



# RYBA

Newsletter of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

**Year 2004 No. 2**  
**May Issue**

**INSIDE:**

President's Corner-----1  
 2004 Action Agenda-----3  
 Officer Reports-----4  
 Committee Reports-----5  
 Of Interest-----5  
 Upcoming Events-----6  
 Contact Information-----7

**President's Corner**  
by Loren Miller

The new MNAFS year has begun and in my President's Corner debut I need give the customary but sincere thank you to all who helped make the annual meeting a great success. After a great run as President, during which he gave me considerable help in meeting planning, John Hiebert will be staying active as chair of Issues and Awards committees. Donna Dustin did a great job reminding me of meeting details and taking care of finances. Brian



Outgoing President Hiebert reluctantly turns over power to Loren Miller.

Borkholder and Tom Burri did another outstanding job organizing the fund raiser. An especially good idea was the inclusion of contact information for people to thank the donor of their prizes – please take the time to do so if you haven't yet. Eric Altena again coordinated the computer presentations and relieved me of worry about the usual glitches. Matt Ward and David Fulton coordinated the long-range planning session and we will continue to work on the plan through the year. Please provide input when the initial drafts come around. Thanks to moderators Anne Cooper, Tim Brastrup, Steve Shroyer, and David Fulton and Award chair Missy Drake. Finally, thanks to all who attended.



Dr. Tom Waters enlightens and entertains at the annual meeting banquet.

This year's meeting was a success by all standards. We had about 200 participants, with nearly three quarters from MNAFS and a fourth from the MN Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology. We had over two dozen students, whom we supported with reduced registration and banquet fees. For the first time, the student group included a large contingent from Central Lakes College in Brainerd. Many other new faces showed up for Peter Sorensen's Fish Biology and Ecology symposium. MNSCB was responsible for the plenary speaker but chose one of our own, Anne Kapuscinski, who spoke about aquatic GMOs. Long-time member Tom Waters gave an enjoyable presentation following the banquet. Best Professional Paper went to Rod Pierce and Cynthia Tomcko for *Density and biomass of native northern pike populations in relation to basin characteristics of North-central Minnesota*

lakes and Best Student Paper to Julie Zimmerman and Bruce Vondracek for *Stream enclosure effects on drifting invertebrates and fish growth:*

**RYBA** editor: David Anderson  
 The Chapter publishes **RYBA** four times yearly (February, May, September, and December). Past issues can be found at the Chapter website: [www.fw.umn.edu/mnaf](http://www.fw.umn.edu/mnaf)  
 Please direct comments or submissions to:  
[david.anderson@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:david.anderson@dnr.state.mn.us)

The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Minnesota Chapter.

*Do enclosure experiments produce biased results?* Best Poster was awarded to Dalma Martinovic, B Hogarth and Peter Sorensen for *Waterborne estrogens found in St. Paul sewage effluent suppress competitive behavior and reproductive success of male fathead*. Registration fees came in only a couple hundred short of expenses, including subsidies for students and the invited speakers. On top of that, we took in over \$3,000 from the raffle – way to go Brian and Tom.



Several Chapter members were recognized for their efforts at the Annual Meeting. Clockwise from top: Mike Duval, Phil Talmage, and Ray Valley (continuing education committee); John Hiebert (outgoing President); Tracy Close and Eric Merten (Forest Harvest position paper); Donna Dustin (treasurer); and Dennis Topp (Hutton mentor).



Using his symposium as a kick-off, Peter Sorensen hopes to make the MNAFS meeting an annual gathering site for what we might call non-agency-oriented aquatic researchers in the state. Many participants were academics “not from UMN-St. Paul” who work with fish and aquatics but have not been active in our chapter activities. We should welcome their participation and make every effort to show that our chapter is relevant to their interests and concerns.

Since the meeting there have been two major chapter activities. We approved and posted on the web our position paper on forest harvest. I sent letters announcing the paper to a number of groups and individuals interested in northeastern MN stream fisheries. We quickly got a critique from Rick Horton of the Ruffed Grouse Society and Norm Moody of the Cass County Land Department. Part of their argument was that we were too rigid/conservative. Tracy Close prepared a response that basically said, "Darn right, our job is to speak for the aquatic resources. Compromise between interests can be negotiated later."

The second major activity is the creation of a new way to communicate among members. Donna Dustin has established a Yahoo group to allow us to exchange messages bulletin board style. Members will be able to log in at their leisure and get in on the hot MNAFS topics. It is in test mode now but you should be hearing more soon via e-mail or the web site. We are also gathering as many alternative e-mail addresses as possible from members to avoid complications of sending advocacy messages on work computers. Please update your e-mail with membership chair Calub Shavlik (calub.shavlik@dnr.state.mn.us) if need be.

I look forward to the year ahead. Below is my action agenda for the year, as presented at the annual meeting. Note that one of my objectives is to finish our long-range planning. You're stuck with me to guide you in the present. If you want to improve in the future then please contribute to the planning process.



Tom Burri verifies Missy Drake's winning raffle ticket as Brad Parsons and Jeff Reed look on suspiciously.

### ***Minnesota Chapter AFS 2004 Action Agenda Based on goals of 1994-2004 AFS Strategic Plan***

#### *Information Transfer and Outreach*

1. Continue support of FWLA
2. Provide judges and maintain funding for regional and state Science Fair awards
3. Establish student sub-chapter of MNAFS – Mark Hove
4. Explore options for joint 2005 annual meetings with other state chapters or MN organizations.

#### *Member Services*

5. Develop updated Long-Range Plan for the chapter – Matt Ward
6. Award Joan Duffy Student Travel Grant to NCD Annual Meeting /Annual Midwest Meeting
7. Conduct two Continuing Education Workshops - Mike Duval, Ray Valley, & Phil Talmage
8. Award Chapter Scholarships
9. Support student attendance at annual meeting

#### *Aquatic Stewardship*

10. Establish Legislative Rapid Response Network to provide prompt membership input in response to legislative actions affecting aquatic resources
11. Maintain links with MN chapters of the Wildlife Society and Society for Conservation Biology to address issues in common to our organizations (designate a Special Committee representative from MNSCB)

## Officer Reports

### President-Elect

By Tim Brastrup

Progress is beginning on the planning for next year's Annual Chapter Meeting. I would like to place on the next Minnesota Chapter Excom meeting agenda a discussion on the place, date, and theme of next year's meeting. Additionally, we should discuss whether or not it should be a joint meeting with neighboring states or with other Minnesota professional societies.

To date, I have had discussions with both the Minnesota Chapters of The Wildlife Society and the Society of American Foresters. Representatives from both chapters seem very interested in having a three-way joint meeting with our chapter. It would seem timely to have a theme of "Timber Harvest and Management in Riparian Zones" or similar topic since timber harvest in riparian zones is an epic issue for forestry, wildlife and fisheries concerns. There has been a great deal of correspondence regarding the issue of riparian zone timber harvesting, especially the recent letter from our chapter to Rick Horton, our position paper, and some of the working relationships between DNR foresters and fisheries managers in the northeastern part of the state. Additionally, there are both state and federal timber management guidelines and policies for harvesting within riparian zones.

There is also interest in holding the meeting somewhere in the northern forested zone so it would be topically and geographically appropriate while being easier to access services in a larger out-state city. Bemidji might be a good location, which is supported by Mark Hanson of The Wildlife Society. He has offered some contacts for a facility. According to Mark, it is time for all three professional societies to meet and share information from the perspective of each unit so we can learn and come away with a better understanding of the whole issue.

At this point, I would like to propose that we have a three-way joint meeting in Bemidji next winter to address timber harvest and management in riparian zones. I will have more information available for the next Minnesota Chapter Excom meeting.

### ExCom - Treasurer

By Donna Dustin

**Minnesota AFS Discussion Group** - A Yahoo Group has been set up for updates on breaking political news and discussion of current issues. We intend for this group to be used primarily to update members on legislative news from FWLA, however any member is allowed to post messages on current issues of concern to the Chapter. While messages and discussion from the membership are welcome, we ask that everyone please limit all messages and discussion to Fisheries issues only.

To join the group, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MNAFS/> and click on "Join This Group!" You will need to get a yahoo ID, if you do not already have one. You will be given instructions on how to set up your membership and post messages to the group.

*(Note: Donna's minutes from the annual business meeting and the March Excom meeting can be found on the Chapter website, under the "meeting minutes" link.)*

## Committee Reports

### Membership

By Calub Shavlik

After a final membership renewal push in December 2003, the final tally for the year 2003 ended at 236 members of which 44 were non-paying students. The 2003 total surpassed the 2002 total but did not come close to the record level of 295 in 2001. However, we need to recruit new members to surpass the 2001 record level because the paying member portion was 264. Currently for 2004, we are at 203 but 43 are non-paying students. However, several previous members have not renewed in 2004 and they will receive a request to renew their membership in June.

Of the 2003 total, 142 chapter members were parent society members. As of March 2004, 115 chapter members were parent society members. Try to convince colleagues or friends that are currently working in the field or are interested in fisheries issues in Minnesota, of the benefits of belonging to the chapter. If you or someone you know wants to join, refer to the chapter website ([www.fw.umn.edu/mnafs/](http://www.fw.umn.edu/mnafs/)) or contact Donna Dustin for instruction.

### Ictalurid Technical Committee

By Dennis Topp

**List-serve** - The primary communication tool for the Ictalurid committee is a list-serve. To subscribe (or unsubscribe) to the Ictalurid list-serve, follow these instructions:

You can post to the list-serve by sending messages to [ichtec@fisheries.org](mailto:ichtec@fisheries.org). New subscribers should send an email to [mdaemon@fisheries.org](mailto:mdaemon@fisheries.org), with "SUBSCRIBE [ichtec@fisheries.org](mailto:ichtec@fisheries.org)" in the body of their message. To unsubscribe they'll need to send an email to [mdaemon@fisheries.org](mailto:mdaemon@fisheries.org) with "UNSUBSCRIBE [ichtec@fisheries.org](mailto:ichtec@fisheries.org)" in the body of their message.

**Otolith DVD** - A DVD that will describe techniques for using otoliths to assign ages to catfish is being produced, but it is not available yet. When it becomes available, I will notify members in this newsletter.

**Age and Growth Video** - Don Kline from Iowa is sending me a video that was shot at the 2003 workshop on Ictalurid Age and Growth techniques. If you are interested in getting a copy, let me know. No summer workshop is planned for 2004.

If anyone has news from the wonderful world of Ictalurids, please pass it on to me.

### Newsletter and Web Page

By Dave Anderson

It's a thin issue of RYBA - spring field work must have limited submissions this time. I had planned to write something about recent changes in the Fisheries Section of the DNR, but the situation is still in flux. Thanks to Brian Borkholder for providing the photos from the annual meeting. As always, if you have material for the newsletter or web page, you can send it to me anytime.

## Of Interest

**North Central Division Newsletter** – Read about what’s happening with our neighboring Chapters. The spring issue of the Mainstream is now posted on the NCD-AFS website:

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

**Stream Health and Restoration Workshops** - The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, with assistance from the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, offers workshops that teach the basic functions and processes of rivers, the Rosgen method of stream classification, assessing and monitoring river health, and natural-design river restoration. These workshops are designed for natural resource professionals whose work involves rivers directly or indirectly as well as those who are focused on watershed-wide issues. 2004 offerings include Fluvial Geomorphology and Stream Classification (May) and Stream Assessment and Monitoring (September). More details can be found on the Chapter web page.



Brad Parsons gives his North Central Division update to a packed house at the business meeting.

## Upcoming Events

### **4th World Fisheries Congress**

Vancouver, BC CANADA

May 2 - 6, 2004

\*\*\*\*\*

### **American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting**

Madison, Wisconsin

August 21 – 26, 2004

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Wild Trout VIII Symposium**

Yellowstone National Park

September 20 - 22, 2004

details available at <http://www.wildtrout8.com/>

**Chapter Officers**

President	Loren Miller	lmm@umn.edu	612-624-3019
President-elect	Tim Brastrup	tim.brastrup@dnr.state.mn.us	218-828-2552
Past President	John Hiebert	mottled_sculpin@hotmail.com	651-296-2548
Secretary-Treasurer	Donna Dustin	donna.dustin@dnr.state.mn.us	218-847-1579; fax 218-847-1588

**Excom Members**

Minnesota DNR	David Anderson	david.anderson@dnr.state.mn.us	763-675-3301
Federal	David Fulton	dcfulton@umn.edu	612-625-5256
Academic	Julie Zimmerman	henry041@umn.edu	612-624-7495
Open	Thomas Howes	tomhowes@fdlrez.com	218-878-8009

**Committee Chairs***Standing Committees*

Awards	John Hiebert	mottled_sculpin@hotmail.com	651-296-2548
Issues	John Hiebert	mottled_sculpin@hotmail.com	651-296-2548
Long Range Planning	Matt Ward	matt.ward@dnr.state.mn.us	218-525-0853
Membership	Calub Shavlik	calub.shavlik@dnr.state.mn.us	218-547-1683
Nominations	Greg Busacker	greg.busacker@dot.state.mn.us	651-284-3759
Public Education	Eric Altena	eric.altena@dnr.state.mn.us	763-675-3301
Resolutions	Jeff Weiss	jeffrey.weiss@dnr.state.mn.us	507-467-2442
Students	Anne Cooper	amcoop@umn.edu	612-624-0744

*Special or Ad Hoc Committees*

Fishing Round Table	Mark Hove	mark_hove@umn.edu	612-624-3019
Fund Raising	Tom Burri	tom.burri@dnr.state.mn.us	218-286-5220
	Brian Borkholder	brianborkholder@fdlrez.com	218-878-8004
FWLA Delegates	Bruce Vondracek	bvondrac@umn.edu	612-624-3421
	Don Pereira	don.pereira@dnr.state.mn.us	651-772-7962
Historian	Jeff Sluiter	jsluiter@yahoo.com	952-432-6992
Continuing Education	Mike Duval	michael.duval@dnr.state.mn.us	218-828-2271
	Ray Valley	ray.valley@dnr.state.mn.us	651-793-6539
	Phil Talmage	philip.talmage@dnr.state.mn.us	651-284-3587
MN TWS Representative	Mike North	michael.north@dnr.state.mn.us	218-828-2433
Procedure Manual	Mike McInerny	mike.mcinerny@dnr.state.mn.us	320-234-2562
MN Science Fair	Shannon Fisher	shannon.fisher@dnr.state.mn.us	507-831-2919
Webmaster/Ryba Editor	David Anderson	david.anderson@dnr.state.mn.us	763-675-3301

*NCD Technical Committee Representatives*

Centrarchid	Cindy Tomcko	cindy.tomcko@dnr.state.mn.us	218-327-4456
Esocid	Rod Peirce	rod.pierce@dnr.state.mn.us	218-327-4452
Rivers and Streams	Karl Koller	karl.koller@dnr.state.mn.us	218-327-4124
Salmonid	Pat Rivers	pat.rivers@dnr.state.mn.us	218-547-1683
Walleye	Jeff Reed	jeff.reed@dnr.state.mn.us	320-634-4573
Ictalurid	Dennis Topp	ourfish@means.net	218-634-2522