



RYBA

Newsletter of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Year 2001 No. 4
November Issue

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President's Message

by Brad Parsons

A hodge-podge of thoughts...

November, for me, brings an end to field work for the year (thankfully), and a chance to catch up on office work that has piled up since August. It never ceases to amaze me how many different people ask me "So what do you DO during the winter?" The public seems to have a good grasp of what we do when we are out collecting field data in the summer, be it fish, mussels, zooplankton, plants, water chemistry, or whatever. When it comes to the office or laboratory, however, I think we need to do a better job of communicating what it means to be a fisheries professional. The data entry and analysis, report writing, administrative tasks, budgets, presentations, meetings, classes etc., may not be as "glamorous" as, say,

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electrofishing, but it is just as, if not more, important. The AFS certification process recognizes this, with its requirements regarding communications and statistics to complement the physical and biological sciences everyone thinks about. The continuing education requirements also recognize the need to always grow and change within our profession. Think about certification – check out the Parent Society website at www.Fisheries.org. It can give you a real sense of accomplishment, and it certainly ought to increase our credibility with the public.

Speaking of continuing education, our Chapter had another great year. I think we all owe a great deal of gratitude to Jerry Grant and Laurie Sovell for their work setting up two more great training opportunities. The first was the "second annual" Fluvial Geomorphology and Stream Restoration workshop held in June at the Whitewater State Park. The 29 participants learned about stream typing, restoration theory, design, and implementation from Karen Terry, Luther Aadland, Ian Chisholm, Josen Moeckel, and Sandy Verry. The second was our "first annual" Non-game Fish and Mussel Identification workshop held in September at the Coon Rapids Dam Visitor Center. The 28 participants were taught identification skills for these difficult animals by Jay Hatch, Konrad Schmidt, Andrew Simons (fish) and Rick Hart and Mark Hove (mussels). Also, many thanks to all the instructors for both courses. Their willingness to spend the extra time needed to pass their knowledge on to the participants is greatly appreciated. I would love to see the ID class offered again (maybe with a day or

two added, and insects, zooplankton, and/or plants included?). Great job, Laurie and Jerry.

By the way, a press release came out on this way back in March, but belated congratulations to Chapter member Dr. Anne Kapuscinski for being named a 2001 Pew Marine Conservation Fellow. She was among ten winners chosen from Canada, Italy, Spain, Russia, Philippines, and the US to receive the prestigious fellowship, the world's only award dedicated to marine conservation. "The Pew Fellows Program recognizes exemplary individuals with unique vision, exceptional problem solving skills, and innovative ideas to advance marine conservation," said Cynthia Robinson, associate director of the program. "Dr. Kapuscinski's winning project to address governance of genetically modified marine organisms demonstrates significant leadership in applying and communicating sound science to safeguard the health of ocean species and ecosystems."

Fortunately, October and November also mean the opportunity to spend some beautiful mornings or sunsets seeing if the divers will take note of my decoy string. This is probably the last season for my faithful black lab hunting companion of the past 11 years. She hardly does anything at home now except sleep, but when we go hunting, everything changes. The cold waters of November don't faze her at all when there is a duck to be retrieved. When we head home, she walks so stiffly it almost hurts to watch her, but you can tell she wouldn't have it any other way. Every time, I wonder if this retrieve will be her last, and the nostalgia of

our time together is almost overwhelming.

Winter is our time for meetings. With the Midwest Conference held in Minneapolis last year, I am sure there will be less Minnesota members in Des Moines for this December's conference. I do know that several Chapter members including me will be presenting during the sunfish biology and ecology symposium there. It will be an excellent meeting, and with our North Central Division doing business as well, I would encourage all to attend, especially since there will not be an official "Midwest" next year.

I absolutely hope to see everyone in Duluth for our 35th Annual Chapter meeting. President-Elect Brian Borkholder has worked tirelessly preparing things for us. Despite the normal prices in that location, Brian has done a great job of lining up sponsors for socials and breaks, so he has managed to keep the cost very low. The opening social at the new Great Lakes Aquarium is a great touch, and I am sure the technical presentations, including a special session involving Tribal natural resource departments will be better than ever. I send a special invitation to students as well – don't forget we have money available to help cover expenses, and this year we will have a new Best Student Paper Award, with Minnesota Sea Grant awarding \$250 for it! Many thanks to Carl Richards and the rest at Sea Grant for this generous new award.



Officer and Excom Reports

DNR - Joe Ostazeski

With the two-week strike, which disrupted fisheries work, I don't have too much to report since last time. The

Mille Lacs Lake walleye regulation has changed for the winter season to allow anglers more opportunity to harvest fish this winter. The harvest slot is 14 to 18 inches with one over 28 inches starting December 1, 2001. Also, stay tuned to fisheries news as a new Steelhead Plan for Lake Superior is drafted in the coming months. There are strong feelings around this unique resource and there is sure to be some interesting dialogue that comes out of the public input process. Issues involve Kamloops (hatchery strain rainbow trout) stocking, steelhead smolt stocking, habitat protection, and regulation. The final plan is due to be completed by next fall. One last comment is that it seems like is a good time to be applying for fisheries vacancies as they appear. A general impression is that competition for entry-level fisheries professional positions may not be as great as in the past. Be aware that there is now a self-nomination process where a candidate can apply specifically to a hiring supervisor within the DNR. Successful candidates must still pass a test.

Committee Reports

Awards - by Melissa Drake

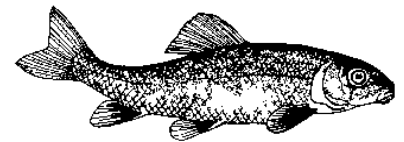
ATTENTION chapter members! Did you join the Chapter prior to 1976? Or, do you know someone who has been a member for at least 25 years? If so, please let us know. These members deserve to be recognized for their long-term commitment to the Chapter.

Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to accomplish the Chapter's goals? Let that person know you appreciate their hard work. Nominate him or her for a Special Recognition Award. What about someone who has made a lifelong commitment to Minnesota's fisheries? Nominate him or her for the prestigious Award of Excellence. There are a lot of people out there working hard to make the world a better place for fish - don't let their efforts go unnoticed!

Would you like to contribute to the Annual meeting but don't know what you can do? Why not be a

paper/poster judge? It's a great way to get involved.

To nominate that special someone for an award, to let us know who has been a member for at least 25 years, or to volunteer to judge papers please contact Melissa Drake at 651-772-7966 or melissa.drake@dnr.state.mn.us.



FWLA - by Don Pereira and Bruce Vondracek

The FWLA board is going to set its list of priorities at the next meeting on 28 November. Contact Don or Bruce (see directory on inside of back cover) with ideas about fishery or other environmental issues that we can bring forward to the FWLA board.

Upcoming Events

35th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society January 23 - 25, 2002 Duluth, MN

*See 2nd Call for Papers
later in this issue*

63rd. MIDWEST FISH AND WILDLIFE CONFERENCE Marriott Hotel, Des Moines, Iowa DECEMBER 9-12, 2001

Conference theme: TRANSITIONS
IN THE CONSERVATION
LANDSCAPE

Conference website:
www.state.ia.us/midwest2001

Of Interest

AFS books for sale - some cheap (\$10)!

https://www.fisheries.org/publications/catbooks/alphalist.shtml



On the Underside

Submitted by Charles Anderson and Dennis Schupp

Good News About Aging

Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.

Kidnappers are not very interested in you.

If you've never smoked you can start now and it won't have time to hurt you.

People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.

Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.

Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.

Your eyes won't get much worse.

Things you buy now won't wear out.

No one expects you to run into a burning building.

You don't need the roof shingles with the 30 year guarantee.

There is no need to spend money for a psychic to see your future.

There's nothing left to learn the hard way.

Your joints are more accurate than the National Weather Service.

Buying cheap tires and not rotating them makes economic sense.

You don't have to learn the name of the new UPS man.

You may never have to vacuum under the bed again.

In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.

Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society membership

We encourage membership in the Parent Society of the American Fisheries Society (www.fisheries.org). If you join the Parent Society, they will bill your MN AFS dues automatically and send the money to us. If you do not join the Parent Society, or have not paid your state chapter dues through AFS, please submit your dues with the information below. We also offer free membership to students but they will need electronic access to obtain newsletters (no mailed copy).

_____ \$7.00 annual membership (make check payable to MN AFS)

_____ Free membership for students (electronic newsletter only)

Name _____ e-mail: _____

Address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to : Donna Dustin - Secretary-Treasurer
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
14583 County Highway 19
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Reminder Call for Papers and Posters

(Plus, a Reminder to make Plans to Attend)

The 35th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society January 23 - 25, 2002 in Duluth, Minnesota

The program is open to contributed papers and posters related to fisheries and other aquatic resources. If you are planning on submitting an abstract for an oral presentation or a poster, please submit a short abstract as an attachment (Word or WordPerfect) to brianborkholder@fdlrez.com, or mail the abstract on disk or paper to Brian Borkholder at Fond du Lac Resource Management, 1720 Big Lake Road, Cloquet, MN 55720. Please submit your abstract no later than **30 November 2001**. Please include the title, author(s), institution, mailing address, phone number, email address, presenter, and classification (student or open). Indicate whether your abstract is for an oral or poster presentation. *If you can't get your abstract finalized by 30 November, please contact me with a tentative title by that date so that a time slot can be reserved.*

Plans for the 2002 meeting are beginning to take shape. We are making every attempt to keep the meeting as affordable as possible. The meeting will begin with registration and a social mixer at the new Great Lakes Aquarium on the evening of the 23rd. The Great Lakes Aquarium has donated the facilities for our group, and the Fond du Lac Band will be sponsoring that evening's social. Free beer, compliments of the Lake Superior Brewing Company, free appetizers and hors d'oeuvres, and a free visit to the Aquarium. In addition, we will have raffle items available.

A full day of presentations is planned for the 24th, beginning with a special session highlighting Tribal Natural Resource Departments, projects, and cooperative efforts with the State DNR, followed by an afternoon of submitted presentations. The mandatory business meeting in the late afternoon will be followed by a pre-meal social and a banquet that evening. Following the banquet, participants can take part in an evening social (more beer!) culminating with a bonfire on the beach of Lake Superior (provided it isn't too cold!). A half day of presentations will end the meeting on the 25th.

Lodging reservations can be made by contacting the Inn on Lake Superior at (218) 726-1111 or 1-888-668-3976. Mention that you are making reservations for the Fisheries meeting to assure the special room rate of \$56, double occupancy. Hot breakfasts are included with the room. While not finalized, it appears that registration costs for the meeting will run somewhere in the neighborhood of \$35, which includes the meeting facilities, snack breaks on Wednesday and Thursday, lunch on Wednesday, and the pre-banquet and post-banquet socials. Registration costs may decline if we can line up additional sponsors for any of the breaks. Attendance at the banquet, while not mandatory but certainly encouraged, will cost an additional \$19, which includes the opportunity to hear from a seasoned commercial fishermen on Lake Superior describe life on the big pond and Isle Royale.

Please plan on attending!

For additional information, please contact Brian Borkholder at 218-878-8004.

2001-2002 Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Chapter Officers

President	Brad Parsons	brad.parsons@dnr.state.mn.us	320.634.4573; fax 320.634.4576
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