

AFS - New York Chapter Newsletter -- August 2004

Editors' Note

This is our fifth newsletter we've produced; please let us know how we're doing and what we might do to best serve the needs and interests of chapter membership. We depend on your contributions to make the newsletter the best it can be and hope more of you will contribute photos, abstracts, short reports – even jokes! You may e-mail your contributions to either of us. Next newsletter will be the Fall/Winter edition with a late November deadline.

Leslie Surprenant
Allen Peterson
Co-editors

President's Corner

The Chapter's Executive committee has already met twice during 2004 - April 13 and July 14. In addition to routine business, items discussed by the committee included: 2004 NED and AFS annual meeting chapter participation, planning for 2006 AFS in Lake Placid, and our 2005 workshops and chapter annual meeting planning.

2004 NED and AFS annual meeting chapter participation - On behalf of the NY Chapter, Bill Gordon attended the 2004 Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference held during April in Ocean City Maryland. Both past President Web Pearsall and President-elect Jim McKenna will represent the Chapter at the 2004 American Fisheries Society Annual Conference in Madison, WI.

Planning for 2006 AFS in Lake Placid - An ad hoc committee charged with planning for the 2006 American Fisheries Society Annual Conference in Lake Placid, NY, was formed. Web Pearsall will be chairman.

2005 workshop - A workshop entitled: Georeferencing Your Biological Data: An introduction to the use of Geographical Information Systems for the Fisheries Professional, is planned for 2004. At this time, setting

a date for the workshop is on hold, pending an increased show of interest. If you are interested in this workshop please contact Dick McDonald, at: dmcDonald@usgs.gov

2005 chapter annual meeting planning - The chapter's next annual meeting, scheduled for February 3-4, 2005 in Syracuse, will be a Tri-Society event (NY's fisheries, wildlife and forestry chapters). The tentative theme for the meeting is: *Integrated restoration of natural ecosystems at the watershed scale: incorporating management efforts to restore wetlands, wildlife, forests and fisheries at the land-water interface*

Rationale: Government agencies, academics, private sector and not-for-profit groups are engaged in research, development, and implementation efforts aimed at the restoration of natural ecosystems. Working at the ecosystem level requires understanding linkages between communities of plant, wildlife, and fish species and their linkages with the land and water habitats. Such complex efforts are often best approached at the watershed scale where forestry, wildlife and fishery management disciplines can interact. Human dimension aspects should also be addressed, as the success and effectiveness of restoration efforts are also highly dependent on incorporating the social and cultural needs of people living within the watershed being "restored".

Efforts in fishery restorations include sturgeon in the Great Lakes and Hudson River, Pacific salmon in the Northwest, and brook trout in the Adirondacks. Parallel efforts in wildlife, wetland, and forest restoration are also occurring. Since many of us in the natural resource research and management field are involved at some level in restoration efforts, this theme would be very appropriate for a tri-society meeting of forestry, wildlife, and fishery professionals and students. Program Committee members are working to locate fish, wildlife and forestry professionals and students actively engaged in watershed restoration efforts in both NY and across the country who might be invited to participate in our meeting.

Look for future announcements regarding our 2005 annual meeting and be sure to set aside the dates: February 4 and 5.

Bill Gordon
President – NYS Chapter American Fisheries Society

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Chapter News

Website

Bill Snyder reports that our Chapter website is now operational. Check it out at www.newyorkafs.org. It's still a work in progress and Bill continues to fill in details and clean up the site. Please report any problems you encounter with the site as we work through the development phase. This newsletter will be posted on the website. If you are interested in receiving your newsletters electronically, please contact Bill at bsnyderw@morrisville.edu. Electronic distribution could save the chapter hundreds of dollars in postage and many hours of copying, stuffing, and mailing each year!

Workshop

GIS WORKSHOP – to be held Fall 04 or Spring 05. Location is to be determined. Minimum 20 participants needed to proceed. If you are interested, please contact Dick McDonald at dmcdonald@usgs.gov ASAP.

New members

EXCOMM VOTES TO EXTEND FREE CD AND BOOK OFFER

NYCAFS is making an effort to increase and maintain membership in the Society. If you know of someone who may benefit by membership in the Society, please invite him or her to join.

The first 50 new¹ 2004 members in the Chapter will receive a free copy of the NYCAFS's CD *Historic Distribution of Inland Fishes of NYS: Map Series* by E. C. Raney, which provides the New York distribution of 131 freshwater fish species.

In addition, the first 20 members of the Chapter who

¹ New member is defined as a person who has not been a member for at least the 5 preceding years.

become a new¹ member in the **parent organization the American Fisheries Society** in 2004 will receive a free copy of the *Guidelines for the Use of Fishes in Research*.

John Homa, Jr., Sec./Treas.

NEW YORK CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

C/O IA Inc., 50 Ludlowville Rd., Lansing, NY 14882

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Student Subunit

Professor Contacts needed! We are trying to identify colleges with aquatic environmental programs (and permanent contacts there) throughout New York and the northeast. We would like to identify one or two key professors from these colleges to serve as contacts to the students. The student subunit would benefit by having a more permanent person at each college to keep students up-to-date on activities within the Chapter. Please forward any college/contact information you might have to Mark Arrigo at marrigo@ecologicllc.com. Thanks for your help!

National AFS News

New Releases from AFS

The Development of Form and Function in Fishes and the Question of Larval Adaptation

John Jeffrey Govoni, editor.

This book, the proceedings of a symposium held at the 26th Annual Larval Fish Conference, of the Early Life History Section of the American Fisheries Society, in Bergen, Norway presents current thought that reflects upon the following questions: when and in what capacity do developing organs or organ systems come on line, and more importantly, are these organs and their functions specializations unique to embryos and larvae or are they simply rudimentary functional anlage of the adult form? Understanding how larval fish function, how they acquire energy to grow, and how they expend energy to survive is basic to any endeavor in either mariculture or aquaculture.

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The symposium invited and drew in scientists from around the world, who have compiled information, achieved understanding, and made their information available in this symposium volume. The chapters included in this book show the development of form and function in the following major anatomical systems: gross external anatomy (swimming), the integument (osmoregulation and taste), the alimentary canal, other visceral organs, the swim bladder, gills, and sensory systems, as well as blood and circulation.

Stock #540.40; ISBN 1-888569-58-1
AFS Members: \$42.00, plus shipping and handling
List: \$60.00, plus shipping and handling

Early Life History of Fishes in the San Francisco Estuary and Watershed

Frederick Feyrer, Larry R. Brown, Randall L. Brown, and James J. Orsi, editors

This book is the primary source of information on the early life history of fishes in the San Francisco Estuary and its watershed. There has been a large body of research and monitoring conducted in the system; however, very little of it has been published. This book contains more papers on fish early life history in the system than all previous publications combined. There is a great deal of interest in the system itself, as it is the largest estuary on the Pacific Coast of the United States. In addition to providing a resource for people generally interested in the system, original papers on feeding ecology, growth, environmental requirements of species, community ecology, emerging modeling techniques, development, and toxicology will benefit scientists specializing in a variety of disciplines.

Stock #540.39, paper
AFS Members: \$42.00, plus shipping and handling
List: \$60.00, plus shipping and handling

Geographic Information Systems in Fisheries

William L. Fisher and Frank J. Rahel, editors

This book summarizes a growing body of information on applications of geographic information systems (GIS) in fisheries research and management. It is the first book of its kind that provides examples of GIS applications for all components of a fishery (i.e., organisms, habitats, and people), in both freshwater and marine environments. The book is intended for use by fisheries students and professionals alike and is a reference for fisheries scientists who are interested in using GIS as a tool for solving fisheries management problems.

The book introduces ways GIS can be applied to fisheries, identifies challenges associated with using GIS in aquatic environments, reviews fisheries applications of GIS in freshwater (streams, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs) and marine

(nearshore and offshore) environments and in aquaculture, examines GIS as a tool for fisheries decision making, and concludes with the future of GIS in fisheries.

Stock #550.41C, hardbound
AFS Members: \$48.00, plus shipping and handling
List: \$69.00, plus shipping and handling

The Ecology and Management of Wood in World Rivers

Stan V. Gregory, Kathryn L. Boyer, and Angela M. Gurnell, editors

This book is the proceedings of the "International Conference on Wood in World Rivers" held in Corvallis, Oregon. The volume (1) synthesizes world knowledge about large wood in streams and rivers in relation to physical and ecological processes and stream restoration; (2) presents the status of knowledge of the physical dynamics and ecological interactions of large wood in streams and rivers in different geographical regions; (3) creates a framework for interpreting and potentially applying the results of research in different geographical regions and management systems; (4) identifies different management systems for large wood in rivers; (5) assesses physical and biological responses of large wood in stream restoration; and (6) explores links between primary information of the physical and ecological dynamics of large wood resource management systems, and the communities and cultures in which they are applied.

Stock #540.37, paper
AFS Members: \$53.00, plus shipping and handling
List: \$75.00, plus shipping and handling

To order publications:

*Online: www.fisheries.org/cgi-bin/hazel-cgi/hazel.cgi
*Phone or Fax: (678) 366-1411, or Fax (770) 442-9742.
*Email: afspubs@pbd.com

What's new at AFS? Read all about it at

<http://www.fisheries.org/WhatsNew.shtml>
<http://www.fisheries.org/WhatsNew.shtml>

The AFS Online Bookstore is a valuable resource for all fisheries and aquaculture related books:

<http://www.fisheries.org/cgi-bin/hazel-cgi/hazel.cgi>
<http://www.fisheries.org/cgi-bin/hazel-cgi/hazel.cgi>

AFS Job Center Online (and other employment resources):

<http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.shtml>
<http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.shtml>

Renew your AFS Membership online at

<http://www.fisheries.org/forms.shtml>

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Don't forget to browse featured articles from the latest issue of FISHERIES magazine at:
<http://www.fisheries.org/fisheries/fishery.shtml>

Recent Theses and Reports

None submitted for this newsletter. If you have a recent thesis or report you want to submit for the Fall/Winter newsletter, please e-mail an abstract to editors Allen Peterson ampeterson@nyseg.com or Leslie Surprenant ljsurpre@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Upcoming Events

AFS Chapter Picnic Saturday, September 25, 2004 Salmon River Hatchery, Altmar, NY

Mark your calendars and bring the kids for a day of fun, food and fish at one of New York's premier fish spots! This year's AFS Chapter picnic will be at the Salmon River hatchery during their annual open house on National Hunting and Fishing Day.

There will be a ton of activities during the 9 am to 4 pm open house: hatchery tour, watching the salmon run, trout and pan-fishing at the reservoir, fishing seminars, stream ecology workshop in the stream, displays from many hunting and fishing groups, a fish petting zoo and a rare and endangered fish display.

We have on-site picnic tables reserved from 11 am until 4:00. The Chapter will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, soda, paper plates, cups, silverware and napkins. Please bring a dish to pass.

Contact: Randy Vaas [navypap@twcny.rr.com](mailto:navyvap@twcny.rr.com) any time or Jim McKenna jemckenna@usgs.gov after September 7 to register. Please register by Sept. 21.

Wild Trout VIII Symposium

"Working Together to Ensure the Future of Wild Trout"

September 20-22, 2004

Yellowstone National Park, Old Faithful Inn

GIS Intro for Conservation Professionals

The Conservation Management Institute (<http://www.cmiweb.org>) and the National Conservation Training Center of the US Fish and

Wildlife Service

(<http://training.fws.gov/>) are pleased to offer their "GIS Introduction for Conservation Professionals" on-site to state fish and wildlife agencies. This course is normally offered in Shepherdstown West Virginia primarily to US Fish and Wildlife Service staff. This new initiative allows us to deliver the NCTC course at a location convenient to the state fish and wildlife agency that purchases the course such as the state agency headquarters or other central location. The course has been customized for applicability to state fish and wildlife agency personnel. \$525/person for a three day (24 training hours total) course. College credit:

1 semester hour. To learn more about the course please contact:

Andrew Rosenberger

Conservation Management Institute

540 231-7348

anrosenb@vt.edu

You may also view information about the course on the NCTC web site:

<https://otis.fws.gov/Index.cfm?empcode=GUEST23834&CFID=28883&CFTOKEN=8141616>

National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

September 12 – 15, Seattle WA

<http://www.estuaries.org>

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting, Atlantic City, NJ.

September 26 – October 1, 2004

<http://www.iafwa.org>

Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, and Water

October 18-21, 2004

University of Massachusetts at Amherst

More information at www.UMassSoils.com

Annual Conference on Ecosystems Restoration and Creation, Tampa, FL.

October 28 – 29, 2004

<http://www.hccfl.edu/depts/detp/ecoconf.html>

Annual Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society, Victoria, BC.

November 3 – 5, 2004

<http://www.nalms.org/>

NY Chapter AFS Annual Meeting : Integrated restoration of natural ecosystems at the watershed scale: incorporating management efforts to restore wetlands, wildlife, forests and fisheries at the land-water interface. Tri-society meeting. Syracuse, NY. February 3-4, 2005

Miscellaneous

Notes from Emily Zollweg - enthusiastic Fish and Wildlife Service biologist

So here I was just doing my job, fishing the Genesee River... And up out of the net appears this tiny little fish with barbels and scutes all along it's sides and back. What to my wondering eyes is this? Why it's the sturgeon I've been looking for! We (DEC did the catching and rearing, had the idea and did all the habitat work, and me (USFWS), well, it's my job to catch the fish (funded by the EPA of course)), stocked 900 YOY lake sturgeon in September 2003. We spent some time looking for them last fall and found 9 and tagged them. We figured we'd try again this spring, struck out on our first trip, and the next trip started out the same, 0 sturgeon (but lots of FWD!). But lo and behold, the next day we caught 5 sturgeon! Wow, we sure were excited. By the end of the trip we were up to 16 fish tagged. We're trying to figure out which habitats the sturgeon like in the river and how long they will hang out before taking off for Lake Ontario to grow and roam. We were so excited, we decided we'd better keep sampling through the summer. So last week, I went out again, I only had a few days after the long holiday weekend, but I was optimistic. We braved the rain and thunder to set the nets, trying one new spot, altering the angle on another just slightly, went home and tidied up the desk in anticipation of a long field day the next day. The next day dawned a little dark, rain threatened, but by the time we got out there it was starting to clear. We went up to the first net, WooHoo! A sturgeon! Success! Excitement, break out the tags, take a Ponar sample, ooh, this one's a little heavy, I need the bigger scale (over 100 g, it's been finding things to eat out there!). We go to the next net, just downstream, I'm overwhelmed, we caught 5, count them 5 sturgeon, all healthy, clearly growing, maybe even ready to fly. I figure we're done for the day, we pull the next two nets with no sturgeon, as usual, we're pretty sure they just don't. For the serious fisheries person, these web sites are a

like those spots. But the last net, where I tweaked the angle of the set just a little more cross current, just a little bit more toward the center of the river, had a sturgeon in the first 5 feet we pulled up. Hhmmm, what's going on here? The next day, we wonder, was it a fluke? Just a good day to catch sturgeon? Was it the new nets? The tweaked set? We pull the first net, 5 sturgeon. I nearly cried. I'm good at my job, but sometimes the fish make me look better! Who else can say that they work with such a wonderful fish, unique and special in so many ways. They live for a really long time (about 70 years on average for a female, 50 years for a male), they don't usually spawn the first time until their teens or twenties, they eat the little organisms that live in the sediments of our lakes and rivers, they stick their heads up out of the water and look around, they leap full out of the water to call others to the spawning grounds, their scutes and thick skin protect them from being eaten or attacked by parasites, scuba divers report being able to swim right up next to them, as if maybe we were just another fish, wearing it's protection on the outside. So, the rest of the story? We caught two more fish that day, including one in the last net again. Was it the angle of the set, a good week to catch sturgeon, or do the fish really like the spot we picked for them? I'm young enough that I never saw the Genesee at it's worst, but I have seen enough of the world to say that it looks like a pretty good river to me, very little floating garbage, natural looking shorelines for the most part (at least there are cattails there not seawall for most of the length!), lots of fish eating birds, turtles, and most of our bycatch looks healthy too. So far the lake sturgeon seems to be pretty happy to be back in the Genesee, and I for one, am happy to say that I have a great job!



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For the serious fisheries person only, these web sites are a must see:

<http://www.carlylelake.com/fishjokes.htm>

<http://216.71.45.213/fishjoke.html>

<http://www.funs.co.uk/jokes/fish.htm>

<http://www.yuksrus.com/fish.html>

Believe it or not . . .





Give your child a fish and he'll eat for a day; teach your child to fish and he'll humiliate you forever!

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