

Southern Division News

Summer 2004



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

President's Address

There has been a lot of discussion here, and in other forums, about the impending retirement drain of experienced biologists and the potential leadership gap it will cause in the agencies and in the Society. Jeff Boxrucker made this a theme of his presidency and the leadership development training and workshops he helped develop have been taken to the Society level. The discussion typically concerns how this will affect the profession, the employers, and the Society. How will agencies handle the loss of a substantial portion of their experienced managers? Who will step into leadership roles in the Society? I was reminded of this when I participated recently in a survey Dr. Steve McMullin conducted for the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to evaluate the agencies recruitment and training needs in the near future.

Sometimes it takes a fresh look to see the obvious. My wife and I attended the Student Colloquium at West Virginia University last fall. She and I came away energized by the enthusiasm and commitment of the students. I think it was a remarkable experience for her since she has rarely hung out with a large group of young professionals. Later she and I attended several chapter meetings and the Division's Spring Meeting. She made an observation at one that struck me. Looking around at the people in the room, she said, "This is a bunch of old guys." Actually I think she used a less flattering term, but she continued, "Do those students really understand the opportunities they'll have in the next few years?" She was perceptive enough to see immediately what it took many of us years to recognize. She also recognized something that I seemed to have overlooked.

I had concentrated so much on how the pending turnover would affect the

agencies and our society that I failed to appreciate the tremendous opportunities available for the young professionals out there. She is entirely correct. The opportunities will be there. My office is a typical example. We will have a turnover in excess of 50% within the next ten years. Those jobs are not going away. There is very little fat left to trim and I suspect the same is true of most other employers. What can the young professional do to grasp these opportunities?

First, you will need to stick with it. Finding a job in our profession is, at times, an arduous task. It took me almost three years to find a full-time professional position after I finished graduate school. The retirement of the baby-boomers will, I think, speed up the process for those students graduating now. It probably will never be an employees market in our profession, but the young professionals of the next few years may see as close to one as ever seen.

Second, you must be flexible. Pat Mazik and I both harped on this at the Student Colloquium. Don't limit yourself geographically. That may be the most detrimental thing you can do to your potential career. It is a rare occasion when we can dictate where we start our careers. You need to be open minded about your field of work. Our profession is changing. The number of anglers is declining and the number of game-fish biologist positions will decrease as well. I can use myself as an example. If you are reading this in July, I will no longer be in the Commission's Division of Freshwater Fisheries. I'll be in Habitat and Species Conservation dealing with invasive species after nearly 25 years of working on Federal Aid to Sportfish Restoration projects. Do not be afraid to embrace other aspects of our profession.

Finally, look for non-technical train-

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President's Address, continued

ing. Typically we emerge from school well trained technically, but woefully prepared to deal the other aspects of our careers. I'm sure you have heard this over and over from your advisors. I can tell you that the majority of the questions on Dr. McMullin's survey dealt with communication, leadership, and other non-technical issues, e.g. were you trained in conflict resolution, were you trained in communicating with lay audiences. These issues are the heart of the Society's leadership training model. Take advantage of those courses and any others you can find. Your advisors are not wrong.

I hope that when you have taken advantage of these employment opportunities that you are willing to return something to your Society. You will need to be willing to step into leadership positions earlier in you

careers than my generation did. How does one get started? Again I'll use myself for an example. Fifteen years ago I would have laughed if someone had told me that I would be writing as President of the Southern Division. I was a follower not a leader, but, in the early 1990s, I accepted when asked to serve on a committee at the chapter level. Many of you can follow a similar path. Simply say yes when asked. Your Society needs you and your enthusiasm.

Carpe diem,
Larry Connor, President

SDAFS Executive Committee

Larry Connor, President

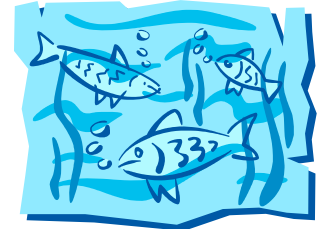
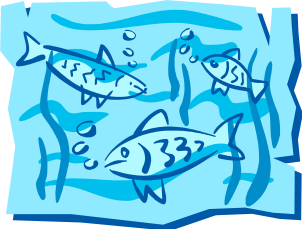
Pat Mazik, President - Elect

Bob Curry, Vice - President

Vic DiCenzo, Secretary - Treasurer

Steve Filipek - Past President

<http://www.sdafs.org>



The Fourth Annual Fisheries Student Colloquium



Whitney Laboratory - Marineland, FL
November 5-7, 2004

<http://surf.ifas.ufl.edu/colloquium.htm>

Important Deadlines:

Early Registration Begins: August 2, 2004

Early Registration Ends: September 17, 2004

Abstract Deadline: Electronic abstract submission will begin on September 17, 2004

Abstract Acceptance Notification: October 1, 2004

Visit meeting website for lodging and events schedule information!

Breaking SDNEWS

Embrey Dam Breached

On February 23, 2004, the Embrey Dam on the Rappahannock River in Fredericksburg, Virginia was breached to allow migratory fishes such as American shad access to the upper watershed. The dam is 770 feet long and the initial breach is 130 feet wide. Under the purview of the Norfolk District of the Army Corps of Engineers, the 544th Army Ranger Dive Unit of Fort Eustis and the 555th Air Force Redhorse Squadron of Nevada conducted the demolition. Complete removal of both the Embrey Dam and the 1854 crib dam (50 feet upstream of Embrey) will be completed over the next two years using heavy machinery. A large section of the crib dam was removed prior to the blast during the sediment dredging operation.



Ten sections breached in Embrey Dam on the Rappahannock River, Virginia.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) has been pursuing fish passage at Embrey since the 1980s. In the early 1990's the VDGIF conducted sediment and historical studies that lead to a state funded feasibility study in 1997 that recommended complete removal as the best fish passage option. When the City of Fredericksburg, owner of the dam, announced that the dam would no longer be needed as a water supply, the removal option became viable. Also in 1997, Senator John Warner became very interested in the project and began seeking an avenue to apply federal money to the project. In 1998, the Corps became involved and led a feasibility study co-sponsored by Virginia, Fredericksburg and Stafford County. Warner was successful in securing the funding to conduct the actual project phase at full federal expense. This removal project reopens 106 miles of the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers that has been inaccessible for over 150 years. The target population for shad is 71,000 based on the amount of upstream habitat that should support

spawning and rearing activity. The VDGIF and the USFWS are stocking American shad fry in the upper river to enhance the recovery process. The VDGIF will continue to monitor the river above and below the dam to evaluate the restoration effort.

Monitoring Update

Fish Passage Coordinator, Alan Weaver, reports that Fish Passage Technicians Robert (Chip) Augustine and Andrew Skelton conducted boat electrofishing sampling about a half-mile upstream of the recently breached Embrey Dam on Friday, April 9, 2004 in the middle of what used to be the Embrey pool (just below I – 95). This area is now a nice series of reaches, runs and riffles, and very challenging to sample. Hickory shad, *Alosa mediocris*, were collected in good numbers (catch per effort = 10 fish/minute) marking the first official documentation of target anadromous species using the breached section of Embrey Dam. Anadromous fishes have been denied access to this area for over 150 years!

Hickory shad are a member of the anadromous



Fisheries technician Chip Augustine holding a Hickory shad collected upstream of the breached Embrey Dam.

"allosine group" along with American shad, blueback herring, and alewife. Hickories are a significant target species for passage at Embrey Dam. This find documents the first stages of success of the removal project. American shad are not as abundant, yet, on the Rappahannock but we will be sampling at additional locations upstream of the dam to further monitor shad and herring migrations.

For more information contact Alan Weaver at 804-367-6795; aweaver@dgif.state.va.us.

Alan Weaver, Fish Passage Coordinator and "past-past" President of the Tidewater Chapter

Committee Reports

Reservoir Committee

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

The Reservoir Committee met at the 2004 SDAFS Spring Meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. We discussed our online habitat manual (<http://www.sdafs.org/habitat>) and will continue to update the site as new information comes in. Popularity of the manual is growing and should continue to grow as we begin to advertise its presence and include it in popular articles. Since the habitat manual project is winding down, we spent a considerable amount of time trying to identify a new project to focus on. At the same time the goal to sponsor another Reservoir Symposium was looming in front of us so we decided to spend our collective energy on the 4th International Reservoir Symposium instead of a major project. We are tentatively looking at a July 2007 meeting date with Atlanta, Georgia as the location. The tentative theme of the Symposium will be "Managing Aquatic Resources in Impounded Rivers and Associated Watersheds". Along with traditional fisheries management topics, we will focus on managing aquatic resources at larger scales such as river systems and watersheds. We hope to partner with other units within AFS to provide as comprehensive a program as possible.

During the business meeting in Oklahoma City we awarded two \$1,000 Robert Jenkins Memorial Scholarships to outstanding students that were conducting reservoir-related research. The recipients were both from North Carolina State University - Jessica Thompson and Lori Davias. Jessica received the Jenkins scholarship in 2003 and was eligible again in 2004. Jessica's research is titled "The Implications of Habitat Selection within a Bioenergetics framework: Growth, Trophic Demand, and Spatially-explicit Modeling of a Top Aquatic Predator in a Constructed Ecosystem". Lori's research is titled "Bioenergetic and Ecosystem Modeling of Striped Bass in North Carolina Reservoirs: Solving the Temperature-Oxygen-Forage Paradox and Evaluating Management Options". The Reservoir Committee was also pleased to help support the 2004 Student Colloquium hosted by the University of Florida's Students United in the Research of Fisheries (SURF) with a \$500 donation. The Colloquium will be held November 5-7, 2004 at the Whitney Laboratory in Marineland, Florida

We will hold a Summer Technical Meeting on July 13-14 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Fred Janssen, Chair

Resolutions Committee

The Committee has drafted resolutions regarding the lower Mississippi River ecosystem and safety training for fisheries personnel. [Please review the comment instructions and draft resolutions on pages 10-12.](#)

Dennis Riecke, Chair

Trout Committee

The Trout Committee held its annual spring committee meeting on May 18-19, 2004 at the beautiful Roan Mountain State Park in east Tennessee. We held our annual "roundtable" discussion on salmonid management in the southeast and had several presentations on current wild trout angler/creel surveys. The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Jack Van Deventer the original author of the depletion estimate software MICROFISH. A new user-friendly WINDOWS version of MOCROFISH will be available in the fall of 2004. Jack has been working with the SDAFS Trout Committee on the project. Details on costs and distribution will be available this summer through a new MICROFISH web-site.

The new Trout Committee Chairman is Doug Besler, of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Stephen Reeser, Chair

Warmwater Streams Committee

<http://www.sdafs.org/wwstreams/wwsc1.htm>

The SDAFS Warmwater Streams Committee met February 26, 2004 during the SDAFS Spring Meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Twenty-six biologists and research scientists from Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, North Carolina, the Nature Conservancy, private industry, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey shared their experiences on current management and research projects involving warmwater stream fishes and their habitats. The committee reviewed video distribution plans and decided to post the video synopsis, outline and script on our website. Plans are underway to have the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service at Virginia Tech handle the duplication and distribution of our video. After a presentation by Darrell Bowman from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, the committee discussed instream flow issues below dams on the White River, AR. The WWSC passed a resolution urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list two Tennessee tailwaters as "non-essential experimental populations" to facilitate the reintroduction of historically occurring endangered species. The WWSC held a conference call with the SDAFS Ad Hoc Instream Flow Committee to discuss future joint projects, like the sponsorship of a symposium on the importance of floodplain connectivity to fishes at the 2005 SDAFS Midyear in Virginia. The next WWSC meeting may be held near the White River in Arkansas.

The WWSC was instrumental in having 3 plenary session talks on "A Safety Perspective for Biologists" put on the SDAFS Spring Meeting agenda. These pres-

Committee Reports, continued

entations were well attended and stimulated much discussion of the issue. The committee also sponsored a Warmwater Streams Symposium at the meeting with 17 presentations and 3 panel discussions covering fisheries management, habitat improvement and species restoration and recovery. Extended abstracts of these presentations have been compiled into symposium proceedings that are available on the WWSC website. The WWSC also helped sponsor a continuing education

workshop at the SDAFS Spring Meeting entitled Basic Assessment and Restoration of Degraded Streams, taught by Paul Balkenbush, Randy Hyler, and James Vincent, all members of the WWSC.

Dennis Riecke, Secretary-Treasurer and
John R. Copeland, Chair

Chapter Reports

East Carolina University Student Subunit <http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs>

Hello and Happy Summer! ECU-AFS is wrapping up its 5th year with the American Fisheries Society. For a young subunit, we have an incredible network of support through the Southern Division and the parent society. This allows us to continue providing a variety of activities and opportunities for members, and has made us one of the most active professional societies on the ECU campus. Thank you!!

Business meetings this semester were held on the first Wednesday of each month. Guest speakers in February and March were Dr Margie Gallagher (Head of the College of Human Ecology, Nutrition, & Hospitality, East Carolina University) and Ms. Sara Miribilio (Fisheries Specialist, NC Sea Grant Extension Program, Manteo Office). Dr Gallagher spoke about her research in aquaculture and fish nutrition, while Ms. Miribilio educated members on the many opportunities available within the national and state Sea Grant College Program.

In January, seven graduate students and one undergraduate student attended the Tidewater Chapter meeting in Salisbury, MD. David Chagaris, Ingrid Coulson, Chad Coggins, Ana McClannahan, Christine Voss, and Heidi Alderman authored posters. Charlton Godwin and Jennifer Cudney gave oral presentations, and Jennifer was awarded honorable mention for student presentations. The student subunit recognized advisor Dr. Roger Rulifson for his continued commitment and dedication to fisheries students at ECU.

Two workshops were planned for this semester at East Carolina University. The first was an Introductory GIS workshop held with Dr Tom Crawford (Department of Geography). On April 16, 2004, ECU-AFS hosted an electrofishing workshop with biologists Kent Nelson and Bob Barwick from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. The event consisted of a morning lecture session to discuss the principles behind electrofishing and safety concerns. The workshop reconvened after lunch at the

Tar River to introduce students to the electroshocking equipment. The workshop provided continuing education credits to participants.

We have lined up some hands-on volunteer experience for students following the workshop with Tidewater Chapter president-elect Chip Long (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries). Does anyone else out there that need help this summer or fall? Let us know!

Members of ECU-AFS organized raffle items and food to sell at the East Carolina University spring carnival, Barefoot on the Mall. The featured raffle prize was a kayak. Other prizes included t-shirts and hats from local businesses, gift certificates, and a framed picture of President George Bush holding an ECU t-shirt. ECU-AFS prepared hotdog and sausage dog meals complete with chili, sauerkraut, chips and a drink. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to offset registration costs and other expenses at the annual meeting in Madison, WI.

Officer elections for next year were held at the April 7, 2004 business meeting. Several ECU-AFS members will graduate this summer: Charlton Godwin (past president), Jennifer Cudney (president), Chad Coggins (vice-president), and Randy Pulley. Incoming officers for the 2004-05 school year are:

- President – Chad Smith
- Vice President – Ingrid Coulson
- Treasurer – Heidi Alderman
- Secretary – Jacqueline Jenkins
- Co-Historians – Stephan Hughes/Elizabeth Lockhart

Check out the ECU-AFS website to meet our new officers and see the recent additions to the website (a special thanks this year to Chad Smith for his excellent work).

Respectfully,
Jennifer Cudney, President

Chapter Reports, continued

Florida Chapter

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

The Florida Chapter held its 24th Annual Meeting February 23-25, 2004. The symposium topic for this year's meeting was *Improving Recreational Fisheries with Bag Limits and Size Limits: Effective Fisheries Management in Florida?* The session included state and federal biologists and academics who addressed fishery responses to changes in harvest restrictions. Presenters showed examples of several fish populations improving after the use of harvest restrictions, especially weakfish, striped mullet, yellowtail snapper, and largemouth bass. Again this year, our student presentations were terrific. Patrick Cooney (University of Florida) won the Best Student Paper Award, and Eric Reyier (Florida Institute of Technology) won the Best Student Poster Award. Complete lists of award winners and runners up from that meeting can be found at the Chapter web site (above).

Highlights of our accomplishments and activities include:

- Following a motion by President-Elect Rich McBride, the Chapter allocated \$15,000 from our general fund to the Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship. These funds will insure the long-term stability of our highest student award!
- The 2004 Roger Rottmann Scholarship Winner was Elizabeth Berens from The University of Florida. In addition, fifteen students from four universities were awarded travel grants, which cover the cost of food and lodging, for this year's meeting.
- Students from several Florida universities agreed to form a statewide Florida Student Subunit of the Florida Chapter. Over the coming year, bylaws for this subunit will be completed and sent out for Chapter review, with final approval planned for the 2005 Chapter meeting. The Student Subunit will be open to all students in Florida, providing a forum for student activity and better communication across university programs and within the Chapter.
- The University of Florida's Students United in Fisheries Research (SURF) group has agreed to host the **4th Annual Southern Division AFS Future Fisheries Professionals Student Colloquium** in November 5-7, 2004. The Colloquium will be held at the Whitney Laboratory, Marineland, Florida. For information about the meeting please see <http://surf.ifas.ufl.edu/colloquium.htm>.

Preparations have begun for our 25th Annual Meeting to be held in February 2005. Please check the Chapter website for updates.

Mike Allen, President

Potomac Chapter

The Potomac Chapter once again co-sponsored a successful Science Day in May 2003. Science Day is an annual event sponsored by six natural resource professional societies to provide updates on cutting-edge issues related to science in the natural resource professions and to provide an opportunity to meet with members of other natural resource societies in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. The Potomac Chapter also held its popular crab feast in September 2003 at the AFS headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland. We are gearing up for one of our biggest year ever thanks to a new, stellar roster of officers that include Gary Matlock as President, Gene Fritz as President-Elect, Ana Baya as Treasurer, and Jarrad Kosa as Secretary. The Potomac Chapter is expected to become more involved in activities on Capitol Hill over the next year or two. Stay tuned for big things from us!

Lee Benaka

Tennessee Chapter

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

The 27th annual meeting of the Tennessee Chapter was held March 2-3, 2004, at Fall Creek Falls State Park, near Spencer, TN. Twenty-two technical papers were presented, with topics ranging from freshwater prawns, mussels, and blackside dace to paddlefish, sturgeon, and smallmouth bass. Nine students competed for the Best Student Presentation Award, which went to George Scholten (TTU) this year. Lifetime Achievement Awards were given to Richard Strange (UT) and Dan Sherry (TWRA). Mike Bramlett (TWRA) received the Fisheries Scientist of the Year Award. The Friend of Fisheries Award went to Margo Farnsworth (Cumberland River Compact). Eighty-two people registered for the two-day event. The annual auction of donated items, a raucous event, produced over \$1,800. The proceeds go directly to fund fishing rodeos across the state. For those of you who missed out on the bidding for the AM/FM shower radio, fear not, for it will most likely be available again at next year's event.

Outgoing Chapter President, Tim Churchill (TWRA), was awarded for his leadership over the past year, while Jim Layzer (TTU) was voted in as President-Elect. Amy Wales (TVA) will continue her tenure as Secretary/Treasurer. Vic DiCenzo, the Southern Division AFS Secretary/Treasurer, brought news of proceedings at the division level to the TN meeting. Pat Black (TWRA) updated the chapter's webpage with information on the annual meeting and this year's "Tennessee Native" T-shirt. This year's design depicts smallmouth bass, oyster mussel, and surgeon crayfish, and was again created by Murrie Graser.

Since the meeting, the TN Chapter provided over \$2,000 to the four TWRA regional offices for approxi-

Chapter Reports, continued

mately 20 fishing rodeos for kids across the state this spring and summer. The money will be used to purchase rods, reels, and related items, beyond the contributions from various outdoor outfitters. Last year's rodeos reached nearly 1,000 kids, and we hope for even greater participation this year.

The TTU Student Fisheries Association (SFA) completed a Kid's Fishing Derby at Cane Creek Park in Cookeville, TN. Despite poor weather, over 80 kids under the age of 15 participated in the event held on Tennessee's Free Fishing Day in June of 2003. Local and national sponsors assisted with prizes, foods and beverages. The TTU SFA also had a huge showing at this past year's Student Colloquium held on the campus of WVU. Of the twenty total presenters from 14 schools, seven (nearly half) of them were TTU students. This past fall, SFA also sent two presenters to the Mid-West AFS Division meeting. As always, many members of TTU SFA were sent to the Southern Division AFS meeting held this year in Oklahoma City, OK. Nine members were sent and six of those presented research conducted at TTU. Tennessee Tech SFA provided the TN Chapter of AFS with 15 presenters for this year's meeting at Fall Creek Falls State Park.

A chapter newsletter was prepared that included status reports from various state, federal, and university groups regarding ongoing research, habitat enhancement, and management activities; annual meeting announcement and call for abstracts; and President's message. We also greatly improved the Tennessee Chapter AFS website to get timely information out to our membership. An updated roster of member addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses was provided to the membership. Special thanks to Richard Strange and Pat Black.

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 and Holston rivers in east TN and Shoal Creek in southwest TN and northern AL as "nonessential, experimental populations (NEP)," which will allow the reintroduction of artificially-reared, federally endangered muskel 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.

Ed Scott, President (2004-05)

Tidewater Chapter

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

Our annual TWC meeting was held January 8-10, 2004 at Salisbury University. Approximately 60 members and guests attended, and a total of 16 posters were displayed, 13 co-authored by students. There were

18 oral presentations, 5 of which were co-authored by students. Students from 7 schools presented. One student each presented from Delaware State University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, University of Maryland College Park, and North Carolina State University. Two students each presented from University of North Carolina – Wilmington, and from the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (Solomons, MD). The most outstanding show of participation goes to East Carolina University (ECU), with a total of 7 student-authored posters, and 2 student oral presentations. Other institutions represented among our presenters were scientists from the State University of New York, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources, NOAA – Oxford Laboratory, Salisbury University, North Carolina State University, North Carolina Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, and the NOAA Lab in Beaufort, North Carolina.

The Student Subunit from ECU, lead most recently by now Past-President Jennifer Cudney, and currently by President Chad Smith, continues to be very active. They hold regular meetings, social events and workshops. This spring students held workshops on the use of GIS and electrofishing gear. They will hold a spring carnival, "Barefoot on the Mall," to raise funds to offset travel for students attending AFS meetings. And the ECU-AFS will also be playing a major role in the planning of the joint Tidewater-Southern Division 2005 annual meeting scheduled for late February 2005 in Virginia Beach..

Another ECU student, Ana McClanahan presented a poster at the NC Academy of Sciences on her algae primer research. These environmental sample probes have the potential to enhance any comprehensive water quality assessment. She would be happy to share information about ongoing projects.

MDDNR has been busy with the commercial and recreational surveys of striped bass in Chesapeake Bay. Gillnet sampling in winter revealed larger than normal stripers (more 15-25 pounders), with greatest productivity near Tilghman Island. A spring gillnet survey for stripers began on March 29, 2004, for the purpose of estimating spawning stock biomass and to tag as many stripers as possible. A survey of the spring recreational trophy striped bass began on April 17, 2004. MDDNR also has a Multifish Project going on in the Choptank and Nanticoke rivers where a variety of anadromous species are collected with experimental fyke nets to collect basic biological data.

The MDDNR Fish Passage Program is working on an exciting project that will ultimately result in the removal of the Octoraro Dam in Cecil County. This will open up habitat for a variety of fish species including hickory shad, alewife and blueback herring, and American eel. In Virginia, the Embrey Dam was breached re

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Chapter Reports, continued

cently to allow passage of migratory fishes to upper reaches of the Rappahannock River. Over the next 2 years, the Embrey Dam and the 1854 Crib Dam (upstream from the Embrey Dam) will be removed completely which will open up 106 miles of the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers that have not been accessible for more than 150 years!

Other news in North Carolina: The recreational size limit for ocean-caught flounder has been reduced from 15 to 14 inches because of reduced landings of flounder in this area. The 17th annual Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) was a great success, and several Tidewater Chapter members participated in the cold, windy conditions to tag 2,708 striped bass and 3,385 spiny dogfish, and some other species as well.

More details on the happenings of the Tidewater Chapter are available from our website, or contact President Ann Barse (ambarse@salisbury.edu).

Ann M. Barse, President



Virginia Chapter

<http://faculty.virginia.edu/vcafs/>

The 2004 VA-AFS Chapter Annual meeting was held in Lexington, VA, March 18th and 19th. Sixty-three people attended the meeting. Eighteen oral presentations and 7 posters were given covering a wide variety of topics including fish habitat, angler surveys, volunteer monitoring, conservation, and genetics. Four student awards for presentations and posters are awarded every year. This year's winners included Eric Fitzpatrick of Virginia Tech (best paper by an undergraduate), Seth Coffman of James Madison University (best paper by a graduate), Peder Brakke of James Madison University (best poster by an undergraduate), and Keith Whalen of James Madison University (best poster by a graduate). The chapter business meeting was held following the first day of presentations. At this meeting, the new officers were installed. Steve Reeser of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) was installed as President, and John Odenkirk, also of VDGIF, was installed as President-Elect. Mark Hudy, USFS, will now serve as Past President.



Steve Reeser, right, presents Mark Hudy with the Past President's award for his service over the last year.

Scholarships and awards were also distributed at the business meeting. Judy Okay of the Virginia Department of Forestry was awarded the Natural Resource Conservationist award. Dawn Kirk, aquatic biologist with the USFS, was given the Eugene W. Surber Professional Fisheries Biologist award. Greg Murphy of Virginia Tech was awarded the Robert Ross graduate scholarship, and Lauren Grimmer of Randolph-Macon College was awarded the Robert E. Jenkins undergraduate scholarship.

A large portion of the business meeting centered around planning of the Southern Division spring meeting which will be co-hosted by the Virginia and Tidewater chapters in 2005. An oversight committee has been formed, and plans are well underway. The meeting will be held in Virginia Beach, February 9-13.

The social on the first night was punctuated by a raffle. Proceeds from the raffle benefit the student scholarship program. The meeting was a success, and the Chapter is looking forward to meeting the challenges ahead!

Shelly Miller

Virginia Tech Chapter

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

The Virginia Tech AFS Chapter has concluded another excellent year. Since the last newsletter we have hosted speakers on several important topics. First, we heard from Dr. Don Jackson (Mississippi State University) on the challenges and opportunities for catfish management in large river systems. Dr. Jackson's presentation underscored the importance of human dimensions in fisheries management. Second, Dr. Jerry Cross spoke to us about the "unwritten rules for success in fisheries management." As an emeritus faculty member at Virginia Tech, Dr. Cross' insight and advice provided a vital perspective for future fisheries biologists. We were also delighted to host Chris Scharpf of the

Chapter Reports, continued

North American Native Fishes Association (NANFA). Mr. Scharpf provided a fascinating overview of the diversity of the North American fish fauna, reminding us of how much there is to know in this field of research! Certainly, the Chapter hopes to increase our interaction with NANFA in future activities. Finally, Jess Jones (Virginia Tech) spoke to the Chapter about future directions of research into fish and mussel interactions. Jess made the case that this emerging area of research is one in which Virginia Tech can excel by exploring fish host dynamics for mussel propagation and conservation. All in all, we were honored to host an outstanding panel of speakers this spring.

The Chapter also coordinated several activities for our members. The Education Committee (chaired by Jeanine Cloyd and Kathy Finne) hosted a GIS workshop and a webpage design workshop of which several members took advantage. Brett Ostby (Outreach Committee Chair) organized several events this spring, including the display of several educational booths related to fisheries science at the campus-wide Earth Day event. He also organized educational programs for 4-H members held in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' "Kid's Fishing Day." In addition, Brett led a drive to clean up the Claytor Dam area, where we collected and disposed of nearly 1300 pounds of trash. He also worked hard this spring to foster an AFS mentorship program for undergraduate students.

The 21st Annual Mudbass Classic Fishing Tournament was a grand success this year. Matt Buhyoff (Committee Chair), with the help of many members of the Chapter, was able to create a wonderful day of fishing, free food and prizes for several hundred kids and adults of the New River Valley. We are thankful to all of our sponsors for helping make this day such a success!

In addition to all of our hard work, we also found time for recreation this year. Our AFS intramural bowling team placed 3rd in the playoffs. A competitive game of kickball highlighted the end of the year picnic. And several members finished up the year with a relaxing float trip on the New River. Finally we are pleased to report that we were able to donate \$250 to the Community Foundation of the New River Valley.

Best of Luck to next year's officers: Jamie Roberts, President; Johnathan Harris, Vice-President; Jason Corrao, Treasurer; and Shane Staples, Secretary. Thanks for a wonderful year!

Whitney Grogan, Past President
Than Hitt, Past Vice-President

Newsletter Staff and Information

Adrienne Averett, Editor

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: sdnews@vt.edu

COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESOLUTIONS

Comments on the following resolutions are encouraged and welcomed!
Please send your comments and suggestions **by December 1, 2004** 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

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 6-8million 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 generate 13.5 billion, 791 million and 436 million dollars annually 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 Lower 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 Lower 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 annual meeting on this 27th day of February in the year 2004 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 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 for conducting the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment.

Steve Filipek, President
Southern Division, American Fisheries Society

Larry Connor, President- Elect
Southern Division, American Fisheries Society

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

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 transport, trailer and work with boats, which are confined work environments crowded with sampling gear;

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

WHEREAS, private companies and industries have established formal comprehensive, ongoing safety programs for their employees through recognition of the importance of these programs and commitment of staff, time and funding;

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, we recognize that the employees are the most important resource an employer has and 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;

RESOLVED, the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its annual meeting on this 11th day of February in the year 2005 at Virginia Beach, Virginia strongly recommends that all federal, state and private entities which employ fisheries professionals and students establish and develop formal, comprehensive, continuing safety training programs for all job duties which may present a danger to the health and life of their employees by recognizing the importance of such programs and devoting all staff and monetary resources for their successful development, and continuation.

Larry Connor, President
Southern Division, American Fisheries Society

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

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

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

2004 Spring Meeting Summary

The 12th Annual Spring Meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society was held at the Westin Hotel in Oklahoma City, OK, 26-29 February 2004. The meeting was hosted by the Oklahoma Chapter. The program consisted of a full day of Southern Division Technical Committee meetings, Southern Division EXCOM and Business Meetings, a full day of workshops, and a day and half of technical presentations. Registration totals were 323 general registrants with 102 individuals attending one of the four workshops offered: 1) How to Work with a Commission; 2) Electrofishing Injury and Standardized Procedures to Minimize Effects; 3) Basic Assessment and Restoration of Degraded Streams; and 4) Lessons Learned: Career Experiences of Natural Resource Professionals.



The technical portion of the program consisted of a Plenary Session entitled "A Safety Perspective for Biologists." Larry Olmsted, Chris O'Bara, and Roger Rullifson shared experiences and ideas on the need to elevate safety concerns among field personnel and the administrators who support them. The plenary was followed by 106 oral presentations and 16 poster presentations. Two symposia, Warmwater Streams: Fisheries Management, Habitat Improvements, and Species Restoration and Recovery, and Ecology and Management of Catfishes, highlighted the program.

Pictured at left: Participants in the "Stream Rehabilitation" workshop gain field experience in stream restoration techniques.

Southern Division Awards were presented to the following individuals:

Distinguished Service Award – Pat Mazik

Outstanding Chapter Award – North Carolina Chapter

Outstanding Student Subunit – West Virginia University

Best Student Paper from 2003 Meeting – Dave Hewitt, NC State

Best Student Paper from 2003 Meeting, runners-up (tie) – Tim Copeland, VA Tech and Jessica Thompson, NC State

Best Student Poster from 2003 Meeting – Greg Edmunds, Virginia Commonwealth University

Scholarships were awarded to the following individuals:

Robert M. Jenkins Scholarship (Reservoir Committee) – Jessica Thompson, NC State and Lori Davias, NC State

Jimmy Pigg Scholarship (Warmwater Streams Committee) – Julian Olden, Colorado State



2004 SDAFS Officers (left to right): Steve Filipek, Past-President; Bob Curry, Vice President; Pat Mazik, President-Elect; Larry Connor, President; and Vic DiCenzo, Secretary-Treasurer.



Fred Heitman, Awards Committee Chair, presents the 2004 SDAFS Distinguished Service Award to Pat Mazik.

Spring EXCOM Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2004, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

President Steve Filipek called the EXCOM Meeting to order at 0806. Secretary/Treasurer Vic DiCenzo determined there was a quorum present. Dave Rizzuto (TN) was an official proxy for Tim Churchill and Brian Wagner (Non Game Technical Committee) for Steve Rider. President Filipek recognized Past Presidents Fred Harris, Jeff Boxrucker and Mike Van Den Avyle as well as AFS President Ira Adelman. Fred Harris was also noted as past AFS president.

President Filipek introduced the other Southern Division officers: Larry Connor, President-Elect, Pat Mazik, Vice President, Vic DiCenzo, Secretary/Treasurer, and Jeff Boxrucker, Past President.

AFS President's Remarks: The theme for Ira Adelman's presidency is "Science to Influence Outcomes". Ira did a PowerPoint presentation to bring the audience up to date on the Fisheries Conservation Foundation (FCF) of the American Fisheries Society. The purpose of the FCF is to (1) promote fisheries science education, (2) inform the public and decision-makers outside of the fisheries profession of the scientific knowledge underlying global fisheries conservation issues, (3) help provide direction and focus to worldwide fisheries conservation efforts, (4) identify and nurture strategic partnerships with individuals, organizations, and the fishing industry, and (5) provide the ways and means to shape informed, principled, and inspired actions for the sake of the world's fisheries resources. Ira invited everyone to the AFS Annual Meeting in August in Madison, Wisconsin. The theme of the meeting is "The Gathering: Leopold's Legacy for Fisheries". The World Fisheries Congress is in Vancouver in May 2004. The Fisheries Administrators Section will be redoing a salary survey. The Membership Concerns Committee will be sending out a survey in the fall covering a wide range of Society topics.

President Steve Filipek stated that we needed a motion to approve the minutes from the EXCOM meeting in Mobile (the minutes were in the winter newsletter and on the web page). A motion was made by Fred Heitman and seconded by Bob Curry. The motion carried without discussion.

President's Report: President Filipek mentioned that he is proud to have been involved in the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biologist Management Committee and he recommended members to become involved. The number of applicants has increased each year. President Filipek attended the AFS Governing Board Meeting and was a member of the AFS Professional Certification Ap-

peals Committee. Steve also attended the Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Kentucky Chapter meetings. Steve assisted in getting some grants for the Equal Opportunities Section and the International Fish Section. President Filipek also assisted the Western Division in the formation of a Mexican Chapter to recruit more Mexican biologists. Don Jackson (MS) has served as Division liaison to the Mexican Chapter. President Filipek reiterated the importance of students to the Southern Division and encouraged students to take advantage of all that is offered. Steve also wrote an article in the latest newsletter informing the members about the Farm Bill. Finally, two ad hoc committees were formed (Marine/Estuarine and Catfish Management).

President-Elect's Report: Larry Connor indicated his report would stand as printed in the Briefing Book. Larry also noted the importance of attending Chapter meetings as a Division representative. Larry also served as the Division rep to the AFS Management Committee. Larry organized the past presidents breakfasts at the past two meetings and organized the safety session at the past two meetings.

Vice President's Report: Pat Mazik attended the Tidewater Chapter meeting and mentioned that they are considering absorbing the Potomac Chapter. Pat has been active with the SEAFWA meeting and working with South Carolina in sponsoring an inter-disciplinary symposium with the Wildlife Society. The process for getting the SEAFWA Proceedings out has been shortened considerably (Proceedings will now be available at the following meeting). Also, the guide for authors for the Proceedings has been revised and is more like AFS journals.

Past Presidents Report: Jeff Boxrucker served on the AFS Leadership Institute and the salary survey and provided guidance to the EXCOM.

Audit Report: The report stands as printed in the Briefing Book.

Newsletter Report: No one from Virginia Tech was present, so President Filipek spoke for the Newsletter Editor. Virginia Tech has requested that the primary format for Newsletter distribution be electronic. Currently, less than 20 Division members do not have Internet access, but printing for those few individuals would not be a problem. It is therefore imperative that members keep their email addresses current. Tom Kwak (NC) mentioned that the NC Chapter has hi and low

Spring EXCOM Meeting Minutes, continued

bandwidth versions of the their newsletter to accommodate people with different Internet capabilities. A motion was made, seconded and passed with no more discussion. It was then decided to allow for \$1,000 plus expenses for Virginia Tech to cover the newsletter and ballot.

Webmaster: Fred Janssen (TX) made a motion to upgrade the SDAFS web site to allow for 1 gb storage space which would cost \$1,081 annually compared to the \$650 we currently pay. Mike Allen seconded the motion and the motion passed with no further discussion.

Because there were several items discussed with budget implications, Jeff Boxrucker motioned to amend the budget and Fred Heitman seconded it. The motion passed. Therefore, the 2004 budget that was approved at the October EXCOM meeting in Mobile was amended so that \$1,100 was allocated for Internet expenses and \$2,000 was allocated for the newsletter and ballot.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Vic DiCenzo indicated his report would stand as printed in the Briefing Book. Vic attended the NC and TN Chapter meetings in 2004 and has completed the IRS tax return for 2003.

Chapter Reports:

Alabama – None given.

Arkansas – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Auburn University – Sold videos to raise money to send eight students to professional meetings.

Florida – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. Mike Allen reported that because of the number of universities with fisheries programs, that a statewide student subunit will be formed. Also, the University of Florida will host the 2004 Student Colloquium. Larry Connor added that an additional \$15,000 to the endowment fund to cover the cost of scholarships.

Georgia – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Kentucky – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Louisiana – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Mississippi – Report stands as presented in the Brief-

ing Book.

North Carolina – Tom Kwak mentioned that the NC State Subunit had six monthly meetings with guest speakers and they hosted the Tagging Models workshop at the 2003 Spring Meeting. Proceeds from the workshop have been used to assist students in attending professional meetings. Last year the Environmental Concerns committee passed a resolution on nuisance/invasive aquatic species. To get this information to the public, the committee designed a poster and printed 35,000 copies for distribution. It is available at the NC Chapter web page. This year, the Environmental Concerns committee passed a resolution on sedimentation. The continuing Education workshop at this year's annual meeting was entitled "Fisheries Technology" and representatives from six biological and engineering companies discussed recent advances in technology for fisheries science. The Distinguished Service Award went to Fred Harris. Additionally, the chapter received a donation of stock in the amount of \$45,000 from an anonymous past member. It is known as the Ichthus fund and will be predominantly for students. Much more information is available in the Briefing Book.

Oklahoma – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Potomac – None given.

South Carolina – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Tennessee – Dave Rizzuto mentioned that TN would be hosting the 2007 spring meeting in Memphis and maybe hosting the 2009 Parent Society meeting in Nashville. The Chapter sponsored five fishing rodeos for more than 2,000 kids. The 2003 annual meeting was a joint meeting with Arkansas.

Texas – The annual meeting this year was in College Station. The chapter co hosted a workshop on golden algae with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The chapter will also be hosting the Propogated Fishes Workshop in San Antonio (the workshop is a by-product of the symposium in Boise, Idaho). Finally, the Texas Chapter wrote a position statement on the impacts of off road vehicles on streambeds that was instrumental in getting legislation passed.

Texas A&M – None given.

Tidewater – None given.

(continued on page 16)

Spring EXCOM Meeting Minutes, continued

Virginia – None given.

Virginia Tech – None given.

West Virginia – Pat Mazik mentioned that the past annual meeting was held jointly with the Society of American Foresters and there were many good interdisciplinary talks. PowerPoint and Excel workshops were done for WV DNR employees. The WVU Student Subunit hosted the 2003 Colloquium and had 120 students from 17 universities in attendance. The subunit also hosts an annual game dinner with the Wildlife Society.

Standing Committees:

Audit Committee Report – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Awards - Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. Fred Heitman mentioned that more nominations are needed from members.

Mail Ballot - Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. Dave Rizzuto added that on future mail ballots, members need to be able to vote anonymously. Bob Curry (NC) was elected as Vice President and Dick Luebke as the SDAFS Representative to the Nominating Committee

Membership – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Nominating – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Program – Report stands as added to the Briefing Book. Larry Connor thanked the many folks from Oklahoma for a job well done. A safety session was conducted at the SEAFWA meeting in Mobile and done again in Oklahoma as a plenary session. The quantity and quality of presentations and workshops in Oklahoma City was excellent.

Resolutions – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. Dennis Reicke (MS) said that the committee has worked on two resolutions, one on funding for a Lower Mississippi River fisheries and habitat survey and another on black carp. Larry Connor will send a letter showing the SDAFS's support of the Lower Mississippi River study.

Student Affairs - Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. Stuart mentioned that the committee worked on providing student lodging at the SEAFWA and SDAFS Spring meeting, judging student papers,

organizing the student-mentor luncheon, student awards, and assisting with the Colloquium.

Ad Hoc Committees:

Catfish Management – Elise Irwin (AL) reported that committee members have been added and that a productive meeting was held on February 26 in Oklahoma City and a mission statement was written. A comprehensive sampling survey will be conducted. Research needs and suggested sampling procedures will be identified. Elise made a motion requesting \$2,000 start-up money for the committee. It was seconded by Fred Heitman. Jeff Boxrucker then moved to amend the budget which was seconded by Dave Rizzuto.

Marine Resources - Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Technical Committees:

Aquaculture – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. The committee is considering expanding the list serve to include the Northeast.

Instream Flow - Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. Committee members joined the Warmwater Streams Committee via conference call for the Oklahoma City meeting.

Nongame Aquatics - Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. The committee is considering hosting a mussel workshop at the 2005 Spring Meeting in Virginia Beach.

Pollution – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Reservoir - Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. The committee will donate \$500 to the 2004 Colloquium and annually gives 2-\$1,000 scholarships. The online habitat manual is receiving positive feedback. The committee organized a catch and release symposium at the 2003 Spring meeting. The committee has also begun plans for the 4th Reservoir Symposium, perhaps in Atlanta in 2007. The focus will be ecosystem/basin wide management rather than single reservoir/species.

Small Impoundments – The committee is considering doing a Bass 101 workshop in 2006 or 2007 to assist students and young professionals with small impoundment management.

Striped Bass – Dan Wilson (VA) is the new committee chair.

Spring EXCOM Meeting Minutes, continued

Trout – The trout committee wrote a position paper on managing Appalachian brook trout. The next East Coast trout workshop may be in WV in 2005. There is also a subcommittee working on getting the MI-CROFISH program in a Windows-based format.

Warmwater Streams – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. John Copeland reported that at the summer meeting, a mini symposium was done to help plan the symposium at Oklahoma City. Nineteen presentations were made in Oklahoma City and extended abstracts will be published by AFS. A total of 601 copies of the committee's video have been distributed. Virginia Tech will take over video distribution as an extension project.

Appointed and Elected Positions:

AFS Nominating Committee Representative – Dick Luebke informed everyone that the two candidates for 2nd Vice President were Don Jackson (MS) and Mary Fabrizio.

Continuing Education - Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Newsletter Editor – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

SEAFWA Proceedings, Fisheries Editor – Report

stands as presented in the Briefing Book. A new guide for authors has been written.

SEAFWA Director's Liaison – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. Mike Van Den Avyle added that at the SEAFWA meeting in Mobile, a focus group survey was done to help the directors determine the future of the meeting. He also added that the SDAFS needs to remember the unique opportunities that the SEAFWA meeting has to offer (those that are not being met by the spring meeting).

Watson Award Committee Representative – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Webmaster - Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

New Business:

Steve Lochman (AR) mentioned that he is working on two brochures, one on careers and one on academic institutions that offer fisheries coursework and degrees. Steve needs updated school info for the latter and requested assistance. Tom Kwak mentioned that state AFS chapters would be good sources for colleges and universities that have fisheries programs.

Elise Irwin moved and Larry Connor seconded to adjourn the EXCOM meeting and the motion carried. President Filipek adjourned the meeting at 1203.



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Hello all and welcome to our first all-electronic edition of SDNEWS! With the conversion from paper to electronic copy, SDNEWS has expanded to include a special news column, Breaking News (page 3), that highlights aquatic headlining news in the Division. In addition, the electronic edition allows the inclusion of photos of your fellow SDAFSers, and plenty of pages devoted to chapter and committee updates/action items, like the Draft Resolutions on pages 10 - 12.

I hope you enjoy this Summer edition of SDNEWS. As always, your comments and suggestions are encouraged! Have a safe and fun field season.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Averett

Spring Business Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2004, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

President Steve Filipek called the Business Meeting to order at 1725. Secretary/Treasurer Vic DiCenzo determined there was a quorum present. President Filipek introduced Ira Adelman, President of the American Fisheries Society and thanked him for joining us. President Filipek then introduced the current Southern Division officers, President-Elect Larry Connor, Vice President Pat Mazik, Secretary-Treasurer Vic DiCenzo and Past President Jeff Boxrucker. Previous Southern Division Presidents who were in attendance were Fred Harris, Marty Hale, Mike Van Den Avyle, Bill Fisher, Don Jackson, Larry Wilson, Larry Olmsted, and Jeff Boxrucker.

AFS President's Remarks: The theme for Ira Adelman's presidency is "Science to Influence Outcomes". Ira did a PowerPoint presentation to bring the audience up to date on the Fisheries Conservation Foundation (FCF) of the American Fisheries Society. The purpose of the FCF is to (1) promote fisheries science education, (2) inform the public and decision-makers outside of the fisheries profession of the scientific knowledge underlying global fisheries conservation issues, (3) help provide direction and focus to worldwide fisheries conservation efforts, (4) identify and nurture strategic partnerships with individuals, organizations, and the fishing industry, and (5) provide the ways and means to shape informed, principled, and inspired actions for the sake of the world's fisheries resources. Finally, Ira invited everyone to the AFS Annual Meeting in August in Madison, Wisconsin. The theme of the meeting is "The Gathering: Leopold's Legacy for Fisheries".

President's Remarks: President Filipek encouraged members to support the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program, one of the newest and most successful programs of AFS. Continuing education has always been a priority of the Southern Division and at this meeting, there were five outstanding and diverse workshops to help serve the needs of Division members. Steve recognized the Texas, North Carolina, and Arkansas chapters for the incredible work done. At the Mississippi Chapter's annual meeting, they had several junior high and high school students give oral presentations. The technical committees of the Division have always been active and important and President Filipek noted some of the work done by the Reservoir, Warmwater Streams, and Pollution Committees. The Catfish Management technical committee is a new ad hoc committee and off to a great and productive start. Steve thanked Fred Janssen for his hard work on maintaining the web site. The EXCOM approved for the newsletter to be distributed electronically. Much progress has been made in improving the SEAFWA meetings thanks in large part to

Mike Van Den Avyle, Pat Mazik, and Jeff Boxrucker. Finally, Steve thanked all the officers for the work done in the past year.

Secretary-Treasurer's Remarks: Secretary-Treasurer Vic DiCenzo stated that at the fall business meeting in Mobile, a quorum was not present so no official business could be conducted. Therefore, a motion was needed to approve the minutes from the 2003 spring business meeting in Wilmington. Fred Heitman moved to approve the minutes and Larry Connor seconded the motion. The motion carried without discussion. The Division's account balance as of December 31, 2003 was \$17,328.36 and details of the income and expenses were discussed at the EXCOM meeting.

President Elect's Remarks: As President-elect, Larry Connor served as Program Chair for the SEAFWA and SDAFS Spring meetings. Larry mentioned that nearly all details for these two meetings were handled at the local level and he commended individuals in Alabama and Oklahoma for the outstanding meetings that were organized. Larry was involved in organizing a special safety session at both meetings that was not meant as training but rather as a call to action for fisheries professionals. At the SEAFWA meeting, there were 14 papers accepted and several invited presentations. At the Spring meeting in Oklahoma City, there were 106 presentations (41 student) and 16 poster presentations (8 student) and several continuing education workshops. Larry then introduced Tom Kwak (NC) who presented Jeff Boxrucker with a T-shirt in appreciation for his work as Program Chair and assistance in organizing symposia.

Award Presentations: Fred Heitman presented the Division's Distinguished Service Award to Pat Mazik (West Virginia University). The Outstanding Chapter Award went to North Carolina. Representing the Reservoir Committee, Fred Janssen presented two Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Reservoir Research Scholarships, each for \$1,000, to Jessica Thompson of North Carolina State University and Lori Davias of North Carolina State University.

Stuart Welsh, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee presented the Outstanding Student Subunit to the West Virginia University Student Subunit. The Best Student Paper Award from the 2003 spring meeting went to Dave Hewitt (North Carolina State University). Second place awards were awarded to Tim Copeland (Virginia Tech) and Jessica Thompson (North Carolina State University). The Best Student Poster from the 2003 meet-

Spring Business Meeting Minutes, continued

ing was awarded to Greg Edmunds (Virginia Commonwealth University).

John Copeland, Chair of the Warmwater Streams Committee, presented the Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award to Julian Olin of Colorado State University for his work in Virginia streams.

President Filipek introduced the new officers: Larry Connor (President), Pat Mazik (President-Elect), Bob Curry (Vice President), and Vic DiCenzo (Secretary-Treasurer).

Overview of Chapter Activities: President Elect Larry Connor noted the tremendous amount of work done at the chapter level in the previous year. The North Carolina Chapter hosted the 2003 Spring Meeting and had 6 concurrent sessions for technical presentations and a number of outstanding continuing education workshops. In terms of aquatic stewardship, the North Carolina Chapter passed resolutions on invasive nuisance aquatic species and stream sedimentation. The Texas Chapter wrote a position paper on the negative effects of ATV use in streambeds, which was instrumental in passing legislation. Chapters sponsored numerous outreach events as well. For example, the Texas Chapter hosted a golden algae workshop to inform biologists on the effects of golden algae on reservoir fisheries and hatcheries. Chapters also served students as well. The Auburn Chapter was able to use fundraisers to send students to professional meetings. The West Virginia Student Subunit hosted the 2003 Student Colloquium. The Virginia Tech Chapter published the two SDAFS newsletters and also had six training workshops at their monthly meetings. Finally, the Kentucky Chapter hosted kids fishing events with local hospices.

Old Business, Election Results: Dave Rizzuto announced that Bob Curry (NC) was elected as Vice President and Dick Luebke was elected as the SDAFS Representative to the Nominating Committee. Dave also mentioned that while voter turnout improved, members could do a better job at voting.

Incoming President's Remarks: Newly installed President Larry Connor thanked the Oklahoma Chapter for their hard work in hosting the meeting and presented Steve Filipek with a plaque showing the SDAFS's appreciation for his service as President. Larry also thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve as President. President Connor outlined his plan of work for his presidency that focused on diversifying membership. First, Larry will work toward increasing the participation of marine scientists. Since the next two Spring Meetings are in states that have coastal waters (VA and TX), symposia and workshops focusing on marine issues will be important. Another way to increase diversity is potentially revisit the formation of a Caribbean Chapter. President Connor closed by asking membership for their participation in Division activities because it can be a truly rewarding experience.

New Business: Chris Horton (BASS) suggested the formation of an ad hoc fish health committee to work on issues such as LMBV.

Dick Luebke (TX) announced that Don Jackson (MS) will be running for AFS 2nd Vice President.

A motion was made by Jeff Boxrucker and seconded by Fred Heitman to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and President Connor adjourned the meeting at 1838.



C. W. Watson Award Announcement for Nominations

Nominations are being sought for the 2004 Clarence W. Watson Award. This annual award will be presented at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Meeting in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina in November 2004.

The Clarence W. Watson Award is the most prestigious award given in the Southeast and is presented to the career individual who, in the opinion of the Award Committee, has made the greatest contribution to wildlife or fish conservation during the previous year or years. Consideration includes research, administration, law enforcement, I&E, wildlife management, fish management, teachers, and students. Preference is given to nominees in the Southeast. The award is a mounted bronze plaque presented jointly by the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society, and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

All Southeastern fish and wildlife conservationists and other interested persons are encouraged to nominate worthy candidates. Nominations should be submitted in the format shown below and should include complete information on the candidate's background, i.e., education, training, noteworthy accomplishments, and particularly, the achievement(s) for which the nomination is being made. The nomination should include, but not be limited to, a description of the accomplishment(s), application in the state and region concerned, time involved, and the amount of aid received from associates. As much information as possible should be furnished to aid the committee in making the selection. A previously unselected nominee may be resubmitted each year. Last year's recipient was James E. "Jim" Miller of Mississippi.

Letters of endorsement are not necessary and are discouraged. Selection will be based on specific accomplishment(s) and other information included in the letter of nomination. **Nominations are due no later than August 16, 2004.** Submit nominations to:

David Guynn, Chairperson,
Department of Forestry and Natural Resources,
Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-0317,
phone (864) 656-4830, fax (864) 656-3304, or email dguynn@clemson.edu

NOMINATION FORMAT

- I. Background information
 - A. Name
 - B. Birthdate
 - C. Education
 - D. Employment History
- II. Accomplishment(s)* And Application Of Accomplishment(s) Upon Which The Award Should Be Made
 - A. (1) Problem or opportunity with which nominee was involved.
(2) Action nominee took to solve problem or capitalize on opportunity.
(3) Results (accomplishments) of nominee's actions.
 - B. " " "
 - C. " " "

*The C. W. Watson Award may be given for accomplishing a single item or a series of different nonrelated items. But, the award is given to a nominee who has contributed the most to any of the appropriate areas of fish and wildlife conservation. Emphasis is on contribution, not tenure. Those making nominations are requested to insure that they explain clearly what was accomplished and how it contributed.

Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Scholarship

The Southern Division AFS Reservoir Committee is accepting applications for the Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Reservoir Research Scholarship. This scholarship was created in 1997 to provide financial assistance to graduate students in the southeastern United States (AL, AR, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, MO, NC, OK, PR, SC, TN, TX, VA, VI, WV) that are conducting reservoir-related fisheries research. A subcommittee will review applications and present recommendations at the Committee's meeting held in conjunction with the SDAFS Spring Meeting in Oklahoma City in February, 2004.

Two **\$1,000** scholarships will be awarded annually with funding for a second year contingent upon research and academic performance. This award will be made directly to the student and not the student's educational institution. It can be used for any aspect of the graduate education including, but not limited to, tuition, textbooks, equipment, travel or living expenses. It is not intended to replace any funding obligated to the student. Scholarship recipients will be required to present the results of their study to the Committee or at a conference where the Committee is holding a regular meeting. Travel assistance of up to \$500 each will also be provided if travel funds from other sources are unavailable.

To apply go to <http://www.sdafs.org/reservoir/scolship/apply.htm>

Deadline for submission of applications is [December 31st, 2004!](#)

13th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species November 19-23, 2004

Hosted by the Institute of Technology, Sligo, Ireland
Lynch West County Hotel and Conference Centre, Ennis, County Clare, Ireland

The introduction and spread of non-native species in freshwater and marine environments is a worldwide problem. There are numerous alien invertebrate, fish, and plant species that are being introduced through various pathways, and many are causing significant damage to coastal and freshwater ecosystems, and to the economies that depend upon them. It is becoming increasingly important to foster international cooperation on the invasive species issues through exchange of scientific information and techniques for control and mitigation, coordinated data management, monitoring, and developing new approaches to rapid response in dealing with new introductions.

The International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species is widely considered to be the most comprehensive international forum for the review of accumulated scientific knowledge, presentation of the latest field Research, introduction of new technologies or advancements in prevention, monitoring and control, discussion of policy and legislation and how to raise political awareness of the issues, and public education and outreach initiatives to help prevent new introductions.

Information can be obtained from the Conference Web site
<http://www.aquatic-invasive-species-conference.org>

2005 Southern Division Spring Meeting 1st Call for Papers



VIRGINIA CHAPTER of the
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



The Virginia Chapter, Tidewater Chapter, and the 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 February 10-13, 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 (Virginia Chapter Fish Fry)**
- **Saturday, 12 February—Plenary Session, Symposia and Technical Sessions, Poster Session, Social at the Virginia Marine Science Museum.**
- **Sunday, 13 February—Symposia and Technical Sessions, Poster Session.**

Symposia and Workshop Proposals

Proposals for symposia must include a topic, statement of objectives, list of presenters, and tentative titles. Workshop proposals must include title, topics to be covered, description of target audience, maximum attendance, name of instructor, anticipated cost per participant. **The Deadline for submissions is 1 October 2004.** Submit proposals to:

Vic DiCenzo
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
HC 6 Box 46
Farmville, VA 23901
vdicenzo@dgif.state.va.us

Submission Procedures for Presentations and Posters

Presentations will be scheduled for 20 minutes (15-minute presentation and 5 minutes for questions). Media for presentations will be Microsoft PowerPoint only. Abstracts should be 200-word (or less) statement of objectives, principal results and conclusions. **All abstracts for presentations and posters must be submitted electronically by 1 December 2004 to:**

Vic Dicenzo
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
HC 6 Box 46
Farmville, VA 23901
vdicenzo@dgif.state.va.us

Pre-registration **\$85.00** (by January 15, 2005); Regular Registration **\$105.00** (after January 15, 2005).

Meeting information will be updated on the SDAFS website, www.sdafs.org, as it becomes available.