

# LATERAL LINES

VOLUME 21, No. 1      FEBRUARY 26, 2004

## PRESIDENTS CORNER—SCOTT GRITTERS

This is my first Presidents message and as the past presidents did before me, I thank those that served in office the previous year. Mike Steuck you did an excellent job, especially organizing the files, it sure makes it easy to follow behind you. Greg Gelwicks, the membership surveys and expense summaries were excellent. Good job and thanks for caring about our long-term program viability. Kevin Hanson, the humor added to the Lateral Lines was super and the LL publication was one everyone looked forward to receiving. The late nights putting the newsletter together was noticed and appreciated!

If we are going to have a theme for the upcoming new year it will be ACTIVE. The ExCom now has met twice and we have planned an active list of

chapter functions. On numerous occasions, membership has raised concerns on how to increase membership. We may not concentrate on that issue as much during the next year. It is our hope that by making our AFS chapter ACTIVE, the membership issues will take care of themselves. We desire a chapter being something you want to belong to. One part of being ACTIVE is to have a regular newsletter. You have already received one newsletter put out by Alan. We are planning three more during the year. This is to keep you informed and up to date on what the chapter is doing. I hope that it will inform you, so you can also be ACTIVE in the chapter.

Without doubt, we are going to have budget issues with tight State dollars. We already had lost a great opportunity, in the forced

cancellation of our first ever meeting with the Missouri Chapter. A lot of time and expense was wasted on this effort, however, we hope to pull the chapter up by the bootstraps and move on to new adventures. The ExCom plans to be frugal with the budget, however, to be active we need to spend some money. We may need to think of new ways to keep from draining reserves in a year when we will not have a meeting (our main moneymaker). Please try to get involved in chapter activities this year. Go to one of our volunteer functions, be on a committee...whatever. It is the ExCom's desire and I take it as my responsibility to make this year in the AFS society a fun, rewarding, professional and ACTIVE experience.

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Special pre-Annual Iowa Chapter Meeting Issue!*
- *Get Larscheid's Bottom Line*
- *Kirby on Bluegill*
- *Scotty, a rod and a fish. Humm.*
- *Things you will need to read before the Chapter Business Meeting*

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IOWA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
SPRINGBROOK CONSERVATION CENTER  
MARCH 1, 2004  
3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM

NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA CHAPTER  
OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
VOLUME 21, NUMBER 1

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Audit ..... Mark Winn  
Membership ..... Mike Steuck  
Resolutions..... Mike McGee  
REAP..... Dick McWilliams  
Continuing Education..... Clay Pierce  
Student Affairs ..... Robert Summerfelt  
Nominations..... Gary Seigwarth  
Best Paper ..... Lannie Miller

BLUEGILL IN IOWA

DAN KIRBY

In October of 2003, I was asked to make a presentation regarding "Bluegill in Iowa" at the 2004 Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meeting. This is a large topic, which could literally take on book form. In lieu of the presentation and the book, I have written this summary of issues surrounding bluegill management in Iowa.

Despite the small size of bluegills (the current state record is 12 7/8 inches), the topic of bluegill and bluegill management is contentious. My grandfather advised me that I need only avoid the topics of religion and politics when in mixed company if wishing to avoid confrontations, but he was a bullhead fisherman. From the perspective of most urbanites, it surely must seem ridiculous that grown-ups would argue about a small laterally-flattened fish, but they

are not aware of the economic, social, and ecological importance of bluegills in Iowa. Fishing in Iowa generates in excess of \$335,000,000 in economic benefits annually, and provides recreation for more than 500,000 people (USDI 2002). Annually, about 200,000 anglers pursue panfish in Iowa and spend approximately 2,500,000 days on the water trying to catch panfish (USDI 2002). Many consider bluegills to be Iowa's most important "starter-fish"—providing uncomplicated fishing opportunities to youth and beginning-anglers (Schwartz 1987). Bluegills are distributed throughout Iowa and can be found in most lakes, rivers, and ponds supporting fish communities (Harlan et al. 1987). Within these aquatic communities, bluegills are commonly the primary prey-fish and act as an important trophic link between invertebrates and aquatic

predators. In small impoundments and ponds (typically containing simple fish communities), the relationship between bluegill population dynamics and predator population dynamics (typically largemouth bass) is well documented (Anderson and Neumann 1996).

In Iowa, it is generally agreed among resource managers that the key to a quality bluegill resource is quality bluegill habitat. Management activities for improving bluegill habitat can take on many forms and their success is dependent upon identifying and treating the factors primarily responsible for bluegill population maladies. The physical and chemical properties of Iowa man-made lakes are directly related to bluegill well-being and subsequent angling effort (Mitzner 2002). Lake renovation and sediment control can improve

## BLUEGILL IN IOWA CONTINUED

fishery resources in Iowa small impoundments, and sportfish populations may decline in response to overabundant vegetation or vegetation eradication (Hill 2002). On Iowa's portion of the Mississippi River, backwater sedimentation has been identified as a threat to the sustainability of centrarchid populations (Gent et al. 1995, Pitlo 2001), and Iowa research was on the forefront in documenting the positive impacts of habitat rehabilitation upon Mississippi River centrarchid populations (i.e., Gent et al. 1995). Iowa fisheries staff has applied what has been learned through research and past-management when constructing new fishing lakes. Brushy Creek, and the soon to be constructed Lost Grove Lake, serve as models for integrating and applying research and management knowledge of the relationship between bluegill habitat and OSY (optimum sustained yield) bluegill fisheries. Brush piles, stake-beds, jetties, rip-rap, and aeration systems are on the short-list of other "habitat tools" used by fishery managers across the state to sustain or improve bluegill fishing success for Iowa anglers.

Habitat improvement is an uncontroversial component of bluegill management in Iowa, especially in comparison to angler management. As of January 13, 2004 there were no recreational creel or size restrictions for bluegills in Iowa waters, with a continuously open season (with the exception of five MN/IA boundary lakes in northwest Iowa). As of January 14, 2004 a 25 fish daily bag limit was placed on bluegills in the Iowa portion of the Mississippi River. This marked the first state-mandated recreational creel or size restriction on bluegills (aside from the above-mentioned exceptions) for more than 35 years (Don Kline, IA

DNR Fish Management historian, Personal Communication). Illinois and Wisconsin had already adopted the daily bag limit, and this brought the state of Iowa in concurrence with our bordering states' regulations. Iowa has served as a bastion for liberal bluegill harvest regulations—the border states of Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin all possess bluegill creel or size restrictions on some portion of their interior water bodies (source=State web sites). Research conducted on Iowa man-made lakes suggests that bluegill harvest regulations are not biologically justified (Mitzner 2002), but research from outside Iowa suggests that angling does affect bluegill populations through the removal of large fish and subsequent reduction in the average size of fish in the population (Coble 1988, Beard and Essington 2000). Some literature suggests that recreational angling can cause bluegill population "stunting", due to the targeted removal of large parental males and a subsequent competitive advantage to early maturity (Drake et al. 1997, Jennings et al. 1997). Theoretically, this mechanism, or the direct removal of large fish, can cause bluegill populations to be growth over-fished (a decline in biomass yield caused by high fishing mortality or commencing harvest at too young of age) if anglers are unwilling to harvest smaller fish from the population. There is no evidence that a bluegill population can be recruit over-fished (fishing mortality reduces the number of adult fish to a point where too few remain to sustain the population through reproduction). Therefore, when managing for MSY (maximum sustained yield) there is limited biologically-based evidence for bluegill harvest regulations. When managing for OSY,

some science suggests that size (length) regulations may be justified if the angling public is willing to sacrifice total harvest in favor of a size structure with proportionally more large fish (e.g., Paukert et al. 2002). However, creel (daily bag) limits show little practical utility for improving bluegill size structure (e.g., Beard et al. 1997, Reed and Parsons 1999). It is generally agreed that population dynamics (growth, mortality, recruitment) and population composition (size structure, abundance) are ultimately confined by environmental factors (e.g., Paukert et al. 2002).

Regardless of the scientific arguments for or against panfish harvest regulations, a vocal contingent of Iowa's angling public begs to be regulated in an effort to keep themselves and their neighbors from "gunnysacking" bluegills. Iowa fish managers are not immune to the social and political pressures created by the vocal "anti-sackers". I have found no textbook or scientific literature stating the best way to handle this "science-independent" issue facing bluegill managers in Iowa.

Iowa can be proud of its science-based tradition of liberal bluegill harvest regulations, and emphasis on creating and maintaining quality bluegill fisheries through the enhancement and management of habitat. Iowa's fishing public is not static in terms of attitudes, resource use, or number. Active exchange with the fishing public and scientific community will help insure the continuation of "top-quality" bluegill management in Iowa.

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## BLUEGILL IN IOWA CONTINUED

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## UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS ON THE LOOSE!

Hawaii— World renowned aquaculture professors Robert “Slippery” Summerfelt and Joseph “Jumpin Joe” Morris have escaped their dreary basement offices and are headed for sunny Hawaii. Sounds like a somebody got creative with the travel authorization? Naw both will be

attending Triennial meeting of the World Aquaculture Society.

We will miss Bob’s biking antics at the Annual AFS meeting, and Joe’s always fresh and new pesticide training at the “Statewide”. So while the Fisheries bureau will be losing sleep at Springbrook, these two will be sipping Mai

Tais, dancing the hula, and hangin’ ten. In between sessions, of course.

Bob on a board and Joe in a grass skirt....

Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
 Midwest Fisheries Conference  
**Minutes of the 2003 Annual Business Meeting**  
 December 3, 2002  
 Isle of Capri Casino and Hotel, Bettendorf, IA

President Mike Steuck called the annual business meeting to order. Thirty-one members attended the meeting. President Steuck requested approval of the agenda. Kay Hill moved to approve the agenda, Mike McGhee seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mike Steuck introduced the executive committee (EXCOM). Mike Steuck is serving his term as president. Scott Gritters is president-elect. Greg Gelwicks is currently serving as secretary/treasurer. Past-president is Don Kline. Newsletter editor is Kevin Hanson.

North Central Division (NCD) President Chris Guy was present at our meeting. NCD secretary/treasurer Don Kline was also in attendance. Chris Guy thanked the chapter for holding our annual business meeting at the Fisheries Midwest meeting, as it helped to boost attendance at the conference. He also said that the American Fisheries Society is working hard on membership recruitment. A young professional membership category has been created. This was done because many students drop their memberships when they leave school and get a job and can no longer pay the student rate for membership. Now young professionals may join the society within 3 years of graduation for the student rate of \$38. It is hoped that this will help retain these young professionals as members of the parent society. The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biologist Program is being continued this year. The World Fisheries Conference in Vancouver is taking up a lot of the AFS's time and resources. Gus Rassum has spent a lot of time and energy improving the society's publications program. Chris also stated that the AFS at the parent society level does an enormous amount of work on Capitol Hill to represent important fisheries issues and influence policies that affect our fisheries. It is therefore important that fisheries professionals join the parent society to support these efforts. Chris said he was impressed that the Iowa Chapter had an active continuing education program that held a FAST workshop last year. He also liked the \$500.00 scholarship and the \$1000.00 grant for fisheries related projects that the Iowa Chapter funds.

President Steuck called the annual business meeting to order. Thirty-one members attended the meeting. President Steuck requested approval of the 2002 business meeting minutes. Dick McWilliams moved to approve the minutes, Kay Hill seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

NCD secretary/treasurer Don Kline reported that the NCD has money to spend and if anyone has good ideas on ways to spend money they should bring them to the NCD business meeting.

President Steuck provided highlights of the Iowa Chapter's activities during the past year. Instead of doing the EMP resolution discussed at last year's meeting, a letter was sent by the chapter to Tom Latham on the appropriations committee in support of the EMP. President Steuck participated in a NCD membership committee survey. Don Kline developed an application for the chapter's \$1000 grant for fisheries related projects. President Steuck also worked on replacing chapter committee representatives, and prepared a chapter budget proposal.

Financial Report – Secretary/Treasurer Greg Gelwicks summarized the treasurer's report and concluded a balance of \$7479.46 as of Dec. 1, 2002. Income was a combination of chapter dues, annual meeting registration and auction, the FAST continuing education course, the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference booth T-shirt and raffle ticket sales, and interest on the checking account. Auditing committee chairman Greg Simmons approved the financial report. Bernie Schonhoff moved to approve the auditor and treasurer's report and Tom Boland seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Committee Reports

REAP – Dick McWilliams reported it has been a tough year for REAP and other conservation funding in the state.

Funding for REAP was essentially cut for this year. Funding for REAP next year will depend greatly on how many people contact their local representatives in support of the program. The REAP congress was not funded this year but still met. Several suggestions came from this meeting. It was suggested that the REAP Alliance take a more active leadership role and work to expand its base. The Alliance will work to add more groups as members. It was also suggested that the alliance work to re-vitalize county REAP committees in order to increase contacts with local representatives in support of REAP. This legislative session about 40% of the members are new, so the Alliance will be working to educate and inform these members about the REAP program. At last report, the budget request is again \$15 million for REAP for this year, and the REAP Congress has asked for \$20 million for the program. Ultimate funding for the program depends on finances and whether legislators feel there is support for the program. The Alliance wants to thank all who have contacted their local representatives in support of REAP, and encourage everyone to continue these contacts. If people need help to figure out what to say to their local representative, Dick McWilliams has fact sheets and suggestions available that he can e-mail to you. A new program named I-CALL (Iowa Conservation Advocates' and Leaders' Link) will be used to target environmental issues of interest to us in a timely, bi-partisan, common-sense method. When this program is up and running, interested individuals will receive messages and will make an effort to contact legislators and policy makers with a coordinated message. Dick asked if the chapter would be willing to make its membership list available to Rich Leopold who is coordinating I-CALL to allow him to contact members about the program. President Steuck brought up that he feels the EXCOM should be allowed to set up a separate e-mail account. This would allow distribution of information on programs such as REAP without risking getting in trouble for using the state e-mail system. Gary Siegwarth moved to allow the EXCOM to set up its own e-mail account, Tom Boland seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. President Steuck moved to make the chapter membership list available to I-CALL, Pitlo seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Continuing Education** – Clay Pierce was unable to attend the meeting so Mike Steuck reported in his absence. An IRIS (Iowa Rivers Information System) workshop is being planned and will be held when the system is ready. If anyone has ideas for future continuing education classes they should contact Mike Steuck or Clay Pierce.

**Membership** – Don Kline will be working hard to recruit members for both the Iowa Chapter and the parent society and asked for chapter member's assistance in this endeavor. Don asked for ideas for recruiting new members. Don had some ideas including: giving students half price memberships, having a lottery for free memberships for students, offer incentives to current members to sign up new members. Dan Kirby thought we should talk to professors at smaller Iowa colleges to recruit them and their students as members. Other ideas of places to recruit members were IDOT environmental unit, county conservation boards, IDNR EPD, Univ. of Iowa Hygienics Lab. There was much discussion of the need to foster the attitude among students that society membership is important. Don asked the membership to e-mail him names of potential members or ideas for increasing membership in the chapter and parent society.

**Nomination** – Gary Siegwarth replaced Tom Gengerke as nominations chair. He will be working on coming up with nominations for next year.

**Student Affairs** – Bob Summerfelt was not present at the meeting.

**Resolutions** – Mike McGhee replaced Marion Conover as resolutions chair and reported that there were no resolutions at this time. Mike requested that members contact him if they have nominations.

**Best Paper** – Lannie Miller could not attend the meeting and Mike Steuck reported in his absence. Best paper from last year's annual meeting was awarded to Joe Larsheld, Mike Hawkins, Jim Christianson, Donna Muhm, and Tom Gengerke for their paper that Joe presented on *Post-stocking performance of hatchery reared muskies*. The award for best poster presentation from last years meeting went to Robert Bringolf and Dr. Summerfelt for their poster on *Reduction in estrogenic potency of municipal wastewater with serial passage through aerated lagoons*. Mike Steuck asked the membership if we should do a best paper award at this meeting. It was decided that the chapter would give best paper awards for presentations at this meeting. Scott Gritters volunteered to head up best paper

and poster judging for this meeting. Bryan Hayes, Lewis Bruce, and Mike McGhee volunteered to help score presentations.

*Technical committee updates:*

**Walleye (WTC) – John Pitlo replaced Tom Gengerke** as the chapter representative to the WTC. There was no summer meeting of the WTC but there will be a meeting today at 3:30. John Pitlo reported that the Walleye Symposium was published in the NAJEM. The symposium will include papers by Pitlo, Larry Mitzner and others. The symposium is available as a book at a reduced price for parent society members.

**Centrarchid (CTC) – Don Kline** reported that CTC did not have a summer meeting but will be meeting today at 4:30.

**Rivers and Streams (RSTC) – Greg Gelwicks** reported the RSTC held a meeting last spring in Rock Island, IL. There were several good stream talks. The RSTC will also be meeting today.

**Esocidae – Joe Larshied** could not attend the meeting. There was no report on this committee.

**Salmonid (STC)– Bill Kalishek** was not present at the business meeting. There was no report on this committee.

**Ictalurid (ITC) – Dan Kirby** reported that the first ever meeting of this committee was held at the midwest meeting last year. Since then, bylaws have been adopted and the committee has requested that the NCD move the committee from adhoc to full committee status. This will be decided at the NCD business meeting this week. This summer there was an electronic meeting where each chapter representative gathered information on ongoing catfish research or catfish projects going on in their state. This information was compiled and sent out on the listserve set up by the committee to facilitate information exchange among researchers and managers working with catfish.

*Old Business:*

**Student Travel Grant - Mike Steuck** reported that for the past several years the chapter has made available \$100 that is matched by the NCD for a student travel grant to help defray costs of attending the annual meeting. Robert Brin-golf received the grant this year. Mike asked for a motion to make \$100 available next year for this purpose. Chris Larson so moved. Kay Hill seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**ISU Scholarship Fund –Mike Steuck** reported that the chapter awarded a \$500 scholarship to the Animal Ecology Dept. at ISU to award to a student to put toward tuition in 2002. This year the scholarship was awarded to Kirk Han-son. Acting president Steuck asked for a motion to approve another \$500 scholarship to award to a student in the Animal Ecology Department at ISU in 2003. **John Pitlo so moved.** Discussion followed on whether the student receiving the scholarship was required to be an Iowa Chapter or parent society member. Mike Steuck said that he would contact Dr. Summerfelt to find out what the requirements are, and recommend that there be some membership requirement. Tom Boland seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**REAP Alliance – Mike Steuck** reported that for the past several years the chapter has made an annual donation of \$150 to the REAP Alliance. Mike asked for a motion to donate \$150 again in 2002. Vance Polton so moved and Don Kline seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Iowa Environmental Council (IEC) – Mike Steuck** reported that for the past several years the chapter has made an annual donation of \$100 to the IEC. Mike asked for a motion to donate \$100 again in 2002. Chris Larson so moved. Tom Boland seconded. Mike reported that he was the chapter's representative on the council and met with Susan Heathcote to discuss what we can do for the council and what they can do for us. Their focus right now is on water quality and feedlot issues and this supports fisheries objectives. The motion carried unanimously.

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**Fisheries Project Grant** – Mike Steuck reported that Don Kline made up a grant application with stipulations for awarding the grant. The application form was distributed to the membership. A chapter member must sponsor the application. The EXCOM can grant up to \$1000 a year for fisheries related projects. Comments are needed on the application by January. Don Kline moved that the EXCOM be authorized to spend up \$1000 next year on grants for fisheries related projects. John Pitlo seconded. Scott Gritters inquired about availability of funds from last year. Don Kline said applications received now would fall into next years funding. The motion carried unanimously.

#### *Awards and Recognition*

Mike Steuck thanked Don Kline for serving his second year as past-president, Greg Gelwicks for serving his second year as secretary/treasurer, and Kevin Hanson for his service as newsletter editor. Mike also thanked Mark Flam-mang, Paul Sleeper, Chris Larson, Donna Muhm, Jon Christensen, and others who helped out with the raffle.

#### *New Business:*

**2003-2004 Budget Proposal** – Mike Steuck distributed a copy of the budget proposal to the membership. Mike explained the proposal covers the period from Sept. 1, 2003 – Aug. 31, 2004. The proposal shows projected income to the chapter and expected expenses. If projected income and expenses are correct, expenses will exceed income by \$545.00 during this period. However, the chapter has sufficient funds (over \$7000) in the account to cover this deficit. Kevin Hanson moved that the budget proposal be approved. Mel Bowler seconded. There was considerable discussion of concerns over the deficit shown in the proposed budget. The motion was amended by John Pitlo to have the proposal reflect the use of reserve funds to make up the deficit. This will be done by adding a line for reserve funds used to balance the budget. President Steuck stressed that this budget proposal is a tool to speed up the business meeting by giving the membership the opportunity to approve/disapprove yearly expenses (scholarship, travel grant, REAP, IEC, Fisheries project grant) all at one time. This would replace separate votes on each item. The amended motion carried unanimously.

**Vote for President Elect and Secretary/Treasurer** – Mike Steuck appointed Kevin Hanson, Mel Bowler, and Tom Boland to distribute, collect, and count the ballots.

**Newsletter Editor**– Kevin Hanson wishes to step down as newsletter editor after four years of service. Scott Gritters asked the membership to thank Kevin for his service to the chapter. Mike Steuck asked for volunteers to take his place or recommendations of people to replace Kevin. Names mentioned were Karen Aulwes, Scott Grummer, Mark Winn.

**Future Chapter Meetings – Location/Joint Meeting?** Scott Gritter and Mike Steuck have discussed past meetings and generated a list of chapters/groups we have met with since 1994. They decided when contacting other chapters/groups about future joint meetings, they will first contact the chapters/groups with which we have not met for the longest time. Therefore Scott will talk to Missouri first, Minnesota second, Wisconsin third, and Nebraska fourth about the 2004 meeting. He has e-mailed Missouri and will ask them about meeting in 2004 or 2005. If Missouri cannot do it, he will contact Minnesota.

**Announce new officers** – Tom Boland and John Pitlo counted the ballots. Mike Steuck announced that Dan Kirby narrowly defeated Alan Johnson for president-elect by a vote of 16 to 15. Mike Hawkins defeated Kim Bogenschutz for secretary/treasurer by a vote of 21 to 10. There was discussion of why we are voting at the chapter meeting instead of by mail ballot. Mike Steuck explained that this was changed last year.

**Additional items from the Floor** – Dick McWilliams announced that Tim Goeman has some copies of the Walleye Symposium publication for sale at this meeting.

**Don Kline** made a motion to authorize the EXCOM to put together a new membership project based on comments heard at this meeting with funding not to exceed \$200. Tom Boland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.



Scott Gritters asked that the best paper volunteers meet briefly after the meeting.

Meeting Adjournment – A motion was made by Mike Steuck to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

## SHALLOW LAKE RENOVATION BASED ON ALTERNATIVE STABLE TROPHIC STATES BY JOE LARSCHIED AND MICHAEL HAWKINS

Spirit Lake Hatchery, 122 252nd Avenue, Spirit Lake, IA 51360 (712) 336-1840

Shallow lakes are one of the most challenging lake types to manage for water quality. Shallow lakes are known as "tweener" lakes in Minnesota and Wisconsin since they are too shallow to be consistently good lakes, and too deep to be consistently good marshes. They are right smack in the middle of the two extremes. Most shallow lakes in Iowa can exist in either of two conditions; the turbid water state or the clear water state. When these lakes exist in the turbid water state they are characterized by very turbid water, little to no aquatic vegetation, limited emergent vegetation, a sparse fishery dominated by carp and bullheads, and limited waterfowl production and hunting opportunities. However, many of these same lakes can also exist in a clear water state which is typified by clear water, abundant aquatic vegetation, shallow bays covered with emergent vegetation, a desirable fishery dominated by bluegills, northern pike, yellow perch, and largemouth bass, and enhanced waterfowl production and hunting opportunities.

These shallow lakes can exist for years as either a clear, or a turbid water state. Both of these states are relatively stable and it takes a major perturbation to move from one state to another. For instance, a drought can shrink the shoreline of a turbid lake exposing mud flats that are quickly colonized by cattails. After the drought the lakes refill with water flooding this emergent vegetation. These cattails help hold and solidify the bottom effectively preventing the bottom mud from getting stirred up by the wind, boat activity, or even fish. The water clarity greatly increases on the lake because of the decreased muddy water from these shallow water areas. This clear water state will usually last as long as the cattails persist. However, cattail beds decrease in size each year they are flooded with water. In a few years these beds mostly disappear and all of a sudden, wham, we are back into the turbid water state. This cycle is natural, but our current drainage and management patterns have favored consistently higher water levels, and consequently most of our lakes have little to no emergent vegetation and, therefore, most of these lakes are currently in the turbid water condition. We recently began an investigation to further understand the alternative stable trophic states of our shallow lakes, and to develop tools that managers can use to shift and maintain shallow lakes in a clear water state.

There are some real success stories of vegetation management. After vegetation was restored in Big Muskego Lake, Wisconsin, water clarity and fisheries improved markedly, and shifted from a fishery dominated by carp and bullheads to a fishery dominated by perch, bluegills, northern pike and largemouth bass. After vegetation was restored in Mormon Trail Lake, Iowa, the bluegill biomass (pounds per acre) increased 770%, the bass biomass increased 100%, crappie biomass increased 100%, walleye biomass increased 200%, and angler catch rates increased 318%.

This is the bottom line. By improving water quality in our shallow lakes we are also improving recreational opportunities including: aesthetics (clear water is more attractive than turbid water), swimming and boating (a recent survey indicated that water quality is the main determinant of where people choose to swim and boat), fishing (we can switch from a sporadic fishery dominated by carp and bullheads to a more desirable fishery dominated by bluegills, yellow perch, crappies, northern pike, and largemouth bass), and hunting (reestablished emergent and submergent vegetation will greatly improve waterfowl production and hunting).

## REAP Alliance Spring 2004

The Iowa Chapter, AFS has been a partner in the REAP Alliance since the program was established over fourteen years ago. There have been a number of challenges over the years and through the efforts of many Iowans the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) remains and continues to invest in Iowa, our outdoors, our heritage and our people. REAP provides funding to public and private partners for natural and cultural resource projects, including water quality, wildlife habitat, soil conservation, parks, historic preservation and more. So far REAP has provided \$140 million dollars for such projects all over Iowa.

There will be some important changes at the REAP Assemblies this year. At the assemblies participants will draw up lists of projects to be considered in each region, help establish a vision for each region, and take a formative role in improving REAP's program and policies. Part of this will be looking more toward local or area input into the programs and more emphasis on county activities. This is a critical year to support and strengthen REAP through active participation in the REAP Assemblies. It is especially important in this tight budget year for us to demonstrate how important this conservation funding is by actively participating in the assemblies. The dates and locations for the assemblies were sent out earlier, and can be accessed through the DNR web site.

Gov. Vilsack has proposed 11 million dollars for REAP for FY05. This is the same amount as in FY04. However, the legislative session is just beginning and whether this level of funding will be sustained is, of course, unknown. The Alliance is continuing to provide information to inform representatives and senators about REAP and the impact the program has had and will continue to have throughout Iowa.

## Momma Chinook by Scott A.

The airport newsstand paper read, Boise State 52- Idaho State 0, seems the Buffalos could again stampede the Cyclones, like the last time I visited Boise. This trip was very different- I wanted to fish for trout, but I came to Idaho to see salmon. Not just any salmon, they can be found in the grocery store. I wanted to see the wild Pacific salmonid version of the Chinook salmon, which has spawned in Idaho streams for thousands of years, but are now struggling for existence.

Rain pelted the windshield as we past the Smokey-the-Bear with his

paw dialed to "fire danger extreme". I asked my guide (former Iowa DNR employee) Arnie Brimmer if fire-warning colors were the same ones used on the new terrorist alert scale. Of the 1000 questions, asked of this Idaho fisheries biologist, this was the only question he did not know. When it came to questions on management of the Idaho's awesome natural resources however, he did not miss a beat. A fish manager in Idaho is a tough job because Idahoans have diverse opinions on fisheries and other environmental issues. These opinions appear as divergent as the papers football score or the rain soaked "Smokey's" high-risk paw.

The first half of the fishing trip to was a trip to Kelly Creek. Kelly is a poster child for a beautiful mountain stream, however it is not pristine! It no longer has salmon. On way to Kelly I began to experience the wide range of native environmental views off bumper stickers. "Save the salmon, eat a cow" "People for eating tasty animals", "dams suck", "get your salmon from a grocery store", "go home" and my personal favorite, "save 100 cattle, kill a wolf"

Below the mountains of Clearwater National Forrest, the Chinooks in Kelly are gone. It seems a politician

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named Dworshak wanted a dam... any dam. He (and our taxes) created the 22<sup>nd</sup> highest dam in the world, blocking 150 miles of river and destroying one of the longest salmon migrations in the world. From the ocean, a Chinook can make it past the Bonneville, Dalles, John Day and McNary dams. Then the salmon enter the Snake River system and the go past the four most controversial and hard to pass dams: Lee Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite. If a migrant Chinook makes it this far, old Dworshak is there to stop them in their fins.

The water in the Kelly (above Dworshak) is clear and cold. It looks as if poured out of a giant store-bought distilled water bottle. I forgot how awesome Kelly Creek is since encountering my last migration- a far too distant trip. The world famous west-slope cutthroats in Kelly are plentiful and I caught twenty out of a single rock strewn hole. I also caught a few remnant-isolated steelheads. Steelheads are another migrant stopped by old man Dworshak but they unlike the Chinook, they still maintain populations above the dam. These isolated steelheads grow to size equal to the adipose fin of their ocean going cousins living past the wall.

After the spawn, Chinook carcasses would have littered the bottom of Kelly Creek. Stench of decaying salmon flesh would be everywhere. Bears, eagles and a hoard of rasping invertebrates would tear at the mussel put on in the oceanic weight room. If not for the bears, the biting flies probably would have driven me away from the steam mistaking my boated belly as a salmon carcass.

In all this carnage, a cycle of life was completed. Even down to the micronutrients gobbled up by the lush Idaho forest the productivity brought back from the Pacific was used. The cutthroats, trees, and bears all benefited. Best of all, the young salmon, utilizing the nutrients from their dead parents flesh would complete another year of an ancient ritual. Once Dworshak cut the thread, this ecological spider web unraveled to a simple system with distilled water, a dam and no salmon, and no bears, and few biting flies.

The second part of the fishing trip was to the Lemhi River to fish for rainbow trout, and with luck a sighting of a wild Chinook. Under the watchful eyes of the Bitterroot Range, salmon still return every year to the Lemhi. However, numbers are getting low.

The Lemhi is located in east central Idaho, the water is not perfectly clear since the river has been ditched, diverted and drained. Everywhere is irrigation. I felt at home though, as similar actions assailed my home rivers in the other "potato state". The Lemhi however, still has salmon runs. Adults move upstream from the Pacific and smolts return back through a maze of water diversions. Thanks to numerous ingenious fish barriers, somehow some make to the ocean... fate unknown.

I cannot do written justice to my feelings on seeing my first wild adult Chinook. I stumbled across a giant redd looking like an ambitious bluegill nest. Within the nest was a massive 10-pound Chinook trying to look like "just another rock" as I passed by. Anadromous biologist Arnie called her a "three salt" salmon since she had spent three

years in the ocean before returning. I simply called her steel blue body gorgeous. Her caudal fin and tail were white from shaping the gravel. I knew the difficult two-state journey she had made. The trials, the dams, building a redd, it would make me look ragged too.

My thoughts went to the headaches momma Chinook was causing our nation were politics, science and money collides with pro-fisheries thought. Everywhere in the Northwest was talk of the four H's (habitat, hydroelectric, hatcheries and harvest). Midwest newspapers rarely carry the salmon story but to every Idahoan, it is an everyday blame game. Northwest opinion pages swell with endless finger pointing, everyone saying they don't want to see Chinooks lost, but real action to correct losses seem few. In front of momma Chinook, I cussed at the hydro dams; having penned my opinion, the hydro dams are the main problem H, especially the four on the Snake River. I also took this opportunity to again cuss at old Dworshak on the other river.

I tried to think more positive thoughts... about the Idaho land-owner who let our party fish, even though we were strangers. He gave us access to see momma Chinook and we had excellent rainbow fishing. In part, our fishing was so good because he fenced his stream from cattle. This was done to improve habitat for spawning Chinooks and rainbows. His fencing act may have been subsidized (and I hope it was) but it was still a choice for him and I doubt he "made money" on it. Maybe the mega power companies and politicians could follow his lead and do something positive for salmon as well.

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Other good thoughts went to Arnie's work and his passion for Chinooks. A governmental agency without employees with passion is a simply called a bureaucracy. He had the skills it was going to take to get through the needed issues! On this whole mess of wild salmon in the

Columbia basin, I know fellow American Fisheries Society members in Idaho, Oregon and Washington have crossed paths with the anti-salmon political machines, and lost. Charges of conflict of interest leveled although their jobs are to promote our nations fish and fisheries. On this day, on this bank, on this

river, I appreciated our AFS members battle. I wished momma Chinook luck; maybe in three years or so, I can visit her kids, hopefully they too stir up controversy....we then left into opposite directions. When I next migrate back to Idaho; I plan head up to the Bitterroots to look for a pack of wolves.

# EXCOM NOTES CONTINUED

was decided that we would allow Alan Johnson to purchase Acrobat Reader at the low price of \$99. In the end, this should save us money on printing costs.

Fisheries Project Grants: Timing of the fisheries grant was again discussed at length. At last EXCOM meeting, deadlines and issues were set but these did not correspond with memory of discussion at the previous membership meeting. The basic formula is September through December, grants are received and in January, they are reviewed. Max grant is \$500. If grants not all dolled out in the September through December time frame they will be done

so on a first come- first serve basis. **Decision:** We would align to the timing as recalled by Greg Gelwicks. Applications will have deadlines attached so timing issues are clear. One application has been received for bank hide work on Mr. John Richmond's property. This application for \$500 was approved. EXCOM will review other grants as received. Steuck will have amended grant applications at the business meeting. Dan Kirby will contact Bryan Hayes when money is needed (make sure no check already issues). Dan will inform Mike Hawkins to write out the check.

ISU fisheries scholarship: The EXCOM meeting reviewed a host of

emails and meeting minutes on this subject. Many issues were raised by Mr. Bob Summerfelt on exactly the criteria for the scholarship. The biggest issue dealt with whether the recipient should be a member of AFS (State or National Chapter) or if the grant should be a "desirable attribute". **Decision:** After a length review of the subject the EXCOM decided that the membership voted they wanted the Scholarship go to a member of AFS. This is what was voted on. Mike Steuck will make sure that the ISU scholarship will reflect memberships wishes. Copies of scholarship will be made available at the annual meeting.

IOWA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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The American Fisheries Society supports the conservation of North America's fisheries and aquatic ecosystems by promoting professional excellence in fisheries science, management, and education.

## NOTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 25, 2004 EXCOM MEETING

The 2005 Iowa Chapter meeting: At the September 30, 2003 EXCOM meeting we discussed further pursuing a meeting again with Missouri since the 2003 meeting was cancelled. It was decided in the September 30 meeting that the Iowa Chapter AFS definitely needed to have some professional meeting with or without state assistance. At this meeting, the EXCOM board discussed a number of scenarios with potential meetings and state funding issues. These meetings included with Missouri, with Iowa Chapter of the Wildlife Society and with the Soil and Water Conservation Society. We thought in Ames even with out State funding we would maximize our attendance with Students, faculty and die-hard AFS members. **Decisions:** The EXCOM board changed our position on this issue from the September 30, 2003 meeting. We decided that we would approach the membership to have an Iowa AFS meeting with or without State funding for DNR employees. The ideal location would be Ames Iowa but we may further discuss this item. Consider holding it also in Springbrook SP. We also favored the idea of meeting with a combined meeting with the Iowa Chapter of the Wildlife Society and/or the Soil and Water Conservation Society. If membership agrees, since Dan Kirby is incoming president it will his responsibility to set this up.

Expenditures of money for 2005 meeting: We decided the meeting would be needed and some treasury cost will need to be outlaid. Anticipated costs will be put this in the budget. EXCOM did not feel that this item is anything needed to individually vote on. **Decision:** Include

the cost in the proposed 2005 budget. Anticipate a meeting in Ames Iowa with IWS or SWCS.

AFS Road Show: Considerable discussion on this item ensued about having Iowa AFS field day or events. EXCOM goals are to have an active chapter and discussed a variety of potential AFS events, both fun and professional. Events discussed include Golf outings, trap shoots, bank hide building and AFS Adopt a cove. **Decision:** By next year we will have at least two AFS volunteer outings. Dan Kirby will call Bryan Hayes and maybe set up one bank hide building day on the property of Mr. John Richmond. A potential second outing will be on the new Lost Lake and Iowa chapter AFS may actually adopt a cove. We would like to have an outing in western Iowa at some location as well! Grant from our habitat funds may be applied for to provide nominal costs for food and beverages.

Informational item February newsletter: Discussion of newsletter articles. Dan Kirby's article is in. Gritters articles are done but need to get to Alan. **Decision:** Mike Steuck will contact Joe Larcheid and make sure it gets to Alan as well. Therefore, the newsletter can be published. Alan will publish the next newsletter in Microsoft word. The next newsletter will be done with Acrobat reader.

Propagated Fish in Resource Management (PFIRM): National Chapter has asked each individual chapter to select members who will provide a balanced perspective in three categories: fisheries management, ecological services and fish propagation. They have a web based survey that

addresses some contentious issues on the subject. They asked that members have at least 10 years of experience. **Decision:** EXCOM chose Don Kline to represent fish management, Mike Mason to Represent Fish Propagation and Kim Bogenschutz to represent the ecological perspective. Scott Gritters will contact each member to insure they are able to complete the survey. Alternates selected were Lannie Miller, Dave Walgasper and Mike McGee. **This is due by March 20.**

Web Page Development: In the September 30, 2003 meeting it was decided our chapter would join the ranks of most other state chapters and have a presence on the web.

**Decision:** at the chapter business meeting, we will get a web team of three or four members formed from volunteers. They will have an organized meeting to begin development and have a page up and running by the end of the year.

Officers to Midwest or National Meeting: In the September 30, 2003 meeting it was decided that we would have two members of the EXCOM committee would be compensated to go to the NCD and National meeting. **Decision:** after discussion of tight budget, we would drop the National meeting attendance but would limited to the NCD and membership. We would budget \$700 dollars to be put in the proposed budget where members can have the opportunity to discuss it if they wish.

Acrobat Reader: To save some money and make it easier for web page development and newsletters it decided the club needed to purchase Acrobat Reader. **Decision:** After reviewing several different options it