

Flatwater Examiner

Newsletter for the Nebraska Chapter
of the American Fisheries Society

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President's Report (Bob Thomas)

Greetings to all of you great Nebraska AFS Chapter members. I hope you had a super holiday time. I thought we were in the new millennium, but our minister reviewed the various world calendars last Sunday and informed us that the millennium doesn't start until 01. This is terrific news for those who like to celebrate. The real one could be a doozy. Speaking of time periods our Chapter has been a part of the Nebraska fisheries movement for 30 years this year. Our venerable Parent Society has been a part of the national and international fisheries movement for 130 years this year. Our AFS President Christine Moffit, mentioned in Fisheries, that at its organization in 1870 the Society lodged protests with the US Department of State and British Canada against obstructions in the St. Lawrence River that impeded Salmon migration. I can't recall any such lofty action by our Chapter in the organizational year. We probably should have lodged a protest about the Missouri River. The Parent Society has been very active in fisheries matters over the years. The AFS Strategic Plan, which was adopted at the Governing Board meeting March 1999 represents a great effort by the Society to define a course of action covering the period 1999-2004. The mission of the AFS is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems. The plan is presented in Fisheries Vol.24, No.5. I consider it to be required reading for our membership. Although the plan was developed for AFS as a whole, we as an AFS unit are encouraged to adopt the Plan to meet specific unit needs. If you have an interest in adopting the Plan to meet specific Chapter needs please let me know.

The Society has also established an integrated marketing approach with the goals: to increase; the revenue stream, enhance AFS reputation, increase market share of membership, and increase member satisfaction. We have been asked to help in this effort by bringing prospective sustaining members to the attention of AFS Director of Marketing. I know it is a struggle, but we try to keep informed about the Parent Societies activities through the Fisheries magazine.

We have been working with The Iowa Chapter on the Joint Meeting and things are pretty well set. I Look forward to seeing you there for a great Millennium meeting. Next year we can have our own Millennium meeting.

Bob

CHAPTER NOTES

Joint Nebraska/Iowa Meeting

The Jan 18-20 meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn at Ameristar Casino (see "Upcoming Meetings" for details on address, etc). The meeting will begin with a reception and registration on Tuesday, January 18. Registration costs for the meeting are \$12. Renewal of your Nebraska Chapter AFS dues will also be collected at this time, \$10 for members / \$5 for student members. The draft agenda for the meeting is included in this newsletter - check it out! We have Gary Moulton, "Natural History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition," as a guest speaker for the banquet, which will be held from 7 - 10 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19. The banquet is \$23 and is a separate cost not included in the meeting registration fees.

Auction Items!

One of our chapter's main fundraisers is the auction held at annual meetings. Be sure to bring any auction items to the January meeting. The auction will occur during the banquet. The auction is always a good time.

NAFS EX-COM Meeting December 2, 1999

By Keith Hurley, Secretary/Treasurer

The NAFS Ex-Com met on December 2 to discuss various topics and ongoing issues. The primary topic discussed was the upcoming joint Nebraska-Iowa meeting, including extending invitations to the NCD and Parent Society, discussions of potential speakers, fees, etc. Larry Hutchinson updated everyone on some current legislative issues including white perch renovation in private waters, the Water Banking Bill, and an interim study on Omaha's sewage / storm water discharge system. Rick Holland indicated that scholarship materials will be distributed in January for the NAFS / Nebraska Walleye Association Scholarship. Materials will likely be due back to Rick in march or April. The next Ex-Com meeting will be January 5.

New Members

We have one new member! Please add his info to your Member's Directory.

Allen Szalanski

Genetic and Forensic Analysis Laboratory

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

aszalan@ngpc.state.ne.us

COMMITTEE NOTES

No committee reports

AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Section 1135 and Section 206 Environmental Program Update (Steve Rothe)

California Bend - The Corps' Feasibility Report was approved in June and the project was approved for construction. Construction could begin during 2000 - 2001, after final real estate easement language is approved. This project would establish approximately 3.5 miles of chutes and backwaters connected to the Missouri River. Nathan's Lake - This wetland restoration project was approved for construction last December, and the Project Cooperation Agreement between the sponsor and the Corps has been signed. Construction is expected to begin this winter or spring. The project would expand and deepen a wetland connected to the Missouri River, and would restore and manage another previously-farmed wetland.

Missouri River Mitigation Site Update (Mike Barnes)

Hamburg Bend - Construction is complete and functioning well. This project consists of a flow-through side channel and backwater area. Fish numbers and diversity have increased since project completion. Langdon Bend - This site will consist of a pilot channel and backwater area. Flow into the area will occur by water backing up into the channel as well as overland flow during high water. Construction has started at this site. Tobacco Island - The site will consist of a flow-through channel. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring. Blackbird-Tieville-Decatur Bends - These bends are on the Iowa side of the river, and consist of several side channels and backwater areas. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring, 2001. Kansas Bend - The Feasibility Report is currently being written for this site and will be complete by mid-2000. The most likely project at this site is two side channels. Expansion Study - WRDA 99 authorized an additional 118,650 acres to be developed for wildlife habitat between Sioux City and the mouth of the Missouri River. This authorization also requested a report on the cost to obtain and develop this additional habitat. The Omaha and Kansas City Districts, in cooperation with the four states, are currently scoping this study. The study will be sent to Congress in March 2000 to be included in WRDA 2000 to authorize additional funds for the mitigation project. The amount of additional acres to be developed in Nebraska will be determined after the signing of the 2000 budget.

COLLEGE CORNER

University of Nebraska-Omaha

As of August 1998, a new fish biologist had joined the ranks of the Biology Department at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Alan Kolok, an assistant professor from Nicholls State University, moved to Omaha and set up shop. Dr. Kolok is a fish physiologist / aquatic toxicologist, and is currently developing a research program in these areas at UNO.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

No items reported

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Joint Nebraska / Iowa Chapter Meeting

January 18 - 20, 2000

Holiday Inn / Ameristar Casino

Council Bluffs, Iowa

\$12 Registration Fee / Register at door

Instream Flow Conference

January 19, 2000

Department of Environmental Services

Concord, New Hampshire

Sponsored by the River Management Society and the Northeast Roundtable

POC Rebecca Waugh, National Park Service

(617) 223-5200, ext. 1257

rebeccaawaugh@hotmail.com

Sediment: Monitoring, Modeling, and Managing

March 25 - 29, 2000

Silver Legacy

Reno, Nevada

Doug Glysson, Conference Chair, USGS

(703) 648-5019

<http://water.usgs.gov/wicp> under "related programs"

Blending Art and Science in River Management

April 18 - 22, 2000

River Management Society

Charleston, South Carolina

Registration Cost \$250

Contact The River Management Society

(406) 549-0514

rms@igc.apc.org www.river-management.org

Fourth Annual Missouri River Natural Resources Conference

May 21 - 24, 2000

Radisson Inn

Bismarck, North Dakota

Registration fee \$95 after March 1 (not yet available)

Riparian Ecology and Management in Multi-Land Use Watersheds

August 27 - 30, 2000

American Water Resources Association Summer Specialty International Conference

Portland, Oregon

Contact AWRA

(703) 904-1225

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Items for the next newsletter should be received by ??? 2000