



### Inside this issue:

<b>Founding Fathers Panel Discussion</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>IL AFS—A Retrospect</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Historical Note on IL AFS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>NCD Strategic Plan Update</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Blue-green Algae Update</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Trends in Education</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Wetland Honors</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Fish Sedative and Literature Updates</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Committee Reports</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Subunit Updates</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Support for HB5642</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Don LaBrose Passing</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Grants Available</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Notable Retirements</b>	<b>19</b>

## President's Message, *Trent Thomas*

WOW! Our milestone 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Illinois Chapter has ushered in quite the year for fisheries happenings in Illinois. For those that missed the meeting in February, here's a quick recap: Over 150 fisheries professionals attended the three-day meeting at scenic Starved Rock Lodge. Many retired members made the trip, making the celebration an overwhelming success. 35 talks and 16 posters on a wide variety of topics set the foundation for the meeting. One of these talks by Mike Conlin, retired Office of Resource Conservation Director and long-time Chief of Fisheries for the Illinois Department of Conservation/ Natural Resources, made national news when it made the rounds through the internet and printed media following the meeting. A panel discussion on Wednesday afternoon captivated everyone in attendance. Sitting on this panel of Founding Members was our Chapter's very first President, Al Lopinot. It was great to meet the man that started it all for our Chapter. Also on the panel were Leo-

nard Durham, Roy Heidinger, and Larry Jahn, three educators that have influenced just about everyone in the room in one way or another. Dr. Jahn has further influenced our Chapter membership with a generous donation at the time of his retirement that helps fund our Student Travel Grants. By investing this donation we have increased this fund by over 20%. Ken Russell, whose career as a District Fisheries Biologist with the IDNR is still going strong, is an inspiration for all of us. The final member of the panel was Rod Horner. Rod had a long and productive career with the IDOC/IDNR and still attends nearly every Annual Meeting. Dan Sallee was the perfect moderator for the panel discussion and kept it lively and interesting. Social time was filled with lively conversations and great meals. Steve Pescitelli's band, Redhorse, carried the party



**2011 -2012 Chapter President Trent Thomas leads the business meeting at the annual conference**

into the later hours of Tuesday night. Wednesday night featured another signature raffle which most likely broke the profit record, thanks to the generosity of all. In preparation for this meeting, I researched all the talks at all the meetings that came before us. This gave me a renewed perspective of all the work and the number of people that have contributed over the years.

*Continued on page 3.*

### 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: Aaron Kern

University of Illinois: Chris French

Time and Place: Scott Shasteen

Website: Jim Garvey

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



Illinois Council  
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Resource Managers



Illinois  
Lake  
Management  
Association



**Illini  
Muskies  
Alliance**



# 50th Anniversary Starved Rock, February 21-23, 2012

## President's Message (continued from page 1)

50 meetings and 1833 presentations represent a lot of information and knowledge distributed to the professionals of Illinois. The hard work of the Chapter has not stopped at the 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Dr. Rob Colombo of Eastern Illinois University and several of his students hosted an Age and Growth Workshop at Allerton Park in March. Over 30 people attended with rave reviews.

It has been a busy year for legislation, as well. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources faces critical financial times. A proposed bill for dedicated funding by State Representative Frank Mautino failed to attain a necessary super-majority and rumors of pension changes have spurred retirements from state workers. We did have victories with several other bills, though.

HB3888 addressing the issue of invasive aquatic species was signed into law. HB5642 which creates permitting fees for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) is awaiting the Governor's signature. And SB3414, an economic hardship bill that would have significantly weakened the Environmental Protection Act, was not brought to vote. Randy Sauer drafted letters from the Chapter that were submitted to the Illinois Environmental Council on these last two bills.

I'm sure everyone has stories about how this year's historic drought has impacted their work and the fisheries throughout the state. Widespread fish kill events have been commonplace. All-time low water levels in rivers and impoundments continue. Algae blooms have

been particularly severe.

This year has passed like a whirlwind for me. Heavy workloads that keep getting heavier seem to be the norm now. I have enjoyed my year as President of the Chapter, though. Memories of the 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting will always be cherished. The Chapter is in good standing financially and has a solid foundation of 153 current members. You are in good hands with your next President, Scott Shasteen of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and his supporting cast.

Thank you to everyone that works hard to keep the Chapter going strong. Here's to the next 50 years and let the waters teem with fishes!

## Founding Fathers Panel Discussion, *B. Metzke, T. Thomas, A. Holtrop*

One of the highlights of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was the Founding Fathers discussion panel. Dan Sallee moderated the discussion, which included six representatives from the first Chapter meeting. Present were Al Lopinot, Leonard "Bull" Durham, Roy Heidinger, Larry Jahn, Ken Russel and Rod Horner. Questions were fielded from the audience and included such topics as their early careers, the foundations of fisheries science in Illinois, ways in which fisheries science has changed and who they considered mentors.

The lively discussion amongst the panel members and audience lasted several hours and concluded with a stirring reminder of both the challenges fisheries biologists face in the future, but also how fortunate they are to participate in such a rewarding career.

Some of the most memorable quotes from the panel members include:

"Because I organized the first meeting, I got elected as the first president of the Chapter. Back in those days everyone wore coats and ties, and there was only one woman present." - Al.

"I knew I'd be a lousy engineer, so I switched to biology after four years of engineering coursework." - Roy

"At one annual meeting I was once told my presentation 'Wasn't worth the paper it was printed on', but people used to badger each other after talks in the early days." - Ken

"After passing my DOC exam, Al Lopinot told me I was hired. I said 'I'll go anywhere but southern Illinois.' He promptly assigned me to Harrisburg." - Rod

"Our students were our greatest successes." - Roy and Larry



Founding Fathers panel members

# 50th Anniversary Starved Rock, February 21-23, 2012

## The Illinois Chapter of the AFS: A Retrospect, *Trent Thomas*

The Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society has reached its milestone mark of 50 years. Just listing the locations of all the places around the state that have hosted the Annual Conference will stir memories for most of us. Another list of all the Past Presidents that have been entrusted with the leadership of the Chapter over the years will bring additional memories of friends, co-workers, teachers, mentors, and people we have only read about and admired from our files, reports, and other scientific literature. For the Founding Members that joined us at Starved Rock, I hope that picture taken at the first meeting in 1963 evokes a sense of pride and accomplishment for the beginning of this Chapter that has touched the lives of so many people and influenced the evolution of fisheries science in Illinois.

The Chapter has logged 1833 presentations in its first 50 years. A list of these is a living record of the evolution of the Chapter and the accumulated knowledge that has been dispersed to the membership. By browsing this list, one can find the important issues that dominated the talks from one time period to the next and how these have changed over time. It is interesting to see that we continue to study and talk about much of the same things that were discussed 50 years ago, while other topics were not even on the radar years ago.

The organizations that have anchored the Chapter over the years have not changed greatly, although contributing groups have come and gone. The Illinois Natural History Survey has accounted for 483 (26%) of the presentations. This is followed by the 300 (16%) presentations that have come from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. The Illinois Department of Conservation / Natural Re-

sources has contributed 277 (15%). The next tier of contributors include the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with 76 (4%), Eastern Illinois University with 55 (3%), and Western Illinois University with 45 (2%) of the presentations. The third tier of contributing organizations include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with 31 talks, the Illinois State Water Survey with 29 talks coming mostly during the tenure of Don Roseboom, 21 talks from the Wisconsin DNR and 20 talks from the Iowa DNR given during the five years of joint meetings held with those two states, and Loyola University's 18 talks with the majority of these given by Jan Savitz from 1971 to 1992.

The subject species that have been discussed over the years have been highly diverse, although largemouth bass have remained rather predictably at the top being presented upon nearly twice as often as any other species. This is followed by bluegill and channel catfish. The next most frequent subject may surprise some, as mollusks are number four and walleye number five. The newcomers, Asian carp, are quickly moving up the ranks since coming on the scene in the late 1990's, although they were the subject

of the occasional talks prior to this. Rounding out the top subject species in order are salmonids, common carp, small-mouth bass, temperate basses, crappies, muskies, gizzard shad, yellow perch, grass carp, and sturgeons.

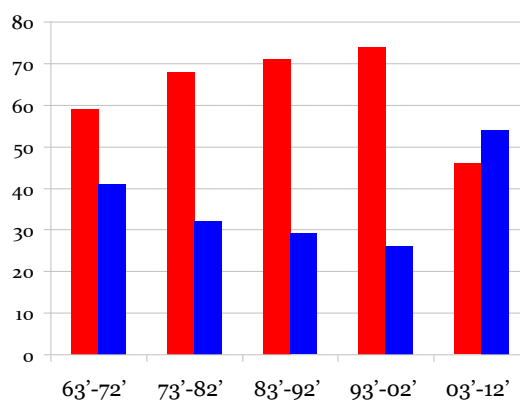
The subject habitat types have also been well-rounded and consistently represented. The big rivers have been the topic of the most presentations, with a slight edge over impoundments and streams. The Great Lakes, as well as ponds, have also been given attention. The occasional talk on ocean fishes rounds out the habitats.

When we breakdown the presentations into decade groups in the figure above, we can see the trends of game fish versus nongame fish as the subjects of the talks. The first decade (far left) was split nearly 60% game fish, 40% nongame fish. The top three species bluegill, largemouth bass, and channel catfish dominated the game fish talks in this first decade.

The split over the next three decades trended towards slightly more game fish talks and less talks on nongame species. In the 1970's, striped bass became a major topic among the game fish talks, while nongame talks were dominated by grass carp and threadfin shad.

*Continued on page 5.*

**Proportion of Talks,  
Game Fish vs. Nongame Fish**





## The Illinois Chapter of the AFS: A Retrospect (continued from page 4)

The game fish talks of the 1980's became much more diverse with walleye ranking second behind largemouth bass, and salmonids, crappies, muskies, and smallmouth bass contributing significantly. Grass carp and common carp dominated the nongame talks of the 80's. The 1990's brought us game fish talks about largemouth bass, bluegill, walleye, channel catfish, and smallmouth bass as top subjects. Common carp lead the nongame talks with Asian carps second, making their first appearance.

The fifth decade experienced a major shake-up and shifted to nongame talks now outnumbering the game fish talks. The game fish talks were lead by the three mainstay species of largemouth bass, bluegill, and channel catfish, plus muskies. The Asian carp invasion had clearly made its mark with an onslaught of talks in the last ten years. Second place has now been taken by sturgeons, as they have garnered recent attention. Several other nongame species have also made strides in popularity in the last decade. Invasive species are also making their mark on the subject of the Chapter's presentations, with the chart above showing the number of talks on invasive species per decade. There has been a huge trend towards more and more talks on inva-

sive species, as this continues to be a growing problem for Illinois waters. The first decade had less than ten invasive species talks, mostly about alewife. Grass carp lead the next two decades, and zebra mussels were a significant topic in the 80's and 90's. As mentioned earlier, Asian carps made their first appearance in the 90's and exploded in the most recent decade.

The last trend that I have found to be interesting is that of listed species (threatened and endangered). In the first decade, there was a single talk about spotted sunfish, now the redspotted sunfish. There were no talks regarding listed species in the 70's. The 1980's had six talks with pugnose minnow, pallid shiner, lake sturgeon, and Higgins' eye mussels as the topics. The 1990's offered three talks on pallid sturgeon. And the most recent decade gave us a whopping 27 talks on listed species! Included in these were talks on pallid sturgeon, lake sturgeon, alligator gar (technically an extirpated species), redspotted sunfish,



northern riffleshell, harlequin darter, eastern sand darter, Higgins' eye mussel, Illinois chorus frog, greater redhorse, river redhorse, least brook lamprey, and northern madtom.

That is my breakdown of the first 50 years of the Chapter. The collective knowledge represented in all these presentations is truly impressive! We should be proud of what we have accomplished in our various endeavors. I can't wait to see what the next 50 years brings us.



Attendees of the first Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meeting held at SIU Carbondale, 1963.

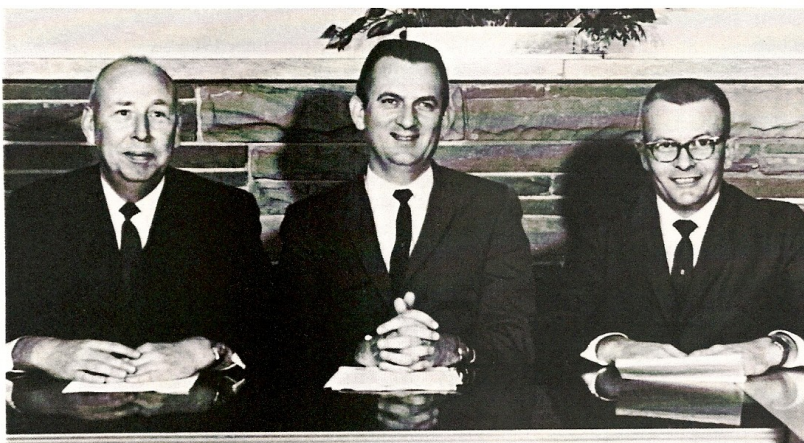
# 50th Anniversary Starved Rock, February 21-23, 2012

## A Historical Note on the Illinois Chapter of AFS, *Rod Horner*

### The Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society – 1963 and Today

*This historical note was prepared by past president Rod Horner in 1998, the Chapter's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

Al Lopinot, Chief Fishery Biologist of the Illinois Department of Conservation, wrote a letter in 1962 to all Illinois fishery workers known to him, suggesting that a meeting take place to form a local chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The first organizational meeting of the Illinois Chapter took place February 28-March 1, 1963 in Carbondale,



The first officers of the Illinois Chapter. Left to right: William Starrett, Vice-President; Al Lopinot, President; Leo Rock, Secretary-Treasurer

Illinois, hosted by Southern Illinois University's Department of Fisheries. For several years, biologists and scientists of the Illinois Department of Conservation, Illinois Natural History Survey, Southern Illinois University, Illinois State University and private companies interested in aquaculture had been meeting informally. Their purpose was to share information on their programs, report on research and management, and exchange views. Lopinot and George Bennett of the Illinois Natural History Survey put together the first program of scientific papers

to be presented. Forty-seven people were in attendance, and voted in favor of the formation of a new state chapter. The officers elected were Al Lopinot, president, Dr. Bill Starrett, vice president, and Leo Rock, secretary/treasurer. The Illinois Chapter was formally recognized by the American Fisheries Society March 5, 1963, the same day as the Idaho Chapter, making us the third and fourth state chapters to be formed, after the Portland Chapter (1962) and the Missouri Chapter (February, 1963).

Although the number of members and the attendance at the annual meeting has more than doubled, the original purpose for which the Chapter was formed remains unchanged. That is the sharing of information among people interested in fisheries science. Over the years, the Illinois Chapter has begun to take a more proactive stance on fisheries issues, maintaining a seat on the board of the Illinois Environmental Council and speaking out in position papers on important fisheries issues of the day. One important change that has taken place is the formation of the student subunits at the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University. These subunits are an important investment in the future and inject needed vitality and enthusiasm into the organization of today. The annual meeting gives many of these students their first opportunity to present a scientific paper to an audience of fisheries professionals. The number of professional people working in the field of fisheries science continues to grow and their need for the forum provided by the Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society remains undiminished.



Milton Bowman, fourth ILAFS president, with Sue D. Lewis, fifth (and first woman) president

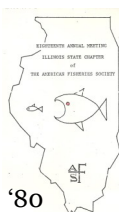
### ILAFS Logos Through the Ages:



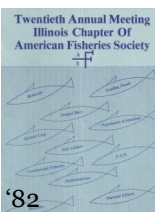
'63



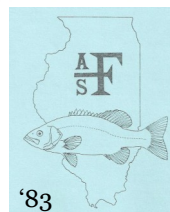
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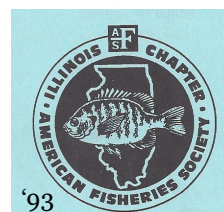
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'82



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'93



'94





## 2012–2015 NCD Strategic Plan Released

**The AFS North Central Division (AFS NCD) recently released their 2012-2015 Strategic Plan, which was approved on May 1, 2012.**

An *ad hoc* committee drawn from the geographical extent of the North Central Division (NCD) of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) was recruited voluntarily to revise the Strategic Plan of NCD. Illinois Chapter members Jeremy Tiemann and Ann Marie Holtrop participated in the planning team. Revision of the Strategic Plan primarily sought (1) to align NCD Goals and Objectives with those of AFS and (2) to position NCD to make significant contributions to fisheries management, research, and education in the region. Importantly, the 2012-2015 NCD Strategic Plan seeks to better coordinate on-the-ground activities of the local Chapters and Subunits with those of NCD Technical Committees, other Divisions of AFS, and the Parent Society itself. Hence, the Strategic Plan defines the role NCD should play in facilitating and leading fisheries management, research, and education efforts in the region.

Revision of the NCD Strategic Plan began in mid-2010 and continued through 2011. Although no set process for Strategic Plan revision exists, most previous revisions occurred in tandem with or shortly after revisions of the Parent Society Strategic Plan. Hence, with the release of AFS 2020 Vision ([http://www.fisheries.org/afs/about\\_sp](http://www.fisheries.org/afs/about_sp))—the Parent Society's 2010-2014 Strategic Plan—in late 2009, an impetus for revision of the NCD Strategic Plan existed. The NCD Strategic Plan Revision Committee sought to follow a format similar to that of AFS 2020 Vision, grouping activities according to Fisheries Leadership, Education/Continuing Education, and Value of Membership. Aligning strategic plans in this manner improves focus and communication.

To coordinate activities between the Parent Society and the local Chapters while also moving toward making the revised Strategic Plan useful, the Revision Committee developed and distributed a survey of the NCD membership to better understand what roles they felt NCD should fill and how the Strategic Plan should function (Witter 2011). Many important aspects of the Strategic Plan, including the goals and objectives below, come directly from this survey. Overall, NCD members indicated that they preferred a document that provided vision rather than operational detail, essentially identifying roles and objectives rather than specifying particular activities on which Chapters should focus. The survey is online at: <http://www.ncd-afs.org/pages/default/strategicplan.htm>

### Goal 1: Regional Fisheries Leadership

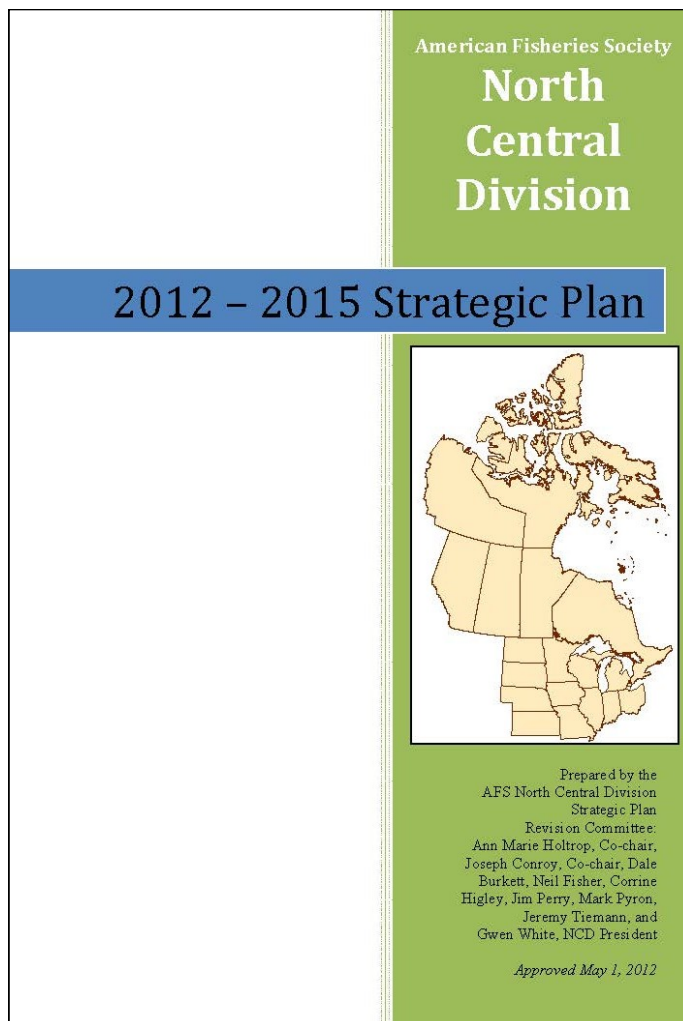
**Objective 1.1.** Deliver unbiased authoritative scientific information to decision-makers, particularly focusing on the challenging impact of global and landscape-level changes.

**Objective 1.2.** Enable staff to participate in development of key regional consensus-based positions outside of constraints in their agencies.

**Objective 1.3.** Support outreach by other entities (governments, nonprofits) that facilitates citizen understanding of and participation in critical fisheries issues.

### Goal 2: Education/Continuing Education

**Objective 2.1.** Provide resources and opportunities for



continuing education for Division members.

**Objective 2.2.** Remove impediments to training and meeting participation..

### Goal 3: Value of Membership

**Objective 3.1.** Improve communication among AFS, NCD, Chapters, and Student Subunits. the parent society.

**Objective 3.2.** Revisit the value of NCD and AFS services.

**Objective 3.3.** Enhance participation of students and professionals at all levels of the Society to assure recruitment, retention, and leadership development into the future.

**Objective 3.4.** Facilitate use of the NCD strategic plan by its units (i.e., Chapters, Technical Committees, Student Subunits) and members.

**NCD's full Strategic Plan can be found at:** <http://www.ncd-afs.org/Pages/60/afsstratplan2012.pdf>



## Blue-Green Algae and Algal Toxins Fact Sheet, *Illinois Environmental Protection Agency*

### Background

Blue-green algae are microscopic organisms that are naturally present in lakes and streams. Some blue-green algae can produce algal toxins that could pose a health risk to people and animals when they are exposed to them in large enough quantities. This fact sheet answers questions about blue-green algae and algal toxins.

### What are blue-green algae?

Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, are microscopic organisms that are naturally present in lakes and streams. They are usually present in low numbers. However, blue-green algae can grow quickly and become very abundant in warm, shallow, undisturbed surface water that receive a lot of sunlight. When this occurs, they can form blooms that discolor the water or produce floating rafts or scums on the surface of the water. These blooms are primarily a concern during the summer months in Illinois.

### Are blue-green algae or algal toxins harmful to my health?

Some blue-green algae produce algal toxins (e.g., microcystin, cylindrospermopsin, anatoxin, saxatoxin; the most common is microcystin) that could pose a health risk to people and animals when exposed to them in large enough quantities. Health effects could occur when surface scums or waters containing high levels of blue-green algae toxins are swallowed, come in contact with skin, or when airborne droplets containing toxins are inhaled while swimming, boating, waterskiing, tubing, bathing or showering. Recreational contact such as swimming and household contact such as bathing or showering with water not visibly affected by a blue - green algae bloom is not expected to cause health effects.

### How do I know if I am being exposed to blue-green algae?

People should suspect that blue-green algae are present in water that is visibly discolored or that has surface scums. Colors can include shades of green, blue-green, yellow, brown, or red. Water affected by blue-green algae blooms often is so strongly colored that it can develop a paint-like appearance (see photos below). The presence of toxins from algae can only be verified through laboratory analysis. Unpleasant tastes or odors are not reliable indicators of blue-green algae toxins or other toxic substances, because the algae may or may not also produce chemicals that affect the taste or odor of drinking water. Similarly, the absence of unpleasant tastes and odors does not guarantee the absence of blue-green algal toxins.

### Can you get sick from blue-green algal toxins?

People can get sick from blue-green algal toxins if they have direct contact with a blue green algae bloom, by either intentionally or accidentally swallowing water, by having direct skin contact (as when swimming, wading, or showering), or by breathing airborne droplets containing the toxins, such as during boating or waterskiing. People should avoid contact with water that is discolored or has scum on the surface and restrict the access of their pets and livestock to this water. Pets can get sick if they have been

swimming in water where algal blooms have been and ingest significant amounts of toxins by licking themselves after leaving the water.

### Are children more vulnerable than adults to blue-green algal toxins?

Yes. Because of their comparatively low body weight, it takes fewer toxins to make children sick from exposure to blue green algae. In addition, children tend to have more sensitive skin than adults, so a skin rash or reaction is more likely. Children should always be supervised when swimming in any body of water.

### Can I eat fish caught in water with high amounts of blue-green algae or algal toxins?

Toxins from algae can accumulate in the entrails (guts) of fish and occasionally in the muscle (filet) of fish. Levels in fish depend upon the severity of the bloom in the area where the fish are caught. In general, fish that are caught in areas of a waterbody where major blue-green algae blooms occur may be safe to eat, as long as the entrails of the fish are discarded. However, there is some uncertainty about the levels of algal toxins that can accumulate in filets, so anglers may want to wait until algal blooms are over before eating fish from waters where a bloom is occurring. Care should be taken that animals are not fed or allowed to eat the entrails of these fish.

### How can I stop or reduce exposures to blue-green algae or algal toxins?

Never drink untreated surface water, whether or not algae blooms are present. Water from lakes, rivers, or streams may contain other bacteria, parasites or viruses, as well as algae toxins, that all could cause illness if consumed. People should avoid contact with water that is discolored or has scum on the surface and restrict the access of their pets and livestock to this water. This includes swimming, water skiing, tubing, boating, etc. If contact does occur, wash with soap and water or rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove algae. This is especially important for pets (dogs) because they may lick the algae off their fur to clean themselves.

Seek medical attention if symptoms such as skin, eye or throat irritation, allergic reactions, or breathing difficulties occur while in contact with untreated surface water. These symptoms are unusual, but may occur in sensitive individuals due to exposure to low levels of blue-green algae.



**Blue-green algae creates strong green coloration**





## Excerpts from the Natural Resource Education and Employment Conference Report and Recommendations, *Coalition of Natural Resource Societies*

### Background:

The future of natural resource management and conservation depends on having a work-force of well-trained, dedicated professionals across the public, private, and nongovernmental sectors. A diverse suite of changes over the past several decades—in the natural environment, demographics, workplace attitudes, curricular offerings, and the availability of funding, among others—raises questions about whether there is an adequate supply of well-trained natural resource professionals in the pipeline. With many career employees set to retire, concerns about the supply and competency of their replacements have been voiced more loudly.

Ensuring that students enter the workforce prepared to meet ongoing needs and tackle emerging issues will require a collective effort to develop and implement long-range strategies. To address this situation, the Coalition of Natural Resource Societies (CNRS) convened a Natural Resource Education and Employment Conference on September 11–13, 2011, in Denver, Colorado. The conference brought together leaders from state and federal resource agencies, universities, professional societies, industry, and nongovernmental organizations to review the issues and develop a plan of action. These groups—collective referred to as “we” throughout this document—are the intended audience for the recommendations in this report.

The Coalition of Natural Resources Societies, formed in 2009, comprises professional and scientific societies focusing on the management and conservation of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. CNRS represents and supports tens of thousands of wildlife, fisheries, forestry, and range professionals. At present, CNRS members are The Wildlife Society (TWS), the American Fisheries Society (AFS), the Society of American Foresters (SAF), and the Society for Range Management (SRM). The coalition was formed to concentrate on issues and priorities that provide the maximum opportunity to leverage the existing capabilities of its member societies. Among its objectives are promoting certification and other programs that emphasize professional development and continuing education, and working jointly to increase diversity in the natural resource professions. The panel was charged with (1) identifying major trends in natural resource education and in the natural resource profession,

(2) exploring the reasons for these trends, (3) discussing solutions to reverse or adapt to the trends, and, most important, (4) making specific recommendations for action. A lack of diversity, particularly of ethnic minorities, is a persistent problem in both academic programs and professional settings. This report therefore treats this subject in its own section.

### Trends in Education and Employment:

**Trend 1:** Enrollment in traditional natural resource programs has been steadily decreasing.

**Trend 2:** Employers – particularly natural resource agencies and industry – have been citing a dearth of employee candidates with the necessary combination of technical and people skills.

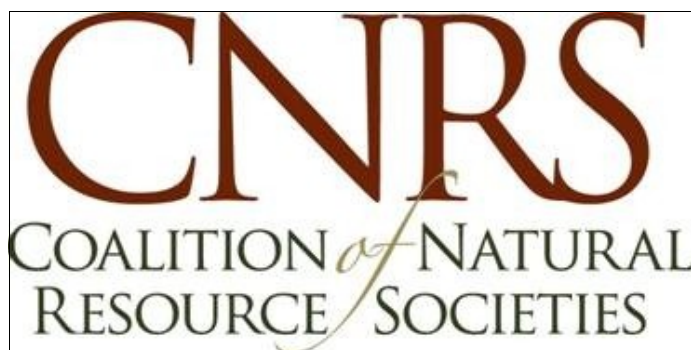
**Trend 3:** Younger employees are often reluctant to move up to leadership jobs.

**Trend 4:** Lack of diversity, particularly of ethnic groups, is significant among students and professionals in the natural resource fields.

### Conclusions:

We are facing increasing demands to expand our natural resources education programs to meet the challenges of a changing world. Although we are not prepared to sacrifice natural resource science in order to accommodate the teaching of “transferable components,” there is clearly a need for us to promote important skills such as critical thinking, effective communication, and approaches for continuous learning. We are undertaking this effort at a time when scientific credibility among the general public is weak and the political influence of natural resources organizations is diminished. Support has decreased for natural resource programs, and budget woes have put enormous pressure on state and federal agencies. We hope that this summit will jumpstart a collective effort to adapt natural resource education to these changing circumstances in ways that will increase its stature, legitimacy, and influence.

**Full Report at:** [http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102904775199-11/CNRS\\_report1.pdf](http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102904775199-11/CNRS_report1.pdf)



**“I am pleased these wetlands are being recognized for their international importance...”**

**“...Emiquon noted the presence in one day of 4.5 percent of the continental population of American coots ...”**

Some of Illinois' most precious jewels have received a highly prestigious, international honor. The Emiquon Complex and the Dixon Waterfowl Refuge have been designated as “wetlands of international importance” by the Ramsar Convention, an intergovernmental treaty in which member countries commit to the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

Emiquon, along the Illinois River near Lewistown, includes The Nature Conservancy's Emiquon Preserve, the Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge, and the Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge. The complex totals 14,000 acres, and includes a diversity of wetland habitats.

“At Emiquon, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have restored a thriving and productive wetland mosaic, and we're delighted our work and successes are being confirmed by this important designation,” said Doug Blodgett, director of river conservation for The Nature Conservancy.

“Through our collective and collaborative restoration and management initiatives, the Emiquon Complex supports thousands of migrating waterfowl and other native species, helps to clean water entering the Illinois River, provides recreational opportunities for thousands of visitors, and serves as a model for resource managers around the world.”

Emiquon is one of eight proof-of-concept sites within the Mississippi River Basin that the Conservancy's [Great Rivers Partnership](#) uses to facilitate the exchange of science and practices among those who manage large rivers around the globe. Similarly, the 2,750-acre Sue and Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge at Hennepin and Hopper Lakes along the Illinois River has also been named a “wetland of international impor-

tance.” It's believed to be the first time that two sites on one river have earned this distinction. “I'm pleased these wetlands are being recognized for their international importance as they play a key role in Illinois tourism,” said Illinois Lt. Governor Sheila Simon. “These sites draw folks from all around to hike, bird-watch, kayak and fish. This designation recognizes the work that's been done to restore these natural resources and will boost efforts moving forward.” Simon chairs Illinois' three river coordinating councils, including the Illinois River Coordinating Council (IRCC) which will hold a dedication ceremony for the two Ramsar-designated sites in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Wetlands Initiative. “This is a great day for the Illinois River. It's a validation of the practices used to restore formerly drained and degraded areas back to high quality natural areas, all in a relatively short time,” says Paul Botts, executive director of the Wetlands Initiative, which restored the Dixon site.

The Ramsar Convention with 162 member nations, including the United States, encourages countries to promote wetlands conservation, and lays out strict criteria for a wetland to be deemed internationally important. A total of 2,031 sites around the world, including only 34 in the United States, have earned Ramsar designation. The Cache River-Cypress Creek Wetlands and the Upper Mississippi Floodplain which stretches from Wabasha, Minn. to north of Rock Island, Ill. are the only other two Illinois sites that have been recognized. In addition to the designation, this week's Ramsar Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP 11) in Bucharest marks the signing of a three-year Memorandum of Cooperation between The Nature Conservancy and Ramsar Convention Secretariat. The signing signifies an ex-

tension of an already 12-year relationship to improve, restore and sustain the world's natural resources through creating awareness surrounding wetland conservation, climate change, river basin management and ecosystem valuation. “We are excited to continue our relationship with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat,” said Carmen Revenga, a Conservancy senior freshwater scientist and head of the delegation for the upcoming Ramsar Convention Conference of the Parties. “Working with Ramsar to find global solutions to protect the world's most precious natural resources is an honor as is the recognition of the restoration efforts at Dixon Waterfowl Refuge and Emiquon in Illinois.”

The Emiquon Complex met eight of the nine Ramsar criteria for designation. These include supporting endangered species, supporting plants and animals that are important for maintaining a diverse ecosystem, supporting 20,000 or more waterbirds, supporting one percent of a species population, and serving as an important food source for fish.

In most cases, Emiquon not only met, but exceeded the criteria. As examples, the Emiquon Preserve noted the presence in *one day* of 4.5 percent of the continental population of American coots (the Ramsar criterion is 1 percent); and the Emiquon Complex supports *hundreds of thousands* of migratory waterbirds, far surpassing the Ramsar criterion of 20,000.

The Dixon Waterfowl Refuge met six Ramsar criteria, including containing globally rare wetland ecosystem types and being an important example of the region's native landscape, which is rare in Illinois today due to extensive habitat loss and wetland drainage. The refuge supports outstanding biodiversity, including 146 animal and plant species that are vulnerable to extinction in Illinois.



## Aquaculture Drug Update

### Authorization Granted for the Immediate Release of Fish Sedated with AQUI-S®20E under INAD 11-741:

Based on a recent request, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted amended authorization for the use of AQUI-S®20E, a sedative drug, to allow for the immediate release of freshwater finfish sedated as part of field-based fisheries management activities. The amended authorization comes under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (USFWS-AADAP) Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) 11-741. Prior to the amended INAD authorization, all freshwater fish sedated with AQUI-S®20E were required to be held for 72 hours—a withdrawal period impractical for field use. The immediate-release provision is for field use only; the withdrawal period remains at 72 hours for hatchery use.

FDA approval of an immediate-release sedative for use in fisheries management has been a high priority for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), whose ongoing activities are

coordinated by its Fisheries and Water Resources Policy (FWRP) Committee's Drug Approval Working Group. "This amended INAD authorization represents an enormous leap forward in our ability to effectively and safely sedate fish as part of field-based fishery management activities; activities that state and federal agencies and their partners use to restore, recover, protect, and manage fish populations that are important to the 48 million recreational anglers in the U.S., as well as to many others who depend on fish for sustenance and commerce," said Virgil Moore, Idaho Department of Fish and Game Director and chair of AFWA's FWRP Committee.

For more information about aquatic animal drugs, AQUI-S®20E, or to sign-up to participate in USFWS-AADAP INAD 11-741, go to <http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/aadap/home.htm> or contact the USFWS-AADAP INAD Administrator, Bonnie Johnson, at [Bonnie.Johnson@fws.gov](mailto:Bonnie.Johnson@fws.gov) (406-994-9905).

## Fishes of Illinois (Forbes and Richardson, 1920) Available for Free Download

Now available as a free PDF download through Google books - The Fishes of Illinois (1920) by Stephen Alfred Forbes and Robert Earl Richardson. This out-of-print book is hard to find and expensive. This is a great opportunity to add this historic piece of literature to your library at no cost.

See: <http://www.google.com/books?id=5SgaAAAAAA>



## Fish and Other Aquatic Resource Trends in the United States Technical Report (abstract)

Loftus, Andrew J.; Flather, Curtis H. 2012. Fish and other aquatic resource trends in the United States: A technical document supporting the Forest Service 2010 RPA Assessment. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-283. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 81 p.

The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA) of 1974 requires periodic assessments of the status and trends in the Nation's renewable natural resources including fish and other aquatic species and their habitats. Data from a number of sources are used to document trends in habitat quality, populations, resource use, and patterns of imperilment among aquatic fauna. Freshwater habitat quality varied widely across the United States. Nationwide, more than half of monitored lakes were ranked in good condition, but the percentage ranged from a high of 91 percent in the upper Midwest to a low of 1 percent in the Northern Plains. Habitat conditions in monitored small streams indicated that 42 percent were found to be in poor condition. The Southern Appalachians, Southern Plains, and Northern Plains have 50 percent or more of their stream lengths in poor condi-

tion. The condition of small stream habitats was best in the Western mountains. Data availability continues to limit comprehensive evaluations of freshwater fish populations. Of the 253 marine fish stocks assessed in 2009, 38 percent were deemed to be overfished or subject to overfishing. Pacific salmon have declined throughout much of their range although stocks native to Alaska have fared better than those in the Pacific Northwest. Species associated with aquatic habitats have higher proportions of species considered to be at-risk of extinction than other species groups. At-risk aquatic species are concentrated in watersheds occurring in the southern Appalachians and the southeastern coastal plain. The number of anglers has declined since the early 1990s. Relationships between land use, water quality, and aquatic species conditions are explored in a series of case studies. The report provides implications of aquatic resource trends for management and planning. See: [http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs\\_gtr283.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr283.pdf)





## Committee Report: Wildlife Action Team, *Trent Thomas*

The 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Illinois Fish & Wildlife Action Team was held on May 10, 2012. John Rogner (Assistant Director for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources) presided over the meeting. He started the meeting with a discussion of the financial problems facing the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, labeling this as “the most critical time in IDNR’s history.” Rogner emphasized that the IDNR’s future depended heavily on a Sustainability Bill soon to be proposed by State Representative Frank Mautino.

Next, Ann Holtrop gave an overview of the Campaign approach to Illinois Wildlife Action Plan implementation and revision. A Campaign is defined as a set of conservation actions and strategies that seek to address the most urgent issues affecting fish and wildlife. One of these, the Stream Campaign, is likely to include not only streams, but also large rivers, backwaters, and reservoirs.

The initial goal of this Campaign is to review the rare and declining species and their habitats and build further management goals around these species. This approach will include the refinement of the goals and establishment of priorities, relate the actions to the goals, and then relate the species and actions to Conservation Opportunity Areas or other places.

Campaign coordination leads meet monthly. They will compare scopes and identify gaps, summarize implications from past State Wildlife Grant projects, identify gaps with species in greatest need of conservation, create success stories, coordinate research needs, and track progress made on goals, actions, and

performance measures.

Coming out of work of the Streams Campaign already are definitions of rare species as ones occurring at one percent or less of the IDNR sampling stations, and declining species as ones lost from 50% or more of their known collection sites since 1999. On the Asian carp front, John Rogner discussed a Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin Interconnection Study. The Army Corps of Engineers announced that by next year they will release a short list of alternative actions. Meanwhile, surveys continue above the electric barrier with no individual Asian carp found to date. Contracted commercial fishing for Asian carp below the barrier continues. And targeted surveys of lakes in northeast Illinois that had received past channel catfish stockings are planned.

Nancy Williams, in her Green Cities Campaign Report, mentioned the removal of three dams on the Des Plaines River. The Eastern Tall Grass Prairie - Big Rivers LCC encompassing large parts of Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana held its first meeting of state constituents. Director Miller serves as a Co-Chair of this LCC. Many rivers and streams issues have already been identified as prioritized concerns (sedimentation, water quality, exotic species, and headwater streams).

Finally, Kathy Andrews introduced Outdoor Illinois Online. This will be an online presence to take the place of the printed Outdoor Illinois magazine that was discontinued earlier this year.

## Committee Report: Student Concerns, *Brian Metzke*

The annual ILAFS conference always brings much work, and much excitement, to the student concerns committee, and this past February was no different. At Starved Rock we awarded two travel awards of \$100 each (Greg Gaulke and Zach Zuckerman, U of I) and two student research grant awards of \$500 each (Cassi Moody, EIU and Jeff Hillis, SIU). Also awarded was the traveling subunit raffle competition award, which goes to the student subunit which acquires the largest value of raffle donations. This year the award went to Eastern Illinois University. Thanks to all the subunits for your help prior to and during the conference. With winter approaching, it’s time to talk about student awards for the 2012-2013 academic year. Here is a summary of awards facilitated by the Chapter:

**Joan Duffy Student Travel Award.** Students attending the annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference are eligible to receive **\$400** towards the cost of this event. Required materials are due on October 26<sup>th</sup>. See the flier in this newsletter for details.

**Larimore Student Research Grant.** Any student conducting fisheries research is encouraged to apply for **\$500** in monetary support for their studies through this grant program. Documents are due November 30<sup>th</sup>. See the flier in this newsletter for additional details.

**Illinois AFS Student Travel Awards.** Up to four students will be awarded **\$100** each to help defray costs associated with attending the annual chapter conference. Information regarding these awards will be available after the first of the year.

Remember that each student subunit is eligible for support money from the Chapter. Contact me for more details: [Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov](mailto:Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov)



2012 Larimore Student Research Grant award winners

**Subunit Update: Eastern Illinois University, *Brian Tucker***

The Eastern Illinois University Fish and Wildlife Ecology Club has approximately 35 members. Our President is Brian Tucker Vice President, Anna Lindstrom, Secretary & Treasurer, Sarah Baxter, Web Master, Voskar Nepal and our faculty advisors Dr. Rob Colombo and Dr. Jill Deppe. The club works to have monthly meetings where professionals are present at each meeting. This year we are planning to have Mike Mounce (IDNR fisheries biologist), Bob Szafoni (IDNR heritage biologist), Lee Mitchell (Army Corp of Engineers), and many other speakers. This year we are trying to start a boater safety course and a hunter safety course. Also this year we will be hosting a wild land fire field day where students can become qualified to fight wild land fires. In the past we have had speakers such as Bryan Eubanks (IDNR), Dr. Jill Deppe (mammologist at EIU), Dr. Rob Colombo (ichthyologist at EIU), Kelly Baerwaldt (Army Corps of Engineers), Mike Mounce (IDNR), and several others. In the past the club has hosted fish age and growth workshops, GPS workshops, and electrofishing and barge shocking workshops. Each semester we host a Lake Charleston clean up and host several Urban Fishing programs with local elementary schools throughout the year. This year for the EIU Homecoming tailgate we hosted a kids fishing day at the Campus Pond where children



and parents interacted with the club. The money we received from ILAFS help the club buy items such as bait for the urban fishing program and for professionals to come and speak to the club.

**Subunit Update: Southern Illinois University, *Aaron Kern***

**Current Officers:** President - Aaron Kern; Vice President - Jeff Hillis; Treasurer - Carlin Fenn

**Membership:** approximately 25

**Meetings/Activities:** Meetings are held at least once a month, but often more frequently immediately prior to events. Upcoming activities largely include maintaining the current programs (listed below) that we are involved in. Additionally, we will be purchasing new rods, reels, and fishing gear to support our kids outreach programs that we support. Members have expressed interest in other outreach programs and these opportunities will be explored at our next scheduled meeting.

**Previous activities:**

**Website update (currently):** Members are currently updating our website to encourage recruitment, increase visibility, and share our Subunit's activities and services (<http://fisheries.siu.edu/afs/>).

**Carpathon (Aug 2012):** Members assisted parents from the Saint Mary's Catholic School (Murphysboro, IL) and the Southern Illinois Bow Fishing Association to run a fundraising Asian carp fishing tournament. Although participation was limited this year due to low water levels, considerable exposure from media outlets was attained. The nominal funds generated from the event were given to the Saint Mary's Catholic School.

**FISH U (Aug 2012):** Members volunteered with tours and various fisheries related activities (including canoeing, electrofishing, fish identification, and a family fish fry) at a kids camp

lasting a week at the Touch of Nature Environmental Center (TON) Southern Illinois, an outdoor research, educational, and recreational preserve.

**Fish and Wildlife Service (July 2012):** The FWS hosted a kids fishing day. Members helped with fishing and providing fish print t-shirts for the kids in attendance.

**Saluki Basser's Event (June 2012):** Members volunteered to set up a table to increase student recruitment to the Illinois Fisheries and Aquaculture Center (IFAC) and our Subunit. At a kids fishing clinic, we taught knot tying, casting, proper angling techniques, fish identification, proper handling and release, and fisheries conservation, and we led tours of our research facilities.

**Annual Fish Fry (May 2012):** The Annual Fish Fry is a fundraising event centrally located on campus. The student body is encouraged to attend and learn about the Subunit's activities while enjoying some food in the process.

**Illinois AFS Meeting (March 2012):** Last year members gave oral and poster presents and ran a booth that promoted our Subunit's activities to encourage support from our fellow fisheries professionals. Again this year, there is a strong presence from our membership at this annual meeting, many of which will be giving presentations.

Finally, we would like to say thanks to the IL AFS chapter in supporting our efforts, and we look forward to another successful year.



## Subunit Update: University of Illinois, *Chris French*

### Status of the subunit: Previous year's activities

Currently there are approximately 25 active members, of whom nearly 14 are parent society members and/or Illinois AFS members.

1. Central High School field trip: field trip with a class where we demonstrated multiple sampling techniques commonly used by fisheries professionals (e.g. seining, backpack and boat electroshocking, kick nets, etc.). We also instructed the students on morphology and life history traits of different fish. Videos and pictures found here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/AFSUIUCSubunit> <https://picasaweb.google.com/104740013518808527238>
2. The student subunit volunteered to sample two area lakes (Crystal and Kaufman) to help provide basic fish community data for the Illinois DNR and local parks departments in Champaign-Urbana, IL. Subunit members conducted an electrofishing survey on each lake to describe the fishery for purposes of making management suggestions to the Champaign Park District and Urbana Parks Board. Members gained experience in field sampling techniques and those who helped with the reports submitted to the parks departments helped develop their technical writing skills in the area of fisheries management.
3. Our subunit, in part with the IDNR Urban Fishing Program (and the iFish Illinois Program) coordinated a fishing clinic for Big Brother/Big Sisters of Champaign County. Five Littles and 10 Bigs, most with little or no fishing experience, attended. Mentors left with the skills and intention to continue angling with their Littles.
4. Our student subunit organized two exhibits for the Naturally Illinois Expo, an educational event for grade school and high school students sponsored by the Illinois Natural History Survey and the Illinois Geological Survey. For this event, we collected native fish and crayfish from local Illinois streams. We then set up tanks at our exhibit with the live animals. Many members, both graduate and undergraduate, volunteered to represent AFS at our exhibit. We discussed conservation of Illinois' aquatic ecosystems, and showed students how to identify common Illinois fish. Overall, our exhibits were visited by over 2000 students from Champaign County.
5. Our subunit hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Student Fisheries Colloquium. Several students from across the Midwest presented current research in a professional yet peer-friendly environment.
6. Two subunit members were invited by instructors at Niles West High School in Cook County to assist with an annual Advanced Placement biology and environmental science field trip, focusing on aquatic ecology, sampling techniques, and native fish/invert ID. Over 30 students were in attendance. One member was asked back to speak on education and career options in the fields of fish and wildlife and to present research experience.
7. Our subunit produced and executed a curriculum aimed at educating and exciting young (11-14 year old) Girl Scouts about aquatic ecology. Comprised of three, one hour-long stations the Girl Scouts learned about water quality and nutrient cycling in

local water bodies, identification and the importance of macroinvertebrates, fish morphology, and food-web interactions. The Girl Scouts had the opportunity to wade in the water, capture macroinvertebrates, perform and record water quality data, and handle a variety of fishes captured previously via boat electroshocking. The day-long event culminated in 10-minute presentations by the Girl Scouts, outlining information learned with a focus on healthy aquatic communities.

8. The subunit participated in social activities to improve and promote member relations and cohesion:

- Tailgating football games
- Camping trips to field stations
- Fish fries
- Fishing trips

### Status of the subunit: Upcoming year's activities

With school just beginning this week, our first meeting will help on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Our plan is to have at least one meeting per month, more if we have guest speakers or more events. Executive board meetings will be held once monthly in addition to member meetings.

New officers...

President: Chris French  
VP: Alyssa Clevenstine  
Treasurer: Bryan Engelbert  
Secretary: Adam Wright

1. This September, the subunit will be assisting the Illinois Natural History Survey with PIT tagging of 1,200 federally endangered mussels.
2. On September 28<sup>th</sup>, the subunit will be traveling to Westview Elementary School to set up an aquatic exhibit to present to classrooms of children during their "Walk on the Wildside" event.
3. The subunit will also be planning tailgating events and a trip to the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago for a behind the scenes tour.
4. Other events that are usually held annually, which we intend to continue include participating in the Naturally Illinois Expo, sampling trips with Central High School and fishing trips with Big Brother/Big Sisters of Champaign County.
5. Heavy emphasis will be put on undergraduate involvement in the chapter. Better advertising of chapter meetings and events will occur by posting signs in academic buildings, speaking to classrooms of students and use of social media (Facebook, YouTube, subunit website, etc.).







## Committee Report, IEC, *Vic Santucci*

A lot happened during the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and thanks to the strong leadership of Executive Director, Jennifer Walling, the Illinois Environmental Council and its many affiliates were able to stay on top of all of the environmental legislation proposed during the spring session. The IEC tracked progress of proposed environmental bills in each chamber on a daily basis, worked with affiliates to come to a consensus position on each bill (e.g., support, oppose, or remain neutral), held weekly conference calls to update IEC Legislative Committee members on the progress of each bill, and then coordinated among its staff and many affiliate members timely advocacy and lobbying actions at the Capitol to achieve favorable outcomes. For those keeping score, I would rate the overall results of IEC efforts this session as positive for the Illinois environment, including some legislation considered important to the Chapter membership.

Despite being an election year, there were over 100 environmental bills considered by the Illinois legislature this spring session. Of these, only a handful dealt with aquatic issues of direct interest to the Chapter. Our Executive Committee considered the merits and drawbacks of three proposed bills and weighed in with official support for two bills and opposition to one bill. The Chapter gave verbal support for HB3888, which made it illegal to transport between water bodies live invasive aquatic life in or on boats and trailers. A letter of support for HB5642 was drafted by our Environmental Concerns Committee, approved by the Chapter's Executive Committee, and forwarded to the IEC for dissemination to legislators. This CAFO bill (HB5642) is legislation creating NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit fees for concentrated animal feeding operations (e.g., mega hog or cattle farms among others) that discharge into Illinois Waterways. This legislation will help IEPA fund its CAFO regulatory program. The Chapter also crafted and forwarded a letter to IEC opposing SB3414, a bill that, if passed, would have weakened the Illinois Environmental Protection Act of 1970 by making changes to the Act's rulemaking section pertaining to emergency rulemaking measures. The aquatic life transport bill and CAFO bill both became law this spring and SB3414 did not pass out of the House Rules Committee. See the Chapter's letter of support for HB5642 and letter opposing SB3414 elsewhere in this newsletter.

As the Chapter's representative to the IEC, I was able to participate on the Council's very active Legislative Committee. The Committee consists of representatives from over 20 environmental NGOs that actively advocate for the environment in Illinois. Many of these members lobby directly with legislators. Even though lobbying is not something that I do as a representative to IEC, the Chapter still benefits from its affiliation with IEC by keeping abreast of current legislation and having a direct connection to the Illinois legislature when it chooses to weigh in on bills that directly affect aquatic resources within the State. The IEC also works on creating and supporting legislation that the Chapter remains neutral on, but that can indirectly support our cause as fisheries professionals. For example, IEC worked very hard in support of the IDNR funding bill and to garner legislative support for the Hack-Ma-Tack National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Illinois.

In addition to its work on active legislation, IEC provides other services, such as its Environmental Scorecard summarizing each legislator's voting record on environmental bills and Environmental Leadership Dinner recognizing outstanding efforts by those in the Illinois environmental and legislative community. I was able to attend the leadership dinner this past month thanks to the generous support of the Chapter. The dinner was held at the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza and featured invited speakers Lisa P. Jackson, Executive Administrator at the USEPA, Governor Pat Quinn, and IDNR Director Marc Miller. Environmental Leadership Awards were presented to retiring Illinois State Representative Karen May for a career supporting environmental issues, Representative Mike Tryon for sponsoring the CAFO bill, and Representative Frank Mautino for sponsoring legislation eliminating unfunded mandates and securing a stable funding source for IDNR. The Chicago Clean Power Coalition was also given a leadership award for its efforts to clean up the Fisk and Crawford coal fired power plants in Chicago that have recently been shuttered. Check out the website [ILEnviro.org](http://ILEnviro.org) for more information on IEC activities or to track active environmental legislation.

## Letter in Support for HB5642, *Trent Thomas*

The American Fisheries Society was founded in 1870 and is the world's largest and oldest organization of professional fisheries biologists and aquatic resource scientists. The Illinois Chapter represents more than 250 fisheries and aquatic scientists within the State of Illinois. Our members include a diverse cross section of professionals from regulatory agencies, research institutions, universities, and private consulting firms. The Chapter has the expressed mission "to support the conservation and stewardship of the fisheries and aquatic ecosystems in Illinois by promoting professional excellence in fisheries science, management, and education."

In keeping with this mission, the Chapter expresses its enthusiastic support for Illinois House Bill 5642, which amends the Illinois Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/12.5). This amendment would establish regulatory oversight of Confined Animal

Feeding Operations (CAFOs) under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Currently, CAFOs are not regulated relative to water quality and must only meet minimal site criteria established by IL Dept. of Agriculture. This is despite the fact that such operations, particularly "factory farms" which can house thousands of animal units (hogs, cattle or poultry) produce waste products equivalent to that of a medium sized city.

The history of CAFOs in Illinois (and elsewhere) is replete with instances of environmental degradation including air pollution and groundwater contamination. Of most concern to our Chapter, however, is the litany of fish kills attributable to poorly managed, undersized, or simply non-existent animal waste handling facilities.

*Continued on page 16.*

**Letter in Support of HB5642 (continued from page 15)**

In many instances, tons of manure are “assimilated” with simple, earthen settling lagoons, a centuries old technology which would never be acceptable in any other industrial (or municipal) setting. Inevitably, such structures leak or are overtopped by storm events, and millions of gallons of untreated waste are allowed to run off into nearby waterways.

One such event occurred in 2009 when an Iroquois County hog rearing facility allegedly dis-charged manure into a small tributary of Spring Creek. In a few days, about 19 miles (combined) of this stream and Spring Creek itself had experienced total fish mortality. Species affected included largemouth bass, rock bass, channel catfish, northern pike, and numerous non-game fishes such as minnows, suckers, and darters. The investigation lasted over a week with a final estimate of over 110,000 dead fish valued at about \$60,000.

While those responsible for such calamities are subject to prosecution, this is an “after-the-fact” approach which doles out punishment only after the damage is done. Today’s increasingly corporate, mega-sized livestock operations are much more akin to factories than the modest, diversified family farms we remember from a couple of generations ago. Unlike industrial polluters, however, they have escaped the scrutiny of regulatory oversight with the help of well heeled corporate lobbyists.

House Bill 5642 seeks to remedy this, in part, by requiring CAFOs to pay a nominal annual fee (up to \$750 for the largest operators) that would fund the personnel and other resources needed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to ad-

minister NPDES oversight to hundreds of these facilities across the state. It would have minimal economic impact on family farms (\$150 for “Small” and \$350 for “Medium” facilities) but would go a long way towards ensuring compliance with effluent standards developed to protect our rivers and streams. Untreated or minimally treated livestock wastes not only contains chemicals toxic to aquatic life (such as ammonia) but facilitate the growth of pathogens, such as fecal coliform bacteria (*E. coli* and others) and *Cryptosporidium*, which are toxic to humans as well.

The overall effect of CAFOs on rural quality of life are well documented and includes aesthetic (objectionable odors) and economic (competition with family farms) impacts as well as those on public health and the environment. Making these multi-million dollar facilities accountable for their water quality impacts would endow them with a stronger sense of environmental stewardship. For this reason, and those enumerated above, The Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society urges you to **support** HB5642 at every opportunity, Thank you for your kind attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Trent Thomas, President  
Illinois Chapter of the American  
Fisheries Society  
301 S. Date St  
Gibson City, IL 60936

**A Sad Loss for Northeastern Illinois Fisheries, Vic Santucci**

The fisheries community in northeastern Illinois was dealt a blow this spring when a long time fisheries biologist passed away. Don LaBrose, fisheries manager for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County died from a heart attack on April 16, 2012 at the age of 56. The only consolation in this sad event was that Don died doing something that he loved to do - stocking fish in one of the District’s many fishing lakes. Don LaBrose was a classic fisheries biologist in the traditional sense. He understood that fisheries management meant providing varied and quality sport fishing opportunities for the citizens of DuPage County, and he always kept his eye on that target. Growing up in Cook County, I still remember fondly the many formative years spent fishing in the ponds and lakes of the DuPage Forest Preserve.

I had the pleasure of working with Don for 6 years during my tenure as a district fisheries biologist with IDNR. He would accompany us on many of the annual fish population surveys completed at his district lakes. Don loved to talk shop. We would discuss each lake’s fish community, stocking needs, regulation changes and other management issues. Don always maintained contact with his constituency and would often bring photos of a recent lunker bass or pike that an angler had caught from the lake we were about to sample. He also understood the importance of protecting aquatic habitat for non-game fish and wildlife, exemplified in his work on stream and lake restoration projects in the county. Don was great at introducing children to fish-

ing and he supported many educational programs, such as the Illinois Smallmouth Bass Alliance’s “Bass in the Class” program. This program helps school children connect with the natural world and understand fish conservation by allowing students to rear smallmouth bass in the classroom and release them into the nearby DuPage River.

In becoming familiar with the District’s 30+ fishing lakes, I quickly realized what a quality management program Don had developed and maintained over the years. The quality fish populations and diverse fishing opportunities were particularly impressive in the highly populated urban setting of DuPage County and the multi-use water bodies available there for fishing. Many of the District’s fishing lakes are reclaimed gravel or clay mining pits and several of them function as temporary storage flood control reservoirs. Despite these facts, district lakes offer quality warm water fisheries with largemouth bass, bluegills and black crappie and cool water fisheries supporting prized northern pike, walleye, yellow perch and muskie populations. Rainbow trout are stocked each spring and fall in four district lakes to provide extremely popular cold water fishing opportunities, as well. The fact that folks from Cook and other nearby counties travel to DuPage County to fish the forest preserve lakes is a testament to the good work that Don accomplished during his long career.

## Announcement

### **\$400 TRAVEL GRANT to MIDWEST FISH & WILDLIFE CONFERENCE**



The **Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society** (IL AFS) will be awarding a single \$200 travel grant which will be matched by the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society. This will provide **\$400** for a fisheries student to attend the **Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, December 9-12, 2012 in Wichita, Kansas**. Criteria for this selection will be based upon financial need and/or reason(s) for attending the meeting (e.g., paper presentation, pertinent paper session, IL AFS committee meeting). Students should state their class standing (e.g. junior, B.S. candidate), interests, and AFS membership status when applying. A letter from each applicant's advisor confirming the need for travel money is required.

The grant recipient is asked to attend the business meeting at the conference to receive their award. **ALL STUDENTS ARE URGED TO APPLY, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE PRESENTING A PAPER!!!** Submit applications (**electronic copies preferred**) or inquiries:

**by: October 26, 2012**

**to: Brian Metzke**

Illinois Department of Natural Resources - ORC  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702-1271  
Phone: (217)557-9251; Fax: (217)785-2438;  
E-mail: brian.metzke@illinois.gov

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## Announcement

### **2012 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award for Outstanding Students**

We are pleased to accept applications for the **Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award** from undergraduate and graduate students studying fisheries or wildlife management. Up to 25 outstanding students will be selected and formally recognized for their achievements during the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference's Student Professional Mixer. In addition to the student finalists, two students- one majoring in fisheries management and one majoring in wildlife management- will be presented with a Fenske Memorial Award that includes a scholarship of \$500. The two winners of the Fenske Memorial Award will be selected based on the characteristics that made Jan Fenske a remarkable fisheries biologist, including enthusiasm to protect fisheries and wildlife resources through management activities, selflessness and motivation to teach others, interest in professional involvement, integrity, positive attitude, and compassion. For more information on Jan Fenske and the history of the award, please visit [http://www.fisheries.org/units/miafs/jfenske\\_award.html](http://www.fisheries.org/units/miafs/jfenske_award.html).

To apply, please submit a resume that includes your GPA, one letter of recommendation from academic advisors or professionals in fisheries or wildlife management, and a one page cover letter including future career goals and reasons for attending the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Application materials should be sent to Jessica Mistak, Fenske Award Committee Chair, [mistakj@michigan.gov](mailto:mistakj@michigan.gov). **The deadline for submission is October 30, 2012.** Student applicants selected as finalists will be notified by November 20, 2012.





## Announcement

### **LARIMORE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD PROGRAM**

**PURPOSE:** The mission of the Illinois Chapter 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. Thus, the purpose of the Larimore Student Research Awards Competition is to provide financial incentives for outstanding student research projects to promote the conservation, development, and wise use of the Illinois fisheries.

**WHO CAN APPLY:** Students attending any accredited Illinois college or university, who maintain a cumulative GPA equal to or greater than 3.0 may apply.

**AWARD:** A maximum of four awards per year will be granted. Each grant is eligible for up to \$500 depending on the quality of the proposal.

**APPLICATION:** Applications require submission of a proposal packet, which includes a proposal cover sheet, abstract, project description, budget, resume of candidate, and two letters of recommendation. A full proposal packet outlining specific application requirements will be provided to each student subunit. Ask your president or mentor for more information.

**DEADLINE:** Completed proposals must be received by the Chair of the Student Concerns Committee of Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society by **November 30, 2012**. Send applications to:

Brian Metzke  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources - ORC  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702-1271

**SELECTION:** All award proposals will be reviewed and selected by the Student Concerns Committee of the Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Successful applicants will be notified by the end of January each year. At or near the end of their research, recipients of the ILAFS grant money must present their research findings at an IL AFS meeting.

**CONTACT:** Brian Metzke at the above address or phone: (217)557-9251 or e-mail: [Brian.Metzke@Illinois.gov](mailto:Brian.Metzke@Illinois.gov)



## Announcement

50th Anniversary pint glasses still remain. Get yours today at 4 for \$10. Contact Jeremy Tiemann ([jtiemann@illinois.edu](mailto:jtiemann@illinois.edu)) for more information.



## Announcement

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**2013 Illinois Chapter of the AFS Annual Conference**  
**March 5-7, Rend Lake Resort**



**Joe Ferencak Retirement, *Dan Sallee***

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources lost a great gentleman to retirement on May 31 when Joe Ferencak retired. After completing a Fisheries Degree from Eastern Illinois University, Joe started his career under the wing of Sam Dennison, former Illinois Chapter President, with what was then the Chicago Metropolitan Sanitary District. Joe left the MSD on May 1, 1980 to join the then Illinois Department of Conservation as a District Fisheries Biologist for District 8 in northeast Illinois. Joe distinguished himself for many years as the Fisheries Manager for Fox Chain O Lakes, and other lakes. In this highly charged and densely populated part of Illinois, Joe was able to bring sound Fisheries Science and management techniques to a variety of problems. He might be best known for his work with walleye production and management and muskie management. After about 20 years in the district, Joe became the Region 1 Fisheries Biologist, and then the lead for all of ORC in Region 1. From there he went to the Statewide Impoundment position. He was in the impoundment job at the time of his retirement. Joe was a leader within DNR fisheries from early in his career. He worked very hard, was very precise, and was a master at database and information management and presentation. Throughout his career though, he never lost his passion for field work. We hope you will wish Joe well in retirement.

**Bill Ernest Retirement, *Jim Mick***

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources lost a great person to retirement on May 31, 2012 when Bill Ernest retired. After completing his formal schooling, Bill started his career at the Spring Grove Fish Hatchery as a maintenance worker in 1979. Over the next 5 years as a Conservation Resource Technician I, Bill gain valuable experience and training in fish culture and fish disease from Mississippi State University and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Bill was promoted to a Tech II and transferred to the Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery where he spent the next nearly 10 years as the assistant to the Coolwater Fish Culture Unit. Bill provided leadership in activities related to the propagation, rearing, and distribution of coolwater and other types of fish. In 1993, Bill was again promoted and transferred to the Havana Fisheries Field Station in Havana, IL where he spent the next 20 years. Bill became a Conservation Resource Manager I and later changed to a Conservation Resource Coordinator in the statewide Rivers and Streams Program.

Bill spent many seasons sampling with Wayne Herndon, Ken Russell, Mike Cochran, Doug Carney, Gary Lutterbie, and Jim Mick on the Illinois River and many other smaller river systems in central and northern Illinois. Bill spent equal time sampling and collecting brood fish on the lakes of northern Illinois with many fish biologists in Regions 1 and 2.

It is long speculated that Bill was instrumental in founding the Red Neck Rodeo in Bath. Bill has collected and laid to rest his share of Asian carp over the years in order to save Lake Michigan. Bill's long service to the Department of Natural Resources and the people of Illinois will be missed, but his time is now spent making turkey calls and riding his moto guizzi.

We hope you will wish Bill well in retirement.

