

FALL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, I have had a month to reflect on the Parent Society's annual meeting in San Francisco, but it still isn't enough time ... As is typical of this meeting, there is simply way too much going on to be able to take it all in. The choices of symposia and sessions are overwhelming, however, there were a few items that stood out that I'll share with you.

First of all, it was the 40th anniversary of the Summer of Love concerts in Golden Gate State Park where I'm happy to report the hippie culture is alive and well. Canned Heat and Taj Mahal were featured acts among other vintage band names at the concert, but alas, your president had other commitments of an official nature to tend to. One in particular was a workshop hosted by the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) to provide input to the Science and Data Committee's national fish habitat assessment. I participated on behalf of my employer, but also out of personal interest and follow up to the planning sessions I attended at the 2005 AFS meeting in Madison. If you have not heard of the NFHAP, I encourage you to go to their website (www.fishhabitat.org) to see what this exciting new initiative is all about. Modeled after the North American Waterfowl Conservation Act Joint Ventures, the NFHAP seeks to develop diverse partnerships that can protect and restore aquatic habitats in the nation's lakes, rivers, and marine environments. The NFHAP is also a priority action item in the work plan for the North Central Division AFS.

The second "stand out item" was a highly successful urban fishing symposium that some of our chapter members presented at or attended. On the Sunday preceding the meeting start-up (and coincidentally or not, the morning of the Summer of Love concert), the symposium sponsors hosted a fishing clinic that drew a number of young anglers and provided a perfect media event to raise visibility for AFS. This is a great outreach and publicity strategy that deserves consideration for our own Chapter meetings. One upcoming opportunity may be at the 2009 annual meeting in Duluth (see Arrangements Committee report).

At the business meeting, the society passed a resolution encouraging the teaching of evolution in public schools. I think the context for this resolution is readily apparent. The Governing Board failed, however, to recommend approval of a position statement regarding economic growth and sustainable natural resource management. Many of you may recognize this latter issue from a series of policy forums in Fisheries during the past few years and one that we discussed at our 2006 Chapter business meeting. The EXCOM has since wrestled with this issue over the ensuing year-and-a-half, and ultimately recommended support with minor revision of the position statement as published in the May issue of Fisheries magazine. At the Governing Board meeting (again, coinciding with the SOL concert), the issue was returned to the Socio-Economics Committee to redraft into a more formal white paper with robust citations and return it to the Governing Board for action at a future date.

The highlight of the meeting, in my mind, was that two of our Chapter members received honors. **Jack Wingate** (a former DNR biologist) received the Society's Meritorious Service Award for his many contributions to the American Fisheries Society over his career. Jack came out of retirement to attend the meeting and receive this award. **Anne Cooper** was this year's recipient of the J. Frances Allen Scholarship and was recognized during the business meeting. Anne has been a valuable contributor to our Chapter as a graduate student at the University of Minnesota serving until May of this year as the Student Committee Chair. Congratulations to both of these Chapter members for their recognition by the Parent Society!!

With that my friends, "I'm going to the country where the water tastes like wine"

Mike

ARRANGEMENTS/UPCOMING MEETINGS

2008 Minnesota Chapter Meeting
March 3–5th Alexandria Holiday Inn
Theme: Aquatic Planning and Management at the
Landscape Level

2009 Minnesota Chapter Meeting
February 2-4, Duluth
Joint meeting with Wisconsin and Ontario
Chapters

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership **Calub Shavlik**

Currently, we are at 168 paid members and 25 student members. According to the latest listing from the parent society, the Minnesota chapter has 102 members. We have 13 members that pay their chapter dues and parent society membership separately. Another membership request will be sent out the 45 members that did not opt up for 2007.

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 for inquiries. If you or someone you know wants to join, refer to the chapter website (www.mnafs.org/membershipinfo.htm) or Calub Shavlik (calub.shavlik@dnr.state.mn.us) for instructions.

Students **Rob Dodd**

The Institution Representative (I-Rep) Program the current Student Committee Chair Robert Dodd created is progressing nicely. There are now ten institutions involved across the great state of Minnesota: Bemidji State, Central Lakes Community College, Mankato State, St. Cloud State, St. Mary's, St. Olaf, St Thomas, University of Minnesota- Crookston, The University of Minnesota- Twin Cities and Winona State. Each one of these fine institutions now have a confirmed I-Rep Faculty Contact, who are responsible for recruiting qualified Student I-Reps. Two Student I-Reps have already been appointed to the Student Committee. Bridget Emmert has been confirmed as the St.Mary's Student I-Rep and James Fett was selected for the position at Mankato State.

The following professors have agreed to participate and they deserve our thanks:

Donald Cloutman	Bemidji State
Tim Brastrup	Central Lakes CC
Shannon Fisher	Mankato State
Matt Julius	St Cloud State
Phil Cochran	St. Mary's
Jean Porterfield	St. Olaf
Kyle Zimmer	St. Thomas
John P. Loegering	UM-Crookston
Neal Mundahl	Winona State

If you are a faculty member or student at a Minnesota college or university not mentioned above who would like to get involved in the I-Rep program contact Robert Dodd at dodd0037@umn.edu. All are welcome. The primary goal of this program is to increase student involvement in the chapter by initiating conversations between students at each institution involved in the program. The myriad of issues affecting our aquatic resources currently being addressed by MN AFS will be the topic of these conversations. Getting students to think critically about these issues will better prepare our future fisheries professional for addressing and ultimately resolving these threats to our aquatic ecosystems. Providing the opportunity to develop a student's leadership skills along academic and professional relationships are other benefits provided by the Institution Representative Program.

Legislative News **Loren Miller**

Aquaculture and Wetlands Legislative Report
PreparationDiscussion

The MNDNR has been required by the Legislature to make policy/regulation recommendations this winter concerning aquaculture and wetland licensing and use. I attended two stakeholders meetings this summer meant to inform participants and obtain input on DNR recommendations. Other participants included aquaculturists, legislators, DU, MCEA, Ag Dept., and DNR staff from the big shots down to regional managers. Chapter member Henry VanOffelen attended representing MCEA and Kyle Zimmer attended and presented as an author of a report on wetlands in Minnesota. There were biological and

(Legislative News Cont.) non-biological issues making the issue contentious. The biological issues are whether rearing primarily baitfish or walleye affects the water quality/aquatic habitat in shallow wetlands. The aquaculture issue came up in part because of the publicized possible link between fathead minnows (which may be introduced by aquaculturists) and declining wetland quality leading to decreases in ducks.

The non-biological issues have mostly to do with licensing and pond access. Currently one shoreland owner can permit access to a pond and a grower may license it for fish rearing. Legislation was introduced last year that would make this more stringent (all shore owners, I think). Also a grower pays a relatively low one-time fee to license a pond.

We can provide input to the DNR now to help guide their recommendations or we can wait for their recommendations and respond as the legislature debates which to enact. We should comment mostly on the biological issues – what are the impacts of fish rearing on aquatic habitats – and leave the non-biological to others. That said, we should generally support the careful use of ponds for fish rearing as part of the needs of bait dealers and private and DNR aquaculturists to support stocking when and where it is needed.

CHAPTER SIGNS ON TO CLIMATE CHANGE LETTER

Jeff Weiss, Resolutions Chair, on approval from the EXCOM, signed onto the National Wildlife Federation's Letter to Congress calling for action to combat climate change. Individual scientists can also sign onto the letter at:

<http://online.nwf.org/scientistletter>

NEW!!! Video Brochure

Eric Altena has created a very cool new video brochure for the chapter. Link to it at:

www.mnaf.org

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Excellence in Fisheries Education Award Education Section, American Fisheries Society

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) Excellence in Fisheries Education Award was established in 1988. The award is administered by the Education Section and is presented to an individual to recognize excellence in organized teaching and advising in some aspect of fisheries education. Nominees may be involved in extension or continuing education, as well as traditional college and university instruction. Nominees must be AFS members, have been actively engaged in fisheries education within the last five years, and have had at least 10 years of professional employment experience in fisheries education. Two or more people may act as nominators, but at least one nominator must be an AFS member. The nominator(s) is responsible for compiling supporting material and submitting the application. The suggested format for applications can be found on the Education Section web site. Application materials should be sent to **Michael Quist (mcquist@iastate.edu)** in digital form.

Nomination deadline is **May 16, 2008**.

Additional information can be obtained from:

**Michael Quist
Dept. of Natural Resource
Ecology & Management
Iowa State University
339 Science II
Ames, IA 50011
Phone: (515) 294-9682
mcquist@iastate.edu**

Editor's Note: I'm betting that our Awards guru, John Heibert would love some nominations as well – we have a load of talented people in this chapter, let's show them some appreciation!

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Global Change at the Mississippi Headwaters is a multi-university program held at the University of Minnesota's Itasca Field Station. Check out the link for more information on an outstanding opportunity:

<http://www.tc.umn.edu/~cotne002/REU-Info.html>

For even more information contact Kyle Zimmer
at the University of St. Thomas
KDZimmer@stthomas.edu

From Eric Altena, DNR EXCOM Report

Eric reports issues surrounding docks and platforms are heating up just as the lakes freeze. VHS and the Ford Dam Removal are also issues to keep an eye on.

And from the pike and muskie folks.....

The 2007 August meeting of the Esocid Technical Committee (ETC) was held at the University of Wisconsin Kemp Natural Resources Station near Woodruff, Wisconsin. Our agenda was headed by updates on research and management in the various states and provinces. The rapidly increasing distribution of VHS was an alarming theme, however most agencies are primarily concerned with evolving stocking and regulation strategies. Technical discussions focused on size-based regulations for both northern pike and muskellunge, trends in muskellunge recruitment as size structure of the populations change, current genetic studies at UW-Stevens Point, and a University of Michigan cooperative venture using muskellunge spawning site selection information to develop a GIS model predicting spawning locations. Copies of the state/provincial reports and technical session abstracts are available from Rod Pierce (218.327.4452).

AND Finally

Could this be the last "traditional" looking newsletter? Donna Dustin and I are looking to make this a much more web-based newsletter. Perhaps a site that is updated on a weekly to biweekly basis with links to hot topics and fisheries related news. It seems to me that this format of a newsletter is somewhat outdated. With the ability for nearly everyone to get the information they want or need at the click of mouse, a quarterly newsletter fails our mission to keep you informed.

What do you think? I'd greatly appreciate any insights you might have to update the format and our ability to get you the information you need in a more timely fashion.

Thanks,
Jeff

For More information about the Minnesota Chapter

www.mnafs.org

or the American Fisheries Society

www.fisheries.org