



Newsletter of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Year 2006 No. 2  
June Issue

**INSIDE:**

President's Message-----1  
 Committee Reports-----3  
 Lake Awards-----7  
 Shoreland Rules Update--8  
 Upcoming Events-----9  
 Contact Information----10

**A Hodge Podge of Thoughts**

**By Henry VanOffelen,  
President**

Several years ago Brad Parsons titled a president's message "A hodge podge of thoughts". In trying to come up for a title for this message I could find no better title.



Here are a few of my thoughts on the annual meeting, the legislative session, and some of the things that I would like to see the AFS accomplish during my term.

**Annual meeting**

I believe the annual meeting was a success. It was great to see all natural resource professionals from throughout the state get together. For MN AFS this was a very well attended meeting and I trust that most of you enjoyed the presentations. The planning group did try and get a diverse group of speakers centered on the theme of sustainable resource management. Last June we started out with the potential theme "Natural Resource Management: Beyond Monitoring the Decline" but that did seem kind of negative. Weekly, I see references to many of the themes presented by the various plenary speakers whether it is climate change issues, the interactions of energy policy and NR management and the changing face of the ownership of our forests and other public lands. There is no doubt that the fisheries and natural resource management landscape is always changing. Hopefully, this past annual meeting will



Waiting to see who will get lucky at the 2006 Annual Meeting

help all of us better understand the prospective changes so that we are able to adapt. I would expect that we will host another joint meeting like this in another 3 or 4 years. In Missouri they host a similar meeting every year and they also include the statewide SWCD association.

The success of meetings like these is due to the hard work and dedication of many. I would particularly like to thank past-president **Tim Brastrup** for help with logistics, treasurer **Pat Rivers** for making sure that registration went smoothly and the bills were paid, raffle coordinators **Brian Borkholder** and **Tom Burri** for all their efforts again, **John**

**RYBA** editor: Donna Dustin

The Chapter publishes **RYBA** four times yearly (February, May, September, and December). Past issues can be found at the Chapter website: [www.mnafs.org](http://www.mnafs.org).

Please direct comments or submissions to:

[donna.dustin@gmail.com](mailto:donna.dustin@gmail.com)

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



The creativity of some Chapter members was highlighted in this unique fish quilt made up of donated squares from around the State.

**Hiebert** for his service handling awards and paper reviews, **Bruce Vondarcek** for leading scholarship efforts, and the departing **Greg Busacker** for his lead of this year's elections. Thanks are also due to all the folks that volunteered to judge papers and moderated sessions.

### Legislative session

In my view, the Chapter's membership in the **Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance (FWLA)** has provided a needed window into the status of legislative issues relevant to the chapter and into the legislative process. Our involvement in FWLA not only gives us a better understanding of some of the natural resource and fisheries issues in front of the legislature but it also gives us a voice for or against certain issues. Over the years the chapter has sometimes struggled over what role we can or should take on certain issues. FWLA gives us a way to provide our scientific expertise and perspective on

*Over the next six to eight months we need to move past just discussing these issues and need to take some action on them*

a variety of issues. Given that a "fractions" bill did not pass, that "Clean Water Legacy" passed with only one year of funding, and that there is likely to be shoreland related bill in the legislature next session there will be much more to track and provide guidance on in the upcoming year.

### Things to get completed, improved, and started in 2006

Since I have been a member of this chapter we have always been great at hosting annual meetings that promote education of and communication among members and have had a fantastic continuing education program. I am sure that president elect **Mike Duval** will plan a great meeting in 2007. I am also sure that our continuing education team has several great opportunities planned.

The Chapter has also been quite good at supporting graduate and undergraduate students. In addition to the annual scholarship awards we have supported student attendance at the annual meetings. Unfortunately, we have not had a formal policy for our student support. Experience at this year's annual meeting made it clear to me that we need to have a consistent policy on supporting students at the annual meeting. I look forward to working with student representative **Anne Cooper** and **Mark Hove** and **Loren Miller** in developing this policy. Watch for more on this topic near the end of this year.

Lastly, at the annual meeting I presented a list of "issues" that I thought were hot topics for discussions this year. Since the annual meeting, a couple more issues have been added to the list which now includes:

- Leech Lake Walleye Stocking
- Ditch Buffer Study
- Wetlands/Shallow Lakes and Aquaculture
- Woody Debris in Streams
- Wetlands Rally

- Shorelands
- Modified DNR Bill (STEP and Lake Planning)
- Central Lakes Project Rules and statewide implications
- EQB rules changes
- Tiling related issues
- Mercury and fish
- Lead fishing tackle
- APM rules
- OHV and trout streams

Over the next six to eight months we need to move past just discussing these issues and need to take some action on them. At the June EXCOM meeting we discussed a preliminary plan for the Chapter to use their voice to weigh in on these issues. This plan includes a few steps. First we need to make chapter members aware of the issues through the newsletter, website, and mailings. Increasing awareness of these issues may also involve production of some white paper reports that speak to the science related to the issues. Once a few members are engaged in the issues we should develop specific strategies for each issue so that we can bring our expertise on the issues to folks that make decisions at the state and local level. I have no doubt that each of the issues on this list deserve our attention and we could provide a scientifically based voice and recommendation on them. The EXCOM will discuss these issues further at their July EXCOM. *If you are interested in any of these topics please contact me so that we can get started on each of them.* I will take the lead on shoreland related issues. I believe that river and stream committee would like to weigh in on the OHV issues. We need multiple volunteers to lead efforts on the other issues.

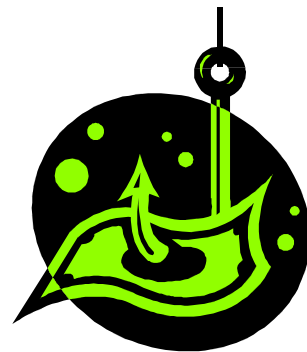


## Treasurer's Report

**Pat Rivers**

**Secretary-Treasurer**

Since the annual meeting, two items on the financial front have taken place for MN AFS. First, I filed the taxes for the chapter and did not use an outside accountant. Second, the Odyssey CD came to maturity. I opened another CD with better interest rates (4.75% annual percentage yield) than the Odyssey CD (2.47%).



## Past President's Issues

**Tim Brastrup**

**Past President and Issues Committee Chair**

The Chapter is developing a resolution in support of a Steady State Economy. A draft of the resolution has been posted on the website - please take a minute to review and comment on it.

[www.mnafs.org/SteadyStateRes.pdf](http://www.mnafs.org/SteadyStateRes.pdf)



## Membership Report

**Calub Shavlik**

**Membership Committee Chair**

The membership count after the annual chapter meeting was 145 members of which 25 are non-paying students. I am waiting for a list from the parent society to show who paid their chapter dues through the parent society. Currently, 131 members have not renewed in 2006 and I know that several of these people have paid through the parent society. After I get the list from the parent society, the remaining members will be receiving an e-mail in July to remind them that they have not renewed in 2006.

If you want to know if your colleagues or friends are chapter members and/or parent society members, contact me at [calub.shavlik@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:calub.shavlik@dnr.state.mn.us) for inquiries. If you or someone you know wants to join, refer to the chapter website ([www.mnafs.org/membershipinfo.htm](http://www.mnafs.org/membershipinfo.htm)) or **Calub Shavlik** ([calub.shavlik@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:calub.shavlik@dnr.state.mn.us)) for instructions.



## Science Fair

**Brian Nerbonne**

**Science Fair Committee Chair**

We had another successful year giving out awards at local science fairs across the state, hopefully fostering in some participants the notion that they could choose aquatic science as a career path. Winning projects at regional fairs centered on many of the same subjects that our professional work explores, including fish effects on wetlands, and effects of stormwater on lake water quality. Winners at the State Science Fair were a study of storm sewer inlets (Junior High) and an exploration of nitrogen uptake by wetland plants (Senior High). The following is a quote from a letter sent to us by the senior high winner:

**"Water is our lifeblood, and aquatic sciences are thus a vital area of knowledge. By sponsoring this award, you encourage future scientists to explore these areas."**

## Centrarchid Technical Committee



**Cindy Tomcko**

**NCD Centrarchid Technical Committee Rep.**

The Centrarchid Technical Committee of AFS North Central Division is having their summer meeting at **Wyalusing State Park, Prairie du Chien, WI, July 25-26, 2006**. All are welcome who have an interest in centrarchid biology, centrarchid regulations, fishing for the wily bass, bluegills or crappie. The meeting starts at 1 PM, July 25<sup>th</sup>. The afternoon's events include presentations, a business meeting, and state representative updates. After the meeting, we host a barbeque/picnic dinner. For evening entertainment, there is a fishing pier and excellent hiking/biking trails. Meeting attendees are welcome to stay overnight at

the group camp. We hope to get in a morning canoe trip on the Wyalusing River. Please contact **cindy.tomcko@dnr.state.mn.us**, if you wish to attend or make a presentation. Students are welcome! We'd love to hear about your centrarchid research and interests.



## Esocid Technical Committee

**Rod Pierce**

**NCD Esocid Technical Committee Rep.**

The summer meeting of the Esocid Technical Committee will be held at **Kemp Biological Station** (owned by the University of Wisconsin ... means an inexpensive meeting) in an area of beautiful lakes near Woodruff, Wisconsin. Dates for the meeting are **Wednesday August 2 through Friday August 4**. The meeting will include updates from north-central states and provinces on current projects and research, along with talks on stock-recruitment relationships, bioenergetics modeling, muskellunge genetics, pit tagging, telemetry, and brood stock management. A cookout and ample time for fishing will be provided. Contact **Rod Pierce** for more information



## Ictalurid Technical Committee

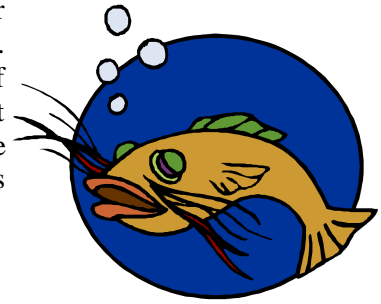
**Dennis Topp**

**NCD Ictalurid Technical Committee Rep.**

Abridged Minutes of the 2005 NCD Ictalurid Technical Committee Business Meeting:

The 2005 meeting was held in conjunction with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Grand Rapids, MI on December 12, 2005. The meeting was called to order by Lynn Schlueter. He then passed the Chair position to Greg Pitchford. Greg presented Lynn with a plaque in appreciation for his serving as Chair of the committee in 2004 and 2005. There were 15 attendees including two representatives from the southern division's catfish management committee (Elise Irwin and Dave Buckmeier).

1. Cat-a-thon, a collaborative effort to develop standardized techniques for sampling channel, blue and flathead catfish in different habitats was discussed. Everyone recognized the magnitude of the project and difficulty of pulling off something similar to the "Shadathon" for three different species in different habitat types. David Buckmeier suggested an alternative approach. He suggested that an advisory committee be formed consisting of biologists working with catfish who also have statistical and project design skills.



This committee would:

- Summarize the important sampling questions catfish researchers and managers have.
- Volunteer to review project proposals to help develop sampling strategies that could not only achieve the researcher's objectives, but also address the highlighted sampling issues.

Everyone felt this was a more realistic option. Elise and Dave said they would work together on the project. Greg asked members to email him with a list of individuals from the North Central Division who should be on the committee. He asked for those nominations within 30 days. Jim Stephen asked that they also consider questions relating to age and growth, abundance, and size structure.

2. Jim Stephen wondered if it was time to do a refresher Age & Growth workshop. Dave Buckmeier informed the group that a DVD was available highlighting the training materials developed in Texas. It is available on the AFS Computer Users website. It can be a refresher course and a tutorial in itself. Everyone agreed a summer meeting would be good to not only review age and growth issues but to share information on various sampling gears (eg. electrofishing and hoopnetting). Mark Flammang agreed to host the meeting again at Lake Rathbun, Ia. Details will be fleshed out. Meeting will be in either late June or early July.

3. Greg reminded the group that the Ictalurids List Server- it is out there- use it- sign on instructions are on the NCD web page.

4. Reports on catfish work going on around the Midwest.

Mark Porath reported that angler surveys are being completed on eastern Nebraska lakes- did a daytime one year and then night time next year for harvest- agencies should be aware daytime surveys are missing the majority of catfishing effort.

Greg Pitchford reported that Missouri looking at blue and flathead catfish populations on interior waters. Some public pressure to allow "hand fishing".

Jim Stephen reported that in Kansas, angler use surveys indicate that catfish have increased in popularity. Blue catfish in El Dorado Reservoir are eating zebra mussels which have recently become established in the lake.

Mark Porath reported that growth rates for catfish in various Nebraska waters are greatly influenced by habitat conditions.

Dennis Topp raised concerns about the increasing number of catfish tournaments in Minnesota. They are watching for conflicts with other anglers and importation of exotic species.

Greg Pitchford requested committee members look for opportunities to acquire otoliths and pectoral spines from known age catfish. If they come across these opportunities, please send structures to him. Dave Buckmeier reported a similar effort underway in the Southern Division.

5. Catfish 2010 Symposium

There was discussion on cooperating with the Southern Division on another catfish symposium in 2010.

Dennis Topp made a motion to proceed with a catfish symposium in 2010. Mark Porath seconded the motion. The motion passed on voice vote and now goes to the Southern Division to vote on at their meeting in February.

Issues discussed were location, time of year, and scope of the symposium. If the Southern Division approves, we will begin organizing "Catfish 2010" as an all inclusive meeting inviting all those interested in catfish to participate. Dave and Elise will look for a state in the Southern Division willing to host the event. The committee was reminded that the Southern Division's Catfish Management Committee has a web page and are seeking catfish articles to include on it.

6. The next meeting of the NCD Ictalurid Technical Committee will be at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Omaha, NE December 3-6, 2006.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Pitchford.



## Lake Friendly Development Awards

**Mike Duval**

**President-Elect**

Please post the following application form on the Chapter website announcing nominations for the **2006 Lake-Friendly Development Awards**, of which the Chapter is a co-sponsor. The success of these awards in affecting riparian landowner and developer behaviors hinges on bringing forward and acknowledging good stewardship examples. Chapter members (and members of the Excom especially) are encouraged to promote these awards within your respective spheres of influence and actively seek worthy properties to nominate from within the eligible geographic area. DNR has the greatest opportunity through summer lake survey and research projects to spot good candidates for this award. We simply need to be alerted to them and the steering team will do the rest.

You might consider the following text to introduce the link on the website:

**"Eligibility:** Projects on any riparian property (i.e., on lakes and rivers) in Cass, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Morrison, Todd, northern Mille Lacs, or southeastern Wadena counties.

The 2006 award for **LAKE-FRIENDLY HOME CONSTRUCTION** is for a homeowner or a contractor who has undertaken new home construction or major reconstruction while preserving the environmental integrity of the natural lakeshore or river shore setting. Entries and nominations will be accepted on those projects that have occurred within the last ten years.

The 2006 award for **LAKESCAPING** is for a homeowner or contractor who employs the use of native vegetation and mostly natural materials to landscape their riparian property in a manner that not only complies with local shoreland regulations, but goes even further to protect the shoreline's environmental integrity in a way that can potentially improve water quality. Entries and nominations will be accepted on those projects that have occurred within the last ten years, and have proven results.

The 2006 award for a **LAKE-FRIENDLY PROTECTION STRATEGY** is for a local unit of government that has created an ordinance, or regulatory code, or other initiative that officially seeks to preserve the environmental integrity of our lake and river systems.

The 2006 awards will be presented on October 20, 2006 in Aitkin in conjunction with a meeting of the 5-County North Central Lakes Project of the Governor's Clean Water Initiative."

For more information and the nomination form, go to: <http://www.mnafs.org/LakeAwards.pdf>



## Shoreland Rules Update

**Henry VanOffelen**

**President**

As you may remember, the DNR worked with a steering committee during 2005 to develop a set of “alternative shoreland standards” as part of a “central lakes pilot project”. These alternative standards were completed in December. The project has now moved into a communications phase. DNR and representatives from the steering committee are presenting an overview of the alternative rules at meetings with citizen groups and local governments this summer. Upcoming meetings include:

July 13, 2006 - (Itasca County) Minnesota Shooting Sports Education Center, 483 Peterson Road, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

July 20, 2006 - (Hubbard County) Northwoods Bank, 1200 East First Street, Park Rapids, MN 56470

August 3, 2006 - (Douglas County) Holiday Inn, 5637 State Highway 29 South, Alexandria, MN 56308

August 9, 2006 - (Cass County) Hackensack Senior Citizens Center, 213 First Street South, Hackensack, MN 56452

This is the first time in 20 years that there has been any substantial effort to modify shoreland rules. I encourage all members to visit

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt\\_section/shoreland/shoreland\\_rules\\_update.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/shoreland/shoreland_rules_update.html)

and review the alternative rules and the various other information presented. This is a substantive issue that the chapter and individual members should be prepared to support. I would particularly like feedback from members on whether you think our strategy should be to support these rule in the 5 county area or whether we need to get involved in actions that would press these new rules statewide. Please contact me if you are interested in these rules.



**I was just thinking...**

Why don't the people who drink those 'energy' drinks have enough energy to put the cans in the trash?



## Upcoming Events

**2006**

**International Conference on Rivers and Civilization: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Major River Basins**

Jun 25-28, 2006 --- La Crosse, WI

See [www.rivers2006.org/](http://www.rivers2006.org/)

Contact **James Wiener**, [wiener.jame@uwlax.edu](mailto:wiener.jame@uwlax.edu), 608/785-6454

**Eighth International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant**

Aug 6-11, 2006 --- Madison WI.

See [www.mercury2006.org](http://www.mercury2006.org)

Contact **James Wiener**, [wiener.jame@uwlax.edu](mailto:wiener.jame@uwlax.edu), 608/785-6454

**American Fisheries Society 136th Annual Meeting**

Sep 10-14, 2006 --- Lake Placid, NY

See [www.afslakeplacid.org](http://www.afslakeplacid.org)

**AFS - 30th Annual Larval Fish Conference**

Sep 10-14, 2006 --- Lake Placid, NY

See [www.afslakeplacid.org](http://www.afslakeplacid.org)

**North American Lake Management Society's 26th Annual International Symposium:  
Making Connections - People, Lakes, Watersheds**

Nov, 8-10, 2006 --- Indianapolis, IN

See [www.nalms.org](http://www.nalms.org)

**67th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference**

Dec 3-6, 2006 --- Omaha, NE

See [www.midwest2006.org](http://www.midwest2006.org)

**2007**

**American Fisheries Society 137th Annual Meeting**

Sep 2-6, 2007—San Francisco, CA

Contact **Betsy Fritz**, [bfritz@fisheries.org](mailto:bfritz@fisheries.org), 301/897-8616, ext. 212

Check out the Worldwide Fisheries Events Calendar at  
<http://www.fisheries.org/html/Calendar.shtml>

**Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
Current Officers and Committee Members May 2005**

**Chapter Officers**

President	Henry VanOffelen	vanoff@lakesnet.net	218-847-7416
President-elect	Mike Duval	michael.duval@dnr.state.mn.us	218-833-8612
Past President	Tim Brastrup	tim.brastrup@dnr.state.mn.us	218-833-8636
Secretary-Treasurer	Pat Rivers	pat.rivers@dnr.state.mn.us	218-547-1683

**EXCOM Members**

Academic	Kyle Zimmer	kdzimmer@stthomas.edu	
Open	Steve Quinn	squinn@in-fisherman.com	
Federal	Chantel Cook	cmcook@fs.fed.us	
Minnesota DNR	Brian Nerbonne	brian.nerbonne@dnr.state.mn.us	651-772-7965

**Committee Chairs***Standing Committees*

Awards	John Hiebert	mottled_sculpin@hotmail.com	651-296-2548
Issues	Tim Brastrup	tim.brastrup@dnr.state.mn.us	218-833-8636
Long-range planning	Jim Levitt	jim.levitt@dnr.state.mn.us	651-772-7941
Membership	Calub Shavlik	calub.shavlik@dnr.state.mn.us	218-547-1683
Nominations			
Public Education	Eric Altena	Eraltena@gmail.com	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/Ad Hoc Committees*

Continuing Education	Ray Valley	valleyr1@yahoo.com	651-793-6539
	Phil Talmage	phil.talmage@dnr.state.mn.us	218-286-5220
	Edie Evarts	edie.evarts@dnr.state.mn.us	218-732-4153
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	Loren Miller	lmm@umn.edu	612-624-3019
	Don Pereira	don.pereira@dnr.state.mn.us	651-259-5231
Historian	Jeff Sluiter	jsluiter@yahoo.com	952-432-6992
Newsletter & Website	Donna Dustin	donna.dustin@gmail.com	218-847-1579
Procedure Manual	Mike McInerny	mike.mcinerney@dnr.state.mn.us	320-234-2562
Science Fair	Brian Nerbonne	brian.nerbonne@dnr.state.mn.us	651-772-7965
Scholarships	Bruce Vondracek	bvondrac@umn.edu	612-624-3421
Streams and Rivers	Karl Koller	karl.koller@dnr.state.mn.us	218-999-7822
Wildlife Society Delegate	Mike North	michael.north@dnr.state.mn.us	218-833-8726

*NCD Tehnical Committee Representatives*

Centrarchid	Cindy Tomcko	cindy.tomcko@dnr.state.mn.us	218-999-7829
Esocid	Rod Pierce	rod.pierce@dnr.state.mn.us	218-327-4452
Ictalurid	Dennis Topp	sturgeon@wikel.com	218-634-2522
Rivers and Streams	Karl Koller	karl.koller@dnr.state.mn.us	218-999-7822
Salmonid	Eric Merten	eric.merten@dnr.state.mn.us	651-345-3365
Walleye	Tom Heinrich	tom.heinrich@dnr.state.mn.us	218-634-2522