



Newsletter of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Year 2006 No. 3
September Issue

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2006 American Fisheries Society Meeting Recap

By Henry VanOffelen, President

The meeting in Lake Placid was great. I had not been to the parent society meeting for more than 15 years and I regret that I have not made the effort to attend them more often. The venue at the Olympic Center really had a sense of history. The parent society and vendors were all located in the 1980 hockey rink. If you ever get the chance to visit the area it is worth spending a few days there. Some observations from interesting papers that I can remember are:

- There was an entire two day symposium on “**fish conservation and the end of cheap oil**”. Many interesting talks but I only caught a couple of them. Interesting questions were:

what will happen to commercial fishing with high oil prices?, will there be a resurgence in hydropower with high oil prices? How do we better link economic to ecosystem health?

- Lots of papers on **coastal systems**. These included talks on the effects of disposal of desalinization water in estuaries in North Carolina, restoration of nearshore ecosystems in Puget Sound, and restoration of coastal marshes on Lake Erie. On the latter two, restoring coastlines appear to be energy intensive and expensive but are proving to be quite successful. Sounded a lot like shoreland restoration here but on a much larger scale.



- There was a **whirling disease symposium**. I attended an overview paper because whirling disease is present in the Missouri River basin and North Dakota is really trying to transfer Missouri River water to the Hudson Bay drainage for water supply. Quite a nasty little parasite that is very difficult to control.

- A paper on the **effects of zebra mussel on benthic community** productivity in Oneida Lake was also quite interesting. Quite a mixed

bag of effects on the food web. Zebes provide increased habitat complexity for some benthic macroinvertebrates (primarily predators) and, since transparency increases too, macrophytes expand their range and can reduce benthic invertebrate production in some areas. I got me wondering if anyone has studied what happens to benthic communities and production in shallow lakes shifting between clear and turbid water phases.

- Several interesting **stream papers**. None of the ones that I attended mentioned the “geomorphological” features of streams. Many investigators used all the usual variables (wetted width, average depth, etc) but did not seem aware of these relatively new measurement methods. Several may have benefited from a geomorphological view of streams.

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.

Please direct comments or submissions to:

donna.dustin@gmail.com

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

- **Acid rain in the Adirondacks** is still a problem but reductions in nitrous and sulfur emissions have improved water quality the past 15+ years. The typical rainfall pH is now 4.7. Up from the 4.5 that I used to measure when I worked there. Needless to say, a few acid precipitation related issues remain.
- **Northern pike** are a big problem in one California reservoir. They sure do grow big eating trout and if you think a rotenone project is complicated in Minnesota, you should try one in California.

Several other chapter members had the good fortune to attend the Parent Society meeting in Lake Placid. I asked them to provide some of their observations from the meeting for this newsletter too..... Thanks for the responses.

~~~~~  
 From **Loren Miller**:

At least two interesting research areas:  
**Hybridization symposium:** I presented on my MN crappie hybridization work, which mainly focused on the increased growth shown by hybrid crappies. As an off-shoot I found that natural hybridization is widespread but occurs at low frequencies. This pattern of widespread hybridization but lack of complete introgression (i.e., no hybrid swarm) was reported in other studies of sympatric species: e.g., walleye and sauger (N. Billington, Troy State) and steelhead and cutthroat trout (O. Johnson, NWFSC-NOAA). Hybrids are fertile but certain mechanisms are clearly affecting the reproductive patterns and fitness of hybrid individuals. In other cases, hybridization with introduced species (red shiners) threatened the genetic integrity of endemic species (M. Blum, EPA).



*"The Oneida Lake symposium was excellent."*  
 Don Pereira

**Genetic selection by fisheries:** Two presentations addressed potential for evolutionary response to selective pressures of fishing. T. Quinn (UWash) found empirical evidence of a shift in run timing in sockeye salmon consistent with genetic selection. R. Arlinghaus (Berlin) modeled the effect of fishing on reproductive investment, incorporating genetic response with density-dependent effects, and showed the potential for substantial evolutionary change.

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 From **Don Pereira**:

The Oneida Lake symposium was excellent.

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 From **Rod Pierce**:

**International Pike Symposium:** This symposium was very successful at drawing together international researchers, with presenters coming from 7 countries, 3 Canadian provinces, and numerous U.S. states. Countries represented included Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Hungary, and U.K. (both England and Scotland). A number of the Powerpoint presentations can be retrieved from: <ftp://ftp.mmf.gouv.ca/Public/Udrf/Npike/> or contact Rod Pierce if you are interested in hearing more about the symposium.

During the **Oneida Lake special session**, Lars Rudstam, New York, presented an interesting re-analysis of historical relationships for walleye and yellow perch in Oneida Lake. He described a unique, but somewhat discouraging look at correlations between year-class strength early in life versus two or more years later.

**Marc Migelbier**, Quebec, outlined a multidimensional model that used information about bathymetry, water levels, and current velocities to make predictions about habitat available for spawning pike during spring in spatially complex reaches of the St. Lawrence River.

*From Owen Baird:*

Some interesting, if a bit trivial things from the AFS meeting:

**Ingestion of fire ants kills rainbow trout.** Rainbow trout kills in the Peruvian Andes have been linked to consumption of fire ants after rainstorms wash the ants into the stream. Both the trout and the fire ants are nonnative.

**Blueback herring** feeding during their spawning run in the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, NY. Blueback herring were thought not to feed during spawning runs up the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers. Blueback herring in these rivers were found to have ingested zooplankton and macroinvertebrates. The herring are now able to migrate much further upstream by using the Erie Canal system associated with the Mohawk River and some now travel over 100 miles up the Mohawk, 275 miles total, to spawn when historically a falls near the mouth of the Mohawk limited their use of this river. The authors speculate the herring may need to feed during migration as they now travel much further by using the locks of the canal system to ascend previously impassible barriers. Juvenile blueback have even been found in the Oswego River and Lake Ontario, using the canal system to cross into the St. Lawrence drainage.

**Lahontan cutthroat trout** used to reach sizes of up to 60 lbs in Pyramid Lake, Nevada, but are now restricted mainly to small headwater streams.



## President Elect's Report

**Mike Duval**

### President Elect

Planning for our next annual meeting has been greatly complicated by delays with scheduling the DNR Fisheries Training Session, which was targeting a broad range of dates that the Chapter was also looking at. As you can guess, our Chapter's meeting attendance would be greatly and negatively affected by overlapping or even proximal scheduling of the DNR Training Session. At some point, however, you just have to bite the bullet and hope for the best. And so ...



**The 2007 Minnesota Chapter AFS Annual Meeting will be held March 19-21, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, St. Cloud.** The meeting format will be somewhat different from previous meetings, but will still include familiar elements like technical talks and posters. In addition, a special session concept is being planned, which will target not only our professional membership, but also seek to engage resource user groups such as anglers, lake association members, etc. To attract this target audience, we have selected a central geographic location to hold the meeting.

Planning the annual meeting involves many tasks that in sum can be a huge undertaking, but in manageable pieces can be accomplished very efficiently. As such, I welcome the assistance of our members in setting up this meeting. There are many roles to fill (facilities, technical program, moderators, publicity, etc.) and **I would like to have a team in place by mid-December. So, please volunteer to help with the annual meeting and submit your ideas to Mike Duval at [michael.duval@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:michael.duval@dnr.state.mn.us).**

## 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. A discussion topic has been started for this issue.

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



## EXCOM Reports

**Steve Quinn**

**Open EXCOM Representative**

As this is my first news column for RYBA, following election to the EXCOM in the "Open," category, I'd first like to invite future news items from the "open" community, defined as any unaffiliated MNAFS members or members working for employers that are not MN DNR, federal agencies, or academic. This is your column and I am the compiler and editor. **Steve Quinn, [squinn@in-fisherman.com](mailto:squinn@in-fisherman.com); 218/824-2547.**

In tribal fishery management, **Red Lake** tribal waters were opened last spring to subsistence fishing after a lengthy closure. Biologist **Pat Brown** provides a historical summary:

*Red Lake's commercial fishery was started in 1917 by the state of Minnesota to help with food shortages during World War I. In 1929, the Band took over the fishery, which was regulated by the Secretary of the Interior under a Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The CFR stated that the Band could harvest up to 650,000 pounds of walleye each year and specified how many gillnets could be used by each fisherman.*

*A problem with the old system was unlimited entry, which allowed any Red Lake Band member over 18 to fish under the static quota of 650,000 pounds per year, without taking into consideration the condition of the walleye population.*

*Since the opening last spring, only hook-and-line fishing is allowed, with a 10-fish daily limit and a protected slot of 18-28 inches. Harvest last May was about 12,000 pounds, with reduced harvest after that. Future plans for the fishery are under discussion. Tribal members want to take it slow and use good conservation practices. Commercial fishing is not out of the question, but it will take time to come up with a management plan that can be supported by the majority of Red Lake Tribal members.*

A new potential funding source is available for grass-roots habitat projects through **ESPN/BASS**. This organization has created a foundation called More Fish Partnership Fund. In the first year (2007), grants of between \$5,000 and \$30,000 and leadership grants of \$75,000 to \$100,000 will be awarded competitively. Matching funds will be required on a 1:1 basis with a preference for projects that leverage grants with contributed cash and in-kind services.

Eligibility is limited to BASS Chapters and other non-profit fishing or community-based organizations proposing to undertake projects for fish habitat improvement. Eligible activities include habitat restoration, water quality improvement, and watershed planning. Projects that include youth, education, training, or community outreach are encouraged. Priority will be given to projects directly implementing the **National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP)** or regional NFHAP partnerships. For more information, contact: [conservation@bassmaster.com](mailto:conservation@bassmaster.com).



## Esocid Technical Committee

**Rod Pierce**

**NCD Esocid Technical Committee Rep.**

The ETC met during 3-4 Aug 2006 at **Kemp Natural Resources Station**, Woodruff, Wisconsin. The program included reports from individual states and a technical session that was oriented almost exclusively toward muskellunge management and research. Topics included surveys, PIT tagging, stock/recruitment relationships, bioenergetics, and genetics. Northern pike assessments in large (>1000 acre) Michigan lakes were also described. **Rod Pierce** has minutes from the meeting that can be e-mailed to anyone interested in reviewing them. Members of the ETC were also on hand at Lake Placid, New York, for an **International Pike Symposium: Merging Knowledge of Ecology, Biology, and Management for a Circumpolar Species (13-14 Sep 2006)**. ETC attendees that joined participants from seven countries were **John Casselman, Jim Diana, Joe Larscheid, Terry Margenau, Tom Mosindy, and Rod Pierce**.



## Continuing Education Committee

**Eddie Evarts**

**Phil Talmage**

**Ray Valley**

The committee has just released the detail of their upcoming workshop: **Economics for Natural Resource Managers**. See the announcement on page 7 and get signed up early - class size will be limited.

We are in the early stages of planning a week long **Shoreline Restoration / Watershed Processes** workshop for August 2007.



# Website

## Donna Dustin

How about some discussion gang ? Do you know that you are among the privileged few who are permitted to join the **Angling For Issues** discussion board? People from all over the world are trying to join this board - I'm not making this up. Every week I delete 10 to 20 would-be users from Russia, France, Korea, Pakistan and more. Most of them are looking to sell drugs or porn, but one guy did put "killing little fishes" as one of his interests.

So I'm asking you to make the maintenance worthwhile and get some lively discussions going. Ray Valley has a new post about **Aquatic Plant Management**, Henry would like your opinions about a **draft EAW worksheet** for shorelands, and the chapter has a draft resolution on the **Steady State Economy** that has not been discussed yet - let's hear some debate! I also just posted a new topic on whether MF AFS should be taking an active role in advocating policy or not. If you have an opinion on any of these things, please share it.

If you have any trouble signing up for the discussion group e-mail me at [donna.dustin@gmail.com](mailto:donna.dustin@gmail.com) and I will help you get signed up.



## Stream Restoration Workshop

### Radisson Hotel - La Crosse

The Driftless Area Stream Restoration Workshop is coming up on October 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>. The steering committee has been working hard to keep registration costs down to \$35. Registration will include Monday - lunch, break & social (evening meal own your own) and morning break & bag lunch on Tuesday...plus handout materials. For more info contact **Mark Ebbers** at [mark.ebbers@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:mark.ebbers@dnr.state.mn.us) or see [www.tu.org/driftlesshabitatconf](http://www.tu.org/driftlesshabitatconf)



## I was just thinking...

### Election day is coming up - don't forget to vote!

Politics is not the art of the possible. It consists in choosing between the disastrous and the unpalatable. --- *John Kenneth Galbraith*

The word 'politics' is derived from the word 'poly', meaning 'many', and the word 'ticks', meaning 'blood sucking parasites'. --- *Larry Hardiman*

Ninety percent of the politicians give the other ten percent a bad reputation. --- *Henry Kissinger*

You've got to vote for someone. It's a shame, but it's got to be done. --- *Whoopi Goldberg*





**Minnesota Chapter  
of the American Fisheries Society**



**WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Economics for Natural Resource Managers**

December 7 - 8, 2006  
Kelly Inn  
100 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue S  
Saint Cloud, MN

This 1½ day workshop will provide resource managers with an overview of natural resource economics and an understanding of how resources such as fisheries, open space and clean water are valued in today's society

The first day will cover general principles of natural resource economics as well as current issues and research. The second ½ day will cover human dimension aspects of values, norms, and attitudes (and survey methods) in regards to natural resources.

Instructors:

Steve Polasky, Ph.D.  
Fesler-Lampert Professor of Ecological/Environmental Economics  
Dept. of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior  
University of Minnesota

David Fulton, Ph.D  
Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit  
Dept. of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology  
University of Minnesota

Class hours: 9:30am – 5:00pm on Dec 7 and 8:00am – noon on Dec 8.

Course cost: \$100 (includes lunch on Dec 7)

Class size is limited. Enrollment deadline is Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
For more information or to enroll, contact Edie Evarts  
218.732.4153 or [edie.evarts@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:edie.evarts@dnr.state.mn.us)

Lodging available at Kelly Inn 320.253.0606  
(For group rate, reserve by Nov 6<sup>th</sup>. \$74 single/ \$84 double)

## Upcoming Events

**2006**

### **Habitat Restoration in Streams in the Driftless Areas**

Oct 30-31, 2006 --- LaCrosse, WI

.Contact Mark Ebbers, mark.ebbers@dnr.state.mn.us, 651/259-5205.

See [www.tu.org/driftlesshabitatconf](http://www.tu.org/driftlesshabitatconf)

### **Science Symposium: Sources, Transport, and Fate of Nutrients in the Mississippi and Atchafalya River Basins**

Nov 7-9, 2006 --- Minneapolis, MN

Contact Janice Ward@usgl.gov

<http://www.epa.gov/msbasin/taskforce/reassess2005.htm>

### **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 Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Annual Conference**

Jul 11-16, 2006 --- St. Louis, Missouri

### **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

### **International Symposium: WILD TROUT IX**

Sep 16-19, 2007 --- West Yellowstone, MT

[www.wildtroutsymposium.com/](http://www.wildtroutsymposium.com/)

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        | 218-824-2547 |
| 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 |
|                           | Jeff Sluiter     | jsluiter@yahoo.com             | 952-432-2692 |
| Historian                 |                  |                                |              |
| 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 |