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NEWSLETTER

June 2004

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

**President's Message – Mallory Martin**

For many fisheries professionals, summertime provides a reprieve from hectic field seasons and a return to more normal working hours and predictable schedules. Similarly, the AFS activities schedule has its own variation in intensity as we move through the seasons. One might think that summertime would offer a break in AFS-related duties and activities, but, alas, such is not the case. Between the winter NC Chapter meeting, spring Southern Division meeting, and late-summer parent society AFS meeting, there is a flurry of volunteer activity taking place to further the goals of our profession. Most of the work of the NC Chapter is accomplished through the actions of our various committees. Check out the committee updates in this edition of the newsletter and you'll be surprised at the diversity and intensity of work taking place all around us. I want to especially acknowledge the efforts of the Outreach Committee, chaired by Greg Cope, which is active in promoting public awareness of critical issues for our chapter, most notably, threats from aquatic nuisance species. Additional committee work includes distribution of resolutions from the Environmental Concerns Committee and planning/coordination of next year's joint meeting with The Wildlife Society through the Executive Committee and Continuing Education committees. It is indeed a busy time for your chapter. The positive side of this is there are plenty of opportunities for your involvement in these activities. Feel free to contact any of the committee chairs (the list is on the chapter website) or me for more details.

## Minutes of the April 2004 EXCOM Meeting

[Click here to view the minutes from the April 2004 EXCOM meeting.](#)

*Submitted by Brian McRae, Secretary-Treasurer*

## NCSU Student Subunit Report

The NCSU student subunit was very busy this spring with outings, volunteer activities, speakers, and updating our web page. In March we held our annual shad fishing trip followed by a visit to the Grifton Shad Festival a few weeks later.



*NCSU project technician kisses a hickory shad at the Grifton Shad Festival before throwing it in the annual shad tossing competition.*

Then in April we coordinated with Eno River State Park Rangers to build a retaining wall and plant trees along the Eno River.

A new program, administered by undergraduate vice-president Jason Edwards, matches undergraduate students with mentors for one or multi-day field experiences. The program called Fisheries Interns and Student Helpers or FISH, uses mostly graduate student or faculty mentors. However, we encourage professionals to get involved as well. If you are interested in mentoring students please e-mail Jason Edward [jledward@unity.ncsu.edu](mailto:jledward@unity.ncsu.edu) with your name, agency, contact information, and a description of the type of field or laboratory work you do. So far 4 undergraduates and 2 graduate students have participated. Students gained valuable field experience radio tracking flathead catfish and backpack electro-fishing.

The NCSU student subunit web site received a face lift from vice president Lori Davias, and past president Alesia Read. The new web site is still under construction but will feature job postings and photos from recent activities. When it is complete it will also include an up to date calendar of events. If you are interested in posting a job on our web site please e-mail Lori Davias at [ladavias@unity.ncsu.edu](mailto:ladavias@unity.ncsu.edu).

Please check out the sub-unit web page at [http://www.ncsu.edu/stud\\_orgs/sfs/](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 Summer Burdick ([smburdic@unity.ncsu.edu](mailto:smburdic@unity.ncsu.edu)) if you have any questions about Sub-unit events.

*Submitted by Summer Burdick, Student Subunit President*



*Lori Davias and Edward Malindzak stop to admire their work. Several students built a retaining wall and planted trees along the Eno River to stabilize the bank.*

## **Education Committee**

The Education Committee will be working with our counterparts from the NC Chapter of The Wildlife Society to arrange continuing education courses at this year's meeting. We need your help to come up with some ideas for these courses. Course ideas should involve themes that cut across both disciplines and might even involve other disciplines such as wetland biology and watershed management. Drop me a line at the address below with your ideas. The course offerings will only be as good as the input we receive.

Thanks!

As always, I would appreciate any comments or suggestions regarding items for the Education Committee. While I have focused primarily on continuing education for members, there are other ways we as a chapter can provide education outside of our membership. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact me at [dorseylg@vnet.net](mailto:dorseylg@vnet.net) or 704-986-6109.

*Submitted by Lawrence Dorsey, Education Committee Chair*

## **Environmental Concerns Committee**

The Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) would like to announce some changes to its membership. With the departure of Judy Ratcliffe and Chris Taylor, the ECC decided it was necessary to restore the membership to "full strength". First, let me say, we greatly appreciate all the contributions and service Judy and Chris provided during their tenure. Many thanks. With that said, I am pleased to announce Robert (Bob) Brown, fisheries biologist with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and Nate Bachelor, student at N.C. State University, as the newest ECC members. We look forward to interacting with them and the expertise and knowledge they will certainly bring to the committee's efforts.

Please take a moment to look at the ECC link for updated information, which now includes the invasive species poster. Many thanks to Chris Taylor and Joe Hightower for the website update. We have several important environmental issues already in the works or on the list for the committee to consider in the future. However, as always, we welcome any recommendations on issues of concern and supporting information from the

Chapter membership. Please help the committee help the Chapter encourage aquatic resource conservation in North Carolina. If Chapter members would like to participate in addressing any issues or have ideas or suggestions please contact Dave McHenry at E-mail: [mchenryd@brinet.com](mailto:mchenryd@brinet.com) or use the comment form on the ECC web page.

*Submitted by David McHenry, Environmental Concerns Committee Chair*

## **News from around North Carolina**

**2005 NCAFS Annual Meeting News from Duane Harrell, Duke Power** - Don't miss the 2005 annual meeting of the NC Chapter American Fisheries Society. We are planning an informative, educational and fun joint meeting with the NC Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The state's premier fisheries and wildlife professional organizations will meet together at a central location near NC's Research Triangle to discuss important issues and consider ways to further each organization's goals. Target dates for the joint 2-day meeting are during the week of February 7-11, 2005.

The Program Committees of the two chapters are working on activities and schedules related to fish and wildlife management in riparian areas. Activities include continuing education opportunities, contributed paper sessions, individual chapter business meetings, raffles, socials, etc. In planning, we have received some good suggestions for potential continuing education and professional development sessions from the Wildlife Society and need your suggestions for professional development sessions in which you may be interested. Please send your ideas/suggestions to either Lawrence Dorsey, Mallory Martin, or Duane Harrell.

We will be sending additional information and updates as plans progress, but mark your calendar now, and plan to join us for a great meeting in February 2005!

***Congratulations to Joe Hightower, News forwarded by Tom Kwak, NCSU*** - Joe Hightower of the North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit was recently promoted to the rank of Full Professor of Zoology at NC State University. Additionally, Joe was recognized for



his outstanding teaching skills with a college teaching award.



*Joe Hightower – ready to celebrate his promotion and award with a fish dinner!*

Joe was nominated by his students and selected as the recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award for the 2003-2004 academic year. This is in recognition for his classroom instruction at the graduate level, particularly for his Quantitative Fisheries Management course, which is challenging, but most popular among students for its immediate utility and application to our field. This award is given to only one faculty member of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at NC State each year, and Joe's name appears on a plaque in the College office in recognition of the honor. Congratulations, Joe!

***Hutton Scholarship News from Win Taylor, NCWRC*** – Elliott Kittel has been chosen as one of 65 students who will participate in the 2004 Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program. Kittel, a McDowell High School student who has just completed his sophomore year, will be working with mentor, Win Taylor, NCWRC District 8 Fisheries Biologist, and will be awarded a scholarship from AFS.

Elliott will be involved with a wide range of fishery management and research techniques during his summer with the NCWRC. Involvement in

multiple areas of management and research will provide Elliott with a broad understanding of fisheries biology. The primary project will involve assistance with brook trout population assessments. This study will identify the genetic origin of wild brook trout populations in North Carolina and identify the location of Southern Appalachian strain wild brook trout. Elliott will also be involved with other fisheries projects throughout the summer including trout distribution inventory, fish hatchery operations, and fisheries data base entry procedures.



*Elliott Kittel looking forward to a rewarding summer with the NCWRC!*

The Hutton Program was designed primarily to stimulate interest in the fisheries science profession among minority and women high school students, though all high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors are eligible for the Hutton Program. Each student chosen for the program is awarded a scholarship and matched with a professional mentor for a summer-long, hands-on experience in fisheries science.

In the Hutton's fourth year, AFS received 328 eligible student applications from across the country, Puerto Rico, Mexico and Canada, and selected 65 applicants to receive scholarships and mentorships. Eight of these students participated in previous summers and are returning for another year. Of the exceptional students chosen for the Hutton this summer, just over half are minorities, and another 40% are non-minority females.

***AFS News from Past President Fred Harris*** - The 4th World Fisheries Congress was a great success. The congress featured exceptional plenary presentations each day on broad issues that were

followed by case histories and current research on the issues. There was a good mix of freshwater and marine sessions. Jennifer Nielsen and her publication committee are committed to producing a timely proceedings. I encourage you to purchase a copy. The plenary presentations alone will be worth the cost of the book.

The Hutton Program continues to attract the interest of students and mentors. This summer AFS is able to employ 65 students, among which is Carl Kittel's son, Elliott. While we should feel good about supporting 65 students in the program, we should be concerned that 263 qualified students had to be rejected due to lack of funds or lack of mentors.

The Conservation Foundation has funded two projects. One is the Aquatic Resource Conservation electronic Library (ARCeL), which will be a core project of the Foundation. The Library will contain current aquatic conservation issues as well as presentations of all FCF funded projects. The second funded project is a Coral Reef Conservation Workshop. The workshop will address effective strategies for conserving coral reefs. An important output of the project will be an action policy agenda that governments and others can use to achieve conservation of coral reefs.

**SEAFWA 2004 News from Steve Leach, SCDNR**  
– The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources invites you to the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference, Hilton Head, SC, October 30 – November 3, 2004. The fisheries session will include posters and oral presentations of peer-reviewed manuscripts on marine, estuarine, and freshwater fisheries topics, including but not limited to management, research, and culture. Case histories are particularly encouraged.

The Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, Student Affairs Committee has graciously provided support for student travel that will cover lodging expenses for a limited number of students attending the 2004 SEAFWA meeting. Application information will be available via the website listed below. Criteria for selection will be the same as that of the SDAFS 2004 Spring Meeting, which may be viewed at:  
<http://members.cox.net/gregsumm/Student%20Rooms.htm> If you are interested in obtaining free lodging, send your name, address, contact phone number, e-mail address, school, gender, status

(graduate or undergraduate), AFS member number (located on your FISHERIES mailing label), and a statement about why you wish to attend the meeting and the night(s) you will need lodging to:

Stuart Welsh ([swelsh@wvu.edu](mailto:swelsh@wvu.edu)), West Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, PO Box 6125, 313 Percival Hall, Morgantown, WV 26506, Ph#: 304-293-2941 ext.2419. The application deadline is September 15, 2004.

**Raleigh Aquarium Society News from Gerald Pottern, R.J. Goldstein & Associates** – The Raleigh Aquarium Society will meet at 7:30 pm on Thursday, July 1 at NCSU Vet School. The featured topic for this meeting will be "Culturing Live Foods for Fish" and the speaker will be Todd Wenzel. Please contact Gerald if you need more information - [gpottern@rjgaCarolina.com](mailto:gpottern@rjgaCarolina.com).

### **Spotlight on Students and Young Professionals**

**Brandon Harland, District 6 Assistant Fisheries Biologist, NCWRC** - Brandon enrolled in the Iowa State University fisheries sciences program in the fall of 1997 and received his bachelors degree in May 2001. While pursuing his undergraduate degree, Brandon worked for the Iowa Department of Natural Resource's Fisheries Bureau from 1999-2001. He gained over a year of work experience while working on warmwater and coldwater streams, lakes and the Mississippi River. During this time Brandon worked with a multitude of species and gear types, of which his favorite was tagging flathead catfish and tracking radio-tagged walleyes on the Mississippi River.

In January 2002 Brandon joined the fisheries team at South Dakota State University (SDSU) to work with Dr. Chuck Berry on western South Dakota tributary streams, of which 95% had never been surveyed prior to 2002. After two summers of rigorous fish and habitat data collection, Brandon was able to synthesize the data into a 191 page Masters Thesis entitled "Survey of the Fishes and Habitat of Western South Dakota Streams". Brandon was recently published in the June 2004 issue of the Journal of Freshwater Ecology and currently has three other manuscripts in press. While at SDSU Brandon was active in the North Central Division's Dakota Chapter. Brandon received his Master's degree from SDSU in December of 2003 and joined the NCWRC in March of 2004.



*Brandon Harland - eager to survey some NC streams.*

Brandon is an avid hunter, fisherman, and trapper. While growing up in Iowa, Brandon typically started the year off by fishing for catfish in Iowa's smaller interior streams and bluegill and bass in some of the many farm ponds dotting Iowa's landscape. Each fall Brandon, his brothers (Jeff and Ryan), and his dad (Lee) routinely trapped in excess of two months for raccoon, muskrat, mink, and beaver. Brandon also commercially trapped turtles (western painted, snapping, and spiny/smooth softshells) for market as well as for personal use. While attending graduate classes and doing field work at SDSU, Brandon also re-kindled his love for the outdoors with the many fishing, hunting, and trapping activities that South Dakota affords. Those times spent behind his hunting dogs flushing pheasants, stalking antelope on the open sage brush prairie, or wetting a line for big South Dakota walleye and jumbo yellow perch with friends and family will not be forgotten anytime soon.

Brandon and his wife Michelle live in Albemarle with their two dogs: a black and a chocolate Labrador retriever. Although here for only a short time, Brandon has already discovered some of the fishing holes on the Yadkin-Pee Dee system. He's particularly interested in going after some of the large catfish found in area lakes. Welcome aboard Brandon!

*Submitted by Lawrence Dorsey, NCWRC*

## **Meetings of Interest**

### ***River Restoration and Urban Streams Symposium***

- June 27 - July 1, 2004, Salt Lake City, Utah. The Symposium will be part of the World Water and Environmental Resources Congress.

<http://www.asce.org/conferences/ewri2004/>

### ***134<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the AFS*** – Aug 21–26,

2004, Madison, WI. Stay tuned to the AFS webpage for more details.

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

### ***Second National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration*** – Sept. 12-15, 2004,

Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Seattle, WA. <http://www.estuaries.org/>.

### ***Wild Trout Symposium VIII*** – Sept. 20-22, 2004,

Yellowstone National Park, Old Faithful Inn, WY.

<http://www.wildtrout8.com>.

### ***58<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference*** – Oct. 30-Nov. 3,

2004, Hilton Head, SC.

[www.dnr.state.sc.us/seafwa](http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/seafwa).

### ***First National Conference on Ecosystem***

***Restoration*** – Dec. 6-10, 2004, Wyndham Palace in Lake Buena Vista, FL

<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ecosystem>.

### ***8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Artificial Reefs and Artificial Habitats*** – April 10-14, 2005, Biloxi, MS.

<http://www.lsu.edu/faculty/jhcowan/CARAH.htm>

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**

### **The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VaDGIF), Fisheries Biologist** – The

VaDGIF is accepting applications for Fisheries Biologist (Scientist I) position 00413, until 4:00 p.m., July 9, 2004. Please see the Notification of Vacancy for details. The Location is Region I, District 2 Office, 3909 Airline Boulevard, Chesapeake, VA. The expected hiring range:

\$32,653 - \$42,000. Visit [www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov)



and follow the "employment" link for more information.

**Colorado State University, M.S. Assistantship -**

Dr. Brett Johnson, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology at CSU is seeking a student to develop forensic applications of otolith microchemistry for tracking sources of illegally stocked trout. The student will visit state and private fish hatcheries to obtain trout and water samples. Prepare samples for microchemical and isotopic analysis. Assess geographic and temporal variation in otolith and source water microchemistry. Details can be found at <http://www.fisheries.org/html/jobs/job2473.htm>. Or call Dr Johnson at 970-491-5002.

**University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Research Associate Human Dimensions/Natural Resource Economics -**

The Aquaculture/Fisheries Center seeks to determine the overall success of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's (AGFC) Urban Fishing Program and other initiatives on recruiting and retaining new anglers. The Research Associate will design and conduct studies on angler participation and license sales, evaluate stocking rates and influence on fishing pressure, and make recommendations to improve the Urban Fishing Program as well as other AGFC programs. To Apply: Send a letter of application, resume, official transcripts, and three letters of reference to Dr. Wes Neal, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Dept. of Aquaculture/Fisheries; Aquaculture/Fisheries Center, 1200 North University Drive; P. O. Box 4912; Pine Bluff, AR 71611. Telephone: (870) 575-8136; FAX: (870) 575-4639; email: [wneal@uaex.edu](mailto:wneal@uaex.edu). Filing Deadline: July 15, 2004, or until a suitable applicant is found.

**Mote Marine Lab, M.S. Graduate research opportunity -**

We are currently seeking a M.S. student to examine seasonal mortality and movement patterns of adult snook using remote and active tracking of acoustically tagged individuals. Students interested in working closely with management agencies to address specific research needs, who possess good problem solving abilities, and a willingness to work in a team environment are encouraged to apply. Target start date is August 1, 2004. Interested students should send a CV, list of three references with contact information, unofficial transcripts, GRE scores, and a letter describing their research interest to: Dr. Bill Pine, Mote Marine Lab, 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34236. e-mail: [bill\\_pine@mote.org](mailto:bill_pine@mote.org).

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 – 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>