the Rivers and Streams Technical Committee was held in Rock Island, Illinois on April 4 and 5. There were representatives from 9 state chapters at the meeting (including southern Ontario), with attendance totaling about 25 people. The minutes from the meeting will be available in about two weeks through a link at the NCD home page. The minutes will include the state reports.

Following are the highlights of the recent meeting:

The committee selected a sub-committee to pursue the development of proceedings from the Dam Removal/Dam Modification symposium that we sponsored at the 1999 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Chicago. There were 65 presentations given at the symposium.

A sub-committee was selected to put together a work shop on "How to Construct Habitat Structures in Lotic Systems" for next spring's meeting. The sub-committee will narrow the focus of the workshop topic, select potential presenters, and report back to the chairman before the winter meeting.

I distributed a survey to Committee Members regarding the status of Stream Survey Manual's in their respective states. I also requested a copy of each state's manual, for those that have them. The Minnesota DNR is planning to update their version of the stream survey manual. Results of

this survey will be passed on to the MN DNR Committee that is working on the update.

The committee will update a who's who list of river and stream biologists in the North Central Division. We are not sure how we will distribute this list.

We elected new officers who will take over in December. The chair-elect is Joel Cross from Illinois, and the secretary/treasurer elect is Paul Kanehl from Wisconsin.

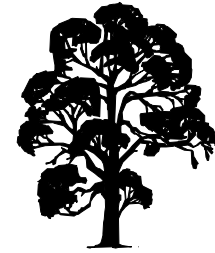
Salmonids - by Pat Rivers

Some concerned anglers in southeastern Minnesota feel the MN DNR is not protecting the trout resources, especially larger fish. Legislation pursued by those anglers would have mandated a 12"-16" protective slot limit for brown trout. The bill, that also would have opened a winter season (Jan. 1- Mar.31 C&R) for trout streams in southeast Minnesota counties, did not make it past many hurdles this session.

The Southeast Minnesota Trout Advisory Group (SEMTAG) was formed last fall to address trout issues. The group, comprised of anglers (affiliated and non-affiliated), local groups, landowners, business owners, and two DNR representatives, examined the issue of angler access. A one-page brochure was developed for use when dealing with landowners and legislators. The group also proposed an LCMR grant to establish funds for streamside easements. The status of the proposal is not yet known. Other funding options discussed included the use of trout stamp dollars, donations, and a private easement trust fund. Future topics of interest for SEMTAG include habitat improvement projects and large trout management.

The Lake City Area continues to pursue introducing slimy sculpin (*Cottus cognatus*) into streams where they are believed to be native. Disease tests from Cold Spring Brook (Wabasha County) last year were negative for the five diseases tested.

Three consecutive years of testing are necessary to move fish. Two additional streams, Garvin Brook and Beaver Creek (Winona County) will begin testing this year. Anyone with concerns regarding this sculpin introduction is encouraged to contact Pat Rivers at the DNR office in Lake City (651-345-3365; pat.rivers@dnr.state.mn.us).



UPCOMING EVENTS

62nd Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference; Dec. 3-6, 2000 Minneapolis, MN

You'll notice many active MNAFS members on the list of program chairs.

See instructions for abstracts later in this newsletter.

130th AFS Annual Meeting August 20-24, 2000 St. Louis, MO

by Rich Wehnes - 130th AFS Annual Meeting Publicity Chairman

August 20-24, 2000, promises to be a very big week for Fisheries professionals, and I invite you to be a part of it. I'm referring to the 130th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, to be held at the Adams Mark Hotel in downtown St. Louis. This year's theme is Reflections, inviting us to take a historical look at our profession.

The meeting promises to be a great one, and there will be opportunities for professional advancement for everyone. The technical program will be first-rate, offering hundreds of technical papers in special sessions covering marine and freshwater topics. A three-day poster session will

also be highlighted, with different poster papers each day, allowing an additional 150 papers on a variety of topics. You won't want to miss the unique plenary session featuring ecologist Daniel Botkin and a multimedia look at our profession. Nineteen symposia on economics, marine fisheries, water quality, human dimensions, aquatic habitat, GIS, large rivers and other timely topics are planned. Black Bass 2000, a major symposium that will summarize the current body of knowledge concerning the ecology, management and conservation of black bass, will provide an update to the first Black Bass Symposium held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, 25 years ago. You can also improve your professional knowledge and skills by participating in one of five continuing education courses on topics ranging from river geomorphology to fishery economics. And last but not least, fisheries scientists from around the world will be attending, providing you with the opportunity to network and bring back valuable insights on research and management issues.

St. Louis's location in the center of the U.S. makes travel convenient for everyone, and Missouri AFS members are working hard to make the meeting fun and meaningful to everyone.

I hope you will consider the 130th Annual Meeting and encourage your colleagues to do likewise. For more information, log on to <http://www.fisheries.org/annual2000/index.htm> or <http://www.fisheries.org/annual2000/index.htm>.

Five workshops are planned for this year's annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society in St. Louis, Missouri:

Applied River Geomorphology and Biotechnical Engineering for Fisheries Biologists

Cooperative Learning in Fisheries Education

An Introduction to Decision Analysis for Natural Resources Management

Fisheries Economics for Non-economists

The Present and Future of Minnows, Suckers, and Other Ignored Fishes of North American Midwest Streams

The Skinner Fund and Looking for Raffle Committee Volunteers

The American Fisheries Society's John E. Skinner Memorial Fund helps promising students attend our Annual Meeting. The fund provides monetary travel awards to deserving graduate students and exceptional undergraduate students. Last year the fund sent thirteen students to the Charlotte meeting where they met fisheries professionals, attended symposia, and even presented their research findings.

All proceeds from this year's Annual Meeting raffle will support the Skinner Fund. As Raffle Committee co-chairs, we are dedicated to making this year's raffle in St. Louis a big success, but we can't do it alone. We need a member of every AFS Division, Chapter, and Section on this year's Raffle Committee.

Raffle Committee Members can help by soliciting raffle prizes like fishing, hunting, or camping gear; fish and wildlife art; fishing and hunting trips; or other items that would make great prizes. Monetary donations will help pay for artwork framing or airfare for great vacation packages. We are working on a Grand Prize fishing and sightseeing trip to Juneau, Alaska!

Supporting the Skinner Memorial Fund helps get students interested and involved in AFS; it is one of the most important things we can do for our Society. Please help us by recruiting a member of your unit for our team. Send their name, phone number, and e-mail address to me as soon as possible.

John Hudson, 2000 AFS Raffle Co-Chair
907-586-8811 (ext. 254)
jhudson@fs.fed.us

4th International Symposium on Sturgeon



8-13 July 2001

Park Plaza International
Hotel and Convention
Center

Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA

www.sturgeonsymposium.org
bruchr@dnr.state.wi.us



EDITORIAL

by Loren Miller

This really isn't an editorial, it's a letter from your new editor - nothing Radomski-esque, at least not for now. At this point I'm really just a compiler, not an editor. Thanks to all of those who contributed items for this issue. After scrambling to put the newsletter together I realize that Paul deserves a big thanks for doing this rather thank-less task for the past few years. See the cover page for my contact information if you have anything to contribute to future newsletters (submit electronically in Word or a text format).



OF INTEREST

Nature Conservancy Developing Aquatic Classification System with Advice from AFS Members - by Fred Henson

Last year, the Nature Conservancy (TNC) began developing an aquatic classification system to guide and prioritize its conservation efforts in Minnesota and adjacent states. The system is meant to be used in conjunction with TNC's existing terrestrial classification to identify areas of high biological diversity or ecological uniqueness that have good potential for conservation. At present, the aquatic classification system only encompasses rivers and streams. Also, it is based primarily on physical habitat parameters that influence ecological communities rather than ecological data.

The Nature Conservancy has sought input and evaluation of its approach from various agencies and disciplines. At a meeting held at Camp Ripley on February 10, 2000, the aquatic classification system was presented to an audience that included AFS members from MN-DNR, MPCA, and the University of Minnesota. Since then, further meetings were held at DNR Regional Fisheries Offices during the month of March to evaluate the high priority sites identified by the Nature Conservancy classification system. These meetings reflect TNC's commitment to listening to local expertise. Mark Ebbers has been coordinating communication between the DNR-Section of Fisheries and TNC. The regional evaluations are now being reviewed by TNC.

The Nature Conservancy is planning to expand and improve its aquatic classification system. They hope to incorporate lakes in the near future. While the development of this system is clearly a daunting and controversial enterprise, it has the potential to be a valuable tool for targeting conservation efforts to the areas of

greatest potential. TNC is committed to sharing the results of its efforts with other organizations and agencies. Because this effort will ultimately focus attention on the biological diversity that forms the foundation of Minnesota's fisheries resources, it contributes to goals of the American Fisheries Society and thus merits the assistance of the members of this chapter to make it as useful a system as possible.

President Clinton Meets With Bipartisan CARA Coalition

Source: NEWS Committee on Resources, U.S. Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), Chairman

Washington, D.C. - A bipartisan group of U.S. House and Senate Members today had "an extremely productive exchange of ideas" with President Clinton regarding bipartisan legislation which would provide increased funding for conservation, wildlife and recreation programs throughout the nation, according to U.S. Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), the Chairman of the House Committee on Resources.

Young, a sponsor of the "Conservation and Reinvestment Act" (CARA) - H.R. 701 - said President Clinton "was extremely well-informed and engaged" during the hour-long meeting at the White House on the bipartisan conservation bill.

"CARA has been a bipartisan effort from the very beginning," Young said. "We have the support of 316 House Members, all 50 governors, and an overwhelming majority of our mayors and local officials. CARA has also been endorsed by numerous conservation, hunting and fishing, and recreation organizations and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Realtors.

"CARA is a comprehensive conservation and recreation bill that supports projects ranging from coastal programs, vital land acquisition, state wildlife conservation, historic preservation and urban parks programs. This bipartisan bill will bring important conservation and

recreation programs to every community in the nation.

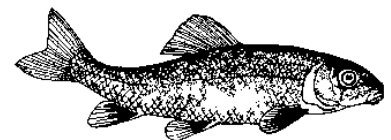
"This bill also has strong provisions to protect private land owners and it significantly increases each individual states' role in conservation and recreation programs

"Whether it's a hiking trail or a wildlife conservation program in rural Oklahoma or a new city park or after-school recreation programs in inner cities, this bill is good for our entire nation. CARA accomplishes all of this without creating new federal bureaucracies and dictates. Instead, CARA provides new federal funds for local communities and states to provide programs they feel are important to their residents.

"That's why CARA is supported by a majority of the Republican and Democrat caucuses in the House.

"I'm extremely pleased President Clinton has taken such an interest in this landmark legislation."

For more information, please check the House Committee on Resources Home Page at <http://www.house.gov/resources/>.



ON THE UNDERSIDE Via Dennis Schupp

No wonder the English language is so very difficult to learn:

We polish the Polish furniture.
The dove dove into the bushes.
I did not object to the object.
The present is a good time to present the present.
At the Army base, a bass was painted on the head of a bass drum.
A farm can produce produce.

(Cut short this time because of space)

*Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
2000-2001 Action Agenda*

Below is the Action Agenda I presented at the annual business meeting. I'm still accepting suggestions to strengthen the agenda. Action Items include recent chapter endeavors and tasks from our Long-Range Plan. E-mail or mail your suggestions to Mark.Hove@fw.umn.edu, or to 1980 Folwell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108. Thank you!

Action Item
<p>1 Develop mechanism to facilitate membership participation in assembly of annual action agenda to ensure continuity of high priority issues Target Date: February 2001 Participants: Mark Hove, Brad Parsons, Excom</p>
<p>2 Proactive involvement of public policy development through involvement in Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance (from Long Range Plan) Target Date: Ongoing Participants: Bruce Vondracek, Don Pereira</p>
<p>3 Outreach/Visibility-Establish position of Fishing Roundtable representative in the Public Awareness Committee Target Date: February 2001 Participants: Mark Hove, Public Awareness Committee, Procedures Manual Committee</p>
<p>4 Outreach/Investment in chapter's future-Discuss AFS and chapter activities with students at seven Minnesota colleges and universities Target Date: February 2001 Participants: Mark Hove, Public Awareness Committee</p>
<p>5 Membership education-Continuing Education Course Target Date: February 2001 Participants: Gerry Grant, Laurie Sovell</p>
<p>6 Membership education-Contribute \$100 to support publication of backlogged TAFS articles Target Date: February 2000 Participants: MN Chpt. membership</p>
<p>7 Membership education-Solicit interesting presentations and posters for next annual meeting Target Date: 2001 MN AFS mtg. Participants: Brad Parsons, Mark Hove, Excom</p>

Suggestions:

Action Item
<p>Target Date: Participants:</p>



Instructions for authors of abstracts

PREPARING THE ABSTRACT

A good abstract is clear and informative. Please tell your readers:

- 1) What you did and why** - Place your project in perspective by telling the reason for doing it and exactly what was done.
- 2) How you did it** - Briefly explain your methods. Tell readers enough to allow them to understand your results.
- 3) What you learned** - Emphasize your most important research findings. Be active and descriptive (e.g., Aduckling survival was lower on treated wetlands@) rather than passive and indicative (Aour results indicated relationships between duckling survival and wetland treatment@).
- 4) What do your results mean** - State your conclusions and how these findings and interpretations can best be applied to management and research needs.

WHEN YOU SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT REMEMBER

- 1) All abstract submission will be done electronically by completing the form found on the 62nd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference website found at <http://midwest2000.fws.gov>. Do not send printed abstracts or attached files. The website link for abstract submission will be active by 15 April. Please complete the abstract form following the instructions provided; most formatting will be done for you automatically.
- 2) All abstracts must be submitted by 1 July 2000. You will be notified immediately when your electronic abstract is received. Authors will be notified whether their abstract has been accepted or rejected by 15 August. Authors of accepted abstracts will receive additional instructions.
- 3) Indicate your presentation format (oral or poster). Please consider poster presentations; these often provide good opportunities to discuss your results with interested peers and others.
- 4) Only 35mm slides used with carousel slide trays will be allowed for oral presentations. No computerized projection systems or overhead projectors will be allowed.
- 5) Session moderators will allow a total of 20 minutes for each oral presentation and related questions.

Abstract submission on the web

All abstracts and accompanying information must be typed into the Abstract Submission Form available on the Conference Website. In addition to other information, you will be asked to provide the following:

- 1) Affiliation with Symposia - We are planning several symposia and these topics will be accessible via pull-down menus. **If you have made prior arrangements to participate in one of these symposia,** please indicate your session affiliation here.
- 2) Authors= names, addresses, and affiliations - Provide complete names, addresses, phone and FAX numbers, and email addresses for each author. Be sure to indicate the presenting author as requested in the form.
- 3) Abstract title - Summarize your presentation in 15 words or less.
- 4) Abbreviated title - Provide a key phrase that summarizes your work in 3 - 6 words. This will be used to identify your paper or poster in the Program At-A-Glance, so make sure your abbreviated title provides a useful reference.
- 5) Abstract - Enter your abstract in the space provided; abstracts must be 200 words or less.

Remember, posters are often the best way to reach your intended audience at large meetings. Advantages of posters include opportunities to confer with experts involved in similar efforts, conveying greater detail than is possible in oral presentations, and meeting new folks in the profession. For further information, contact:

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