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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2006

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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 – Lawrence Dorsey**

*Teamwork...It Can Actually Happen*

I know many past presidents have struggled to come up with something creative for their June and September president's messages. The first one is easy to write because you get to look forward to the coming year and what you hope to accomplish. The last one is equally simple because you get to look back on the year that has passed. It can be those two messages in the middle that cause you to scratch your head. Fortunately for me, our chapter has given me plenty to talk about this time.

Everyone, me included, has been beaten over the head time and again about pitching in and how we can all accomplish a lot as a team. Many of us, again I can include myself, have yawned and kept on going with our daily routine. However, deep down we all know that teamwork is important. This is particularly true of a professional society like AFS which relies so heavily on its members for work products. I can honestly report to you that in the case of the NCAFS, teamwork is alive and shining brightly.

At the 2005 Annual Business Meeting, the EXCOM voted to support a Hutton Scholar funded by NCAFS. Although an idea like this can never be attributed solely to one person, Past President Mallory Martin was certainly a driving force. It took a little bit of time to build inertia, but we have accomplished our goal. We recently received news from the AFS Headquarters Staff that we had been selected to mentor a Hutton Scholar for 2006. Kim Sparks was asked to serve along with Tom Kwak as NCAFS Hutton Coordinators last year. Kim hit the pavement and the phones in an effort to recruit a scholar from Wake County. Tom agreed to serve as the official mentor and to coordinate the involvement of many partners in the Wake County area. These partners included: North Carolina State University, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Progress Energy, North Carolina Division of Water Quality, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, and Duke Energy among others. All of the work by this team has led to a great opportunity for a young person this summer. Suffice it to say, those that have been or will be involved with the NCAFS Hutton Scholar this summer are too numerous to mention but deserve great thanks for their participation.

The second example of teamwork in our chapter is also easy to identify. The Education and Outreach Committee, co-chaired by Greg Cope and Bob Barwick, has recently produced a brochure entitled “Your Waterfront Property and Aquatic Resources”. It is currently available on the NCAFS website in PDF form. Greg and Bob enlisted the help of many partners and contributors (see the brochure for an exact listing) to develop a product with wide applicability across North Carolina. Again, this product could not have been accomplished without a team. In fact, the sheer volume of brochures mailed to Lake Norman homeowners (selected for an evaluation component of the grant used to develop the brochure) totaled over 9,000. It took an army of volunteers just to get these brochures in the mail!

I’d ask everyone to consider what has been accomplished by the dedication and teamwork of our membership on these two projects. There have been many more examples from the history of our chapter and I am confident there will be more in the future. It’s easy to fall into the trap of complacency and that joining together to accomplish tasks is a hollow concept. The tangible results from projects like these give credence to the idea that teamwork can happen and worthwhile projects can be completed. The next time you’re asked to join an NCAFS committee or special project, I’d ask you to consider that a little bit of time from a few folks can add up to big things.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer,

*Lawrence*

### **Secretary-Treasurer’s Report**

[Minutes of the June 2006 Executive Committee Meeting.](#)

*Submitted by Brian McRae, Secretary-Treasurer*

### **Education and Outreach Committee Report**

The Education and Outreach Committee is nearing completion of a project designed to educate waterfront property owners throughout the state and nation about improving shoreline fish and aquatic habitat. During June, we mailed 9,394 copies of a brochure entitled *Your Waterfront Property and Aquatic Resources* to residential property owners surrounding Lake Norman, our test population for the educational material. All mailings included a tear-out, postage paid response card that will allow us to determine the effectiveness of this type of outreach in improving aquatic habitat in developed reservoirs. The Committee appreciates the support of the N.C. State University Office of Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development, the NC Chapter AFS, and Duke Power for financial assistance, as well as those who reviewed drafts of the brochure and assisted in media layout and website development.

We also extend sincere gratitude to all<sup>1</sup> who forfeited a Sunday afternoon to assist with stuffing, sealing, applying addresses and mailing a stack of brochures over 100 feet high! For an electronic version of the brochure and additional information,

check out the committees website at <http://www.sdafs.org/ncafs/Outreach/Shorelinedevelopment/Shorelinedevelopment.htm> .



*A diverse, although captive, audience comprised of university faculty, state biologists, utility biologists, students, and persuaded family members alike pitched in to assemble the brochure package.*

<sup>1</sup> *Special thanks to those who helped to compile the brochure package: Carolyn McNeill, Bobby Cope, Sarah Cope, Hugh Barwick, Bob Barwick, Brad Garner, Sharon Prochazka, Greg Cope, Jessica Brewster, Jaimie Cope, Kevin Magowan, Ryan*

*Spidel, Jennifer Clontz, Fred Haskin, Joan Haskin, Robert Bringolf, Julia Storm.*

One final item for Chapter members, we are requesting that topics of interest for future continuing education short courses be sent to the Committee Chairs or to any member of the EXCOM.

*Submitted by Bob Barwick and Greg Cope, Education and Outreach Committee Co-chairs*

## **News from around North Carolina**

***National Fish Habitat Action Plan News forwarded by Bob Curry, NCWRC and SDAFS President*** - The Directors Line last month focused on the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) and its vision that healthy habitats, healthy fish, healthy people and healthy economies will be achieved through cooperation, investment and stewardship. Healthy waterways and robust fish populations are vital to the well-being of our fisheries. The Clean Water Act is responsible for tremendous gains in improved water quality that have helped fisheries nationwide. Unfortunately, in many waters around the country, fish and the habitats on which they depend are in decline.

Determined to reverse the declines of America's fish habitats, the American Fisheries Society as fisheries professionals along with State and Federal agencies, tribes, foundations, conservation and angling groups, businesses and industries have joined together in support of the NFHAP. This partnership for fish habitat is similar to that undertaken for waterfowl habitat through the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The NFHAP design encompasses five important lessons that emerge from America's past efforts to protect and restore fish habitat: 1) be strategic rather than merely opportunistic; 2) address the causes of, and processes behind, fish habitat decline rather than symptoms; 3) provide increased and sustained investment to allow for long-term success; 4) monitor and be accountable for scientifically sound and measurable results, and 5) share information and knowledge at all levels from local communities to Congress. ([fishhabitat.org/](http://fishhabitat.org/))

We need your help to improve the NFHAP early in its implementation. You need to better understand this new fish habitat initiative and we need your ideas on implementation. The Fisheries Administration and Fisheries Management sections of AFS, with support from US Fish and Wildlife Service, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

and BASS/ESPN Outdoors are conducting a facilitated workshop and concurrent poster session on implementation strategies for the recently approved NFHAP at the upcoming 2006 AFS Annual Meeting in Lake Placid. The Facilitated Workshop – Objectives are: 1) identify issues related to implementation of NFHI that need further development; 2) define components or elements of a successful NFHI partnership (e.g. could be used as criteria for rating candidate partnerships); and 3) identify national or regional partnerships that need to be developed. Representatives from the existing waterfowl and several new fish habitat partnerships will contribute successes and problems they have experiences in their efforts.

The mission of the NFHAP is to protect, restore and enhance the Nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people. The action plan is built the mission related principles of being partnership driven, science based on a landscape scale, non-regulatory, sustained and accountable.

A long-term goal of the action plan is to use and leverage existing funding more effectively and increase funding for Fish Habitat Partnerships nationwide. Already Congressional appropriation of \$1 million to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for fiscal year 2006 for on the ground NFHAP activities and a Presidential budget request to Congress for \$3 million more in fiscal year 2007. Additionally, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has initiated a fundraising drive to support National Fish Habitat Action Plan projects with a goal of \$100 million to use for fish habitat actions called "More Fish"

([www.nfwf.org/programs/morefish/](http://www.nfwf.org/programs/morefish/))

([http://www.afslakeplacid.org/Prog\\_SymposiaTitles.htm](http://www.afslakeplacid.org/Prog_SymposiaTitles.htm)).

***Hurricane Relief Action Plan News from Bob Curry, NCWRC and SDAFS President*** - On 29 August 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated large portions of Louisiana and Mississippi and caused significant impacts to Alabama, Florida and Texas. Collectively they are considered the largest natural disaster yet to occur in North America. Shortly thereafter, during the 2005 Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) in Anchorage, Alaska, Parent Society AFS President Chris Kohler established the AFS Hurricane Relief Task Force and charged it to develop strategy for addressing professional needs

of our fisheries colleagues impacted by the storms. Following guidance from the chapters and the Southern Division, the Action Plan was modified and presented in March to the Parent Society Governing Board during its Mid-year meeting in Bethesda, Maryland. On 11 March 2006, The Governing Board approved the following Action Plan.

1. AFS assigns the Southern Division (SDAFS) with administrative and programmatic responsibilities to implement relief to AFS members in the Gulf Coast region impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
2. Upon approval of the SDAFS leadership, complimentary memberships and online journal subscriptions will temporarily be provided (duration to be determined) to AFS members identified by their respective AFS Chapters as having been impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
3. Upon approval of SDAFS leadership, travel funds to attend AFS annual meetings will be provided to AFS members identified by their respective AFS Chapters as having been impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
4. SDAFS will assist with the establishment, maintenance, and staffing of a program to facilitate linkages between AFS members identified by their respective AFS Chapters as having specific professional and/or programmatic needs resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita with AFS members/units who have resources to address these needs.
5. AFS will provide a maximum of \$30,000 to SDAFS to address the above actions for the period 15 March - 31 December 2006.
6. The AFS Hurricane Relief Task Force, along with the SDAFS, will report to the AFS Governing Board at the annual meeting in Lake Placid in September 2006 on the status of the on-going relief efforts and provide recommendations for future disaster relief programs and actions.

The task force held its final meeting on 18 May 2006 on the Louisiana State University Campus and, in accordance with the Action Plan and AFS Governing Board directive, transferred the program to the Southern Division. Chapters now have the responsibility of identifying AFS members who need assistance in terms of membership dues,

journal subscriptions and travel support to AFS meetings and for forwarding recommendations for assistance to the Southern Division. The Mississippi Chapter will secure storage facilities to warehouse donations earmarked through the distribution program for colleagues needing these materials. The Texas Chapter and Parent Society Computer Users Section is developing the computerized network for matching donations with recipient requests. Don Jackson (Mississippi Chapter) will serve as the interim director for the distributions center and as liaison between chapters and the Southern Division regarding hurricane relief.

**SDAFS First Call for Papers from Phil Bettoli, Tennessee Tech** - The Tennessee Chapter and Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society invite you to join us in Memphis at the Marriott Downtown Hotel for the 2007 Southern Division Spring Meeting, 7-11 February 2007. The meeting's theme is "Diversity of Fish, Habitats, and People". Please submit suggestions for workshops and symposia to Phil Bettoli ([PBettoli@tntech.edu](mailto:PBettoli@tntech.edu)) by 1 September 2006. The due date for symposia, poster, and general session abstracts will be 1 December 2006. For more information, visit the meeting website at <http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2007/>. Instructions for abstract submission can be found at the same website.

**4th International Reservoir Symposium News forwarded by Mike Colvin** - The Southern Division American Fisheries Society Reservoir Committee is proud to announce this symposium has been scheduled for June 6-9, 2007, in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme of this symposium is "*Balancing Fisheries Management and Water Uses for Impounded River Systems*" and will consist of invited and contributed papers from individuals all across the country. Speakers will present on a broad range of issues, from case studies to new technologies to changes in management philosophy. Proposed topics include: Balancing Fisheries Issues with Basin-wide Water Uses, Aquatic Habitat, Human Dimensions, Catch and Release and Use of Regulations, Stocking Issues, and Assessment and Analysis. If you have other topics or specific projects that you would like to present, please contact Mike Colvin at [Mike.Colvin@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Mike.Colvin@mdc.mo.gov). More details will be available soon. Stay tuned...

**Fish Quiz forwarded by Kevin Dockendorf, NCWRC** – Everyone knows that a large group of fish is called a school but did you know that different groups of fish have their own word to describe “school”? Test your knowledge! Take this quiz by matching each numbered **Fish** with the correct **Collective** from the lettered column. Find the answers at the end of this newsletter.

	<b>Fish</b>			<b>Collective</b>
1	Minnows		A	Hover
2	Perch		B	Leap
3	Swordfish		C	Congress
4	Barracuda		D	Fleet
5	Trout		E	Stream
6	Mackerel		F	Legion
7	Salmon		G	Shoal
8	Bass		H	Battery

**Conservation Fisheries Inc. News forwarded by Gerald Pottern** - Conservation Fisheries Inc (CFI) latest newsletter has info & photos about spawning and rearing *Percina* darters, specifically tangerine darter and blotchside logperch:

Here's the link:

[http://www.conservationfisheries.org/Newsletters/newsletter\\_32\\_may\\_2006.htm](http://www.conservationfisheries.org/Newsletters/newsletter_32_may_2006.htm)

Join their email list (Free), send a donation, get a cool T-shirt with yellowfin madtom design. See also their archive of past newsletters. They captive-raise rare species of stream fishes for research and recovery programs at their Knoxville, TN, facility.

**Raleigh Aquarium Society News from Gerald Pottern** - The Raleigh Aquarium Society is a hobby-oriented group interested in captive care, natural history, propagation, conservation, fish-watching, and all aspects of fishes, invertebrates and aquatic plants. RAS Meetings begin at 7:30pm on the first Thursday each month at the NCSU Vet School, corner of Hillsborough Street and Blue Ridge Road in western Raleigh. Due to Vet School Security issues, the downstairs door is usually locked. So if you arrive late, either knock or call one of these cell phones: Brandon Berry at 252-266-3559, Jeff Jenkins at 919-612-0229, or John Patterson at 919-264-4011. For more info see the RAS website:

<http://www.raleighaquariumsociety.com/> .

**Wetland Delineation Training Class News from Cill Ide Native Plant Nursery** – The Nursery is pleased to offer a summer short course on wetland

delineation training. The class is taught by a US Army Corps of Engineers Certified Wetland Delineator and a Certified Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS). Dates: July 10 - 14, 2006. Location: The JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University, Raleigh, North Carolina. For more info or to sign up please go to: <http://wetlandplantnursery.com/classes.html> or call 919-302-6900.

## Spotlight on Students and Young Professionals

**Justin Homan, Assistant District Fisheries Biologist, NCWRC** - Justin Homan was born and raised in Manassas, Virginia, better known among historians (and most southerners) as “Bull Run.” He grew up deer hunting at Indian Creek Hunt Club in Bertie County (NC) and dove hunting on the Croatan National Forest. His time spent at Indian Creek Hunt Club with several NCWRC fisheries and wildlife biologists fostered an interest in a career in fisheries biology. After graduating from Osbourn Park High School in 1999, Justin decided to pursue a degree in Fisheries Science at Virginia Tech. While a Hokie, he spent a summer working for the U.S. Forest Service Center for Aquatic Technology Transfer (CATT). There he worked in mountain streams in Virginia and North Carolina conducting stream habitat surveys and participated in sampling for trout and American eels. Justin also was a work study aide for the CATT crew during the school year where he learned about the joy of entering data collected during the field season. After earning his B.S. in Fisheries Science at VT (and becoming weary of explaining to others that yes, eels REALLY DO go this far inland) he headed west to Arkansas Tech to pursue a Master’s degree. Although the attempt to avoid eels turned out to be unsuccessful, the scenery changed. He traded shallow coldwater streams for shallow coolwater rivers and served under the supervision of Dr. Charlie Gagen to develop a thesis about quantification and prediction of stream dryness and its relationship to smallmouth bass production in the Interior Highlands of Arkansas. Although stream dryness was predicted, plenty of it was encountered in the field and Justin soon developed techniques to maneuver boats through a dry streambed. This technique, often referred to as the “pull and holler” approach, proves to be fantastic exercise. Justin also worked on several other projects while at Arkansas Tech including a fish survey on Fort Chaffee Maneuver and Training Center and a study on the change in the fish assemblage in the Ouachita River after a minimum

low flow implementation. Justin presented part of his master's research at the 2005 Annual AFS meeting in Anchorage, Alaska and served as vice president of ATU's student subunit. He also developed a love for duck hunting while in Arkansas and found a wife (on different occasions). His wife Jessie received a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology from Arkansas Tech and started a temporary technician job with NCWRC working out of the Williamston Wildlife Management Depot. Justin started working as the assistant biologist in District 2 in January where he has completed his first field season.



*Justin Homan – not exactly thinking about smallmouth bass at this particular moment.*

Sunburned and tired, with hands calloused from wielding a dipnet all spring, he now he spends most of his time with eyes buried in a microscope grinding, preparing, and ageing largemouth bass otoliths collected this spring, all the while remembering the good 'ol days – early mornings in Arkansas duck blinds. He is looking forward to deer hunting again in Carolina this fall and

introducing his wife to a real dove shoot, and also hopes to get in on some “down east” duck hunting. He's also been seen jotting down locations of promising fishing holes in local coastal rivers. Welcome, Justin!

*Submitted by Bob Barwick, NCWRC*

**Jessica Brewster, MS Student, NCSU** - Jessica serves as Co-President of the NCAFS Student Subunit at NC State. She grew up in a military family, but spent most of her childhood in Augusta, Georgia. Jess was a late bloomer — she admits that she didn't like touching fish until she attended college!

It was during her undergraduate years at Augusta State University in Georgia that she crossed paths with an important influence in her professional development. Dr. Bruce Saul was the only fisheries professor at Augusta State, and when she attended his class and the associated field trips — she was “hooked” <apologies>. She spent many undergraduate days afield with Dr. Saul's inshore marine fish research group on St. Catherine's Island, a private barrier island off the Georgia coast devoted to research and wildlife rehabilitation. She also served as a fisheries technical assistant with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR), where she learned boating, electrofishing, gill-netting, and other fisheries field techniques on the Savannah River. After she graduated in 2002, she continued to work for the GADNR as a member of their Stream Survey Unit (aka “GA Stream Team”) for two years (2003-2004) sampling stream fish communities in the piedmont and north Georgia mountains to assess biotic integrity.

Jessica began graduate school at NC State to pursue a Master's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife in January 2005. She's advised by Dr. Tom Kwak, and her thesis research is on the feeding ecology of introduced flathead catfish in North Carolina rivers. Her specific objectives are to identify diel feeding patterns, quantify feeding intensity and daily ration, and elucidate feeding selectivity and preferences of this voracious piscivore. Her ultimate research goal is to better understand the predatory effects on native riverine fish assemblages.



Jessica Brewster with a Cape Fear River flathead catfish.

Jess enjoys mountain biking and hiking in her free time, and is planning her fall wedding with fiancé J.J. VIP guest at that wedding will be their 100-lb black lab “Onyx.” Jessica really enjoys living in North Carolina, and after completing her degree in 2007, she’d like to stick around and seek employment with one of our state or federal agencies. She has a special interest in introduced and nongame fishes, but would be equally enthused about employment as a district biologist or in habitat conservation. We’re glad you came to North Carolina and joined our AFS Chapter, Jessica — welcome!

*Submitted by Tom Kwak, NCSU*

**Christin Brown, MS Student, NCSU** - Christin Brown is currently a graduate student at NC State and serving as Co-President of the NC AFS Student Subunit at NC State. She’s home-grown, a North Carolina native from Greensboro and Raleigh, and she comes from a family of teachers. Christin grew up spending time on her relatives’ farm and enjoying life in an outdoor-oriented family. Her early days camping and at the beach instilled a love for water and nature that eventually brought her to the fisheries field as a profession.

In high school she was athletic, participating in tennis and basketball, and she continues an active lifestyle today. She attended NC State as an undergrad and completed her degree in Zoology there in 2004. Her college experience was a rich one — she was a foreign exchange student in Australia her junior year, which peaked her interest in the marine environment, as she spent time Scuba diving the Great Barrier Reef between classes. She also spent the summer of 2004 as an educator and aquarist at the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher, where you might have seen her in dive gear feeding sharks and rays for public viewing. And finally, Christin

had a strong work ethic and intense social life as undergrad — while employed at Mitch’s Pub, a popular campus watering hole.

She began pursuit of her graduate degree, a Master’s in Fisheries and Wildlife at NC State during the summer of 2005. She’s advised by Dr. Tom Kwak and is conducting research on stream fish populations in Puerto Rico. Her thesis objectives involve quantifying the efficiency and selectivity of electrofishing gears in those streams and to develop models explaining fish catch rates with environmental variables. Her results will be useful in understanding sampling data and to develop standardized protocols for sampling stream fishes.



Christin Brown between backpack electrofishing samples on the Rio Rosario in western Puerto Rico.

When Christin completes her degree in the fall of 2007, she plans to seek employment that may combine facets of public outreach, policy, and fisheries and environmental management in a state or federal agency position. When she’s not speaking Spanish or sampling unusual fishes, like the mountain mullet, bigmouth sleeper, or river goby, she’s engaged in other water sports like surfing, canoeing, or fishing, accompanied by her boyfriend or Trinity, her 120-lb huskie-german shepherd canine companion. Welcome to the NCAFS Chapter, Christin!

*Submitted by Tom Kwak, NCSU*

## Meetings of Interest

***136th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society and the 30th Annual Larval Fish Conference***– Sept. 10-14, 2006, Lake Placid, NY.  
<http://www.afslakeplacid.org/>.

***Stream Restoration in the Southeast: Accomplishments and Opportunities*** – Oct. 2-5, 2006, Westin Charlotte, Charlotte, NC.  
[www.ncsu.edu/sri/2006conference/savethedate.html](http://www.ncsu.edu/sri/2006conference/savethedate.html).

***60th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*** – Nov. 5-8, 2006, Norfolk, VA.  
<http://www.seafwa2006.org/>.

***Southern Division AFS 2007 Spring Meeting*** – Feb. 7-11, 2007, Memphis, TN.  
<http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2007/>.

***Fourth North American Reservoir Symposium*** – June 6-9, 2007, Atlanta, GA. Balancing fisheries management and water uses for impounded river systems. Contact: Vic DiCenzo at [Vic.Dicenzo@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:Vic.Dicenzo@dgif.virginia.gov).

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

***Additional Employment Opportunities*** - 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 –

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>

**Quiz answers – 1E, 2C, 3F, 4H, 5A, 6G, 7B, and 8D**