

The Tributary

A Newsletter of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society

Volume 32, No. 2, April 2008



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**2008 Annual Meeting
Special Newsletter
Supplement** (28 pgs)

Editor

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Greeting Colleagues, The members of the 2008 Western Division American Fisheries Society (WDAFS) Annual Meeting Planning Committee are excited to facilitate your stay in Portland for what promises to be an exciting and stimulating conference. Portland provides an excellent venue for fisheries professionals to discuss the effects of human population growth on fisheries, advance your professional networking, and to keep current on emerging issues in fisheries science and management.

Your enthusiasm has generated 32 symposia. We have received more than 600 abstracts, and expect an attendance of nearly 1,000 during the week of May 4-9. As is customary for AFS conferences, all attendees (including oral and poster presenters) must pay registration fees. Please check the 2008 WDAFS Annual Meeting website at <http://www.orafs.org/meeting2008/Annual2008.htm> for the latest updates. Thank you on behalf of the 2008 WDAFS Annual Meeting Planning Team.

Please see the full NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT for your complete guide to the 2008 Annual Meeting!

President's message

Eric Wagner, Western Division AFS President

The Portland planning committee is doing an excellent job preparing for an exceptional Western Division AFS meeting. See the special newsletter supplement in this issue for details. We hope to have a quick turn-around on judging this year so the best student paper and poster awards can be presented at the Western Division luncheon. After having attended several Chapter meetings this year, I can attest to the vitality of the Chapters who are all doing great things. On the Western Division website, you can find this year's mid-year report to Governing Board that details all the Chapter activities. The Governing Board met in mid March and a number of things were discussed. For one, the sale of the Bethesda property is still pending and the search for a new home continues. The possibility also exists that AFS may stay in the existing location. The Western Division also requested funding to help with the Western Native Fishes Database project and was successful in obtaining \$5,000. We have additionally received support from several chapters towards this project, for which we are also grateful.

Another item of interest is the transition of the North American Journal of Fisheries Management to 6 issues per year, rather than 4. The volume of submissions has been steadily increasing and given the flat rejection rate, this was the best way to accommodate the volume. So far, no rate increase is being proposed for the journal. However, the Board did decide to approve an increase in library subscriptions.

On another issue, the Hutton Committee requested greater fundraising activity by the Bethesda staff in an effort to create a self-sustaining foundation. Previous federal agency support for the program is withering, so currently only about 32 of >200 applications are awarded. The Hutton program supports mentoring of high-school age minorities in an effort to recruit them into the fisheries profession. Please consider financially supporting that program if you can. *Continued Page 3.*

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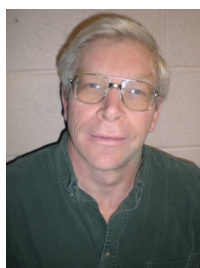
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(President's Message, continued from Page 2)

In other Western Division news, the Utah Chapter has stepped up to host the 2010 annual meeting in partnership with the Western Division. For 2009 we will be in Albuquerque and for 2011 we will co-host the national AFS meeting with the North Pacific International Chapter in Seattle.

I am assembling an Environmental Concerns Committee in which I hope to get representatives from each Chapter. If you would like to help serve on this committee, please contact me (ericwagner@utah.gov) at your earliest convenience. There are a few bills in Congress that are very important to fisheries that we should be supporting. These include revisions the Hard Rock Mining Law of 1872 and the Clean Water Act. I'm sure there are other issues we should be commenting on as well. I encourage you to get involved with AFS, if you are not already. You will likely develop leadership skills, cultivate professional contacts, and learn a hell of a lot while you help make your world a better place for fish, fisheries, and fishing.



Eric Wagner

2008 Riparian Challenge Update

Troy Brandt, Committee Chair

The Western Divisions's Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee received 17 entries for the 2008 Riparian Challenge Award. The 17 entries (6 more than in 2007) included 2 entries from the Bureau of Land Management, 7 entries from the U.S. Forest Service, and 8 entries from a variety of other organizations. Projects were submitted from seven western states, with four projects coming from both Oregon and California.

The WDAFS Riparian Committee includes Hilda Sexauer (Wyoming Game and Fish Department), Amy Sacry (Geum Environmental Consulting), Corey Lyman (USFS - Caribou-Targhee National Forest), Arn Berglund (BLM - Challis, Idaho) and Troy Brandt (River Design Group). The Riparian Committee will complete a review of the entries and select three winners for the Riparian Challenge in the USFS, BLM, and Other Entities categories. The winners will be announced at the 2008 Western Division Annual Meeting sponsored by the Oregon Chapter scheduled for May 4-8 in Portland, Oregon. Thanks to all who took the time to prepare and submit entries!



Western Division AFS Chapters

Alaska Chapter

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/>

Arizona-New Mexico Chapter

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/aznm/index.htm>

California-Nevada Chapter

<http://www.afs-calneva.org/>

Colorado-Wyoming Chapter

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/co-wy/>

Idaho Chapter

<http://www.idahoafs.org/index.php>

Montana Chapter

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/AFSmontana/>

North Pacific International Chapter

<http://www.npic-afs.org/>

Utah Chapter

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/Bonneville/>



MONTANA CHAPTER 2008 ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

More than 180 members of the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society gathered in Billings, Montana, February 12-14th for the 41st annual meeting of the Chapter. The meeting was organized around the theme of “*Warming to the Future: Preparing for the Potential Effects of Climate Change on Montana’s Aquatic Resources*,” and the opening plenary session included six very informative papers discussing science and policy related to this topic. A consistent message to a somber audience was that climate change will likely be the biggest issue that aquatic biologists, managers, researchers, and practitioners have ever faced. The Montana Chapter subsequently formed a Climate Committee that was initially charged with summarizing relevant climate science to provide members and policy makers with information.

The meeting opened with a full day continuing education workshop – “*Estimation Methods for Absolute and Relative Measures of Fish Populations*” – taught by Drs. Daniel Hayes (Michigan State University) and Wayne Hubert (University of Wyoming – USGS Cooperative Research Unit). The course was well instructed and provided a solid platform for members looking for either an initial exposure to or a refresher in sampling and estimation techniques. We recommend this course to other chapters.

Following the plenary session, technical papers and posters were presented by scientists from a wide range of agencies, organizations, and universities on topics as diverse as large river fisheries management, native fish restoration and management and prairie stream fishes. Highlights of Chapter committee caucuses and the business meeting included a focus on climate change, status assessments for Montana’s native and sensitive aquatic species, the effects of discharge water associated with coal bed natural gas recovery, and distribution of resource action fund grants. Scott Barndt, fishery biologist for the Gallatin National Forest, was chosen as President-Elect and will assume that role in September. The Chapter is

considering a joint annual meeting with the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society in 2009. As intended, the meeting provided a great forum for information exchange, education, professional discourse, and reconnection of friendships and acquaintances.

At our 41st Annual Meeting the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was excited and proud to recognize the achievements of several fisheries resources professionals. The following individuals were recognized for outstanding effort and achievement on behalf of Montana’s aquatic resources:

Matthew Jaeger (Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks) was recognized as our **Fish Professional of the Year** for his efforts on behalf of native Missouri River fishes, include pallid sturgeon. This award is the highest recognition of the Montana Chapter. Matt also received the **Best Professional Paper** award for his presentation entitled “*Is anybody out there? Survival estimation of hatchery reared pallid sturgeon.*”

Russ Forba (US Environmental Protection Agency) received the **Natural Resource Professional of the Year** award for his concerted efforts on behalf of the environment and fishes on the Milltown Dam removal project.

Yvette Converse (US Fish and Wildlife Service – Bozeman Fish Technology Center) was given an **Individual Achievement** award for her work on behalf of native and endangered fishes, and aquatic education.

The **Collaborative Group** award was given to the **Muggli Fish Passage Group** for their efforts towards improving fish passage at water diversion structures on the Yellowstone River.

Continued next page...

Dr. Alexander Zale was recognized as Montana's **Outstanding Educator** for his past and ongoing efforts as an educator at Montana State University – USGS Cooperative Research Unit, especially in graduate student mentorship and instruction.

Leanne Roulson (Garcia and Associates) was presented with a **Past-President's** plaque in recognition of her dedicated sacrifice on behalf of the Chapter. We appreciate her professionalism and leadership over the past three years and wish her the best as she assumes officer duties with the Western Division.

Peter Brown (Montana State University) received the **Best Student Paper** award for his presentation “*Effects of fish size and stream characteristics on piscicide effectiveness.*” Peter is advised by Dr. Zale.

Finally, **Carter Fredenberg** (University of Montana undergraduate), **Benjamin Goodman** (Montana State University graduate student), and **Lora Tennant** (Montana State University graduate student) received **Wally McClure Scholarships** for their scholastic accomplishments.



Awardees (l to r): Sue Camp (group); Al Zale (educator); Roger Muggli (group); Leanne Roulson (past-president); Russ Forba (natural resource professional); Matt Jaeger (fish professional); and Yvette Converse (individual achievement).

North Pacific International Chapter Builds Momentum with Successful AGM

Rachel Keeler and Eric Knudsen

Bellingham, WA provided the venue for an informative, challenging, and refreshing Annual General meeting March 4-6, 2008. The theme "Sound Management: Mountains to the Sea" attracted a diversity of sessions and symposia including habitat restoration, fish health and disease, fishery management and various species' ecology.

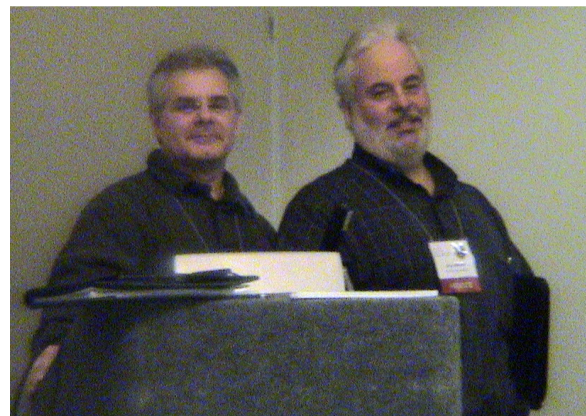
Program co-chairs Larry Dominguez and Eric Knudsen were given a traditional welcome by Lummi Nation Elder, Henry Cagey and his family. "It was honorable and humbling to be welcomed in such a manner," said chapter President-elect Dominguez. It was a good reminder of the salmon history in the landscape, a history that the region hopes to recover to some degree through major efforts of restoration over the next couple of decades.

Jeff Koenings, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Director, and Dick Beamish, prominent researcher from Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans, provided trans-boundary perspectives on the management and research programs and needs throughout the region in their key-note plenary talks.

One of the main symposia "Saving the Salish Sea: Can New Programs Turn the Tide?" moderated by chapter President Eric Knudsen, provided the opportunity to hear about the roles and responsibilities of key players in Puget Sound recovery. The symposia "Monitoring Progress for Recovery," co-moderated by Greg Volkhardt and

Keith Wolf, provided an extensive overview of the region-wide salmon recovery efforts including updates on status and trends of fish populations. Both symposia also provided perspectives on the challenges that lie ahead for documenting the conditions of changing and complex ecosystems, and the difficulties in interpreting responses of populations to management actions.

The Chapter is building momentum to engage the parent Society as they host the national meeting in 2011 in Seattle. Undoubtedly this will be a very popular meeting in one of the country's most magnificent venues, Seattle, WA. Currently, the region is at the forefront in resolving issues related to human-natural ecosystem interaction. If you would like to get involved with Team 2011, please contact Eric Knudsen, ericknudsen@gci.net.



Keith Wolff and Greg Volkhardt chairing the monitoring symposium

NPIC Honors Fisheries Professionals

Annual NPIC awards were presented at the 2008 AGM. NPIC honored five different people with the following awards:

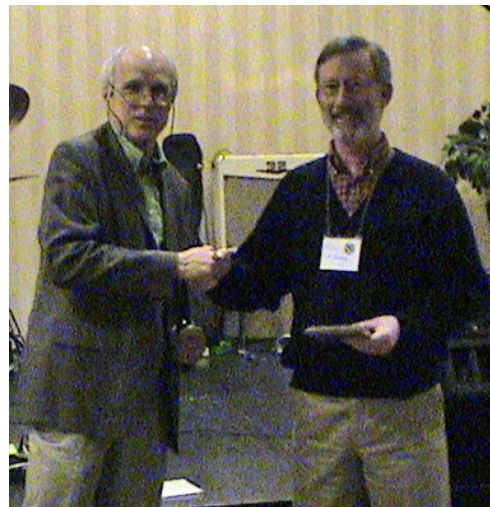
- **Meritorious Service:** Keith Wolf. Keith has made substantial contributions to the success of NPIC. Keith has volunteered at multiple AGMs, chaired many sessions, is on the Team 2011 planning team, and after spending multiple years as VP, President Elect, and President, he is still an active Past President. His enthusiasm for NPIC and his efforts to increase the prominence of this chapter as a body of dedicated professional scientists and students working at the forefront of fisheries issues in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia deserved recognition. Thank you Keith!
- **Haig-Brown award:** John Lombard. John received this award in recognition of his outstanding, non-technical book- *Saving Puget Sound: A Conservation Strategy for the 21st Century*, published by AFS. John's book exemplifies the journalistic spirit in Haig-Brown's book *The Western Angler*: "Hand in hand with preserving and improving the fishery must go the work of presenting it properly to the public." This award also includes \$100.00 U.S.
- **Worthy Coelacanth:** Tim Slaney. Tim's involvement in NPIC has spanned decades. He is a Past President of the chapter and a past Meritorious Service award winner. He continues to provide support to the chapter by encouraging his staff and coworkers at AMEC to get involved in all chapter activities.
- **Certificate of Appreciation:** Anne Shaffer. Through the years Anne, WDFW, has encouraged and guided students in aspects of marine and nearshore ecology around Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This year was no exception as Anne organized a student session and declined an invitation for a once-in-a-career opportunity to attend a desirable national-level meeting so that she could facilitate and encourage the students at the chapter meeting. Thank

you Anne for upholding the spirit of the chapter.

- **Certificate of Achievement:** Bryan Bougher. Bryan received this award for designing and updating the NPIC website. His creativity, responsiveness, and high quality work is helping NPIC achieve its goals. Thank you Bryan!
- **Fish Gaffe:** Keith Underwood. Keith received this award for his noteworthy *faux pas* in an email to Past President John Monahan. Keith misspelled 'plaque' and typed 'plague'. So John was the recipient of a 'Past President's Plague'.



Anne Shaffer accepting her Certificate of Appreciation surrounded by her students



NPIC President Eric Knudsen presents Tim Slaney with the Worthy Coelacanth Award

NPIC is Increasing Student Involvement

Increasing student involvement is a major goal for NPIC and this year NPIC has supported the effort with dedicated funds for that purpose. NPIC offered registration waivers for all students who volunteered and/or presented at our AGM. In total, about 30 students attended our meeting in Bellingham this year, a huge increase from last year's student involvement. Students represented schools from all over Washington and British Columbia.

In addition to providing registration waivers, NPIC provided students with opportunities for professional development at our AGM. Workshops ranging from Adaptive Management to Scientific Certification were free to all students attending the AGM. NPIC also provided an information session about ways to get involved with the chapter and start a student subunit.

NPIC solicited volunteers among the fisheries professionals attending the meeting to judge student presentations and provide valuable feedback to students. Jennifer Jacquet, UBC, won first prize and \$250 for her presentation entitled "What Counts When Counting Fish?" Andrew Puls, CWU and Sonja Lloyd, WSU tied for second prize and will each receive \$125 for their talks entitled "Microhabitat partitioning in an eastern Cascades stream fish assemblage" and "A Rickettsia-like organism is associated with Strawberry Disease lesions in rainbow trout", respectively.

The quality of student presentations this year was very high and improved the overall scientific merit of our conference. NPIC succeeded in increasing student involvement in 2008 and looks forward to involving even more students in 2009.

Utah Chapter Update

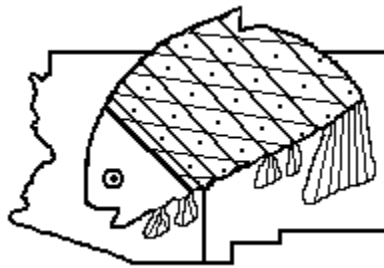
Paul Cowley

The Utah Chapter held a very successful annual meeting in Moab this year on the banks of the Colorado River. The meeting started with a continuing education class on fisheries statistics put on by our student subunit. The membership enjoyed a great discussion about changes in aquatic resource management that had occurred over time. Our plenary speakers include Dale Hepworth, a retired regional fish manager; James Brown, a previous Wildlife Board Chairman; Reed Harris, past director of the Utah Field Office of the FWS; Grant Harris, a private aquaculturist; and Harv Forsgren, the Intermountain Regional Forester. We had close to 110 people in attendance at the meeting. We were able to award 4 parent society memberships as session door prizes. We also awarded Best Poster to Jared Bottcher, Best Professional Paper to Warren Colyer, and Best Student Paper to Eric Billman.

During the business meeting the chapter provided grants for three projects. Two dealt with habitat improvements and a third project will be conducting research on the endangered June sucker. The Chapter also provided funding for the native fishes project. At the business meeting, the Chapter discussed and chose to co-host the 2010 Western Division meeting. We are looking forward to some busy, active years ahead in preparation for it.

First Announcement of the Western Division American Fisheries Society 2009 Annual Meeting

May 3-7, 2009 in Albuquerque, New Mexico



The Arizona-New Mexico Chapter of AFS invites you to visit New Mexico for the 2009 Western Division AFS Annual Meeting: Evolution of the western landscape: Balancing habitat, land, and water management for fish.

Albuquerque and the local landscape offer excellent opportunities to visit the unique cultures, art, food, and outdoor activities in spring 2009, in addition to addressing the critical issues offered by the plenary theme. So mark your calendar and plan on visiting the Rio Grande rift valley!



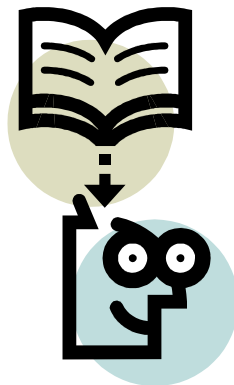
(Photo courtesy Ron Behrmann)

New Book from AFS Books Program: *Standard Methods for Sampling North American Freshwater Fishes*

By Scott A. Bonar, Wayne Hubert and David Willis

Standardization in industry, medicine and science has led to great advances. However, despite its benefits, freshwater fish sampling is generally not standardized, or at most standardized locally. Standardization across large regions would allow for measurement of large-scale effects of climate or geography on fish populations; larger sample sizes to evaluate management techniques; reliable means to document rare species; easier communication; and simpler data sharing. With increased interaction among fisheries professionals worldwide, reasons for wide-scale standardization are more compelling than ever. The Fish Management Section of the American Fisheries Society in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, USGS Cooperative Research Units Program, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, AFS Education and Computer User's Sections, and Arizona Game and Fish Department is developing a book of standard sampling methods for North America. Almost 50 United States, Canadian and Mexican fish sampling experts are authors. *Standard Methods for Sampling North American Freshwater Fishes* describes standard methods to sample fish in specific environments so population indices can be more easily compared across regions and time. Environments include ponds, reservoirs, natural lakes, streams and rivers containing cold and warmwater fishes. This book provides rangewide and regional averages; calculated from over 4000 data sets from 42 states and provinces; of size structure, CPUE, growth, and condition for common fishes collected using methods discussed. Biologists can use these data to determine if fish from their waterbody are below, above, or at average for an index. These methods were reviewed by 54 representatives from 33 North American agencies and by biologists from six European and one African countries. Final drafts were reviewed by an additional 36 sampling experts. These procedures will be useful to those hoping to benefit from standard sampling programs in their regions.

This book is in its final draft and will then be published by the AFS Books program. Be on the lookout for its release!



About the Tributary

The Tributary is the newsletter of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society published three times per year.

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About the American Fisheries Society

The mission of the American Fisheries Society is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

<http://www.fisheries.org>

About the Western Division AFS

Established as the first Division of the [American Fisheries Society](#) in 1948, the Western Division now includes [Chapters](#) from thirteen western states, British Columbia, Yukon Territories, and U.S. Islands and Trust Territories of the Western Pacific.

Our members represent a tremendous array of fisheries workers involved in all aspects of the fisheries profession. The collective diversity and expertise of Western Division members is the basis of an intimate and unparalleled familiarity with fisheries resources and issues within our geographic region.

Division objectives are to provide a forum for exchanging technical and policy information, promote understanding by regional, Federal, and state policy-makers of the nature and extent of fishery matters of concern to the membership, facilitate timely exchange of information to chapters and the general membership, and provide a vehicle for the active participation of individual members in Society business and professional activities.

<http://www.wdafs.org>

Upcoming Events

2008 WDAFS Annual Meeting

Portland, OR

May 4-9, 2008

2009 WDAFS Annual Meeting

Albuquerque, NM

May 3-7, 2009

See the full listing online:

<http://www.fisheries.org>

