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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2005

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We would appreciate your comments on this electronic version of the NC Chapter Newsletter. Please send all responses to Jerry Finke ([jerry.finke@ncwildlife.org](mailto:jerry.finke@ncwildlife.org)).

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**President's Message – Duane Harrell**

Well, we are approaching the end of another successful year for the Chapter. As I reflect back on the year, I remember my initial mixed feelings of excitement and anxiety over my new responsibilities as Chapter President. I was concerned that I might fall short of the high standard established by previous Chapter Presidents and, indeed, that may be the case! However, I quickly realized that being surrounded by talented, creative and energetic people is more important to success than being a good leader yourself. That has certainly been the case this year. I feel extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to work closely with the other members of the EXCOM, the various Chapter Committees and Chairs, and the student subunit leadership. We are truly blessed with an abundance of talent within our Chapter, and I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the support and assistance I have received this year and for everyone's contributions.

As we anxiously look forward to the Christmas season and a new year of challenges and opportunities, I want to wish each of you a safe and joyous Holiday. Take the time to enjoy family and friends, reflect upon this year, and be thankful for the many blessings you have. Merry Christmas!!!



*Duane Harrell*

## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

[Minutes of the October 2005 EXCOM Meeting.](#)

*Submitted by Brian McRae, Secretary-Treasurer*

## NCSU Student Subunit Report

To borrow two clichés from NCSU's engineering departments: The student subunit has set 2005 in its rear view mirror, and completes this fall semester with gas in the tank. Meeting attendance remains greater than 25 folks per month, and we've watched our list serve community swell from 99 to 125 since mid-summer. Beyond student involvement, we consider the list a measure of the support we receive from alumni, faculty and regional professionals, and are pleased to increase our email community. To list a few activities from this year: our organization instructed young explorers on Rocky Creek, shared an anadromous fishing outing, cleaned a local stream, judged a science bowl, assisted members with travels to Alaska, and went bowling... twice! Aside from professional meetings, our members have represented us abroad by staffing the NC Wildlife Resources Commission booth at the NC State Fair, and by attending the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual AFS Student Colloquium at Eastern Carolina University. As always, we seek new experiences and encourage state chapter members to contact the membership with ideas for our participation ([ncsu\\_sfs@lists.ncsu.edu](mailto:ncsu_sfs@lists.ncsu.edu)).

Our most vigorous fall activity was the local stream clean-up. On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, fourteen members and guests wet their feet alongside staff from the Prairie Ridge Ecostation, an education arm of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. Our task was to remove exotic plants, construction waste, trash and one infamous broken toilet from the creek on their western Wake County property. We removed more than 1,000 kilograms of debris from this nameless tributary to Richland Creek. The Prairie Ridge staff showed our subunit extraordinary gratitude, and so we return the goodwill: Please consider supporting this enthusiastic group of environmental educators. The Museum seeks to complete a centrally located, low-cost, residential outdoor science facility for the school age children and teachers of North Carolina, and we are proud to have assisted with the aquatic portion of their plan. You may visit their website at: <http://www.naturalsciences.org/prairieridge/>.

Following a late-fall vote, all officer positions will turnover in January. Three graduate students from the Department of Zoology, two from the Department of

Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and one undergraduate majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences have accepted posts.

Christin Brown and Jessica Brewster are sharing the duties of presidency for the 2006-year. Christin is a recent graduate of NC State, and we are happy that she decided to remain a Pack fan for her Master's degree!



*Christin Brown, SFS Co-President.*

She began her program this fall with Tom Kwak, using electrofishing to determine fish population sizes in a Puerto Rican river. Additionally she is evaluating the efficiency of electrofishing gear as a means for collecting fish in this location. She enjoys surfing, scuba diving, snorkeling, skiing, fishing, and taking walks with her dog Trinity. She is very active and loves working in the community.

Jessica hails from Augusta, Georgia where she received a BS degree in Biology at Augusta State University. From there, she went on to work for the GA Stream Survey Unit. She came to NCSU in January 2005 to pursue a Masters in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, working on a project with Dr. Tom Kwak dealing with the trophic relations of flathead catfish in the Deep River, NC.



*Jessica Brewster, SFS Co-President.*

Her time spent away from flatheads and schoolwork is spent doing outdoor activities with her fiancé and their big black lab. She says that she is looking forward to an exciting and fun year as co-president of NCSU SFS!!!

Assuming the Vice Presidency is Julie Harris. Julie was raised in downtown Philadelphia and completed her BS at Tufts University in Boston.



*Julie Harris, SFS Vice President.*

To escape the cold, she went south to study Gulf sturgeon at the University of Florida and anadromous shads at the Florida Marine Research Institute. She came to NC State last January to study shad on the Roanoke River under Dr. Joe Hightower. She likes running, bagels, and wearing multiple sweatshirts.

This year we will have two students in secretary and treasurer positions. Brandon Puckett and Ray Mroch will decide soon which position to take. Brandon was born and raised in NC and attended NC State as an undergraduate, majoring in Environmental Science-Ecology.



*Brandon Puckett.*

He conducted his MS research at Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (University of Maryland) on age, growth, and recruitment of juvenile blue crabs. Currently, he is pursuing a PhD with Dave Eggleston, investigating metapopulation dynamics of eastern oyster sanctuaries in Pamlico Sound. Ray grew up in Illinois, in a suburb of Chicago.



*Ray Mroch.*

He received his bachelor's degree in marine science from the University of South Carolina. He is a first-year master's student, also studying under Dr. Eggleston.

Our new undergraduate Vice President is Tyler Averett, a junior Fisheries and Wildlife major. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and outdoor photography; please note his profile in the NCAFS September newsletter!



*Tyler Averett, SFS undergraduate Vice President.*

Our monthly meetings are informal affairs, providing social contact for students as much as ‘society’ contribution. However, they would suffer without the selfless interest of invited professionals. We would like to recognize and thank all 2005 speakers:

- March – Mike Wicker, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- April – James Kapetsky, FAO of the United Nations, retired
- May – David Eggleston, NC State MEAS Department
- October – Coleen Sullins, NC Department of Water Quality
- November – Steve Rebach, NC Seagrass; Todd Kellison, National Park Service
- December – Gerald Pottern, RJG and Associates, Inc.; Bob Barwick, NCWRC



*Members of the professional community attend the December Student Subunit meeting, held at Western Bowling Lanes in Raleigh (seated L to R: Nolan Banish, Angie Rodgers, Jim Rice, Derek Aday, Joe Hightower).*

As the year closes, our NCSU Student Subunit carries a strong momentum across the finish line (nice... one more cliché). We’ve established a new partnership with the Education and Outreach Committee, adding student

involvement to a program designed to educate NC’s public about ecologically sound waterfront development practices. We’ve also been approached recently by groups seeking students to carry out research and receive funding – our membership greatly appreciates the talks by Steve Rebach and Gerald Pottern, and encourages this variety of contact with our group. The North Carolina AFS meeting in Brown Summit is approaching, and our members look forward to presentation opportunities. Once again, our crew will run the raffle – we’re almost positive we’ll have chances at another canoe, so adjust your meeting budget accordingly! In 2006 the Subunit will also be showcasing our new logo and a crisp crop of ‘Student Fisheries Society’ T-shirts. We would like to sincerely thank the North Carolina Chapter of AFS, as well as all of the professionals and faculty members that continue to support us. You all are the consistency on which our dynamic program depends. It is with healthy morale and fresh enthusiasm that we enter 2006. Happy Holidays and an excellent New Year to all!



*At the December meeting, Lori Davias was honored with a special ‘trophy’ for Service to the Subunit by Co-President Warren Mitchell: Recognizing her two years of generous work as Subunit Vice President.*

Contact Jenny Vander Pluym ([jlvdander@ncsu.edu](mailto:jlvdander@ncsu.edu)) or Warren Mitchell ([wamitche@unity.ncsu.edu](mailto:wamitche@unity.ncsu.edu)) if you have any questions about Sub-unit events.

*Submitted by Warren Mitchell, Student Subunit Co-President and Lori Davias*

## Nominations Committee and Ballot

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that our 2006 candidates for President-Elect are Kent Nelson and Tom Martin. These men both bring a wealth of fisheries experience and knowledge to the table, and we are fortunate to have them in our Chapter. Please take time to familiarize yourselves with their backgrounds by reading the biographical sketches below. Considering their busy work schedules, the Nominating Committee greatly appreciates both Tom's and Kent's willingness to serve the Chapter in this capacity. Brian McRae has agreed to serve a second two-year term as Secretary/Treasurer and will run unopposed on this year's ballot. Thanks to Brian for his service to the Chapter for the past two years. His familiarity with this position will be a definite advantage in his second term!

**\*\* BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND \*\***  
**WIN A FREE PARENT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP JUST BY VOTING!** That's right! When you cast your electronic ballot for President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer, you will automatically be entered in a drawing for a parent society membership. Think about that – a \$76 chance just for clicking a button and casting your vote! The winner will be drawn at the 2006 Chapter business meeting.

### [2006 Electronic Ballot](#)

*Submitted by Chad Thomas, Nominating Committee Chair*



#### **Thomas H. Martin, Candidate, President-Elect -**

Tom Martin is an Associate Professor of Aquatic Ecology at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC. He received his BS from Lincoln Memorial University, his MS from East Tennessee State University, and his PhD from NC State. His research has literally spanned North Carolina from the predatory effects of blue crab and spot on their prey populations in the 80s, to genetic identification and ecological

comparison of northern versus southern strain brook trout more recently. His, and his students', current research is focused largely on stream restoration (recolonization of the improving Pigeon River by larval dispersal and a survey of the effectiveness of stream restoration projects state-wide). Prior to joining the faculty at WCU in 2001, he taught at Clarion Univ. of PA and at Penn State. He has been a member of AFS since the early 90s. His organizational leadership experience includes being a member of the trout management subcommittee of the PA Council of TU, one term as the President of the Pennsylvania Chapter of AFS, serving as the chair of the contributed-paper selection committee for the 1998 National AFS meeting in Hartford, CT, and a short stint as an associate editor for J-NABS.



**Kent L. Nelson, Candidate, President-Elect -** Kent is a Fisheries Program Manager with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission in Raleigh. He serves as the agency's federal assistance coordinator for the Sport Fish Restoration program, and oversees Division of Inland Fisheries programs including regulations, fish hatcheries, budget and personnel. Kent received a MS degree from VPI, and has been a NCWRC employee for almost 28 years serving as Coastal Region Supervisor, Coastal Research Coordinator, District Fisheries Biologist and Habitat Conservation Biologist. He has been an active member of the American Fisheries Society since 1975, and is also a long-time member of the NC Chapter AFS. Kent has served in several capacities with AFS including SDAFS Warmwater Streams Committee, Chair of the SDAFS Striped Bass Committee and General Chair of the 2003 SDAFS Spring Meeting.



**Brian McRae, Candidate, Secretary/Treasurer -** Brian McRae is a District Fisheries Biologist with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. As a District Biologist, one of his main duties is to help manage largemouth bass and crappie fisheries in piedmont reservoirs. Brian has been a member of AFS since 2001 and he received his M.S. in Resource Ecology and Management from the University of Michigan in 2002. He was active in the Michigan Chapter of AFS, and he was awarded the Fishery Alumni Memorial Award from the University of Michigan for his work in fisheries science. In 2002, the Colorado native moved to North Carolina to pursue his career in fisheries management. He has served as the Secretary/Treasurer of the NC Chapter AFS since 2003.

### **Program Committee**

North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society announces that the annual meeting ([Meeting Registration Form](#)) will be held at The Summit meeting facilities in Greensboro, NC on Tuesday, January 31 to Wednesday, February 1, 2006. These are the same great facilities used for last year's meeting. Updates to the annual meeting will be posted to the Chapter website as they become available.

**SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS** - This year the EXCOM of the NCAFS choose not to designate a particular theme for this year's meeting. Instead, we want the membership to drive the topics presented. The topics can include completed projects, works in progress, case histories, or even the evolution of aquatic programs (i.e. agencies, universities, private sector) within North Carolina. Our chapter has members who work on a wide range of topics and we want to hear from all of you!

All presentations will be scheduled for 15 minutes with a 5 minute period for questions and answers. Please send all abstracts to Lawrence Dorsey [dorseylg@vnet.net](mailto:dorseylg@vnet.net) by **January 6, 2006**. Abstracts

should include presenters name, title, affiliation, and title of presentation. If you have questions, contact Lawrence Dorsey via email or by phone at 704-986-6109.

*Submitted by Lawrence Dorsey, President-Elect*

### **Education and Outreach Committee**

The Education and Outreach Committee has made substantial progress in pursuing a new outreach project that addresses the impacts of waterfront residential development on aquatic habitat. With grant funding secured from the North Carolina State University, Office of Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development Grants Program, the Committee has formed an advisory committee to determine a suitable approach for compiling and distributing information to shoreline property owners that outlines techniques for maintaining and improving fish and other aquatic habitat. Feedback from the advisory committee indicates that an initial reactive response targeting existing property owners would be the most beneficial approach. Text for an informational brochure is being compiled and plans for website development have been sought. Sincere thanks are extended to Sarah McRae, Dave McHenry, Hugh Barwick, and Warren Mitchell who participated on the advisory committee. In addition, we welcome other input and involvement from Chapter members on the direction of this project and Committee.

The Committee welcomes member input and participation. Anyone wishing to become more involved in the combined efforts of education and outreach at the Chapter level are encouraged to contact either of the co-chairs or members of the EXCOM.

*Submitted by Greg Cope and Bob Barwick, Co-Chairs*

### **Awards Committee**

***Call for Chapter Award Nominations*** - The Chapter presents two awards on an as-warranted basis to recognize outstanding contributions by both chapter members and others. The **Distinguished Service Award** recognizes Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service to the Chapter, the American Fisheries Society, or the fisheries profession. The **Fisheries Conservation Award** recognizes non-Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service or commitment to the Chapter or the fisheries resources of North Carolina.

The Awards Committee is soliciting nominations from the membership for both of these awards for 2005. If you are aware of a deserving individual or organization, please nominate them! Nomination letters should be no more than two pages long and provide specific information on the accomplishments of the candidates and why they qualify the candidate for the award. Qualifications for the Distinguished Service Award should extend beyond simply doing an outstanding job on regular chapter duties (e.g., officer or committee member responsibilities) and be based primarily on extraordinary efforts or new initiatives.

Please submit nominations to John Crutchfield at [john.crutchfield@pgnmail.com](mailto:john.crutchfield@pgnmail.com), Progress Energy, 410 South Wilmington Street, PEB4, Raleigh, NC, 27602-1551. **Nominations will be accepted until Monday, January 5, 2005.** Any questions, call John at 919-546-7095.

#### ***Call for Judges for Paper Presentations at 2006***

***Chapter Meeting*** - Interested in judging either student or professional paper presentations at the 2006 Chapter meeting? The Awards Committee is looking for individuals interested in judging either paper category for the meeting. If you are interested in serving as a judge and not presenting a paper at the meeting, please contact John Crutchfield ([john.crutchfield@pgnmail.com](mailto:john.crutchfield@pgnmail.com) or 919-546-7095). Previous experience presenting or judging papers at meetings would be helpful.

*Submitted by John Crutchfield, Awards Committee Chair*

### **Environmental Concerns Committee**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) implemented its Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program in western North Carolina in response to tropical storm induced flood damages that occurred in late 2004. A considerable amount of stream bank and channel repairs were completed or are still underway in sixteen counties on waters that range from high elevation trout streams to warm foothill rivers. The repairs have addressed threats to life and property, which is the program's objective. Many have also secondarily improved aquatic habitat and stream channel stability through the use of natural stream design techniques and riparian vegetation planting.



*EWP stream repairs underway on a NC trout stream.*

However, many others also resulted in little if any current or expected benefit to aquatic communities. Full restoration and protection of natural stream channels and riparian areas were not included in the repair work although they are needed to avoid recurring flood damages in a manner compatible with long-term aquatic habitat conservation.

Given its recent implementation, the Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) believes it is an opportune and vital time for fishery professionals in North Carolina to communicate their collective view of the EWP program relative to aquatic resource conservation. Therefore, the ECC prepared a resolution to encourage the USDA to make continued improvements with any future implementation of the EWP program in North Carolina. The ECC respectfully asks that the membership of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society take the opportunity to review the following resolution and provide any comments and suggestions to me ([david.mchenry@ncwildlife.org](mailto:david.mchenry@ncwildlife.org)) with copies to the members of the EXCOM before the annual meeting. The resolution should be presented at the business meeting for final approval or disapproval by the membership.

**\*\*Editor's Note\*\*** The EWP resolution follows so that all members might read it at this time but it can also be accessed in the original Word document format by following this [EWP Document hyperlink](#).

**RESOLUTION ON EMERGENCY  
WATERSHED PROTECTION  
PROGRAM IN NORTH CAROLINA**

**North Carolina Chapter of the American  
Fisheries Society**

WHEREAS, pools, runs, riffles, large woody debris, stable undercut banks, riparian vegetation, accessible floodplains, and other naturally occurring stream and riparian components are needed for productive and diverse stream communities; and,

WHEREAS, stream communities are resilient to and sometimes dependent upon periodic flood-induced habitat changes that are not unnaturally excessive; and,

WHEREAS, accelerated stream bank erosion from major floods largely occurs where stream banks and riparian areas have insufficient coverage, an absence of deep rooted trees, or other soil-securing vegetation; and,

WHEREAS, many flood management activities such as construction of levees, armored stream banks, and straightened, widened, and deepened stream channels degrade aquatic habitat by reducing habitat diversity and complexity, isolating the floodplain, disrupting normal sediment transport, and displacing and increasing stream velocity, erosion, and the magnitude of flooding in downstream areas; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has implemented the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program in North Carolina to "...undertake emergency measures, including the purchase of floodplain easements, for runoff retardation and soil erosion prevention, in cooperation with landowners and land users, as the Secretary deems necessary to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed whenever fire, flood, or any other natural occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of that watershed."<sup>1</sup>; and,

WHEREAS, implementation of the EWP program often includes stream channel, bank, and riparian modifications that must be conducted in an environmentally defensible manner<sup>2</sup> and that must have

a minimal adverse effect on the environment where waters are filled<sup>3</sup>; and,

WHEREAS, the EWP program has the potential to improve watershed functions, diminish recurring erosion and flooding problems, and improve aquatic habitat if its actions restore natural stream and riparian features and processes; and,

WHEREAS, the EWP program can demonstrate to the public the use and effectiveness of natural stream design techniques that will improve long-term stream channel stability and aquatic habitat; and,

WHEREAS, the EWP program was implemented in 2004 in North Carolina following major floods from tropical storms; and

WHEREAS, some EWP projects following the 2004 floods in North Carolina (herein referred to as flood projects) involved locations on streams with recurring erosion problems that had been addressed previously by the EWP program; and,

WHEREAS, natural stream design techniques were used with many flood projects, but full restoration of natural stream and riparian features and processes was not pursued; and,

WHEREAS, many flood projects involved extensive stream channel modifications and bank armoring to return streams to pre-flood conditions that are not stable; and,

WHEREAS, vegetation planting on repaired stream banks was optional and agreements to maintain reestablished vegetation were short-term; and

WHEREAS, livestock were not excluded from stream banks and channels where flood projects were undertaken; and,

WHEREAS, many flood projects involve protection of properties that were damaged because they are in an active floodplain, but no floodplain easements were obtained; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, that based on the best scientific information available, it is the position of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (NCAFS), which includes fisheries professionals from throughout North Carolina's academic**

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<sup>1</sup> Section 382 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 2203)

<sup>2</sup> Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, 7 CFR 624, Emergency

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Watershed Protection Program (Federal Register, Vol. 70, No. 63, Monday April 4, 2005)

<sup>3</sup> Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344)



**institutions, state and federal management agencies, and private institutions, that any future implementation of the EWP program in North Carolina:**

1. should include restoration of natural floodplain functions and the purchasing of riparian easements from willing property owners to accomplish floodplain restoration and to avoid recurring erosion problems on particularly problematic properties,
2. should continue to expand the use of accepted and appropriately designed and constructed natural stream design methodologies for stream bank repairs in lieu of stream channel modifications and bank armoring that degrade aquatic habitat and perpetuate excessively unstable stream channel conditions,
3. should require riparian vegetation planting and perpetual maintenance of replanted vegetation on repaired stream banks, and
4. should use best management practices and adequate project construction oversight to ensure compliance with all applicable sedimentation and erosion control and other environmental laws in the State of North Carolina.

*Submitted by David McHenry, Environmental Concerns Committee Chair*

## **News from around North Carolina**

**Hutton Program News forwarded by Bob Curry, NCWRC** - Mentor and student applications for the 2006 Hutton Program are now available on the AFS website at [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org). Just click "Hutton Program" on the left-hand navigational bar to access the Hutton web pages.

**SDAFS Reservoir Committee Scholarship News from Gene Gilliland, ODWC** - The Southern Division AFS Reservoir Committee will have one \$1,000 scholarship to award for 2006 (presented at the SDAFS Annual meeting in San Antonio). This grant is available for two years with an additional \$500 travel stipend for eligible students. <http://www.sdafs.org/reservoir/scolship/apply.htm>. The deadline is December 31, 2005 and the instructions should be followed exactly.

**NCDWQ News from Bryn, NCDWQ** - On Halloween, Division of Water Quality staff made a presentation to Dr. Mike Holliman's upper level Introduction to Fisheries Science laboratory class at North Carolina State University. The instruction covered the division's wadeable stream fish community assessment program

and provided examples from the 2005 monitoring efforts within the Neuse River basin. Following the lecture, the students participated in a working field trip with "hands-on" electrofishing and field techniques.

The group traveled a couple of miles from campus where two reaches of Rocky Branch were evaluated following DWQ's wadeable stream assessment methods. Rocky Branch, a tributary to Walnut Creek and ultimately to the Neuse River, is a very urbanized stream which flows over, through, and under portions of the campus. The stream and portions of its watershed have a long history of environmental neglect and abuse including uncontrolled runoff from development, stream burying and channelization. Recent grants to NCSU's Sea Grant program have begun the riparian and instream restoration of the stream using natural channel design approaches.



*Rocky Branch at South Saunders Street, Wake County.*

Even though the greater Raleigh area was experiencing a drought and nonpoint source runoff should have been minimal, the specific conductance that afternoon was more than 300  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ . Usually, one would expect readings under reduced flow conditions to be closer to 60-100  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ .

However, the instream and riparian habitat quality were not as bad as they could have been. The rocky and gravel bottom stream has been channelized in sections, but there are pools, riffles, undercut banks with instream snags, and there is a good canopy over the stream. Unstable banks, narrow riparian zones, and assorted urban "enhancements" detract from the creek's inherent beauty.

Much to everyone's amazement, the stream supported fish! What was supposed to be a short laboratory period, concluded after the sun had set and as the urban nightlife was taking back the access area. Surprisingly, the stream supported 11 species of fish, including one

species of sucker, three species of sunfish, four species of cyprinids, and one species each of catfish, darter, and mosquitofish. Each reach supported approximately 350 healthy fish of multiple sizes and ages. Although intolerant species were absent, the overall percentage of tolerant fish was low and each reach was rated Good-Fair according to DWQ criteria.



*Dr. Mike Holliman's Introduction to Fishery Sciences class.*

None of the students wanted to leave their waders on and go trick or treating across the NCSU campus dressed up as fishery biologists! What's up with that?

For further information on any of the Division's on-going fish studies, please contact Bryn Tracy ([bryn.tracy@ncmail.net](mailto:bryn.tracy@ncmail.net)), Jeff DeBerardinis ([jeff.deberardinis@ncmail.net](mailto:jeff.deberardinis@ncmail.net)), or Mark Hale ([mark.hale@ncmail.net](mailto:mark.hale@ncmail.net)).

**Educators in Action News** – Bob Curry, NCWRC, and Joe Hightower, NCSU and the NC Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, taught the Fish and Wildlife Management merit badge to over 100 scouts at a recent Boy Scout camporee in Garner, NC.



*Boy scouts learning about fishery science thanks to Bob Curry and Joe Hightower!*

The scouts learned about some of the environmental issues biologists face, and got to try their hand at ageing fish using scales and fin spine cross sections. Bob discussed some of the career options and the education and training required to land a job in our field.

**2006 SDAFS Meeting News from Fred Janssen, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department** – The Texas Chapter and Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society invite you to join us in San Antonio at the Crowne Plaza Hotel for the 2006 Southern Division Spring Meeting, 8-12 February 2006. The meeting's theme is "Water Allocation for Fisheries." For more information, visit the meeting website at <http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2006/>.

**AFS Award Nomination News from Gus Rassam, AFS** – The AFS is seeking nominees for the President's Fishery Conservation Award. The Award is presented in two categories: (1) an AFS individual or unit, or (2) a non-AFS individual or entity, for a singular accomplishment or long-term contribution that advances aquatic resource conservation at a regional or local level. The award is administered by the Past Presidents' Advisory Council. A nomination package should include a strong and detailed letter describing the nominee's contribution and the evidence for accomplishment at a regional or local level. If the nomination is for an individual, include a CV if possible. Nominations may be supported by multiple individuals by signing one nomination letter, or by submitting supporting letters in addition to the main nomination letter. Include the nominee's title and full contact information (address, email, phone). Nomination deadline: **May 5, 2006**. **Contact:** Barbara A. Knuth [bak3@cornell.edu](mailto:bak3@cornell.edu).

**Biological and Agricultural Engineering News from Andrea C. Olevano, NCSU** – North Carolina State University and the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering are pleased to announce the following workshops:

*Stormwater BMPs and LID Overview* - As stormwater regulations impact communities in the Mountains and Foothills, new stormwater practices are being required to meet these standards. This workshop will provide an overview on innovative stormwater treatment practices including stormwater wetlands, bioretention areas, permeable pavement, water harvesting systems, green roofs, and detection of illicit discharges. The workshop is intended for all audiences and provides only 1 - 2 hour "highlights" of each practice. We will not focus on stormwater treatment design. This workshop will be held at the Broyhill Conference Center on the campus of Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina on March 2, 2006.

*Stormwater Wetland & Bioretention Design Workshop* - This hands-on workshop focuses on bioretention and stormwater wetlands and reviews the function, siting, plant selection, and design recommendations for each. Recent NCSU research impacting stormwater wetland and bioretention design will be highlighted. The workshop is intended for people who will have some part in the design or review of the design of either stormwater wetlands or bioretention areas. It is strongly recommended that registrants bring a laptop or high powered calculator to the workshop. This workshop will take place on March 16 and 17, 2006 at the Forsyth County Extension Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

For additional information on these or any other of our workshops, please visit our website at <http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/workshops>.

**Water Quality Standards Academy News from the USEPA** - EPA's Office of Science and Technology will present the Water Quality Standards Academy March 13 - 17, 2006 at EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC. For more information, and to apply to attend, please follow the link to: <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/academy.html>

**4th International Reservoir Symposium News forwarded by Mike Colvin** - The Southern Division American Fisheries Society Reservoir Committee is proud to announce this symposium has been scheduled for June 6-9, 2007, in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme of this symposium is "*Balancing Fisheries Management*

*and Water Uses for Impounded River Systems*" and will consist of invited and contributed papers from individuals all across the country. Speakers will present on a broad range of issues, from case studies to new technologies to changes in management philosophy. Proposed topics include: Balancing Fisheries Issues with Basin-wide Water Uses, Aquatic Habitat, Human Dimensions, Catch and Release and Use of Regulations, Stocking Issues, and Assessment and Analysis. If you have other topics or specific projects that you would like to present, please contact Mike Colvin at [Mike.Colvin@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Mike.Colvin@mdc.mo.gov). More details will be available soon. Stay tuned...

## Spotlight on Students and Young

### Professionals

**Julie Harris, PhD student, NCSU** - Julie was born in Washington DC, but was raised in downtown Philadelphia. She completed her undergraduate degree in biology and environmental sciences at Tufts University in Boston, MA. While conducting field work in the beautiful Sebastian Inlet during a summer REU program at Florida Institute of Technology, she decided to become a fisheries biologist. Upon graduation from Tufts in 2001, she moved to Florida to start a master's project working with Dr. Daryl Parkyn at the University of Florida. The title of her thesis was "Distribution of Gulf of Mexico sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*) in relation to environmental parameters and the distribution of benthic invertebrates in the Suwannee River Estuary, Florida." After graduation in 2003, she started working for Dr. Rich McBride at the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg, FL. At FWRI, Julie studied life history and reproductive biology of anadromous shads in the St. Johns River.



*Julie Harris taking a break on the fishwheel, which she operated in the spring of 2005 on the Roanoke River.*

In January 2005, Julie moved back north a bit to start graduate school again, working with Dr. Joe Hightower at North Carolina State University. Her main research objective is to evaluate use by anadromous fishes of a newly re-watered section of the Roanoke River, below the Roanoke Rapids dam.

*Submitted by Joe Hightower, NCSU*

***Jeremy McCargo, Assistant Fisheries Biologist, NCWRC*** - Jeremy is a native of Reidsville, NC. Jeremy graduated from North Carolina State University with a B.S. degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology with a concentration in fisheries in 2001. While an undergraduate at NCSU, Jeremy participated in a variety of research projects with Tom Kwak and Rich Noble. In addition, he served as the undergraduate vice-president of the student subunit and his student profile appeared in the June 2001 NCAFS newsletter. No doubt this was a precursor to a successful fisheries career. To broaden his fisheries savvy, he headed south to the University of Georgia and completed his master's degree in June 2004 under the direction of Jim Petersen. His thesis was entitled "Effects of drought on seasonal fish assemblages and habitat relationships in the Lower Flint River Basin, Georgia". He was involved with AFS and served as the president of the student sub-unit at the University of Georgia. During that time, the UGA Fisheries Society was awarded the Outstanding Student Subunit award by the AFS Southern Division.



*Jeremy McCargo with a Roanoke River striped.*

With the ink drying on his master's degree, Jeremy migrated back to his home state and began his NCWRC career in the coastal region as the District 1 Assistant Fisheries Biologist in July 2004. During his first fall, Jeremy participated in coastal IBI monitoring, juvenile American shad sampling and an intensive largemouth bass stocking and recovery project. After a winter spent designing a creel data entry program and grinding juvenile shad otoliths, Jeremy was more than ready to get out on the Roanoke for the renowned spring sampling. Along with dipnetting hundreds of hickory shad, Jeremy's striped bass electrofishing experience brought a new meaning to sensory overload and the adage of "picking up pine cones"! After a spring of striped bass and largemouth bass sampling, Jeremy coordinated the fabrication of a new district electrofishing rig during the summer months. Without delay, Jeremy had the boat ready for another successful round of fall sampling.

As another field season winds down, Jeremy has plans to fish at the beach and to hunt for deer and waterfowl around the district and his hometown.

*Submitted by Kevin Dockendorf, NCWRC*

## **Meetings of Interest**

***Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society*** – Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2006, The Summit meeting facilities, Greensboro, NC.

***Spring Meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society*** – Feb. 8-12, 2006, San Antonio, TX. <http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2006/>.

**136th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society and the 2006 Larval Fish Conference**– Sept. 10-14, 2006, Lake Placid, NY.  
<http://www.afslakeplacid.org/>.

**Stream Restoration in the Southeast: Accomplishments and Opportunities** – Oct. 2-5, 2006, Westin Charlotte, Charlotte, NC. Learn about stream restoration planning, design, construction, financing, and monitoring in the Southeast. This biennial conference will include research presentations, restoration case studies, posters, industry exhibits, networking opportunities, and tours of local stream restoration projects.  
[www.ncsu.edu/sri/2006conference/savethedate.html](http://www.ncsu.edu/sri/2006conference/savethedate.html).

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](mailto:djcoughl@duke-energy.com)

## Employment Opportunities

**Summer work experience for undergraduates with Maryland Sea Grant** - Maryland Sea Grant's summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates (funded by the NSF) will be supporting 13 undergraduates to spend 12 weeks working on a research project with a scientist/mentor at either the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory or the Horn Point Laboratory. Stipend \$3700, housing included and travel support provided. Applications are due February 15, 2006. Please encourage students to go to: <http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/Education/REU/>. The web site contains program details and application instructions. Remember to read the web site thoroughly as it has lots of important information. We invite students from science interests within and beyond biology, who are either a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, to apply. Underrepresented groups in marine science are also encouraged to participate.

**Summer Fishery Technician Positions in Alaska, USFWS** – There are going to be an estimated 40-50 fisheries technician positions in Alaska next year.

Details on how to apply for these positions can be obtained from the official vacancy announcement, which can be viewed online at [www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com) on 3 January 2006. **Note that the application period has been changed from previous years - it will be open from January 3 – 31, 2006.** We encourage all enthusiastic people who are interested in pursuing a career in fisheries to apply. If anyone would like more information about the King Salmon Fish and Wildlife Field Office, contact Mike Edwards, Fishery Biologist at (907) 246-3442 between 8:00 am-4:00 pm Alaska Standard Time, Monday through Friday or by E-mail at [mike\\_edwards@fws.gov](mailto:mike_edwards@fws.gov).

**Additional 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](mailto:djcoughl@duke-energy.com)

## Valuable Links –

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>