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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 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](mailto:jerry.finke@ncwildlife.org)).

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### **President's Message – Lawrence Dorsey**

I hope that all of you had an enjoyable and productive summer. As we head into the fall, we continue to look at upcoming events and projects for our chapter. Some items of interest include:

The chapter EXCOM will meet in October to discuss the upcoming 2007 joint meeting with the Virginia Chapter of the AFS. The meeting will be held in Danville, VA and we'll announce additional details as they become available. We last met jointly with VA-AFS in 1999. They are a very active chapter and I am confident this meeting will be a great place to exchange information and meet with our colleagues to the north.

SDAFS President (and past NCAFS President) Bob Curry recently gave all chapters an update on hurricane relief efforts in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Although a lot of progress has been made towards restoring fisheries work in these areas, it's clear that there is a great deal left to be done. One area of need is sampling equipment. At our October EXCOM meeting, we will consider what NCAFS can do to help with the relief efforts.

I recently received a letter from the USDA-NRCS in response to our resolution (drafted by the Environmental Concerns Committee) on the Emergency Watershed Protection program. I've often felt, and have been told by other members, that no one reads any of the resolutions we send out. I can happily say that I stand corrected. The letter, in its entirety, will be placed on the web site in the Environmental Concerns Committee area in the near future.

Several weeks ago I got my ballot from the SDAFS for the election of incoming officers and representatives. I quickly noticed that two NCAFS members (Dave Coughlan and Keith Ashley) were on the ballot. I probably made an effort this year to get my ballot in (and you should vote as well!) because we had chapter members who were nominated. In reality, it shouldn't have mattered. We are very fortunate at all levels of AFS to have qualified, dedicated people who volunteer to serve in elected positions. However, it is often the case that very few members take the time to vote. In the December newsletter, you will see two candidates for NCAFS President-elect. I urge you to take the time to read the background information on each candidate and vote. We make it extremely easy to vote in our chapter using the electronic ballot and we even have a raffle to encourage participation!

Jerry Finke has mentioned to me that he is going to be updating and re-configuring the website throughout the fall. If there are things that you like or things that you don't like about our current setup send an email to Jerry at [Jerry.Finke@ncwildlife.org](mailto:Jerry.Finke@ncwildlife.org)

I think I have hit the high spots as it relates to current events. If you have any questions about chapter activities or would like to get involved on a committee or project, please let me know.

## *Lawrence*

### **NCSU Student Subunit Report**

The NCSU Student Subunit had their first meeting of the semester on September 5<sup>th</sup>. The guest speaker was Bryn H. Tracy, an Environmental Biologist with the North Carolina Division of Water Quality. The topic of Bryn's talk was "The NC Division of Water Quality's Stream Fish Community Assessment Program -- The NC Index of Biotic Integrity and Beyond!". Bryn was not only the guest speaker but has also mentored a NCSU Fisheries and Wildlife undergraduate student intern for each of the past four years. The meeting was a huge success with a large attendance of about 50 people, 20 of those being undergraduates who were very interested in hearing Bryn's talk as well as learning about how to become a student intern and other opportunities with state agencies. Not only did we have a large crowd, but a diverse crowd of people ranging from "wildlifers" to biochemistry students, and a few professionals. We hope to continue to increase the number of undergraduates and the diversity of attendees at the meetings.

We will continue our busy schedule with a service project planned for 8:30 am on September 30<sup>th</sup> at Prairie Ridge. Prairie Ridge, located at the intersection of Wade Avenue and Edwards Mill Parkway, is an outdoor education center operated by the NC Museum of Natural Sciences with the goal of providing education to students and teachers to learn about sustainable living and the natural environment. The project includes: tree removal, debris clean-up, invasive plant removal, and planting of native species. This will be our second year volunteering at Prairie Ridge, and they are as excited for our return as we are. Cathy Fergen, administrative assistant to the director of Prairie Ridge, spoke at the meeting about the accomplishments of last year's clean-up.



*Patrick Cooney and Brandon Puckett work as a team to remove toilet from stream at Prairie Ridge - fall 2005.*

She mentioned that the area of stream we cleaned last year is now a cherished lookout and education area for visitors. The Subunit is also hosting a social and fundraiser the day before the clean-up; food, beverages, and lively conversation will be served at the home of Christin Brown, Co-President.

We are also excited that two graduate students, Michelle Moorman and Marybeth Brey will be presenting talks at the annual AFS national meeting in Lake Placid, NY. We again would like to thank Bryn H. Tracy for speaking at the meeting. 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](mailto:chbrown@ncsu.edu)) and Jessica Brewster ([jrbrewst@ncsu.edu](mailto:jrbrewst@ncsu.edu)) with any ideas or questions you have about our subunit.

*Submitted by Christin Brown, NCSU Student Subunit, Co-President*

## 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 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](mailto: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

**NCAFS 2006 Hutton Scholar News from Tom Kwak, NCSU** - Our Chapter successfully mentored an AFS Hutton Scholar this summer! We planned at previous annual business meetings to financially support and mentor a high-school student from NC selected by the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program of the AFS parent society. Our Scholar was Aya Tajiri, a high-school junior from Cary, and she participated in a suite of varied summer fisheries projects coordinated by Tom Kwak of the NC Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.

Aya began her Hutton Scholar Summer Internship on 19 June 2006. Her first activity was to join Tom Kwak at his undergraduate field course in Fisheries Techniques and Management, which is an intensive

field course for Fisheries and Wildlife majors at NC State. Her activities there focused on fish and invertebrate sampling techniques in ponds and rivers, interpretation of sampling data, and water quality measurements, as well as interacting with undergraduate and graduate students at NC State.

She then assisted NC State graduate student Jessica Brewster in field activities related to studying feeding preferences of introduced flathead catfish. In that activity, she was part of a field team including Michael Fisk (NCSU biologist), Patrick Cooney (NCSU biologist), and Ryan Spidel (NCSU undergraduate summer intern).



*Jessica Brewster (left, NCSU grad student) and Aya Tajiri (right, NC Chapter Hutton Scholar) pet their favorite kitty -- a 40-lb flathead catfish from the Cape Fear River!*

Other activities with NC State faculty and students included participating in an intensive fishery assessment of Lake Raleigh, a small impoundment on the NC State Centennial Campus, which was recently dammed following failure of the previous dam during Hurricane Fran. This assessment was associated with a university class instructed by Joe Hightower (NC Coop Unit) and Tom Kwak and included participation by NC Wildlife Resources Commission Biologists Kirk Rundle, Brian McRae, and Christian Waters. She also assisted Ryan Murashige, a Research Assistant working with Harry Daniels (NC State), for several days to culture blue crabs and marine fish in closed systems.

Aya also participated in a number of activities off-campus with other active NC Chapter members. She spent several days assisting and learning to identify, sort, and process preserved fishes from field surveys conducted by the NC Division of Water Quality with Ernie Haine and Bryn Tracy; these activities also included excising white muscle fillet samples for contaminant analyses. Mentored

by Greg Cope (NC State) and Ryan Heise (NC Wildlife Resources Commission), Aya participated in two long days of sampling freshwater mussels in the Deep River of North Carolina. This assessment was part of ongoing cooperative research to evaluate the effects of dam removal on fish and mussel assemblages in the river. She later spent one week with Conservation Educators at the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, leading their Junior Biologist Camp. She worked with staff educators Susannah Thompson and Beth Folta in that outreach activity. Aya also spent a week working with the fish collection manager and curator (Gabriela Hogue and Wayne Starnes) at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, learning about museum collections and assisting with fish sorting, collection organizing, and database management. During her final week, Aya met with Kim Sparks, an IT specialist from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, to learn about Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and their application to natural resources. Her internship was concluded on 11 August 2006 with a few days to recover before starting her senior year of high school.

During her Hutton Scholar Internship, Aya experienced and assisted in many diverse activities with various NC AFS Chapter members spanning the breadth of fishery science, natural resource education, and science professionals. Discussions with Aya and her mentors suggest that this activity was rewarding to both the student and mentors. It was a successful activity that will shape the future for Aya, and in some small way, for all of us. The Hutton Program is holding up our achievement as a model for other chapters to follow. Special thanks go to our Chapter members that participated -- it was a success only because of their energy and enthusiasm!

(See the Chapter web site to view a selection of photos from Aya's summer internship <<http://www.sdafs.org/ncafs/news.htm>>)

***Excellence in Fisheries Education News from Tom Kwak, NCSU*** – Dr. Joe Hightower is the 2006 recipient of the AFS Excellence in Fisheries Education Award! This award is administered by the Education Section of the AFS and is presented to only one individual annually to recognize excellence in teaching and advising in fisheries education. The nomination for this honor was initiated and organized by two of Joe's former students -- Alesia Read and Dave Hewitt. In addition to documentation of Joe's accomplishments, and insight from Alesia and

Dave, it included letters of support from nine former students and 19 colleagues from universities, state and federal agencies, and private industry. The award was formally presented to Joe at the AFS annual meeting in September at Lake Placid, New York. Please join me in Congratulating Joe on this honorable recognition. I'd also like to applaud Alesia and Dave, as we all know that even great individuals don't receive awards unless they're nominated. Congratulations Joe!

***SDAFS Election News from Bob Curry, NCWRC and SDAFS President*** - Less than 30 days remain for you to cast your ballot and influence the direction and governance of the Southern Division AFS. Our Nominating Committee prepared an outstanding suite of candidates for your consideration, including two members from the NC Chapter. Candidate biographies can be viewed on the SDAFS web site at <http://www.sdafs.org/directory/06elections.html>. Three positions will be filled this year: Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer (2-year term) and SDAFS representative to the Parent Society's Nominating Committee.

Our exceptional slate of candidates have committed to volunteering their time and considerable talents to represent you. The very least you can do is take the time to vote and exercise your membership responsibility to support these volunteers. I'm seeking the largest voting participation *ever*, so please, don't hesitate, take the time right now to review the candidate biographies and cast your vote today!

You should have already received a copy of the ballot in the mail; if not, contact Craig Bonds by phone at (325) 651-5556 or by email at [craig.bonds@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:craig.bonds@tpwd.state.tx.us) to obtain a copy. Please take the time to cast your ballot and return it ***NO LATER THAN*** October 18, 2006 to: Craig Bonds, Chair, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Fisheries District 1C, 3407-A South Chadbourne, San Angelo, TX 76904.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter. I look forward to reporting the results to you soon!

***Hurricane Relief Action Plan News from Bob Curry, NCWRC and SDAFS President*** - The Southern Division AFS (SDAFS) extends our gratitude to the individuals, chapters, Divisions, and Parent Society for their outpouring of support,

continuous encouragement, and tremendous sensitivity to the horrendous impacts Hurricanes Katrina and Rita had on AFS members professionally and personally in the storm impacted regions along the Gulf Coast. Although the water receded long ago, 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.

The AFS Disaster Relief Program, administered primarily through the SDAFS, assumed full responsibility for hurricane relief in June 2006. Emphasis has focused on outreach to members and their agencies or institutions in Louisiana and Mississippi. Additional relief efforts were extended to Alabama, Florida and Texas; however, no requests for assistance were received. Members of the former AFS Hurricane Relief Task Force are now integrated into the SDAFS Disaster Relief Program through their respective chapters. Additionally, the Disaster Relief Distribution Center is staffed and operational.

The Parent Society has allocated *up to* a maximum of \$30,000 to the SDAFS to address disaster relief operations during the period 15 March – 31 December 2006. We partitioned these funds into three broad categories: 1. Complementary, temporary, AFS memberships and electronic journal subscriptions to AFS members identified by their respective chapters as impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; 2. Scholarships to attend AFS meetings for AFS members identified by their respective chapters as impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; 3. Staffing the Disaster Relief Distribution Center.

Danielle Pender is the Director of the Distribution Center and she primarily handles the coordination, delivery, cataloging, tracking and ultimate distribution of materials donations (library materials, equipment, supplies, etc) received at the Distribution Center.

Don Jackson volunteered to transition over to the SDAFS Disaster Relief Team as the primary liaison with the chapters to coordinate membership and journal scholarships and travel assistance. Don works with the Chapter Presidents to collate their

requests and recommends actions to the SDAFS President.

Complementary memberships, electronic access to *Fisheries Infobase* and electronic access to one AFS journal of choice will be provided to AFS members from Louisiana and Mississippi. Recipients are in the final stage of review and recommendations will soon be forwarded to the Southern Division for action. The Louisiana and Mississippi chapters are developing criteria for travel awards to AFS meetings for AFS members who were impacted by the storms.

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks is providing a central processing facility at their Turcotte Laboratory in Jackson, Mississippi, to receive and distribute donated materials. John Skains (Mississippi Chapter) is the principal contact.

Financial donors may contribute through the Parent Society AFS Website at <http://www.fisheries.org/html/disasterform.shtml>.

Visit the SDAFS Disaster Relief Web Page at <http://www.sdafs.org/relief/default.htm> for more information and to review needs requests of affected members. Your assistance with financial and material contributions is greatly appreciated.

*SEAFWA News forwarded by Bob Curry, NCWRC and SDAFS President* - The 60th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at the Marriott Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia, November 5-8, 2006. "*Wildlife Management in the Next New World*"

#### **Important Deadlines**

Hotel Reservations: October 2

Early Registration: October 22 (register online at [SEAFWA2006.org/registration](http://SEAFWA2006.org/registration))

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS WHEN REGISTERING FOR THE CONFERENCE.** Although the deadline for early conference registration is October 22, **THE CONFERENCE RATE AT THE MARRIOTT HOTEL IS ONLY AVAILABLE UNTIL MONDAY, OCTOBER 2!**

### **Registration Reminders:**

Don't forget to check the appropriate boxes when registering to sign up for any of the special activities planned during SEAFWA 2006:

**Banquet, Welcome Reception and Dinner, Bass Pro Shops Trip (15% discount available to all conference attendees during this trip!), Spouse & Guest Tours, Skeet Shoot, and the 5K Run/Walk**

### **Attention Students!**

Special Student Room Rate at the Sheraton: \$75/night, max. 4 students per room

Financial assistance for lodging is available for Fisheries and Wildlife students! See SEAFWA2006.org/students for details.

Student/Professional Social, Monday, November 6, 5:00-6:30 PM (\$10 Bass Pro Shops gift cards will be provided to all students attending; use them at the Bass Pro Shops trip later in the evening. Bass Pro is also providing a 15% discount to all conference attendees during the trip!)

Student/Mentor Luncheon. The keynote speaker will be Dr. William Greer, President of Virginia Wesleyan College and member of the Board of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

**SDAFS First Call for Papers from Phil Bettoli, Tennessee Tech** - The Tennessee Chapter and Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society invite you to join us in Memphis at the Marriott Downtown Hotel for the 2007 Southern Division Spring Meeting, 7-11 February 2007. The meeting's theme is "Diversity of Fish, Habitats, and People". The due date for symposia, poster, and general session abstracts will be 1 December 2006. For more information, visit the meeting website at <http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2007/>. Instructions for abstract submission can be found at the same website.

**4th North American Reservoir Symposium News forwarded by Kim Bonvechio** - The Southern Division AFS Reservoir Committee invites abstracts for contributed oral and poster presentations for the 4<sup>th</sup> North American Reservoir Symposium, June 6-9, 2007, Atlanta, Georgia. The symposium's theme is "Balancing Fisheries Management and Water Uses for Impounded River Systems" and will address the challenges of managing reservoir fisheries in the context of competing water uses. Within this scope, topics for contributed papers and posters include: (A)

Balancing fisheries issues with basin-wide water uses; (B) Aquatic habitat; (C) Human dimensions; and (D) Catch and release and use of regulations.

Due to limited space in the program, poster submissions are encouraged. Both contributed oral and poster abstracts should be submitted electronically to Dr. Mike S. Allen at msal@ufl.edu by October 16, 2006. An e-mail confirmation of the abstract submission will be sent upon receipt. A formal acceptance to the symposium will be sent by December 1, 2006. When submitting the abstract, please indicate the topic above that best fits the presentation and indicate your format preference as: (A) Oral presentation only; (B) Poster presentation only; or (C) Oral presentation preferred, but poster presentation acceptable.

Proceedings of the symposium will be published in an AFS book, with manuscripts due for submittal by June 1, 2007. The external review process and publication is expected to take no longer than one year from June 2007. Oral presentations will be limited to 20 minutes with a 15-minute presentation and 5 minutes for speaker introduction and questions. Additional information about the Symposium can be found at:

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

**Student Colloquium news from Harvey J. Pine, President Auburn University AFS** - Greetings from the Auburn University Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AUAFS). I am contacting the SDAFS membership on behalf of the AUAFS to invite you to join us here at Auburn University for the 6th Annual AFS Student Colloquium to be held on October 27th - 29th, 2006. This year's meeting will continue the tradition of bringing students together to share their research and experiences, as well as an opportunity to interact with their peers from across the nation. The goal of this conference is to give students an opportunity to present research to fellow students and to receive constructive criticism from professionals in fisheries and related disciplines. So, please check out our website and join us! <http://www.ag.auburn.edu/fish/amerfishsoc/>

**Population Dynamics Workshop News forwarded by Tom Kwak, NCSU** - The Fourth Annual Marine Resources Population Dynamics Workshop, sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service and Virginia Tech, will take place January 6-12, 2007 in Summerland Key, Florida. All expenses will be paid for the 15 undergraduate students selected to participate. If you have a strong

quantitative background and a basic understanding of ecology, we encourage you to apply! In the past three years, 46 students representing 29 colleges and universities in 14 states have participated in this workshop. All 46 replied that they would recommend this workshop to others. 87% of the participants rated the workshop as excellent. 85% of the workshop participants agreed that they had developed a better sense of what they would like to do for a career because of the workshop. For more information and to find application materials, visit our website at:

<http://www.nmfs.vt.edu/workshop/info.1.07.htm>.

### ***Raleigh Aquarium Society News from Gerald***

***Pottern*** - The Raleigh Aquarium Society is a hobby-oriented group interested in captive care, natural history, propagation, conservation, fish-watching, and all aspects of fishes, invertebrates and aquatic plants. RAS Meetings begin at 7:30pm on the first Thursday each month at the NCSU Vet School, corner of Hillsborough Street and Blue Ridge Road in western Raleigh. Due to Vet School Security issues, the downstairs door is usually locked. So if you arrive late, either knock or call one of these cell phones: Brandon Berry at 252-266-3559, Jeff Jenkins at 919-612-0229, or John Patterson at 919-264-4011. For more info see the RAS website:

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

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

***Kevin Magowan, MS student, NCSU*** – Kevin grew up in Northbridge, Massachusetts and graduated from Unity College in Maine in 2002 with a BS degree in Environmental Sciences. After graduating, Kevin got some excellent field experience working on the Green River for Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and is reported to be an expert at raft electrofishing! He also worked as a seasonal tech for the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, including fyke net surveys of an anadromous rainbow smelt population, setting Sheldon eel traps for juvenile American eels, and tagging striped bass.

Kevin began graduate school at NC State University with Dr. Joe Hightower in January 2006. His project is a hydroacoustic survey of anadromous fishes in the lower Roanoke River. Kevin's field site for the Spring 2006 field season was just upstream of Williamston, where he

enjoyed seeing lots of wildlife and sampling the local cuisine.



*Kevin Magowan with a longnose gar from the Roanoke River.*

*Submitted by Joe Hightower, NCSU*

### **Meetings of Interest**

#### ***Stream Restoration in the Southeast:***

***Accomplishments and Opportunities*** – Oct. 2-5, 2006, Westin Charlotte, Charlotte, NC.

[www.ncsu.edu/sri/2006conference/savethedate.htm](http://www.ncsu.edu/sri/2006conference/savethedate.htm)  
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***60th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*** – Nov. 5-8, 2006, Norfolk, VA.

<http://www.seafwa2006.org/>.

***Southern Division AFS 2007 Spring Meeting*** – Feb. 7-11, 2007, Memphis, TN.

<http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2007/>.

***Fourth 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>.

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

<http://www.fisheries.org/html/index.shtml>.

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**

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>