



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

Spring 2009

New York Chapter Officers
2009-2010
President: Randy Jackson
President-elect: Matt Sanderson
Past President: Fred Henson
Secretary-Treasurer: Scott Jones

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Editors' Note

Welcome to the Spring 2009 newsletter! Please enjoy, and feel free to write to me with suggestions for future newsletters! If you would care to submit something for the August newsletter, please email it to me at eczollwe@gw.dec.state.ny.us by August 15, 2009.
Emily Zollweg, Newsletter Editor

President's Corner

My trepidations about being able to live up to the compliment you bestowed upon me by electing me President have been reinvigorated as I have tried to prepare my first President's Corner. Looking over recent efforts, I have noted that Past President and current newsletter editor Emily Zollweg was a succinct writer who made important points with admirable efficiency in word usage. Immediate Past-President Fred Henson arrived at his points with a more meandering approach, but nonetheless had important thoughts to share. I suspect an effective blurb would ideally capture the interest of readers and confirm that the Chapter is continually seeking new ways to more effectively serve the needs of its members and foster communication among those of us who share an interest in conserving, protecting and managing our aquatic resources. The first of these objectives is clearly beyond me, but the second I think I can confidently tackle. As a result of wise fiscal policies of recent Chapter Administrations, we find ourselves in more than solid financial condition, and in fact our assets now exceed the level identified to secure the Chapter through unforeseen crises. As discussed at our Annual Business Meeting in February, we now find ourselves in the luxurious position of having money to invest in member services without the constraints of trying to recoup all of them. Workshop Chair Chris VanMaaren is currently working on setting up a Fish ID course that we should be able to offer with no registration fee. I am working with Student Sub-Unit Chair Bill Fisher to develop a more formalized approach to offering travel assistance to students attending our Annual Meeting, likely fashioned along the lines of the Skinner Travel Awards offered by the Parent Society. To facilitate better lines of communication with students in the State, Bill has set up a Student Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=62389478296>.

We hope that more timely announcements of activities and opportunities of interest to students will be facilitated by our venturing into the Facebook realm. And apropos to the student theme, we are happy to welcome the SUNY-Fredonia Student Sub-Unit into our family. Their bylaws were approved by the Society Governing Board and they were instated as an official Sub-Unit of our Chapter this spring.

Planning for the 2010 Annual Meeting is underway, and Program Chair Casey Festa (formerly known to us as Casey Michasiow) is seeking speakers. Our theme this year is Heritage, and my hope is that after another field season of challenges we can regroup at the meeting and remind ourselves of the outstanding aquatic resources that New York possesses. If you have ideas for potential speakers please contact Casey or myself as we work towards developing the program.

Randy Jackson, President
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Chapter News

Website

Our URL address is: <http://www.newyorkafs.org/> Newsletters are posted to the website (<http://www.newyorkafs.org/newsletters.htm>) and archived with previous editions. Scott Jones and I have worked to add all NYCAFS members for whom we have email addresses to the newsletter email notification list. This list is used for the notification of posting of new newsletters and important announcements from the executive committee. If you are not on this list, please email me at snyderw@morrisville.edu. Our goal is to have only electronic distribution, resulting in significant savings to our chapter. As always, if you are having any difficulty with the website or in downloading the newsletters, drop me a line at snyderw@morrisville.edu.

Bill Snyder

New Members

Free Fish CD and Book! Annual chapter dues are only \$10 (\$5 for students). The first 50 new chapter members (not a member for at least 5 preceding years) receive a free copy of the NYCAFS's CD *Historic Distribution of Inland Fishes of NYS: Map Series by E. C. Raney*, which provides the New York distribution of 131 freshwater fish species. In addition, the first 20 members of the Chapter who become new members in the parent organization American Fisheries Society in 2008 will receive a free copy of the *Guidelines for the Use of Fishes in Research*.

Scott Jones, Sec./Treas.

New York Chapter American Fisheries Society

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Announcements

Contact: Yancey Roy

Monday, April 27, 2009

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DEC CONFIRMS PRESENCE of DIDYMO IN ESOPUS CREEK Aquatic Algae Discovered in Popular Recreational Waterway

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Pete Grannis today announced that didymo, an invasive species, has been confirmed in the Esopus Creek in Ulster County.

This is the first known presence of this aquatic algae, also called “rock snot,” in the Esopus and the third confirmed location in New York State. The Esopus is a popular recreational waterway for fishing, kayaking and tubing, and is a drinking water source for New York City.

DEC collected samples and confirmed the presence of didymo in the vicinity of several public access sites along a 12-mile stretch of the Esopus from the “Shandaken Portal” (which transfers water to the Esopus from Schoharie Reservoir) to New York City’s Ashokan Reservoir.

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Didymo Impact

Unlike many other aquatic invasive plants, didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) grows on the bottom of both flowing and still waters. It is characterized by the development of thick, gooey mat-like growths – which can last for months – even in fast flowing streams. In addition to making footing difficult, didymo can impede fishing by limiting the abundance of bottom dwelling organisms that trout and other species of fish feed on.

There are currently no known methods for controlling or eradicating didymo once it infests a water body.

Didymo mats look like brown or white fiberglass insulation or tissue paper (photo at: www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50272.html). While didymo appears slimy and stringy, it feels rough and fibrous, similar to wet wool and does not fall apart when handled.

Previously, didymo had been confirmed in the Batten Kill in Washington County near the Vermont border and in the East and West branches of the Delaware River.

Anglers, kayakers, canoeists, tubers, boaters and others engaging in water-based recreation can unknowingly spread didymo. The microscopic algae can cling – unseen – to waders, boots, boats, clothing, lures, hooks, fishing line and other equipment and remain viable for several weeks under even in seemingly dry conditions. Absorbent items, such as felt-soled waders and wet suits, require thorough treatment as outlined below.

Water recreationists are urged to use the “Check, Clean and Dry” method to limit the spread of invasive species.

Check -- Before leaving a river, stream or pond, remove all obvious traces of algae and look for hidden clumps and leave them at the affected site. If any is found later, it should be disposed of in trash receptacles, not washed down drains.

Clean – Treatment varies. The solution needs to completely penetrate thick, absorbent items such as felt-soled waders and wading boots.

For non-absorbent items, try these methods:

-- Detergent or salt: Soak or spray all surfaces for at least one minute in a 5% solution (by volume) of dishwashing detergent or salt (7 ounces of detergent or salt added to a gallon of water).

-- Bleach: Soak or spray all surfaces for at least one minute in a 2% solution (by volume) of household bleach (3 ounces of bleach per gallon of water).

-- Hot water: Soak for at least one minute in very hot water (140 degrees F – hotter than most tap water) or for at least 20 minutes in water kept at 115 degrees F (uncomfortable to touch).

For absorbent items, longer soaking times are required. Use these methods:

-- Hot water: Soak for at least 40 minutes in water kept above 115 degrees F.

-- Hot water plus detergent: Soak for 30 minutes in hot water kept above 115 degrees F, containing 5% dishwashing detergent.

Dry – If cleaning is not practical, after the item is completely dry to the touch, wait an additional 48 hours before contact or use in any new waterway. Check thick, absorbent items closely to assure that they are dry throughout. Equipment and gear can also be placed in a freezer until all moisture is frozen solid.

NOTE: If cleaning, drying or freezing is not practical, restrict equipment use to a single water body. DEC encourages anglers to consider alternatives to felt-soled waders such as rubber studded boots.

ALSO, it is especially important that any gear used out of state be treated before use in New York waters.

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Region 1 Fisheries Manager, Chart Guthrie, Receives Spirit Award

Region 1 Fisheries Manager, Chart Guthrie, recently received a Spirit Award from the organization Coastal America. [Coastal America](#) is a unique partnership of federal agencies, state and local governments, and private organizations that work together to protect, preserve and restore our nation's coasts.

Seven Years in the Making

Guthrie was recognized for his involvement with the Carmans River Partnership, where he coordinated a seven-year effort to complete the installation of a [fish ladder at the Hards Lake Dam](#) on the Carmans River. This is the first permanent fish ladder installation on Long Island. For the first time in more than 50 years, fish are able to move from tidal to freshwater in the Carmans River. Within days of its installation in March of 2008, alewives were seen using the ladder.

An Outstanding Partnership

The Spirit Award recognizes outstanding partnership efforts that demonstrate the "spirit" of Coastal America. The award was presented on Saturday, March 21 by Mario DelVicario of the USEPA at the site of the fish ladder in Southaven County Park.



Coastal America Spirit Award Recipients and government officials stand by the Carmans River Fish Ladder. From left, Chart Guthrie, DEC; George Costa, Art Flick Chapter of Trout Unlimited; Gregg Williams, DOT; Jeff Fullmer, South Shore Estuary Reserve; John Pavacic, Commissioner, Suffolk County Parks; Maleah Scully, granddaughter of Peter Scully; Peter Scully, Regional Director, DEC; Anthony Graves, Town of Brookhaven; Jim Tripp, Environmental Defense, and Mario DelVicario, USEPA. Photo courtesy of Brian Kelder

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Parent Society Announcements

AFS Information on the Web <http://www.fisheries.org>

AFS has a mailing list for postings regarding fish, announcements, job opportunities and requests for information. You can subscribe to receive these in normal email mode or in digest mode. To subscribe, e-mail to: daemon@fisheries.org and enter SUBSCRIBE AFS in the body of the e-mail.

AFS Annual Meeting Registration now open

We look forward to seeing you in Nashville the end of August. Join the rest of the aquatic and fisheries community in this important annual event!

This is your opportunity to network with your colleagues, attend presentations on the latest in fisheries science and management, take a valuable continuing education workshop, and discover the delights of the gracious hospitality of Nashville.

To register, click on the following: <http://secure.fisheries.org/AFSEvent>

American Fisheries Society Officer Election

This is a reminder that the AFS is currently conducting an electronic election for officers. If you have not participated yet, we hope you will cast your vote today. The election closes June 12, 2009 at 11:59 PM U. S. Eastern Time. Please follow the instructions below to view the website and cast your ballot.

Links are provided to the candidate biographies from within the ballot. Please note that once your vote is cast, your registration code becomes invalid and you will no longer be able to access your ballot. When you are ready to vote, click on the following link to view your ballot. You may also copy and paste this complete URL into your browser address field if you prefer.

<http://AFS.vote-now.com/?FFXaszarum>

Note: If you have any technical problems, please reply to this email to contact Vote-now.com. For questions about the election process, please contact AFS at 301-897-8616, ext. 201 or ggoldberg@fisheries.org.

2009 Call For AFS Volunteers

Volunteers are the driving force of a professional and scientific society like AFS. We fulfill our promise in such organizations as a result of the time and knowledge volunteered by members like you who serve the community and further the fisheries profession.

AFS committees serve a vital function in the advancement of AFS's mission: they provide the technical leadership that allows our programs such as journals, books, certification, meetings, resource policy etc, to be the best in the world.

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We are pleased therefore to invite you to apply for a volunteer committee appointment. We need your skills, passion and perspectives to build a vibrant, inclusive, and multicultural corps of volunteer leaders.

See the attached application to learn about the ways in which you can volunteer your time and expertise. We hope you will take the time to review the opportunities for participation as a volunteer, and that you will discover a way to contribute to your profession.

Keep in mind that participation is limited to active AFS members. If you have not already renewed your AFS membership for 2009, here is a link to AFS membership renewal online: <https://secure.fisheries.org/dotnet/Login.aspx>. (If you do not know your username/password see the click here button and enter your last name and initial to get access). Additionally, AFS members are entitled to lower rates at our upcoming August annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee: <http://www.fisheries.org/afs09/>

Thank you for your participation.

Upcoming Events

On behalf of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, I want to invite you to Nashville Tennessee for the 139th meeting of the American Fisheries Society. It will be held at the Renaissance Hotel and the Nashville Convention Center from August 30 through September 3, 2009.

The meetings theme: **“Diversity, the foundation of fisheries and the American Fisheries Society; are we gaining ground?”** is very appropriate for Tennessee. *It is truly a unique and fascinating place.* We have some of the most diverse aquatic habitats and critters on the continent. From high mountain streams in east Tennessee to the Mississippi River delta in the western part of the State, it is home to over 315 species of fish, 120 species of mussels, and 77 species of crayfish.

Did I mention music? Nashville is the Music Capital of the World, from country, to bluegrass, to rock. Take your pick. The meeting will be located in downtown Nashville, the epicenter of all types of music venues. *You will not be disappointed.*

Tennessee is rich in history too! There are famous civil war battlefields all over the state for folks to visit and learn about. Some are close to Nashville, but most are no more than an hour or two away.

Think you might have time to fish? Tennessee has a wide variety of lakes and streams scattered across this wonderful State. From brook trout fishing in the Smoky Mountains, to trophy brown trout in our tailwaters, to world record smallmouths in our reservoirs, to world class stripers in our rivers, to monster catfish in the Mississippi River, we have it all.

Nashville is one of the friendliest cities in the country and will greet you with lots of good old fashioned southern hospitality. Come prepared to have a good time!

Bobby Wilson General Meeting Chair | AFS 2009

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Jobs

AFS Job Center Online: <http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.shtml> <http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.shtml>

Fun Stuff

Region 1 Spring Fishing Festival a Rousing Success

The Region 1 Fisheries Unit held the Annual Spring Fishing Festival at Belmont Lake State Park on Saturday, April 18, 2009. The success of this I FISH NY free fishing event was dependent upon the cooperation of state parks staff and the assistance 49 volunteers from New York Bass, Long Island Bassmasters, Suffolk County Seniors, Freshwater Anglers of Long Island, Knights of Columbus of Seaford/Memorare Fishing Club, Volunteer Match, Art Flick Trout Unlimited and the Long Island Flyrodders. DEC Staff from Fisheries, Education, Operations, Regional Affairs and Legal also assisted.

Warm spring weather and the opportunity to fish brought a total of 5,200 people to the park to participate in the festival (for 1.5 hours in the afternoon the park was forced to close because they ran out of parking spaces). The 400 loaner rods available were snapped up in the first 30 minutes of the festival. The rest of the day, as soon as a rod came back it was fixed by busy volunteers and loaned back out. Each rod was loaned out at least twice. Free bait was provided for all and the bait table stayed busy all day. Fish cleaning services were also provided and close to 100 trout were cleaned, bagged and iced for successful anglers.

Even though this was a free fishing event and no license was needed, sporting licenses were sold throughout the day using a laptop and a cellular modem. Sixty-two licenses were sold totaling \$1,399 in sales. This included the sale of a lifetime license.

In addition to the fishing there was a casting contest and bouncy slide for the children, fly casting lessons and emergency preparedness information for the adults and plenty of opportunity to enjoy a warm spring day, fishing with the family.

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Staff and volunteers were kept busy fixing rods and loaning out bait all day long.
Photo credit: Henry Doll

Parable... from Fred Henson, author unknown

Give a man a fish, and he eats for a day.

Teach a man to fish, and he complains that the regulations instituted are unfair, gripes that things were better before you taught him, threatens to sue you, introduces six invasive species, a parasite and a water-borne pathogen while depopulating every body of water he can find of gamefish, bait and plankton; and at the same time leaving food wrappers, coffee cups, plastic cutlery, discarded fishing line, cigarette butts, and broken plastic scattered across the surrounding countryside.

Just give him a damn fish.



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