



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2006

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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).

President's Message

We are almost at the end of another year. It really does seem like just a short time ago that we all were meeting at Brown Summit. Soon, we will hold the 2007 NCAFS Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Virginia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Information on the 2007 NCAFS Annual Meeting is enclosed in the newsletter and more information will be forthcoming.

I think it's worthwhile to look back at some of the things we've accomplished during 2006. In just one year, our chapter members were able to: fund and mentor a Hutton Scholar, produce an excellent brochure on environmentally sound shoreline stabilization techniques, and create a new travel awards program for students. These are major accomplishments that might normally take years to complete.

Recently, we have added other initiatives to the list of accomplishments. We've made financial and material commitments to helping our fellow fisheries students and professionals in the Gulf Coast Region that were affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In November, The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and Duke Energy donated over 30 surplus trap nets to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Parks and other individual members have made donations as well (see full article below). Secondly, the NCAFS EXCOM voted unanimously to contribute up to \$500 towards purchasing additional needed items for affected parties. We will purchase those goods between now and January 15, 2007.

Another recent addition is the Sampling Opportunities page created by Jerry Finke. This "bulletin board" style page is the brain child of the NCAFS Student Subunit. If you remember from my speech at the 2006 Business Meeting, I highlighted increased undergraduate support as something I wanted to tackle. Until Christin Brown made the suggestion for this project at our last EXCOM meeting, I hadn't gained as much ground as I had planned. Thanks to the Student Subunit, we've already begun to list opportunities and pair undergraduates with professionals working in the field. This project will continue to expand and can only increase the development of young professionals.

In closing, I wanted to end with a personal note. It has been a tremendous honor to serve as President of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society during 2006. Our chapter is full of energy and our members are outstanding. Being President may seem, as it did to me, a daunting task. It is not; but it has very little to do with the person in the President's slot. It has everything to do with those members who take on worthwhile projects and are willing to assist at every turn. This chapter can only be as good as the sum of all of its parts. I would encourage anyone who is asked to serve as a project coordinator, committee chair, or chapter officer to take on these challenges whenever asked. In my case, tasks were always made easier by those around me. I would especially like to thank all of the 2006 EXCOM Members and Committee Chairs. Their support, counsel, and friendship have been invaluable.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Danville !

Lawrence Dorsey

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

[Minutes of the October 2006 EXCOM Meeting.](#)

Submitted by Brian McRae, Secretary-Treasurer

NCSU Student Subunit Report

The NCSU Student Subunit of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) has continued to average about 30 attendees at our monthly meetings, including a good number of undergraduates. Our guest speaker at the October meeting was Chad Thomas who gave an enthusiastic talk about striped bass management on the Roanoke river. The guest speakers have continued to be interesting and informative. Kevin Hining spoke at the November meeting about the Yadkin River fish community. We are very pleased about the number of attendees and the excellent talks at the meetings this semester.

We have had a number of projects this year including a service project at Prairie Ridge. The project included tree removal, debris clean-up, invasive plant removal, and planting of native species. This was our second year volunteering at Prairie Ridge, and they were excited about our return. Cathy Fergen, administrative assistant to the director of Prairie Ridge, spoke again at the November meeting to again thank all volunteers, and she gave the volunteers free passes to the museum. Thanks Cathy!



Julie Harris and Ray Mroch planting non-invasive plants at Prairie Ridge - fall 2006.

We have also been very busy informing prospective students about the Student Fisheries Society and the Fisheries major at NCSU. We set up booths at two open houses on campus, and we received positive responses from prospective students who wanted to learn about fisheries science and join us at monthly meetings. For the month of November we also volunteered our services at a benefit for the American Cancer Society, where some of us bartended and others were kitchen staff. It was a successful night for the American Cancer Society and we were happy we could participate!



Fish and Wildlife students join together at a Social/Fundraiser for SFS.

We again would like to thank Chad Thomas, and Kevin Hining for speaking at the meetings. We look forward to our last meeting this semester with guest speaker Brian McRae followed by bowling to celebrate another great year. We would like to invite all state chapter members to join us at our meetings, and also contact us about events where our participation would be useful. Please feel free to contact co-presidents Christin Brown (chbrown@ncsu.edu) and Jessica Brewster (jrbrewst@ncsu.edu) with any ideas or questions you have about our subunit.

Submitted by Christin Brown, Student Subunit Co-President

Nominations Committee and Ballot

The 2006 Nominating Committee for the NC Chapter of the AFS consisted of Derek Aday, Keith Ashley, and Hugh Barwick (Chair). We are proud to submit the following candidates as nominees for the 2007 office of President-Elect. We feel both are excellent candidates for this office and have attached their biographies for your review. As in past years, we are allowing the membership to vote electronically. We encourage all members to cast their vote and one lucky voter will be drawn to receive a Chapter-paid membership to the AFS. The winner will be drawn at the 2007 Chapter business meeting.

Submitted by Hugh Barwick, Nominating Committee Chair



Reid Garrett, Candidate, President-Elect -. Reid received a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from Troy State University and a Master of Science in Fisheries and Aquatic Toxicology from Auburn University. He has 27 years of experience in aquatic ecology, particularly in the area of contaminant impacts, hydrodynamic modeling for aquatic systems, control of aquatic weeds and algae, and fish kill investigations. Reid is currently employed by Progress Energy where he is the Laboratory Supervisor and Technical Lead for their Certified Biological Laboratory in NC and is the Environmental Laboratory Director for SC. He is also Manager of Environmental Programs at three of Progress Energy's major industrial facilities. Reid is a member of the AFS and the Society of Environmental Toxicology Chemistry.



Christian Waters, Candidate, President-Elect - Christian received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Mount Olive College and a Master of Science in Zoology from N.C. State University. While at NCSU, he conducted research under the guidance of Dr. Joe Hightower on the effects of water quality on the hatching success of blueback herring eggs in the Chowan River basin. He has worked for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission for the past 9 years serving as assistant district fisheries biologist, district fisheries biologist, and regional research coordinator. Christian is currently the Fishery Supervisor for the Piedmont region where he is

responsible for administering the Commission's fishery management program by establishing a regional work plan, preparing Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration documents, preparing an annual budget, and tracking expenses. He supervises a regional research coordinator and fisheries biologists located in three districts. Christian is a member of the AFS.

[NCAFS Ballot](#)

Program Committee



Meeting Announcement and Call for Papers – The North Carolina and Virginia chapters of the American Fisheries Society invite you to join us in Danville, VA at the Comfort Inn for the 2007 Annual Meeting, February 26 – 28, 2007. Student and professional oral presentations are highly encouraged. Especially relevant are papers discussing jointly managed watersheds and inter-jurisdictional fisheries issues. Topics may include completed projects, works in progress, and case histories.

Monday, February 26 – (Afternoon: possible continuing education workshop on aquatic invasive species. Refer to chapter websites for developments)

4:00 PM - VA AFS business meeting followed by evening social for all attendees.

Tuesday, February 27 – Technical sessions followed by NC AFS business meeting and evening social for all attendees.

Wednesday, February 28 (ending at noon) – Technical session and adjourn.

The meeting will be held at the Comfort Inn in Danville, VA. The hotel has a block of rooms (NC/VA Fisheries) for the meeting (50 doubles and 10 singles) at \$ 60 per night, plus \$ 5 for double occupancy. The deadline for reserving rooms at this rate is **January 26, 2007**. Attendees should refer to the chapter websites for registration

information:

<http://www.sdafs.org/ncafs/AnnualMtg.htm>.

Submission Procedures for Presentations and Posters - All presentations will be scheduled for 20 minutes, including a 5-minute period for questions. Please send all abstracts electronically to Kent Nelson at kent.nelson@ncwildlife.org by **January 10, 2007**. Abstracts should include presenters name, title, affiliation, and title of presentation. For additional information contact Kent Nelson, Division of Inland Fisheries, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, 1721 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1721; (919)-707-0223.

Submitted by Kent Nelson, Program Chair and President-Elect

Awards Committee

Inaugural Student Travel Awards Presented - The NCAFS Chapter established a Student Travel Award Program in 2005 for the specific purpose of encouraging professional growth of students and maximal participation of undergraduate and graduate students at the annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society. Monetary support is provided to qualifying students via a travel award of \$200 to \$400 to help defer the cost of meeting travel, registration, and accommodations. The first awards were presented to three students in 2006 for the annual meeting held September 10-14, 2006 in Lake Placid, New York.

The three award winners in 2006 were Chris Butler from N.C. State University, Mike LaVoie from Western Carolina University, and Michelle Moorman from N.C. State University. Each received an award of \$400 from the Chapter.



Chris Butler atop Mt. Jo in Lake Placid.

Chris Butler is an M.S. Student in the Department of Zoology at N.C. State University and is advised by Dr. Jeff Buckel at the NCSU Center for Marine Science and Technology in Morehead City, NC. Chris presented his graduate research entitled “Atlantic bluefin tuna feeding ecology and potential effects on menhaden during winter in North Carolina” at the annual meeting.



Mike LaVoie sampling in the Pigeon River.

Mike LaVoie, an M.S. Student of Dr. Tom Martin at Western Carolina University, presented the results of his thesis research entitled “Spatial and temporal patterns of fish larvae in the Pigeon River, North Carolina” at the annual meeting.



Michelle Moorman with a fine salmonid specimen.

Michelle Moorman was able to present results of her M.S. research entitled “The distribution of native fish and introduced trout in the Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve, Chile” at the annual meeting, thanks in part to a travel award from the Chapter. Michelle is a student of Dr. Dave Eggleston in the Department of Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at N.C. State University.

All three of these students represented the Chapter admirably at the Lake Placid meeting and expressed their sincere gratitude to the Chapter for helping to make their attendance and participation possible. They all encouraged fellow students to apply for the travel award in 2007. The Chapter would like to congratulate these deserving students on receiving the inaugural travel awards. Interested students (and their advisors) should see the Awards Committee web site at <http://www.sdafs.org/ncafs/Awards.htm> for more details. The deadline for submittal of applications for the 2007 travel awards is June 15th of next year. Please direct questions to Dr. Greg Cope, NCSU at greg_cope@ncsu.edu.

Submitted by Greg Cope and John Crutchfield.

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 2006. 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, Progress Energy, 410 South Wilmington Street, PEB4, Raleigh, NC, 27602-1551. **Nominations will be accepted until Friday, January 5, 2007.** Any questions, call John at 919-546-7095.

Submitted by John Crutchfield, Awards Committee Chair

News from around North Carolina

Hurricane Relief Assistance News from Lawrence Dorsey, NCWRC and NCAFS President - In November, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) and Duke Energy donated 34 trap nets to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP). Duke Energy also contributed long handled dip nets to this donation. Nick Shaver, a fisheries technician with the NCWRC, met John Skains with the MDWFP in Anniston, Alabama on November 17, 2006.



Donated materials get loaded onto to MDWFP truck in Alabama.



Nick Shaver and Kim Baker admire the donation of 'scientific materials' by Keith Ashley, NCWRC.

In addition to the donations made by these organizations, several individual donors including Greg Cope, Keith Ashley, and Rich Noble have made contributions to the relief effort. As mentioned above, the NCAFS voted to donate up to \$500 of requested goods to agencies/universities requesting assistance. We will purchase the items in the near future. Thank you to all of these members for contributing to a worthwhile cause.

Southern Division Disaster Relief News from Bob Curry, NCWRC and SDAFS President - Although Hurricanes Katrina and Rita occurred last year, damage assessments are still being made and needs are only now beginning to be realized. Many agencies and institutions are not yet fully operational nor are they able to fully conduct research and sampling activities. Financial contributions are very helpful and material donations such as journals, books, equipment, and supplies (please see <http://www.sdafs.org/relief/default.htm>) are greatly appreciated.

If you or your agency can donate items such as those described on the SDAFS Website, please consider having your staff who already plan to attend the Annual Spring meeting bring those items to Memphis in February. Note that any additional items you may have that are not noted on the Needs List are also likely very useful. For instance, some agencies are donating surplus field equipment, office equipment, trap nets or other useful equipment that are still in good condition. Memphis is an excellent location to conduct an exchange since it is located at the MS border and

facilitates delivery to the recipients or our storage facility. Contact our Disaster Relief Coordinator, Danielle Pender danielle.pender@earthlink.net, regarding your donation items so that she can help coordinate the exchange.

Southern Division Leadership Workshop News from Bob Curry, NCWRC and SDAFS President -

The Division will host an AFS leadership workshop at the annual spring meeting in Memphis, Tennessee on Thursday, February 8. The 2-hour workshop will begin at 5:00 PM immediately following the technical committee meetings. We plan to have pizza and “refreshments” available, however, there is only room for 50 people so be sure and sign up early! Please RSVP Bob Curry at Robert.curry@ncwildlife.org no later than Friday, January 26. The purpose of this workshop is to provide a brief overview and orientation to the AFS and its governance with special emphasis on relationships of local units, committees and the division. We also want to help unit leaders to better understand their responsibilities and identify mechanisms available to help their leadership tenure be productive and enjoyable. While the workshop is specifically designed for incoming officers and committee chairs, it is open to anyone considering a leadership position or simply interested in becoming more involved with the society.

Sampling Opportunity News from Jerry Finke, NCWRC – There is a new page on the NCAFS Website for students and any one else interested in participating in NCWRC field sampling. This page will provide information on field sampling opportunities throughout the state. To access this page go to <http://www.sdafs.org/ncafs/news.htm> and click on Upcoming Sampling Opportunities. Interested parties should check this page for sampling schedules and contact the biologist listed for more information on how they can participate.

NCWRC biologists, hatchery managers, and coordinators who would like to provide this "hands-on" experience to students should check out this page to see what sampling information is required and send it to me at least 1 week in advance. I will make every effort to post it immediately. Initially we will be listing NCWRC sampling activities however I think both university and private industry field sampling schedules could be listed here as well. I would encourage other aquatic/fish biologists across the state to also participate by sending me sampling schedules whenever they need an extra hand or just have an empty seat on a

sampling boat. These "hands-on" opportunities can provide an invaluable educational experience to both undergraduate and graduate students. Please let Jerry Finke know of any questions or comments: (919) 528-9886, jerry.finke@ncwildlife.org.

NCDWQ News from Bryn Tracy, NCDWQ – Summer Intern at DWQ- Ernie Hain, a beginning Master’s student at North Carolina State University, became the most recent alumnus of a summer internship with the Division of Water Quality’s Biological Assessment Unit. This was the fourth year that the division worked with NCSU’s College of Natural Resources to co-fund an internship position (see September 2003, 2004, and 2005 Newsletters -- <http://www.sdafs.org/ncafs/Newsletters.htm>).

Ernie’s background is in classical guitar, but he would rather pick fish now than a guitar. During his internship, Ernie assisted in the sampling of 59 streams across five river basins including the Yadkin, Lumber, Tar, French Broad, and Catawba. These streams ranged from darkly stained Sand Hills streams, to urban streams, to higher elevation streams containing brook trout. As with other Interns, Ernie was able to sample some streams in “his own back yard where he grew up”, in his case searching for PCB-laden largemouth bass, suckers, and catfish in streams draining towards Crabtree Creek in Wake County. However, he never got to fully appreciate the “joy and intense pleasure” while mishandling a margined madtom (aka “squealer”). When asked: “When was the last time you cried?”, Ernie replied: “Today, when we sampled that fourth site!” Despite sampling under challenging conditions – hot summer days and humidity, lots of fish, and slippery rocks underfoot, Ernie’s strings never broke!



Ernie Hain (left) measuring fish at Lovills Creek, Surry County.

Ernie also assisted in fish tissue contaminant sampling as part of the division's on-going study of the distribution of PCBs in the Crabtree Creek watershed and in statewide mercury contamination. In a cameo role, Ernie can be seen in WRAL-TV's series on mercury in the environment (<http://www.wral.com/video/9764333/detail.html>).

When not in the field, Ernie assisted in the laboratory identification of 67 fish community samples. By the end of the summer, Ernie had learned to identify more than 50 percent of our state's freshwater fauna. He was able to quickly sort and identify many of the state's black-lined shiners such as the whitemouth, highfin, dusky, spottail, swallowtail, and sandbar. Brilliantly colored species in their breeding colors such as the pinewoods darter and redlip shiner never failed to impress Ernie.



Pinewoods darter, Horse Creek, Moore County.



Redlip shiner, Fisher River, Surry County.

This Fall, Ernie began his graduate studies at NCSU under the guidance of Dr. Stacy Nelson and is developing a research project that would use DWQ's fish community data to develop an IBI method for assessing Sand Hills streams.

Over the past four summers, the NCSU interns have provided much needed assistance to the division's Basinwide Fish Community program. The interns have gained critical skills in the field and laboratory identification of many species of freshwater fish, experience in wadeable stream backpack electrofishing techniques, data entry into Access databases, instream and riparian habitat assessments, and water quality instrumentation. The Division hopes to continue this successful relationship for many years to come.

Reclassification Studies - Three reclassification studies were conducted since late 2005 – the Deep Creek watershed (Neuse River Basin, Outstanding Resource Waters) and the Fines Creek and upper Boylston Creek watersheds (French Broad River Basin, Trout Waters). A fact sheet on the DWQ methods for reclassifying a stream segment to trout waters was developed and is available from Bryn Tracy.

The March 2005 proposal for the North Fork First Broad River watershed (Broad River Basin, Outstanding Resource Waters) went before a public hearing in September 2006 and is progressing through the reclassification process. Nine watersheds in the Yadkin River Basin are eligible for petitioning to High Quality Waters because of their consistently rated excellent fish communities. The reclassification process for these watersheds will be initiated in 2007.

Basinwide Monitoring

Between early April and early August 2006, the stream fish community assessment program sampled 96 basinwide sites. Eighty-three of these sites were in the Yadkin River Basin and stretched from Watauga County to the extreme southern border of Anson County. The remaining 13 sites were in the Sand Hills region of the Lumber River Basin. The complete data, ratings, and analyses for all sites will be available on the Biological Assessment Unit's web page (<http://www.esb.enr.state.nc.us/BAU.html>) beginning in early 2007. Preliminary results show some lingering drought impacts in the lower part of the basin, especially in some of the smaller streams draining the Carolina Slate Belt ecoregion. Encouragingly, good and excellent biological sites still existed throughout the Yadkin River Basin.



A typical Carolina Slate Belt stream, Stony Run, Stanly County.

Based upon a cursory examination of the data, unusual or new DWQ distributional records (i.e., those not shown in Menhinick (1991) and collected for the first time by DWQ Staff from a particular county in the Yadkin River Basin) have been recorded for:

- ◆ *Petromyzon marinus*, Anson County
- ◆ *Dorosoma cepedianum*, Caldwell County
- ◆ *D. petenense*, Cabarrus, Davie, lotic populations
- ◆ *Campostoma anomalum*, Wilkes, Surry, wider distributions
- ◆ *Hybognathus regius*, Forsyth
- ◆ *Hybopsis hypsinotus*, Anson
- ◆ *Luxilus coccogenis*, Watauga
- ◆ *Notemigonus crysoleucas*, Surry
- ◆ *Notropis scepticus*, Union
- ◆ *Pimephales promelas*, Surry, Wilkes, Iredell
- ◆ *Moxostoma collapsum*, Watauga
- ◆ *Scartomyzon rupiscartes*, most tributaries in Wilkes, Surry
- ◆ *Ameiurus platycephalus*, Caldwell
- ◆ *Ictalurus punctatus*, Forsyth
- ◆ *Fundulus rathbuni*, Caldwell
- ◆ *Gambusia holbrooki*, Randolph, Yadkin
- ◆ *Ambloplites cavifrons*, Richmond
- ◆ *Lepomis punctatus*, Anson
- ◆ *Micropterus punctulatus*, Davie
- ◆ *Etheostoma flabellare*, Yadkin
- ◆ *Percina crassa*, Stanly



Highback chub, Cody Creek, Surry County.

One of the taxonomically challenging species encountered this year included the fantail darter where several undescribed species, currently lumped under *Etheostoma flabellare*, may be lurking in the state. Rebecca Blanton at Tulane University is currently unraveling this mystery. As an aid to her research and working with Dr. Wayne Starnes, NCSMNS, 178 specimens from 42 sites were preserved for future genetic analyses along with 552 specimens from 48 sites which were preserved for morphological analyses from several key drainages within the Yadkin River Basin.

Sand Hills streams, such as those in the Lumber, Cape Fear, and Yadkin River basins are ecologically and geologically unique. The waters can be very tannin stained with low specific conductance and pH, white sand and gravel bottomed, and with an abundance of coarse woody debris. The fish communities are usually in low abundance, but include such unique species as sandhills chub, pinewoods darter, dusky shiner, dollar sunfish, and mud sunfish. IBI type metrics and criteria for assessing these unusually streams and communities are still under development.



A typical Sand Hills stream, Horse Creek, Moore County.

Special Studies - Five Special Studies were conducted this field season – three for DENR’s Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) and two for the Modeling and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Unit. The EEP’s mission is: “to restore, enhance, preserve, and protect the functions associated with wetlands, streams and riparian areas” (<http://www.nceep.net/>). Watersheds targeted for restoration or enhancement included those of Martin and Peachtree Creek in the Hiwassee River Basin, the Fishing Creek watershed (Granville County) in the Tar River Basin, and the upper Uwharrie River watershed in the Yadkin River Basin. The stressor studies conducted for the TMDL Unit focused on the Abbotts Creek watershed in Davidson County and several watersheds in Gaston and Lincoln counties in the Catawba River Basin. Summaries of these studies are currently available or will be available by the end of the year from Bryn Tracy and Jeff DeBerardinis.

Fish Tissue - The statewide survey for organic pollutants in fish tissue was completed during late summer. The survey was intended to further assess the character of pesticide contamination throughout the state. The Tier 1 type study identified mainstem inland waterbodies where organic contaminants exceeded specified human health screening values for edible fish. Targeted species included a top predator (often largemouth bass or smallmouth bass) and bottom feeding species (e.g., common carp or redhorse sucker species). Waterbodies sampled in 2006 included Lake Santeetlah, Appalachia Lake, Fontana Lake, the French Broad River at Hot Springs, and the Nolichucky River at Poplar, NC.



Freshwater drum, Nolichucky River, Yancey County.

DWQ continued to assist the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and EPA in the collection of fish samples from the Crabtree Creek watershed in Wake County. Additional samples of largemouth bass and catfish species augmented early work by DWQ and EPA to further delineate the PCBs advisory in the watershed. At present DHHS has posted an advisory for Brier, Little Brier, and Crabtree Creeks, Lake Crabtree, and the entire creek from Lake Crabtree to its confluence with the Neuse River.

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

Aquaculture News from Tom Kwak and Rich Noble, NCSU - Dr. D. Homer Buck, aquaculture fisheries scientist, recently retired and relocated to our home state! Homer is a retired Research Scientist from the Illinois Natural History Survey and Professor at University of Illinois. He’s published abundant landmark research on aquaculture that he and his students and staff conducted at the Sam Parr Biological Station in Kimmunity, Illinois. His work ranges widely in topic from enhancing growth rate in sunfishes to developing and applying multispecies, holistic, pond culture techniques. He’s cultured many species of freshwater fishes (even carp!) and crustaceans -- and he can grow some delicious prawns! His experience includes international travels and exchanging techniques and ideas with colleagues abroad; his work has been influential to the science and industry of aquaculture.



Rich Noble, Homer Buck, and Tom Kwak discussing -- and eating -- fish!

Rich Noble, Tom Kwak, and their families (Priscilla Noble, Danielle Pender, and Jacob Kwak) joined Homer and his wife Ruth for a down-home fish fry at the Buck's house in Durham in October. Of course, the menu included Noble's most recent crappie and bluegill catch from Harris and Jordan lakes. Tom revisited many fine memories with Homer of pond draining, prawn boils, and kinship from his days at the Illinois Natural History Survey. We're fortunate that Homer chose North Carolina as his home. Welcome Homer!

2007 SDAFS Meeting News forwarded by Fred Janssen, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – The Tennessee Chapter of the American Fisheries Society would like to invite everyone to attend the 2007 Southern Division Spring Meeting in Memphis, Tennessee from February 7-11, 2007. A wonderful site for the meeting has been found at the Memphis Marriott Hotel Downtown which is located adjacent to I-40 on the Tennessee side of the Tennessee/Arkansas bridge. The hotel is also located on the downtown trolley line that will take visitors to the home of the blues, Beale Street. Workshops, symposia, committee meetings, business meetings, and social events will be included in the meeting. For specialized information about the meeting visit the website at www.sdafs.org and access the 2007 spring meeting in Memphis. Also, do not hesitate to make room reservation at the Marriott Memphis Downtown hotel as soon as possible as the meeting rate will only be available until January 5, 2007.

AFS Student Colloquium News from Bob Curry, NCWRC and SDAFS President - The Auburn University Chapter hosted the 6th Annual AFS Student Colloquium at the beautiful Auburn University campus in October. Over 70 students from 12 universities converged to hear 23 student oral presentations and view 5 posters. The meeting

kicked off with a welcome by Dr. David Rouse, chair of Auburn University's Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures, followed by an excellent motivational presentation by Dr. Dennis DeVries, Editor, *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*. Following a full day of presentations, Dr. Brian Czech delivered a rousing keynote presentation titled: ***"The Role of the American Fisheries Society in Addressing the Conflict Between Economic Growth and Fish Conservation"***. Following Dr. Czech's presentation, the Chapter hosted a Halloween banquet; several ghouls and goblins showed up in the buffet line. Rounding out the event, the Chapter sponsored a fishing tournament on Sunday at the research ponds.

Year-end Book Sale News from AFS - AFS is offering a number of publications at reduced prices. From now until January 15, 2007, take advantage of our End-of-Year Book Sale and save on selected AFS publications. Complete your science library at dramatically reduced prices - all sale publications are \$15.00 or less! No refunds or returns on this special offer. Please click on <http://www.afsbooks.org/> to order sale books.

News of Personnel Changes from Mallory Martin, NCWRC - In September, T. R. Russ left his position as sportfish biologist for WRC District 9 (Waynesville) and assumed new duties as a non-game aquatic biologist for the western region of NC based in Marion. T. R. is working with Steve Fraley to complete research, survey, and management work on non-game aquatic resources throughout western NC.



T. R. Russ at work in his office in Marion.

In November Kyle Briggs was promoted to Fish Production Supervisor, filling the vacancy created when Carl Kittel left the WRC for a position in Texas. Kyle was formerly the hatchery superintendent at Armstrong State Fish Hatchery in Marion. Kyle's duties are now state-wide, including supervision of WRC hatcheries, administration of aquaculture permitting, and coordinating fish production and sportfish management programs.



Kyle Briggs at his Marion office completing administrative duties.

Education Section News from Steve Lochmann, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff - If you are like me, you probably waited until the last minute to renew your AFS Membership for 2007. When you renew, please consider this invitation. The Education Section of the American Fisheries Society invites you to join our Section. Education Section activities, including preparation and revision of textbooks, support of student travel to meetings, and compilation of brochures on academic programs and fisheries career opportunities. One focus of the section is undergraduate and graduate education. However, the Education Section also supports lifelong learning of all fisheries professionals. We encourage all fisheries professionals to expand their minds through the pursuit of new knowledge. To that end, we are sponsoring a "Largest Fish" contest.

What is the largest bony fish known to science? If you think you know the answer, email your response to slochmann@uaex.edu. We will provide a small incentive to some lucky individual, randomly chosen from among the respondents with

the correct answer. Take some time, explore the possibilities, and see what there is to learn about really big fish. You must be a member of the Education Section to be eligible for the "small incentive."

Call for Nominations for SDAFS Awards, Bruce Saul Augusta State - Colleagues, the SDAFS Awards Committee would like to call your attention to our January 5, 2007 deadline for the following awards: Distinguished Service, Outstanding Achievement, Best Chapter and Outstanding Subunit. Please be sure to visit the following link to help you submit your nominations: <http://www.sdafs.org/award/callnom.htm>.

SDAFS Election News from Bob Curry, NCWRC and SDAFS President - The election results are complete. Please join me in congratulating Cecil Jennings (Vice-President), Dave Coughlan (Secretary/Treasurer) and John Odenkirk (AFS Nominating Committee) on their selections. Also I encourage you to thank each of the candidates for their willingness to serve our Division.

Riparian and Wetland Tree Planting Pocket Guide News from Bill Swartley, NCDFR - The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources (NCDFR) has recently released the Riparian and Wetland Tree Planting Pocket Guide. This new publication was developed by the Division's Nursery and Tree Improvement Program with assistance from the Forestry Non-Point Source Unit. The publication provides much needed guidance for successfully planting trees in riparian and wetland areas. The pocket guide's target audience are those engaged in NC's stream and wetland restoration work; however, the document can also be used by forest land owners that want to enhance forest management near water resources. The publication can be downloaded directly from the NCDFR's web site at <http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/publications/RiparianPocketGuide.pdf>

Call for Papers for Wild Trout IX Symposium News forwarded by Jerry Finke, NCWRC - Wild Trout IX symposium, September 16-19, 2007 at West Yellowstone Holiday Inn, will offer a unique form for professionals and trout anglers to interact, to get to know each other in an informal setting, and to be exposed to the latest wild trout science, technology and philosophy. The Wild Trout IX Program Committee is soliciting abstracts for presentation and poster. Please send brief abstracts

(200-300 words or less) to Committee Co-Chairman Dirk Miller (Dirk.miller@wgf.state.wy.us) by April 1, 2007. The program committee is interested in papers related to the following topics: balancing native trout with introduced trout, habitat enhancement and restoration, catch-and-release fisheries, genetic considerations for managing wild trout, and invasive species (vertebrates, invertebrates, plants). For more information about Wild Trout IX visit: <http://www.wildtroutsymposium.com/>.

Spotlight on Students and Young Professionals

Bryan Kalb, Associate Scientist, Duke Energy -

Bryan comes to us from Plainfield, Indiana where he was born and raised. His interest in the fisheries world began at an early age exploring the numerous and productive streams and rivers of Indiana. While in high school Bryan unsuccessfully tried to complete his own smallmouth bass mark-recapture study (before he even knew what a mark-recapture study was) on a five mile stretch of stream in order to determine smallmouth bass movements. Much to his mother's dismay, tags used were different colored threads from her sewing box and were attached to bass fins by using her best sewing needles. Bryan went on to receive his bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, in 2005. While at Purdue he was able to experience a wide range of research opportunities including big river sampling on a shovelnose sturgeon study, small stream fish and benthic macroinvertebrate studies, and work on the Great Lakes studying early life history characteristics of lake whitefish. Bryan was also active in his AFS student sub-unit heading up several committees and presenting research at various conferences.



Bryan Kalb with a Howard Creek, SC, brook trout.

Following several fisheries internships with Cinergy Corp. an electric utility based out of Plainfield, IN, he was hired on full time and transferred to the Carolinas after a Cinergy/Duke Energy merger. Bryan is accompanied to North Carolina by his wife, Becca, a recent graduate from Purdue University with a B.S. degree in Wildlife Management. Becca is currently looking for a natural resource job around the Charlotte/ Lake Norman area. Bryan and Becca are looking forward to settling down in North Carolina and have recently adopted Kya, a wirehaired pointing griffon/lab mix. They are anxiously hoping that she will hold a point.

Submitted by Dave Coughlan, Duke Energy

Meetings of Interest

Joint Meeting of the Georgia and South Carolina Chapters of the American Fisheries Society – Jan. 23-25, 2007, The Ocean Plaza, Tybee Island, GA. <http://www.scafs.org/news.php#D20070223>.

Joint Meeting of the North Carolina and Virginia Chapters of the American Fisheries Society – Feb. 26-28, 2007, The Comfort Inn, Danville, VA. <http://www.sdafs.org/ncafs/AnnualMtg.htm>.

Spring Meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society – Feb. 8-11, 2007, Memphis, TN. <http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2007/>.

4th North American Reservoir Symposium – June 6-9, 2007, Atlanta, GA. Balancing Fisheries Management and Water Uses for Impounded River Systems.

<http://www.sdafs.org/reservoir/symposium/index.html>.

137th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society– Sept. 2-6, 2007, San Francisco, CA.

<http://www.fisheries.org/afs2007/>.

Wild Trout IX Symposium - Sept 16-19, 2007, Holiday Inn, West Yellowstone WY. Sustaining Wild Trout in a Changing World.

www.wildtroutsymposium.com/.

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

Summer work experience with the Indiana

Division of Fish and Wildlife - Each year the Fisheries Section employs sixteen (16) seasonal aides to assist in our fisheries projects. To apply for one of these positions, please send a resume, that includes employment history, and a copy of your transcripts to the address listed below. Please provide your earliest starting date and latest ending date in the correspondence. The Period of employment is approximately Spring to Fall, 2007. Compensation is \$10.38/ hr. Subject to change. Duties include: Assist hatchery managers, district management and research biologists in conducting field investigations. This includes: lake and stream fish population surveys, creel surveys, population estimates, farm pond contacts, public relations, aquatic weed control, fish population control, fish habitat improvement, and fish culture activities. If you have any questions, please contact Randy Lang, Fisheries Staff Specialist, via email at rlang@dnr.in.gov or by calling (317) 232-4094.

Summer Fishery Technician Positions in Alaska, USFWS – There are going to be an estimated 15-25 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 on 8 January 2006. Note that the application period has been changed from previous years - it will be open from January 8 – 29, 2007. We

encourage all enthusiastic people who are interested in pursuing a career in fisheries to apply.

Research Technician at NCSU

NC State University is conducting projects focused on the conservation and life history of freshwater mussels. We are seeking to hire one individual as a temporary technician from February 2007 – July 2007 to assist in both field and laboratory work.

Duties include: Perform routine care for and maintenance of juvenile and adult freshwater mussels and stream fishes in a laboratory, monitor and maintain water quality in lab recirculating systems, maintain records on fishes and mussels in the laboratory, assist in performing field surveys for collection of freshwater mussels in small streams in North Carolina and in a large river near Columbia, SC, make off-site visits to perform maintenance and monitoring work at mussel culture facilities at 2 state hatcheries, assist in conducting some stream fish surveys and fish collection, other tasks (e.g. data entry, library research, equipment maintenance) may be required as needed. Some overnight travel is expected (averaging approx. 3-4 nights per month). Additional qualifications apply and applicants should contact Chris Eads. Email cover letter and resume or CV to Chris Eads (chris_eads@ncsu.edu) by December 31, 2006. Questions about the position may directed to Chris by email or by phone at 919-513-6655.

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

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>