

Spring 2017

Issue 57



Dakota Chapter American Fisheries Society Newsletter



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Casey Williams, President
Dakota Chapter AFS

President's Message

Greetings from Valley City! I hope everyone is well and enjoying the warm weather we are having.

I first want to thank all of you for helping to make the 2017 annual meeting a success. With 109 registered attendees (70 professionals, 36 students, 3 others), 21 paper and 9 poster presentations, and plenty of food and drink, it was a fun, educational time for all.

I would like to give a special **"THANKS"** to VP Dave Fryda and Sec/Treas Mike Johnson. Both of these guys went above and beyond in planning and conducting the meeting. I would also like to thank past-president Greg Simpson for all of his advice and for coordinating the awards. Hilary Meyer once again did a fantastic job with the website and online registration.

I commend the SDSU and VCSU subunits for their participation in the meeting. The subunits were instrumental in running the raffles and kudos to them for implementing the "Fish Trivia" during the opening social. Based on great feedback from professionals and especially from students, I hope this fun event becomes an annual activity. I would also like to call attention to the well-deserved recognition received by many of our members. Mike Johnson and Jeremy Kientz were recipients of the David W. Willis Young Professional

Award. Randy Hiltner was awarded the Robert Hanten Distinguished Professional Award. The Barnes County Wildlife Federation received the Aquatic Conservation Award. Presentation awards went to Joe Nett (Best Professional Paper), Dan Nelson (Best Student Paper), Sara Reese (Best Professional Poster), and Elizabeth Renner (Best Student Poster).

Students were also recognized for their hard work and dedication to fisheries. Calvin Rezac was the 2017 recipient of the Schmulbach Memorial Scholarship. The Klumb Scholarship was awarded to Cooper Folmer and Nicholas Kludt. The Sauger Scholarship (SD) went to Calvin Rezac, Alex Sindelar, Charles Mordhorst, and Jared Hintz while the Northern Pike Scholarship (ND) was awarded to Morgan Berquist, Yari Villaneuva, Ben Holen, Cooper Folmer, and Alexis Getzlaff.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your help and the opportunity to serve as the Dakota Chapter President. It has been fun and I have enjoyed working with all of you. I look forward to continuing my participation in the future!

I hope you all have a great field season and make sure to go fishing!

2017 Meeting Highlights

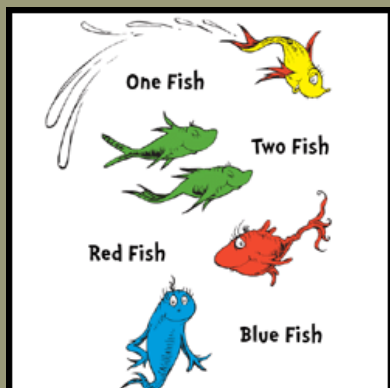


Clockwise from top left: Randy Hiltner (NDGF) receives the *Robert L. Hanten Distinguished Professional Award* from President Casey Williams; Cooper Folmer (left) and Nicholas Kludt receive the *Robert A. Klumb Memorial Scholarship*; Calvin Rezac is presented the 2017 *Schmulbach Memorial Scholarship*; The *Northern Pike Scholarship* is presented to Yari Villaneuva, Morgan Berquist, Alexis Getzlaff, Ben Holen, and Cooper Folmer.



Clockwise from top left: Mike Johnson (NDGF, top left) and Jeremy Kientz (SDGFP, top right) receive the *David W. Willis Young Professional Award*. Greg Simpson receives the Past President Award from President Casey Williams.





Kudos to the Student AFS Sub-Units (SDSU and VCSU) for sponsoring the "Fish Trivia" contest. The winning team (above) received their choice of high-end spoons and spinners. Although they look a little dubious, these guys kicked butt.

Student Subunit News

South Dakota State University (TRAVIS REHM, PRESIDENT):

Student members of the South Dakota State University sub-chapter of the American Fisheries Society have had a very busy spring semester and early summer. Many members made their way down to Jamestown for this year's Dakota AFS Chapter meeting and Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. Both graduate and undergraduate students participated by giving oral presentations and poster presentations, highlighting current research.



To fund sub-unit trips and activities, members participated in numerous fundraising events; including staffing the concessions stands at Jackrabbit basketball games and our Annual Chili Feed. Throughout the spring semester, we held interview and resume workshops, capped off by a job fair accommodating natural resource employers from across the state. We also hosted representatives of state and federal agencies. They spoke about every day and annual job tasks and helped subunit members to gain a better understand of how those agencies and their employees operate.

Late in the semester, student members made a trip to Blue Dog State Fish Hatchery. Touring the grounds gaining understanding of the hatchery's efforts that focus on raising walleye, yellow perch, muskellunge, and largemouth bass. Once the ice thawed, members were able to partake in the Big Sioux Water Festival. Here, members taught 4th graders how to be "water-wise" and about the "Fishes of the Big Sioux River." Finally, to cap of the semester we held an end of the year AFS cookout. Currently, our members are scattered across the midwestern U.S. working summer technician jobs or performing their graduate field work. We are excited to reconvene this fall to hear of their experiences and resume scheduled subunit activities!

Valley City State University (LANE DAHL, PRESIDENT):

The Valley City State University American Fisheries Society Student Sub-Unit continues to keep the educational fun going! After finishing the busy but successful ice fishing raffle, the club decided to have some fun and take a trip to Stump Lake, ND to do some ice fishing. Shortly after the trip was the 2017 AFS Dakota Chapter meeting in Jamestown, ND. Student members were active in helping set up for the meeting. A committee was put together to plan the student social at the annual meeting and it worked well. Random seating and trivia games helped to quickly break the ice between students and professionals! It turned out to be a great time and networking opportunities quickly arose for students. Student members were active in selling raffle tickets at the meeting as well ending with a great turnout.

Jackie Watson, the fisheries biologist for Utah Division of Wildlife, held a resume workshop for AFSSSU members and VCSU students alike. This was a valuable learning experience as Jackie helped students correct and build their resumes. She also showed the “rights and wrongs” of constructing resumes and applying for seasonal positions. Members had a chance to travel to Webster, SD to aid the SD Game and Fish Department spawn walleye. Volunteers were needed for the job over Easter break, and a few of our members jumped to the awesome learning opportunity. The SDGFD was knowledgeable and helpful in teaching the students about the ins and outs of walleye spawning. To wrap up the busy semester, we held our annual banquet at Chautauqua Park in Valley City, ND. The sub-unit grilled burgers and hotdogs for everyone, and held games and competitions for some fun! At the end of the banquet there was a raffle held, and members got the chance to win some great prizes! The next day to officially end the year, we had our fishing tournament!

VCSU AFSSSU had a great semester and plan to keep the trend going! Next semester we are planning to hit the ground running with recruitment of new members and incoming freshman. The club is planning to have educational outings such as seining and backpack electrofishing right away in the year to get new members involved! We will be having a table during welcome weekend on campus to help with the new recruitment, and possibly in the student center during lunch hours. We are also planning to have a few speakers come in and talk to the students professionally, as it is a good learning experience to see what others are doing in the field. This also gives time for students to ask questions pertaining to anything they might be curious about within the fisheries field. Our club has been doing some great things and is continuing to grow!

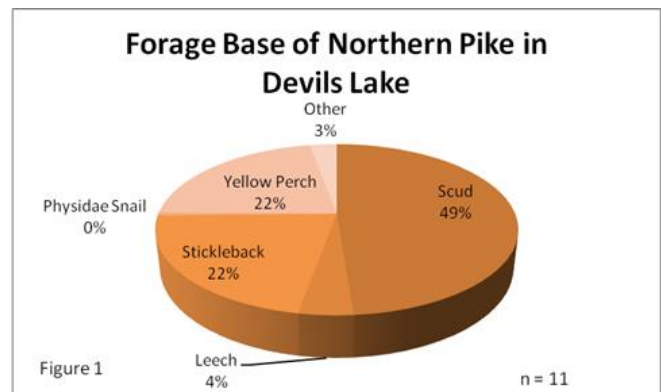


North Dakota Happenings

Sitting Bull College Graduate Students Examines Devils Lake

Clayton Lupe, a first year graduate student majoring in the Master of Science (M.S.) program in Environmental Science at Sitting Bull College in Fort Yates, ND, spent the better part of a week in late March, 2017 conducting an analysis of Devils Lake. During the project, Lupe examined water chemistry, the benthic macroinvertebrate community, and the forage base for northern pike in the western part of the lake. Laboratory analysis of the lake samples was conducted, and a final report was completed to fulfill the laboratory portion of the course.

The stomach contents of northern pike that Lupe and his instructor, Dr. Dan Buresh, caught were analyzed, separated by type, and weighed. Lupe found that scuds (*Gammarus*) made up nearly half of the mass of the forage base for northern pike (49%). Brook stickleback and yellow perch each made up 22% of the diets of the northern pike, while leeches and snails (*Physidae*) made up most of the remainder of the northern pike forage base. Other contents found in the stomachs of the northern pike, but in small amounts were; crayfish, vegetation, and insect larvae. Figure 1 shows the percentage of stomach contents for the northern pike sampled.



Scuds were found in 55% of the fish sampled, making it the most common forage base for the northern pike sampled. Although yellow perch made up the second greatest mass of the forage of the northern pike, yellow perch were found in only two of the pike in the sample. In addition, brook sticklebacks were found in three of the northern pike, and leeches were eaten by two of the northern pike in the sample.

Mr. Lupe's project was part of a limnology course in which he was enrolled. The Master of Science (M.S.) program in Environmental Science at Sitting Bull College is in its third year. The program was accredited by the Higher Learning Commission in the spring 2014, with the first students graduating from the program in the summer of 2016. The program is designed to provide students with both theoretical and applied methods of learning, thus the project conducted by Lupe on Devils Lake is the applied section of the limnology course. Lupe is in the second cohort to go through the program, and is scheduled to graduate in the summer of 2018.



Clayton Lupe Prepares to Obtain Macroinvertebrate Samples on Devils Lake.

South Dakota Happenings

Staff Updates

Late in the summer of 2016, Sam Stukel left the team Pallid Sturgeon team in Yankton to work with USF&WS and Gavins Point NFH also in Yankton. Our loss is their gain. Sam would be a great addition to any team.

Ryan Andvik, Fisheries Biologist in Rapid City, left on February 16th, 2017 due to some life changing events in his personal life. In fact, he is now a proud father and is in charge of building a lake home for his family on Wolf Lake in MN.



Jeremy Kientz, who served as the Fisheries Biologist at McNenny State Fish Hatchery near Spearfish has been chosen to fill the vacancy left by Ryan. He is transitioning to his new duties researching and managing fisheries in the Black Hills and West River Fish Management Area. Jeremy's position at McNenny will be filled this summer.

Mark Fincel who served as the Upper Missouri River Fisheries Area Supervisor in Pierre requested to change his duties to be a Fisheries Biologist and has begun that transition.

Mike Smith has accepted the Area Fisheries Supervisor position vacated by Mark. Mike's move leaves the Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator position open.

Kyle Bales Resource Biologist with the Lower Missouri Fisheries Crew in Chamberlain has taken a position with the Iowa DENR.

Amy Gebhard has been selected to fill the position left open by Kyle's departure. Amy received her BS from Valley City State in ND and her MS from Tennessee Tech. We welcome Amy to the Department!

Benjamin (BJ) Schall has been selected as the new Fisheries Biologist in Sioux Falls. This is a new position created to focus primarily on AIS research, management and outreach in the South East Fisheries Management Area. BJ has a Bachelor's degree from SDSU and his M.S. degree from the University of Nebraska-Kearney. He also has a Minor in Teaching from SDSU.

After 35+ years of fisheries work with SDGFP, Bruce Johnson has hung up his waders for the last time on 5PM June 8th. Bruce has worked on the Missouri River and out of the Sioux Falls Fisheries office. We wish Bruce much enjoyment in retirement.

Regional Meetings

2018 MIDWEST FISH & WILDLIFE CONFERENCE



78th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference
Milwaukee, Wisconsin | January 28-31, 2018

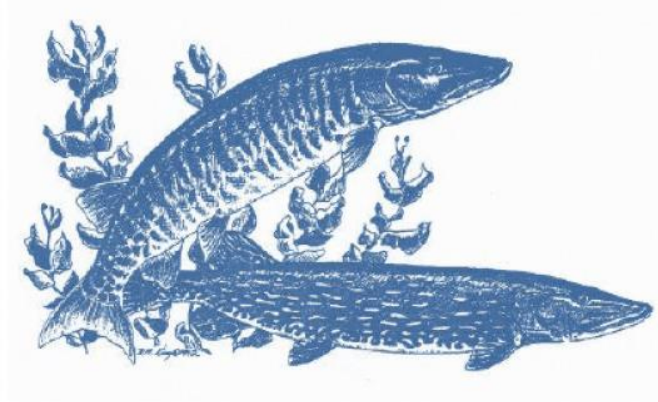
The 78th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference will be held January 28-31 at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center in Milwaukee, WI. For more information about the meeting, visit <http://www.midwestfw.org/>

2018 MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE



The 2018 Missouri River Natural Resources Conference will be held January 31 to February 2, 2018 at the Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Missouri. For more information, visit <http://www.mnrc.org/>

2017 North Central Division AFS Joint Technical Committee Summer Meeting



The 2017 NCD AFS Joint Technical Committee meeting will be held July 18-20 at [McQuoids Inn](#) Lake Mille Lacs, Isle, MN

For more information, visit [2017 Summer Meeting Announcement](#)



2018 Annual Meeting Update



Save the Date!

A new venue:

The 2018 Dakota Chapter AFS meeting will be held

February 26-28, 2018

at the Days Inn, in Brookings, SD

The newly re-modeled Days Inn Convention Center in Brookings, SD houses the Ground Round restaurant, the new *Splash Zone* water park and Tiki bar, along with a variety of meeting and banquet rooms. For more information about the Days Inn, you can access their webpage at <http://brookingsdaysinn.com/>

Reservations can be made by calling the Days Inn at 605.692.9471. Please mention "**American Fisheries Society**" to receive state/federal rates on rooms; a block of rooms will be held until February 9, 2018, so please make your reservations before that date. Additional information on registration fee and meeting activities will be provided in the Fall newsletter.

Chapter Officers 2016-2017

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Standing Committees

Planning

Greg Simpson (Chair, SD)

Continuing Education

Dan James (co-chair, SD)
Greg Power (co-chair, ND)
John Lott (SD)
Dane Shuman (SD)

Schulbach Scholarship

Open (chair, SD)
Wayne Nelson-Stastny (SD)
Zach Shattuck (MT)

Environmental Concerns

Geno Adams (co-chair, SD)
Michael Johnson (co-chair, SD)

Student Affairs

Position Open (chair, ND)

Information and Web Support

Mike Brown (SD)
Hilary Meyer (SD)

Membership

Matt Ward (chair, SD)
Casey Williams (ND)
Geno Adams (SD)

Awards and Nominations

Kurt Eversman (chair, ND)
Position open (SD)

Resolutions

Chelsey Pasbrig (SD)
Gene Galinat (SD)

NCD Walleye Tech Committee

Mark Fincel (SD)
Todd Caspers (ND)

NCD Centrarchid Tech Committee

Dan Nelson (SD)

NCD Escocid Tech Committee

Brian Blackwell (SD)

NCD Ictalurid Tech Committee

Dave Lucchesi (SD)

