



THE TELEGRAM

Wisconsin Chapter American Fisheries Society Newsletter

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Compiled by Chapter Members.

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President's Message



Winter is here. For me, that means hard-water and cold-weather activities like hockey, skiing and ice fishing. I also tried the polar bear plunge for the first time this year (unintentionally). For fisheries professionals, winter is a time for meetings and conferences. Our annual meeting in February promises to offer many learning opportunities, including 92 talks in 4 concurrent sessions. It will also provide a chance to exchange information with colleagues from Minnesota and Ontario.

Even if you live under a rock, you probably noticed the economic downturn of the past few months. The country is in a recession, many individuals and corporations are having serious financial problems, and government agencies are facing funding shortfalls and an increased cost of doing business. In times like these, natural resource issues often take a backseat to social and economic considerations. Many people are tempted to roll back environmental protections for short-term financial gain. However, our financial welfare is tied to a healthy environment and these short-term “fixes” can have a negative impact on tourism, the economy and overall quality of life. Some quick financial figures: In Wisconsin, anglers annually spend around 20 million hours fishing. Fishing generates a \$2.75 billion economic impact and supports more than 30,000 jobs. Fishing and related activities generate nearly \$200 million in tax revenues for local and state government.

A strong economy occurs when we invest in healthy ecosystems and the fisheries they support. The United States Congress has proposed an economic bailout of nearly \$800 billion. One place that some of this money should be invested is to enhance our natural resources. We have a successful model to follow in the Civilian Conservation Corps of

the 1930s. We also have a vehicle in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan <http://fishhabitat.org/> . Two regional examples of this plan include the Driftless Area Restoration Effort, and the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership. The framework is there, but we need creative ideas from people on the ground to continue to move forward. I encourage you to think about how the resources you study and manage fit into the big picture. I also urge you to share your opinion on inclusion of funding for fish and wildlife habitat work in any economic stimulus legislation with U. S. Senators Kohl and Feingold and your U.S. Congressional Representative.

John Kubisiak

Editor's Note

Each issue I ask readers for submissions...and I am again doing so. Please get me your ideas, articles, and stories. This is YOUR newsletter and it can only be as good as you make it. Article submissions/ideas can be emailed to me at: jordan.weeks@wisconsin.gov or give me a call at 608-785-9002. I'm always interested in where the fish are biting or if you need deer eradicated from your property.

Announcements

More can be found on the AFS webpage

Meeting Announcements:

January 20-22, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Statewide Training Session, Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI

January 22-23, Great Lakes Urban Habitat Restoration Symposium, Chicago, Illinois (www.glfc.org/urbanrestore)

February 2-4, 2009, Wisconsin AFS Chapter Meeting in Duluth MN.

February 2-4, 2009, Mid-Continent Warmwater Fish Culture Workshop, Council Bluffs, Iowa

March 18-20, 2009, Wisconsin Lakes Convention, An Aquatic Invasive Species Symposium, KI Convention Center, Green Bay, WI

Awards:

Wisconsin wins North Central Division Most Active Large Chapter Award

The North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society solicits nominees for four awards given annually: Most Active Large Chapter; Most Active Small Chapter; Most Active Student Subunit; and Best Communications, awards. Submissions for the Meritorious Service, and Fisheries Excellence awards are also considered each year. 2008 Winners include:

Most Active Large Chapter Award-**Wisconsin Chapter**

Most Active Small Chapter Award-**Indiana Chapter**

Most Active Student Subunit-**Lake Superior State University**

Best Communications Award-**Indiana Chapter**

Meritorious Service Award-**Tom Gengerke**

Yearly nomination forms for each award are available by going to the NCD's homepage www.ncd-afs.org and clicking on the "Awards" button in the left hand banner. 2009 nomination materials should be submitted by to: Mark Porath, NCD Awards Committee Chair, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 2200 N 33rd Street Lincoln, NE 68503. Call 402-471-7651 or email Mark.Porath@nebraska.gov with any questions.

Katie Renschen is the 2008 winner of the Joan Duffy Travel Award.



Katie is a senior this year at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin.

She will be graduating in May with a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources with an emphasis in fisheries, as well as a minor in Biology. Katie has been an active member of the student AFS subunit for several years, and served as secretary last year, and is now serving as president. During her time at Northland, she has been working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Ashland. Katie is originally from Red Wing, Minnesota. She enjoys being outdoors, especially hunting, fishing, and cross country skiing.

Lawrence Eslinger receives 2008 Carroll Norden Scholarship Award



Lawrence Eslinger has been selected to receive the Chapter's Carroll Norden scholarship.

Lawrence is a graduate student at UW-Green Bay where his Master's work is being done in cooperation with the WI DNR and focuses on muskellunge population dynamics. He has worked several intern and LTE jobs since graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries from UWSP. Those jobs have included work with Minnesota DNR in Aitkin, US Forest Service at Bessemer, and Wisconsin DNR at Escanaba Lake, Woodruff, and Green Bay. Lawrence has presented his research work at our annual chapter meetings and he will soon finish his Master's degree. The Carroll Norden scholarship is awarded annually. The scholarship is named after Dr. Carroll Norden, a former chapter president who taught ichthyology at UW-Milwaukee. Dr. Norden always encouraged his students to join WI Chapter AFS and attend the annual meetings.

CHAPTER T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE



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.

Notes

Division website... The main AFS office in Maryland recently switched our list service to a new host that has better security and spam filters. Because of this switch the mailing address for the list has changed. The new e-mail address is wiafs@lists.fisheries.org. Please use this e-mail if you want to send e-mail to the entire members of the list service.

If you have any questions, let me know-*Bradley T. Eggold*

Resolutions Anyone?

Resolutions are being solicited to be presented at the January 2009 annual meeting. If you have a resolution please send it to Phil Moy at pmoy@uwc.edu no later than December 3rd so that they we can be put into final form and published in time for the meeting. Thank you.

Communicating Science...

NEW REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF LEAD
USED IN HUNTING AND FISHING
BETHESDA, MD CONTACT: Beth Beard (301) 8978616ext. 220

Lead introduced in the environment through recreational hunting, shooting sports, and fishing poses a potential hazard to both wildlife and humans, according to a new technical review by The Wildlife Society (TWS) and American Fisheries Society (AFS).

“The Wildlife Society (TWS) supports legal and ethical hunting and fishing and recognizes its important role in supporting wildlife conservation,” said Michael Hutchins, PhD, executive director/CEO of TWS. “However, we are very interested in preventing potential lead toxicity associated with these outdoor activities from adversely affecting wildlife, fish and the environment as a whole while maintaining healthy populations for future generations.”

Large quantities of lead ammunition and fishing tackle are produced annually the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that roughly 72,600 metric tons of lead shot and bullets are deposited in the U.S. environment each year at outdoor shooting ranges alone. And while estimates of lost fishing tackle are much less, lead tackle also poses a potential toxicological threat. Lead (Pb) is a nonessential heavy metal with no known functional or beneficial role in biological systems. Although lead is relatively stable, under some environmental conditions (e.g., soft acidic water, acidic soil), lead objects can weather and the element can mobilize, spreading the toxic properties. However, the

TWS/AFS technical review concludes that the greatest hazard arises from direct ingestion of lead ammunition and fishing tackle by wildlife, particularly birds.

Topics covered include the chemical properties of lead, sources and estimated quantities of lead originating from hunting, shooting and fishing, as well as the pathways of exposure and the effects of lead on plants, animals, and humans. Current regulations on lead ammunition and fishing tackle, along with alternative materials, are also evaluated.

“This review is a long overdue look at the big picture regarding the overall risk that lead ammunition and fishing tackle pose to natural resources,” said Gus Rassam, PhD, AFS executive director. “We believe this report will provide a good starting point for developing management policies that protect both humans and wildlife while allowing for the continued enjoyment of hunting and fishing.”

The review contains suggestions for future research and possible paths for new policies and/or regulations. Those of highest priority include: Broad scale monitoring on the incidence of lead poisoning in wildlife in countries where the extent of the problem is poorly documented or unknown; Data on the prevalence of lead poisoning related to fishing tackle in reptiles and aquatic birds; Information on the weathering, dissolution, and long-term fate of lead fragments, and bioavailability of lead in various ecosystems; The hazards of spent ammunition and mobilized lead to wildlife at or near shooting ranges; and Evaluation of regulations restricting the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle on exposure and health of biota in various ecosystems.

*About TWS and AFS TWS, founded in 1937, is a scientific and educational organization dedicated to enhancing the ability of wildlife professionals to conserve diversity, sustain productivity, and ensure the responsible use of wildlife resources for the benefit of society. AFS, founded 1870, is the world’s oldest and largest fisheries science organization. Its mission 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.

To obtain a copy of the technical review, “*Sources and Implications of Lead-Based Ammunition and Fishing Tackle on Natural Resources*,” visit <http://www.afsbooks.org/55057p.html>.

Conferences, Seminars and Training



WI Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be meeting jointly with the MN and Ontario Chapters in Duluth, February 2-4, 2009.

Conference Theme: **“Fish Without Borders: Great Lakes Interactions”**

Please plan on joining the Minnesota, Ontario and Wisconsin Chapters of the American Fisheries Society at their joint meeting to be held February 2 – 4, 2009 in scenic Duluth Minnesota. We will be gathering at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) for three days of talks, interactions and just a little bit of fun.

Registration for the meeting is now open on-line

On-line registration can be done at www.mnafs.org Look for the 2009 Meeting Registration option under Main Menu Please fill the required boxes and check the appropriate circles for your participation level at the meeting. Also, you can pay your chapter dues through this process. Payments can be made online if you are signing up for the full meeting. Day rates must be paid with check and follow the directions on where to mail your check and screen printed registration form. **Early registration will conclude on January 17, 2009** after which additional charges will be assessed. If you have any questions, please contact Calub Shavlik at calub.shavlik@dnr.state.mn.us or 218/547-1683.

Full meeting registration will be \$80.00. Full registration will include Monday evening reception, lunch on Tuesday, and Tuesday evening banquet as well as food and refreshments for all breaks for the entire meeting. Qualified students and individual day rates can be found on-line.

Location

The meeting and socials will be held at the DECC, and we have held a block of 150 rooms for lodging at the Radisson of Duluth(located at 505 West Superior Street) The Radisson is connected by a heated skywalk to the DECC. Reservations can be made by calling 218-727-8981 or toll free at 1-800-3333333, ask for the AFS meeting rates. The rate for all rooms is \$67 per night.

State of Wisconsin employees and possibly others may be authorized to attend the February 2-4, 2009 WI-AFS annual meeting in Duluth, MN, but not to spend the night out of state. To address this issue, I reserved a block of rooms at the Best Western - Bridgeview through January 13, 2009. This hotel is approved in State of Wisconsin's lodging contract.

To reserve a room at the Best Western, call 1-800-777-5572, ask for "American Fisheries Society" room block. Cost is \$65 per night.

<http://www.bestwesternwisconsin.com/hotels/best-western-bridgeview-motor-inn/>

I should get one complimentary room with the room block. Retired members, students or others without travel funding should send me your request and justification for a complimentary room to John Kubisiak by **January 9** (sorry for the ultra short notice). There may also be opportunities to share rooms.

This hotel is located 8 miles from the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (DECC) meeting facility. State vehicles are allowed out of state, or city busses and taxis are available. I am looking into a charter bus for Monday & Tuesday evenings.

Call for Papers

Below are two sessions that are looking for more contributors

Stream Connectivity:

The connectivity of streams to one another and to the Great Lakes has the potential to influence patterns of fish community composition and related ecosystem processes. This session will highlight the importance of spatial relationships in fish ecology, including topics such as migratory species ecology, the spread of invasive species, and population- and ecosystem-scale effects of barriers to movement.

CONTACT: Matt Diebel, Center for Limnology, University of Wisconsin, 608-516-0518, mwdiebel@wisc.edu

PIT tag use in the Great Lakes:

Objective is to provide a opportunity for biologist to describe current and potential applications for half duplex PIT tag technology for fishery research and management

CONTACT: Henry Quinlan, Ashland NFWCO USFWS, 715-682-6185, x 13, henry_quinlan@fws.gov

Abstracts must be submitted by December 15, 2009. Instructions and on-line submission form are available on the Wisconsin Chapters AFS website (http://www.wi-afs.org/Abstract_Form.shtml). If you have questions or problems with abstract submissions, contact one of the conference co-chairs: Glenn Miller, WIAFS (glenn_miller@fws.gov), Tim Cross, MNAFS (tcross233@gmail.com) or Jon Clayton, ONAFS (JClayton@creditvalleycons.com)

2009 Wisconsin Lakes Convention An Aquatic Invasive Species Symposium



March 18-20, 2009
KI Convention Center, Green Bay, WI

Register & Save 3 Ways!

No Price Increase over Last year

Attend all three days and save \$25

Register by March 1 for Early Bird Pricing

Agenda and Online Registration coming in January 2009

The 31st annual Wisconsin lakes Convention will serve as a symposium focused primarily on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). This event will pull together local, state, national and global experts to discuss all aspects of AIS issues. The convention will include exceptional plenary speakers, workshops, concurrent sessions and poster presentations.

Accommodations

Hotel Sierra (attached to the KI Convention Center)

[Online reservations](#) or toll free at 888-695-7608

Rates: \$62/night for rate for government employees with ID

\$105 - Double or Queen suites

\$115 - King suites

Holiday Inn - City Centre (adjacent to KI Convention Center)

[Online reservations](#) or call 920-437-5900

Rates: \$84.95 - single or double occupancy

Days Inn - Green Bay Downtown

[Online reservations](#) or call 920-435-4484

Reasonable rates



Mid-Continent Warmwater Fish Culture Workshop Council Bluffs, Iowa, February 2-4, 2009

The workshop draws together state, federal, academic and industry personnel to discuss the latest in fish culture activities. The 2008 Workshop was held in Paris, Arkansas and attracted over 120 participants.

Please consider presenting at the 2009 meeting. For further information and to get on a mailing list, contact Mike Mason

at mike.mason@dnr.iowa.gov or call 515-281-6072 for more information.



2009 Application Form – Equal Opportunities Section (EOS) Travel Award

Use this form to apply for the EOS Travel Award to attend the 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society to be held in Nashville, Tennessee, from August 30-September 3, 2009. Additional information regarding the EOS Travel Award and meeting arrangements can be found at www.fisheries.org.

The AFS Equal Opportunities Section is leading an effort to increase participation in the Society by graduate and undergraduate students from underrepresented groups, including women and minorities. Travel grants not to exceed \$500 each will be awarded on a competitive basis to assist these students with expenses incurred when attending the annual meeting. **Funds are not distributed in advance.** Students must be present at the Equal Opportunities Society section luncheon and business meeting in Anchorage to receive the funds.

The EOS encourages application from students who have not attended AFS meetings in the past. We will support award recipients during the meeting through orientation and mentorship, if desired by the student. There are wonderful networking opportunities, technical sessions, continuing education, trade show displays, and career/job opportunities, and graduate school opportunities at the meeting. We can also assist students with finding additional travel support, if needed. We look forward to hearing from you!

Please complete the entire form and send by **email or mail** to:

Gwen White
IDNR Division of Fish & Wildlife
402 W. Washington St., Rm W273
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Tel. 317-234-4407
gwhite@dnr.in.gov

Completed applications must be emailed or postmarked no later than May 15, 2009. Award decisions will be made by June 15. Limit answers to the space provided.

Officers and Committees

Officers

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Vice President

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Continuing Education, Justine Hasz-justine.hasz@wisconsin.gov

Fisheries Action Network (FIN & FAN), Joe Hennessy-joseph.hennessy@wisconsin.gov

Membership, Tim Simonson (chair)- timothy.simonson@wisconsin.gov, & Phil Moy (aquaculture liaison)
pmoy@uwc.edu

Nominations, Kurt Welke (chair)- kurt.welke@wisconsin.gov, Joe Hennessy-
joseph.hennessy@wisconsin.gov

Raffle & Revenue, Steve Gilbert (chair)- stephen.gilbert@wisconsin.gov, Kendall Kamke- kendall.kamke@wisconsin.gov, Dennis Scholl- dennis.scholl@wisconsin.gov, Gervase Thompson- gervase.thompson@wisconsin.gov, & Bill Gobin-
William.gobin@wisconsin.gov

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Web Coordinator, Brad Eggold-bradley.eggold@wisconsin.gov

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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