



AMERICAN FISHERIES
SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

March 2003

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

[President's Message](#)

[Minutes of the 2003 NCAFS Annual Business Meeting](#)

[Special Awards Segment](#)

[2003 SDAFS Meeting Spring Meeting, Wilmington, NC](#)

[NCSU Student Subunit Report](#)

[Proposed Bylaws Revisions](#)

[Environmental Concerns Committee](#)

[News from around North Carolina](#)

[Spotlight on Students and Young](#)

[Professionals](#)

[Meetings of Interest](#)

[Employment Opportunities](#)

[Valuable Links](#)

We would appreciate your comments on this electronic version of the NC Chapter Newsletter. Please send all responses to Joe Hightower (jhightower@ncsu.edu)

President's Message

**It Takes a Chapter...
To Host a Great Meeting!**

As I reflect back on our Southern Division Meeting last month in Wilmington, I conclude that it was a resounding success by all measures. The meeting went off without a serious hitch -- the arrangements were splendid and made our guests feel welcome, the workshops and technical committee meetings were well attended, the program was diverse and interesting, the technical sessions and symposia were on time and audio-visuals ran smoothly, and our student subunit is flush with the proceeds from their raffle and workshop. Many old colleagues and friends renewed relationships, and we honored our division and chapter leaders for their many years of service, accomplishments, and friendship -- and we all enjoyed the antics of folks like Fred Harris, Scott Van Horn, Rich Noble, and Larry Olmsted.

Who then is responsible for this success and deserving of our gratitude?
-- the answer is *Our Chapter!*

No individual person or committee could have completed this task alone -- it took a chapter of enthusiastic volunteers that stood nothing to gain for their service, other than the pleasure of working together toward a common goal and the satisfaction of a job well done. While Kent Nelson and I received plaques for serving as chairs, we share that recognition with all of you. I think of Shari Bryant burning abstract cds at home and getting up early to place signs outside each activity room; Lawrence Dorsey working the workshops; Christian Waters and the AV crew maintaining polite composure when they had every right to lose it; Jerry Finke keeping the hardware crunching; Kent Nelson and Keith Ashley staying behind after socials to clean up and settle accounts; Danielle Pender making every symposium speaker feel as important as a plenary speaker; Joe Hightower keeping the web site updated and useful; Jim Rice and his band of judges ensuring that our best presenters would be recognized; Jim Borawa giving the posters their spotlight; Kim Sparks accepting and writing checks furiously and accommodating special requests; Bob Curry providing clean oil to the registration machine; and an army of students, led by Alesia Read, Bill Pine, and Rich Fulford, conducting workshops, moderating sessions, assisting with AV, and running the raffle -- and there are many others that provided critical functions and assistance.

At our universities, we talk about *collaboration*; in our agencies, we seek *partnerships*; in everyday life, we strive for *teamwork* -- and in reality, we're rarely successful in achieving a true group effort. But we can all take satisfaction with this rare, but effective, synergistic result of a great regional meeting! As Chapter President, I'd like to thank you all as individuals for your respective roles and participation that contributed to our success as a whole.

One disadvantage of hosting the regional meeting is that due to ongoing duties and the large crowd, we have fewer opportunities to meet and visit with our fellow chapter members. However, next year, we'll meet as a chapter, where we'll be able to exchange scientific results and ideas relevant to our state, get better acquainted with new members, and visit with old friends.



...at least Keith said he was cleaning up.

I'll see you there! *Tom Kwak*

Special Awards Segment

Newsletter editor's note: It is becoming quite obvious that I probably need to quit calling the first issue of each year's newsletter the March issue and, rightfully, call it the Awards Issue! Last year's award bonanza in Little Rock was no fluke as it happened again in Wilmington! While I had nothing to do with any of the award recipients, I do, in some convoluted way, take great pride in being in the NC Chapter with them!

The following information was compiled from contributions from Tom Kwak, Joe Hightower, and Jim Rice. All of the 2003 Spring Meeting photos in this issue were taken by expert photographers - Jodie Best and Russell Wong of the NCWRC. Jodie graciously compiled them onto a CD for use in the newsletter. My sincerest thanks to all! - Dave

Jimmy Pigg Warmwater Streams Award to Dave Hewitt, NCSU –



Dave Hewitt accepts the Jimmy Pigg Award from Chris O'Bara.

Dave Hewitt, NC State MS Student advised by Joe Hightower, has had quite a winter in terms of awards! He received the Jimmie Pigg Outstanding Student Achievement Award from the SDAFS Warmwater Streams Technical Committee. Next, Dave received the Dale Ward Memorial Academic Scholarship, which is awarded by the Raleigh Saltwater Sportfishing Club for excellence in research related to recreational fishing resources. Last but not least, Dave was awarded the Willard A. Van Engel (WAVE) Fellowship in Crustacean Research at VIMS and will be starting a PhD program on blue crab ecology in the fall. Dave's research here at NCSU is on the ecology and management of anadromous fishes in the Roanoke River. Great work, Dave!

Jack Dequine Award to Bill Pine, NCSU – The SDAFS created a one-time \$1000 scholarship in honor of the first President of the Southern Division, John "Jack" F. Dequine. Numerous applications were received but Bill Pine's stood out above all the rest and the Division named him the winner! Jack attended the meeting to personally make the special presentation.



Jack Dequine, first SDAFS President, congratulates Bill Pine at the 2003 Spring Meeting.

Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Reservoir Committee Award to Jessica Thompson, NCSU –



Jenkins Award recipient, Jessica Thompson.

The SDAFS Reservoir Committee selected Jessica Thompson as one of two winners of the Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Jessica based on her academic skills and the importance of her bioenergetics research to the understanding of Southern reservoirs. The scholarship is renewable next year! Congratulations Jessica!

2003 W. Don Baker and Richard L. Noble Best Paper Awards to Dave Hewitt, NCSU –



Dave Hewitt - winner of numerous scientific awards; but certainly not destined to win any "Best Dressed Award"!

The Awards Committee has tallied the Best Paper Award judging results for the presentations by our Chapter members at the 2003 SDAFS Spring Meeting in Wilmington. We are pleased to announce that **David A. Hewitt** is the winner of the 2003 Richard L. Noble Best Student Paper Award for his presentation entitled **Estimating the size of anadromous fish spawning runs using stationary, side-looking hydroacoustics**, co-authored by Joe Hightower and Ken Pollock. Dave is completing his MS in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences at NCSU under the direction of Dr. Joe Hightower.

As Dave's presentation was judged to be the best of the best, he is also the recipient of the 2003 W. Don Baker Memorial Award for the best overall scientific presentation by a Chapter member. Congratulations Dave!

Retirement Roast and Numerous Awards of Dubious Distinction to Rich Noble, NCSU –

Many distinguished scientists came from distant parts of the country to help Rich Noble celebrate his retirement. Eulogies flowed freely! And, after the ingestion of numerous adult beverages – some even started to be directed towards Rich! Seriously though, the many gifts, the fond memories, and the numerous expressions of his impact on a diverse array of careers are testimony to Rich's gift as a scientist, mentor, and friend! While his days at NCSU are numbered; his impact on the lives of many fishery scientists is not!



Thanks for the memories!

NCAFS Distinguished Service Award to Larry Olmsted, Duke Power – In an eloquent and heartfelt presentation, AFS President Fred Harris bestowed the NC Chapter's Distinguished Service Award on Dr. Larry Olmsted. Specifically citing Larry's many years of

intellectual, scientific, and financial support for the NC Chapter, and AFS in general; Fred made us all realize how much he deserves the award and how much the Chapter may be losing!



Fred Harris congratulates Larry Olmsted on his selection as the Chapter's 2003 Distinguished Service Award recipient.

NCAFS President's Certificate of Appreciation to Shari Bryant, NCWRC – A long year of planning for the Spring Meeting in Wilmington has paid tremendous dividends! Once again the Chapter, under Shari's direction, has pulled off a successful large meeting. Don't forget the organization of a large symposium sponsored by the Chapter, a resolution on non-native aquatic species, her personal dedication to producing abstract CD's at home, and a host of other brushfires! While numerous committees executed their assigned tasks, Shari was the leader and the glue that held them all together! Long ago Shari was also the Chapter's Secretary-treasurer; Thanks for your dedication to the Chapter!



Outgoing President Shari Bryant accepts the NC Chapter President's Certificate of Appreciation from incoming President Tom Kwak)

2003 SDAFS Meeting Spring Meeting, Wilmington, NC

The Southern Division AFS Spring Meeting held in Wilmington in February was an unqualified success with a total registration of 383! The scientific presentations, workshops and posters sessions were professionally conducted and well attended.



Workshop attendance was high.

Social events at the Hilton and battleship were enjoyable and facilitated interactions among fisheries professional throughout the Southeast.



Despite a chilly night on the battleship, raffle prizes went fast!

Rich Noble was recognized at a special retirement celebration and Larry Olmsted received the Chapter's Distinguished Service Award; both men have made significant contributions to fishery science, education, and AFS.

The final figures are not in yet, but profit from the meeting is estimated at \$15,000, which will be apportioned between the chapter and SDAFS. Fortunately no major problems developed at the meeting thanks to the hard work of the planning committee and chapter members before and during the meeting. Those tasked with AV responsibilities were especially challenged by last minute demands, but rose to the occasion. Thanks to everyone for their help in making it work. Hopefully Bob Curry won't volunteer us to host another large meeting anytime soon!

NCSU Student Subunit Report

Greetings from NCSU Student Subunit! Our membership has participated in numerous activities so far this spring. During January and February, we were actively preparing for the Southern Division's Spring Meeting in Wilmington. We had a large NCSU contingent attend (19 students (8 of which presented), and 8 faculty). Thanks to the Chapter, we were able to provide free lodging for several of our undergraduate members. This meeting was a huge success and three members of our student subunit received special awards. Congratulations, Bill Pine who received the Jack F. Dequine Scholarship from SDAFS, Jessica Thompson who received the Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Reservoir Research Scholarship from the Reservoir Technical Committee of SDAFS, and Dave Hewitt who received the Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award given by the Warmwater Streams Technical Committee of SDAFS! We raised over \$2000 from our raffle and t-shirt sales!



Alesia Read, Scott Waters, and Rich Fulford working the NCSU Student Subunit Raffle.

Thanks to the Chapter, we will use the proceeds to invite and accommodate the guest speakers that we have planned for upcoming subunit meetings. We raised an additional \$1000 by providing a workshop option for students and professionals. This workshop, entitled Tagging Models: Estimating Population Size and Mortality, was planned and organized by Bill Pine, Ken Pollock and Joe Hightower. The workshop provided useful and practical information on how to go about designing, implementing and then analyzing mark recapture data. Overall, the spring meeting was a tremendously fun time!

Our subunit has also been heavily involved in writing the Aquatics section of the Envirothon Test. The Envirothon is a quiz bowl with an environmental twist for middle and high school students from all over North Carolina. It was our privilege to assist in such a worthwhile endeavor. The Envirothon helps young students express their

knowledge on hot environmental issues and then gain recognition for it!

As for the rest of the semester, we have several special guest speakers lined up as well as a few workshops planned before summertime. Dr. Derek Aday, Assistant Professor of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology at Ohio State University will be speaking to the group in late March about the life history variation and stunting phenomenon in bluegill populations. Dr. David Eggleston, Associate Professor in our Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department at NC State will be speaking in April about his current blue crab research on the North Carolina coast. Then in May, Doug Besler who is the Coldwater Research Coordinator for North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission will be speaking about his adventures with stocking walleye in Lake James. Check out our website for the most current updates! http://www.ncsu.edu/stud_orgs/sfs/

Please check out the sub-unit web page at http://www.ncsu.edu/stud_orgs/sfs/ to learn more about our group and upcoming activities. The sub-unit list serve is the best way to stay up to date on fisheries related happenings at NCSU. Directions on how to subscribe are available at the web site.

Contact Alesia Read (anread@unity.ncsu.edu) if you have any questions about Sub-unit events.

Submitted by Alesia Read, Student Subunit President

Nomination Committee

Candidates for the 2003 President Elect were Greg Cope and Mallory Martin. Both are to be thanked for their willingness to serve! The race was very close. The President Elect is Mallory Martin. Congratulations Mallory!

Submitted by Chad Thomas, Nominating Committee Chair

Proposed Bylaws Revisions

The proposed changes to the Chapter Bylaws were published in the December 2002 issue of the Chapter Newsletter and approved at the Annual Business Meeting in Wilmington, NC. The revised Bylaws will be sent to Dirk Miller, AFS Constitutional Consultant, for review. Upon his authorization, they will be placed on the agenda at the AFS Governing Board Meeting in August. Should the Governing Board endorse our changes, they will become final when Gus Rassam sends a formal letter of approval to the Chapter. The proposed changes may be

viewed at <http://www.sdafs.org/ncafs/BylawsRevision2003DRAFT.pdf>.

Submitted by Bob Curry, Dedicated NCAFS Chapter Member

Environmental Concerns Committee

The symposium titled "Southern Dirt: sedimentation in southeastern waters" that took place at the Southern Division Spring meeting was well attended and very informative. All of the speakers gave excellent presentations, and many compliments were received regarding the symposium. Thanks go to all the committee members for their participation, to the Chapter for sponsoring the symposium, and to the media assistants! Please see the Environmental Concerns webpage for information on the symposium, photos of the symposium speakers, and for additional information on Committee activities.

The Environmental Concerns Committee presented a draft of the Resolution on Introductions of Nonnative Aquatic Species to the membership at the Chapter business meeting that took place during the Southern Division meeting in February 2003. The Resolution underwent minor changes at the suggestion of the membership and was majority approved. The Resolution is in its final form and is published on the website. A copy of the Resolution will be mailed to appropriate agencies, officials, and individuals in the near future.



President Shari Bryant and Judy Ratcliffe lead the discussion of the nonnative aquatic species resolution.

I appreciate all of the hard work that committee members Duane Harrell, Judy Ratcliffe, Pete Rand, and Chris Taylor put towards developing the symposium and resolution and am pleased that they will continue to serve on this committee for the next year. In addition, Bryn Tracy has generously agreed to serve as a Committee member for this upcoming year.

If members have any other ideas or suggestions please contact me danielle.pender@ncwildlife.org or use the comment form on the new web page.

Submitted by Danielle Pender, Environmental Concerns Committee Chair

News from around North Carolina

Spring Viremia of Carp Virus (SVCV) News from Mallory Martin, NCWRC - Spring viremia of carp is a contagious and potentially fatal viral disease of fish most often reported in common carp. The disease is caused by a virus that is transmitted through water. SVCV does not affect humans, and fish infected with, or killed by, SVCV pose no human health hazard. However, the disease can be devastating to commercial fish hatcheries that raise carp, koi, and goldfish, and may affect natural ecosystems through impacts to rare fish species or significant fish populations. As its name indicates, SVCV generally causes problems during Spring as water temperatures warm. For these reasons, SVCV is considered to be of extreme economic and ecological importance. SVCV was first confirmed in North Carolina in July 2002 at a commercial fish hatchery in Stokes County. Prior to this discovery, SVCV was believed to occur only in Europe, parts of Asia, and in the Middle East. NCWRC staff biologists have been working on a cooperative project with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Virginia to determine the distribution of the virus that causes SVCV in North Carolina. Target areas for SVCV are tributary streams to the Dan River in Stokes County and Salem Lake in the Yadkin basin in Forsyth County. PLEASE NOTE - The possibility does exist that the disease may be more widespread!

Clinical Sign of SVCV - First signs of disease may be a change in behavioral patterns of the fish. Fish may congregate in slow flowing water, near pond banks or lie on the bottom. Over time, there will be reductions in the rate of respiration, reaction to stimulation and swimming speed. As the disease progresses, the fish become sluggish and may swim and lie on their sides. Externally the fish can exhibit a number of non-specific physical signs including darkening of the skin, swollen belly, exophthalmia (pop-eye), hemorrhages in the skin, gills, and anterior eye chamber, anemia and pale gills, and bloody mucus trailing from a protruding vent. Internally,

the signs are dominated by an accumulation of fluid (edema) in all organs and in the body cavity, hemorrhages in the swim bladder, and inflammation of the intestines.

Please be on the look out for carp, koi, goldfish, and potentially other cyprinids that may exhibit these symptoms! If you believe that you have seen fish with signs of svcv then please contact mallory martin, martinmg@wnclink.com.

AFS News from President Fred Harris – Interesting items from the March 8 AFS Governing Board meeting in Bethesda, MD. The board approved the following:

- establishing two outstanding chapter awards, one for large chapters (>100 members) and one for small chapters (<100 members).
- Approved the concepts behind the Articles of Charter for the Fisheries Foundation and approved "The Hidden Crises: Loss of our Aquatic Species" as the message for the Foundation.
- Approved the budget for the 2003 annual meeting in Quebec City.
- Approved a renewal of the executive director's employment contract for another 4 years.

In 2002 we contributed more than \$475,000 to the contingency fund. Just a few years ago we had almost drained the contingency fund to pay operating expenses.

Prior to the Governing Board meeting AFS co-sponsored with the Estuarine Research Foundation a briefing for policy-makers, legislators and legislative staff members on fishery issues in estuarine & coastal waters. The event was well attended and we received numerous positive comments from attendees. Prior to the briefing the officers met with staff members of several resource committees and caucuses as well as Rep. Wayne Gilchrest of MD.

And finally, for the more visually oriented, let me take this opportunity to remind you of the Parent Society Meeting in Quebec.



See [Meetings of Interest](#) for more details.

NC Division of Water Quality News from Bryn Tracy - Much of NC DWQ's fisheries data and reports are available to professionals and the public by simply going to the Environmental Sciences Branch's web site: <http://www.esb.enr.state.nc.us/NCIBI.htm>. From this site one can access:

1. All basinwide reports:
<http://www.esb.enr.state.nc.us/bar.html>
2. Fish community and tissue standard operating methods and procedures:
<http://www.esb.enr.state.nc.us/BAUwww/IBI%20Methods%202001.pdf>
3. Fish community database:
<http://www.esb.enr.state.nc.us/NCIBI.htm>
4. Fish tissue metals database:
<http://www.esb.enr.state.nc.us/tissuemet.asp>
5. Fish tissue organics database:
<http://www.esb.enr.state.nc.us/tissueorg.asp>
6. Fish kill database and fish kill reports:
<http://www.esb.enr.state.nc.us/Fishkill/fishkillmain.htm>
7. Fish kill procedures:
<http://www.esb.enr.state.nc.us/Fishkill/procedurespage.htm>
8. Fact sheet on estuarine fish kills:
<http://www.esb.enr.state.nc.us/Fishkill/killfact830.pdf>
9. Fish consumption advisories:
<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/epi/fish/>

Basinwide Public Meetings -Regional public meetings will held in 2003 to discuss DWQ's Basinwide Management plans for the Tar, Catawba, and French Broad River basin. The first of these will cover the Tar River basin and are scheduled for March and April 2003. More details on the Tar River basin meetings may be found at:
<http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/admin/pubinfo/calendar/cal03/TarPamWkshp3-26.pdf>.

The meetings for the Catawba and French Broad River basins will be held later in the year. Check out: <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/basinwide/> and <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/admin/pubinfo/calendar/calendar2003.html#MAR> for the dates and locations nearest you.

Fish Tissue Organics Study - The assessment of persistent bioaccumulative compounds in North Carolina fish has not been performed by the DWQ since the late 1980's. Current data on bioaccumulative organics is lacking at most stations across the state. As a result, DWQ has planned a statewide assessment of organic contaminants in fish tissue during the fall of 2003 and 2004. Composite samples of a top predator species (largemouth bass) and a bottom feeding species (catfish) will be collected at 47 stations across the state. The stations represent the exit flow points for all 8-digit hydrologic units throughout the state (excluding estuaries). The survey is designed as a

Tier 1 assessment of large drainage areas for bioaccumulative compounds in freshwater species. Fish samples will be analyzed for chlorinated and organophosphate pesticides and PCB's, as well as other organic compounds suggested by a panel of researchers. Results from the survey will be used to identify areas warranting additional Tier 2 assessments.

Fish Kills 2002 –

(<http://www.esb.enr.state.nc.us/Fishkill/2002KillReport.pdf>) The number of fish kills reported across North Carolina during 2002 declined from previous yearly figures to 46. This was the lowest number of reports since the DWQ began systematically tracking fish kill activity in 1996. Reported fish mortalities were also low, totaling about 270,000 fish.

As the state entered a fourth year of drought conditions in 2002, environmental conditions conducive to fish kills appeared to worsen. Severe conditions were experienced throughout the midsection of the state where most flows in monitored streams dropped below 10 percent of normal. These conditions further resulted in stream stagnation, depleted dissolved oxygen levels, and high salinities (coastal areas). The effects of the drought were common in reports from investigators throughout the season. Reports to ESB showed the worse kill activity shifted away from coastal estuaries where the most activity was reported in prior years, to inland streams and reservoirs where water levels were critically low. About 85 percent of the 2002 fish mortality was reported from freshwaters.

Although the drought played a role in many kill events during 2002, the drought effects surprisingly did not increase the total number of events or total fish mortality for 2002 over prior yearly figures. Investigators pointed to several conditions brought on by the drought that may have acted to suppress fish kills in 2002. Drought conditions drastically reduced freshwater flows into estuaries and coastal systems. Areas that typically experience water column stratification at the saltwater and freshwater interface were more saline in 2002 and thus less stratified. Less freshwater input into reservoirs and estuaries also meant less input of the nutrients responsible for algal blooms often associated with fish kills. Some investigators also concluded that freshwater species were able to move far enough upstream to avoid salty conditions, or they were more tolerant of those conditions than expected.

For more information on DWQ's fish-related activities, please contact Bryn Tracy (bryn.tracy@ncmail.net) or Mark Hale (<mailto:mark.hale@ncmail.net>).

Progress Energy Research Funding News from Wayne Starnes - The North Carolina Museum of Natural

Sciences today accepted a \$10,000 donation from Progress Energy for research on the Carolina redhorse, a rare species of fish that may be on the verge of extinction. The funding will be used to obtain data important to the conservation of the species and is a vivid demonstration of Progress Energy's environmental stewardship.



Dr. Wayne Starnes accepts a check from Progress Energy officials for the study of the Carolina redhorse.

The Carolina redhorse, a species of sucker, was unknown to science until the mid 1990s and has not yet been assigned a scientific name. The fish was able to escape detection until recent years due to a combination of factors: its secretive habits, depleted populations and an earlier disregard by fisheries biologists for nongame fishes. It appears to have been eliminated from much of its range, with remaining populations restricted to portions of the Pee Dee and Cape Fear river basins, mostly in North Carolina. The Carolina redhorse grows to approximately 22 inches or more. The funding will support distributional and status surveys, as well as genetic research. Genetic studies will examine variability within and between populations, as well as compare Carolina redhorse DNA with that of other catostomids to determine relationships and how it should be classified.

AFS Student Writing Contest News forwarded by Jim Rice - AFS is holding its annual writing contest to recognize students who do an excellent job communicating the value of fisheries research to the general public. Undergraduate and graduate students are asked to submit a 500- to 700-word article explaining their own research, or a research project in their lab or school. The article must be written in language understandable to the general public (i.e., journalistic style). Students may write about research that has been completed, is in progress, or is in the planning stages. The papers will be judged according to their quality, and their ability to turn a scientific research topic into a paper for the general public. (For examples of past winning papers, see Fisheries 26(12):30 and Fisheries 27(1):39.)

The top three winners will be invited to the AFS annual meeting (at winner's expense), where their articles will be displayed at the poster session; winning authors will also be given a plaque recognizing their achievements. The winning articles will be published in Fisheries magazine later this year. The deadline for articles is April 18th, 2003. Please submit your article electronically, either as an email attachment, or on disk. Contact Carolina Franco, cfranco@fisheries.org, 301-897-8616 x201, with any questions.

Raleigh Aquarium Society News from Gerald Pottern -

The Raleigh Aquarium Society meets at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday each month at the NCSU Vet School. Each monthly meeting includes a speaker or discussion group, raffle of aquarium supplies, fish & plant trading, and refreshments. Attendance at monthly meetings is free. The Vet School is beside the State Fairgrounds at the corner of Hillsborough Street (NC-54) and Blue Ridge Road in western Raleigh. Go downstairs past the library (under the whale), straight through two sets of doors, then into first lecture room on the right. We are looking for speakers for our monthly meetings this year. The club's main focus is keeping and propagating fish and plants in aquaria, but we're also interested in general aquatic ecology, fish natural history, conservation, aquaculture, ponds, diving & collecting trips, and related fishy topics. Please come to a meeting, and contact Gerald Pottern at 919-556-8845 or gpottern@RJGACarolina.com if you'd like to give a talk.

Book News from Bob Goldstein - Texas A&M Press has dropped the price of *American Aquarium Fishes* from \$100 to \$40. For more info go to <http://www.tamu.edu/upress/books/2000/goldstei.htm> or call 800-826-8911.

Fish Anomaly Manual News forwarded by Joe Hightower -

USGS/BRD has just released Information and Technology Report 2002-0007, "Illustrated Field Guide for Assessing External and Internal Anomalies in Fish", by Stephen B. Smith, Anne P. Donahue, Robin J. Lipkin, Vicki S. Blazer, Christopher J. Schmitt and Ronald W. Goede. The report describes procedures for processing fish for examination of external and internal anomalies and pathologies indicative of exposure to environmental contaminants. Photographs of most abnormalities are included along with normal conditions for easier identification of external and internal anomalies. This report can be found online at: http://www.cerc.usgs.gov/pubs/center/pdfDocs/ITR_2002_0007.pdf.

SDAFS Reservoir Committee News from Fred Janssen -

I was able to come up with a shorter address for the

Reservoir Committee online habitat manuals. You know the ones - "The manual for the use of artificial structures in lakes and reservoirs" and "The aquatic vegetation manual". Please see <http://www.sdafs.org/habitat>.

Larval Fish News forwarded by Tom Kwak -

A massive bibliography on larval fishes was compiled by Dr. Robert D. Hoyt of Western Kentucky University and then updated and computerized by numerous other dedicated and highly qualified biologists. Please follow this link to the bibliography <http://scilib.ucsd.edu/sio/indexes/hoyt.html>.

Marine Fisheries Fellowship News from Jeff Buckel -

This one-year Marine Fisheries Fellowship provides a \$26,000 stipend and is open to graduate or postgraduate students who are enrolled in masters, doctoral or professional degree programs at North Carolina universities and colleges. The selected fellow will be placed, beginning July 1, 2003, with the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF). The focus of the experience will be on an evaluation of DMF monitoring programs. The fellow will analyze historical data sets and perform gear efficiency studies. Recommendations from this research will guide DMF in determining if modifications in current fishery-independent surveys are required, as well as in interpreting historic monitoring data in future fishery management plans. Applications must be submitted no later than April 18. For additional information about the fellowship, contact Jeff at 252/222-6341, jeffrey_buckel@ncsu.edu.

Nursery News from Ellen Colodney, Coastal Plain Conservation Nursery -

In mid April we should have tubelings (small containerized plants) of *Sambucus canadensis* (Elderberry), *Aronia arbutifolia* (Red Chokeberry), *Alnus serrulata* (Tag Alder) and *Rosa palustris* (Swamp Rose) available for stream stabilization projects, @ \$1.25 - \$1.50. We also have *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (Buttonbush), *Viburnum nudum* (Possumhaw), *Callicarpa americana* (Beautyberry), *Hibiscus moscheutos* (Swamp Rose) and *Vernonia noveboracensis* (New York Ironweed) available now, but only in gallons, @ \$4.75 - \$5.50. All of these plants are grown from seed collected in northeastern North Carolina. I'd like to get a handle on the number of people who think they will need to plant some future stream projects in the spring, rather than the winter. Ellen Colodney, 252-482-5707 or liv2plant@earthlink.net.

AFS Book Release News from Hannelore Quigley -

Population Genetics: Principles and Applications for Fisheries Scientists, Eric Hallerman, editor.

The principles of population genetics have important bearing on the practice of fisheries science. However, fisheries managers do not typically receive training in population genetics. This is due, in large part, to lack of course materials in population genetics relevant to fisheries science. This book was born of a need perceived by many fisheries geneticists for the availability of a textbook for a course in fisheries genetics.

Qualified instructors too busy to develop their own course from scratch can use this title as a ready resource text for teaching such a course. Population Genetics is an excellent resource for making the field of population genetics relevant and accessible to students and practitioners of fisheries science. 507 pp., hardcover, March 2003, Stock Number: 550.34, List price: \$69.00, AFS member price: \$48, ISBN 1-888569-27-1

Dam Removal News from Ann Kelly - The National Committee for the New River is hosting a workshop on removing small dams on May 30 and 31. The workshop will be held at the Agricultural Services Building in Jefferson, NC. The two speakers are from the River Alliance of Wisconsin, and they have extensive experience with small dam removal. The workshop is open to anyone who is interested in this topic. The speakers will interview registrants before the workshop to help tailor the agenda to meet the participants' needs.

The cost of the workshop, including workshop materials and three meals, is \$50 a person. We have reserved rooms at the Nation's Inn in West Jefferson, and attendees will need to make their own lodging arrangements. We can help people find roommates. The deadline for workshop registration and to reserve rooms at the Nation's Inn is April 29

Ann Kelly, Associate Director, National Committee for the New River, PO Box 1480, West Jefferson, NC 28694, 336-246-4871 or ann_ncnr@fastransit.net

Spotlight on Students and Young Professionals

Félix Del Toro-Silva, PhD. Student, NCSU - our newest young professional spotlight comes to us from the Caribbean, like a fine bottle of rum! He joined the ranks at NC State University as the newest doctoral student in Fisheries last August. Félix hails from the north coast of Puerto Rico, where he spent most of his early life surrounded by water — salt water. In the ninth grade, he discovered the field of marine biology, and he declared that his career goal, and he's not strayed from that pledge.

Félix completed his undergraduate degree in Biology with a Marine minor at the University of Puerto Rico, Humacao campus in eastern PR. An undergraduate scholarship from the Office of Naval Research facilitated study on mollusk taxonomy with an emphasis on chitons, that hooked him on research.

For graduate studies toward his Master's in Marine Science, Félix studied at the University of Puerto Rico, Isla Magueyes Marine Lab. Under the direction of Dr. Dannie Hensley, he conducted research on the reproductive biology of the cutlassfish, *Trichiurus lepturus*, an ocean species thought to occur in deep waters offshore, but Félix documented reproduction in shallow inshore waters in his thesis.

It was during his graduate studies that Félix crossed paths with a band of renegade researchers from NC State University led by Rich Noble. Félix joined this productive group that was studying the largemouth bass fisheries and ecology of PR reservoirs. He gained experience with largemouth bass, their prey and habitats, bigmouth sleepers (a native goby sportfish), radio telemetry, electrofishing, and limnology, as he worked with the likes of Wes Neal, Scott Waters, and Nate Bachelor.



Félix wrestles a nutria on the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland, where an intensive nutria removal and river and marsh restoration program is underway.”

Last fall, Félix strengthened his association with NC State by beginning doctoral studies on the Raleigh campus, advised by Tom Kwak. His dissertation research is an in-depth, ecological evaluation of river and marsh restoration on the Blackwater River on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Army Corps of Engineers are engaged in experimental habitat restoration activities there in conjunction with intensive removal of nutria, an exotic furbearing mammal that has facilitated physical damage and degradation of the ecosystem. Félix's research will provide a functional

assessment of their efforts to guide future restoration on a broader geographic scale.

His professional interests are ecology and natural history of fishes, physiology, and biogeography, and he enjoys educational and outreach activities. When he's not working with fish professionally, he continues to hang around them for fun — he likes marine sport fishing (and lately in freshwater!) and Scuba diving. He's also an enthusiast and holds a black belt in traditional Chinese martial arts (kick boxing), so let's try to stay on his good side!

He's become an active member of the NC Chapter and the NC State student subunit, in which he serves as Treasurer. He also served on the Program Committee and as a Session Moderator for our recent Southern Division Spring Meeting. Like a fine bottle of Puerto Rican rum, we're expecting good results, fun times, and improvement with age from him. Welcome to the NC Chapter, Félix!

Meetings of Interest

Best Management Practices for Mountain Stream Water Quality: Erosion Control, Stormwater, and Stream Restoration – April 16, 2003, Banner Elk, NC. <http://www.ncsu.edu/sri/watuaga%20workshop%2003.htm>

Propagated Fish in Resource Management Symposium – June 16-18, 2003, Boise, ID. <http://www.fishbiologycongress.org/PFIRM>

Fourth National Workshop on Constructed Wetlands/BMPs for Nutrient Reduction and Coastal Water Protection - June 23 -25, 2003, Wilmington, NC. http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/waste_mgt/workshop.htm

2003 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists – Jun. 26 – Jul. 1, 2003, Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil. <http://www.aiha.org.br/>

133rd Annual Meeting of the AFS – Aug. 10-14, 2003, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. Worldwide decline of

wild fish populations. http://www.fapaq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/AFS_congres/accueil.htm

AFS Early Life History Section 27th Annual Larval Fish Conference – Aug. 20-23, 2003, Santa Cruz, CA. <http://www.lfc2003.com>.

Fourth World Fisheries Congress – May 2-6, 2004, Vancouver, British Columbia. Reconciling fisheries with conservation: The challenge of managing aquatic ecosystems. <http://www.worldfisheries2004.org>.

If you are aware of meeting information that would be beneficial to the membership of the NCAFS, please send it to the newsletter editor for inclusion in the next newsletter. djcoughl@duke-energy.com

Employment Opportunities

Fishery related jobs can be found on the AFS web site at: <http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.html>. This site also offers links to job postings on non-AFS web sites.

If you have a fishery-related job opening and would like to post it in the next NCAFS Newsletter, please send your announcement to the newsletter editor. djcoughl@duke-energy.com

Valuable Links – Courtesy of AFS

The American Fisheries Society Home Page offers a wealth of links to assist you in your fishery endeavors. Information on ordering AFS books, public outreach, annual meetings, chapter links and joining the AFS can be found at <http://www.fisheries.org/>.

Additional links can be found courtesy of Dr. Mike Allen and the Southern Division, AFS. <http://www.sdafs.org/links/msallen1.htm>