

SOUTHERN DIVISION NEWS

- June 2006 -



- Alabama North Carolina
- Arkansas Oklahoma
- Florida South Carolina
- Georgia Tennessee
- Kentucky Texas
- Louisiana Virginia
- Maryland Washington, D.C.
- Mississippi West Indian Islands
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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

I hope everyone is having a great spring and that your sampling season is safe and successful! It seems like just yesterday we were at San Antonio for our annual Spring meeting and I assumed the leadership role for the Division. Isn't that scary! It's been a whirlwind of activity so far. I've had the pleasure to attend several Chapter meetings, the annual Spring Meeting, the mid-year Governing Board meeting and the SEAFWA Spring Director's meeting. The joint meeting with the Louisiana and Mississippi Chapters stands out in my mind as an exceptional Chapter meeting. It was filled with excellent papers and enthusiastic members. The way these two Chapters pulled together so quickly after the devastating hurricanes last summer is a shining example of the outstanding leadership and the generosity shared among our division membership.

It has truly been a genuine learning experience for me and I have been humbled as I see the true behind-the-scenes activities that make our Chapters, Committees and the Division operate as smoothly as a well-greased wheel. The willingness of our members to step up and volunteer their service has been overwhelming. Thank you!

I plan to use the SDAFS web site www.sdafs.org to more effectively distribute information to our membership. Please keep checking for updates throughout the summer as I hope that the information will be useful to you.

Please remember that the Parent Society AFS is currently conducting an

election for officers. If you have not voted yet, I encourage you to cast your vote right away as the election closes June 9, 2006 at 11:59 PM U. S. Eastern Time. Our own Dr. Don Jackson, chair of the Hurricane Task Force is one of two candidates running for second Vice President. As an AFS member, you have an opportunity to influence the leadership of our Society by taking a moment to cast your vote!

The AFS is soliciting information to improve the services that the Parent Society provides to its members, sections and units. Some suggestions currently being considered include: provide archiving services for unit historical information, improve access to membership lists, strive to keep membership lists current, especially email addresses, and provide free Section, Division or Unit-specific listservers. The Governing Board will be discussing options at its next meeting in Lake Placid this September. Please contact me at Robert.curry@ncwildlife.org or any of the other officers if you have suggestions for improved membership services at any level.

The Texas Chapter hosted the annual Southern Division AFS Spring Meeting in February 2006 in San Antonio. A record-setting 535 attendees turned out to hear over 200 oral presentations and posters. Seven symposia featuring 103 oral presentations covered topics including, Red Snapper, urban fishing, trophy fish management, trout fisheries, catfish management, fisheries applications of GIS technology and instream

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS CONTINUED

flow. The program included 107 oral presentations or posters covering a wide range of topics including; freshwater and marine fisheries management, aquaculture, exotic species, and species specific papers on largemouth bass, sturgeon and paddlefish.

The division awards were presented this year at the annual Spring Meeting to many deserving candidates. The Jack Dequine Best Paper Award from the 2005 SEAFWA Annual Conference in St. Louis MO. It was awarded to Christopher Racey, Amy Fenech, Steve Lochmann, Andrew Radomski and H.K. Dupree for a paper titled *Double-crested Cormorant Predation of Largemouth Bass in Lake Chicot, Arkansas*. Honorable mentions were awarded to Shannon Brewer, Charlie Rabeni and David Heimann for the paper titled *The Importance of Day versus Night Fish Sampling for In-stream Flow Determination* and Steve Sammons

and Mike Maceina for the paper titled *Population Size, Survival, and Growth of Largemouth Bass One Year After Stocking in Four Ponds*. The East Carolina University Student Sub-unit received the 2005 SDAFS Best Student Subunit Award. Stuart Welsh was presented the Distinguished Service Award for his tireless support and exceptional coordination with the division's Student Affairs Committee. The prestigious Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Larry Wilson from The University of Tennessee, Dick Luebke from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Jeff Boxrucker from the Oklahoma Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Texas Chapter received the 2005 AFS Outstanding Chapter Award.

I hope you have a great summer and that you continue to be safe in your work and leisure.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reservoir Committee

The Southern Division American Fisheries Society Reservoir Committee is proud to announce the upcoming

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

Water allocation is one of the leading issues facing fisheries today, and fisheries managers are increasingly required to interact with other professionals including hydrologists, economists, and industry representatives in water conflicts. This symposium will address the challenges of managing reservoir fisheries and habitat in the context of competing water uses. Speakers will address topics such as water allocation, hydroelectric demands, and establishing minimum flows in reservoir tailwaters and streams. The symposium will include not only fisheries managers but experts related to water allocation issues from economic, legal, and watershed-management perspectives.

The symposium will include a series of mini-symposia that address issues of critical need for reservoir habitat management, human dimensions aspects, implications of catch-and-release fishing, stock enhancement, and data analysis and interpretation. Collectively, the symposium

and book that follows will provide a valuable resource for reservoir fisheries managers, anglers, and professionals in fields related to water allocation.

In addition to invited and contributed papers, a free two-hour workshop entitled "Reservoir Habitat Initiative" will be conducted by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and a fantastic dinner social will be held at the new Georgia Aquarium in downtown Atlanta.

So, mark your calendar and join us in Atlanta! Additional information will be available soon via the SDAFS website.

Contact: Vic DiCenzo at Vic.Dicenzo@dgif.virginia.gov

Warmwater Stream Committee

Symposium Announcement and First Call for Papers:
 We are planning a symposium for the Spring Meeting in 2007 on stream and river mitigation. We are inviting speakers for a variety of mitigation topics, such as large river projects, FERC programs, and stream mitigation programs at state and regional levels. We are interested in papers that describe how mitigation programs work administratively and on the ground. We would also like a few papers on innovative restoration projects. If you have a paper that would complement our symposium, then please send an abstract for the committee's consideration to Frank.Fiss@state.tn.us by September 15, 2006.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, CONTINUED

Committee Meeting Announcement: Our next meeting is scheduled for September 26-27, 2006 on the banks of the Duck River in southcentral Tennessee. At this meeting we will produce our symposium program, discuss current stream topics, and explore the aquatic fauna of the Duck River. The Duck River is the most biologically diverse river in North America, and the fishing can be pretty good too.



Duck River, Tennessee

Resolutions Committee

Past Activities: At the February 2005 meeting of the SDAFS the membership passed two resolutions. The first one urged congressional funding for a Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRAA). The second one recommended that all employers of fisheries professionals and students develop comprehensive and ongoing safety training programs.

The LMRAA resolution was sent to 26 Congress members who represent a Mississippi River District in the Lower Mississippi River Valley and to the Governors of Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.

The membership voted to send both resolutions to the AFS Parent Society Resolutions Committee for consideration by all AFS members. The Parent Society Resolutions Committee voted not to submit the LMRAA resolution because it was not considered broad enough under guidelines in the AFS Procedural Manual. The safety resolution was approved for consideration at the 135th Annual AFS Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska and approved by the membership. AFS President Chris Kohler has formed an AFS Safety Committee to promote workshops and courses on safety at AFS meetings.

Current Activities: Every fishery encompasses three essential elements: habitat, aquatic species and people. Any issue that impact those elements may be worthy of a division resolution. Resolutions should be sent to the Chair by Sept. 1, 2006.

The SDAFS Resolutions Committee and members of the Instream Flow Council composed a resolution on instream flow programs for the membership to consider at the 2007 Midyear Meeting. The resolution and a justification for it are printed below. Comments on this resolution should be sent by Sept. 1, 2006 to Dennis Riecke (dennisr@mdwfp.state.ms.us).

Dennis Riecke,
Resolutions Committee Chairman

SDAFS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

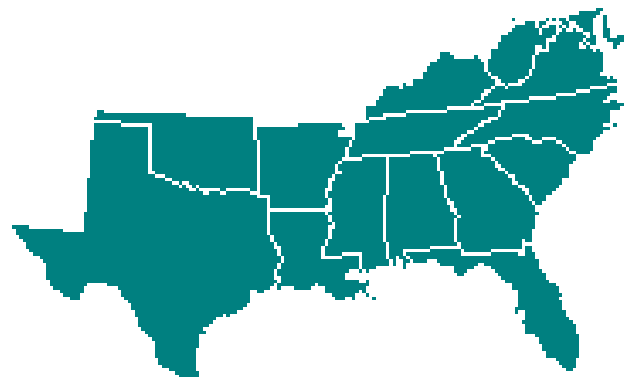
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RESOLUTION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INSTREAM FLOW PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the mission of state fish and wildlife agencies is to conserve, protect, restore, enhance and manage fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for current and future, use, benefit and enjoyment by state residents and visitors, and;

WHEREAS, the mission of state environmental protection agencies is to conserve, manage and provide for wise utilization of the natural resources of the state, and;

WHEREAS, these mission statements are consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine which requires that navigable waters, tide lands, and fish and wildlife resources be managed for the benefit of the state's citizens to ensure long-term sustainability so as to prevent or minimize harm to these resources, whenever possible, and;

WHEREAS, in some cases the state fish and wildlife agency does not have the regulatory authority to issue water use permits and coordination with the state environmental agency regarding water use is necessary to ensure that sufficient instream flow remains for fish and wildlife resources and outdoor recreational pursuits, and;

WHEREAS, the natural flow regime of streams and rivers is inherently variable and this variability is critical to natural ecosystem function and native biodiversity in streams and their associated riparian areas and floodplains, and;

WHEREAS, since some state resource agencies currently recommend instream flows that are a single flow value (e.g. 7Q₁₀) for determining instream habitat needs for aquatic life which is scientifically unjustifiable and should be abandoned, and which is considerably less than the average natural flow of the stream, fails to reflect flow variability and cannot meet the habitat needs for all species nor maintain healthy fisheries, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its annual meeting in February 2007 at Memphis, Tennessee urges the state fish and wildlife and state environmental protection agencies in the Southern Division to commit the necessary staff and financial resources to the development of instream flow protection programs that contain all the elements listed below:



RESOLUTION, CONTINUED

- Use an interdisciplinary approach to conduct instream flow studies that evaluate and prescribe instream flow needs in terms of hydrology, biology, geomorphology, water quality and connectivity. The spatial scope of instream flow studies should encompass the river channel, the riparian corridor and floodplain systems including connected groundwater.
- Use a coordinated, interagency, interdisciplinary team with adequate staff, training and funding to address all instream flow issues that exist under each agency's responsibilities.
- The state fish and wildlife agency should have the primary authority for determining the appropriate instream flow necessary to restore, manage, protect and enhance fish and wildlife resources.
- Commit appropriate fiscal and human resources to maintain or restore flows that reflect the natural seasonal pattern of a riverine hydrographs in terms of intra-annual factors (magnitude, duration, timing, and rate of change) and inter-annual variability (frequency) to maintain or restore the natural ecological function of riverine resources. Instream flow programs and actions should focus on preserving or restoring intact functioning ecosystems rather than on single species.
- Incorporate public input into the decision-making process through direct efforts to inform the public regarding a) how instream flows are administered and the benefits they provide by furnishing information that can be understood by citizens with a limited understanding of biological concepts and terminology and b) the opportunities and limitations afforded by state and federal laws and policies for each state.
- Monitor riverine responses to instream flow recommendations to learn from the experience and where appropriate use adaptive management, to address uncertainty and modify instream flow recommendations in the event goals are not achieved.

Robert L. Curry, President
Southern Division, American Fisheries Society

J. Fred Heitman , President-Elect
Southern Division, American Fisheries Society

Steve McMullin, Vice-President
Southern Division, American Fisheries Society

Gregory L. Summers, Secretary-Treasurer
Southern Division, American Fisheries Society

JUSTIFICATION FOR RESOLUTION

Justification for RESOLUTION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INSTREAM FLOW PROGRAMS

AFS members in the Southern Division states were contacted regarding which methods their state uses to determine instream flows. Eight states provided information.

The information revealed that some states are still using a single flow statistic ($7Q_{10}$) which was designed to identify the volume of water needed to meet point discharge water quality thresholds.

The $7Q_{10}$ is a flow statistic used to simulate drought conditions in water quality modeling to evaluate waste load allocation. The $7Q_{10}$ refers to the lowest average streamflow expected to occur for seven consecutive days with an average frequency of once in ten years and for some streams the $7Q_{10}$ flow is zero. The $7Q_{10}$ drought flow is inadequate to conserve aquatic life or ecological integrity. For most streams, this flow is less than 10% of the average annual flow and can be expected to result in severe degradation of aquatic communities if it becomes the only flow protected in a stream (Tennant, 1976a, 1976b). The $7Q_{10}$ is not an instream flow method. It has often been misused as an instream flow for keeping fish alive.

In some states the state fish and wildlife department does not have the authority to determine instream flows which are set by another state agency.

In some states the agency which determines instream flows does not consult with the state fish and wildlife agency regarding what flows are necessary to maintain and enhance viable aquatic resources.

There are many beneficial uses including fish and wildlife resources which all compete for the right to use streamflow. Instream flows for fish and wildlife should receive equal consideration as any other request for water allocation.

Natural resource managers are faced with the complicated task of protecting and restoring public values while honoring existing uses. To meet this responsibility, managers are challenged to identify appropriate methods to quantify instream flow needs and defend the methods they use and results they obtain. In the absence of a consensus on acceptable protocols and policies, this task has proven difficult for some state fish and wildlife agencies.

In 1998 the Instream Flow Council was formed to provide guidance in developing instream flow programs which resulted in the publication *Instream Flows for Riverine Resource Stewardship* (Annear et. al. 2004). The recommendations contained in that publication comprise the critical elements in this resolution.

Officers and members of the Instream Flow Council have reviewed and edited this resolution.

Literature Cited

Annear, T., I. Chisholm, H. Beecher, A. Locke and 12 other authors. 2004. Instream flows for riverine resource stewardship, revised. Instream Flow Council, Cheyenne, WY.

Tennant, D. L. 1976a. Instream flow regimes for fish, wildlife, recreation and related environmental resources. Fisheries 1(4):6-10.

Tennant, D. L. 1976b. Instream flow regimes for fish, wildlife, recreation and related environmental resources. Pages 359-373 in J. F. Osborn and C. H. Allman, editors. Instream Flow Needs. Bethesda, MD: Special publication of the American Fisheries Society.



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SOUTHEAST AQUATIC RESOURCES PARTNERSHIP & THE SOUTHEAST AQUATIC HABITAT PLAN

WHEREAS, the promotion and implementation of cooperative programs among its members and other entities for the benefit of the fish and wildlife resources and the citizens of the southeastern United States is among the objectives of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society (SDAFS); and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership (SARP) is an organization of resource conservation agencies and other entities dedicated to protecting, conserving, and restoring aquatic resources, including habitats throughout the southeast, for the continued benefit, use and enjoyment of the American people; and

WHEREAS, the intent of SARP is to develop partnerships between state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, and private industry that will extend beyond the boundaries of traditional fisheries management and establish a commitment to work cooperatively for the benefit of aquatic resources; and

WHEREAS, the southeastern United States is a globally important area of aquatic biodiversity that faces multiple threats to the integrity of its aquatic resources; and

WHEREAS, habitat, in its many forms, is one of the most critical components of healthy and functional aquatic ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, SARP, in cooperation with numerous stakeholders and conservation agencies, is developing a Southeast Aquatic Habitat Plan that will identify priorities and critical areas and help guide efforts towards habitat conservation, restoration, and protection on a regional and landscape scale; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Aquatic Habitat Plan will serve as the southeastern regional component of the National Fish Habitat Initiative and Action Plan;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its annual meeting on this 9th day of February in the year 2007, supports the efforts of SARP and the development of the Southeast Aquatic Habitat Plan, and agrees to work cooperatively with SARP when opportunities are present to benefit aquatic resources.

Robert L. Curry, President
Southern Division, American Fisheries Society

J. Fred Heitman , President-Elect
Southern Division, American Fisheries Society

Steve McMullin, Vice-President
Southern Division, American Fisheries Society

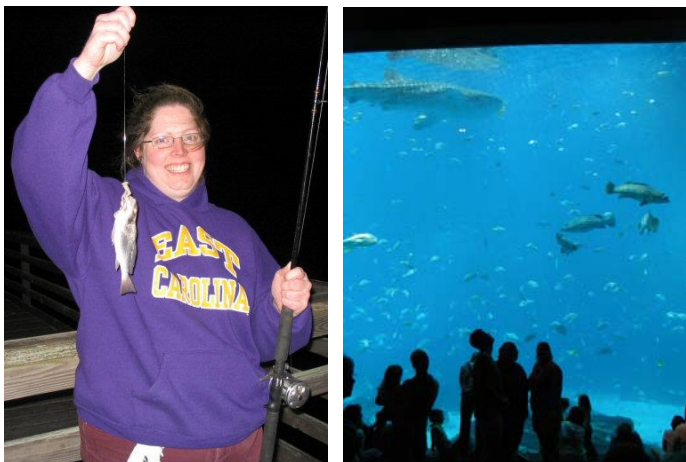
Gregory L. Summers, Secretary-Treasurer
Southern Division, American Fisheries Society

CHAPTER REPORTS

East Carolina University Student Sub-unit

<http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs>

Thirteen members attended the Tidewater Chapter Meeting in January and our own Dr. Anthony Overton assumed the TWC Presidency for 2006-7. Five members gave oral presentations while 4 students authored posters. Jason Clermont took 3rd place in the poster judging. ECU-AFS hosted the 1st Annual "Beer On The Pier" fishing tournament off the hotels abbreviated pier. Twenty-five croaker and 1 black drum were caught. Fun prizes were awarded to all of the fishers and included Most Fish Caught, Best Female Fisher, Most Serious Fisher, Species Diversity for the only non-croaker caught and Glee Club for the spirited non-fishers. ECU-AFS were also tasked with accepting registration and fees for the meeting.



Left: Jenny Woodroffe was the Best Female Fisher at the 1st Annual "Beer on the Pier" fishing tournament.

Right: Alex Barry, Katie Kleber and Becky Deehr at the Georgia Aquarium.

Three members visited the Georgia Aquarium over Spring Break to see the two resident whale sharks, Ralph and Norton. A tunnel leads you into the exhibit and allows fish to swim overhead. The main viewing window is 1620ft² and 2ft thick. Although the sharks are juveniles (16-18'), the tank is the size of a football field and can house them at full adult size (35-40'). They were absolutely beautiful and we highly encourage all AFS members to visit.

April was a very active month for us as the semester wound down. On the 8th, ECU-AFS took on a new challenge, "Catch it on the Fly," a booth at the Grifton Shad Festival. Members were present to give fly casting and fly tying demonstrations and to assist younger participants in fishing in our kiddie pools (for magnetized fish and ducks). This was our first invitation to participate at the

Shad Festival, and we welcome the opportunity to participate again. On the 20th, we hosted a booth at the annual campus carnival, Barefoot on the Mall. We were able to raise money for travel by selling chicken wrap meals and baked goods to the crowd.



Heather Drucker instructs at "Catch In on the Fly" at the Grifton Shad Festival.



Having fun at Barefoot on the Mall.

Overall, it has been an award-winning year for ECU-AFS! In February, we were notified that we were selected Student Subunit of the Year in the Southern Division! We were honored as the Student Subunit of the Year at the Southern Division meeting in February!! Southern Division President Bob Curry attended our End of the Year Celebration on May 4 to personally present us with our plaque. In April, both our organization and presidential leadership were recognized by ECU during the Recognition of Outstanding Leadership and Service Awards cere-

CHAPTER REPORTS

mony. ECU-AFS took the award for Organization of the Year, and President Dee Dee Barry won the Perseverance Award for Adult Student Leadership. We hope to add one more honor to our trophy case, the Outstanding Student Chapter Award, which will be given by the AFS parent society at the annual meeting in Lake Placid, NY this September.



Bob Curry and Dee Dee Barry with the Southern Division Student Subunit of the Year Award.



Chad Smith, Dee Dee Barry and Jenny Woodroffe with the ECU-ROLS Student Organization of the Year and Perseverance Awards

We thank our out-going officers for their dedication throughout the year: President Dee Dee Barry, Vice-President Eric Fitzpatrick (also SGA Representative), Treasurer David Gentry, Secretary Jenny Woodroffe (also SGA Representative) and Historian/Webmaster Chad Smith. Unfortunately, every one of our officers walked in the Spring graduation, so we will miss them next year. Congratulations to our new officers, who obviously have some big shoes to fill: Co-Presidents Becky Deehr and Kelly Register, Vice-President Garry Wright, Treasurer

and SGA Representative Brandon Hendricks, Secretary Jason Clermont and Historian/Webmaster Andrew Gross.

ECU-AFS celebrated the end of the year with good food, friends and families. Spring graduates and past and present officers were honored. We offer our congratulations and best wishes to our graduates:

M.S. in Biology: Dee Dee Barry, David Chagaris, Eric Fitzpatrick, David Gentry, Nick Jones and Chad Smith

B.S. in Biology: Leigh Barnett, Heather Drucker, Kathryn Sugg and Jenny Woodroffe

We are looking forward to another great year for ECU-AFS. We have five members presenting at the 136th Annual AFS Meeting in Lake Placid meeting in September to get our activities started, and hopefully they'll be bringing home an award or two.

Please visit the ECU-AFS website, www.ecu.edu/org/afs, to gain additional information regarding monthly meetings, and upcoming events. You can also take a look at our growing photo album!

If you are interested in attending a meeting, holding a forum with ECU students, or presenting your research, please contact the student subunit!

We look forward to hearing from you!

Dee Dee Barry,
Outgoing President

Becky Deehr and Kelly Register,
Incoming Co-Presidents

Georgia Chapter

<http://www.uga.edu/ugafish/ga-afs/home.htm>

President: Ted Will
Past President: Stephen Patrick
President-Elect: Scott Robinson
Secretary/Treasurer: Don Harrison

The GA AFS Chapter held their annual meeting in Gainesville, GA on January 24-26 of 2006. Membership and participation are both on the rise based on input from our GA Chapter Annual Meeting. There were an outstanding number of student papers. The full agenda flowed smoothly along with the banquet and awards ceremony. The annual raffle was successful in raising over \$1200 for future outreach and sharing of knowledge in the fisheries field.

CHAPTER REPORTS, CONTINUED

The UGA student sub-chapter was recognized for many accomplishments and their assistance to the GA Chapter. The GA Chapter donated \$300 to the UGA student sub-chapter in 2005 to help host a student / professional mixer – this event allows students and professionals in the fisheries field to interact in a relaxed social environment. The GA Chapter also passed a motion to recognize the North Georgia Technical College fisheries club as an official student sub-unit.

2005 Fishery Worker of the Year Award: Tommy Marshal. Tommy is a Fisheries Technician IV with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The award recognized Tommy's exemplary achievements in the field over the past year.

2005 Career Achievement Award: Mike Geihlsler. Mike is a Senior Fisheries Biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. This award recognized Mike's contributions and achievements over his 30+ years with GADNR.

Best student presentation awards: 1st place Justin Bezold, 2nd place Jeffery Ziegeweid, 3rd place Tim Grabowski. Best undergraduate presentation was awarded to Lauren Moss.

Ted Will, President

University of Georgia Student Sub-unit

<http://www.uga.edu/ugafish/>

The UGA Fisheries Society, a subunit of the GA AFS Chapter, has been very active. Following are some of their more notable activities:

- Updated the UGA Fisheries Society webpage,
- Hosted annual Catfish Fry Fundraiser raising over \$2000 – largest attendance ever (~250 people),
- Assisted with the Warnell School of Forest Resources new student welcome lunch,
- Volunteered in a GA DNR Outdoor Adventure Day activity,
- Assisted with draining a Kid's Fishing Event catfish pond,
- Hosted Warnell School of Forest Resources Alumni Social,
- Held monthly meetings with guest speakers, topics included non-game fish species, GIS, and population genetics.

- Maintained electronic listserv with 141 members,
- Made a \$100 donation to the GA River Network,
- Hosted the Williams/United Way Crappie Fishing Tournament and the United Way Kids Fishing Day.

Jeffery Ziegeweid, President

Kentucky Chapter

<http://www.sdafs.org/kyafs/>

The Kentucky Chapter AFS held a joint meeting with the Tennessee Chapter AFS at Paris Landing State Park Inn and Conference Center in Buchanan, TN on 6-8 March. This meeting enabled fisheries professionals from both states to share ideas and strategies for managing fisheries resources. The meeting included technical sessions and many interesting papers were presented. The winner of the best student paper award was Sarah LeGates (Western Kentucky University; WKU) for her paper entitled "Variation in Feeding Performance Relative to Prey Elusivity in the Florida Bass, *Micropterus salmoides floridanus*."

New officers were elected during the annual meeting. Past President Sherry Harrel (Eastern Kentucky University) turned the gavel over to new President John D. Williams (Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources; KDFWR) during the meeting. Dr. Philip Lienesch (WKU) was elected President-Elect and Jeff Crosby (KDFWR) was re-elected to the Secretary/Treasurer post.



2005 Kids Hospice Fishing Event at Pfeiffer Hatchery in Frankfort, KY

Upcoming activities for the chapter include a Hospice Kids Fishing Event at Pfeiffer Hatchery in Frankfort, KY

CHAPTER REPORTS, CONTINUED

on June 13. Each year we have a group of kids come from Louisville Hospice and Palliative Care (http://www.hospices.org/Louisville_and_Rural.htm) to fish for the day. The majority of the kids are cancer patients and this event really brightens their day.

The chapter has also adopted a stream (Elkhorn Creek) in central Kentucky and an "Adopt a Stream Cleanup" is slated for July 2006. Elkhorn Creek is one of the premier smallmouth bass streams in Kentucky.

The Kentucky Chapter is also participating in the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program. KY Chapter member Dave Dreves (KDFWR) has graciously volunteered to mentor a high school student this summer as part of the program. Dave should be commended for his willingness to participate in this worthwhile endeavor.

John Williams, President

North Carolina Chapter

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

The 2006 Annual Meeting of the NCAFS was held January 31 – February 1 at the Summit at Haw River State Park near Greensboro, NC and 73 members attended. There were 15 papers submitted and 3 of those were student presentations. Dr. Greg Cope from NCSU won the Don Baker Best Professional Paper Award and Lori Davias of NCSU won the Rich Noble Best Student Paper Award for her presentation. Dr. Jim Rice of NCSU received the Distinguished Service Award for his work in refining the paper judging criteria for chapter meetings and coordinating scoring so that awards could be presented at the annual meeting where the presentations were given. The NCSU Student Subunit held another successful raffle and we all enjoyed the social on Tuesday night.

The Education and Outreach Committee is busy finalizing their informational brochure entitled "Techniques to Maintain Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems Associated with Waterfront Development in North Carolina". Greg Cope and Bob Barwick have spearheaded this project and the finished product should be out sometime later this year.

The NCAFS is sponsoring and funding a Hutton Scholar for the summer of 2006. Kim Sparks and Tom Kwak have worked diligently to recruit a scholar and to identify work opportunities for the scholar in the Raleigh area this summer. The scholar, Aya Tajiri, is a student at Cary High School in Cary, NC. Aya will participate in many activities with NCSU, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, NC Division of Water Quality, NC Museum of Natural History, Progress Energy, and other entities as opportunities arise.

Also a new program to assist student travel to the AFS Annual Meeting was developed earlier this year. The requirements and an application for the award are now on the NCAFS website. This program will be funded by the Ichthus Fund, which was started several years ago through the donation of an anonymous contributor. John Crutchfield and Greg Cope of the Awards Committee have worked hard to make this an outstanding opportunity for student travel assistance.

Lawrence Dorsey, President

Tennessee Chapter

<http://www.tn-afs.org/>

The Tennessee Chapter – AFS will host the 2007 spring Southern Division meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, and the 2009 national AFS meeting in Nashville. We are very excited about both meetings and working hard to make them successful.

Our 2006 annual chapter meeting was held jointly with the Kentucky Chapter at Paris Landing on Kentucky Lake. We had 110 attendees, 29 presentations and 2 socials. This was an excellent opportunity to meet and interact with neighboring fisheries professionals, as well as, benefit from a very diverse technical agenda. We hope to do this again soon as we had a great time!

Promoting the sport of fishing is a very important issue addressed by our chapter. An auction is conducted at annual chapter meetings to support children's fishing rodeos during free fishing week in Tennessee. The Tennessee Chapter donates approximately \$2,500 annually. In 2005, over 60 events were held across Tennessee accommodating more than 15,000 children. We anticipate a lot of happy children this year, also!

This summer, we plan to address issues regarding our by-laws and incorporate new procedures. We are also actively supporting several environmental resolutions and bills including a "bottle bill" requiring a deposit on all beverage containers in Tennessee and the State Scenic Rivers Act at risk from a proposed construction debris landfill along the scenic Harpeth River.

Student Fisheries Associations

Outreach programs provided by student members included Tennessee Technological University's (TTU) 17th annual kid's fishing derby which accommodated 125 children. Tee shirts, food, bait and trophies provided a lot of smiling faces. Student members at the University of Tennessee (UT) have conducted stream clean-ups around

CHAPTER REPORTS, CONTINUED

Knoxville and are planning their first kid's fishing derby in June.

Student members representing TTU, UT and Middle Tennessee State University provided 10 excellent presentations at our annual chapter meeting. The UT SFA has been busy with lake sturgeon introductions in the upper Tennessee River including tracking movements, population monitoring, and mapping habitat. They are also conducting a recovery project in the Pigeon River reintroducing 12 fish species and documenting survival.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2007 SDAFS meeting in Memphis on February 8 – 11!

Todd St. John, President

Virginia Tech Chapter

<http://filebox.vt.edu/org/vtfa/s/index.htm>

This spring was a busy one with outreach and education events as well as a stream clean-up. The education committee in conjunction with the outreach committee put together a Project WET class that was attended by 20 members. This course gave the chapter the training to teach kids about different aspects of aquatic resources. This training has already been put to work when a group of grade schools came to campus on two days in April. The outreach committee also put together a boat ramp clean up on Claytor Lake. Thanks to John Copeland from VDGIF for helping set up this up. Our streams concerns committee also took part in a restoration/clean up project on a local stream, Cedar Run.

The chapter's biggest event this spring was the 23rd annual Mudbass classic fishing tournament. This annual fishing tournament aimed at giving kids as well as adults an appreciation for natural resources was a huge success. Attendance exceeded 100 people. Thanks to all the hard work that made this event such a success.

We also continued a great speaker series this spring. In February, Tom Kwak from NC State talked about Invasive versus Endangered Fish Species: Can they Coexist? March gave use Mark Kopeny from UVA talking about conservation genetics in Viginia freshwater fishes. And our last speaker in April was John Schmerfeld from the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program who talked about his work in Virginia.

This April, we awarded the Member of the year to Larissa Graham for her continued service to the chapter. Congratulations.

We recently had our own annual meeting at Nellie's Cave Park in Blacksburg, ushering in a changing of the guard. Best of luck to our new officers: Joanne Davis (President), Amy Villamagna (Vice-President), Dave Ferguson (Secretary), and Tom Ivasuaskas (Treasurer).

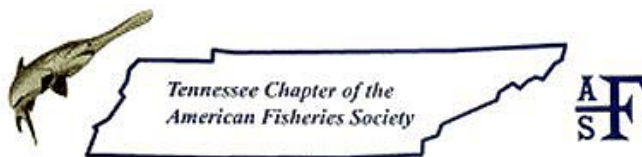
And thanks to Nick King for taking the lead yet again on this newsletter.

Brad Ray, Outgoing President

SPRING MEETING

1st CALL FOR PAPERS

Southern Division Spring Meeting-2007



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". Please submit suggestions for workshops and symposia to Phil Bettoli (PBettoli@ntech.edu) by **1 September 2006**. 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.

HURRICANE RELIEF ACTION PLAN

Southern Division Advances Action Plan For Hurricane Relief

Robert L. Curry
President

Southern Division, American Fisheries Society

On 29 August 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated large portions of Louisiana and Mississippi and caused significant impacts to Alabama, Florida and Texas. Collectively they are considered the largest natural disaster yet to occur in North America. Shortly thereafter, during the 2005 Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) in Anchorage, Alaska, Parent Society AFS President Chris Kohler established the AFS Hurricane Relief Task Force and charged it to develop strategy for addressing professional needs of our fisheries colleagues impacted by the storms. The task force, chaired by Don Jackson (Mississippi Chapter) held its first meeting on 13 January 2006 on the campus of Louisiana State University. This post-Christmas date was scheduled in order to allow fisheries professionals in the impacted region opportunity to deal with personal and professional/agency immediate needs following the 2005 storms, and to move through a very stressful holiday season.

An action plan was drafted during the January task force meeting and, using the organizational structure of the American Fisheries Society, was subsequently presented in February to (1) the joint Annual Meeting of the Louisiana and Mississippi Chapters in Natchez, Mississippi and (2) to the Southern Division during its Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. In order to ensure maximum participation by chapter members during the joint Annual Meeting of the Louisiana and Mississippi chapters, the Southern Division provided travel support for members of the Louisiana Chapter (who otherwise would not have been able to engage in out-of-state travel).

Following guidance from the chapters and the Southern Division, the Action Plan was modified and presented in March to the Parent Society Governing Board during its Mid-year meeting in Bethesda, Maryland. On 11 March 2006, the Governing Board approved the Action Plan.

The Action Plan

1. AFS assigns the Southern Division (SDAFS) with administrative and programmatic responsibilities to implement relief to AFS members in the Gulf Coast region impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
2. Upon approval of the SDAFS leadership, complimentary memberships and online journal subscriptions will temporarily be provided (duration to be determined) to AFS members identified by their respective AFS Chapters as having been impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
3. Upon approval of SDAFS leadership, travel funds to attend AFS annual meetings will be provided to AFS members identified by their respective AFS Chapters as having been impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
4. SDAFS will assist with the establishment, maintenance, and staffing of a program to facilitate linkages between AFS members identified by their respective AFS Chapters as having specific professional and/or programmatic needs resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita with AFS members/units who have resources to address these needs.
5. AFS will provide a maximum of \$30,000 to SDAFS to address the above actions for the period 15 March - 31 December 2006.
6. The AFS Hurricane Relief Task Force, along with the SDAFS, will report to the AFS Governing Board at the annual meeting in Lake Placid in September 2006 on the status of the on-going relief efforts and provide recommendations for future disaster relief programs and actions.

HURRICANE RELIEF ACTION PLAN, CONT.

The task force held its final meeting on 18 May 2006 on the Louisiana State University Campus and, in accordance with the Action Plan and AFS Governing Board directive, transferred the program to the Southern Division. Chapters now have the responsibility of identifying AFS members who need assistance in terms of membership dues, journal subscriptions and travel support to AFS meetings and for forwarding recommendations for assistance to the Southern Division. The Mississippi Chapter will secure storage facilities to warehouse donations earmarked through the distribution program for colleagues needing these materials. The Texas Chapter and Parent Society Computer Users Section is developing the computerized network for matching donations with recipient requests. Don Jackson (Mississippi Chapter) will serve as the interim director for the distributions center and as liaison between chapters and the Southern Division regarding hurricane relief.

Thanks are extended to the following persons who served on the task force:

- Mark Konikoff - University of Louisiana – Lafayette
- Doug Fruge - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (MS)
- Ron Lukens - Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (MS)
- Troy Baker - N.O.A.A. (LA)
- Allen Rutherford - Louisiana State University
- Glenn Thomas - Sea Grant (LA)
- Jill Jenkins - U.S.G.S. National Wetlands Research Center (LA)
- Jack Killgore - U.S.A.C.E. Waterways Experiment Station (MS)
- Mike Buchanan - Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
- Kerwin Cuevas - Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
- Jim Franks - Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (MS)
- Mike Kaller - Louisiana State University
- Jerry Brown - Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
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A CALL TO ACTION

AFS WORKSHOP - NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN

A call to action.

The Directors Line last month focused on the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) and its vision that healthy habitats, healthy fish, healthy people and healthy economies will be achieved through cooperation, investment and stewardship. Healthy waterways and robust fish populations are vital to the well-being of our fisheries. The Clean Water Act is responsible for tremendous gains in improved water quality that have helped fisheries nationwide. Unfortunately, in many waters around the country, fish and the habitats on which they depend are in decline.

Determined to reverse the declines of America's fish habitats, the American Fisheries Society as fisheries professionals along with State and Federal agencies, tribes, foundations, conservation and angling groups, businesses and industries have joined together in support of the NFHAP. This partnership for fish habitat is similar to that undertaken for waterfowl habitat through the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The NFHAP design encompasses five important lessons that emerge from America's past efforts to protect and restore fish habitat: 1) be strategic rather than merely opportunistic; 2) address the causes of, and processes behind, fish habitat decline rather than symptoms; 3) provide increased and sustained investment to allow for long-term success; 4) monitor and be accountable for scientifically sound and measurable results, and 5) share information and knowledge at all levels from local communities to Congress. (fishhabitat.org)

A CALL TO ACTION, CONTINUED

We need your help to improve the NFHAP early in its implementation. You need to better understand this new fish habitat initiative and we need your ideas on implementation. The Fisheries Administration and Fisheries Management sections of AFS, with support from US Fish and Wildlife Service, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and BASS/ESPN Outdoors are conducting a facilitated workshop and concurrent poster session on implementation strategies for the recently approved NFHAP at the upcoming 2006 AFS Annual Meeting in Lake Placid. The Facilitated Workshop – Objectives are: 1) identify issues related to implementation of NFHI that need further development; 2) define components or elements of a successful NFHI partnership (e.g. could be used as criteria for rating candidate partnerships); and 3) identify national or regional partnerships that need to be developed. Representatives from the existing waterfowl and several new fish habitat partnerships will contribute successes and problems they have experiences in their efforts.

The workshop and the poster session is devoted to providing detailed information on relevant existing fish habitat projects (e.g. Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Western Native Trout Initiative, Midwest Driftless Area Fish Habitat Restoration Effort) and waterfowl habitat joint ventures successful under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Results of the workshop will be summarized into a poster which along with the other posters would remain on display as part of the overall meeting poster session to stimulate discussion and interaction throughout the annual meeting in Lake Placid.

The mission of the NFHAP is to protect, restore and enhance the Nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people. The action plan is built the mission related principles of being partnership driven, science based on a landscape scale, non-regulatory, sustained and accountable.

A long-term goal of the action plan is to use and leverage existing funding more effectively and increase funding for Fish Habitat Partnerships nationwide. Already Congressional appropriation of \$1 million to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for fiscal year 2006 for on the ground NFHAP activities and a Presidential budget request to Congress for \$3 million more in fiscal year 2007. Additionally, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has initiated a fundraising drive to support National Fish Habitat Action Plan projects with a goal of \$100 million to use for fish habitat actions called "More Fish" (www.nfwf.org/programs/morefish/)

The NAFAP offers an unprecedented opportunity to meet the challenges of restoring and managing aquatic habitats on a national scale. This vision will result in local actions that yield broad societal and ecological benefits—and more fish! Please attend the NFHAP workshop September 10 in Lake Placid to be part of this important participative event (http://www.afslakeplacid.org/Prog_SymposiaTitles.htm). See you there.

5-15-06 vkm

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Southern Division AFS Business Meeting February 10, 2006 San Antonio Texas

The 2006 SDAFS Business Meeting was called to order at 1720 hrs by President Pat Mazik. It was determined that there was a quorum present. President Mazik introduced Chris Kohler, AFS President, Mary Fabrizio, AFS Second Vice President and Executive Director Gus Rassam. Past SDAFS Presidents were also introduced.

Executive Director Rassam Remarks: The AFS membership database will be much improved and expect completion in the next several months. The Anchorage AFS meeting was the largest annual meeting to date. Lake Placid, New York is the site of the 2006 AFS annual meeting. ASF now has a Mexico Chapter and currently it resides in the Western Division. AFS continues to be active in public policy decision making, more recently in wetland development and the Endangered Species Act. All AFS journals are now electronically available through the AFS Fisheries Database.

President Mazik introduced the other current SDAFS officers; Bob Curry, President-Elect; Fred Heitman, Vice President; Larry Connor, Past President; and Greg Summers, Secretary/Treasurer.

AFS President Kohler's Remarks: Katrina Relief Task Force is being set up within the Southern Division. The annual meeting in Lake Placid should be an excellent venue for the exchange of fisheries information along with superb accommodations.

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES, CONTINUED

Don Jackson was appointed the chair of the Katrina Relief effort by AFS President Kohler. Don reported the accomplishments and the proposed action plan that will be brought forward to the AFS Governing Board in March. The plan included financial as well as logistic support. The action plan will be used as a template for future disaster relief by AFS. Copies of the Task Force Report are available upon request.

Sec./Treas. Summers' Report: The 2005 SDAFS financial Statement was published in the newsletter. SDAFS contributed \$2,500 to each of the Louisiana and Mississippi Chapters to provide travel expenses to a joint chapter meeting that had been planned prior to the hurricane. Minutes from the Virginia Beach Business Meeting were approved.

President-Elect Curry's Report: Chapter reports from the EXCOM Briefing book were summarized. The SDAFS Procedure Manual is being updated and should be completed this year.

President Mazik's Report: The Catfish ad-hoc Technical Committee was elevated by EXCOM to full standing committee status. The Reservoir Committee is planning a 4th North American Reservoir Symposium in Atlanta in June of 2007. Other Technical Committee activities were summarized. Student Affairs Committee reported that 40 students were provided rooms during this meeting and the Committee coordinated a Student/professional Mentor's lunch. The two approved resolutions regarding safety and the lower Mississippi have been posted on the SDAFS website and the safety resolution has been accepted by the parent society. There is a new resolution regarding streams that will be posted on the website this summer for approval next year. Steve McMullin was the newly elected SDFAS Vice President and Tom Kwak was elected as the SDAFS representative to the AFS Nominating Committee.

The 2005 SEAFWA outstanding paper award went to Christopher Racey. Runner-up awards went to Shannon Brewer and Steve Sammons. The best student paper award from the 2005 SDAFS Spring Meeting went to Dan Liepert Second and third place went to Brandon Puckett and Jody Callahan. Best student poster went to Sarah Muffleman. The student sub-unit award went to East Carolina University.

The SDAFS Distinguished Service Award went to Stuart Welsh for his work with the Student Affairs Committee. SDAFS Outstanding Achievement Awards went to Jeff Boxrucker, Dick Luebke, and Larry Wilson. The Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Achievement Award of the Warmwater Streams Committee went to Pete Sakaris. The Robert Jenkins Scholarships of the Reservoir Committee went to Mark Rogers and Bradley Ray.

Under old business President Mazik reported on plans for the 2006 SEAFWA meeting at Norfolk, VA and the 2006 Student Colloquium at Auburn. SDAFS Spring Meeting sites have been approved through 2009.

Under new business the 2006 officers were installed; Bob Curry, President; Fred Heitman, President-Elect; Steve McMullin, Vice President; Pat Mazik, Past President; and Greg Summers, Sec/Treas.

Newly installed President Curry's Remarks: Outgoing Past-President Larry Connor was recognized for his service to the SDAFS as was Pat Mazik for her term as SDAFS President. The plans for 2006 SDAFS activities were briefly reviewed. The SDAFS will work diligently to help with Katrina relief efforts. The SDAFS will go to an electronic ballot for the next election.

The meeting was adjourned at 1834 hrs.

NEWSLETTER STAFF AND INFORMATION

Nick King and Amy Villamagna, editors

Please send submissions by email using MSWord, WordPerfect, or ASCII text format. Report/article pictures should be of good quality (crisp, clear images) and pertain to the written text.

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Editors' note:

Our sdnews@vt.edu account is out of commission, so please send all questions, comments and submissions to f1sh@vt.edu or amv@vt.edu.

Hope you enjoy the refined formatting of the summer edition of SDNEWS!

Nick and Amy, Editors