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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2005

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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 – Duane Harrell**

Well, as of June 21, it is officially summer! The high intensity activity of the spring sampling season is winding down, and many of us are turning our thoughts to plans for summer vacation, or, perhaps some additional office time to catch up on reports, planning and other office duties. The Chapter ExCom has already been busy with planning activities for the 2006 annual meeting. Once again, we have reserved the Summit at Brown Summit, NC and are looking forward to another informative meeting and enjoyable time of fellowship. President Elect and Program Chair, Lawrence Dorsey has included an initial notice of the 2006 annual meeting in this newsletter, so be sure to look for that. As planning for the 2006 annual meeting progresses, more information will be forthcoming.

On another front, I have been busy reviewing the membership and leadership of the various Chapter committees. As part of that process, the ExCom has been looking at committee responsibility and function. One observation from that review was the overlap of the more global responsibilities of the Education Committee and the Ad Hoc Outreach Committee. The ExCom and two respective committee chairs, Lawrence Dorsey and Greg Cope, discussed the feasibility of combining the two committees into a single standing committee, the Education and Outreach Committee. The consensus among the ExCom and committee chairs was that the combining of the two committees would result in a single committee with a wider range of focus and activity, as well as ensure that issues such as invasive species were addressed on an ongoing, rather than ad hoc basis. Additionally, over time, the focus of the Education Committee has become increasingly one of continuing education associated with annual meeting workshops. By combining education and outreach into a single committee, there will be greater opportunity to expand the focus of the education component to address a broader range of education issues.

The new Education and Outreach Committee will be co-chaired by Greg Cope and Bob Barwick. Greg will be responsible for outreach activities, while Bob will be responsible for education activities. Greg and Bob will be drafting a committee charter and contacting the respective members of the former Education

and Ad Hoc Outreach Committees to confirm their interest in continued service as members of the new Education and Outreach Committee.

Please join me in expressing appreciation to Lawrence for his service as Chair of the Education Committee, as he now assumes leadership of the Program and Arrangements Committee. Also join me in expressing appreciation to Greg and Bob for their willingness to lead the education and outreach initiatives of the new committee. I would also ask that you support Lawrence, Greg, Bob and the other committee chairs with your time and talents should they request your service on their respective committees.

Have an enjoyable, productive summer, and be safe!

*Duane Harrell*

## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

[Minutes of the May 2005 EXCOM Meeting.](#)

*Submitted by Brian McRae, Secretary-Treasurer*

## NCSU Student Subunit Report

The NCSU subunit membership has kept up a busy pace of activities in 2005! This spring has seen a balance of research assistance, teaching opportunity, fund raising efforts, and fun events. And with summer here, morale is high. As always we seek new experiences, and encourage state chapter members to contact our officers or membership mailing list with ideas for our participation ([nscu\\_sfs@lists.ncsu.edu](mailto:nscu_sfs@lists.ncsu.edu)).

We are grateful for our speakers this spring. At the March meeting, Mike Wicker of the USFWS spoke on lessons learned regarding the complexities of dam removal projects in North Carolina. In April, members were treated to an international topic. Dr. James Kapetsky of the United Nations FAO Fisheries program (retired) discussed the challenges facing inland commercial fisheries in developing nations, and also employment opportunities for our students. Our May meeting changed location to accommodate end-of-semester recreational urges, and members met in the cocktail lounge of Western Lanes Bowling Center in Raleigh. Faculty member Dr. David Eggleston presented insightful research on Bahamian grouper spawning aggregations, featuring recent resource management successes. Then we went bowling - low scores were struck from the minutes.

In early April, membership gathered for an anadromous fishing trip on the Tar River. Those interested in angling met in Rocky Mount, at Battle Park. Three watercrafts and a legion of wading anglers caught about 40 fish – most, as it turned out, were small striped bass. Reserving a picnic shelter proved a prudent move as the day turned out soggy – however sandwiches stayed dry,

and outdoor-minded members had the river to themselves on a Saturday!



*Battle Park in Rocky Mount was the site of a subunit outing on April 2nd. Photo by Jenny Vander Pluym”*



*Subunit members and faculty pose after a successful day of ichthyoprobe sampling. Photo credit unknown.*

Members Jessica Brewster, Lori Davias, Darren Parsons and Jenny Vander Pluym responded to a request for teachers at the Rocky River Festival in Chatham County. On May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> the NCSU volunteers treated elementary age school children to light science programs, and then encouraged students to explore the river with nets, buckets and plenty of curiosity. Noted

captures were 'cool' bugs and 'squirmy' tadpoles, and there was an exciting snake sighting. The subunit took action on this request from organizers and NCSU faculty member Jim Rice, and received pleasant gratitude from teachers and parents at the event.



*Masters candidate Jessica Brewster helps children explore the aquatic environment in Rocky Creek. Photo by Jenny Vander Pluym.*

With a lull in academic activity this summer, members are involved in fieldwork all over the state. From telemetry to trawling, the Deep River to Long Creek: volunteers, undergraduate technicians and graduate students are out gathering information on North Carolina's natural communities. Have an enjoyable summer, and please keep an eye on our website: [http://www.ncsu.edu/stud\\_orgs/sfs/](http://www.ncsu.edu/stud_orgs/sfs/).

Contact Jenny Vander Pluym ([jlvander@ncsu.edu](mailto:jlvander@ncsu.edu)) or Warren Mitchell ([wamitche@unity.ncsu.edu](mailto:wamitche@unity.ncsu.edu)) if you have any questions about Sub-unit events.

*Submitted by Warren Mitchell, Student Subunit Co-President*

## Program Committee

**2006 Annual Meeting of the NC Chapter American Fisheries Society-** Planning has already begun for the 2006 Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society ! As a result of last year's successful meeting, we are heading back to the Summit Conference Center in Brown Summit, NC. The dates for this year's meeting are January 31-February 1, 2006.

The Program Committee has elected not to select a specific theme for this year's meeting. Instead, we are asking members to contribute papers on completed and ongoing research, case histories, and changes in agency/company fisheries programs particularly during

the 15 year history of the NCAFS. We want to have a paper session that highlights all of the important work being done by our membership across North Carolina! We will also have a continuing education workshop with a topic to be determined at a later date. Finally, it wouldn't be a NCAFS Annual Meeting without a lively social and a raffle of some great prizes. Count on both of these events again at the 2006 Meeting! We will be sending additional information and updates as plans progress, but mark your calendar now, and plan to join us for a great meeting in 2006!

*Submitted by Lawrence Dorsey, President-Elect*

## Outreach Committee

**Exotic Species Poster Issue Resolved** - Since the 2005 Annual Meeting, the issue of the opposition by the NC Crayfish Growers Association and the NC Aquaculture Association to the inclusion of the red swamp crayfish on the "Help Protect Our Waters" exotic species educational poster has been resolved. The poster has been revised according to an agreement reached between NC State University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Administration and the two commodity groups. 10,000 copies of the revised poster have been printed and all but about 1,000 of the revised posters have been donated to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Division of Inland Fisheries for distribution at the 2005 State Fair booth.



*Revised Invasive Species Poster*

As reported at the 2005 Business Meeting, the two commodity groups lodged complaints with NC State University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Administration and threatened reprisal, if the poster was not re-called or modified in some manner. After much deliberation and negotiation, the four co-authors and 16-member poster advisory team all agreed to resolve the issue by doing a voluntary revision of the poster that would involve removing the red swamp crayfish photo and description and replacing it with ones for the red

claw crayfish, a species not yet in the state, but one that has been promoted as a potential aquaculture species.

Although this compromise was made, the authors and team made it abundantly clear to NC State University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Administration that the poster revision was agreed to because the team recognized that the poster message did not accomplish the educational mission to all parties as intended, and not because the original information was incorrect, because the commodity groups may have disagreed with the message, or have made threats against the College and University.

The Outreach Committee, poster authors, and poster advisory team stand firm in the belief that all citizens, whether they are recreational boaters and anglers, aquarium hobbyists, water gardeners, or aquaculture operators should be aware of the problems caused by exotic species, trained to act in an environmentally responsible manner, and help to prevent their further introduction or spread. It is clear however, from this outreach educational effort that there is still a lot of work yet to be done in North Carolina on the topic.

*Submitted by Greg Cope, Outreach Committee Chair*

### **Environmental Concerns Committee**

The ECC is composing a letter to the Division of Land Resources (DLR) to express concern about some floodplain mining in the mountains and upper piedmont of the state. Many small scale operations are not currently regulated by the Mining Act. Consequently, sediment and erosion controls and setbacks from stream channels are sometimes insufficient. Sedimentation, rock aggradation, and stream bank erosion in mountain rivers was particularly severe below some of these mines following their inundation in the floods last fall. The ECC believes that the DLR should consider this issue and appropriate measures to address it because of the negative effects these small operations can have on aquatic and riparian habitats.

We intend to keep the website updated with current information about the ECC's activities. Therefore, as with ideas about priority issues that affect fishery resources in North Carolina, we welcome and encourage any suggestions on ways to improve the ECC website and its usefulness to Chapter members. Please contact Dave McHenry at E-mail: [mchenryd@brinet.com](mailto:mchenryd@brinet.com) or use the comment form on the ECC web page.

*Submitted by David McHenry, Environmental Concerns Committee Chair*

### **News from around North Carolina**

***Shocking News from the Pee Dee River Robust Redhorse Project courtesy of Ryan Heise, NCWRC*** – NCWRC and Progress Energy biologists captured 8 Robust Redhorse in the Pee Dee River this spring. The fish were captured in shoal habitats in the 5.5 miles of river immediately downstream of Blewett Falls Dam. Up until this startling turn of events, only seven fish had been captured during directed sampling efforts that covered large reaches of river between Blewett Falls dam and Florence SC dating back to 2000. Four of those fish were from the NC portion of the river for an average of less than 1 fish per year. Among the 8 fish that were captured this year were two recaptures from previous years. Five of the fish collected were fitted with radio transmitters. The two fish collected last year were the first to receive radio tags in the Pee Dee.



*Pee Dee River robust redhorse.*

The Robust Redhorse (RRH) was described by Edward Cope in 1869 but lost to modern science until 1991. The RRH Conservation Committee was formed in 1995 to improve the status of the species throughout its former range. The Committee is a voluntary partnership formed under a Memorandum of Understanding by several state and federal agencies, utility companies, and NGO's. <http://www.robustredhorse.com/>.

Until this year, most of the successful RRH surveys had occurred in other river basins in SC and GA. The Pee Dee River had yielded only a few fish. The Yadkin/Pee Dee Technical Subcommittee made a few decisions this winter that paid dividends. They decided to focus all their sampling effort in the NC reach because this is where the two fish that were radio-tagged had been relocated and the area had previously yielded RRH. They decided to broaden the sampling window to make sure they were working when the water temperatures and conditions were optimal for RRH spawning. In

spite of earlier poor success rates, they bought 5 radio tags hoping to be able to use a few. Of course, no one expected they would all be implanted in RRH this year!



*Rob Nichols (left) and Ryan Heise finish implanting a radio tag in a robust redhorse.*

NCWRC and Progress Energy biologists are now tracking the radio-tagged fish. They hope to return to the Pee Dee River at two week intervals to learn how the RRH use their habitat. If you are interested in more information on the RRH or the Yadkin/Pee Dee Technical Subcommittee contact the committee's chairman, Dr. Ryan Heise. Ryan's phone number is 919-528-9886.

**2006 SDAFS Meeting News from Fred Janssen, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department** – First Call for Papers, Southern Division Spring Meeting-2006. The Texas Chapter and Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society invite you to join us in San Antonio at the Crowne Plaza Hotel for the 2006 Southern Division Spring Meeting, 8-12 February 2006. The meeting's theme is "Water Allocation for Fisheries." Please submit suggestions for workshops and symposia to Dick Luebke (<mailto:Dick.Luebke@tpwd.state.tx.us>) by 1 August 2005. Due date for symposia, poster, and general session abstracts will be 1 December 2005. For more information, visit the meeting website at <http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2006/>. Instructions for abstract submission can be found at the same website.

**AFS Parent Society News forwarded by Bob Curry, NCWRC** – Long-time Executive Director Harry Hodgdon of The Wildlife Society (TWS) retired, and TWS is searching for a new Executive Director (Gus Rassam is on the search committee). In the interim (June 20 - September 1), TWS leadership has asked if Gus would serve as a part-time Interim Executive Director. TWS would provide a fee to AFS for these services and Gus' time would be limited to no more than

4 hours per week. Gus would provide guidance to continuing TWS staff and serve as a resource person rather than be heavily involved in day-to-day TWS operations. The AFS Officers discussed this inquiry from TWS and agreed this would be an appropriate way to proceed; to aid a "sister" organization as well as establish a basis for more collaborative efforts between the two societies in the future.

**Fish Culture News from Carl Kittel, NCWRC** – The National Conservation Training Center is conducting a Coldwater Fish Culture course in Asheville from October 17 to 28, 2005. This basic course covers the principles, concepts and methods used in intensive (primarily Salmonid) fish culture. Topics include: historical perspective, fisheries management, fish physiology and stress, water quality and chemistry, fish health management, fish nutrition, fish growth, feeding guides, record keeping, carrying capacity, brood stock management, and water treatment processes. The course includes laboratory work for water chemistry and fish health assessments. Case studies and problem solving are applied to the following subjects: growth and carrying capacity models, fish feed projections and ordering, lot history development and fish culture methods. The course is open to anyone interested in taking it and the tuition is \$1,700. This is a rare opportunity to get this training close to home. Please register for the course early to reserve space. For further information contact Cathy Johnson of the NCTC at (304) 876-7441 or by email at [catharine\\_p\\_johnson@fws.gov](mailto:catharine_p_johnson@fws.gov) or Carl Kittel of the NCWRC at (828) 652-5561 ext. 222.

**C.W. Watson Award Nomination News from Ben Jaco**, – Nominations are being sought for the 2005 Clarence W. Watson Award. This annual award will be presented at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Meeting is in St. Louis, Missouri in October 2005. The Clarence W. Watson Award is the most prestigious award given in the Southeast and is presented to the career individual who, in the opinion of the Award Committee, has made the greatest contribution to wildlife or fish conservation during the previous year or years. Consideration includes research, administration, law enforcement, I&E, wildlife management, fish management, teachers, and students. Preference is given to nominees in the Southeast. The award is a mounted bronze plaque presented jointly by the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society, and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Nominations should be sent to: Ben D. Jaco, 5004 Mailbu Drive, Knoxville, TN, 37918,

phone 865-687-6034 or email [eajaco@aol.com](mailto:eajaco@aol.com), as soon as possible, but **not later than August 16, 2005**.

**Stormwater workshop news from Andrea C. Olevano, NCSU** - Overview of LID Stormwater Practices & Designing LID Stormwater Practices, July 25 - 27, 2005. Day 1 of this series of workshops will present an overview of stormwater practices used as part of LID (bioretention, water reuse, permeable pavement, and green roofs). Case studies will be reviewed, along with anti-mosquito stormwater design. The second day is a more intense design workshop. Participants are asked to bring laptops and they will be given example practices to design. The most cost effective alternatives will be discussed. Design examples will be given for bioretention and water reuse. This interactive workshop will allow participants to work in groups of 3 to design BMPs. [www.bae.ncsu.edu/workshops](http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/workshops).

**More workshop news from Andrea C. Olevano, NCSU** - Workshop on Bioretention: Overview and Design for the Tar-Pam and Neuse Basins, Pitt County Agricultural Center, Greenville, NC, September 7, 2005. This workshop follows the design of bioretention areas, specifically for the Tar-Pamlico and Neuse River Basins. Participants will learn: \* How bioretention areas work, \* How they should be cited, \* How to design them hydraulically. \* plant selection, and \* recent bioretention research and design implications. A bioretention design model will be distributed, so participants are encouraged to bring laptop computers. [www.bae.ncsu.edu/workshops](http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/workshops)

## Spotlight on Students and Young Professionals

**Kyle Briggs, Superintendent of Armstrong State Fish Hatcher, NCWRC** - Kyle Briggs has been superintendent at the Armstrong State Fish Hatchery for the last five years. During that time he has overseen an increase of almost 50% in the number of fish stocked per year and an increase of over 70% in pounds of fish produced each year. The Armstrong Hatchery has consistently produced high quality fish of the requested species and numbers for the Commission's fish stocking programs under Kyle's leadership. Kyle has overseen a major renovation of the facility which included replacement of three water intakes, construction of a new hatchery building, installation of a new fiber optic alarm system, and replacement of piping. Kyle started overseeing improvements at the Armstrong hatchery in 1999 by designing and installing low head oxygenators. Other improvements under Kyle's supervision have included paving of roads, installation of fencing, and procurement of improved stocking trucks and tanks.



*Kyle Briggs, Superintendent of the Armstrong Fish Hatchery.*

Kyle graduated from NC State with a BS degree in Fisheries and Wildlife in 1992. He worked as a technician in John Miller's lab for a year both as a student and after his graduation. Kyle then worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service at Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery in Riverdale, North Dakota as a seasonal employee. In North Dakota he worked with fall Chinook salmon, Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Northern pike, Walleye, Yellow perch and Largemouth bass. After four months in North Dakota, Kyle was hired as a Hatchery Technician I at the Pisgah Forest State Fish Hatchery. Kyle worked at the Pisgah hatchery for about two and a half years before moving to the Armstrong Hatchery as an Assistant Superintendent. When the Superintendent at Armstrong left the Commission for seminary, Kyle was promoted to the Superintendent position which he has held since.

Kyle, his wife and their two young children live on the hatchery property. His wife, Allison, works with the McDowell County school system as a librarian. His first child, Kayleigh, is just getting ready to turn three and has already started helping her dad feed the fish at the hatchery. His second child, Noah, just turned one on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Kyle's hobbies include fishing, hunting and family activities. A highlight of most years for Kyle is his fly fishing trip to New York to catch salmon in the fall. Kyle fishes for bass and trout in Western North Carolina as time permits. Kyle is looking forward to going to Southeast Texas for deer hunting this fall.

*Submitted by Carl Kittel, NCWRC*

## Meetings of Interest

**18th International Symposium on Biotelemetry** – Sept. 4-9, 2005, Knoxville, TN.  
<http://www.outreach.utk.edu/conferences/ISOBcallforpa pers.pdf>.

**135th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society** – Sept. 11-15, 2005, Anchorage, AK.  
<http://www.wdafs.org/Anchorage2005/index.htm>

**59<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference** – Oct. 16-19, 2005, St. Louis, MO. <http://mdc.mo.gov/seafwa/>.

**Spring Meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society** – Feb. 8-12, 2006, San Antonio, TX. <http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2006/>.

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. [djcoughl@duke-energy.com](mailto:djcoughl@duke-energy.com)

## Employment Opportunities

**Fish biologists and technicians, EA Engineering Science and Technology** – Positions include field technicians, junior staff, mid-level staff, and senior positions. Multiple openings are available at each of these levels. All positions, except for the field technicians, require a degree in fisheries or a related discipline. Positions are available in new offices we are establishing near Marietta, Ohio, Richmond, Virginia and either Cincinnati, Ohio or Louisville, Kentucky, as well as our office in Deerfield, Illinois.

For most of these positions, there will be considerable travel, typically consisting of sampling near various power plants along the Ohio River, various Virginia rivers and at nearby locations. Demonstrated ability to identify either adult/juvenile or larval fishes is a major plus. Positions will start in May/June of this year and extend for at least one year. For the less senior positions, we will also consider students or professionals that might be available only for a period of time (e.g., summer break) and desire a short-term position.

Salaries within each of the four categories listed above are negotiable and will be commensurate with experience. See company web [site](http://www.eaest.com/)  
<http://www.eaest.com/>.

**North Pacific Groundfish Observers, Alaskan Observers, Inc.** – Biologists hired by Alaskan Observers, Inc. attend a three week training class in either Seattle, Washington, or Anchorage, Alaska. Observers gather management data for the Government, living and working aboard U.S.-flagged commercial

fishing vessels operating in the Bering Sea, North Pacific, and Gulf of Alaska. Many of the biologists who go on to work in the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (or who work on projects like the Kodiak Observer Program) gain their initial observer experience working as North Pacific Groundfish Observers. Compensation ranges from \$3900.00 per month to \$5850.00 per month, depending on experience, and includes room, board, and travel to and from job site. Paid training courses are generally held in early and late December, February, May, June, and July, but this schedule is subject to change depending on the events in the fishery in a given year. Please contact Alaskan Observers, Inc. for more details and the application process. Alaskan Observers, Inc., 130 Nickerson, #206, Seattle, WA 98109, Phone: 800-483-7310, Fax: 206-283-6519, e-mail: [aoistaff@alaskanobservers.com](mailto:aoistaff@alaskanobservers.com)

Fishery related jobs can be found on the AFS web site at: <http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.html>. This site also offers links to job postings on non-AFS web sites.

If you have a fishery-related job opening and would like to post it in the next NCAFS Newsletter, please send your announcement to the newsletter editor.  
[djcoughl@duke-energy.com](mailto:djcoughl@duke-energy.com)

## Valuable Links – Courtesy of AFS

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/>.

Additional links can be found courtesy of Dr. Mike Allen and the Southern Division, AFS.  
<http://www.sdafs.org/links/msallen1.htm>