

# Dakota Chapter American Fisheries Society Newsletter



Issue 53  
June 2015



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE .....

DAKOTA AFS BUSINESS ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES .....

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS STAFF UPDATE .....

NORTH DAKOTA UPDATE .....

WEBSITE NEWS .....

DAKOTA CHAPTER OFFICERS, 2015 – 2016.....

## President's Message

Field season is in full swing, and for many of us fishery professionals that means long days, tight schedules, and an increased workforce i.e. temporary or seasonal staff. I wanted to speak to all of you on the topic of seasonal staff and offer some direction that I hope will help us to accomplish the many, many things we have to do during the field season.

As many of you know, I am responsible for keeping the lights on and toilets clean at two of the three National Fish Hatcheries in North Dakota. My facilities used to operate with eight full time permanent staff members 20 years ago and was reduced

to just me until this year, when I was able to pick up one additional permanent employee. Much of my work is accomplished with the help of seasonal staff and/or the occasional volunteer. It just so happens that every year I have a new set of seasonal employees to work with to accomplish the many things I have to get done day-to-day here on the farms. I know many of you are in the same boat. It is no secret that most, if not all of our seasonal staff are twenty somethings and that there are some significant generational differences in terms of ethics, morals, and values amongst our respective workforce. I refuse to turn the President's message into an Equal

Opportunity and Diversity training and thought I'd share a few tips that have helped me accomplish the work that I'm responsible for at my facilities. I feel that these tips will help everyone regardless of the agency/institution that you work for or professional level within your organization. Tips for working with seasonal staff to accomplish your work this field season:

- Remember that many of our seasonal employees have minimal experience, for some it's their first job!
- Provide your work group with clear direction and follow up to ensure that everyone is on the same page with whatever the goals or objectives are for the day/week/month. A "thingy" to me is different than a "thingy" to them.
- Find out each person's strengths and weakness. Play to their strengths while developing their weaknesses. I'm not very good with a computer but sure can strip a walleye!
- Empower your work group to be creative because we all know there are a millions ways to do the same thing, generally speaking, of course.
- Allow them to fail so long as the result is minimal and that the actions are safe. I fail often and tend to learn a lot better that way instead of having someone micro manage me, ultimately limiting creativity.
- Take the time to ask how each individual feels they are doing at their assigned tasks. Often times you will be able figure out what makes them tick.
- Give each member of your work group opportunities to have their own projects. Often times it creates

ownership and makes them feel like they are a necessary part of the team.

Those are just a few of the things that I have found that help me accomplish my responsibilities around the farm. As a fishery professional we are all aware that are workforce is aging. If we don't take the time and make the effort to inspire talent and develop the next generation of fishery professionals, then the extra-long hours and tight schedules that we face every day only have an acute impact. If the information is not being communicated to the next generation, it's lost and the profession suffers to develop as fast as it could should we have made the effort. Switching gears completely, I would like to talk a little bit about this year's annual meeting. I received lots of positive feedback. Attendee's and participants seemed to have had a good time (lots of beer and good food), met a lot of new people and learned a thing or two about fisheries in the Dakotas. All in all it was a successful meeting. Thanks to those of you who stepped up to assist with planning the meeting, giving presentations or showing posters, fund-raising and awards.

A few special "thank yous" are well deserved. Todd Caspers, our Vice-President, without his leadership and organization the meeting would have been an absolute disaster- hats off to you my friend! Moreover, thanks to our sub-units and their members for providing the welcome meal and raffles which is necessary for us to continue to have this annual event.

Our oral and poster presentations continue to impress those in attendance and, as always, continue to show that fisheries in the Dakota's are top-notch. All presenters were worthy of recognition, but a few stood out. The Best Professional

Presentation: Re-establishment of Finescale Dace (*Phoxinus neogaeus*) in Mud Lake. Greg Simpson, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. The Best Student Presentation: Movement and Survival of Wild Rainbow Trout within the Deerfield Reservoir System. Jeremy Kientz, South Dakota State University. The Best Professional Poster: Differences in capture probability of an endangered species (Pallid Sturgeon) among four sampling gears. Landon Pierce, United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The Best Student Poster: An Emerging Decline: Large consumers decrease aquatic insect emergence by an order of magnitude in a Missouri River backwater. Jerry Warmbold, University of South Dakota. Congratulations to all of you!



**Pictured above: Morgan Kauth 2015 James C. Schmulbach Scholarship award winner.**

Special recognition and congratulations to Dan Dembowski, our Past-President award, Mike Smith, winner of the Outstanding Young Professional, David Schumann who received the Rob Klumb Memorial Scholarship, Morgan Kauth, who the recipient of the James C. Schmulbach award, and Barbara-Ann Lytle and Logan Gutzmer who both received the Al Kreil Award. The chapter also recognized five individuals with our Sauger Scholarships (Zachary Jessee, Jenna Haag, Dalton Benage, Logan Gutzmer and Josue Hernandez).



**2015 Sauger Scholarship winners: Zachary Jessee, Jenna Haag, Dalton Benage, Logan Gutzmer, and Josue Hernandez.**

Lastly, special thanks to the three members who stepped up and offered to lead the group beginning in September-Casey, Jill and Jake.



**2015 Professional Award winners: Greg Simpson, Jeremy Kientz, Landon Pierce with President Kurt Eversman.**

I would like to close this message by saying how proud I am of the fisheries we have in the Dakota's and its because of the hard work and sacrifice of many of our members that I'm able to say that. I have enjoyed serving as your President and look forward to working with all of you in the Dakotas for many years to come. See you in the muck!

Kurt Eversman,  
President

## **Dakota AFS Business Annual Meeting Minutes**

**2/18/15**

K. Eversman called the meeting to order at approximately 3:40 PM. A quorum of members was established.

### **Officer Reports**

#### **President's Report (Kurt Eversman):**

K. Eversman mentioned that most of the duties during his term were associated with the annual meeting in Bismark. He thanked Vice President Todd Caspers

and Secretary/Treasurer Zack Sandness and for assisting with planning responsibilities. He wrote chapter updates for the Dakota AFS and NCD Mainstreams newsletters.

#### **Vice President's Report (Todd Caspers):**

T. Caspers stated that most of the duties were involved with the planning of the Bismark meeting.

#### **Secretary/Treasurer's Report (Zac Sandness):**

Z. Sandness reported that there were 119 attendees at the meeting with 82 professionals, 15 graduate students, and 22 undergraduate students. Overall, there were nine professional organizations represented along with eight different colleges.

#### **President-Elect's Report (Greg Simpson):**

G. Simpson noted that he decided on the location for the 2016 Dakota Chapter meeting. It will be in Spearfish, SD on February 1-3, 2016 and will be held at the Holiday Inn. Preliminary plans are for one off-site social with the remaining of the conference to be held at the hotel. Other noted accomplishments were the fall newsletter which included peer-reviewed published paper bibliography of members for the past three years.

#### **SDSU Student Subunit Report (Laura Heironimus):**

L. Heironimus reported that the subunit hosted several workshops (fish aging techniques, fly tying) and guest speakers from various state agencies and academic institutions. She also reported that the

subunit participated in several education/outreach events with community organizations. Partial proceeds from the raffle during the annual meeting were donated to the Dave Willis Fisheries Science Endowment, the Robert A. Klumb Memorial Scholarship, and the Center for Biological Diversity in remembrance of Maegan Spindler.

### **VCSU Student Subunit Report (Josue Hernandez):**

J. Hernandez stated that the Valley City Subunit has been involved in raising money for activities. One of their main fundraisers has been a Gumbo Feed that has been successful.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Awards and Nominations:**

Applications for student awards continue to be few for the number of awards given. W. Sayler noted that there was a winner of the Schmulbach Scholarship. Others noted that there were award winners for Sauger Scholarships and David W. Willis Outstanding Young Professional and would be recognized at the award ceremony.

#### **Continuing Education:**

Continuing Education Committee chair Steve Chipps maintains a list of potential CE opportunities as identified by the membership. S. Chipps announced that he would be stepping down from the C.E. Committee. Others in the membership thanked Steve for his long-term service on the Continuing Education committee.

#### **Membership:**

No news to report.

#### **Information:**

No news to report.

#### **Student Affairs:**

Members noted the support for the new student subunit (VCSU).

#### **Resolutions:**

No resolutions were brought to the membership.

#### **Schmulbach Scholarship:**

W. Sayler noted that there was a winner of the Schmulbach Scholarship and that it would be announced at the banquet.

#### **Environmental Concerns:**

No environmental concerns were brought forward to the membership.

#### **NCD Tech Committees:**

See comments below under "New Business."

#### **Membership:**

Various members noted that one of the keys to communication within the chapter is updated contact information from all members. The current email list-serv was updated based on contact information gathered during the annual meeting. N. Scheibel mentioned that the new website has a "Become a Member" link.

#### **Technical Committees:**

Todd Caspers provided a brief report on the joint Walleye, Centrarchid, and Esocid Technical Committee meetings held in La Crosse, WI. He mentioned that the next meeting would be held in Brookings, SD during July 21-23, 2015.

## Old Business

No old business was brought to the floor.

## New Business

### Secretary/Treasurer:

Discussion ensued concerning the Secretary/Treasurer position and that the appointment might better be served in a two-year cycle. Changes to the bylaws would need to be made for this to occur. A motion by S. Chipps was brought forward to change the position to a two-year appointment, but was later recalled due to the need for further investigation into the proper formatting of the position and necessary steps to be taken. Also, the newly appointed Secretary/Treasurer would need to acknowledge that they would be willing to serve not for one year, but for a second as well.

Discussion from the floor ensued concerning the need for additional Sauger Scholarships. This year there were 22 undergraduates and five total scholarships available. There were discussions that this could be handled by online elections.

### Change of Officers:

K. Eversman thanked T. Caspers, Z. Sandness D. Dembkowski and G. Simpson for their service to Dakota Chapter and welcomed Casey Williams, Jill Voorhees and Jake Davis to the President-Elect, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer positions, respectively.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45 AM.

## South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Staff Update

### Water and Fish Transportation Rules Implemented in Response to AIS

In response to detections of quagga and zebra mussels in South Dakota in 2014, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission adopted changes to AIS regulations at their March 2015 meeting. Changes to administrative rules focused on reducing the transport of water between water bodies by anglers and watercraft. Effective May 11, 2015, all trailered boats, except emergency response vehicles, shall have all drain plugs, bailers, valves, or other devices used to control the drainage of water opened or removed except while in a boat ramp parking area, being launched or loaded, or en route from a body of water to an immediately adjacent fish cleaning station. In addition, a person may not transport fish or aquatic bait in water obtained from a lake, river, or stream except while en route from a lake, river or stream to an immediately adjacent fish cleaning station.

In association with these rule changes a large-scale outreach campaign has been initiated including a redesign of the [sdleastwanted.com](http://sdleastwanted.com) website, extensive use of print

and electronic media advertising, development of outreach materials for field staff use, and the development of a you-tube video showing anglers how to care for their fish and bait without using water from a lake, river, or stream. The State Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force also met recently and input from the task force will be used to help update the state's Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan this summer.

### **Annual Work Plans Tied to Fisheries Strategic Plans**

A statewide fisheries strategic plan and plans for major fisheries management areas were adopted by the Game, Fish and Parks Commission in April of 2014. Additional plans for major resources within a management area, like Black Hills streams and Black Hills and Missouri River reservoirs, are also being developed. In order to ensure implementation of strategic plans, annual work plans, based on objectives and strategies in the strategic plans, have been developed. Work plans for 2015 have been implemented, with plans this first year focusing on established work activities and incorporation of new efforts to satisfy plan objectives, as resources allow. Annual evaluation of work plans will occur each fall and will focus on how well work plans accomplished management plan objectives. Annual reviews will be used to help improve work plans for the coming year.

It is expected that this change to annual work activities being driven by objectives of management plans will result in a change in work plan priorities over time. The amount of effort placed on some current work activities may need to be decreased to provide resources to accomplish plan objectives deemed of higher importance.

### **SD GFP Aquatics Section Refines Regulation Process**

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Aquatics Section created a new rules development process to help gather input from staff and the public on possible rule changes that could impact sportsmen and women. The Section, in conjunction with law enforcement and regional staff around the state, will now take part in a series of conference calls, webinars and rule reviews that will allow for more involvement to help craft rules that will better meet the needs of involved parties.

Administrators and staff want to better utilize the knowledge base available within the department in the rules making process. While the process will involve more steps in crafting rules, the end product will hopefully be clearer, more concise regulations for staff to enforce and for resource users.

Feedback on the new process has been very positive from both fisheries and law enforcement staff. The addition of this process will also put the Aquatics Section more in line with the Terrestrial Section with their rules making process.

## **Aquatics Section Research Update**

Federal aid funded research projects, in association with South Dakota State University, were again a major part of the aquatics research program over the past year. Researchers continue to look at how to improve sport fisheries throughout the state. A walleye tagging study continues on Lake Oahe, western prairie streams are being inventoried and otolith microchemistry continues to help track the life history of individual fish of various species.

A study on Lake Sharpe to determine contribution of Hipple Lake, a backwater off of Lake Sharpe, is currently utilizing otolith microchemistry. Analysis from the first year has found that 28% of Lake Sharpe's gizzard shad, the primary forage for sportfish in Lake Sharpe, hatched in the Bad River. Another 26% originated in Hipple Lake, and 22% hatched in La Framboise, an embayment five miles upstream of Hipple Lake. These findings were surprising in that nearly half of all gizzard shad production for the entire reservoir occurred in two embayments (Hipple Lake and La Framboise) that make up less than two percent of Lake Sharpe's surface area. Also, adult gizzard shad captured all over Lake Sharpe were found to move in and out of Hipple Lake frequently throughout the year. Evidence supporting the importance of Hipple Lake to gizzard shad is mounting. With sedimentation threatening to close off Hipple Lake from Lake Sharpe, this study will be used to determine if removal of sediment is warranted.

A research project in association with the US Fish and Wildlife Service began in May. Biologists captured 10 adult paddlefish from the White River where it enters Lake Francis Case. They were transported to the mouth of the Bad River where it enters Lake Sharpe and implanted with acoustic telemetry tags and released. They will be tracked over a 3 year span to help determine what locations adult paddlefish use in Lake Sharpe. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks is interested in stocking paddlefish in Lake Sharpe to provide another brood source and possibly create an additional snag fishery in the future.



## SDGFP Staff Changes

Mike Greiner was hired as a Resource Biologist with the Missouri River Fisheries Program in Ft. Pierre. Mike's start date was January 12th.

Kyle Bales was hired as a Resource Biologist with the Missouri River Fisheries Program in Chamberlain. Kyle's start date was March 9<sup>th</sup>. Here is a short biography of Kyle. I grew up in a small town in Iowa where hunting and fishing were key components in my life. As I got older I started to work with local county conservation agencies and discovered that I could have a career in conservation. While attending Central College in Pella, Iowa, I decided to major in Biology with an Environmental Science and Chemistry minor. After graduation I began work in Southeast Missouri with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). While working for MDC an opportunity came up that allowed me to get my Master's Degree through a cooperative agreement with MDC and Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO). At SEMO I pursued a Master's Degree in Biology with my thesis being on Lake Sturgeon. Being involved with the cooperative agreement also allowed me to assist other MDC/SEMO graduate students. I had the opportunity to work with Paddlefish, Shovelnose Sturgeon, American Eels, Grotto Sculpin, Alligator Gar, Silver and Bighead Carp, Common Carp, Striped Mulletts, Blue and Channel Catfish, and various other fish species. After my cooperative agreement expired I became the Pallid Sturgeon crew leader for the Middle Mississippi River where we monitored for Pallid Sturgeon via trotlines and benthic mini-trawls. While working I continued to look for fulltime employment in various state and federal agencies and jumped at the opportunity to join South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks.





Jeremy Kientz started work as a research biologist at McNenny State Fish Hatchery, rural Spearfish, on July 9th. This is kind of a homecoming for Jeremy, because he grew up in Rapid City and spent his youth hunting and fishing in the Black Hills. After graduating from Central High School in 2005, he spent the next four years as an aircraft director in the U.S. Navy. After the Navy he began college in the fall of 2009 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Black Hills State University in Dec. 2012. Jeremy is currently finishing up his Master's research at SDSU studying a wild rainbow trout population in Deerfield Reservoir and the Castle Creek tributary system. He has spent the past five summers working for South Dakota GF&P in various internships, often working directly with the production and research of salmonid species in the Black Hills. In his new job, he is tasked with doing awesome research at an awesome facility while collaborating with awesome hatchery and management staff, supported by awesome administrators.

Ryan Rasmus was promoted to a Resource Biologist at Blue Dog SFH in Waubay

Nathan Pool was promoted to a Conservation Foreman at Blue Dog SFH in Waubay

Submitted by John Lott.

Upcoming Meeting in  
Spearfish, South Dakota  
February 1-3, 2016

## North Dakota Update

### Dakota Chapter AFS Newsletter – Summer 2015

Seldom have the Dakotas been blessed with an extended 'spring' season, but for those who work and play outside the past few months have been ideal! This past winter was extraordinary in what it did not provide – winterkill. North Dakota routinely experiences some level of winterkill in 10-20+ lakes annually; however, this past winter we had no more than a handful of lakes with winterkill. Relatively high water levels last fall coupled with another 'open' winter contributed to this positive event.

The spring spawn went well for North Dakota as the needed northern pike and walleye eggs were collected from three water bodies. Given we continue to add 'new' lakes (the North Dakota Game and Fish Department now manages 425 lakes) the demand for fish, esp. walleye, remains high. For example, 130 waters are scheduled to receive a share of nine million fingerlings this year.

Due to the dramatic increase in the past decade of fishing lakes, not only has stocking become much more extensive but so has the need to survey more lakes for adult and/or reproduction populations, monitor more lakes for ANS, and address public requests for more and better infrastructure (e.g. ramps, roads, etc). These certainly have been challenging times for a finite staff ... but who have infinite skills and desire to provide for the fishing public.

In terms of staff, there has only been one change this past year. Brandon (BJ) Kratz replaced Gene Van Eeckhout as the District Fisheries Supervisor for southeast North Dakota. Mike Johnson was hired as a district biologist and now works for BJ. In North Dakota, the state legislature meets every other year and this past winter was one of those sessions. Thankfully, the fisheries resource again came out unscathed in terms of new legislation. It's refreshing to note, that in the past twenty years there has only been six fishing-related bills that became law and the Department supported or even introduced five of them. Fishing regulations remain driven by the governors fishing proclamation (and thus day to day field decisions that fisheries managers make) and not by statute. This has provided tremendous flexibility in terms of decision making and timelines, and ultimately best serves our customers (anglers). It's that time of the year again when one can't go wrong spending some time fishing (and catching). As always, make it a priority and get out and wet a line.

Submitted by Greg Power



## Website News

Last year the Dakota Chapter website was transferred to the American Fisheries Society web server. The current “web mistress” is Hilary Meyer who took over controls from Natalie Schiebel. Hilary has been active in updating the webpage and

has even attached a “PayPal” link to the page. Member can now go the webpage and pay their yearly membership dues with a few simple clicks. If you have any questions concerning the webpage please contact Hilary at [Hilary.meyer@state.sd.us](mailto:Hilary.meyer@state.sd.us)

## Dakota Chapter Officers, 2015 – 2016

### **President**

Kurt Eversman  
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### **Vice President**

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### **Secretary/Treasurer**

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### **President Elect/Newsletter Editor**

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### **Past-President**

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### **SDSU Subunit President**

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### **VCSU Subunit President**

Josue Hernandez  
Valley City State University  
[josue.hernandez@vcsu.edu](mailto:josue.hernandez@vcsu.edu)

**Standing Committees****Planning**

Jeff Hendrickson (chair, ND)

Mike Barnes (SD)

Randy Hiltner (ND)

**Membership**

Matt Ward (chair, SD)

Larry Brooks (ND)

Geno Adams (SD)

**Continuing Education**

Steven Chipps (co-chair, SD)

Greg Power (co-chair, ND)

John Lott (SD)

Dave Lucchesi (SD)

Dane Shuman (SD)

**Schmulbach Scholarship**

Will Sayler (chair, SD)

Wayne Nelson-Stastny (SD)

**Resolutions**

Mike Olson (chair, ND)

**Awards & Nominations**

Dan Dembkowski (chair, SD)

Mike Olson (chair, ND)

Chris Longhenry (SD)

Jeff Hendrickson (ND)

**Environmental Concerns**

Lynn Schlueter (co-chair, ND)

Geno Adams (co-chair, SD)

**Student Affairs**

Larry Brooks (chair, ND)

**Information & Web Support**

Mike Brown (chair, SD)

## Dakota Chapter Student award categories and criteria listed below.

**James C. Schmulbach Award:** Any junior or senior undergraduate student who is studying fisheries science, or a related field, at an accredited college or university in North or South Dakota.

Applications will include an essay of 200 words or less describing the student's interest in Fisheries science and their career goals, a resume, a letter of reference from a fisheries professional and a copy of the student's college transcripts.

**Sauger Scholarship :** This scholarship provides room, conference fees, and will reimburse for other expenses (travel, food) for any amount up to \$100.00.

**Al Kriel Award :** Awarded to students attending the annual Dakota Chapter meeting. This award pays for a student membership to the American Fisheries Society.

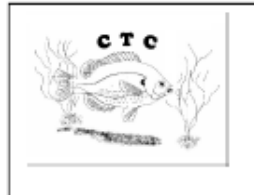
**Robert A. Klumb Memorial Scholarship:** Any student who is studying fisheries science or related field of study is eligible to apply.

**Best Student Paper :** presented annually to recognize the best student paper delivered at the annual meeting.

**Best Student Poster :** presented annually to recognize the best student poster delivered at the annual meeting.

## Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
**JOINT MEETING**  
Centrarchid, Esocid and Walleye Technical Committees



2015 Joint Summer Meeting of the Centrarchid, Esocid, and Walleye Technical Committees- North  
Central Division of the American Fisheries Society

## ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Dates: July 20-July 24, 2015

Location: Dakota Nature Park Brookings, SD (<http://www.cityofbrookings.org/index.aspx?NID=313> )

Lodging Location: Quality Inn Brookings 514 Sunrise Ridge Road Brookings, SD 57006

(1-605-692-9511; [http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel-brookings-south\\_dakota-SD017](http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel-brookings-south_dakota-SD017))



### 145th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society

Portland, Oregon

August 15th-20th 2015

<http://2015.fisheries.org/>

**2016 Annual Dakota Chapter Meeting, February 1-3, 2016, Spearfish, South Dakota**