



**New York Chapter  
American Fisheries  
Society – Newsletter**

**Summer 2011**

New York Chapter Officers  
2011-2012  
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Newsletter Editor: Emily Zollweg  
[eczollwe@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:eczollwe@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

# AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Summer 2011

## Editors' Note

Welcome to the Summer 2011 newsletter! Please enjoy this newsletter full of interesting news and perspectives of our past and future, and feel free to write to me with suggestions and articles for future newsletters! If you would care to submit something for the Winter newsletter, please email it to me at [eczollwe@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:eczollwe@gw.dec.state.ny.us) by December 15, 2011. I'm especially looking for fish stories and student happenings...

Emily Zollweg, Newsletter Editor

## President's Corner

I hope all of you are having a great summer and have been able to get out on the water at least a few times. I'm happy to report that we have made significant progress on a number of initiatives over the past few months.

I hope that you have had the opportunity to visit the new Chapter website [www.newyorkafs.org](http://www.newyorkafs.org). If not, I encourage you to do so. The site has been completely remodeled thanks to the hard work of Erik Latremore. Now that we have the basic format, we need all of our members to assist in making certain that it meets the needs of the Chapter membership. If you have any ideas, or photos or information that you would like to post be sure to let us know.

One of the primary goals that I set for my tenure as Chapter president was to improve communication among all Chapter members. The website is a major part of this. We have also established on a trial basis a Chapter Facebook group (New York Chapter of the American Fisheries Society), which I hope will further improve communication, particularly among students and other younger members. Eric, Emily Zollweg, Brian Weidel and I will be working on development of our Facebook group page. We have already been asked to include job postings and we encourage any of you that have additional ideas to let us know what they are and to join in and participate.

I have been busy over the past few months finalizing arrangements for our 2012 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held February 1-3, 2012 at the High Peaks Resort in Lake Placid, NY. Donald Einhouse and Jeff Loukmas are our program chairs for the event. We are planning on a very topical meeting with a plenary session that will look at the various partnerships that are being utilized between State, Federal, Provincial and private fisheries professionals to protect and enhance our fisheries resources. We are also planning on conducting a special session on black bass management in the northeast, which will include current work being conducted on Lake Champlain.

This fall marks the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2006 Annual Meeting held in Lake Placid. In commemoration of that anniversary we will be holding a chapter social/camporee in conjunction with the Whiteface Mountain Oktoberfest in Wilmington, NY. The band from our famed "Fishtoberfest" will be playing and I am currently working on what I hope will be a fun weekend of camping, fishing, hiking, music and general camaraderie. Stay tuned to the website and Facebook page for more details over the next few weeks as our plans come together.

Ed Woltmann, President

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## Chapter News

### Website

Please feel free to email me at [ejlatrem@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:ejlatrem@gw.dec.state.ny.us) with your questions or suggestions.  
Erik Latremore, NYSAFS Webmaster

The New York Chapter of the American Fisheries Society would like to formally invite you to join our new Facebook group to stay informed and communicate with other members. You will be able to view job announcements, current events, or even catch up with good 'ol friends. If you do not have a Facebook account, type [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) into your web browser and fill out the information under "Sign Up." We have a link from our new website as well under Social Network. Friend us soon to stay in the loop and help us help you help our fisheries resources ;-). If you have suggestions and ideas on how to manage or what to post on our Facebook site, we would like to hear them.

### Awards

Please read through the different award descriptions and nominate persons who you feel qualify for an award. They will be presented at the banquet at the chapter meeting held in February 2012 in Lake Placid.

#### **New York Chapter Awards**

The New York Chapter has three award classifications for recognizing our fisheries professionals:

##### *Honorary Member Award*

The Honorary Member Award is for significant involvement and accomplishments by an individual to the Chapter or official position (i.e. Guest Speakers). Nominations should include a brief biography and discussion of the significant involvement and contributions towards conservation of fisheries/aquatic resource within the Chapter. The only criterion for the award is that the nominee must be a member in good standing.

##### *Professional Achievement Award*

The Professional of the Year Award is awarded to an individual employed in a field related to fisheries and aquatic resources. Nominations for individuals should include a brief biography along with information pertaining to service, impact on the resource and other professional, and significant accomplishments. Eligible accomplishments by the nominee can be in one of the following categories: Leadership and Development, Education, Aquaculture, Management, Research and Technical Support.

- Only members in good standing can make nominations
- The recipient must be a member in good standing
- The award is based on fisheries related work in New York

##### *Conservationist of the Year Award*

The Conservationist of the Year Award is for significant involvement and accomplishments by an individual or group not employed in the fisheries or aquatic resources field (i.e. Conservation or Angler Groups). Nominations should include a brief biography and discussion of the significant involvement and contributions towards conservation of fisheries/aquatic resources. The only criterion for the award is that the award is based on fisheries/aquatic resource related work accomplished in New York. It is never

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too late to nominate our peers for their outstanding work related to fisheries and aquatic resources. Please take some time and think about your peers who deserve recognition.

### **Dave Bryson Memorial Award**

The New York Chapter of the American Fisheries Society established the Dave Bryson Memorial Fisheries Fund in memory of Dave Bryson, ex-chapter President and long-time member. Eligible recipients include any college-bound high school students, college student or young fisheries professional in a fisheries-related program of study or a recent college graduate that has received a degree from a fisheries-related program of study within the past two years. The award is intended to assist the recipient in furthering their education or fisheries-related career aspirations and may be used for travel expenses, equipment purchase, or educational costs (i.e. books). Please take some time and think about a student or young professional who deserve recognition.

Nominations can be emailed to Ross Abbett at [rabbett@usgs.gov](mailto:rabbett@usgs.gov)

### Workshop

## Student News

### **SUNY-ESF students study alosine herrings for conservation and restoration**

Despite being an inland college, SUNY ESF places students in the estuarine tidewaters. The theme that binds studies underway by Rita Monteiro (PhD student), Christopher Nack (MSc student), and Sara Turner (PhD student) is the fact that fishes of the genus *Alosa* (Family Clupeidae) are in severe decline. Although forgotten by the general public, these species constituted the most important fisheries in 19th Century America, along with Atlantic cod (another species now in severe decline). In fact, the first article (yes, the first!) in the Transactions of the AFS, then called the American Fish Culturist Society, was about [American] shad culture.

Rita and Chris are studying habitat influences on the survival and recruitment of anadromous alewife (Rita) and American shad (Chris). Their approaches are very different. Rita is examining the impacts of development on alewife, examining the relationship of land use/land cover to indices of "well being." Adopting a geospatial and biogeochemical approach, Rita is examining alewife in small, coastal ponds from Cape Cod up to Maine. The catchments of these ponds vary in development from very little (5%) to over 60%. Among the many findings: the fish in developed catchments show a "sewage signature" from nitrogen stable isotope ratios; they also have poorer condition indices. Stay tuned for her dissertation, coming soon.

Chris Nack, on the other hand, is studying the importance of habitat for larval and juvenile American shad in the Hudson River Estuary. Focusing on four different habitat types, he hopes to identify features that promote young shad. Now in his second year of the project, he has found differences in larval shad growth and condition among the habitats. He also discovered that American shad larvae have developed a taste for zebra mussel veligers. The tiny veligers, which are pelagic, could be seen packed into the shad intestines. (Revenge of the shad!) And now, thanks to a generous grant from Riverkeeper, Chris is working with a new boat that will enable him to cover more of the estuary.

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Finally, Sara Turner is looking at yet another aspect of habitat: how aqueous geochemistry can put its mark into fish otoliths. The objects of her study are juvenile blueback herring and alewife, collectively called "river herring" despite the fact that they spend most of their lives at sea. Sara is testing the hypothesis that certain trace elements and isotopes in water, derived from local geology and soils, are taken up in proportion to environmental concentrations. This has been demonstrated for a number of species, but not specifically for river herring. Preliminary results are promising, and so Sara will be able to generate a "geochemical atlas" of the provenance of alewives and blueback herring. The ultimate application of this knowledge will be to identify the origins of river herring caught as marine bycatch.

All three students are culturally invested in fisheries as a way of life. But their generation is witnessing a massive decline in many marine and diadromous species, through an all too familiar triad of overfishing, habitat loss, and pollution. Research such as that conducted by Rita, Chris, and Sara will help us understand important parts of the puzzle to reverse the trend.

### **The Use of Radio-Telemetry and Mark/Recapture to Study Brown Trout Populations in the Upper Esopus Creek, New York**

Alex Koeberle, T.J. Ross, Bill Fisher

Nestled in the heart of the Catskill Mountains, the Upper Esopus Creek supports brook, brown, and rainbow trout populations that attract fishermen worldwide. Halfway between its headwaters and the Ashokan Reservoir, water from the hypolimnion of the Schoharie Reservoir is released into the Esopus via the Shandaken Tunnel. In addition to supplementing the Esopus's streamflow, the tunnel alters turbidity and temperature downstream from its confluence. Disparity between anglers and watershed managers has emerged as it is speculated that the tunnel creates adverse aesthetic and ecological impacts. In the summer of 2011, we assessed potential effects of the Shandaken Tunnel on brown trout populations of the Esopus. We used radio-telemetry to determine in-stream fish locations, internal body temperatures, and fish habitat use, and we used mark-recapture to quantify fish growth and condition throughout the summer. Early findings have shown that fish upstream from the tunnel are moving greater distances, especially during warmer cycles, than fish located downstream, and trout located upstream from the tunnel are exhibiting negative growth throughout the summer, whereas trout downstream from the tunnel are exhibiting increased growth. Although data analysis is in its early stages, it appears that the Shandaken Tunnel is beneficial for the brown trout populations in the Esopus Creek.

Tyler (T.J.) Ross, received the best student fisheries paper at the 2011 Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference. His talk entitled "*Behavioral and Physiological Responses of Stream-dwelling Trout to Altered Hydrology, Turbidity and Temperature Regimes*" discussed results from his master's research at Cornell University where he is working with Dr. Bill Fisher within the New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. T.J. completed his final field season during summer 2011, and he looks forward to presenting final research results at the 2011 Annual AFS meeting, as well as at the 2012 NYAFS meeting.

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## Northeast Division

The latest edition of the NED newsletter “The Northeast Fish Rapper” is now available at [http://www.fisheriessociety.org/ned/PDFs/NEFishRapper-Aug\\_11\\_v27i2.pdf](http://www.fisheriessociety.org/ned/PDFs/NEFishRapper-Aug_11_v27i2.pdf)

Ann Grote, Graduate Assistant, Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Maine  
ann.grote@umit.maine.edu, (207) 581-1340, (207) 581 2858 (fax)

## Announcements

### **DIADROMOUS SPECIES RESTORATION RESEARCH NETWORK UPDATE**

A bi-monthly announcement of happenings in the diadromous species research and restoration community

Please visit the DSRRN Website [<http://www.umaine.edu/searunfish>] to learn more about:

**Conference:** River Monitoring & Climate Change Conference, May 18-19, Leominster, MA

**Research Publication:** “Survival variability and population density in fish populations”

**Management Publication:** “A Forest of Blue: Canada’s Boreal Forest, the World’s Waterkeeper”

**Resources:** Michigan State University Quantitative Fisheries Center AND Gulf of Maine Council Ecosystem Indicator Partnership

**WANTED: Restoration News from Maritime Canada and other Eastern Seaboard States!** Please help us spread the word. If you have a restoration project, article, or job/funding opportunity in your area, please let us know!

## AFS News

### New titles from AFS

#### **The Angler in the Environment: Social, Economic, Biological, and Ethical Dimensions**

T. Douglas Beard, Robert Arlinghaus, and Stephen G. Sutton, editors

365 pages, Symposium 75

Published by the American Fisheries Society

Publication date: July 2011

ISBN: 978-1-934874-24-0

\$79.00 list price, \$55.30 AFS members

To order: <http://www.afsbooks.org/54075P>

Based on papers presented at the 5th World Recreational Fishing Conference, this timely book focuses on the interactions between recreational anglers and the aquatic environment. Among the many emerging issues covered in the book are the consequences of various fishing rights for sustainable recreational fisheries; partnership approaches among the recreational fishing industry, managers, and researchers for solving sustainability challenges; biological impacts of recreational fisheries; the ethics of the sport; and innovative survey methods for assessing recreational fisheries.

This volume will appeal to anyone interested in recreational fisheries management and policy.

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## **Biology, Management, and Culture of Walleye and Sauger**

Bruce A. Barton, editor  
570 pages, index  
Published by the American Fisheries Society  
Publication date: June 2011  
ISBN: 978-1-934874-22-6  
\$79.00 list price, \$55.30 AFS members  
To order: <http://www.afsbooks.org/55065P>

This new compendium serves as a single comprehensive source of information on the biology, ecology, management, and culture of walleye and sauger in North America.

Early chapters cover Sander systematics, including osteological evidence and molecular and population genetics and recent advancements in stock identification. Extensive information is documented on habitat requirements for various life history stages and how these stages can be influenced by environmental perturbations. Other chapters describe environmental biology and feeding energetics, and provide details on walleye and sauger life histories, walleye population and community dynamics in lakes that reflect the influence of lake size, fishing methods, and various management techniques using case histories, and exploitation from recreational, commercial, aboriginal, and mixed fisheries. Harvest regulations, sampling procedures, and their effectiveness are also reviewed and evaluated. Final chapters review and analyze stocking procedures, marking techniques, ecological effects of stocking, and the state of the art of walleye and hybrid walleye culture.

This reference work will be used by fishery scientists, biologists, managers, culturists, students, and interested public such as anglers and conservationists.

## **Invasive Asian Carps in North America**

Duane C. Chapman and Michael H. Hoff, editors  
265 pages  
Published by the American Fisheries Society, Symposium #74  
Publication date: June 2011  
ISBN: 978-1-934874-23-3  
\$79.00 list price, \$55.30 AFS members  
To order: <http://www.afsbooks.org/54074P>

Grass carp, black carp, bighead carp, and silver carp are native to Asia, and in North America are referred to as "Asian carps." These fishes have been popular aquaculture species for more than a thousand years. After their importation to the United States in the 1960s and 1970s, all of these species have escaped confinement. There is concern about the ecological and economic damage consequences of introducing these environmental engineers into North America.

This book examines the history, biology, and status of Asian carps, and reviews current research on control measures. Explores the factors influencing recruitment and spread of Asian carps, considers current research on habitat requirements of bigheaded carps, analyzes data on diet overlap and potential competition between bigheaded carps and native fishes, and examines the use of pheromones as controls for Asian carps.

**[AFS Information on the Web](http://www.fisheries.org)** <http://www.fisheries.org>

AFS has a mailing list for postings regarding fish, announcements, job opportunities and requests for information. You can subscribe to receive these in normal email mode or in digest mode. To subscribe, e-mail to: [daemon@fisheries.org](mailto:daemon@fisheries.org) and enter SUBSCRIBE AFS in the body of the e-mail.



NEW FRONTIERS IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND ECOLOGY:  
LEADING THE WAY IN A CHANGING WORLD

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY 141ST ANNUAL MEETING  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON . SEPTEMBER 4-8, 2011 . [WWW.FISHERIES.ORG/AFS2011](http://www.fisheries.org/afs2011)

## Registration Deadline for CE courses is August 19, 2011!

### Time is Running Out, so Register Right Away!

You can register for CE courses online, or complete a separate CE Registration form and send it via fax, mail, or email to AFS. For information about CE courses, as well as registration, please see the AFS Seattle website: <http://afs2011.org/registration/>.

### 2011 AFS Continuing Education Courses:

- Leadership at All Levels in AFS
- Basic/Intermediate GIS for Fisheries Biologists
- Advanced GIS for Fisheries Biologists
- Mapping Habitat of Inland Freshwater Systems Using Side Scan Sonar
- River Morphology and Restoration
- Introduction to Programming in R for Fisheries Scientists
- Sim-Stream 8.0 – Software for Instream Habitat Simulation at the Mesoscale
- Effective Speaking When the Heat is On!
- Collaborative Negotiations
- Introduction to Structured Decision Making for Natural Resources Management
- Digital Photography for Aquatic Scientists
- Statistical Concepts and Tools for Fisheries Biologists
- Introduction to Scientific Acoustics for Fisheries
- RiverRAT – Science and Tools for Evaluating and Developing Stream Engineering, Management, and Restoration Proposals
- Sports Fishing Events 101
- Surgical Procedures for Implanting Transmitters in Fishes
- How to Lead an Effective Technical Meeting

### 2011 AFS Technology Workshops:

- Sound Metrics ARIS Technology Workshop
- VEMCO Acoustic Telemetry Technology Workshop

**See you in Seattle!**

AFS reserves the right to cancel any courses that do not meet minimum attendance requirements.

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## Nominations sought for the Oscar E. Sette Award by the Marine Fisheries Section

The Oscar E. Sette Award Committee seeks nominations for the 2011 Sette Award. The Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated sustained excellence in marine fishery biology through research, teaching, administration, or a combination of the three. Specific criteria for the Award may be viewed at this link to the Section's webpage:

[http://fishweb.ifas.ufl.edu/mfs/index\\_files/Sette\\_Award.htm](http://fishweb.ifas.ufl.edu/mfs/index_files/Sette_Award.htm)

Nominations require a somewhat extended nominating statement (generally more than one paragraph, at minimum) and the Curriculum Vitae of the nominee. Send nominations to Desmond M. Kahn, Chair, Oscar E. Sette Award Committee at [desmond.kahn@state.de.us](mailto:desmond.kahn@state.de.us)

Nominations will be accepted through August 15, 2011.

## Subject: 2011 Call For AFS Volunteers

It Is Your Society ->Get Involved!!!

Volunteers are the driving force of professional and scientific societies such as AFS. Our mission can be fulfilled through the time and knowledge volunteered by members just like you. I hope that this will be the year that you serve on one of the society's many committees!

Committees serve a vital function in the advancement of AFS's mission: they provide the technical leadership that allows our programs, such as journals, books, certification, meetings, resource policy etc, to be the best in the world. For a description of the committees see the Unit Survival Manual on our web site at: [http://www.fisheries.org/afs/docs/about\\_unit.pdf](http://www.fisheries.org/afs/docs/about_unit.pdf), on page 102.

The AFS needs your skills, passion, and perspectives to build a vibrant, inclusive, and multicultural corps of volunteer leaders. You are invited to apply for a volunteer committee appointment.

Check out the attached application to learn the ways in which you can volunteer your time and expertise. By saving the attached Word document, you can fill it in and return to [ggoldberg@fisheries.org](mailto:ggoldberg@fisheries.org). Take a moment, review the opportunities for participation, and volunteer your skills.

## AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY APPLICATION FOR COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

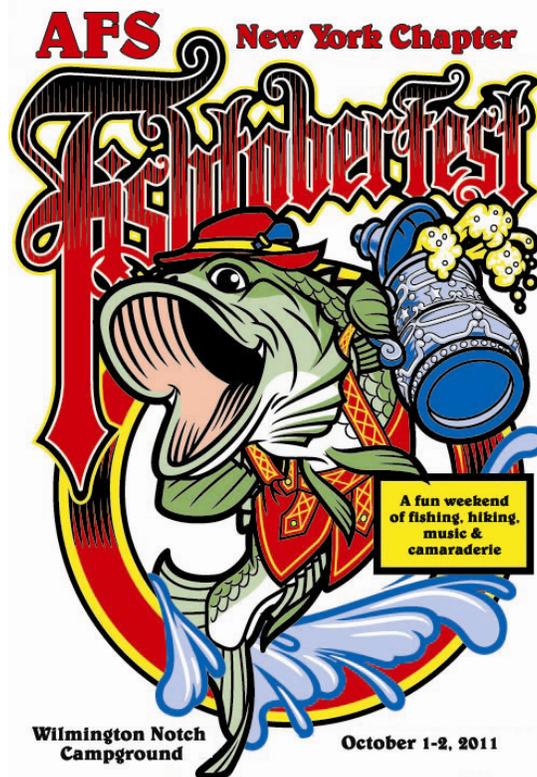
As a small organization, AFS depends on volunteers for many tasks related to the science and the profession. Committees at all levels of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) provide many ideas that shape the future of the Society, and they are excellent avenues for members to begin or continue volunteer service to AFS. We encourage new members to contact their Chapter, Division, and Section officers to volunteer their services. We encourage experienced members, including students, to apply for AFS Committee appointments. (AFS committee terms are considered by the incoming AFS President for appointment starting in September) By volunteering at one or more of these levels, a member gains experience and leadership skills

<input type="checkbox"/> Awards	<input type="checkbox"/> Investment	<input type="checkbox"/> Publications Overview	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Services Advisory
<input type="checkbox"/> Meetings Overview	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Professional Certification
<input type="checkbox"/> Resource Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Concerns	<input type="checkbox"/> Task Force on Fishery Chemicals
<input type="checkbox"/> Endangered Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Time and Place	<input type="checkbox"/> Names of Fishes	<input type="checkbox"/> Names of Aquatic Invertebrates
<input type="checkbox"/> Vote Auditor	<input type="checkbox"/> External Affairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology
<input type="checkbox"/> Publications Award	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethics and Professional Conduct		<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Meeting Program

Upcoming Events

**Make Plans for Fishtoberfest 2, October 1-2 at Wilmington Notch Campground**

Plans are coming together for a fun weekend of camping, hiking, fishing, music and camaraderie at the Wilmington Notch Campground in Wilmington, NY on October 1-2. Wilmington Notch is immediately adjacent to the Whiteface Mountain Ski Area which will be holding its annual Oktoberfest featuring Die Schlauberger (DSB). For those of you who attended the 2006 AFS Meeting in Lake Placid, you will remember this band that did such a fantastic job at our Fishtoberfest social. Although final details are still being worked out, plans are for chapter members and friends to set up camp at Wilmington Notch and head over to the Oktoberfest each afternoon. Plenty of time will also be available for various hiking and fishing adventures. Those interested in attending are encouraged to make their reservations as soon as possible for the DEC Wilmington Notch campground at <http://newyorkstateparks.reserveamerica.com> or 1-800-456-camp. Additional details and a schedule of events for the Whiteface Mountain Oktoberfest can be found at [www.whiteface.com/summer/events/octoberfest.php](http://www.whiteface.com/summer/events/octoberfest.php). Info on the band can be found at [www.dsbworld.com](http://www.dsbworld.com). Be sure to check the Chapter website or Facebook page where additional information will be posted as our plans are finalized.



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### Jobs

AFS Job Center Online: <http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.shtml> <http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.shtml>

The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries has an opening for a stock assessment scientist. The position announcement is posted online at <http://osp.its.state.nc.us/positiondetail.asp?vacancykey=4308-60032574&printit=no> (vacancy number 60032574). Applications must be received by 5:00 pm on August 23, 2011.

**\*\*GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS at OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY\*\***

We are seeking highly motivated students for graduate studies (MS and PhD-level) at Oregon State University in Fisheries and Wildlife and Agricultural & Resource Economics. Successful applicants will be participants in the Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center, which aims to increase the number of students from under-represented communities with graduate degrees in marine science. All research projects will involve collaboration with National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientists and focus on quantitative aspects of fisheries ecology, including recruitment studies, and bio-economic evaluation of marine fisheries resources. Annual stipend and tuition waivers are available.

Interested candidates should send their CV with the names of two references, a statement of interest, and copies of transcripts by September 15, 2011 to:

Dr. Jessica Miller, Hatfield Marine Science Center, 2030 SE Marine Science Drive, Newport, Oregon 97365.

[Jessica.Miller@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Jessica.Miller@oregonstate.edu)

For additional information, please see the following webpages:

OSU FW: <http://fw.oregonstate.edu/>

OSU Agricultural & Resource Economics: <http://arec.oregonstate.edu/>

Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center:

<http://umes.edu/LMRCSC/Default.aspx?id=16098>

### Interesting Stuff

Field Notes E-mail News

Check out DEC's new electronic newsletter, Field Notes. Produced by the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, the newsletter provides a variety of information regarding the state's fish and wildlife species, including recreational opportunities, regulation changes, wildlife viewing events, press releases, and other wildlife news stories. To learn more and subscribe, visit the Field Notes web page at [www.dec.ny.gov/about/63801.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/63801.html) on the DEC website.

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From the desk of Past-President Fred Henson:

Our busy professional lives are such that, very often, we rely on contemporary authors who may themselves be relying on review papers to pass on the essential ideas of the pioneering literature of aquatic ecology. I believe that there is some value in reading some of this literature for ourselves. I must admit however, that, these days, I seldom live up to that ideal. Our chapter has profited from the efforts of Doug Sheppard, Bob Daniels, and others who have done their part keep us in touch with our history. So inspired by them, I decided to read *Principes de la méthode rationnelle du peuplement des cours d'eau à salmonides*; a work published in 1910 in *Travaux du laboratoire d'hydrobiologie et de pisciculture de l'Université de Grenoble* and cited in *Guidelines for Stocking Trout Streams in New York State*.

The author, Louis Léger, worked at the University of Grenoble in France where he helped to establish an ecological research program that continues there to this day. In writing *Principes*, Léger takes aim at three objectives. The first is to explain a system that he has devised and tested for rating the salmonid carrying capacity of a stream on a 1-10 scale. The second is to demonstrate how this information may be used to improve the effectiveness and consistency of “put, grow, and take” stocking. The third is to justify, on economic grounds, a nationwide inventory of trout streams according to his system. Despite my modest level of French language proficiency, the clear organization and boldness of Léger’s writing was apparent from the first paragraph.

Léger’s measure of carrying capacity is derived primarily from a suite of biological and physical habitat measurements (*dossier monographique hydrobiologique*) that are essentially qualitative but remarkably comprehensive from the perspective of this 21<sup>st</sup> century biologist. We might measure some parameters differently, but, other than genetic considerations, his field questionnaire omits little of importance. He even urges his readers to consider economic and political factors (riparian ownership, industrial pollution, etc.) that might compromise the productivity of a stream. Léger’s method also includes the creation of detailed stream reach maps (*cartes hydrobiologiques piscicoles*) to accompany each *dossier*. In essence, he aspires to create a GIS layer of nation’s streams. In the details of how to represent different parameters in the *dossier*, Léger explicitly acknowledges the amount of survey work involved and addresses the compromises he has arrived at to convey sufficient information to inform management but keep the fieldwork within reasonable bounds for a project on the national scale.

In its introduction and conclusion, *Principes* is as much a document of political advocacy as it is a document of science. Léger rests his case for a comprehensive stream inventory on economic grounds providing statistics on the value of fish produced from streams stocked according to his methods. He argues that the annual biological production of streams in the form of fish represents a more reliable return on investment than what may be expected from speculation in the capital markets and that the government has a duty not to neglect such an important and easily obtained source of income.

Because so many of Léger’s ecological ideas have been incorporated into our contemporary approach to stream ecology, I would say that you don’t need to read this paper to be well-informed from a scientific perspective. However, I would strongly recommend this paper to anyone at an intermediate level of French comprehension with an interest in the historical development of applied stream ecology. More

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information on Professor Léger and his work may be found in the recently published book *Un siècle d'écologie à l'université de Grenoble* by Jean Bouvet ([http://issuu.com/libel/docs/useg\\_issuu](http://issuu.com/libel/docs/useg_issuu)).



photograph courtesy of Jean Bouvet, professor emeritus of biology, Université Joseph Fourier de Grenoble

From the Desk of Past-President Emily Zollweg

After reading Fred's interesting retrospective, I was inspired to share an experience I had with technology for the future. In early July, I was fortunate enough to participate in a workshop hosted by Vermont Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Vermont and Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife with instructors Bob Hrabik, Jason Crites, Dave Herzog, and Dave Ostendorf of Missouri Department of Conservation on the Missouri Mini-Trawl. I was able to attend a training day on the Missisquoi River in northern Vermont, where I got first hand trawling demonstration and practice in a riverine environment. I also got to look over Bob's shoulder as he explained what species all the little minnows were- worth every minute of the drive to get there! This method seems especially well adapted to catching small fish, with the advantage of a cod within a cod modification that results in the small fish not getting crushed by larger fish and debris that are also collected. This method has applications for surveys of small and rare fishes in many different types of habitat, and there are also several options for deploying the gear from wading and hauling by hand to deployment from a small or

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medium sized boat. The trawl is commercial available made from durable materials for a reasonable price, especially when compared to the cost of new electrofishing equipment. The Missouri staff also wanted me to be sure to pass on greetings and best wishes to their colleagues in New York, as this is a small world, and we have worked together in the past with many of them, met them at meetings and other training sessions, and many of us will cross paths with them again in the future.



Picture is of an example catch.



## AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Summer 2011

### New York Chapter of the AFS Officers and Executive Committee

President, Ed Woltmann

[efwoltma@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:efwoltma@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Past President, Matt Sanderson

[mjsander@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:mjsander@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

President-Elect, Frank Flack

[fmflack@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:fmflack@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Secretary-Treasurer, Scott Jones

[Scott.Jones@hdrinc.com](mailto:Scott.Jones@hdrinc.com)

Newsletter Editor, Emily Zollweg

[eczollwe@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:eczollwe@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Website, Erik Latremore

[ejlatrem@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:ejlatrem@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Student Sub-Units, Brian Weidel

[bweidel@gmail.com](mailto:bweidel@gmail.com)

Professional Incentives, Ross Abbett

[rabbett@usgs.gov](mailto:rabbett@usgs.gov)

Resolutions/Envir. Concerns, Randy Vaas

[navypap@twcny.rr.com](mailto:navypap@twcny.rr.com)

By-Laws, Mike Flaherty

[mjflaher@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:mjflaher@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Native Fishes, Lisa Holst

[lkholst@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:lkholst@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Native American Affairs, Dawn Dittman

[ddittman@usgs.gov](mailto:ddittman@usgs.gov)

Youth Aquatic Education, Tom Hughes

[fishguy2000af@yahoo.com](mailto:fishguy2000af@yahoo.com)

Membership, Frank Flack

[fmflack@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:fmflack@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Nominating, Matt Sanderson

[mjsander@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:mjsander@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Audit/Finance, Alan Mack

[admack@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:admack@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Program, Jeffrey Loukmas and Don Einhouse

[jjloukma@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:jjloukma@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

[dweinhou@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:dweinhou@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Annual Meeting, Joelle Ernst

[jernst@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:jernst@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Workshop, Chris VanMaaren

[ccvanmaa@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:ccvanmaa@gw.dec.state.ny.us)