



**New York Chapter  
American Fisheries  
Society – Newsletter**

**December 2000**

New York Chapter Officers 2000-2001	
President:	Donald J. Stewart
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PUBLICATION STATEMENT	

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The NY AFS Chapter Annual Meeting will be held in Owego, NY from January 18-20, 2001. The theme of the meeting will be "Large Scale Weather Effects and Variability on NYS Fisheries". Members are strongly encouraged to submit abstracts for papers and posters. The abstracts for contributed papers and posters do not have to be related to the meeting theme. So, please submit an abstract and participate in this important exchange of information about New York fisheries.

The Meeting Announcement and Final Call for Papers for the 2001 Chapter Meeting are provided in the newsletter. Hope to see you in Owego in January.

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## Chapter News

### 2001 Annual Meeting of the NY Chapter AFS

Please turn to the back of the newsletter for specific information about the 2001 Annual Meeting.

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### Candidates for Chapter President

Two members of the NY AFS Chapter have kindly offered to run for the office of President. The candidates for President are Norman Soule and Dave Bryson. The election will take place at the annual meeting in January 2001. The successful candidate will serve as President-Elect for 2001 and then as President for 2002. Biographical sketches of the candidates are provided below.

#### Norman Soule

I finished a BS in Environmental Science and Forestry at SUNY ESF in 1978. My professional fisheries experience started in 1979 at what was then the Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery operated by the NYSDEC. For 2.5 years I was in charge of all operations of this facility. This included raising three species of trout and setting up the beginnings of a live exhibit of various species of fish and turtles found in NYS. In 1982 when the NYSDEC decided

to close Cold Spring Harbor as a DEC facility, I opted to leave DEC service and work with the nonprofit agency that was taking the hatchery over. Since that time I have served as Director of what is now known as The Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery & Aquarium. In this position I have guided the transformation of what was once strictly a trout production facility into a three part organization whose mission is to educate the public about the aquatic resources of NYS. As a trout hatchery we now raise and sell trout. As an educational facility we do over 500 school (about 11,000 people) and other group programs per year. As a public aquarium we display one of the largest collection of living aquatic amphibians, fish, snakes and turtles that are found in the wild in NYS. The collection of most of these specimens have given me an opportunity to sample many bodies of water in this state.

I have served as board member, treasurer and president of the New York State Aquaculture Association. I have served 4 years as a member of the Technical/Industry advisory committee of the Northeastern Regional Aquaculture Center for the USDA. I have done surveys for the NYSDEC for things such as hellbenders, eastern mud turtles and bog turtles. My involvement with the NYS state chapter has been limited to serving for a brief time as the chapter representative to the "Return-a-Gift-to-Wildlife" committee and attending every chapter meeting since Bob Lange drafted me to be one of the Region 1 representatives to the Chapter Meeting in 1979. My other interests include hunting, fishing and camping. If elected I will serve and do the best job I can.

#### Dave Bryson

Candidate Dave Bryson has worked in the field of fisheries since his undergraduate days where he served as a technician on large rivers, such as the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers and mountain streams, including the Conway and Thornton Rivers of Virginia. He holds a Bachelors degree from Virginia Tech where he was the managing editor for the School of Forestry and Wildlife's newspaper and vice president for the VA Tech Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. After graduating, he worked for the Aquatic Ecology Research Laboratory at Ohio State University on their esocid research program. He returned to school and earned a Master's degree from Tennessee Tech. His research there focused on researching reservoir systems and crappie populations. Dave worked as an ecologist for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Office of Hydropower Licensing where he learned about the interactions of water power developments on instream flows, water level manipulations, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitats. Dave also served as a senior environmental specialist for the Virginia Department of

Transportation where he evaluated the environmental impacts to streams caused by the construction of bridges and the impacts to wetlands caused by the placement of fill. Currently, Dave is employed as a fish and wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Cortland, NY. Much of Dave's duties involve instream flow evaluation, wetland mitigation, water quality protection and maintenance, water level manipulations, fish passage and entrainment, and recreational use and access. Dave has been an active member of the New York Chapter since 1990 and has chaired the Resolution and Environmental Concerns Committees. He would appreciate the opportunity to serve the Chapter as its president.

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## **Dr. Paul Bowser Elected as President of the AFS Fish Health Section**

In the recent election of officers for the Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society, Paul Bowser was elected to the office of Vice President. He will assume that office at the Annual Meeting of the Fish Health Section in Pensacola, FL on 6-8 September 2000. In 2001 and 2002, he will assume the office of President-elect and President, respectively. Dr. Bowser is a Professor of Aquatic Animal Medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, where he is responsible for the activities of the Aquatic Animal Health Program. Dr. Bowser has been a member of the American Fisheries Society since 1970 and has been certified as a Fish Pathologist by the Fish Health Section/AFS since 1983.

Dr. Bowser can be contacted at:

Aquatic Animal Health Program  
Department of Microbiology and Immunology  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, New York 14853-6401

TEL (607) 253-3365  
FAX (607) 253-3384  
e-mail: prb4@cornell.edu

[Aquatic Animal Health Program:](http://web.vet.cornell.edu/Public/FishDisease/AquaticProg/)  
[web.vet.cornell.edu/Public/FishDisease/AquaticProg/](http://web.vet.cornell.edu/Public/FishDisease/AquaticProg/)

[AQUAVET Program:](http://web.vet.cornell.edu/public/aquavet/)  
[web.vet.cornell.edu/public/aquavet/](http://web.vet.cornell.edu/public/aquavet/)

## **Annual Summer Workshop Greets a Packed House**

By Tom Brooking, Cornell Biological Field Station

The NY Chapter of the American Fisheries Society hosted two Aquatic Plant Identification Workshops during August 2000 at the Cornell Biological Field Station on Oneida Lake, NY. The workshops focused on identification of the most common aquatic macrophytes found in lakes and ponds in New York State, with particular attention to those species of importance to fisheries biologists. Invasive species and native plants were covered, including submerged, emergent, and wetland species.

### **Workshop Overview**

The workshop was taught by **Don Leopold**, Plant Ecologist at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse (SUNY-ESF), and **Bob Johnson** of the Cornell University Research Ponds, **John Farrell** of SUNY-ESF Thousand Islands Biological Station, and **Bruce Gillman** of Finger Lakes Community College, and **Kim Farrell** of the USDA NRCS. These individuals did an excellent job of providing background information on plant ecology, habitat preferences, and importance to fish species. The workshop began with a short underwater video to set the stage for the workshop, and give participants a true fish-eye view of the aquatic world. This was followed by several excellent slide presentations by Don Leopold and Bruce Gillman, covering identification of wetland plants, submerged plants, and emergent vegetation. Bob Johnson then provided some very valuable information on topics such as control of nuisance aquatic plants, invasive species, management methods, and biological controls. To wrap up the morning sessions, John Farrell and Kim Farrell gave presentations on the value of aquatic plants to fish species, including physical cover, nursery areas, sediment stabilization, and effects on water chemistry. These talks were followed by a hearty lunch (we all know fisheries people can eat!).

In the afternoon, people were divided into several groups. One group learned key identification features on labeled plant specimens in the lab. We were lucky enough to have an excellent collection of live specimens which were assembled by the instructors. People could then reinforce and nurture their identification skills in the second group, which was a guided field excursion through the Cornell Field Station property along a nature trail. This trail led through many habitats, including uplands, old field habitat, wetlands, swamps, lowland timber, and along the lakeshore. People were then put to the real field test, where they were given buckets of mixed vegetation collected directly from the lake, and asked to sort out as many species as possible. Judging from peoples reactions, they had learned a great deal but realized just how difficult

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aquatic plant identification can be. Mother Nature cooperated with two gorgeous summer days, and a great time was had by all.

### Summary statistics

Total income was \$2730, which included registration fees and the sale of 22 extra books. Total expenses were \$2892.43, which included payment of instructors, book costs, lunch and coffee supplies, miscellaneous office supplies, printing and postage costs. Thus, the total cost to the NY Chapter AFS was \$162.43 for 80 people, or \$2.03/person. A complete financial summary was submitted to the treasurer.

### Attendance Breakdown

It is interesting to look at the breakdown of attendees and what affiliation they were with. Of the 84 registrants, the largest single affiliation was with NYS DEC. A total of 32 attendees (38%) indicated they were DEC employees. The next largest group indicated affiliation with Cornell University (19%), followed by SUNY ESF (12%) and private consulting firms (12%). These four groups made up 80% of the attendees. The remainder of the attendees were 8% from federal agencies (USGS, USFWS, USDA-NRCS), 5% from other colleges (Syracuse University, Buffalo State, Keuka Community College), one from Delaware Fish and Wildlife, one from Onondaga Co. SWCD, and 2 unknowns. It was encouraging to note that 3 people were willing to travel from out of state just to attend the workshop. I'm not sure how this breakdown compares with the general AFS membership, but I found it surprising (and encouraging) that DEC was so well represented. Perhaps people see a great deal of "applied" benefit in these AFS workshops.

The workshop was advertised in several ways. A direct mailing was sent to all NY Chapter AFS members (340 people) at a cost of approximately \$74.98 and a large amount of time. The workshop announcement, along with a request to post and/or distribute it to relevant personnel, was faxed to 7 universities, 11 DEC locations, 2 federal agencies, and 1 private consultant. A group email was sent to 240 AFS members whose email addresses were known, and a few other interested parties, at no cost and very little time investment.

Incidentally, the registration forms turned out to be very slightly different, enough that many could be traced to see which type of announcement the registrant had responded to. Of registrants who mailed a written form (77 people), 49% responded from the email announcement, 16% from the faxed announcement, and only 12% responded directly from the mailed announcement. About 23% of the

registration forms were definitely not email, fax, or clipped directly from the bottom of the mailed announcement. These could have been from announcements that were posted, or photocopies of mailed announcements. In any case, the vast majority of registrants were quite willing to use forms from the email announcement. This was also the least expensive and least labor-intensive way of sending announcements, and I would recommend that the NY Chapter AFS make it a priority to maintain a group email listing for announcements or even for newsletter mailings. Registrations from the faxed announcement also seemed somewhat higher than what would have been expected. I suspect these faxes were particularly effective in reaching non-members, especially the strong DEC showing noted above, and more general non-fisheries professionals. In the future these ideas may help us concentrate our efforts in announcing other AFS events, especially with group emails that take minutes to send and at no charge. Affiliation breakdowns could also be useful in assisting efforts directed at obtaining new members.

Lastly, I wish to extend thanks to the many folks who helped organize this workshop and make it a success. The support of the Cornell Field Station staff, especially Olvin VanKeekan, Randy Jackson, Joanne Getchonis, Tony VanDeValk, Lars Rudstam, Ed Mills and others is particularly appreciated. John Farrell and the rest of the instructors provided invaluable assistance. Lastly, many thanks to the NY Chapter AFS for providing financial support and logistical assistance to make the workshop a success. We encourage anyone with motivation and ideas for next year's workshop to let us know, so that we can make it even better next year!

### Upcoming events

#### **57<sup>th</sup> Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference; April 22-25, 2001**

Sheraton Saratoga Springs Hotel and Conference Center, Saratoga Springs, New York. Theme "Staying Connected"

Contact: Ed Woltmann; 518/457-9748;  
[neinfo@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:neinfo@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

[Visit this website for more information:](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/neconf/necmain.html)

[www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/neconf/necmain.html](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/neconf/necmain.html)

#### **131st AFS Annual Meeting, August 19-23, 2001**

Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Phoenix, Arizona.

Contact: Betsy Fritz; 301/897-8616, ext. 212;  
bfritz@fisheries.org

## Wanted

Web Pearsall writes:

### Nominations Sought:

Its not too late to nominate someone for a Chapter Award. The Professional Incentives Committee is soliciting nominations for the Chapter's "Professional Achievement" and "Honorary Member" awards. *The Professional Achievement Award* is presented to an individual who has provided exceptional value to the profession beyond Chapter duties. *Honorary Membership* is presented to long-standing Chapter members who have contributed significantly to the Chapter.

Please take a few minutes and nominate a deserving person. Send your nominations along with a short bio-sketch by December 31, 2000 to Web Pearsall at [wepearsa@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:wepearsa@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

or

NYSDEC Region 8 Fisheries  
6274 East Avon-Lima Road  
Avon, New York 14414  
716-226-5339

## Recent Theses

**Cooper, John E. Comparative development and ecology of northern pike *Esox lucius* and muskellunge *E. masquinongy* eggs and larvae in the upper St. Lawrence River and implications of changes in historical spawning habitat.**

Thesis Abstract

Habitat alterations and physical adaptations putatively advantageous to northern pike *Esox lucius* have been proposed as probable causes for the relative population size changes of northern pike and muskellunge *E. masquinongy*. Area estimates were made of historical and recent spawning habitat to test the hypotheses that

spawning habitat and location of spawning have changed over time. Development and growth of eggs and larvae under varying regimes of temperature and diet were examined to test the hypotheses that northern pike larvae grow faster than muskellunge larvae, that adhesive papillae are present only in northern pike larvae, and that northern pike eggs and larvae are more tolerant of colder water than are muskellunge eggs and larvae. The effect of changes in spawning habitat on relative time of occurrence of *Esox*, zooplankton, and forage fish was examined in three embayments of the upper St. Lawrence River. Estimated hectares of shallow emergent vegetation declined by an average of 84%, and hectares of *Typha* increased by an average of 46% from 1948 to 1995. Eggs of both species were adhesive until water hardening. Larvae of both species possessed adhesive papillae, but muskellunge used their papillae for less time than did northern pike. Northern pike larvae attained various developmental characters at an earlier age than did muskellunge in controlled and varying water temperatures. Growth of most body structures was similar but snout length was greater in muskellunge larvae. Northern pike larvae grew faster than muskellunge larvae in length and weight on diets of *Artemia* and fish larvae. Both species grew faster on fish larvae and could consume fish larvae as a first food. No transition from zooplankton was necessary. Cladocerans dominated the zooplankton with *Polyphemus* and *Diaphanasoma* being more abundant than other taxa. Yellow perch *Perca flavescens* dominated the fish larvae accounting for 93% of the total. Overall density of fish larvae was 10/m<sup>3</sup>. Copepods were the primary prey taxa of fish larvae. Northern pike and muskellunge larvae (collected as eggs) were estimated to be capable of feeding on fish larvae during or near to the end of the peak forage fish density in one bay while both species were at this condition one week prior to the peak forage fish density in another bay.

Author's Name in full:

John Edwin Cooper

Candidate for the degree of:

Doctor of Philosophy

Date:

June 2000

Major Professor:

Dr. Robert G. Werner  
SUNY-ESF

**New York Chapter American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting**

# **AFS - New York Chapter Newsletter -- December 2000**

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**January 18-20, 2001    Owego, New York**

## **Meeting Announcement and Final Call for Papers**

### **Large Scale Weather Effects and Variability on NYS Fisheries**

#### **Registration, Food, and Lodging**

Registration is approximately \$65.00 for Chapter members and approximately \$45.00 for students (Precise amount TBD). This includes lunch and dinner on Friday and all coffee breaks. Rooms are \$64.00 per night single occupancy and \$69.00 per night double occupancy. You need to make your own arrangements by contacting the Owego Treadway Inn at (607) 687-4500. Please mention you are part of the NY-AFS meeting. Reservations must be made by January 7, 2000.

The Owego Treadway Inn is located at 1100 State Rte 17c, Owego NY, just Off Exit 65 of State Rte. 17. This is approximately 20 miles West of Binghamton.

To get an estimate of the number of people attending, please e-mail Don Stewart at [djstewar@mailbox.syr.edu](mailto:djstewar@mailbox.syr.edu). if you plan on attending. There is no pre-registration, however this will help us to accommodate the hotel's request. Registration will be done at the meeting.

#### **AGENDA OUTLINE**

##### **Thursday, January 18**

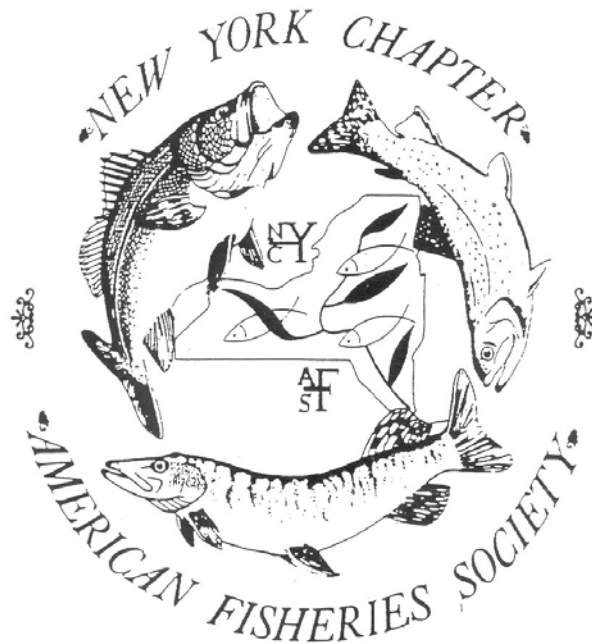
6:00-9:00    Registration  
7:00-9:00    Excom Meeting  
9:00-11:00    Evening Informal Social

##### **Friday, January 19**

7:30-??      Registration  
8:30          Opening Remarks  
8:45-3:00    Invited speakers (two breaks plus lunch included)  
3:00-4:00    Poster Session  
4:00-5:00    Business Meeting  
5:30-6:30    Social  
6:30          Banquet  
8:30          Student Chapter Meeting

##### **Saturday, January 20**

8:00-12:00    Contributed Papers  
12:10-12:20    Awards/Adjournment



## **FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **Theme : “Large Scale Weather Effects and Variability on NYS Fisheries”**

Please submit abstracts (250 words or less) indicating author(s), title, student or professional status, paper or poster, as well as the presenting author's address, phone number, and email address. The abstracts should be one page long, single-spaced, and with one inch margins. Electronic submissions of abstracts are preferred; however, faxes or hard copies will also be accepted. Please submit abstracts to both of the persons listed below:

Dr. Don Stewart  
1 Forestry Drive  
SUNY-ESF  
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Email: [djstewar@mailbox.syr.edu](mailto:djstewar@mailbox.syr.edu)  
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Phone: 607-762-8457

Papers and posters may address any fisheries related topic and they do **not** need to be theme related.

**The Deadline for Abstract Submissions is December 29, 2000.**