

# Southern Division News

December 2004



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

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## President's Address

Another Southeastern has passed. Unfortunately I didn't see that many of you there. That is too bad, since this year's southeastern had one of the best fisheries technical sessions in years. Steve Leach and Scott Lamprecht did a great job as program co-chairs and deserve our commendations for their work. So do Pat Mazik and Elise Irwin who organized an interdisciplinary symposium at the Southeastern. This is the first time I can remember where there were concurrent fisheries related sessions at a Southeastern. Let's hope that our efforts over the last few years have finally turned the corner at the Southeastern and the trend will continue.

I'd also like to congratulate the best paper winners from the 2003 Southeastern. I had the honor of presenting the awards at this year's banquet. Jeff Slipke for Auburn University received an honorable mention for the paper, *Exploitation of largemouth bass in Wheeler Reservoir, Alabama, and simulated effects of minimum length regulations*. Mike Maceina also from Auburn was the runner-up for the paper *The response of adult largemouth bass and aquatic plants to application of Aquathol K in Lake Seminole, Georgia*. Finally the John F. Dequine Best Paper went to John Crutchfield, Progress Energy, North Carolina, for the paper, *Ecological changes following an alewife introduction in an oligotrophic reservoir*.

Enough about the Southeastern. I really wanted to tell you about a Society initiative to help recruit members in developing countries. The Society's Governing Board adopted the International Fisheries Section's proposal to create two new membership classes for scientists residing in developing countries. These are a \$5 membership without Fisheries maga-

zine and a \$25 level that includes Fisheies.

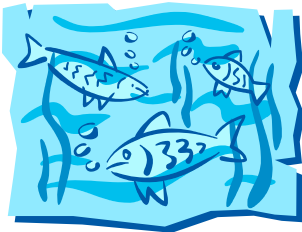
This is a subject that is dear to me. I've been involved in promoting membership in less developed countries since the middle 1990s when the Florida Chapter and Southern Division attempted to organize a Caribbean chapter. The sticking point has always been financial. The international membership initiative is a chance to change this. The reduced cost membership will allow members in developing countries to enjoy many of the benefits of membership, e.g. member registration rate at annual meetings, member price for books. The Society will benefit from international exposure and an injection of new ideas.

Barb Knuth (Society President) and Ira Adelman (Society Past-President) issued a challenge to all Society units to donate to an international membership fund to further defray the cost for potential members in developing countries. I'm proud to say that the Southern Division has stepped to the plate with a \$250 donation to the challenge. I'd like to extend this to the Southern Division's members themselves. I've made a \$25 donation to the international membership fund and I'm issuing a challenge to the membership to help out at whatever level you can afford. You should indicate that your donation is for the international membership fund. This effort will only improve our Society and our profession in the long run.

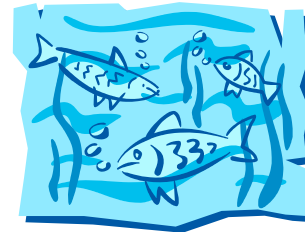
Thanks for your support,

Larry Connor

# SDAFS Executive Committee



Larry Connor, President  
 Pat Mazik, President- Elect  
 Bob Curry, Vice-President  
 Vic DiCenzo, Secretary - Treasurer



## Committee Reports

### Resolutions Committee

The function of the SDAFS Resolutions Committee is to serve the membership by affording them the opportunity to advocate the commonly held or agreed upon viewpoints of fisheries professionals regarding programs, actions, legislation and projects which affect any fishery. Every fishery encompasses three essential elements: habitat, aquatic species and people. Any issue that impacts those elements may be worthy of a division resolution. Therefore, please utilize us! See pages 3-5 for current draft resolutions

Dennis Riecke, Chair

### Striped Bass Committee

On September 14-15, 2004, the Striped Bass Committee held a meeting at Smith Mountain Lake State Park, Virginia. Representatives from eight states and the National Striped Bass Association were present at the meeting. There was a lot of good discussion and catching up on striped bass management in the Southeast.

Although the meeting was cut short due to an approaching hurricane, much progress was made to get the committee active again. Some of the future projects that were proposed and are currently being worked on are a list of the various striped bass resources and contacts across the Southeast, a web page to access the striped bass resource list, a striped bass session for the spring meeting at VA Beach, a striped bass symposium/publication in the next few years, summaries of management practices, and plans for additional meetings.

Progress made during the meeting was encouraging and there was a lot of momentum to continue forward with the committee. Many of the committee members also committed to handle various aspects and needs of the committee. One of the highlights during the meeting

was a chance to get out of the confines of a meeting room and onto the water. Most of the committee members proved that gill netting is not the only way biologists can boat a striped bass!

Dan Wilson, Chair

### Warmwater Streams Committee

The Warmwater Streams Committee thanks those who participated in the silent auction at the Spring Meeting in Oklahoma. The auction raised \$2,176 for the Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award. The Committee greatly appreciates the members of the Oklahoma Chapter who organized the auction and donated an additional \$1,000 from the meeting proceeds. We will continue to build on this strong foundation. Applicants for this year's award must apply by December 15, 2004.

Members from seven states and one university attended our meeting in Asheville, North Carolina on September 28, 2004. The meeting was well attended considering that hurricane Jeanne also arrived in Asheville that day. Our roundtable discussion focused on funding for stream restoration and regulations to prevent exotic introductions. Don Orth gave two excellent presentations on river research in Virginia. We discussed the final plans for distributing our video "Warmwater Streams: A Resource Worth Protecting." Virginia Tech's Extension Service will be handling orders and distribution through their website. It should be up and running soon.

Please attend the next Committee meeting on February 10, 2005 at Virginia Beach. We are about to consider new projects, and we need fresh faces and ideas.

Frank Fiss, Chair-elect

## COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESOLUTIONS

Comments on these resolutions are encouraged and welcomed. Please send your comments and suggestions by **January 31, 2005** to:

Dennis Riecke, SDAFS Resolutions Chair

605 Acorn Lane, Brandon, MS 39047-7457.

Phone:(601) 432-2207; Fax: (601) 432-2203.

E-mail: [dennisr@mdwfp.state.ms.us](mailto:dennisr@mdwfp.state.ms.us)

## RESOLUTION PROTECTING THE NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT AQUATIC NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER ECOSYSTEM

### Facts For Consideration

- A comprehensive fisheries and habitat status and needs assessment has never been conducted on the Lower Mississippi River.
- Since 1989 Congress has funded an Environmental Management Program on the Upper Mississippi River (19 million in FY04)
- For the last 10 years the "Breux Bill" has provided 6-8 million dollars annually for coastal restoration in Louisiana.
- The Corps of Engineers has budgeted 8 million dollars in FY04 to perform the first phase of the Louisiana Coastal Assessment Study.
- The Governors of Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee along with the Secretary of the Army for Civil Works support funding the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment.
- This project has not been funded since FY00 and funding has not been proposed in FY05.
- Flood control interests oppose this funding.
- Conservation Initiative State-Level Planning meetings have been conducted in 5 of the 6 states which have identified hundreds of potential habitat restoration and improvement projects within the leveed flood plain.
- The Lower Mississippi Conservation Committee is publishing a Fisheries Guide to the Lower River to promote public use and appreciation of these resources.
- A 2004 Economic Profile of the Lower River Region revealed that tourism, outdoor recreation and harvest of natural resources annually generate 13.5 billion, 791 million and 436 million dollars, respectively, in the 113 counties in the region.

## RESOLUTION PROTECTING THE NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT AQUATIC NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER ECOSYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River is the fourth largest river in the world and the largest river in North America; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River flows for 954 river miles from the confluence of Illinois and Ohio Rivers at Cairo, Illinois to the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the aquatic natural resources of the Mississippi River are of significant recreational importance to the States of Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley, and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, these resources provide substantial input to the economies of the States of Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, and the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley, and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, many of the Lower Mississippi River Ecosystem's unique aquatic natural resources are in substantial danger of being irreversibly altered or otherwise lost; and

WHEREAS, these nationally significant resources can be preserved and/or restored by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the states in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley working cooperatively; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its assembled at its annual meeting on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year 2005 at Virginia Beach, Virginia urges the States of Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, and the United States Congress to appropriate funding in amount of \$1,750,000 authorized by Section 402 of the Water Resource Development Act of 2000 to be appropriated for conducting the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment.

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Larry Connor, President  
Southern Division,  
American Fisheries Society

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Pat Mazik, President- Elect  
Southern Division,  
American Fisheries Society

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

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Vic DiCenzo, Secretary-Treasurer  
Southern Division,  
American Fisheries Society

## RESOLUTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR FISHERIES PERSONNEL

WHEREAS, fisheries workers often perform field sampling subject to extreme weather conditions;

WHEREAS, fisheries workers may use hazardous chemicals, entanglement gear, electricity, mechanical equipment, and power tools in the course of their job duties;

WHEREAS, fisheries workers frequently trailer and work with boats, which are confined work environments often crowded with sampling gear;

WHEREAS, fisheries workers may be required to dive underwater to collect biological information;

WHEREAS, formal comprehensive safety training programs are standard in the private sector, these companies have recognized the importance of these programs and provide adequate staff and funding to ensure proper safety training of their employees;

WHEREAS, there are state and federal laws that require that employers to provide a safe work environment to minimize situations and employee actions which could result in serious bodily harm, disability and death and employers have stated their intention to provide such in their safety policies;

WHEREAS, employees are the most important resource of any company/agency/institution and that the mental and physical health of each employee affects their ability to contribute to the mission of their employer;

WHEREAS, we live in a litigious society and state agencies may not be subject to protection from wrongful death and other lawsuits due to absence of sovereign immunity;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its annual meeting on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year 2005 at Virginia Beach, Virginia strongly recommends that all employers of fisheries professionals and students commit the necessary staff and financial resources to the development of comprehensive and on-going safety training programs that address all hazardous aspects of assigned job duties.

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Larry Connor, President  
Southern Division,  
American Fisheries Society

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Pat Mazik, President- Elect  
Southern Division,  
American Fisheries Society

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

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Vic DiCenzo, Secretary-Treasurer  
Southern Division,  
American Fisheries Society

# Interested In A Committee?

Pat Mazik and I are and will be looking for members on a number of committees. Participating on a committee is a great way to get involved with the Division and, like the Marines; we're looking for a few good members. So, if you are interested in serving on a committee, please return this to me as soon as you can. Remember that many of the members of the technical committees are recommended by their agencies, universities, etc. You don't need to respond if you have been appointed by your agency, only if you wish to be an at large member.

Larry Connor

Return to: Larry Connor  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
601 W Woodward Ave  
Eustis, FL 32726

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Technical Committees

- Aquaculture \_\_\_\_\_
- Catfish \_\_\_\_\_
- Instream Flow \_\_\_\_\_
- Nongame Aquatics \_\_\_\_\_
- Pollution \_\_\_\_\_
- Reservoir \_\_\_\_\_
- Small Impoundments \_\_\_\_\_
- Striped Bass \_\_\_\_\_
- Trout \_\_\_\_\_
- Warmwater Streams \_\_\_\_\_

### Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

- Awards \_\_\_\_\_
- Nominating \_\_\_\_\_
- Resolutions \_\_\_\_\_
- Student Affairs \_\_\_\_\_

# Chapter Reports

## East Carolina University Student Sub-unit <http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs>

Greetings from East Carolina University. The end of the academic year saw the commencement of ECU-AFS members, Jennifer Cudney and Charlton Godwin, who graduated with Master's Degrees in Biology. A majority of our members remained on campus during the summer to continue their research while some ventured elsewhere to prolong their interest in fisheries biology. Vice President Ingrid Coulson completed an internship in Virginia while Co-Historian Stephen Hughes continued his work at Carolina Catfish Farm. ECU-AFS members Deirdre "Dee Dee" Barry and David Chagaris traveled to Belize to continue their research in tropical marine ecology. Past Vice President Chad Coggins along with other ECU-AFS members continued their work with LMGNOP (Large Mesh Gill Net Observer Program).

Throughout the summer, ECU-AFS participated in multiple ECU Orientation Organizational Fairs. The objective of this event was to present incoming ECU students with information on a variety of campus organizations. ECU-AFS representatives presented a display depicting a pictorial five-year history, along with listed goals and activities of our organization. ECU-AFS also participated in a similar event, Get-A-Clue, which was held on September 22, 2004 in central campus plaza.



*Leah Brinson advertises ECU-AFS during the ECU Orientation Organizational Fair.*

ECU-AFS conducted its first business meeting for the 2004-2005 academic year on September 1, 2004. Twenty-five people attended this meeting and were welcomed to many new faces. Skip Kemp, who works with the Aquaculture Technology Program from Carteret Community College in Morehead City, North Carolina, spoke about his experiences in the field of aquaculture.

During the month of September, a representative from ECU Volunteer Services spoke to members about how to become actively involved in community service projects, whether through an organization or on an individ-

ual basis. Peace Corps representative Angela Moore provided students with information about the program, which involves everyday people traveling overseas to influence the lives of others. Both meetings were open to all students in the ECU Department of Biology.



*ECU-AFS members at the 134<sup>th</sup> Annual AFS Meeting. L-R: Chad Smith, Dr. Roger Rulifson, Charlton Godwin, Dee Dee Barry, Dr. Anthony Overton, Jen Cudney and Dr. Joe Luczkovich*

Big Sweep was held on October 2, 2004. ECU-AFS continued its annual tradition by assisting in the cleanup of Green Mill Run, which is the watershed that runs through ECU campus. Eighteen volunteers collected over 2000 items in a three-hour period. Pitt County Recycling provided lunch at Town Commons for all 180 volunteers cleaning the Tar River watershed. The best "feel-good" item found was a woman's purse, which was stolen from an ECU geology professor two years ago. The following week, ECU-AFS conducted its second business meeting which featured James Morris (Past President of the Tidewater Chapter and ECU-AFS alumni) presenting on the reproductive biology of the invasive lionfish in the Western Atlantic.



*Some of the trash and participants from Big Sweep 2004.*

# Chapter Reports, continued

In November, ECU-AFS alumni Blake Price visited ECU to talk with members about fishery management and how to work with the commercial industry. ECU-AFS also migrated "South" this November to Marineland, Florida to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Colloquium. Three ECU-AFS members attended this student conference. Graduate student, Eric Fitzpatrick, presented his research activity during the poster session.

Currently, ECU-AFS is preparing for its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Banquet, which is scheduled for December 3, 2004. Over 100 invitations have been sent to fishery professionals from a variety of local agencies along with alumni and friends of ECU-AFS. Roland Griffin will serve as our guest speaker and will be giving a talk titled, "Fisheries in Australia's Top End - An Upside Down View of the Fishy World!" ECU-AFS will also be featuring a poster session, which will showcase research activity from members and the ECU Department of Biology.

If you are interested in attending a meeting, holding a forum with ECU students, or presenting your research, please contact ECU-AFS! We look forward to hearing from you! For more information about ECU-AFS, please visit our website, <http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs>

Chad Smith, President

## Louisiana Chapter

The Louisiana Chapter's annual meeting in Baton Rouge Feb. 3rd and 4th, 2005, is going to include a focus on extension, outreach, and education. The Chapter is moving in a direction to officially serve the public, fisheries professionals, and educators in matching information with needs. The Louisiana meeting will concur with past genres, in highlighting and supporting student work, and in the legendary crawfish boil.

Jill Jenkins

## North Carolina Chapter

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

In February, 2005, the NCAFS and the NC Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) will hold a joint meeting at The Summit in Greensboro, NC. Meeting dates are February 8-9 and the theme is "*Fisheries and Wildlife Management in Riparian Systems: Where Wet and Dry Meet*". This joint meeting will feature continuing education workshops,

keynote speakers, contributed papers, and technical sessions. A fisheries continuing education workshop will be presented by Doug Dixon, Electric Power Research Institute, on the topic of the 316b rule for fish impingement and entrainment at cooling water intakes.

A joint technical session on management in riparian systems will feature keynote addresses by **Sam Pearsall**, Director of Science for the NC Nature Conservancy, and **Andy Dolloff**, coldwater fisheries research unit leader at Virginia Tech. Contributed papers on management in riparian systems will be featured in the joint technical sessions. A combined evening social will feature food and beverage, raffles and drawings, and lots of fun and good fellowship.

Separate technical sessions on broad fisheries- and wildlife-related topics will follow on the second day. As usual, the NCAFS will honor the best student and professional fisheries papers with awards. Following the technical sessions, both societies will hold their annual business meetings in the afternoon. The NCAFS typically raffles several AFS memberships for students and young professionals at their business meeting.

We invite you to attend! Please contact Duane Harrell [rdharrel@duke-energy.com](mailto:rdharrel@duke-energy.com), NCAFS President-Elect and Program Chair, if you have questions or desire to contribute a paper. The NCAFS Newsletter also offers a host of information related to the 2005 Annual Meeting and fishery-related topics in NC; it can be found at <http://www.sdafs.org/ncafs/Newsletters.htm>.

Mallory Martin, President, and  
Dave Coughlan, Chapter Newsletter Editor

## South Carolina Chapter

The South Carolina Chapter of AFS held a successful joint meeting with The South Carolina Fishery Workers Association (SCFWA) at the Belle W. Baruch facility Near Georgetown SC on February 2 and 3rd. A total of 61 registrants and 21 presentations, including five by students were given on a variety of important topics in South Carolina. The SCAFS Chapter held its annual business meeting and elections during this event. Leo Rose assumed the Chapter presidency, Marcel Reichert became President-elect, and Jason Moak was reelected secretary-treasurer. Chris Thomason was recognized for his outstanding service during his tenure as President. Plans for the 2005 meeting are underway. The SCAFS Chapter will again cohost the annual meeting with SCFWA at Clemson University on February 7-8, 2005. The annual business meeting will be held at this time.

## Chapter Reports, continued

The Bayless Award was created in honor of Jack W. Bayless, to recognize the best South Carolina presentation/paper given at each annual chapter meeting. Each year, volunteer judges evaluate all the presentations. This year Steve Leach was announced as the winner of the 2003 Bayless Award. The award was for Steve's presentation titled "Beneficial effects of increased river flow and upstream fish passage on anadromous alosid stocks", which he gave on February 3, 2003. Congratulations Steve.



*Steve Leach receiving The Bayless Award from, Leo Rose*

The SC Chapter also presents the SC Fisheries Conservationist of the Year Award annually to the outstanding person, business, etc. that promotes the conservation of fisheries resources. This award recognizes outstanding aquatic stewardship. Dr. John Mark Dean, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences and Marine Science at the University of South Carolina, was presented with the Fishery Conservationist of the Year Award by the South Carolina Chapter of AFS this year. Dr. Dean helped establish the Baruch Institute and the Marine Science program at USC. He is an international researcher, regularly collaborating with colleagues in Japan, Italy, France, Netherlands and Turkey. He was also a founding member of the SC Chapter of AFS and SC Fisheries Workers Association. His work as educator and researcher has overseen 40 successful graduate students.

The SC Chapter's website is now being actively maintained and contains up-to-date information about Chapter events, outreach activities and organization information. The website can be found at <http://www.scafs.org/>. The SC Chapter also produced a summer and winter edition of their newsletter, the Palmetto Pisciforum. The

current newsletter and archived newsletters are available on our website.

The Clemson sub-unit reported a busy year. On April 1, they held their Spring Social that included venison cooked Cajun style and a bonfire. Their second Kid Fish was held on March 28. They hosted approximately 30 kids from Helping Hands, the local shelter for abused and neglected children, for a day of fishing and a hot dog lunch. Everyone caught a fish and had a great time on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. They have continued their charity work with Helping Hands through providing labor and services when called upon for various activities. Membership is up thanks to participation of students from the biological sciences and environmental toxicology that are working with fish, aquatic animals, and aquatic ecology. The Clemson sub-unit website is now complete thanks to Tim, and can be found at [www.clemson.edu/~csafs](http://www.clemson.edu/~csafs).

Leo Rose, President

### Tennessee Chapter

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

As many of you know, a Southern Division AFS state will be hosting the national AFS meeting in 2009. During this past summer, the TN Chapter, with support from the Nashville Convention Bureau, invited the Parent Society to hold the 139<sup>th</sup> AFS Annual Meeting in Nashville in 2009. However, other states may also express their interest in hosting the event, and the AFS decision will be made at the annual meeting in Anchorage next summer.

Dave Rizzuto continued working with the Southern Division AFS and various businesses in Memphis in preparation for the Southern Division's Spring Meeting in 2007.

Planning began for the 28<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Tennessee Chapter. It will be held March 8-9, 2005, at Fall Creek Falls State Park, near Spencer, TN, a popular place for state meetings. For more information, please visit the TN Chapter's web site.

The Chapter sent letters to the state's nine congressmen to the US House of Representatives urging their support of Fisheries Forever - National Fishery Mitigation Coordination Act (H.R. 4383) bill.

Over the past year, the Tennessee Chapter passed a resolution to the Fish and Wildlife Service supporting the Service's designation of portions of the French Broad

# Chapter Reports, continued

and Holston rivers in east TN and Shoal Creek in south-west TN and northern AL as "nonessential, experimental populations (NEP)," which will allow the reintroduction of artificially-reared, federally endangered mussel and fish species. Recent water quality improvements in these stream segments led to this special status. The goal of NEP status is to assist in the eventual delisting of species from the federal endangered species list. The resolution was sent to FWS offices in Atlanta, GA, and Arlington, VA.

Ed Scott, President

## Tidewater Chapter

The Tidewater Chapter, with representatives from Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina, held their summer EXCOM meeting at the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS) in Gloucester Point, Virginia on August 30, 2004. There, we learned from our Secretary and Treasurer Wes Patrick that our chapter is 97 members strong, with 23 of these members being students. This fall, we held a special election for President-Elect due to the resignation of Mr. Chip Long. We feel very fortunate to have elected a new President-Elect with an interesting and varied fisheries background, Hank Brooks. Hank has a B.S in Wildlife and Fisheries Management from Frostburg State University located in western Maryland. He has since worked in Michigan, Pennsylvania and California. His current position is at VIMS studying juvenile finfish, blue crabs and striped bass. The Tidewater Chapter will hold its annual meeting in Virginia Beach, Virginia in conjunction with the 2005 Southern Division Spring Meeting, 10-13 February 2005. Hank is organizing a separate Tidewater Chapter Marine Symposium to be held concurrently with the other submitted talks. The TWC is proud to announce its new ListServe which was started and is being managed by Roger Rulifson of East Carolina University (ECU). To subscribe, send an email to: [listserv@ecumail7.ecu.edu](mailto:listserv@ecumail7.ecu.edu) and enter SUBSCRIBE TIDEWAFS in the body of the email. Bravo to Roger for a job well done! In closing, I speak for the Tidewater Chapter in saying that we look forward to interacting with other Southern Division members at the 2005 meeting in Virginia Beach!

Ann M. Barse, President

## Virginia Tech Chapter

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

This year, VT-AFS is focusing on its four major missions and what specifically we can do to achieve them. They are 1) forward fisheries science, 2) conserve aquatic ecosystems, 3) promote professional development, 4) and serve the community. Though the year is young, here is what we have in progress:

We address aquatic science issues primarily through our Science and Conservation Committee. The Committee will assist USFS biologists in deciding how best to use fish endemism and biomonitoring data in the George Washington National Forest Plan. The Committee will also provide written comment on recent proposed changes to the appeals process for dam owners during FERC re-licensing.

Our Stream Concerns Committee accomplishes most of our aquatic conservation, and has had a busy summer and fall. In June, several members surveyed the fish community of Spruce Run (New River drainage), at 10 sites evenly spaced between the source and mouth of the stream. Spruce Run was one stream sampled in the 1930's during Eugene Odum's classic study of longitudinal fish community succession in streams. Our results showed a dramatic shift in the fish community during the intervening 70 years: of the 20 species recorded from the stream, only five species were recorded both in the 1930's and in 2004. We plan to re-sample additional streams in summers to come. In September, several members responded to a Tazewell County citizen's request to evaluate the effects of a coal slurry discharge into Mud Lick Creek (Clinch River drainage). We saw no effect of the discharge on the fish or invertebrate community, and actually found a rare, undescribed dace (*Phoxinus* sp. cf. *P. saylori*) at the site. The Committee conducted its annual biomonitoring survey of the fish community within and downstream of a reach of Stroubles Creek (New River drainage) that we restored in the mid-1990's. Finally, we applied for a citizen water quality monitoring grant from VA DEQ for a pilot fish biomonitoring project in the Tom's Creek basin (New River drainage).

We've had several avenues for professional development so far. Our first invited speaker was resident sage John Ney – he described his vision for how the fisheries profession has changed over the past 40 years, and how it will change in the future. Phil Bettoli then came and spoke about the biological, social, and economic ramifications of the paddlefish caviar trade, and its fishery management in the Tennessee. Our next speaker is Bud LaRoche of VDGIF. We will provide students with free transportation to the Southern Division meeting,

## Chapter Reports, continued

and expect a huge crowd. We had a pharyngeal-teeth-pulling and minnow-ID workshop hosted by Bob Jenkins, a webpage-development workshop hosted by our own web gurus, and will have a CPR/First-Aid certification session. Finally, as both a development and a social venue, many AFS members took a van to the incredible Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga.

We have two committees specifically geared toward public service, Mudbass and Outreach. The Mudbass Committee is busy planning our long-standing carp fishing tournament for the spring. In September, the Outreach Committee put together and delivered an interactive fish adaptation activity for 4<sup>th</sup> graders. In October, members taught a class of Roanoke high-schoolers about water quality monitoring using fishes and invertebrates. Plans to make this an annual event are in the works.

Last but not least, the unsung heroes who help to fund all of these activities are the members of the Fundraising Committee, whose major contribution this fall will be the raffle of a football signed by VT football coach Frank Beamer, donated to us by the VT bookstore. Also keep an eye out for new t-shirts, which are in the works. See you in Virginia Beach!

Jamie Roberts, President

### **West Virginia University Student Subunit** <http://www.forestry.caf.wvu.edu/wvuafs/>

The current officers were voted into office mid February and will hold only a year in their present appointment. In March, WVAFS and the Wildlife Society co-hosted their annual wild game dinner at the WESTVACO center. Students participated by presenting and working the AV

equipment. In September, we began to raise funds for the student colloquium in November by having two bake sales. We also had presentations by three of our undergraduate members, Lora Tennent, Missy Gamber, and Megan Moyers, at our regular meetings. In October, the student subunit volunteered at the Water Festival, which was hosted by a local nonprofit group called Friends of the Cheat. It was at Aurora Elementary in Aurora, WV for kids K-6. Fish anatomy and habitat use were taught by our volunteers and the kids got a hands on look at stream communities. The student chapter also volunteered at the Carp Festival, which was hosted by another local nonprofit group called Friends of Decker's Creek. It was at Marilla Park in Morgantown, WV. Fish were collected and displayed in aquaria for the public to see. Fish communities and habitat use were taught by our volunteers. The following week volunteers helped the Friends of Decker's Creek with their stream survey of Decker's Creek by helping to shock and work up fish. There were a total of 13 sites along Decker's Creek that volunteers are still helping to survey. A presentation was given by Bill Knapp at one of our regular meetings on "The Increasing Role of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Research". In November, we've had two speakers at our regular meetings. Janet Clayton from the WVDNR spoke at our last meeting about "An Introduction to Freshwater Mussels". Dave Smith from the USGS Science Center at Leetown, WV will speak at our next meeting this Wednesday about "The Horseshoe Crabs of Delaware Bay: An Arthropod with a lot on it's back". Our last meeting of the semester will be on December 1<sup>st</sup> and we're going to have a slide show of the student colloquium that 16 of our members attended from November 5-7.

Heather Hildebrand , President



# Fall EXCOM Meeting Minutes

President Larry Connor called the EXCOM Meeting to order at 0821. Secretary/Treasurer Vic DiCenzo determined there was a quorum present. Scott Van Horn was present as North Carolina Chapter proxy. Attendees introduced themselves. Larry Connor introduced past presidents Fred Harris and Scott Van Horn.

**AFS Past President's Remarks:** Fred Harris mentioned that the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biologist Program needs continued financial support. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been the biggest contributor but their future support is uncertain. Fred Harris also reminded everyone about the Fisheries Conservation Foundation; outreach projects are underway to create easily understood publications on critical fisheries conservation issues for politicians and other groups.

**President's Remarks:** Larry Connor announced the new International AFS membership, which costs \$25 (excluding *Fisheries* magazine). The SDAFS has contributed \$250 toward the new membership. A bylaws change is being worked on that would allow the SDAFS to have electronic voting for its officers. This change should be ready for voting at the 2005 Spring meeting so that it can be taken to the AFS Governing Board meeting in March. The creation of an ad hoc fish health technical committee has been discussed. A symposium may be organized for the 2005 Spring meeting.

**President-Elect's Remarks:** Pat Mazik stated that the Program Committee reviewed 36 papers for the Southeastern. This Southeastern marked the first time that the previous years Proceedings were available. Arnie Eversole and the entire editorial staff deserve a great deal of appreciation for the quick turn-around time. Pat also mentioned that few people are submitting case histories to the Southeastern and this probably needs to be promoted better. The 2004 Southeastern also had an interdisciplinary symposium, organized by Elise Irwin.

**Vice President's Remarks:** Larry Connor mentioned that Bob Curry has been working on the bylaws change for electronic voting and also updating the Procedures Manual and getting it on the web site.

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report:** Vic DiCenzo reported that the SDAFS proceeds from the 2004 Spring meeting were about \$8,886.04, the largest profit from any spring meeting. The balance as of October 28, 2004 was \$27,015.65. The 2005 budget was presented to the EXCOM. Pat Mazik made a motion to accept the budget and it was seconded by Vic DiCenzo. The motion passed. A motion was also made to approve the EXCOM minutes from the 2004 Spring Meeting in Oklahoma City. The motion passed without discussion.

**Resolutions Committee:** President Connor, speaking on behalf of Dennis Riecke (Resolutions Committee Chair) said that the committee is working on a resolution to support the Lower Mississippi River Initiative and a second resolution on safety (pages 3-5). These resolutions will be discussed in greater detail at Virginia Beach.

**Reservoir Committee:** Mike Colvin mentioned that the Reservoir Committee has begun planning the next Reservoir Symposium, scheduled for June, 2007 in Atlanta, Georgia. A book will be published from the presentations similar to previous reservoir symposia.

**Student Affairs Committee:** Stuart Welsh said that lodging was provided for 40 students at the Oklahoma City Spring Meeting. Student involvement and support continues to be excellent.

**Florida Chapter:** report stands as written in briefing book.

**Georgia Chapter:** report stands as written in briefing book.

**North Carolina Chapter:** report stands as written in briefing book.

**West Virginia Chapter:** report stands as written in briefing book.

**Mail Ballot Committee:** New SDAFS officers are Fred Heitman (Vice President), Greg Summers (Secretary-Treasurer), and Hal Schramm (SD Representative to the Nominating Committee).

**SEAFWA Proceedings:** Fisheries Editor, John Galvez mentioned that students are now being used as reviewers to give students experience in the editorial process.

**2005 Spring Meeting:** Virginia Beach is hosting the 2005 Spring Meeting, 10-13 February. Vic DiCenzo mentioned that the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for papers has been sent out and that abstracts are due December 1. The registration forms for the meeting and free student housing are on the web as well as hotel/travel information. Four symposia and four workshops are scheduled. To date, the Virginia chapter has received \$10,500 in donations. The Southern Division business meeting will be Friday (430-600 PM) before the social to accommodate more technical presentations. On Saturday morning, John Ney will be the primary plenary speaker. All meeting information is available on the web site.

**New Business:** Scott Van Horn said he thinks there is a need for a genetics workshop for fisheries managers,

## Fall EXCOM Meeting Minutes Continued

i.e., what do state fisheries biologists need to know and need to collect for a better understanding of population and conservation genetics. The EXCOM agreed and encouraged pursuing this workshop at the 2006 SDAFS Spring Meeting in San Antonio.

hosting the 2008 SDAFS Spring Meeting.

The EXCOM meeting adjourned at 0947.

Pat Mazik stated that the West Virginia Chapter will be

## Southern Division Spring Meeting Information

### 2005 SOUTHERN DIVISION AFS ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Virginia Beach, Virginia  
February 10-13, 2005

#### Meeting Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name Shown on Badge: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse (if applicable)  
 Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ Student (circle one) Y N  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Meeting Registration:

Early Registration (before January 20, 2005) \$85.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Registration (January 20 and later) \$105.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Social Tickets (both Friday and Saturday) \$???.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Workshops (OPTIONAL): Friday, February 11, 2005**

Catfish Ageing Time \$???.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Leadership in State Agencies 1:00pm-5:00pm \$???.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Freshwater Mussel ID Time \$???.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Parasitic Copepods in Striped Bass Time \$???.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Student Workshop Time FREE

#### **Student Mentor Lunch** (Saturday, February 12):

(check if you would like to participate and circle interests/profession)

a. Mentor \_\_\_\_\_ Profession: (academia, state agency, federal agency, private firm, etc.)

b. Student \_\_\_\_\_ Interest: (grad school, state agency, federal agency, private firm, etc.)

**Note:** Abstracts will be available for download from the meeting web site

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Cash, checks and money orders made payable to Virginia Chapter AFS (Tax I.D. #52-1754413)

Return completed form and payment to:

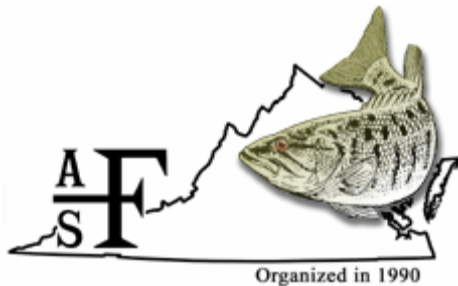
SDAFS Spring Meeting, c/o Mike Odom, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery, 11110

Kimages Road, Charles City, VA 23030

Phone: (804) 829-2421 FAX: (804) 829-6067

Email: Michael\_Odom@fws.gov

# Southern Division Spring Meeting-2005



The Virginia Chapter and Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society invite you to join us in Virginia Beach, VA at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center for the 2005 Southern Division Spring Meeting, 10-13 February, 2005.

## Hotel and Registration Information

Room rates are \$55 per night for single and double occupancy, \$65 for triple occupancy and \$75 for quad occupancy. Rooms must be reserved by **14 January 2005** to receive this rate and guarantee availability. Contact the hotel at 757-481-9000 or 800-468-2722 for registration information. State you are with the **American Fisheries Society**. For more information on the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center, visit their website at <http://virginiabeachresort.com>.

**Meeting registration forms** can be downloaded off the meeting website (<http://faculty.virginia.edu/vcafs/meetings.html>). Meeting registration is \$85 for students and professionals prior to 20 January 2005 and \$105 thereafter. Students seeking free accommodations should download the form off the [meeting website](#). Students applying for reimbursement of registration costs by working at the meeting should contact Steve Reeser ([sreeser@dgif.state.va.us](mailto:sreeser@dgif.state.va.us)).

## Submission Procedures for Presentations and Posters

Presentations will be scheduled for 20 minutes (15-min presentation and 5 min for questions, which will be strictly enforced. Media for presentations is Microsoft PowerPoint only. Abstracts should be a 200-word (or less) statement of objectives, principal results and conclusions. All abstracts must be submitted on-line at <http://www.sdafs.org/abstracts/>. Abstracts for symposia and contributed presentations, as well as posters are due by **1 December 2004**. If your presentation is part of a symposium be sure to acknowledge on the abstract submission form. For additional information contact Vic DiCenzo, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 1700 South Main St., Farmville, VA 23901; (434) 392-9645; [vdicenzo@dgif.state.va.us](mailto:vdicenzo@dgif.state.va.us).

# Southern Division Spring Meeting-2005

## Schedule of Events:

- ∅ **Thursday 10 February**-Technical Committee Meetings
- ∅ **Friday 11 February**-Southern Division EXCOM Meeting; Southern Division Business Meeting; Continuing Education Workshops, Student Social at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center
- ∅ **Saturday 12 February**-Plenary Session, Symposia and Technical Sessions, Poster Session, Social at the Virginia Marine Science Museum
- ∅ **Sunday 13 February (ending at noon)**-Symposia and Technical Sessions, Poster Session

## Workshops:

- Catfish aging – Dr. Elise Irwin and Dave Buckmeier
- Mussel ID - Steve Rider
- Striper Parasitic Copepods - Dan Wilson and Dr. Tom Shahady
- Student workshop (2-hour workshop; details not yet available) - Stuart Welsh
- Leadership in state agencies – Dr. Steve McMullin

## Symposia:

- Defining A Catch and Release Research and Education Model (Drs. Gene Wilde and Jon Lucy)
- Striped Bass Management (Dan Wilson, SDAFS Striped Bass technical committee and Dr. Tom Shahady)
- Asian Carp (Anita Kelly, AFS Fish Culture Section)

## ATTENTION STUDENTS

The SDAFS Student Affairs Committee will reserve a block of rooms for free student lodging during the Spring meeting in Virginia Beach. Free student lodging will be for two nights: February 11 and 12, 2005. To maximize occupancy, four students of the same gender will share each room. Application deadline is January 20, 2005.

The SDAFS Spring meeting provides an excellent opportunity for students to develop their professional skills. In addition to technical sessions addressing a variety of fisheries related issues, there are a number of workshops addressing specific topics, including a Friday afternoon workshop by Steve McMullin titled "Leadership in State Agencies". Take advantage of these opportunities.

If you are interested in obtaining free lodging, send your name, address, contact phone number, e-mail address, school, gender, status (graduate or undergraduate), AFS member number (located on your FISHERIES mailing label), and a statement about why you wish to attend the meeting to:

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

In the event that requests exceed the number of spaces available, the following criteria will be used to determine those receiving rooms:

1. Is the applicant presenting a paper or poster?
2. Is the applicant a member of AFS?
3. Is the applicant an undergraduate or graduate?
4. What was the date of the room request?

## Newsletter Staff and Information

Brad Ray and Nick King, editors

Jamie Roberts, Adrienne Averett, and  
Than Hitt, Reviewers

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.

Contact Information:  
Southern Division Newsletter Editor  
100 Cheatham Hall, Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0321  
Email: [baray@vt.edu](mailto:baray@vt.edu) or [niking1@vt.edu](mailto:niking1@vt.edu)

Editors' note:

A special thanks to Adrienne Averett, past newsletter editor, for her assistance in creating this newsletter. Our [sdnews@vt.edu](mailto:sdnews@vt.edu) account is temporarily out of commission, so please send all questions, comments and submissions to [baray@vt.edu](mailto:baray@vt.edu) or [niking1@vt.edu](mailto:niking1@vt.edu).

Hope you enjoy the winter edition of SDNEWS.

Brad and Nick, Editors

