

# the shell-cracker

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



<http://nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu/~fafs/>

**November, 2002**

Happy fall, Y'all!

I am just beaming with pride because of all of you! You all deserve a pat on the back for a job well done. In case you don't realize it (not likely), the 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Baltimore, MD was a smashing success, and Florida Chapter folks were there in full force to help make it happen.

Our chapter members were invited and involved in nearly every aspect of running the meeting. We had members who delivered oral presentations. We had posters placed in the trade show area. We had members who were invited session moderators on a variety of topics. We had members participate in pre-meeting workshops. We have (had) members who serve(d) as officers at unit section meetings, and we were all recognized for our contributions to the national raffle (we seem to have a knack for raffles). Chapter participation took place in sessions on Marine Protected Areas, Spatial Movement of Fish, Native Aquatic Plants Habitat, Coral Reef Ecosystems, Reef Fish, Use of Fish Management Chemicals, and some of our Florida students worked during the sessions. There may have been more that I missed in this review, but kudos to everyone for their efforts in supporting the parent society. Florida is truly unique in its variety of habitat and fishery resources – you can tell by the range of topics listed above.

You all should truly be proud of your membership and the experts that comprise, surround and represent our chapter! Thanks again for your commitment to success. You make my job easy.

## **Now as your leader.....**

The following are some thoughts I wanted to share with you that I jotted down as notes from a presentation made by Jim Martin at the AFS Leadership Principles Workshop that I attended in Baltimore. I hope you can find at least one that will stick with you and help you in your own leadership roles.

1. *There is no substitute for enthusiasm. A good team will always keep up with the speed of the leader.*
2. *THINK about the problem first. Then the solution will be better.*
3. *Be a lady or a gentleman. Remember what goes around comes around, and there is no need to be overly critical.*
4. *The test of a professional is what your opponent thinks of you. Don't play to your audience of supporters but to your opponents.*
5. *Remember it's a matter of values. Use your head but also your heart, empathy.*
6. *Show respect to individuals. Give folks your full and undivided attention. Good leaders have followers who would rather die than disappoint them.*
7. *Thank your leaders and mentors. If you have not, seek them out now and thank them for what they have taught you.*
8. *Meaningful work + good leadership + fun = WORK MAGIC!*

Now let's gear up and get ready to have our own smashing, magical meeting in Brooksville Feb. 25-27<sup>th</sup> – mark your calendars!!!!!!!!!!

President, FL AFS

Cheers, Kathy Guindon-Tisdell



# Getting in Touch

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## *Upcoming Events*

Nov. 8-10 – 2nd Annual Meeting of Future Fisheries Professionals (i.e., Student Colloquium), Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, TN.

Nov. 12-14 – Symposium on Effects of Fishing Activities on Benthic Habitats: Linking Geology, Biology, Socioeconomics and Management, Tampa, FL.

Dec. 10-11 – Flatfish Biology Conference, Westbrook, CT.

Feb. 12-16, 2003 – AFS 11th Annual Southern Division Midyear Meeting, Wilmington, NC.

Feb. 25-27, 2003 – Florida Chapter AFS Annual Meeting, Brooksville, FL.

Apr. 13-16, 2003 – Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Meeting, Baltimore, MD.

Apr. 14-17, 2003 – Western Division AFS Meeting (soliciting papers on the Gulf of Mexico and Mexican fisheries), San Diego, CA.

June, 2003 – Florida Lake Management Society/NALMS Southeast Regional Conference, Orlando, FL.

Aug. 10-14, 2003 – 133rd Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, Quebec City, Quebec.

Nov. 5-7, 2003 - 23rd International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society, Manshantucket, CT.

May 2-6, 2004 – 4th World Fisheries Congress, Vancouver, British Columbia.



## **Did we miss an event?**

Email your event information to [kimberly.tugend@fwc.state.fl.us](mailto:kimberly.tugend@fwc.state.fl.us) for inclusion in the next issue!

## Tag, Release and Recapture

Glenda Kelley

International Game Fish Association (IGFA) Biologist

For the past ten years, I have kept a Worldwide Inventory of Tag, Release and Recapture Programs for Marine Fishes. (note: Dr. Eric Prince, director of the NMFS Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Program, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, insists that tag and release is inaccurate and mis-represents what tagging programs are really about. The recapture of tagged fish and the compiling and analyzing of information gathered as a result is, after all, what is important. He insists, and I agree, that the use of Tag, Release and Recapture Programs better describes tagging efforts.) Because the inventory appears in the IGFA World Record Game Fishes annual publication, I receive numerous e-mails and calls regarding starting tagging programs or participating in existing programs. With the growing trend of catch and release created by conservation awareness and the ever-changing regulations that impose stricter bag and size limits, there is even more interest in incorporating a "tag-and-release" ethic into everyday fishing activities. As stakeholders in the fishing resources sport fishermen want the opportunity to have a role in collection of research data through tagging fish. They want to be involved in research that may determine future management decisions.

In many cases I have been able to steer inquiries to appropriate existing programs. By joining an existing program recreational anglers can take advantage of established databases, standard reporting forms and tags, training programs or materials and reward systems. Most existing programs also provide necessary feedback by publishing newsletters or maintaining online tag recapture reports. Bill Sawynok, the Australian Suntag Coordinator, sends a monthly bulletin called "Suntag News" that is excellent. Each bulletin highlights tag and recaptures, giving interesting and informative details. Anglers are always anxious to know what has happened to tagged fish. To receive the bulletin online just send an email addressed to [suntag@zbc.com.net](mailto:suntag@zbc.com.net) with "subscribe to Suntag News" as the subject.

In some cases, I have discouraged well-meaning individuals or groups from tagging altogether because they have poorly defined goals or purposes. It is not unusual to be approached by individuals wanting to hold tournaments just to tag fish, any fish, with no thought given to data management, species to be tagged or tag type to use. I consistently discourage these events. They are just an excuse to hold a fishing tournament. I would rather see tournaments held on a purely catch and release basis unless they are well organized by fisheries scientists who can train anglers in proper procedures.

If possible, I refer individuals to biologists who are willing to work with recreational guides and anglers. Fisheries biologists can sometimes provide that opportunity, but they are limited by the costs involved. The money to hire for angler training, data entry and rewards can be significant. But, if appropriate procedures are in place, angler tagging can provide a significant increase in available data at a much lower cost and with the added advantage of encouraging a better educated recreational fishing community.

*Continued on Page 4*

part of programs. Recently, IGFA instituted a program which we expect will benefit offshore

IGFA schedules a number of workshops or classes that present tagging techniques as part of programs. Recently, IGFA instituted a program which we expect will benefit offshore fishing tournaments, including those that encourage tag and release. The Certified Observer Program trains experienced anglers, captains and crews to become official IGFA certified observers aboard tournament boats. As part of the program, Dr. Prince gave a presentation on “In-water Tagging Techniques for Large Highly Migratory Species” emphasizing the proper tagging placement and techniques. Several tournaments have already committed to using IGFA observers on participating boats and more tournaments are expected to use them as the program expands. These observers will be able to encourage correct tagging procedures during tournaments and assure the release or recapture cards are properly filled out and returned for entry into data banks. Some recreational tagging programs are now already transferring data to a computer bank of NMS in Woods Hole, MA where it is available to more scientists. The Fish Tagging Registry can be found at <http://fwie.fw.vt.edu/tagging/>.

With the increasing costs associated with fisheries research, it only makes sense to take advantage of anglers’ assistance. Enthusiastic and dedicated sport fishermen will always be available, it is up to the fisheries biologists to make certain they receive proper training. After all, we all have a vested interest and want to work towards managing a sustainable fishery for the future.



*If you would like to contact Glenda Kelley, she can be reached via email at [gkelley@igfa.org](mailto:gkelley@igfa.org)*

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## **Review of Chapter’s Bylaws**

All organizations should periodically review their bylaws to make sure they are germane to the organization. At the Annual Meeting, Peter Hood will be organizing a group to review the Chapter’s bylaws. This group will consider if any changes are needed. If you have any suggestions on how the bylaws can be improved, or are interested in helping review the bylaws, please contact Peter Hood (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, The Commons at Rivergate, 3018 North U.S. Highway 301, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619, ph: (813) 228-2815 ext. 231, fax: (813) 225-7015, email: [peter.hood@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:peter.hood@gulfcouncil.org)).

*The following are the Chapter’s Bylaws.*

### **Section 1 - Name and Objectives**

The name of this organization shall be the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, hereinafter referred to as the Chapter.

The objectives of the Chapter shall be those of the American Fisheries Society as set forth in Article I of the Constitution, and to encourage the exchange of information by members of the Society residing within the state of Florida.

### **Section 2 - Membership**

The membership of the Chapter shall be composed of those American Fisheries Society members in good standing residing in Florida.

### **Section 3 - Meetings**

The Chapter shall hold at least one meeting annually at a time and place designated by the Executive Committee. The program and presentation of papers shall be the responsibility of the Program Committee.

### **Section 4 - Officers**

The officers of the Chapter shall consist of a President, President-Elect, and Secretary-Treasurer. Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer may hold office for a period longer than one year, but the term of the other officers shall be one year. In case of a vacated position, the Executive Committee shall appoint a qualified replacement to fill an unexpired term.

In the event of a cancellation of an annual meeting, the officers and the members of any committees shall continue to serve until the next scheduled meeting.

### **Section 5 - Duties of Officers**

The President of the Chapter shall reside at all meetings, serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee, represent the Chapter on the Executive Committee of the Southern Division and at the American Fisheries Society meetings, and make appointments and perform other duties and functions as are authorized.

The President-Elect shall be Chairman of the Program Committee and shall assume the duties of the President if the latter is unable to act.

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# **Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**

## **Symposium Announcement & Call for Papers**

**When the River Meets the Sea: The Importance of Freshwater Flow  
on Florida's Marine and Freshwater Fisheries**

23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting  
25-27 February 2003  
Withlacoochee Training Center  
Brooksville, Florida

The Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be hosting a symposium to discuss impacts of freshwater flows on Florida fisheries. The half-day symposium will focus on potential effects of altered freshwater hydrology and flow on marine and freshwater environments. In this session, speakers will address issues related to habitat alteration, enhancement/restoration, and fisheries management. Presenters will describe several examples of how alterations in freshwater flow have affected habitat quality and fisheries in Florida.

In addition to invited speakers, a contributed paper session addressing a range of fish ecology, biology, and management topics will be presented. The technical sessions will provide professionals of all levels an opportunity to discuss new concepts, directions and strategies in fisheries biology, as well as the current state of Florida's fisheries habitats and resources. Organizers are looking for papers and posters.

## PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING CONTRIBUTED PAPERS AND POSTERS

**Individuals desiring to present research and management results or progress with ongoing work should submit abstracts to Wayne Bennett, Program Committee, Department of Biology, The University of West Florida, 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola FL 32514; (850) 474-3362 [wbennett@uwf.edu](mailto:wbennett@uwf.edu). DUE DATE: January 10, 2003.**

Platform presentations will be scheduled for 20 minutes; anticipating a 15-minute presentation followed by a 5-minute question/answer period. Moderators will encourage a lively discussion during the 5-minute period after each presentation, and time limits will be strictly enforced. PowerPoint presentations are preferred, however slide presentations (2×2 inch, horizontal orientation) can be accommodated.

Poster presentations are encouraged for works in progress, proposed work, as well as completed projects. Poster presentations can be an excellent, low stress, introduction to scientific meetings for students by allowing them to interact with scientists and professionals in a relaxed and casual atmosphere. Posters must be formatted to fit on a 4×6 foot poster board area. Presenters will be expected to be available during specified times to answer questions about their presentation.

Abstracts should be submitted via e-mail attachments or diskette in Microsoft Word format using Times New Roman, 10 pt font, single-spaced (see example below for details). Abstracts should include (in the following order), the paper's title, authors' full names with addresses and e-mail information, text, and format (poster or platform presentation). It will be assumed that the first author listed will be the presenter unless otherwise noted. **Students competing for "Best Student Paper Award" or "Best Student Poster Award" should be indicated by a superscripted asterisk after their name.** The text should be a 200-word or less statement of objectives, principal results and conclusions. Abstracts longer than 200 words will be returned to the author for modification. If the principal contact person for correspondence is someone other than the presenter, please specify.

Authors will be notified regarding acceptance of presentation on or before the final week in January. The final program, pre-registration, and other information will be distributed in a future mailing. A compilation of abstracts will be distributed at the meeting.

### **Culture of Neotropical Pacu, *Colossoma bidden*, in Florida and its Potential for Exotic Introduction.**

*Bruce Cooper\* and Wayne A. Bennett. University of West Florida, Department of Biology, 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola, FL 32514-5751. Mail to: [bc1@students.uwf.edu](mailto:bc1@students.uwf.edu); [wbennett@uwf.edu](mailto:wbennett@uwf.edu)*

Red-bellied pacu, *Colossoma biddens*, is a native characid to freshwater streams in central South America. The fishes' tasty flesh, hardy nature, rapid growth rate, and ability to tolerate poor water quality make it a favorite culture species in many parts of the world. In the U.S., however, the fish is a popular aquarium species but is rarely cultured. Pacu are frequently caught outside of captivity in Florida and there is a certain amount of concern among fisheries scientists that it may establish permanent populations within the state. We found that pacu are capable of tolerating high temperatures of nearly 45°C (among the highest measured for fishes), but could not be acclimated to temperatures below 16.3°C. We combine, low and high temperature tolerance data for pacu acclimated at five temperatures between 16.5 and 39.0°C with surface water temperatures to identify areas within Florida where pacu will reach marketable size within a single season, but will not survive low winter temperatures.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ➤ Old Fisheries Books and Journals

The AFS International Section remains active donating books and journals to deserving international institutions and libraries. If you have any old journals (AFS or otherwise), old books (fish and related science), proceedings, and/or special reports (agency reports or from any good source) that are collecting dust and are interested in donating them to some deserving international library, then please contact Bern Megrey (Bern.Megrey@noaa.gov). The International Fisheries Section can find them a good home!

## ➤ Deadline for the Propagated Fish in Resource Management Symposium

December 1, 2002 is the deadline for submission of titles and abstracts for papers/posters. The symposium will be held June 2003 in Boise, ID. Anyone who manages, studies or deals with cultured fish and their role in, and impacts on, aquatic ecosystems are encouraged to consider a contribution to this symposium. More details can be found at the website

## AFS TRIVIA



Did you know the American Fisheries Society was established in 1870 and was called the Fish Culturist Association?

Did you know that the goals of the American Fishery Society for this year are -?

- Improved Member Services
- Information Transfer and Outreach
- Stewardship of Aquatic Resources

*What should the goals be of the Florida Chapter and what role would you play in achieving them? Think about it! We may be writing/approving our Mission Statement at the next chapter meeting.*



## Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship

The Florida Chapter is pleased to announce the availability of the Seventh Annual (2003) Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship!

This scholarship was established to recognize outstanding students enrolled in Florida universities and colleges. Prior student recipients were from the University of Miami, University of Florida, University of West Florida, and the Florida Institute of Technology.

All students working toward a graduate degree related to the freshwater or marine fisheries sciences are encouraged to apply. Two awards will be given, one at the M.S. level and one at the Ph.D. level.

Applications must be received by 15 December 2002. The recipient of the scholarship will be notified prior to the Chapter's Annual Meeting scheduled for Feb. 25-27, 2003 in Brooksville. The scholarship will be presented at this meeting.

For an application and additional information, please contact Dr. Cichra at 352-392-9617 ext. 249 or e-mail: fish@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu or check the FAFS web site at: <http://nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu/~fafs/>.

### NEW BOOK RELEASES FROM AFS !

*Catch and Release in Marine Recreational Fisheries* (Jon A. Lucy and Anne L. Studholme, editors)

*Biological Indicators of Aquatic Ecosystem Stress* (S. Marshall Adams, editor)

*Fisheries in a Changing Climate* (Nature A.

**The Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Is Still Soliciting Donations!**

**Your Money Will Go Toward Graduate Student  
Scholarships For Students In Fisheries And Aquatic  
Sciences At Florida Colleges And Universities**

**The Florida Chapter AFS Will Match All Donations  
On A Dollar-For-Dollar Basis!!!**

**All Donations Should Be Made Payable To:  
Florida Chapter AFS  
And Sent To:  
Florida Chapter AFS  
ATT: Larry Connor  
601 W. Woodward Avenue  
Eustis, FL 32726**

*The Florida Chapter AFS is a not-for-profit organization and  
all donations are fully tax deductible.*

*\* For a copy of the solicitation letter or list of donors already  
contacted, please go to the Chapter's website.*

*\*\* For more information, contact Larry Connor at (352) 742-6438  
or [larry.connor@fwc.state.fl.us](mailto:larry.connor@fwc.state.fl.us)*



***Did you know?***

The Chapter created the Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship in 1997 in the memory of Roger Rottmann. Roger was the first fisheries biologist hired by the State of Florida University System and worked for more than 20 years at the University of Florida. He was a founding member of the Florida Chapter and played an important role in the early development of the Chapter.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the official records of the Chapter, collect and be custodian of any funds collected or allotted to the Chapter. The Secretary-Treasurer shall disburse funds as authorized by the Executive Committee or the membership, and submit a record of receipts and disbursements at the annual Chapter meeting. Other duties may be requested by the Executive Director of the American Fisheries Society and officers of the Southern Division.

#### Section 6 - Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Chapter shall consist of the elected officers and the immediate Past President. The Committee is authorized to act for the Chapter between meetings and to perform appropriate duties and functions.

#### Section 7 - Chapter Committees

Committees and the Chairmen of Committees, except as listed in Section 5 of these Bylaws, shall be appointed by the President.

The terms of office for members of Chapter Committees shall end upon the discharge of the duties for which they were appointed, or at the next annual meeting of the Chapter, whichever comes first.

#### Section 8 - Voting and Quorum

Decisions at meetings of the Chapter shall be in accordance with the Constitution of the American Fisheries Society.

A quorum at any meeting for the transaction of official business shall be 20 members.

#### Section 9 - Registration

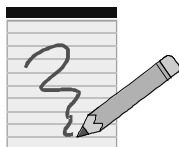
The Executive Committee may assess each registrant attending an annual meeting of the Chapter a registration fee necessary to cover the costs of the meeting and Chapter activities.

#### Section 10 - Amendment of the Bylaws

The Bylaws of the Chapter may be amended by a two-thirds majority approval of those members voting. Provided that prior notice of at least 30 days be given to the membership of the proposed change(s). Said change(s) must be approved by the Executive Committee of the Society before taking effect.

### Like to Write??

*The Shell-Cracker staff is actively seeking individuals to write articles for upcoming issues. For more information or submission of articles, contact Kim Tugend at kimberly.tugend@fwc.state.fl.us.*



## 2003 Student Travel Grants

The Florida Chapter of the AFS will again be providing the opportunity for students to obtain free room and board for this year's annual meeting scheduled for February 25-27, 2003. In the past, 8 to 18 student travel grants have been awarded each year to upper level undergraduate and graduate students. To be eligible for one of these grants, individuals must currently be registered in a Florida school during the spring semester and apply for the grant. Applicants must 1) indicate if they have ever attended an AFS meeting, 2) describe any past involvement that they have had with AFS, 3) describe any other professional and educational activities that they have been involved with, and 4) explain why they want to attend the annual Florida AFS meeting.

Awardees will be selected and notified prior to the meeting. Students are not required to be presenting a talk or poster to be eligible. One of the intents of this award is to increase student involvement in the Chapter, especially students in the initial stages of their careers. Applicants must be a member of the Florida Chapter or become a member when they register at the annual meeting. The travel grant does not cover the cost of membership or registration.

Deadline for applying is February 1, 2003. For details and an application form, visit the Chapter's website at <http://nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu/~fafs>.

**JOB LISTINGS**

**AFS Job Center Online:**  
<http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.html>

**ASLO Job Listings:**  
<http://www.aslo.org/jobs.html>

**Texas A & M University Job Board:**  
<http://wfscnet.tamu.edu/wfscnet/jobs/jobs.htm>

**USA Jobs - Federal Job Listing:**  
<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>

Florida Chapter AFS  
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