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Spring is in the Air, Scott Shasteen, President

Ah yes, even though it's been a cold wet March, the days are getting longer and spring is in the air. The frogs are chirping, the birds singing, and wildflowers are popping up all around letting me know its arrived. The 2013 Annual Meeting is in the bag and thanks to over 125 attendees, the conference was a great success. I would like to thank everyone that attended and a special thank you to those who presented a talk or poster. Mike Hooe organized another outstanding fish fry on Tuesday night; thank you Mike for your excellent work and dedication to the chapter. I would also like to thank our past president, Trent Thomas, for organizing the rest of the conference settings and for his continued dedication. The hard work of these two members, plus many others, is what keeps our chapter growing and successful.

Spring is a new beginning, a fresh start. Fish will soon be spawning, birds are busy building nests, turkeys are gobbling and the buds on the trees are starting to pop. It is such an incredible transition from winter to spring. The change from winter to spring always seems the most dramatic to me. I'm pretty sure I'm preaching to the choir, but I hope everyone takes some time and gets outside and observes the changes taking place. As most of us are outdoor enthusiasts, I hope you get a chance to take someone that isn't that much of an outdoors person with you the next time you go out. Invite a friend or someone you sort of know, expose them to something incredible "the Great Outdoors" and never pass up an opportunity to educate.

Spring also means gearing up for field work. With that in mind, I hope everyone has a safe and successful field season and is able to accomplish all their sampling goals. As of this writing, it appears that most of the state is coming out of the drought of 2012 and streams are overflowing with spring rains. This is a good sign for all the fish, mussels, and aquatic invertebrates that inhabit them. Good luck with all your sampling endeavors and I hope everyone enjoys a beautiful spring and summer season whether its collecting fish or just fishing for the sport of it.



Chapter Objectives:

- Promotes training of fisheries professionals.
- Provides education outreach to the citizens of Illinois.
- Fosters research in fisheries and aquatic sciences.
- Provides sound fisheries policy information.
- Enhances communication and synergistic relationships amongst fisheries professionals.

Chapter Officers and Chairpersons

President: Scott Shasteen

President-elect: Cory Suski

Secretary/Treasurer: Scott Stuewe

Past President: Trent Thomas

Excom Members at Large: Karen Rivera/Kevin Irons

Committee Chairpersons:

Archival: Bob Schanzle

Arrangements: Trent Thomas/Mike Hooe

Awards: Steve Pescitelli

Continuing Education: Jonathan Leiman/Ben Lubinski

Environmental Concerns: Rob Colombo/
Randy Sauer

IL Environmental Council: Vic Santucci

IL Wildlife Action Team: Trent Thomas

Membership: Matt Diana

Newsletter: Lindsey Bock

Raffle: Jim Lamer

Resolutions: Rob Hilsabeck

Student Concerns: Brian Metzke

Student Subunits:

Eastern Illinois: Brian Tucker

Southern Illinois: Jeff Hillis

University of Illinois: Chris French

Time and Place: Scott Shasteen

Website: Matt Diana

NCD Committee Reports Representatives:

Centrarchid: Dan Stephenson

Esocid: Rob Colombo

Ictalurid: Jeremy Tiemann/Dan Sallee

Rivers and Streams: Trent Thomas/
Steve Pescitelli

Walleye: Ken Clodfelter

Thanks to Our 2012 Corporate Members



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New Executive Direction of AFS, *John Boreman AFS President*

I am pleased to inform you that the Governing Board has successfully completed its search for a new Executive Director of AFS. The Board has unanimously approved the selection of Dr. Douglas J. Austen to fill the position. Doug is currently with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, serving as the National Coordinator of the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives since 2010.

Dr. Austen has extensive executive leadership and management experience in the public and private sectors, including serving as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (2004 - 2010), and with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as the Head of the Technical Support Section (1996 - 2004) and Head of the Fisheries Analysis Section (1994 - 1996). He began his career as a fisheries scientist with the Illinois Natural History Survey (1984 - 1994). He has served as President of the Northeast Association of Fish



Douglas J. Austen, New executive director of AFS. Photo courtesy of PA Fish & Boat Commission

and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA), and a member of the governing board of

the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA).

He has also served in a variety of roles as a member of AFS, including President of the North Central Division, President of the Illinois Chapter, Associate Editor of the North American Journal of Fisheries Management, co-chair of the Fisheries Action Network, a member of the Continuing Education Committee and Professionalism Committee, and Apple software librarian for the Computer Users Section.

Doug will start work at AFS in mid-August, which will give him time to prepare for the upcoming annual meeting in Little Rock as he transitions into the position. Due to Gus Rassam's excellent efforts throughout his tenure as Executive Director the Society is now on a firm financial footing and the future of AFS looks bright.

Please join me in congratulating Doug on his appointment!

ILAFS Annual Meeting Awards, Student Concerns Committee, *Brian Metzke*

At the 2013 Annual Conference, a number of awards were presented by the Student Concerns Committee.

Chapter student travel grants of \$100 each were awarded to David Ollesch (EIU), Joshua Dub (U of I) and Carlin Fenn (SIU, also the Larry Jahn recipient).

Larimore awards, which are competitive research grants of up to \$500, were given to Sarah Huck (EIU), Amanda Wildenberg (EIU), Vaskar Nepal (EIU) and Anthony Porreca (SIU).

Our Student Subunit Traveling Raffle Award race was a tight one this year, with the honors returning to Eastern. Thanks to each subunit for making the raffle an amazing success!

Congratulations to all our recipients and thanks to all the students that participated in this year's conference.



Left: 2013 ILAFS Larimore award winners: SIU Anthony Porreca, EIU Vaskar Nepal, Sarah Huck and Amanda Wildenberg

Right: 2013 Student Travel Grant winners: EIU David Ollesch, U of I Joshua Dub and SIU Carlin Fenn.



Fish and Wildlife Trust Funds Threatened by Sequestration, *Ben Wasserman*

December 2012

If Congress doesn't pass a budget plan that addresses the deficit as specified by The Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) automatic cuts, known as sequestration, will come into effect at the beginning of next year. Sequestration will cut many federal spending programs between 7.6 and 9.2 percent.

The Wildlife Restoration, Sportfish Restoration and Boating Safety Trust Funds (hereafter Trust Funds) will have 7.6 percent of their funds sequestered, or withheld from distribution, a reduction of \$31 million, \$34 million, and \$9 million, respectively. These funds, raised through excise taxes on hunting, fishing, and boating equipment and fuel do not go into the general treasury. While the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) collects these taxes from manufacturers, they are required by law to distribute them to the states for specific purposes described in those laws. It is the states, not the federal government, who spend Trust fund money.

The Trust Funds are important sources of funding for state programs in fisheries and wildlife restoration and management; hunter, angler and boater access; and hunter and boater safety education. They are the cornerstone of the user-pay, public benefit system of fish and wildlife conservation. In order to qualify for grants from the Trust Funds, states must guarantee that all hunting and fishing license fees are spent exclusively on fish and wildlife management and restoration.

The BCA was designed to reduce the federal budget deficit by \$1.2 trillion over the next 10 years by setting automatic spending caps on federal spending. The law amends the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act of 1985, but did not amend the exemption for "payments to trust funds from excise taxes or other receipts



Alpine lake fish survey funded as part of Wyoming Game and Fish Department's statewide Sport Fish Restoration grant program (Credit – USFWS)

properly creditable to such trust funds." That exemption still stands, however, payments from such trust funds do not appear to be exempt. Therefore if sequestration occurs, FWS will continue to collect the full amount of excise taxes, but will be required to withhold 7.6 percent of the funds from distribution to the states unless Congress amends the BCA to also exempt appropriations from the Trust Funds.

This could result in some states losing up to \$1 million dollars in 2013 for fish and wildlife restoration and management, and hunting, angling, boating and recreational shooting activities. According to the laws that govern the Trust Funds, such as the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, states are required to provide 25 percent matching funds to access the 75 percent from the Trust Funds. States without the ability to rollover their matching funds from the FY2013 to FY2014 budgets may have difficulty raising their matching funds when the sequestered funds are released. According to the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, money in the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund that has not been used after 2 years reverts back to the FWS to carry out the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

The Trust Funds have distributed over \$14 billion to the states since their inception with the (Pittman-Robertson) Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, the Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Act of 1950, and its (Wallop-Breaux) Boating Trust Fund Amendment of 1984. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) says, "Sequestering the spending authority of these inviolable Trust Funds to states is a **breach of faith** [original emphasis] and violates the intent of the "user pays-public benefits" system of fish and wildlife conservation and access in the United States."

To read more, visit: <http://news.wildlife.org/>

Letter to President Obama on Climate Change, AFS President John Boreman

January 17, 2013

AFS President John Boreman sent a letter to President Obama promoting the AFS policy on climate change. Copies of the letter were sent to key members of the Obama Administration and congressional committees involved with the climate change issue. Also, a press release describing the contents of the letter and its intent was sent to AFS media contacts.

To view the AFS policy on climate change, see: http://fisheries.org/policy_statements

To view the letter sent to President Obama, see: <http://lists.fisheries.org/pipermail/afs2-fisheries.org/attachments/20130129/86387d8f/ObamaClimateChange.pdf> <http://lists.fisheries.org/pipermail/afs2-fisheries.org/attachments/20130129/86387d8f/ObamaClimateChange.pdf>

Budget Law Will Freeze Allocation of Sport Fish Restoration Funds



March 19, 2013

On September 14, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released its recommendations for budget cuts that include withholding parts of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, a move that would have a significant impact on fisheries conservation and the jobs it supports. OMB's action was triggered by the failure of the Congress and the Administration to enact a plan to reduce the deficit by \$1.2 trillion, as required by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

The Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund has been recommended for a \$34 million cut under sequestration. The funds won't be withheld from the Trust Fund, but will not be apportioned to the states for fish restoration. This means that monies in the Trust Fund will build over time while the amount apportioned to each state will be cut by 7.6% each year that sequestration is in effect. The Act is unquestionably the most valuable federal legislation for anglers and fishery resources, delivering millions each year to state fishing and boating programs. This is the most important program for boating and angler access and fishery management in each state. It is also the core funding for each state's sport fish restoration program and in some states it is the only source of funding aside from fishing license fees.

The Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950 placed a federal

excise tax on all recreational fishing equipment, which manufacturers pay and is then incorporated into the cost of the equipment that angler purchase. In 1984 the Act was amended to include that part of the federal gasoline fuel tax attributable to motor boat use and expanded the number of equipment types taxed. The total annual value of the Trust Fund is approximately \$650 million. The monies from the fund are apportioned to state conservation agencies for sport fish restoration, boating safety, angler and boater access and other fishing and boating programs.

The Trust Fund is the backbone to the user-pay model of funding conservation and is supported by industry, anglers and state conservation agencies. Since its inception the Sport Fish Restoration Act has pumped \$7 billion into habitat restoration, access and boating safety programs.

The Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund's older sibling, the Wildlife Restoration Act of 1936, after which the Sportfish Trust Fund was patterned, is slated for a \$31 million freeze. That Act is funded by hunters and men and women who engage in the shooting sports and archery and who pay a similar tax to support wildlife restoration.

Congress, with the cooperation of the Administration, must address the sequestration schedule and that will not occur until after the elections and possibly not until early 2013 and with a new Congress.

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Stephen Weithman Student Paper Award

The Missouri Chapter and the Socioeconomics Section of the AFS sponsor the A. Stephen Weithman Best Student Paper Award in Socioeconomics. The award is given for the best platform or poster paper using economic and/or other social science data and analyses presented by a student at the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting. Papers are judged on content, originality, organization, contribution to the field of fisheries science, and overall presentation of the study. The award winner receives \$150 and an award certificate following the annual meeting.

A nomination form is available at: <https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups=#!topic/afs-fisheries/ETAcZEWwSI>

- for use by the student's supervisor or by an officer of an AFS Section, Chapter or Division. Please return the form to me, Peter Fricke, by July 1, 2013, for the Annual Meeting in Little Rock.

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Continuing Education Section Update

The ILAFS Continuing Education Section held two, half-day workshops this year February 7-8 at Kibbe Biological Science Station in Warsaw, IL. Over-night housing and accommodations were available. The workshop was attended by 36 people, including the workshop instructors.

Workshop attendees were from many various organizations such as:

Soil and Water Conservation Districts – 1

IL DNR – 3

WIU/grad students – 4

INHS – 14

Consultants – 4

U of I – 2

Chicago MWRD – 3

USFWS – 2

EIU/grad students – 2

We did have to turn a few applicants away due to limited space.

The workshop topic on Day One was “Using ‘R’ Statistical Software for Fisheries Science”. This workshop was taught by Dr. Tim Spier from Western Illinois University. The overall goal of this workshop was to gain a working knowledge of a fairly new statistical software analysis program. Dr. Spier did a great job preparing materials before the workshop and setting up a website with all the materials on it so attendees could look at the materials beforehand. Workshop attendees learned what ‘R’ is, how to install and run it on their laptops, how to import data, write specific code to analyze data, and how write code to graph the data. Dr. Spier did a great job describing what R is and how it can be applied to fisheries science.

At the conclusion of the Day One workshop, we had a catered dinner at Kibbe and a social. Unfortunately it was

raining that afternoon/evening and we weren’t able to have a bonfire. However, good conversations and card games provided much entertainment that evening.

The workshop topic on Day Two was “Identification of minnows and darters of Illinois”. This workshop was taught by Josh Sherwood from the Illinois Natural History Survey. The goal of this workshop was to familiarize and discuss the field identification techniques of many minnows and darter species found in Illinois. Josh did a great job presenting information on the minnows and darters of Illinois, including species ranges and drainages where they are found and unique ID features of specific species. Josh also did a great job facilitating open discussions among the group and experiences and other techniques that they had when identifying certain species.

At the end of the workshop, we distributed a survey so we could gain information about thoughts regarding the facility, instructors, and possible topics for future Continuing Ed courses. Based on the participant surveys and possible future workshop topics, GIS ranked out the highest followed by statistics, aquatic habitat restoration, mussel ID, and aquatic plant ID. So, if you or anyone you know would be willing to teach a workshop on any of the before mentioned topics, please contact us. Also Kibbe Biological Science Station in Warsaw, IL is a wonderful facility to hold Continuing Education workshops; however, we are open to moving workshops to other facilities throughout the state. Again, if you know of facility that would capable of hosting an ILAFS Continuing Education workshop, please let us know.

Cheers,

Ben Lubinski – blubinsk@illinois.edu

and

Jonathan Leiman – jleiman@environcorp.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFS online bookstore now offers PDF downloads

AFS is pleased to announce that we now offer digital downloads of many books and their individual chapters. “Front matter,” glossaries, indexes, and references are provided free.

Because our digital books and chapters are PDF files, they look exactly like the print version - you will see all the same graphs, charts, and drawings. Downloaded files can be used on your desktop computer, laptop, notebook, eBook reader, PDA, or other handheld device.

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- **Convenience:** Download and read immediately without the time and cost of shipping.
- **Appearance:** PDF files provide a high-fidelity reading experience, including the advantages of the printed version typeface, clear images, and sharp text.

Try the new AFS online bookstore today by going to: <http://fisheries.org/shop>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Workshop: Aquatic Macrophytes at Lake Shelbyville with Dr. Gary Owens Dick

Research ecologist, Dr. Gary Owen Dick (USACE), will be visiting Lake Shelbyville to provide Lee Mitchell (USACE), Mike Garthaus, and myself some ideas for improving our efforts for introducing submersed and emergent aquatic macrophytes for fisheries habitat and improved water quality. He has extensive practical experience in practices to best introduce aquatic plants in water bodies of all sizes. We, along with Dan Stephenson, would like to provide an opportunity for anyone associated with fisheries and fish habitat management the opportunity to meet with Dr. Gary Owen Dick for a short presentation and a "Meet & Greet"/Social during his visit on Tuesday evening, May 14th, likely at the Lake Shelbyville Visitor Center. It will be an opportunity to ask questions and run ideas across one of the nation's foremost experts in aquatic plant introduction.

I am envisioning a fish fry and beverages to go along with the evening discussions. We will likely start around 5:30 -6:00 pm. There may be an opportunity for cheap or free overnight accommodations at the Okaw Bluff Group Recreation Area available for overnight guests, but it has limited capacity (34 max) and some may have to make additional arrangements. I realize that this is a busy time of the year but we wanted to make this unique opportunity to visit with Dr. Dick available to as many biologists as possible.

PLEASE RESPOND ASAP IF YOU INTEND TO JOIN US! Additional information will be provided at a later date.

Mike Mounce
mike.mounce@illinois.gov

Workshop: Hydrilla control in the Ohio River Basin



Photo courtesy of Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan

The ORBFHP is currently working in cooperation with Mr. Eric Boyda of the Appalachian Ohio Weed Control Partnership on control and management of invasive plant species in the Ohio River Basin, with a focus on hydrilla. Eric is planning to host a

workshop to further develop control and management methods and has guest speakers attending with expertise in this area. One of the guests will be Mike Nether, a researcher with USACE, who specializes in research support of large-scale hydrilla control activities and evaluation of new products or new uses of existing products for hydrilla control. Mr. Nether is very knowledgeable about hydrilla control taking place in Florida and other areas in the United States.

The workshop will be held at the Thomas Moore College Biology Field Station Conference Center. The conference

center is near Cincinnati and can hold 50 people. The room has capabilities to skype and webex with up to 30 additional people (remote access would only need a webcam to join). The facility can also sleep up to 24 people in 12 rooms if people need a place to stay. The cost of room rental is \$20/person, or \$30 per room if an individual wants the room to themselves.

Hydrilla control is a very real and growing issue in the Ohio River basin, with environmental and economic impacts alike. So please plan to attend or pass this information on to others who would benefit from the meeting or can bring additional expertise.

Eric has proposed the dates of June 10th - 14th, or June 24th - 28th. Please contact Eric for further information and to let him know which dates may be best for attendees. Eric's contact information is below.

Eric Boyda, *Coordinator*
 Appalachian Ohio Weed Control Partnership
www.appalachianohioweeds.org
 740-534-6578

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Southern Illinois University Presents: FISH U August 1-3, 2013



Fish U is a 3-day daycamp for youth, grades 8-12, with an interest in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Natural Resources.

The event will be held at SIU's Touch of Nature Environmental Center in Carbondale.

Learn what happens behind-the-scenes as you take part in hands-on educational activities. We'll go fishing, work up fish, sein a local stream, set nets, do some electro-fishing and so much more!

While at camp, you'll also get to visit a local Fish Hatchery and tour Southern Illinois' Campus.

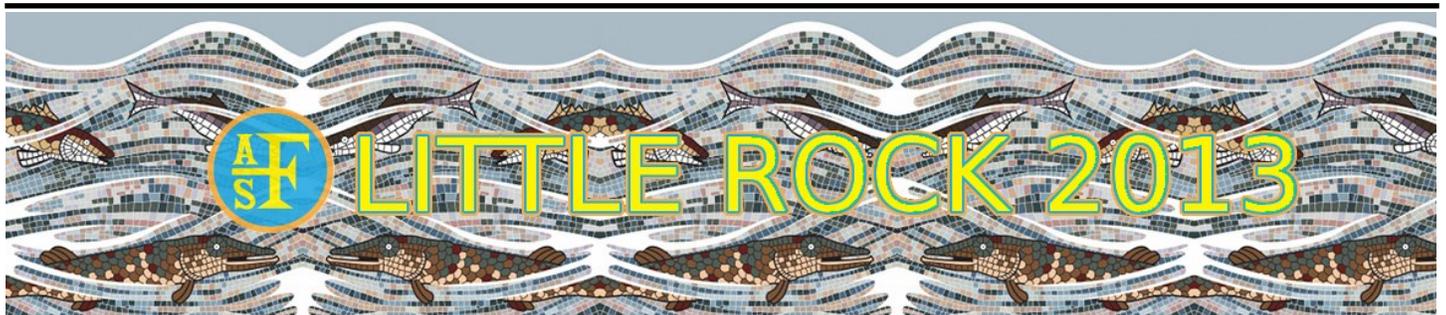


For more information contact:

Candie Glover, Outreach Coordinator

Phone (618) 201-1787/Fax (618) 453-6095

cglover@siu.edu



SAVE THE DATE

2013 American Fisheries Society National Meeting September 8-12, 2013 Little Rock, Arkansas

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and 2013 AFS President John Boreman cordially invite you to attend next year's Annual Meeting, September 8-12, 2013, in the Natural State. The meeting theme is *Preparing for the Challenges Ahead*.

The 2013 AFS Annual Meeting will bring professionals together to network and share knowledge in fisheries science and management. Speakers will present a broad range of topics at the plenary session, technical symposia, and contributed oral and poster sessions. An array of continuing education courses will also be offered.

See: <http://afs2013.com/> for more details!

Hope to see you there!