



From the Desk of the AFS-NCD President

“Musings by Melissa”

February 2016

Hello, NCD! I still feel like I’m recovering from an amazing trip to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference as I travel to my own Dakota Chapter meeting. I’ll bet many of you feel the same as you ready for your own chapter meetings. A huge pat on the back to NCD member and Past President Gary Whelan for co-organizing the Midwest! This year’s meeting was large, with about 1,200 registered. And let’s not forget the students. Kudos to Student Activities Chair and NCD Past President Jessica Mistak for overseeing all of the great student-centered activities for over 500 students!

As I visited the various NCD Technical Committee meetings in Grand Rapids, I’ve learned more about all of the great activities they’re organizing. I’m going to take an opportunity in this blog to promote those units and their events.

The newly revived Reservoir Technical Committee (RTC) just hosted their second symposium at the Midwest, which was well attended. The RTC is looking for representation from all NCD chapters in their unit. If you’re interested in representing your chapter or would like to participate in the committee as a member, please contact Joe Conroy (joseph.conroy@dnr.state.oh.us) or Rebecca Krogman (Rebecca.Krogman@dnr.iowa.gov). This is truly and up-and-coming technical committee, and I know they’re going to do some great things!

The Esocid Technical Committee (ETC) is gearing up for the 3rd International Muskellunge Symposium from March 13 – 15 in Minnetonka, Minnesota. The last symposium was held 10 years ago, and this year’s symposium coincides with the 50th anniversary of Muskies, Inc. Registration and local arrangement information can be found at <https://muskiesinc.org/symposium-registration/>. This is an event you don’t want to miss!

March is busy for the NCD! The annual meeting of the Rivers and Streams Technical Committee (RSTC) is scheduled March 29 and 30 in Milan, Illinois. Presentations on all topics related to rivers and streams are welcomed. If you’d like to present, contact RSTC chair Matt Matheny (<http://ncd.fisheries.org/rivers-and-streams/>). While you’re on the RSTC webpage, sign up for their Google groups forum for up-to-date information. Keep up the great work, RSTC!

Later this summer, the annual joint meeting of the Walleye, Centrarchid, and Esocid Technical Committees will be held in Gretna, Nebraska at the Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium from July 25 – 28. In addition to sharing research and management information, the committees are planning some fun events, including a float trip! For more information, contact Keith Koupal at keith.koupal@nebraska.gov. The joint meetings are always top notch!

No doubt, the NCD is bustling with activity, thanks in large part to the strong commitments of our active technical committees. If you aren’t currently a member of one or more of these groups, consider joining! They’re a great way to get more involved in AFS and the NCD.

Best wishes to all chapters on your upcoming annual meetings! Mark your calendars now for the 2016 AFS annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri from August 21st through the 25th and the 2017 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska from February 5th through the 8th.

Until next month, *Melissa*