



Dakota Chapter American Fisheries Society News



Issue 35

December 2006

President's Message

By Jason Lee

Greetings! I hope you are well and looking forward to the Holidays. For my first president's message, I'd like to convey my opinion on youth participation in fishing in the Dakotas and how we can make a difference.

In my youth, I was fortunate to be surrounded by people who took the time and effort to take me fishing. Some of my most vivid memories come from catching rainbow smelt through the ice at White Earth Bay when I was 8 or 9 years old. Back then, we didn't have the fancy ice fishing rod/reel combos we use today. We just used the same six foot rods we used in the summer. The bobber was a large, red and white, snap-on type that required a two pound fish to pull it under. The hook didn't actually penetrate the mouth of the smelt; rather, they would hang onto the minnow by their teeth until we pulled them completely out of the water. The 2" diameter red and white bobber would move a millimeter or so and we'd take off running backward until the fish popped out of the hole. Often, the line and bobber were frozen up, so reeling the fish up was impossible. Also, we didn't have the patience to pull the line up by hand because that would take WAY too long and untangling a "rat's nest" was not our idea of fun. We never kept any of the smelt and often times didn't catch anything else. However, just seeing the subtle movement of that huge red and white bobber after staring at it for hours, and pulling some type of fish through the ice was enough to hook me for life. I'm sure many of us share similar memories of our early fishing experiences.

I would like to encourage all of you to take the time to expose a youth to the sport of fishing. The future of fishing in the Dakotas depends on our youth developing an appreciation for the outdoors. In today's world, other activities such as television, year round sports, computer games, PS3's, etc. can consume a tremendous amount of youth's free time. Craig Bihrlle, communications supervisor of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department compiled some interesting information from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction concerning the number of students enrolled in North Dakota schools in past years. Interestingly, the census showed in 2005-2006, 7,644 students in North Dakota were enrolled in first grade. Fifteen years ago, 10,492 students were enrolled in first grade. Youth numbers have decreased in recent years and may continue to do so. Studies have shown that early exposure to fishing increases the chances of lifetime participation. So, based on the current trends in young student numbers, exposing our youngsters to fishing is important if we want the future of fishing in the Dakotas to continue as it is now.

Have a Happy Holiday Season and Take a Kid Fishing!

2007 Dakota Chapter AFS Annual Meeting

The 2007 annual meeting of the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be held on **February 26-28th, 2007** at the Comfort Inn, Bismarck, ND. Rooms are available at \$50 + tax (single) or \$59 + tax (double) and reservations can be made by calling the **Comfort Inn directly at (701)223-1911**. Reservations must be made by February 12, 2007 and please mention that you are with the Dakota Chapter AFS to receive this discounted rate.

The meeting will begin with registration and a social on Monday evening. The program will begin on Tuesday morning with the Chapter business meeting in the afternoon and an evening banquet. The remainder of the program will follow on Wednesday morning.

Officer Candidates Needed

Chapter officers will be elected at the 43rd annual meeting of the Dakota Chapter of the AFS in Bismarck, North Dakota. **Nominations are needed for President-elect (ND), Vice-President (SD), and Secretary/Treasurer (SD)**. The newly elected President-elect will serve as newsletter editor for 2007 – 2008 and as Chapter President in 2008 - 2009.

Please contact John Lott at (605) 223-7704 or electronically at john.lott@state.sd.us to submit a nomination or to request information about serving the Dakota Chapter. Please remember that Chapter officers are required to be members of the American Fisheries Society.

Nominations Needed for Chapter Awards

Nominations are needed for the Distinguished Professional Service Award and the Aquatic Resource Conservation Award. We have many fisheries professionals in the Dakotas worthy of the Distinguished Professional Service Award but they can not receive the award unless someone nominates them. Likewise, many of our local conservation or angler groups substantially contribute to aquatic resource conservation, but the Dakota Chapter can not honor them unless someone nominates them. Please consider completing one or two of the nomination forms located at the end of this newsletter so we can honor those deserving recognition. **The deadline for award nominations is January 1, 2007 so submit your nomination ASAP.**

First Call for Papers and Posters

As you summarize your results from 2006 please consider sharing some of your findings with other Dakota Chapter members at the 2007 annual meeting. The quality of oral presentations and posters has always been something of which Chapter members can be proud. Please take this opportunity to share your experiences with other chapter members and keep the tradition of quality presentations going strong in 2007!

If you are interested in giving a paper or poster presentation(s) **please submit the attached title/abstract form by mail or email no later than January 26th, 2007 and submit presentations via mail or email no later than February 16th, 2007 to:**

Jerry Weigel
North Dakota Game and Fish Department
100 N. Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501-5095
Phone (701) 328-6342
Fax (701) 328-0323
jweigel@nd.gov

Paper and Poster Judges Needed

Paper and poster judges are needed to judge presentations at the 2007 annual Chapter meeting in Bismarck. Please contact John Lott (605-223-7704 or john.lott@state.sd.us) if you would like to serve as a judge at the meeting. Please specify if you would prefer to judge student or professional presentations (both talks and posters).

Student Scholarships Available

Applications for the Schmulbach and Sauger Student Scholarships are available through the Dakota Chapter website <http://dakotaafs.sdstate.org>. **Application deadlines for the scholarships are January 1st for the Schmulbach Scholarship and January 31st for Sauger Scholarships.**

The 2007 Schmulbach Scholarship award will be \$400 and juniors, seniors, and graduate students are welcome to apply. Completed and completed applications can be emailed to Will Saylor at will.saylor@state.sd.us.

Sauger scholarship awards will include \$100 to cover travel expenses to the 2007 annual Dakota Chapter meeting in Bismarck and lodging at the meeting. Undergraduate students are encouraged to apply. Completed applications should be submitted to the SDSU Subunit of the Dakota Chapter by the specified deadline.

Lets be Honest...

An 8th grade boy was doing some research for his career report at school. He asks his dad, "Father, how many fisheries biologists work for the Federal Government?"

"The honest father replies, "Oh, I would say at least half of 'em."

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks Staff Changes

Nathan Richards grew up in Pittsfield, IL, an hour west of Springfield. He completed his B.S. degree at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale majoring in Zoology. While there, he worked for two years helping with several studies relating to channel catfish and sturgeon on the Mississippi River. Following graduation, Nathan moved to Brookings to begin a research assistantship at SDSU under the guidance of Steve Chipps. He spent the majority of two summers evaluating the influence of strobe lights on rainbow smelt and other species.

In June, 2006, Nathan was hired as a **Hatchery Biologist** at Blue Dog State Fish Hatchery in Waubay. He's working on several projects including intensive culture methods for largemouth bass, out-of-season spawning of yellow perch and largemouth bass population genetics. Nathan wants everyone to know that he's an ecstatic Chicago Cubs fan and not a Cardinals fan!

Brian Fletcher is the new **Conservation Technician** at McNenny State Fish Hatchery. Brian grew up in Rapid City, SD and graduated from the University of Wyoming with a BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management. He worked for SDGFP as a hatchery intern and educational intern for several summers before being hired at McNenny. He also worked under contract for a Diamond V yeast project under Mike Barnes for several months. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, and 4-wheeling with the Land Cruiser Club.

Todd Kaufman was hired as a **Resource Biologist** to replace Craig Soupir who took a position in Minnesota. Todd attended North Dakota State College of Science from 1991-'93 and received an Associates Degree in Business Administration. He transferred into the Wildlife and Fisheries Program at SDSU in the fall of 1995 and graduated with a B. S. in the spring of 1998. He worked the summer of '96 for the land crew in Aberdeen, the summer of '97 for a graduate student (bluegill removal on Lake Cochrane), and the summer of '98 as a fisheries intern in Webster. Todd was hired as a full-time fisheries technician in fall 2000, upgraded to Conservation Foreman in January, 2004 then hired for the Resource Biologist position in October, 2006.

A Dictionary of Useful Research Phrases

Research Phrase

Translation

While it has not been possible to provide definite answers to these questions...

An unsuccessful experiment, but I still hope to get it published.

Three of the samples were chosen for detailed study...

The results of the others didn't make any sense.

It is believed that...

I think.

It is generally believed that...

A couple of other people think so too.

It is clear that much additional work will be required before a complete understanding of the phenomenon occurs...

I don't understand it.

Correct within an order of magnitude...

Wrong.

Thanks are due to Joe Blotz for assistance with the experiment and to George Frink for valuable discussions...

Blotz did the work and Frink explained to me what it meant.

A careful analysis of obtainable data...

Three pages of notes were obliterated when I knocked over a glass of beer.

Chapter Bylaws and Procedural Manual Revisions

As discussed at the 2006 Chapter business meeting, the Planning Committee has been working on revising the Chapter Bylaws and Procedural Manual to reflect items like the inclusion of the SDSU Student Subunit and Sauger and Schmulbach Scholarships. The National AFS Constitutional Consultant has reviewed a rough draft of the revised document and we hope to put it on the Dakota Chapter website by the end of December for Chapter members to review prior to the February 26-28 Chapter meeting in Bismarck. Plans are to vote on the updated document at the 2007 Chapter business meeting on February 27th.

North Dakota Innovation Award

Bill Haase of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department was recently presented with the **Innovations Award**. This award is presented to an individual or a group of individuals who have contributed some significant new ideas or implemented process to improve the implementation of departmental goals and objectives. Bill merged our ongoing need for boat docks with the local expertise of faculty and students at Wahpeton State School of Science in creating a small program with mutual benefits to all. As part of their welding and building curriculum, the college builds and/or retrofits fishing docks to the highest standards. Bill works with the college, delivering old docks and/or materials and provides oversight. We are able to save \$2,000 per new courtesy dock and at 12 per year, we save \$24,000 annually for the anglers of North Dakota.

DC Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery News

Randi Smith, Curator

Who is using the archives at DC Booth HNFH? This past year we have sent photos to Washington, Minneapolis for a newsletter, to West Virginia for a calendar, to Paul Horsted for his new Black Hills book, copies of annual reports to Eagle Creek NFH, Oregon, Genoa NFH, Wisconsin, Leaflet 10 (Conversions Useful in Fish Culture) to the National Conservation Training Center, a paper on salmon work in Puget sound to Washington, RP 137 to the Dept. of Energy, helped Black Hills State University students with papers, provided info on the Louisville, Kentucky hatchery, the Elephant Butte, New Mexico hatchery, the Kaweah, California hatchery, fish cars (everybody loves fish cars!), info on water in Spearfish Canyon, and more. We have a backlog of requests that we are trying to work on. One came in yesterday, looking for the research done before John Day dam was built. Our collections software gave me some starting points to look at. Much of what we have is not yet in the computer and requires wandering through the aisles reading brief box labels and trying to remember what we have that might help.

For more information, contact Curator Randi Smith at randi.smith@fws.gov call at 605-642-7730 ext. 215. Remember, fish people are eligible for tours of the archives and storage collections at DC Booth. Regular visitors do not get into these areas. All you have to do is find Randi- contacting her ahead of time helps. The quick tour can be done in 5 minutes, but if you have more time we can go a little slower.

For Those Who Like to Travel....

The conference on "Fish Stock Assessment Methods for Lakes and Reservoirs: Towards the True Picture of Fish Stock" will be held in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic on September 11-15, 2007. Information about the conference can be found at <http://fsamlr2007.czweb.org/>

We are pleased to invite you to join this interesting international meeting, which aims to encourage a broad and multilevel discussion about current achievements and future options, needs and directions in "Fish Stock Assessment Methods for Lakes and Reservoirs". Researchers, Academics, Regulators; Policy Makers; Managers, Consultants, Students and all others are warmly invited.

Please distribute the information to potential interested colleagues.

We apologize if this announcement falls outside your interests.

On behalf of the organizing committee,

Marie Prchalova

Request for Resolutions

The rutting of deer and the more frequent visits of geese overhead sure is indicating that summer is well behind us. Did any of you notice environmental or other concerns this past year? This is the time to provide some background for potential resolutions involving fisheries issues by the Dakota Chapter. If you do have a particular topic, please feel free to submit a resolution for consideration by the Dakota Chapter. Send in your resolution to Greg.Simpson@state.sd.us

Dakota State Wildlife Grants

The State Wildlife Grants Program created by congress in 2000 provides federal money to North Dakota and South Dakota (and other states and territories) to support conservation aimed at preventing wildlife from becoming endangered. Projects focus on protecting and restoring important lands and waters, collecting information on declining species, and developing partnerships with landowners to protect these species and habitats on public and private lands. To get into the program, each state was required to develop a statewide wildlife action plan. These proactive plans, known technically as “comprehensive wildlife conservation strategies,” identify species and habitats of greatest conservation concern and outline the steps to conserve all wildlife and vital natural areas. These plans for North and South Dakota can be found at <http://www.teaming.com/index.htm>.

The SDSU Rivers Team, under the direction of Dr. Chuck Berry, has been involved in two research projects funded through the State Wildlife Grants Program – one in South Dakota, and one in North Dakota. The first deals with validation of fish distribution models. The models for each South Dakota species were developed for gap analysis (<http://wfs.sdstate.edu/sdgap/sdgap.htm>), but were not evaluated for accuracy. The models were developed by Steve Wall, now working with the James River Water Development District, Huron. SDSU Project Leader Cari-Ann Hayer, determined that some models were good and others weren't so good. This information allows managers to decide with some measure of confidence about where to implement conservation actions. Hayer presented the information at the 2006 Dakota Chapter meeting.

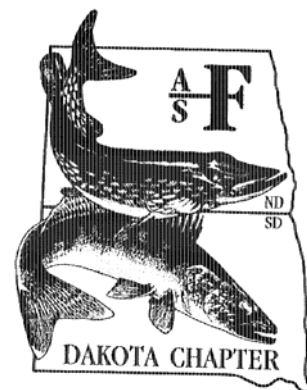
In North Dakota, the State Wildlife Grant project is entitled “Status of selected fishes with immediate conservation need,” and focuses on 22 rare fishes in North Dakota. The project updates the statewide survey and database done by Dr. Steve Kelsch about 10 years ago. Berry, Hayer, and new SDSU Grad student Lucas Borgstrom (BS, Bemidji State Univ.) began sampling tributaries to the Red River last summer. They found some species of concern: pearl dace, northern redbelly dace, hornyhead chub, trout-perch and the largescale/central stoneroller. The study will continue for another year at least.

THE 15 SHORTEST BOOKS EVER READ BY BIOLOGISTS

15. Career Opportunities for Wildlife Majors
 14. How to Invest Your Extra Money
 13. America's Most Popular Environmental Laws
 12. One Hundred and One Spotted Owl Recipes by the EPA
 11. The Nation's Best Smelling Fisheries Biologists
 10. An Entomologist's Guide to Picking Up Chicks
 9. Chemical Reaction: The Lab Chemist and the Art of Dinner Conversation
 8. Managing Grazing for Perpetuity: Bureau of Land Management Technical Bulletin #16
 7. How to Cut Project Costs by Using Environmental Consultants
 6. "Environment First!" by Rush Limbaugh
 5. A Republican Party Guide to Environmental Awareness
 4. "Coots Are Waterfowl, Too" by Ducks Unlimited
 3. Gun Control for The New Millennium: NRA Handbook
 2. "Towards More Colorful and Picturesque Writing" by the editors of The Journal of Wildlife Management
- and the **Number One** shortest book read by Biologists is
1. **The Engineer's Guide to Fashion**

Dakota Chapter Newsletter

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2006 – 2007**

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Larry Brooks (ND)

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Education

Steve Chipps (co-chair, SD)
Jack Erickson (SD)
Dennis Unkenholz (SD)
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Environmental

Concerns

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Dave Fryda (ND)
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Jeff Shearer (SD)
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Schulbach

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Wayne Stancill (SD)

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