



# Dakota Chapter American Fisheries Society Newsletter



Issue 51

July 2014

## President's Message



The 2014 Annual Dakota Chapter AFS Meeting was another great success (97 attendees representing 10 organizations), largely in part to all of those who helped with planning and budgeting, meeting logistics, presentations, fundraising, and awards. Special thanks to vice-president Natalie Scheibel for taking on the lion's share of planning and budgeting responsibilities and

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past-president Mike Olson for always responding to panicked emails and phone calls. And of course, meetings would not be nearly as enjoyable without the help and participation of the membership – thank you!!

We kicked off the meeting Tuesday afternoon with a continuing education workshop centered on the new AFS publication *Scientific Communication for Natural Resource*

*Professionals.* The workshop experienced near-record attendance with 51 attendees. It was organized by Continuing Education chair Steve Chipps, and included contributions from Katie Bertrand, Brian Blackwell, Mike Brown, Brian Graeb, Dan James, and Natalie Scheibel. A new addition to this year's meeting was a Tuesday night fish fry sponsored by the South Dakota State University (SDSU) AFS Student Subunit. Special thanks to Jeff Grote for manning the fryers! Wednesday and Thursday were full of great paper and poster presentations spanning the gamut of aquatic research in the Dakotas. We were honored to have AFS Executive Director Doug Austen as our guest speaker during dinner on Wednesday evening. Thanks, Doug, for making the trip to Chamberlain!

The program was jam-packed with 28 paper presentations and 19 poster presentations. Although all were deserving of recognition, a few stood out. The Best Student Poster award went to Morgan Kauth, David Schumann, and Katie Bertrand, with their poster entitled, "Effectiveness of single pass versus multi-pass backpack electroshocking in low-order prairie streams to estimate species abundance and richness." The Best Student Paper award went to David Schumann, Katie Bertrand, Jarrett Pfrimmer, and Josh Stafford for their presentation entitled, "Integrating landscape and local perspectives of aquatic communities to understand restoration effectiveness along the stream mosaic." Mike Weber and Mike Brown received the Best Professional Poster award with their study entitled, "Continuous, pulsed and disrupted nutrient subsidy effects on ecosystem productivity, stability, and energy flow." The Best Professional Paper award went to two studies: Andre DeLorme, Josue Hernandez, and Louis Weiland for their



Near-record attendance at the continuing education workshop.



AFS Executive Director Doug Austen speaks about the historic, contemporary, and future relevance of AFS.

study entitled, "Effects of Devils Lake water on Sheyenne River mussels, an *in situ* field bioassay" and Greg Simpson with his paper entitled, "Opinions and visitor use at eight western South Dakota waters."

Congratulations also go to Paul Lepisto as the recipient of the Aquatic Resource Conservation Award, Mark Fincel as recipient of the Outstanding Young Professional Award, and Rob Klumb as posthumous recipient of the Robert Hanten Distinguished Professional Service Award. The Klumb family was unable to attend the meeting but requested that Dane Shuman and Steve Chipps accept the award on their behalf and that the award itself be housed at the USFWS office in Pierre, SD. Mike Olson also deserves plenty of recognition and thanks for his service as past-president.



Clockwise from top left: Paul Lepisto receives the Aquatic Resource Conservation Award, Steve Chipps and Dane Shuman accept the Robert Hanten Distinguished Professional Service Award on behalf of the Klumb family, Mike Olson receives the Past-President Award, Mark Fincel receives the Outstanding Young Professional Award.

As always, student participation during the annual meeting was outstanding. Aaron Burgad was recognized as the 2014 recipient of the Schmulbach Scholarship and we recognized 5 Sauger Scholarship recipients: Dalton Benage, Morgan Kauth, Matt Phayvanh, Jordon Redmond, and BJ Schall. The Al Kriel Award, which provides an annual Parent Society membership to deserving undergraduate students, was awarded to Dalton Benage of SDSU and Ethan Preston of Valley City State University. Additionally, Laura Heironimus of SDSU was recognized as recipient of the first annual Robert A. Klumb Memorial Award.

Although the meeting was well-attended and full of great presentations, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the absence of our

friends, mentors, and colleagues Maegan Spindler, Rob Klumb, and Dave Willis. Despite their absence, we embraced the fact that their legacies live on within our membership. As I walked around during the socials, I heard many fond memories being shared and saw many smiling faces in their remembrance. To ensure continuance of their legacies, various awards have been established in their names, to which a portion of the proceeds from the annual meeting have been donated.

I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the membership for allowing me to serve as president and thank all those who have helped along the way. Greg Simpson, Todd Caspers, and Zac Sandness have stepped up to the plate and will be assuming the positions of president-elect, vice-president, and secretary/treasurer, respectively. They, along



Clockwise from top left: Aaron Burgad receives the Schmulbach Scholarship from Will Sayler, Laura Herionimus accepts the first annual Robert A. Klumb Memorial Award from Steve Chipps, Sauger Scholarship recipients Morgan Kauth, Dalton Benage, Matt Phayvanh, BJ Schall, and Jordon Redmond, Al Kriel Award winners Ethan Preston and Dalton Benage.

with current president-elect Kurt Eversman, will officially take office at the September 2014 business meeting, and I have no doubt that they will serve as great leaders to our outstanding chapter.

I'm sure everyone has a good case of cabin fever and is itching to gear up for the warmer months. Have a safe and enjoyable field season and thanks again for all you do to make the Dakota Chapter great!!

Sincerely,

Dan Dembkowski  
President

## **2014 Business Meeting Dakota Chapter American Fisheries Society February Meeting**

Dan Demkowski called the meeting to order. He introduced himself and the Excom members.

There was a determination of quorum motioned by W. Sayler and seconded by C. Longhenry.

Motion carried.

There was a unanimous approval of the 2013 business meeting notes and no comments brought forth by the chapter.

Officers Reports

### **President's Report (Dan Dembkowski):**

President Dan Dembkowski gave his presidents report. He stated that the majority of his duties as acting Dakota Chapter AFS president have been associated with the planning and implementation of the 2014 annual Dakota Chapter meeting. He discussed the letter sent to Dakota state representatives regarding DC Booth hatchery and responses were received by Johnson and Dougard.

### **Vice President's Report (Natalie Scheibel):**

Vice President Natalie Scheibel gave the vice president report. Her report echoed that of president D. Dembkowski as the majority of her duties have been associated with the planning and implementation of the 2014 Dakota Chapter annual meeting. She also commented on the Midwest F&W conference and how they were involved in the transfer of archives.

### **Secretary/Treasurer Report (Mark Fincel):**

Secretary/treasurer Mark Fincel gave the secretary/treasurer report. There were 97 paid attendees to the 2014 annual Dakota Chapter meeting. Ten organizations were represented at the meeting. Of the attendees, 44 paid members attended the continuing education workshop, one of the highest attended workshops lead by the chapter. Funds include \$7,234.06 (2/14) in general account, \$6,400.33 (12/31) in the Edward Jones account and \$3,615 (1/31) in the Robert Klumb Memorial account.

### **President Elect Report (Kurt Eversman):**

President elect Kurt Eversman gave the president-elect update. He discussed the fall newsletter. He announced the 2015 annual Dakota Chapter meeting will be held in Bismarck, ND, with the time and date to be determined at a later date.

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

SDSU president Laura Heironimus gave student subsection president report. In the fall of 2013, they had multiple speakers including D. Willis, D. Lucchesi, T. Bacula, A. Jansen and M. Wuellner. They held multiple events including Trout Extravaganza, 2014 fishing derby, age and growth workshop, and a Parachute/survival bracelet workshop. In the spring 2014, they expect K. Schoenebeck to give a presentation.

### **Committee Reports**

**Awards and nominations** – Gratitude was extended from the Excom to the future officers of the Dakota Chapter.

**Continuing education** – S. Chipps asked to use survey monkey to poll members for continuing education workshop ideas for future meetings.

**Membership** – Request to update contact info and listserv for Dakota Chapter members and avenue to list lifetime members.

**Information** – M. Brown commented on the difficulty to upkeep website are current location. N. Scheibel noted communication with parent society to host Dakota Chapter website. She said she would be looking into this option further.

**Resolutions** – No resolutions.

**Schmulbach Scholarship** – W. Sayler noted 2 applicants for the Schmulbach award both of which are worthy of the award. One award was granted however, the student may not be enrolled in fall 2015. If so, the Excom would need to decide if the chapter would cover monetary component of the award. This occurred in 2013.

**Environmental Concerns** – G. Adams submitted a request for Dakota Chapter symposia pertaining to environmental concerns.

**NCD Tech Committees** – All updates presented in fall newsletter.

There was no old business brought to the floor.

For new business, D. Dembkowski announced officer candidates for election. W. Sayler moved for a unanimous ballot which was seconded by M. Brown. The members responded unanimously in favor with 0 members opposing. Motion carried. D. Dembkowski brought up discussion for a D. Willis award. W. Sayler suggested the OYPSA

to be changed to the D. Willis OYPSA award. No decision was voted on.

W. Sayler motioned to adjourn and seconded by S. Chipps.

**Submitted by: Mark Fincel**

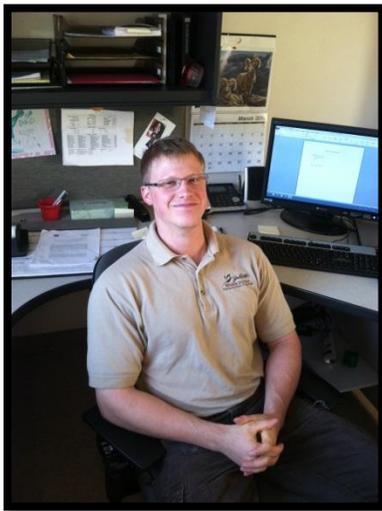
## South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Update

### Staff Update



GFP recently welcomed Tim Parker as a research biologist at McNenny State Fish Hatchery. Tim comes from Ohio and completed both his undergraduate and graduate education at The Ohio State University, working under Konrad Dabrowski. His research focused primarily on the effects of hypoxia on fish growth and oxygen consumption. He also studied the interaction of hypoxia and ammonia toxicity in several species of fish, and the effects of swim bladder inflation on hypoxia tolerance in juvenile yellow perch. Tim is very passionate about fisheries science, has very high expectations for himself, and has already started a study examining the effects of water velocity on

Chinook Salmon hatchery rearing performance, physiology, and simulated post-stocking mortality. On a personal note, Tim is an avid outdoorsmen, and has already harvested his first South Dakota trout (after purchasing a non-resident fishing license of course)! His sense-of-humor, patience, and good-cheer have helped to make Tim an awesome addition to the staff at McNenny!

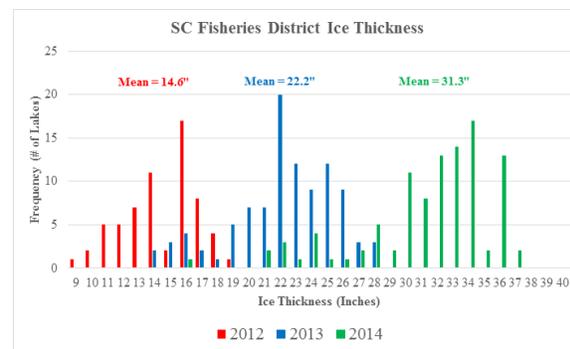


Cody Trefth started as a resource biologist in August of 2013 and has been an excellent addition to the hatchery team. Cody was born and raised in Sioux City, Iowa (I know what you're thinking!!) and graduate in 2013 from SDSU with a BS in Wildlife and Fisheries. Cody had a good set of aquaculture skills prior to starting at Cleghorn from working at Prairie Aqua-tech in Brookings, SD, a private company that conducts aquaculture feed research. Cody is extremely excited to enjoy the hunting and fishing that SD offers and is also into powerlifting, thus we know who to call when we need something heavy moved!

**Submitted by: John Lott**

## North Dakota Game and Fish Department Update

As we spring toward spring (hopefully), we can now look in the ice fishing rearview mirror for this past winter and be thankful for a number of reasons. First, good ice, great fish populations and a relatively snow-free winter made for good ice fishing opportunities. Substantial winter use and harvest occurred on a number of lakes across the state. Although the ice pack was substantial (see ice thickness graph from Paul Bailey for his lakes in south central North Dakota), the lack of deep snow drifts resulted in good light penetration for most of the winter, thus the number of winterkill lakes is anticipated to be few.



With more than 400 lakes marking North Dakota's landscape, the 2014 fishing forecast is again optimistic. With the exception of the Missouri River / Lake Oahe, fish populations are in great shape and we fully expect strong angler use and participation.

It's that time of the year when everyone is itching to get outdoors. I'm not sure who has the worse itch – anglers eager to get onto some open water, or our own staff who just want to get outside and conduct their long list of spring activities. As usual, we have a fairly large need for eggs from northern pike and walleye, in particular, to be collected; paddlefish and walleye to be tagged; gravid yellow perch brood to be moved to new lakes; trout to be stocked; ramps and docks that need immediate

attention; post-winterkill investigations to be made; and the to-do list goes on. Assuredly, and also as usual, all that is on the plate will be addressed.

An ongoing challenge for our Department, as well as our Save Our Lakes program, has been the five-plus year surge in commodity prices and resultant high land prices and rental rates. For North Dakota at least, the USDA farm bill is the single most important piece of legislation affecting fish habitat, good or bad. With the great reduction in the Conservation Reserve Program acreage and the law of gravity, soil continues to be a serious nemesis in sustaining many of our fisheries statewide over the long-term. And, unfortunately, in the big picture there is no way small natural resource agency budgets will be able to address this deterioration of aquatic habitat. Our SOL program will continue to target areas where we can find both willing landowners and a decent resource return for our investment. Despite these continuing concerns, the immediate prospects for fishing are bright, at least in the short-term. As always, get out and wet a line.

**Submitted by: Greg Powers**

## SDSU Subunit Update

Since the last subunit update in December 2013, the AFS Student Subunit at South Dakota State University has continued its commitment to community service as well as the education and professional development of members. As a subunit, we have participated in a number of activities including: community outreach, volunteering, fundraising, leading career building workshops, and hosting professional fisheries leaders to share their research.

At the 2014 Dakota Chapter AFS meeting, the Subunit raised ~\$2500 in raffle and t-shirt sales that were put towards the Dave Willis Scholarship (\$340), the Rob Klumb Memorial Scholarship (\$250), The Center of Biological Diversity in memory of Maegan Spindler (\$250), and towards future fisheries skills workshops. The Subunit funded five Sauger Scholarships for undergraduate student travel to the meeting that went to Morgan Kauth, Jordon Redmond, B.J. Schall, Matthew Phayvanh, and Dalton Benage.

In January of 2014, the Subunit hosted a Natural Resource Management Job Fair to provide undergraduate students across disciplines with valuable information about summer internships with state, federal, and university employers. Also in January, the Subunit traveled to Pactola Reservoir to aid Natalie Scheibel in her thesis work on Lake Trout. Later in March, the Subunit hosted two Nebraska fisheries professionals (Dr. Casey Shoenebeck, University of Nebraska Kearney; Dr. Keith Koupal, Nebraska Game and Parks) to speak with students about upcoming research and career opportunities. Following the speaker presentations, the subunit held a social gathering (including some fish trivia) at the Italian Garden, a local restaurant that provided a 10% donation to the subunit on our purchases.

Throughout the spring semester we have held workshops on Aging Fish (led by Natalie Scheibel) and making Paracord Survival Bracelets (led by Laura Heironimus). Later this spring we plan to host workshops on Fisheries Photography (Led by Matt Wagner) and Intro to Tying Flies (Led by Garrett Rowles). We have a number of volunteer opportunities coming up including: Future Farmers of America (FFA) Judging, the Party for the Planet conservation day at the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls, and the Big Sioux Water Festival held in May at SDSU.

One final thing that has recently happened with the Subunit is the decision to join into the larger Natural Resource Management Club Council at SDSU. This is a newly created council designed to create inter-club communication and participation. Each club has nominated a representative to serve on the council and report back to the subunit on what other clubs are participating in. The council is planning an end of the semester picnic at Oakwood State Park in April to solidify the bonding between clubs and create a more cohesive department.

**Submitted by: Laura Heironimus**



**Mark your calendars!  
The 2015 Annual Meeting location  
has been booked!**



**Dakota Chapter  
of the  
American Fisheries Society**

**February 17-19, 2015  
Comfort Inn, Bismarck, ND**

Tuesday, February 17 – registration, continuing education workshop, and welcoming social

Wednesday, February 18 – registration, papers and business meeting – **awards banquet in the evening**

Thursday, February 19 - papers, adjourn by noon.

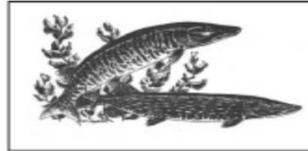
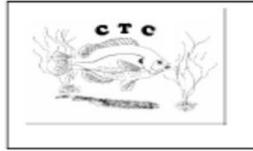
**Make your reservations today!**

**Call the Comfort Inn directly at 701-883-1911 to make a reservation.  
Be sure to mention you are with Dakota Chapter AFS to ensure  
maximum benefits for the Chapter.**

**Further details regarding the continuing education workshop,  
abstract submissions, and award nominations will be provided to the  
chapter once they come available.**



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



**2014 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 22-July 24, 2014

Location: Radisson Hotel La Crosse, La Crosse, Wisconsin  
 (1-608-784-6680; [http://www.radisson.com/la-crosse-hotel-wi-54601/la\\_cross](http://www.radisson.com/la-crosse-hotel-wi-54601/la_cross))

### **Lodging**

A block of rooms has been reserved until **June 21st** at the Radisson La Crosse at a rate of \$70 per night for singles and \$100 for doubles under the name **American Fisheries Society**.

### **Registration Cost**

\$70 for the entire meeting, which includes breaks and a Brew Pub social Tuesday; breakfast buffet, lunch, morning and afternoon breaks, and catfish feed Wednesday; breakfast buffet and morning break Thursday. Students are ½ price. Social and catfish feed dates may be reversed.

### **Continuing Education Workshop**

A continuing education workshop on Fish Identification is tentatively planned by the Wisconsin Chapter AFS for Tuesday July 22<sup>nd</sup>, but this topic may change. Expect a final confirmation within the next two weeks, along with registration details. Cost is expected to be \$45 for regular members and \$30 for students.

### **Registration and Presentation Submittal**

The theme for walleye presentations this year will be Walleye Early Life History. If you have a paper for inclusion, please contact Dan Isermann at [Dan.Isermann@uwsp.edu](mailto:Dan.Isermann@uwsp.edu). Meeting registration will be via email to Donna Muhm, WTC Secretary at [donna.muham@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:donna.muham@dnr.iowa.gov). Please send esocid and centrarchid titles to Donna as well. We will accept payment by cash or check at the door. Sorry, we are not equipped to accept credit cards or other forms of electronic payment. Deadline for registration is **June 30, 2014**.

Hope to see you there!!

**WTC Executive Committee – Hilary Meyer, Chair; Dan Isermann, Immediate Past Chair; Donna Muhm, Secretary; Jordan Weeks, Event Coordinator; Justine Hasz, Wisconsin AFS Chapter**



## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**February 8-11, 2015 74<sup>th</sup> Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference  
Indianapolis, Indiana**

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The annual Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference attracts over 800 biologists and students from state and federal natural resource agencies across the 12 Midwestern states. Highlights include: over 400 technical talks, poster displays, plenary sessions, networking opportunities and social events.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.midwestfw.org/index.html>

## Dakota Chapter Officers

### 2013 – 2014

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## **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 Saylor (chair, SD)  
Wayne Nelson-Stastny (SD)

#### **Resolutions**

Mike Olson (chair, ND)

#### **Awards & Nominations**

Michael Olson (chair, ND)  
Jeff Hendrickson (chair, ND)  
Randy Hiltner (ND)  
Todd St. Sauver (SD)

#### **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)