THE TELEOGRAM

Wisconsin Chapter
American Fisheries Society Newsletter

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Complied by Chapter Members.
Edited by Martin P. A. Griffin. **martinp.griffin@wisconsin.gov**

President's Message

Dear Friends,

Although it was a long ride for many to make it to downtown Milwaukee, more than 150 people made it to our annual meeting. More importantly, approximately 30 percent of the attendees (as well as the oral presentation program) were comprised of students, the life-blood of our chapter. We were also successful in getting university faculty and students from a nearly a dozen campuses to participate in our meeting including UW-Steven's Point, UW-Washington County, UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse, UW-Madison, UW-Whitewater, UW-Milwaukee and the Great Lakes WATER Institute, Northland College (home of our newest student subchapter), and Carroll College.

I have received numerous complements on the quality of the presentations given for our annual meeting and continue to receive multiple requests from chapter members to be able to view these presentations. These requests are consistent with the mission of our Chapter, which is to promote activities related to the exchange of information, outreach, and aquatic stewardship throughout the State of Wisconsin, including coordinating with appropriate local, provincial, and state-level government and non-government agencies and organizations. Therefore, we are working towards posting the 2007 annual meeting program with abstracts as well as all of the presentations given at the conference on our Chapter website (pending author approval). This will become an excellent resource of fisheries related information for our chapter members.

It is hard to believe that more than three months have past since our annual meeting and, although many of you may already know, Pat Schmalz is stepping down as Secretary/Treasury for our Chapter. Pat has taken a position in Minnesota DNR. I would like to thank Pat for all of his hard work for our Chapter. He will be missed. At the same time, I would like to welcome Ted Treska who has agreed to take over Pat's duties. According to Pat, "Ted is wicked smart, a modeler, and can fix toaster ovens", so I think that we will be in good hands.

It is spring and I know that many are getting prepared for the upcoming monitoring, management, and vigilance for any additional aquatic invasive species in the months ahead. To that end, we are working towards partnering with the Wisconsin Association of Lakes in sponsoring the first Hydrilla (Hydrilla verticillata) *workshop in Wisconsin. Hydrilla is a submersed macrophyte that has recently been observed as close as Indiana, therefore, it is only a matter of time before yet another invasive species attacks our waterbodies. Although we are still working out the details, the tentative goals are to increase the awareness of Hydrilla identification, biology, and management, as well as, work towards getting this species listed as an Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) per State code. We have an opportunity to mount an offensive strategy to minimize the oncoming invasion of Hydrilla that has left substantial economic hardships, disruption of recreational use, displacement of native aquatic plant communities, and adverse impacts to freshwater habitats and associated fisheries in its wake.*

Sincerely,
Tom Slawski, President

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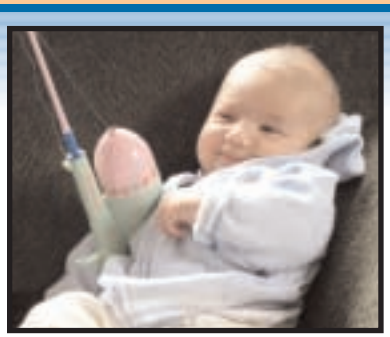


Editor's Note

Happy Spring! It is this time of year that the days get longer, moods get brighter and the Lake Michigan brown trout are stacking up in the mouth of the Milwaukee harbor. As the Season changes from winter to spring; this year brings about new changes for me personally, and professionally. I am proud to announce the birth of my new son- Noah Matthew. Having 2 kids is definitely a new challenge for me, and I am embracing it fully. My daughter loves her new brother which makes the transition a little easier. As you can see by the photo I am already getting him ready for the trout run this fall.

In addition to having a new member of the family, I recently took a new position with the DNR. I am the new Statewide Waterway Science and Policy Leader in the Waterway Protection Section, Bureau of Watershed Management. Basically I work on issues that are founded in the public trust doctrine- the body of law made by the Legislature and the courts that guides how DNR protects public rights in public (or navigable) waters. I communicate the rationale for current and future habitat protection policies to legislators and lobbyists as well as our mom-and-pop customers; and I am involved in supporting and creating policies that allow shoreline activities (i.e. erosion control, piers, culverts, bridges, etc.) but at the same time ensure that the cumulative harm from single shoreline alterations does not affect the shallow water and shoreline habitat that is necessary for the health of our resource.

All of this definitely sounds like a lot- and it is- but I love the new position and the unique issues I am presented with on a daily basis. And speaking of unique issues, I am thrilled to read about the activities of our newest Student sub-unit (see Melissa Kjelvik's article in this issue). Their work with the Bad River Watershed Association on culverts and fish passage is directly related to 'fish-friendly' culvert issues that I am currently working on. I am eagerly anticipating the results of their assessment to help with my evaluation of existing standards for culvert installation. This example shows the value of having student sub-units as part of our chapter and we should all be looking for more ways to link student work with our professional needs.

Thanks,
Martye

Announcements

36th Annual Business Meeting, Wisconsin Chapter AFS, Milwaukee, WI

Attendees enjoy lunch at the annual meeting.

Call to order was made by President Justine Hasz at 4:46 p.m. Justine recognized past WI Chapter AFS presidents attending the meeting. The agenda was reviewed and no repairs were suggested. Ted Treska made a motion to approve the amended agenda and seconded by John Nelson. The motion passed without dissenting votes. Joe Hennessy moved to approve the minutes from the 2006 business meeting, seconded by Phil Moy. The motion passed without dissenting votes.

For more information on what actually happened at the Business Meeting in Milwaukee, read the meeting minutes.

Want to know if the Chapter is in the black or red? Check out the annual budget numbers.

Name That Scholarship!

As you may or may not know, the Wisconsin Chapter sponsors two scholarships. The more recent of the two scholarships to be established is currently know as the "Statewide Academic Scholarship", but that name just hasn't been cutting it. So we are holding a chapter wide contest to re-name the scholarship. The only restriction on the name is that it cannot be called "the non-UWSP statewide academic scholarship". Send your suggestions to the scholarship chair- Pete Segerson at peter.segerson@wisconsin.gov. The deadline for submissions is May 1st. Once Pete has compiled all of the suggestions, chapter members will be sent an e-mail explaining how to vote for their favorite name electronically. For more information on the unnamed scholarship visit the Chapter awards page.

Northland College Student Subunit-Building on New Traditions

By Melissa Kjelvik,
President of the Northland College Sub-unit

Being the third year that the Northland College sub-unit has been formally recognized, many traditions have already been created and continued for all three years. One of the most exciting events that the sub-unit participates in is the organization of their annual ice fishing tournament fundraiser. This year the sub-unit decided to take their experiences with past tournaments to the Great Lake in their "backyard." Ashland is located right on Chequamegon Bay, Lake Superior and with the proximity of this excellent fishing source, attendance of the tournament increased threefold. This year the tournament had a record amount of participants, prizes donated and funds raised.

Another third-year tradition for the club was traveling down to Lake Winnebago to participate in the registering of sturgeon. Volunteers learned the basics of sturgeon biology and management as they helped the local DNR with the spearing-crazed fisherman.

Subunit members measuring sturgeon as part of the data collection during the registration process.

This year the club helped with the Bad River Watershed Association's culvert assessment for adequate fish passage. This allowed members to get their hands dirty as they traveled out of town and into the country to assess many variables regarding culvert and surrounding bank conditions. The BRWA will analyze the data collected to identify culverts that block fish migration.

As the year progresses, members have continued to volunteer with the local agencies including trout fin-clipping at the Bayfield fish hatchery, research sampling work on the USGS R/V Kiyi, lake trout spawning of fish that will be stocked into Lake Superior at the Iron River Fish hatchery, helping

President Melissa holding a Burbot. Photo courtesy of Gary Cholwek.

structure zooplankton sampling design and zooplankton inventory and assessment at USGS.

Along with the ice fishing tournament, the club stays actively involved in the community with a booth at the upcoming Trout Unlimited Fishing Expo in Ashland. This opportunity serves to increase community awareness of the subunit and allow for accessibility of the club to local organizations who need volunteers.

We would like to thank everyone who has given us opportunities to gain experience in the fisheries and aquatic science field!

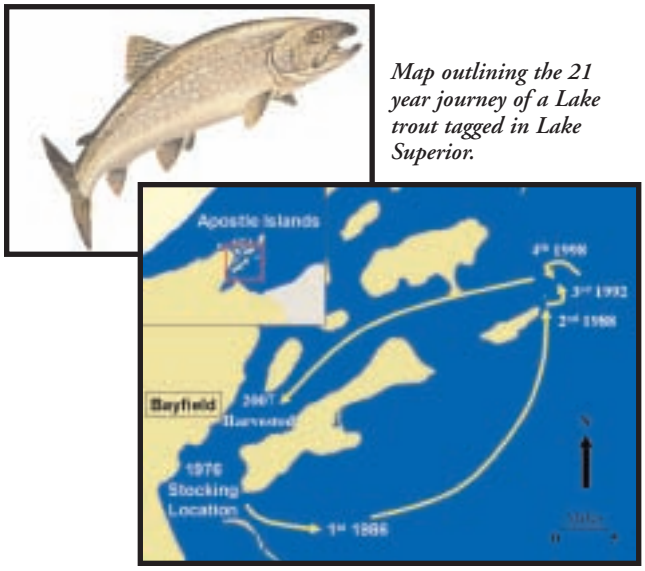
New Chapter T-Shirts

Graphic shown appears on the back of the t-shirt.

As part of our ongoing chapter fundraising activities, the Chapter Raffle and Revenue Chair is happy to announce that a brand new chapter t-shirt design is now available. The design is part of a new series for the fictional International Brotherhood of Electrofishing Boat Operators union. The front of the t-shirt displays the union logo and the back of the t-shirt depicts a comical electrofishing scene. T-shirts and sweatshirts will be available at the Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, and are available for members and non-members to purchase.

In addition, to help get the word out and generate sales, feel free to **download the sales poster** to post in your office. Please note that checks should be made out to: American Fisheries Society - Wisconsin Chapter.

Revenue from t-shirt sales will go towards supporting Wisconsin Chapter AFS scholarship funds for students enrolled in an aquatic science programs in Wisconsin.



Map outlining the 21 year journey of a Lake trout tagged in Lake Superior.

Not Just Another Fish Tale

By Michael Seider, WDNR Senior Fisheries Biologist- Lake Superior Work Unit

A recent correspondence with an angler on Lake Superior was another reminder of the utility of tagging fish. The Lake Superior Fisheries Team has been tagging lake trout for almost forty years. Anglers are encouraged to return the tags from fish they harvest or report the tag numbers of released fish to their local DNR office. So it's a common occurrence to receive tag return information from anglers throughout the year. The information that has been gathered by these returns never ceases to expand our knowledge of lake trout biology in Lake Superior.

The story of our recent tag return starts in 1976 when the lake trout was stocked into Lake Superior. We know it was stocked in that year because it had a double fin clip specific to that year class. We first handled the lake trout again during our annual spawning (fall) assessments in 1986 on Sand Cut Reef (**see map**). The trout was 24.8″ and was in spawning condition; it was tagged and released. It was captured again two years later during our spawning assessment in 1988. This time it was captured on Michigan Island Reef while spawning and it measured at 25.9″. The third encounter with this lake trout was four years later in 1992 at Gull Island Shoal, during the spawning assessment (measured at 26.3″). The FOURTH capture was six years later in 1998 during the spawning assessment on Gull Island Shoal and measured 27.6″. This story came to an end in February 2007 when a conscientious angler returned the tag information to our office after he had harvested this beautiful 31 year old, 28.7″ lake trout near Bayfield.

We have learned a great deal about the biology and life history of lake trout through tag returns. This lake trout only grew 4″ in the 21 years from the first time we handled it until it was harvested. Many other tag returns have further substantiated very slow growth rates in Lake Superior. The various locations of recapture over the years provide insight into spawning site fidelity of stocked fish and how it may differ from wild fish. Tag returns like this one first opened our eyes to the severe underestimation of aging lake trout with scales. And it reaffirms the knowledge of lake trout longevity in Lake Superior. And the list of useful information goes on and on. All it took was a little extra effort to tag a fish that our crews were already handling.

EPA to Examine Condition of Nation's Lakes

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is embarking on a **three-year study to determine the state of America's lakes**. The "Survey of the Nation's Lakes" is the first-ever attempt to assess real-world conditions by studying 909 lakes, ponds and reservoirs whose profiles are representative of all lakes in the United States.

Survey samples will be taken from natural and human-made freshwater lakes, ponds and reservoirs this summer. Bodies of water included in the survey will be a minimum area of 10 acres in area and at least 39 inches deep. The last time EPA catalogued the status of lakes was in 1972-1976, when 815 lakes were evaluated nationwide. The new study will resample 113 lakes from the earlier survey for comparison.

Researchers will look at water chemical quality, turbidity, color, conditions of shoreline habitat, and pathogen indicators. Other conditions will also be

measured. Researchers will use the same sampling techniques among all lakes to provide uniform results and permit comparisons across the country.

This study is part of a larger EPA effort to assess coastal waters, rivers and wetlands. **A similar survey, for wadeable streams, was completed in 2006**. All of the surveys will be repeated to analyze the success of efforts to manage and improve overall water quality. The report on the lakes survey will be released in 2009.

More information about the **Survey of the Nation's Lakes**.

Natural Resources Portal Under Development

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officials are leading an effort to develop an interagency Web portal to help the country's natural resource managers and others better understand the relationship between people and the environment. NOAA's Coastal Services Center is spearheading development of **HumanDimensions.gov**.

MORE

Notes

Wanted: Photos of You!

The website committee is soliciting photo submissions of WI-AFS and student subunit members in the field, annual meetings, socials, participating in community outreach, doing projects, or just about doing anything! The photos will be a part of a new photo gallery on the website. When submitting photos please include the following information:

- Photo description
- Name of Photographer
- Names of people in photo (if known)
- Year photo was taken.
- All photos can be submitted to the website committee chair at **martinp.griffin@wisconsin.gov**

Steve Yeo (left) congratulates Justin Van de Hey on his recent award.

Best Student Paper Award

The Best Paper Award at the recent Annual Meeting in Milwaukee went to Justin Van de Hey, a graduate student at UW Stevens Point. His paper was titled "Genetic Structure among Lake Michigan's Whitefish Spawning Aggregates." The best student paper award is given for the best presentation delivered by an undergraduate or graduate student. The awards committee solicits judges to review papers during each annual meeting. A plaque and a check for $50 are presented to each winner.

Need to Renew Your Membership?

E-mail Tim Simonson at **timothy.simonson@wisconsin.gov** or you can send in the renewal form located on the last page of this newsletter.

Richard Frie Memorial Scholarship

Announcing the 2007 recipient of the Richard Frie Memorial Scholarship- Mike Hosack. Mike grew up in Springdale, Pennsylvania, which is a small town located approximately 15 miles northeast of the city of Pittsburgh and lived an active childhood, during which he developed a deep interest and appreciation for the outdoors. Mike's father was an avid angler and a hunter and the time they spent together helped guide him to where he is today. Mike also developed an interest in science and learning from a very young age and a career in fisheries is ideal for him. Mike obtained a B.S. in biology with an ecology option from the Pennsylvania State University. Currently he is enrolled as a graduate student in the College of Natural Resources and participating in a research project with his advisor, Dr. Michael J. Hansen. Mike is currently conducting a population assessment of an unexploited population of lake whitefish in Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho. Mike spent the fall and early winter of 2005 performing field work on Lake Pend Oreille where he used commercial trap nets to capture samples of lake whitefish for collection of biological data and for tagging. Mike is nearing the data analysis of his project and expects to graduate by mid-summer 2007. Upon graduation Mike plans to be employed as a fisheries biologist for a state agency and is seriously considering entering a PhD. program in the near future.

Wisconsin Boasts Championship-caliber Chinook Fishing

For the fifth straight year, anglers enjoyed fantastic Chinook fishing on Lake Michigan, reeling in the second highest number of fish in 40 years, according to recently analyzed angler surveys.

Anglers caught 398,905 Chinook in 2006, second only to the 418,918 anglers reported catching in 2005, based on the angler or "creel" surveys conducted from mid-March through October. The 2005 haul represented the most Chinook anglers reported catching since creel surveys started in 1969, and the 2006 haul is close behind.

It's a tribute to everybody's work on this issue: fish managers, fish propagation staff, sports groups, anglers, agencies and groups that have worked to help reduce PCBs in Lake Michigan and dramatically improve water quality in Lake Michigan and its tributaries. All of these efforts have resulted in Chinook surviving and thriving and providing fantastic fishing.

More information and the complete article.

Taken from www.wisconsinsportsmanmag.com

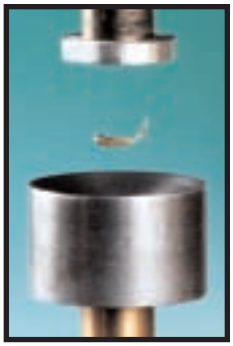
Fish Tournament Culling Study

Bass fishing tournaments in which participants are allowed to "cull," or sort fish, have a minimal effect on fish survival when water temperatures are low but can be a concern when water temperatures are warm, according to a recently released report on the impacts of such tournaments in Wisconsin.

Less than 1 percent of bass caught during tournaments when water temperatures were low died in the live well or later after the fish was released, but that mortality rate climbed to 15.6 percent for largemouth bass and 33.9 percent for smallmouth bass when water temperatures were above 80 degrees, according to the report, which details results from separate studies the Department of Natural Resources commissioned to meet a lawmaker's request.

Wisconsin law does not allow culling by any anglers but lawmakers in 2004 established a pilot program in which four tournaments each in 2005 and 2006 were authorized to allow their participants to cull fish. Culling involves tournament anglers replacing smaller fish with bigger fish in live wells, and continuing to fish once they reach their daily limit. The pilot program responded to contentions by some bass anglers and tournament sponsors that big-time bass tournaments skipped Wisconsin because of the state's culling rules.

More information and the complete article.



Scientists Levitate Fish

Using merely the powers of sound waves, scientists have managed to achieve sustained levitation of small objects, with their most recent achievements being a whole collection of small insects, a tadpole, fish eggs and even a fish. Of course, in our imagination the fish always have cute little water bubbles around their heads, but in these tests the fish "did not fare as well" as its air-breathing companions, despite the scientists' attempts at injecting water into the levitation field. Apparently the real purpose of these tests is to develop a method of handling dangerous compounds without the risks introduced by using a container which could potentially corrode or react badly with the compound. We can't say as much for the industrial applications of levitating fish, but it's still pretty amazing. The research team reported their findings online Nov. 20 in the journal Applied Physics Letters.

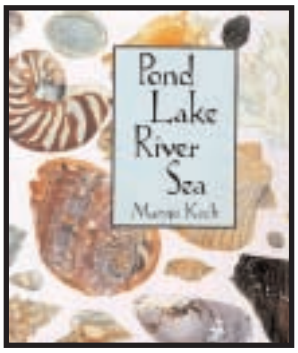
More information and the complete article.

More information on this topic.

Book Excerpt

Pond, Lake, River, Sea

By Maryjo Koch



"Life bears the memory of its aquatic origins. Every living creature, animal or plant...even man...is above all a form of water."

—Jean Dorst, *Water*, 1990

Its topic is life in the waters. A second theme is what people have made of what they found therein, their myths, food, and science.

Maryjo Koch's *Pond, Lake, River, Sea* has been honored as a *Scientific American* Book of the Year. From the delicate paintings of shrimp and krill to the Japanese-inspired images of carp and goldfish, Koch's illustrations and text not only inform, but entertain as well. A series of close-ups of skin and scales stands on its own as a beautiful piece of art.

The book is a delightful and informative exploration into life found beneath the surface of ponds, lakes, rivers and the sea. Beautifully expressive watercolor illustrations and handwritten text provide a unique perspective on the complex network of aquatic life.

Quotes from notable figures such as Henry David Thoreau, Norman Maclean, Zane Grey, and Charles Darwin flow along with the hand-lettered text. Learn about subjects as varied as the breathing and sleeping patterns of our underwater friends to the taboos associated with certain types of sea creatures. Koch blends equal parts science, nature, and art, and then sprinkles in a dash of humor to create this lovely volume.

This watery book immerses you. Every one of six dozen page spreads is an inviting watercolor over a wide range, profound or joking, dazzlingly evocative of nature or styled in direct allusion.

For more information on the author and artist visit

http://www.kochstudios.com/Maryjo/maryjokoch_portfolio_plrs.htm

Upcoming Events

Joint Meeting Planned

Wisconsin Chapters of American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society are planning to hold a joint meeting in 2008. The meeting is planned for February 5-7, 2008 at Stoney Creek Inn - Wausau. Each society will host a hospitality room on Tuesday evening. No need for the Herpetologists in the group to ponder where they fit in: attendees can migrate between the "fins" and "feathers & fur" themes. The formal presentations begin Wednesday morning with a 1/2-day plenary session, and separate, concurrent sessions Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. The Chapter business meeting will be held Wednesday afternoon, followed by a banquet. Look for a first call for papers and hotel information coming soon.

Walleye Meeting This Summer

The **2007 summer meeting** of the AFS north central division Walleye Technical Committee will be held July 24 -26 at the University of Minnesota's **Cloquet Forestry Center** located outside of Duluth. Presentations for the summer meeting are now being solicited. Due to the cancellation of last year's meeting we will recycle the intended theme of *Assessment Techniques*. Of course, we will not limit presentations to this topic, and will consider all topics related to walleye and sauger biology and management. Please consider presenting preliminary results of research and management projects, as well as case histories. Students working on walleye or sauger related topics are particularly encouraged to present their work.

JUMP into a Learning Experience at the 29th Annual Wisconsin Lakes Convention!

Whether your dedication to Wisconsin lakes is a professional charge or a personal quest (or both), this convention is for you. This year's theme focuses on how to be an effective agent for positive change in your lake community, and will be an exceptional opportunity to listen, learn, and share your expertise and questions with others. Come to the 2007 Wisconsin Lakes Convention and be an Agent of Change for our lakes' sake. Convention details including agenda and session & workshop information are **available online**.

Registration options include doing it **Online** (easy & secure) or **On paper**. Any Questions? Call (715) 346-2116.

Officers and Committees

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JOIN NOW!

Active membership in the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will provide many opportunities to advance your growth as a fisheries professional and allow you a greater voice in shaping the future of Wisconsin fisheries. The quarterly newsletter and the ability to network with other fisheries and aquatic resource professionals from government, academia, fish culture and the private sector will keep you abreast of all the latest techniques and issues.

You do not have to join the parent society to be a Wisconsin Chapter member and the annual $10.00 membership fee is an unbelievable bargain.

Please send complete form and a check for $10.00 payable to AFS Wisconsin Chapter:

American Fisheries Society, Wisconsin Chapter
PO Box 1846
Madison, WI 53701

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Do you want a copy of our newsletter (now available on our website) mailed to you? [Circle one] **Yes** **No**

Student? [Circle one] **Yes** **No**

Are you a member of AFS (parent society)? [Circle one]
Yes **No**

Occupation and employer (optional):

Congratulations and welcome aboard!

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Spring 2007 Issue