



NEWSLETTER

December 2007

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We would appreciate your comments on this electronic version of the NC Chapter Newsletter. Please send all responses to Jerry Finke (jerry.finke@ncwildlife.org).

President's Message

Based on recommendations from our September EXCOM meeting, I recently completed the chapter's application to join *North Carolina Teaming with Wildlife*. This national coalition is comprised of more than 5,000 organizations, businesses, and individuals who support the goal of restoring and conserving the nation's wildlife. The American Fisheries Society is among a 13-member national steering committee, which provides national leadership for the *Teaming with Wildlife* initiative. The coalition's goals are to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered, protect vital habitats and support the State Wildlife Grant program and implementation of state wildlife plans. How can we as a chapter support this coalition and the implementation of the North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan? Aside from membership being familiar with the plan and its' recommendations, perhaps the chapter can best function as an advocate supporting issues addressed in the US Fish and Wildlife conservation strategies for fishes in the southern US (Bibb et al. 2002.) Two of the seven major issues identified in this report related to a lack of understanding of the value of native fishes and aquatic ecosystems and insufficient coordination among stakeholders. Certainly, in North Carolina with the long-term drought projected to continue into next year coupled with increased demand for water, aquatic communities are imperiled as never before. Calling attention to the value of these resources is critical to maintaining citizen and Congressional support and funding for implementing conservation strategies for imperiled species.

Kent Nelson

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

[Minutes of the September 2007 EXCOM Meeting.](#)

Submitted by Brian McRae, Secretary-Treasurer

NCSU Student Subunit Report

As the semester comes to a close we look back on all the great things the North Carolina State University student subunit has accomplished this year. We have consistently had 25+ people, and a max of 45 people, at all of our meetings not to mention great participation in all of the year's activities and events. We raised nearly \$600 with our raffle at the state AFS meeting, cleaned the Neuse River, presented "fishy" demonstrations to Fuquay-Varina High School and middle school girls at the Sally Ride Science Festival at Meredith College, helped by creating an education station at the Raleigh Pier Opening, and had many of our members present at local, state and national meetings, winning awards at every one. It couldn't have been a better year!

October and November didn't slow down and have been particularly busy months. In October we were asked by Audubon International and Crescent Communities to complete an assessment of Hidden Lake, an ecologically sustainable development north of Raleigh. A group of us headed up there to spend a weekend sampling the lake with a shock-boat, trap-nets, seines, and minnow traps to determine the species composition and age/size structure of the fish in the lake. In exchange for our work and a compiled report for the community, Audubon International donated \$1500 to the NC State Student Subunit! Our findings were reported to the subunit at our final meeting of the semester on December 4th. In addition, we have developed a pamphlet and report about the fish composition in the lake that will be distributed to community members around the lake.



SFS student subunit member, Kevin Magowan, wrestles with a snapping turtle caught in one of the trapnets at Hidden Lake.

In November, for the third year in a row we went to the Prairie Ridge Ecostation, part of the NC Museum of

Natural Sciences, to remove invasive plants from the site and plant native species along the river. This year we combined with the Leopold Wildlife Club and the Society for Conservation Biology student chapter to remove mostly Privet from the area near the stream. We had a hard time getting some of the guys to stop pulling out the invasives! In all, it was an extremely productive day, and we will continue to do it again in years to come. We thank Cathy Fergen for the beautiful tour through Prairie Ridge and with organizing the day!



Members of the NCSU student subunit combined with the Leopold Wildlife Club to remove invasive species (mostly Privet) from Prairie Ridge Ecostation, part of the Museum of Natural Sciences.

Also in November, Dr. Dave Eggleston's lab conducted a crab pond grow-out study and invited the student subunit to help. Besides the cool weather and vast amounts of mud, all the crabs were rounded up and accounted for! They then collected demographic data from the population to finalize growth curves and population estimates. This gave students, who had never had an opportunity to work with crabs, a chance to get some field experience and gave more help to Dave's lab group!



Members of NCSU student subunit Cody Burnett, Ray Mroch, and Dave Eggleston's lab take a lunch break from crab pond sampling!

At our meetings, we continue to have guest speakers. In October Professor Emeritus, Pete Bromley, returned to NC State to talk about “Taking Risks for Trout in the Catskills.” It was a great talk and nice to see him return. In November NC State Alumnus, Dr. Chris Taylor, came from the coast to give a talk, entitled “Fisheries Hydroacoustics in Reef Conservation.” We want to thank both Pete and Chris for traveling to Raleigh and speaking to the subunit.

This year has been really awarding and productive for the subunit. With all the money we have raised this year, we will now be able to provide travel grants to our members and continue to buy pizzas for our meetings. I have enjoyed being president this year and will turn the gavel over to the new officers come January. Thanks to my officers, Lindsay Glass, Kevin Magowan, Scott Favrot and Brent Register. You have all done an amazing job ☺. We will end the year with the final meeting of the semester on Tuesday, December 4th at Western Lanes on Hillsborough Street where we will present our Hidden Lake findings and have some fun bowling. All are welcome!!

Submitted by Marybeth Brey, NCSU student subunit president (mkbrey@ncsu.edu)

Nominations Committee and Ballot

This year’s Nominating Committee consisted of Derek Aday (NC State University), Keith Ashley (NC Wildlife Resources Commission), and Hugh Barwick (Duke Energy). The Committee was requested by President Nelson to seek nominees for the offices of President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer.

Nominees for the office of President-Elect are: Mark Cantrell (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and Chad Thomas (NC Wildlife Resources Commission).
Nominees for the office of Secretary/Treasurer are: Bryan Kalb (Duke Energy) and Kevin Hining (NC Wildlife Resources Commission). Election results will be announced at the upcoming 2008 Annual Business Meeting of the NC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

Submitted by Hugh Barwick, Chair



Mark Cantrell, Candidate, President-Elect -Mark is a fish and wildlife biologist with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Asheville Field Office. He reviews federal permits and projects, mostly working with hydroelectric facilities (FERC and TVA), stream community restoration, and endangered species. He has degrees (BS and MS) in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and 17 years of experience in research, management, and administration in various aspects of fish and wildlife conservation with Federal and State agencies in the Southeast. He has been a member of AFS since 2000.

Chad Thomas, Candidate, President-Elect - Chad Thomas is the Coastal Fisheries Research Coordinator for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. He received a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from N.C. State University in 1991, and a M.S. in Biology from Tennessee Technological University in 1994. Prior to his current position with the NCWRC, Chad worked as an assistant fisheries biologist in the northwestern mountains and as a district biologist for eight years on the coast. He began his fisheries career as a technician on the Lake Jordan reservoir project while an undergraduate at NCSU.



Chad has been a member of the NC Chapter AFS since 1994 and has been recognized by AFS as a Certified Fisheries Professional. He served as Chapter Secretary-Treasurer from January 1996 through January of 2000,

and had the opportunity to participate with planning for the 1999 AFS parent society meeting in Charlotte as chair of the Finance Committee. Chad served as chair of the Chapter Nominating Committee from 2001-2005, and most recently as chair of the AFS Southern Division Nominating Committee in 2006.



Bryan Kalb, Candidate, Secretary/Treasurer - Bryan is a fisheries biologist with Duke Energy, having recently transferred to Huntersville from Duke Energy's Midwest operations. His work at Duke Energy has been primarily associated with assessing impacts of steam-electric power plants on the abundance, distribution, feeding, growth, reproduction, and mortality of fish and benthic macroinvertebrates. He has a BS degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from Purdue University with specialization in small stream ecology and aquaculture. While at Purdue, he served as Chair for several committees including Aquaculture and Pond Management for the Purdue University Chapter of AFS. He has been a member of AFS since 2004 and recently joined the NC AFS Chapter in 2007. He is also a member of the Warmwater Streams Committee for the AFS Southern Division and the Environmental Concerns Committee for the NC AFS Chapter.



Kevin Hining, Candidate, Secretary/Treasurer -

Kevin is a fisheries biologist with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission in District 7. His job responsibilities center primarily on game fish management in reservoirs, rivers, and trout streams in northwestern NC and on angler outreach. He has a BS degree in Ecology from the University of North Carolina at Asheville and a MS degree in Biology from Western Carolina University. Before starting work with the NCWRC, he held previous positions with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. He has been a member of the NC AFS Chapter since 2002.

[NCAFS Ballot](#)

Program Committee

Meeting Announcement – North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society announces that the 2008 annual meeting will be held at the City Hotel and Bistro in Greenville, NC on Tuesday, February 19 to Thursday, February 21, 2008. The meeting will feature a continuing education workshop, technical sessions, the annual business meeting, and evening socials. Registration and lodging updates will be posted to the Chapter website as they become available.

First Call for Papers – Students and professionals are highly encouraged to contribute oral presentations for the annual meeting. Topics may include completed projects, works in progress, and case histories. All presentations will be scheduled for 20 minutes, including a 5-minute period for questions. Please send all abstracts electronically to Christian Waters at watersct@embarqmail.com by **January 11, 2008**. Abstracts should include presenters name, title, affiliation, and title of presentation. For additional information contact Christian Waters by email or telephone (919)-989-7058.

Submitted by Christian Waters, Program Chair and President-Elect

Awards Committee

The Chapter presents two awards on an as-warranted basis to recognize outstanding contributions by both chapter members and others. The **Distinguished Service Award** recognizes Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service to the Chapter, the American Fisheries Society, or the fisheries profession. The **Fisheries Conservation Award** recognizes non-Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service or commitment to the Chapter or the fisheries resources of North Carolina.

The Awards Committee is soliciting nominations from the membership for both of these awards for 2007. If you are aware of a deserving individual or organization, please nominate them! Nomination letters should be no more than two pages long and provide specific information on the accomplishments of the candidates and why they qualify the candidate for the award. Qualifications for the Distinguished Service Award should extend beyond simply doing an outstanding job on regular chapter duties (e.g., officer or committee member responsibilities) and be based primarily on extraordinary efforts or new initiatives.

Please submit nominations to John Crutchfield at john.crutchfield@pgnmail.com, Progress Energy, 410 South Wilmington Street, PEB4, Raleigh, NC, 27602-1551. **Nominations will be accepted until Friday, January 4, 2008.** Any questions, call John at 919-546-7095.

Submitted by John Crutchfield, Awards Committee Chair

News from around North Carolina

North Carolina Division of Water Quality News from Bryn Tracy, NCDWQ

Fish community data collected by DWQ are used for more than just basinwide assessments. Each year the data are screened from sites that are consistently rated Excellent and may be eligible for supplemental classification as High Quality Waters or Outstanding Resource Waters.

High Quality Waters (HQW) is a supplemental classification “*intended to protect waters with quality higher than state water quality standards*”. HQW are generally those waters “. . . rated as excellent based on biological and physical/chemical characteristics through Division monitoring or special studies (NCAC 2007).

Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) are: “*unique and special waters of exceptional state or national recreational or ecological significance and that the waters have exceptional water quality while meeting the following conditions:*

- *that the water quality is rated as excellent based on physical, chemical or biological information; and*
- *the characteristics which make these waters unique and special may not be protected by the assigned narrative and numerical water quality standards (NCAC 2007).*

In addition, to be supplementally classified as ORW, a waterbody must exhibit one or more values or uses:

- *“there are outstanding fish (or commercially important aquatic species) habitat and fisheries;*
- *there is an unusually high level of water-based recreation or the potential for such recreation;*
- *the waters have already received some special designation which do not provide any water quality protection;*
- *the waters represent an important component of a state or national park or forest; or*
- *the waters are of special ecological or scientific significance such as habitat for rare or endangered species or as areas for research and education” (NCAC 2007).*



Upper Yadkin River and Buffalo Creek, Caldwell County, August 2006.

In addition to the HQW and ORW requests for reclassifications, DWQ also receives reclassification requests to reclassify waterbodies to trout waters. Trout waters “. . . are freshwaters protected for natural trout propagation and survival of stocked trout... trout waters are those waters which have conditions which shall sustain and allow for trout propagation and survival of stocked trout on a year-round basis” (NCAC 2007).

Besides the fish community data, other DWQ data that are examined for reclassification requests include the benthic macroinvertebrate community ratings, Basinwide Information Management System listings of NPDES dischargers, and instream and riparian habitat characteristics. Data from the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program’s Significant Natural Heritage Areas and any known nearby locales of threatened and endangered aquatic fauna, including fish, mussels, and crayfish, are reviewed. Sister agencies that are contacted by DWQ staff for valuable supporting data include the NCWRC’s district fisheries biologists, the NC Natural Heritage Program, and the NC State Museum of Natural Sciences.

Since 2000, at least 14 waters have been formally reclassified or are in the process of being reviewed for reclassification, using fish data:

- **Outstanding Resource Waters** --Swift Creek, Tar River Basin; Little Grassy Creek, Catawba River Basin; Deep Creek, Neuse River Basin; North Fork First Broad River, Broad River Basin, and Buffalo Creek and upper Yadkin River, Yadkin River Basin
- **High Quality Waters** -- Walnut Creek, Broad River Basin, and North Prong Lewis Fork, Yadkin River Basin.
- **Trout Waters** -- Wesser Creek, Tuskegee Creek, and Camp Creek, Little Tennessee River Basin; and Richland Creek, Fines Creek, and Boylston Creek, French Broad River Basin.

Citizens, environmental groups, or resource agencies can request DWQ to have a water reclassified. The crucial first step towards reclassification is for the requestor to learn about the regulatory process and to review the available data. Useful internet resources are (<http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/csu/swcfaq.html#classchanges>) and/or contact Bryn Tracy at bryn.tracy@ncmail.net if you believe you have valuable fish community data that can be used for this purpose. If additional data are necessary, DWQ staff will conduct the appropriate field studies or contact other agencies to determine if there is pre-existing data that can be used without having to conduct another field study. Typically, from the filing of the initial request to final approval by the US EPA, the process takes a minimum of 1.5 years. Foresight and patience are a virtue with this regulatory process.

NCAC. 2007. North Carolina administrative code. Effective May 1, 2007. Environmental Management Commission. North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Division of Water Quality. Raleigh, NC.

Student Rooms for Southern Division meeting in Wheeling, WV forwarded by Dave Coughlan

The SDAFS Student Affairs Committee has reserved a block of rooms for free student lodging during the Spring meeting at the Oglebay Resort and Conference Center in Wheeling, West Virginia. Free student lodging will be for two nights; February 29 and March 1, 2008. Each room will be shared by four students of the same gender. Application deadline is 15 February 2008.

The SDAFS Spring meeting provides an excellent opportunity for students to develop their professional skills. In addition to technical sessions addressing a variety of fisheries related issues, there are a number of workshops addressing specific topics, including a

Friday afternoon workshop for students. Take advantage of these opportunities.

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

Stuart Welsh (swelsh@wvu.edu), West Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, PO Box 6125, 313 Percival Hall, Morgantown, WV 26506

In the event that requests exceed the number of spaces available, selection criteria will favor students who are presenting a paper or poster, students that are AFS members, and students who submit applications early.

Hutton Program Recruitment, forwarded by Dave Coughlan

Recruitment for the 2008 Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program has begun. Please consider applying to mentor a student in the 2008 Hutton Program. The application deadline is February 15, 2008. All of the information can be viewed at the Hutton website, which you can find on the AFS website at www.fisheries.org.

If you are interested in recruiting students for the Hutton Program, please fill out the Promotional and Recruitment materials request form on the Hutton website and either email it to hutton@fisheries.org or fax it to (301) 897-8096.

Excellence in Fisheries Education Award, Call for Nominations

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) Excellence in Fisheries Education Award was established in 1988. The award is administered by the Education Section and is presented to an individual to recognize excellence in organized teaching and advising in some aspect of fisheries education. Nominees may be involved in extension or continuing education, as well as traditional college and university instruction. Nominees must be AFS members, have been actively engaged in fisheries education within the last five years, and have had at least 10 years of professional employment experience in fisheries education. Two or more people may act as nominators, but at least one nominator must be an AFS member. The nominator(s) is responsible for compiling supporting material and submitting the application. The suggested format for applications can be found on the Education Section web site. Application materials should be sent to **Michael Quist** (mcquist@iastate.edu) in digital form.

Nomination deadline is **May 16, 2008**. Additional information can be obtained from:

Michael Quist, Chair, Excellence in Fisheries Education Committee, Dept. of Natural Resource Ecology & Management, Iowa State University, 339 Science II Ames, IA 50011, Phone: (515) 294-9682, FAX: (515) 294-2995 mcquist@iastate.edu

Meetings of Interest

2008 Southern Division AFS Spring Meeting – Feb. 28-Mar. 2, 2008, Wheeling, WV.

The West Virginia Chapter and Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society invite you to join us in Wheeling at the Oglebay Resort and Conference Center for the 2008 Southern Division Spring Meeting, February 28-March 2, 2008. The meeting's theme is "Headwater Streams to Large Rivers". For more information, visit the meeting website at <http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2008>.

2008 SCAFS/SCFWA Meeting – Feb. 4-5, 2008, Santee State Park, <http://www.scafs.org/events.php>.

If you are aware of meeting information that would be beneficial to the membership of the NCAFS, please send it to the newsletter editor for inclusion in the next newsletter. ksparks1@nc.rr.com

Employment Opportunities

Fisheries Research Biologist Opening, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department – There is a **Fisheries Research Biologist (NRS I-V)** vacancy at Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center (HOHFSC). The responsibilities of the position are similar to a Research Associate in that the incumbent will oversee the conduct of multiple field and laboratory research projects and assist in the coordination of a team of permanent technicians. For more information about the position, visit:

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/jobs/postings/?page=08_07_078

USFWS Seasonal Fisheries Jobs in Alaska - There are going to be an estimated 10-20 fisheries technician positions in Alaska next year. Details on how to apply for these positions can be obtained from the official vacancy announcement, which can be viewed on-line at www.usajobs.com in January 2008. All enthusiastic people who are interested in pursuing a career in fisheries are encouraged to apply.

Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, Summer Employment Fisheries Naturalist Aide - Each year the Fisheries Section employs sixteen (16) seasonal aides to assist in our fisheries projects. To apply for one of these

positions, please send a resume, which includes employment history, and a copy of your transcripts to the address listed below. Please provide your earliest *starting date* and latest *ending date* in the correspondence.

Employment Period: Approx Spring to Fall, 2008.

Compensation: \$10.38/ hr. Subject to change.

Duties: Assist hatchery managers, district management and research biologists in conducting field investigations. This includes: lake and stream fish population surveys, creel surveys, population estimates, farm pond contacts, public relations, aquatic weed control, fish population control, fish habitat improvement, and fish culture activities.

Qualifications: Preferences will be given to college students enrolled in a fisheries curriculum and having completed courses in fisheries, limnology, and aquatic sciences.

Contact: Randy Lang, Fisheries Staff Specialist
Indiana Department of Natural
Resources Division of Fish & Wildlife
402 W. Washington St., Rm. W-273
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-232-4094
rlang@dnr.in.gov

Application information will be accepted until all position are filled. Placement of aides will begin by January 1, 2008. Please send all information to the Fisheries Section at the address above.

Valuable Links –

The American Fisheries Society Home Page offers a wealth of links to assist you in your fishery endeavors. Information on ordering AFS books, public outreach, annual meetings, chapter links and joining the AFS can be found at <http://www.fisheries.org/>.