

The official link to the FHS website is: <http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs>

Reminder: An archive of these updates is posted on the website with the password: fhs

## FHS NEWS

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

My term as President is upon me and I can't seem to jump into Fish Health Section waters quickly enough! The rough and turbid waters of the "*Fish Disease Perfect Storm*" of 2006 (see **Andy Goodwin's** report-December 2006 FHS Newsletter) may now appear calmer and clearer at the surface, but perhaps we are in the eye of the storm, awaiting rougher seas yet to come!

In the mean time, however, our vessel and crew have become more sea-worthy, led steadily by our previous presidents, ensuring that we will navigate future squalls with ease! The roles and expertise of the fish health professionals that comprise our membership have broadened, as reflected in the changing standards of our influential certification programs, and diligent attention to semi-annual Bluebook revisions incorporating the most up to date pathogen and diagnostic information.

If you were not able to attend the Annual Fish Health Section meeting with the Western Fish Disease Workshop in Park City, Utah, you missed out on a truly excellent meeting hosted by the Utah DWR Fisheries Experiment Station. Heartfelt thanks go to **Chris Wilson** and his colleagues **Wade Cavender, Anna Forest, Cristi Swan, Cathryn Smith, Matt Bartley** and **Eric Wagner** for a job very well done!!!

The meeting and CE course generated thoughtful discussions and shared knowledge about current matters, including online tools for molecular diagnostics, status of VHSV IVb and the apparent resurgence of *Flavobacterium psychrophilum* in fish culture operations across the country. It was a great pleasure to see **Ron Goede** at the meeting, one of the pioneers of the Fish Health Section. My conversations with him reminded me of where we came from, and emphasized to me how very far we have come as a Section of AFS! Website browsers should visit the History link to find two extensive accounts of FHS history submitted by **Drew Mitchell**. But the real highlight of the Annual meeting was witnessing the presentation of the Section's highest honor, the **S.F. Snieszko Distinguished Service Award**, to **Dr. Paul Bowser**. On behalf of the Fish Health Section, I congratulate Paul, and thank him for his extensive contributions to the field of fish health, as well as for his steadfast service to the Fish Health Section.

2009 meeting abstracts and presentations will soon be available on our Fish Health Section website (<http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs/>). Our website serves

as an important tool for members interested in serving on committees, learning of continuing education opportunities, obtaining certification as Aquatic Animal Health Inspector or Fish Pathologist (see below for more on the Pathologist), access to the Bluebook and for networking with members of the aquatic animal health community throughout the Americas. **Luke Iwanowicz**, website editor, will be working throughout this summer to update the website, and install new features, including better access to links, links to new pages with “Laboratory Spotlight” and “Short Investigative Reports”, search query, and a “Members Only” section. So, keep your web browser peeled for some useful changes at the website!

There will be many activities for me to oversee, and for members to participate in the coming year:

- 2009 Bluebook Revision is scheduled for release
  - **Trish Varner** and **Ken Hasson** have finalized a new chapter on White Spot Syndrome Virus for the new revision
  - **Andy Goodwin** will begin working with the Bluebook and Inspection committees to align procedures with those of OIE (for OIE reportable pathogens)
- The Pathologist certification is under intense revision and possibly will become the Aquatic Animal Health Specialist certification. I encourage veterinarians as well as fish health professionals interested in pursuing this credential to review the current Standards and Procedures for Pathologist certification and provide comments and suggestions to the head of the Professional Certifications Committee, **Chris Wilson** ([chriswilson@utah.gov](mailto:chriswilson@utah.gov)).
- The Continuing Education Committee is actively seeking to have the FHS registered as a “RACE provider” (Registry of Approved Continuing Education – associated with the American Assoc. of Veterinary State Boards), which will provide blanket recognition of FHS CE credits by state veterinary boards. If successful, DVM members will no longer have to seek credit approval on a case-by-case basis.
- The Fish Health Section Newsletter has been officially retired☹. Archives Newsletters can be viewed on the website. **Gael Kurath** awarded **Lora Petrie-Hanson** at the Utah meeting a **Certificate of Appreciation** on behalf of all Section members for her 6 years of dedication as Newsletter editor. Thanks Lora!
  - But we still have the LISTSERV!!! Any members missing out on the FHS Listserv Updates should contact **Jerri Bartholomew** ([bartholj@science.oregonstate.edu](mailto:bartholj@science.oregonstate.edu)). The Listserv has been providing members with timely FHS announcements, news items, and job opportunities to name a few, right at your email doorstep. Thanks, Jerri, for the commitment you have to serving our members!
- Quantitative PCR plunged into our diagnostic waters fairly recently, and has caused anything but a calming effect! With the real probability that

QPCR protocols will become commonplace in future Bluebook revisions, an ad hoc committee has been formed by past-President **Gael Kurath** to address QPCR issues. **Maureen Purcell** will initiate efforts with a thorough review of this molecular tool, to be submitted for publication in the Section's Journal of Aquatic Animal Health. Any FHS members interested in participating in this work group are encouraged to contact Gael or Maureen.

- The last, but certainly not the least significant activity in the coming year is the Sixth International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health, hosted by the AFS-Fish Health Section in Tampa, FL, September 5-9, 2010. **Andy Kane** and **Sarah Poynton** have succeeded, once again, in laying the groundwork for what looks to be a fantastic international gathering.
  - The program planning is still in the early stages, so suggestions for plenary session topics as well as speakers can be made directly to Sarah ([spoynton@jhmi.edu](mailto:spoynton@jhmi.edu)) and Andy ([kane@ufl.edu](mailto:kane@ufl.edu)) as soon as possible!
  - Organizations, foundations, institutions and any group wishing to contribute to this event should contact Andy Kane.
  - AFS-Fish Health Section Travel Grants will be available for a good number of students and foreign scientists for the ISAAH, thanks to the money generated by the 2008 Annual Meeting hosted by **Dave Groman** at the AVC in PEI, Canada! Stay tuned for announcements.

I encourage all members of the Fish Health Section to take an active role in our activities. Visit the website and browse through the various committees, read about the committee functions in the By-Laws, and get involved simply by contacting the committee chairs, or myself ([patricia\\_barbash@fws.gov](mailto:patricia_barbash@fws.gov)). Come to the annual meetings and share your research and activities with the community. Publish your work in the JAAH. Encourage fellow scientists, especially students, to join and share in the many benefits of AFS-Fish Health Section membership at a very affordable cost!!!

Trish Barbash, President  
AFS-Fish Health Section  
6/26/2009

**MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS - FOR INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER  
UPCOMING MEETINGS GO TO THE WEBSITE:**

<http://www.fisheries.org/fhs/meeting.htm>

**"HEALTH MANAGEMENT OF LABORATORY FISH"**

**Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory Bar Harbor, Maine  
24 – 28 August 2009**

Applications are being accepted for this 1-week educational opportunity for individuals with maintenance, management or research responsibilities in which fish are used as laboratory animals.

APPLICATION DEADLINE - JULY 15.

The course is offered at the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, Salisbury Cove, Maine during the period of 24 - 28 August 2009. Topics to be discussed will include general system design and water quality management, anatomy and histology of fish, general fish diseases and disease management strategies. Infectious and non-infectious diseases common to all fish as well as specific diseases of importance to laboratory-maintained zebrafish will be discussed. The course will consist of lecture, laboratory exercises and discussions. During the course there will be an opportunity for students to discuss unusual and/or unsolved diagnostic case experiences from their home laboratories as problem-solving exercises. The course should be particularly valuable to technical staff, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, junior faculty and investigators needing skills to monitor the health of a colony of aquatic organisms.

For more information on the course, please see the course web site at:

<http://www.mdibl.org/courses/fishhealth09.shtml>

## **JOBS**

**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE TECHNICIAN, GS-0404-05 – see attached (Bio sci tech.doc**

## **RESOURCES**

### **AADAP NEWSLETTER**

The latest edition of the AADAP Newsletter (Vol 5-2) is now available to view or download for printing. To view click on the following link and scroll to the bottom of the page.

<http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/aadap/newsletter.htm>

We have decided to provide only a link as opposed to attaching a pdf file, in the hopes that this will cause less problems with server limitations relative to size of email attachments. An additional change to the Newsletter is a Table of Contents on the first page, with hyperlinks to the various sections and articles.

As always, please contact us if you have any questions or comments on recent changes, or anything else related to the Newsletter or AADAP's website. Don't forget to pass this on to others that you feel may benefit from the information within the Newsletter.

Cheers.

Thomas A. Bell, PhD

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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**NEWS**

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