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NEWSLETTER

December 2008

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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](mailto:jerry.finke@ncwildlife.org)).

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### President's Message

It is hard to believe that another year is just about over. And I am proud to say that it's been a productive one, thanks to the tireless effort of the Chapter's various committees. Their accomplishments this year range from the Environmental Concerns Committee's preparation of letters to NCDWQ relative to stream reclassification and to the Governor regarding water conservation to the Newsletter Committee's publication of four quality newsletters to the ad hoc Committee's revision of the Chapter's Bylaws and Procedures Manual. Through the Awards Committee, the Chapter provided travel awards to six students for the Parent Society meeting in Ottawa, and the Committee is currently preparing for award presentations at the 2009 meeting. The Education and Outreach Committee has provided excellent continuing education opportunities year after year, and 2009 will be no different. The Committee is currently organizing a workshop on Climate Change. And finally, the various committees associated with the 2010 Southern Division Spring Meeting are getting organized and are moving forward with meeting plans.

It is this committee structure that forms the backbone of the Chapter. It is through the committees' accomplishments that the Chapter's mission is realized. I strongly encourage each and every Chapter member to contemplate where his or her talents can best contribute and to volunteer to participate on a related committee.

I also encourage each Chapter member to join the AFS Parent Society. Based upon the best information we have only about 65% of our Chapter members are also Parent Society members. Sometimes the activities Parent Society seem distant and irrelevant. However, through its various committees, sections, divisions, chapters, etc., the Parent Society continually shapes our profession, and our support and participation is critical. To emphasize its importance, Southern Division President Steve McMullin dedicated his President's Address in the December Southern Division newsletter to Parent Society membership, and he further issued a challenge to Southern Division chapters. At the 2009 Southern Division business meeting, President McMullin plans to recognize the chapter that has the highest percentage of its members who are

also members of the Parent Society. This recognition will come with a plaque and a donation to the AFS award or scholarship fund of the chapter's choice.

In closing, I would like to thank the Chapter for giving me the opportunity to serve this year. It has been very rewarding. I owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to the committee chairs and members who stepped up when asked; I thank you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Christian Waters*

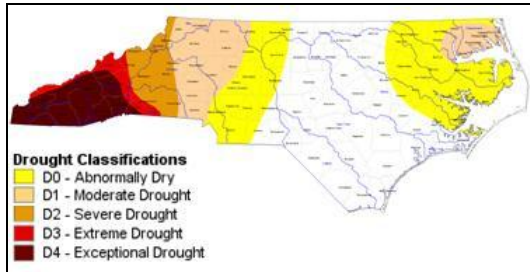
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## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

[Minutes of the December 2008 EXCOM Meeting.](#)

*Submitted by Kevin Hining, Secretary-Treasurer*

## Environmental Concerns Committee



**U.S. Drought Monitor of North Carolina, December 9, 2008**

Modified from <http://www.ncdrought.org/>

Although rivers and streams across the state are were ripping from the December 10-11 rains, it will take much more to put a tangible dent in the long-term drought being experienced in the west. In response to the drought and the need for long-term water management and conservation in North Carolina, the Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) drafted a letter encouraging the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) and North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) to fully and effectively implement Session Law (S.L.) 2008-143. This legislation mandates, in part, the adoption of water supply and shortage plans by local governments and formation of a Drought Management Advisory Council. The council will include fishery professionals to ensure consideration of fish habitat needs in drought response actions.

If there has been a silver lining to the western drought it is that erosion and sedimentation in trout

supporting streams has been less than usual. Of course the rains and the mud will eventually return, so it is important that there be riparian buffers along trout streams to protect them from the effects of development projects. Unfortunately, numerous streams support trout, including native brook trout, but are not classified as "Tr" waters under EMC rules and therefore not subject to the "trout buffer rule", which by statute requires the maintenance of a minimum 25-foot buffer between streams and land disturbing activity. To address this issue, the ECC has compiled fishery survey data from the New and Watauga River Basins and drafted a petition to NCDENR to classify currently unclassified brook trout supporting waters to the "Tr" standard. The ECC is planning to extend this effort to other river basins in the future.

The water conservation letter and trout water reclassification request are currently being reviewed by the chapter president before their release. Hopefully these efforts will help bring attention to the needs of valuable fisheries in North Carolina.

In other news, the ECC membership has downsized. Bob Brown, now retired from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Bryan Kalb with Duke Energy, and Nate Bachelor at NC State University have stepped off the committee. Their contributions to the committee have been much appreciated and they will be missed. The ECC wishes them all the best in their new endeavors.

*Submitted by Dave McHenry, Environmental Concerns Committee Chair*

## Nominations Committee and Ballot

The 2008 Nominations Committee consisted of Derek Aday (Chair), Keith Ashley, and Vann Stancil. The Committee was requested to seek nominees for the 2009 office of President-Elect.

Nominees are Bob Barwick (NC Wildlife Resources Commission) and Kevin Dockendorf (NC Wildlife Resources Commission). Election results will be announced at the 2009 Annual Business Meeting.

As in past years, Chapter members can vote electronically. We encourage all members to cast their vote and one lucky voter will be drawn to receive a Chapter-paid membership to the American Fisheries Society Parent Society. The winner will be drawn at the 2009 Annual Business Meeting.

*Submitted by Derek Aday, Nominations Committee Chair*



**Bob Barwick, Candidate, President-Elect** – Bob Barwick is a fisheries biologist with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. He received a Bachelor of Science in Zoology and a Master of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from North Carolina State University. Beginning in 2002, Bob worked as an assistant biologist in the southern piedmont and currently as a district fisheries biologist in the coastal region. His primary responsibilities include field monitoring and research of freshwater and anadromous fish populations. Bob has been a member of the American Fisheries Society and the North Carolina Chapter since January 1999. Since 2005, he has served as co-chair of the NC Chapter AFS Education and Outreach Committee. He also serves on the Ad Hoc Bylaws and Procedures Review Committee.

**Kevin Dockendorf, Candidate, President-Elect** – Kevin Dockendorf is the District 1 Fisheries Biologist for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Kevin received a Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State University in



Fisheries and Wildlife Biology in 1996 and a Master of Science degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from the University of Florida in 2002. Prior to his employment with the Commission as assistant and district fisheries biologist, Kevin held fisheries positions with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Illinois Natural History Survey. Kevin has been a member of the American Fisheries Society since 1999 and the North Carolina Chapter since 2003 and is recognized as a certified fisheries professional by AFS.

## [2009 NCAFS Officer Ballot](#)

### **Program Committee**

#### **GET READY FOR THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NC CHAPTER AFS!!**

**Meeting Announcement** – The NC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society announces that the 2009 annual meeting will be held at the Courtyard Marriott in Burlington beginning Monday, February 23 and lasting through Wednesday, February 25. We will start things off with a welcoming social at the hotel on Monday night. Tuesday's calendar will include a continuing education workshop in the morning followed by a technical session after lunch and an evening social. We will continue presentations on Wednesday and will finish things up with the annual business meeting.

**Lodging Reservations** – Room rates are \$79 a night plus tax, single or double occupancy. Reserve your room today by calling the Courtyard Marriott at 336-585-1888 and asking for the NCAFS group rate. The cut-off date for reservations is **January 23, 2009**. After that date, reservations will be accepted at the group rate but on a space-available basis.

**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 Chad Thomas at [thomascd@roadrunner.com](mailto:thomascd@roadrunner.com) by **January 23, 2009**. Abstracts should include presentation title, author names, and addresses (including phone and e-mail if available). Please limit the text to no more than 250 words. It is assumed that the first author listed will be the presenter unless otherwise noted. If you are a student presenter, please make note on the abstract. For additional information feel free to contact Chad by email or telephone (252-335-4961).

**Stay tuned to the annual meeting link on the Chapter website for updates!**

*Submitted by Chad Thomas, 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 and aquatic resources of North Carolina.

The Awards Committee is soliciting nominations from the membership for both of these awards for 2008. 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](mailto:john.crutchfield@pgnmail.com), Progress Energy, 410 South Wilmington Street, PEB7, Raleigh, NC, 27601-1551. **Nominations will be accepted until Friday, January 16, 2009**. Any questions, call John at 919-546-2019.

*Submitted by John Crutchfield, Awards Committee Chair*

## **Bylaws and Procedures Ad Hoc Committee**

President Waters and the EXCOM have charged an Ad Hoc Committee (John Crutchfield, Bob Barwick, Mallory Martin, and Brian McRae) to revise the Chapter's Bylaws and Procedures Manual. The last revision to these documents was performed in 2003 and there have been several changes in business conduct of the Chapter that need to be addressed. One major change will be to split the Bylaws and Procedures Manual into two separate and distinct documents. Additionally, several other items will be addressed including: (1) update the procedures to integrate the use of the internet and email, specifically in relation to electing officers and publishing the newsletter, (2) incorporate 'outreach' into the function of the Education Committee by establishing co-chairs and developing an objective for Chapter outreach efforts, (3) update information on Chapter awards incorporating the procedures for granting student travel awards and the specifics on monetary awards, and (4) develop a procedure for reviewing and approving funding requests of the Chapter. Several other items will also be addressed.

The revised Bylaws will be posted on the Chapter's website by January 25, 2009, for Chapter member review and comment. The revised Bylaws will be discussed and voted on at the Chapter's annual business meeting during February. Pertinent changes in the revised Procedures manual will be discussed at the Chapter business meeting.

*Submitted by John Crutchfield, Ad Hoc Committee Chair*



## News from around North Carolina

### *Fred Harris Retires from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, submitted by Jodie Owen*

A 36-year plus career as a fisheries biologist, administrator, leader and mentor was officially recognized on December 11 when more than 200 people gathered at the N.C. State University Faculty Club for Fred Harris' retirement luncheon.

Old stories were recounted, fond memories were shared, and several presentations were made – including one very special presentation given by Ruffin Poole, legal counsel for Gov. Michael Easley, who bestowed upon Fred the highly coveted award, the Order of the Longleaf Pine.



*Ruffin Poole presenting the Order of the Longleaf Pine award to Fred.*

The Order of the Longleaf Pine is the highest civilian honor that can be granted by the governor and is one of the most prestigious awards that is given to individuals who have a proven record of extraordinary service to their organizations, their communities and to the State of North Carolina.



*Attending the luncheon with Fred was his family – wife Angie and daughters, Sherri and Laurie.*

Fred retired from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission in October after serving for nearly 37 years in a variety of capacities. He began his career with the Commission in 1972 as a district fisheries biologist. After a 6-year stint as a Fisheries Research Coordinator, Fred became Assistant Chief of the Division of Inland Fisheries. In 1986, he was promoted to Chief of the Division. He was

promoted again in 2004 to Chief Deputy Director of the agency and concurrently served as the Interim Executive Director from mid-2007 until his retirement in October.



*Mallory Martin presenting Fred's Certificate of Retirement.*

With each promotion away from the field work and towards administrative work, Fred never lost sight of his primary mission; to ensure that North Carolina's sport fisheries were managed to meet the state's growing demand for high quality recreational experiences. Fred achieved this mission by quietly sizing up any problem or issue, identifying potential solutions and, with the help of other dedicated professionals, setting about working tirelessly to bring a resolution.

In fact, a prevailing theme among the folks who attended the retirement luncheon and who stood up to speak about Fred was his "stealth management style," an incredible ability to inspire good work from employees by listening to their ideas and, most often, implementing practical solutions that included recommendations from his staff.

Quiet, practical, introspective, thoughtful – these were just a few of the adjectives used to describe Fred, as well as his work.

"Whether working with a committee of his employees or with a committee of biologists or administrators from other states, Fred was, and remains, highly respected as a keen observer, an outstanding analyst, and a provider of practical solutions," said Robert Curry, who succeeded Fred as chief of the Division of Inland Fisheries and who served as emcee of the luncheon.



*Bob Curry presenting Fred's NCARP Master Angler Certificate.*

Many others commented on his dedication for fisheries conservation that extended well beyond the Wildlife Resources Commission. A Life member as well as a Certified Fisheries Scientist, Fred joined the American Fisheries Society (AFS) in 1970. He is a charter member of the North Carolina chapter and has served on several chapter committees.

Within the Southern Division, he chaired the Reservoir Committee for five years and served on several committees. In 1983, Fred served as secretary-treasurer and then president (1985-1986) of the Southern Division. His work for the organization and profession as a whole resulted in his winning the Southern Division's Outstanding Achievement Award in 1992.

At the Society level, Fred also served on numerous committees; he is a member of the Fisheries Management and Fisheries Administration sections, serving as Secretary-Treasurer and then President of the latter. In 1998, Fred received the Society's Distinguished Service Award. Fred was elected as an officer for the AFS in 1999 and served as the Society's President from 2002-2003. Fred remains actively involved with the AFS; he continues to engage in conservation issues and serve on committees.

Fred also remains actively involved in the fisheries conservation community, having recently agreed to serve as chair of the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committees Scientific Council on Fisheries.

So although Fred may have retired from the Wildlife Commission, the conservation community can look forward to Fred's vision, leadership and commitment to fish and wildlife conservation for years to come.

***BAE Distance courses available this spring, forwarded by Dave Coughlan***

**BAE 590C Stream Restoration Structure Risk and Failure Assessment (1 credit hour)**

This course will be focused on defining uncertainty and risk as they pertain to stream restoration structures and identifying and quantifying sources of such. Students will learn about various in-stream structures. Using the example of a study on the rock cross vane, students will conduct an investigation of an in-stream structure of their choice and apply the concepts of risk and uncertainty. Modules include: 1) Introduction to structures AND Defining failure, risk, uncertainty, probability, cost, quality, and durability; 2) Types and modes of failure for stream restoration structures; 3) Uncertainty in Stream Restoration Design; 4) Probability of failures, Cost of failures and repair; and 5) Failure Modes and Effects

**BAE 590Y Ecohydraulics and River Corridor Function (1 credit hour)**

This course was developed to supplement engineering instruction by providing an accessible ecological perspective of lotic systems in an online format. The goal is to introduce engineers, restoration professionals, regulators, and environmental scientists to the ecological processes that structure river corridors. This course attempts to define the hydraulic, hydrologic, chemical, sedimentary, and biotic influences on an aquatic ecosystem, with successful students developing an introductory but working knowledge of the ecological implications of engineered designs.

Please check with Registration and Records for the posting of these courses.

<http://distance.ncsu.edu/registration/application.html>

Contact Dr. Paige Puckett at [hprollin@ncsu.edu](mailto:hprollin@ncsu.edu) for more information.

***Maryland Sea Grant's Research Experiences for Undergraduates in Estuarine Science, forwarded by Joe Hightower***

Since 1989, NSF has supported bringing students to conduct individual research projects with a scientist-mentor at either Chesapeake Biological Lab or Horn Point Lab of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.

Details:

- 12 week program during summer 2009, May 17 to August 9
- \$4200 stipend plus housing and travel to and from site
- <http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/REU>
- Applications due: February 12, 2009

Undergraduates in many disciplines, including engineering, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, ecology and marine and environmental science are selected.

Details and application guidance at our web site: <http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/REU>

A downloadable PDF flyer is available at: <http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/programs/research/reu/reu2009.pdf>

## Spotlight on Students and Young Professionals

*Amanda Bushon, District 9 Fisheries Biologist I, NC WRC*



Amanda was born and raised in Wheeling, West Virginia, a small town on the Ohio River. She graduated from Wheeling Park High School in 2000 and decided to pursue a degree in Biology. In 2004 she graduated cum laude from Wheeling Jesuit University with a B.S. in Biology. As an undergraduate, Amanda was pursuing a career in veterinary medicine until she was introduced to aquatic and fisheries ecology during a National Science Foundation summer undergraduate research fellowship at Texas A&M University-

Corpus Christi. During this time she worked on projects such as catch and release mortality of spotted sea trout and the effects of propeller scarring on seagrass beds. Amanda found fisheries to be far more exciting than veterinary medicine and in August of 2004, she entered the Master's degree program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi under Dr. Greg Stunz. Amanda's thesis focused on the recruitment dynamics and movement patterns of juvenile red drum, blue crab, and penaeid shrimp in Corpus Christi Bay and the Laguna Madre, Texas. Following completion of her graduate work, Amanda started work with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission as District-9 Fisheries Biologist I in March 2007.

*Submitted by Powell Wheeler*

## Meetings of Interest

*The Virginia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Presents "Topics on Fish Kills and Fish Health: a Workshop for Field Biologists"*

Course Outline:

Necropsy Techniques – Don Orth, Kathleen Alexander, and Amy Hahn, Virginia Tech  
Bacterial Pathogens – Rocco Cipriano, USGS  
Viral Pathogens – John Coll, Lamar Fish Health Center, USFWS  
Inter-sex Condition – Vicki Blazer, USGS  
Parasites of fish – Deborah Iwanowicz, USGS  
Fish Consumption Advisories – Alex Barron, Virginia DEQ

The registration fee is \$50. This workshop will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Virginia Chapter, American Fisheries Society, on February 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> on the campus of Washington and Lee University, in Lexington, Virginia. The workshop will occur on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:30 a.m. Additional information can be obtained from the Virginia Chapter website <http://faculty.virginia.edu/vcafs/> or by contacting Bob Greenlee at [bob.greenlee@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:bob.greenlee@dgif.virginia.gov) or by phone at 804/829-6715.

## 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/>.