



# Flatwater Examiner

Volume XXXI, Number I

January 2003

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to serve as President of the Nebraska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The Nebraska Chapter is a strong professional organization providing a field of opportunities for continued education, information exchange, networking, employment, and a variety of other benefits for everyone holding or pursuing Fisheries careers. The information and people resources available through the Nebraska Chapter are second to

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## REMINDER: PAY DUES DIRECTLY TO THE CHAPTER!

Nebraska AFS Chapter members often pay their chapter dues through the Parent Society. This is because the Parent Society annually bills its members for dues to the parent society, section, and chapter in a single invoice. We are asking that Nebraska Chapter members pay their chapter dues directly to the Chapter instead, at the annual meeting or by sending them directly to the Secretary/Treasurer. Often, members who pay dues through the Parent Society are not credited for paying chapter dues for several months. The reason for this is the Parent Society accounting office only sends us payments twice per year and there's no documentation accompanying the payment. A breakdown of the payment is only received following a special request. Under this process our chapter can have a difficult time determining current members.

Make sure your dues are credited to you and the chapter, send them directly to the Nebraska AFS Chapter. Annual dues are \$5 for students; \$10 for everyone else. Checks should be made payable to "Nebraska Chapter AFS".

Attn: Rick Eades, Secretary-Treasurer  
NE Game and Parks Commission

**RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE**

**SEE PAGE 5**

## ANNUAL MEETING RAFFLE AND AUCTION

There will be a bucket raffle and white elephant auction at the upcoming annual meeting. Proceeds will go to the Robert E. Thomas Memorial Fisheries Fund. Chapter members are encouraged to donate items for the auction and raffle. A separate raffle will be held for a \$150 gift certificate to Cabela's.

The Thomas Fund Committee is pleased that we reached our goal of a \$10,000 fund balance so quickly; but we're not going to stop fund raising. Our next goal is to double the balance to \$20,000. With that amount of money we can be sure that, regardless of market conditions and future fund raising, we will earn enough interest to award a \$500 scholarship annually. In the short term, we need to raise about \$250 more to fund a scholarship this spring. We appreciate the chapter's support so far and ask for your help again. Please bring or send something to the meeting for the white elephant auction or raffle.

### CHAPTER MEETING REGISTRATION

**\$20.00 Professionals**  
**\$15.00 Students**  
**Covers Monday evening meal,  
social and all breaks**

**Dues: \$10—Professionals**  
**\$5—Students**

**2ND ANNUAL BOB THOMAS GOLF  
TOURNAMENT**  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2003**

**Please Plan on Attending the Annual Business Meeting at the Chapter  
Meeting February 10, 2003**



## EXCOM MEETING MINUTES October 21, 2002 NGPC Office

Nebraska Chapter AFS President Mark Porath called the meeting of the chapter's Executive Committee (EXCOM) to order at 1:40 pm. In attendance were: Jay Francis, new Chapter webmaster; Donna Waller, new chapter newsletter editor; Rob Hofpar, president-elect; Steve Schainost, incoming president-elect; and Rick Eades, Secretary/Treasurer. Past-president Gerald Mestl was unable to attend.

Mark welcomed Jay and Donna and thanked them for volunteering for their new chapter duties. Jay reported he will be meeting with Gerald soon to get the web page information and files so he can get started on updating our site. Donna has the Chapter's publishing software on her computer and is ready to put together a newsletter.

Rick gave a brief Treasurer's report. Chapter income and expenses have been fairly "normal". The chapter did have extra expenses for the new website and new publishing software, but still for the year, income has exceeded expenses by about \$400. Rick noted that the Chapter did take \$3,000 out of savings and donate it to the Robert E. Thomas Memorial Fisheries Fund. Also, there was quite a bit of money passing through the Chapter for the Thomas fund. Numerous people gave money to the chapter as a donation to the fund. This money was forwarded on to the University of Nebraska Foundation. Therefore there was additional "income" and "expenses" which were equal and not included in the Chapter treasury. Rick went on and gave an update on the Thomas Fund. Thanks to various fund raisers and donations, the Fund balance is up to about \$11,000 and so the Chapter can start awarding money to students next year. There are still some details to work out, but the Thomas Fund Committee will make a recommendation to the EXCOM that a \$500 Thomas scholarship be made available next school year. The committee has been meeting quarterly and will continue to work on fund raising ideas.

Mark reported that the article written by the Missouri River Issues Committee had been sent out to numerous newspapers several weeks ago, but nobody has seen it published anywhere yet. The Lincoln Journal Star did call Mark with some questions about the article, so there's still hope that it will be published.

Mark reported on progress towards the next annual meeting. We had hoped for a joint meeting and workshop but that didn't work out. Surrounding state chapters either already had meeting plans or state agency staff have out-of-state travel restrictions making it impossible to attend. So the EXCOM will need to come up with an alternate plan.

Mark reported on some correspondence he had received. The Nebraska Walleye Association made a \$500 donation to the Thomas fund. Rick mentioned the Cornhusker Fly-fishers had also contributed \$100. American Rivers is soliciting nominations for America's Most Endangered Rivers

List again this year. Gene Zuerlein helped put together a nomination for the Missouri River. Larry Hutchinson also has asked about the Chapter giving a Conservation Award to someone he'd like to nominate. Mark will discuss this with Randy Winter, Awards Committee Chair, and then have Hutch submit the nomination with the required information.

The EXCOM then revisited the upcoming annual meeting topic to resolve the issue so plans could move forward. There was some discussion about holding the meeting on Monday-Tuesday or Friday-Saturday. The weekdays would be better for state and federal employees, while a weekend meeting would be better for students. While the EXCOM would like to promote student involvement, they recognize that the majority of attendees will be professionals, not students, and would be better served by a Monday-Tuesday meeting. Also, since the meeting location was decided to be the Aksarben Aquarium in Gretna, the most likely students to attend (from UNL and UNO) would still be able to attend fairly easily. The tentative dates for the meeting are February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. The tentative schedule has Monday afternoon presentations followed by the annual chapter business meeting, and then a social. Tuesday will have morning presentations, followed by a lunch and then adjourn. The EXCOM decide that the program will consist of about six one-hour sessions on a "hot topic". Topics mentioned included: fish health; electrofishing; aquatic vegetation control; fish consumption advisories; Missouri River issues; exotic species; and water use issues. The EXCOM will find a moderator for each session who will then put together a one-hour block of talks on that topic. The moderator might speak for the whole hour himself, find several presenters, or hold a panel discussion on the issue. It is hoped that by covering several somewhat broad, but important issues, the program will appeal to a wide range of chapter members.

Mark mentioned that the Nominating Committee needs to start looking for candidates for president-elect and secretary/treasurer to be elected at the annual meeting. The nominating committee consists of the three most recent past-presidents and the current secretary/treasurer. A call for nominees should be included in the next newsletter.

Mark thanked everyone for their help over the past year, again welcomed Donna and Jay to their new committee positions and then turned over the title of chapter president to Rob Hofpar. Steve Schainost became the current president-elect. Rick Eades will serve a second (and final) year as secretary/treasurer.

Rob made a few brief comments, thanked everyone, and then adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.

Submitted by:

Rick Eades

NE Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

October 22, 2002

## 2003 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

The upcoming annual meeting of the Nebraska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be held at the Ak-sar-ben Aquarium in Gretna, NE. The meeting will begin at 1:00 PM on Monday February 10<sup>th</sup> and conclude around noon on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup>. A business meeting is scheduled and a social held on Monday evening.

This year's meeting will feature continuing education modules on topics relevant to professionals responsible for protecting Nebraska's aquatic resources. Modules may include presentations, guest speakers and/or panel discussions. Some of the module topics include; water rights and issues, fish contaminants, the future of managing flows in the Missouri River, species diversity issues and the ESA, and updating information for electrofishing surveys. Plan on attending and participating in these continuing education modules. Additional information-sharing sections may also be included in the final agenda.

## OUTGOING PRESIDENTS MESSAGE Mark Porath

One of the things I really missed about Nebraska after I moved to Arizona, was the changing of the seasons. And while this past years "seasons" were a little more subtle than others, it reminds me of the changes experienced in our chapter. As usual the flow of new leadership continues with Rob taking the reins and Steve defining his new role. However, some of the "behind the scenes" roles have changed as well. Jay Francis has assumed the responsibilities of maintaining the web site and is already coming up with fresh ideas to improve communication within and about our chapter. Donna Waller brings a wealth of experience into her new duties as newsletter editor. Having Donna in charge of assembling the newsletter and lending her talents to support communication within our chapter has already proved extremely helpful.

The chapter has been very active this last year. Completing the endowment of the Thomas Fund was a tremendous accomplishment. The creation of the Missouri River Committee to address contentious issues and to accurately disseminate information about this valuable resource was completed. Vacancies on chapter committees were filled, and technical representatives to the NCD were modified, established and updated. Our chapter has charted an aggressive course for the future, lets all continue to work together in protecting and

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Interested in Nebraska's aquatic resources and feel like making a difference? Seek a leadership role in the Nebraska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Nominations are currently being accepted for president-elect, and secretary/treasurer. These positions will be filled with terms beginning in September, at the annual NE-AFS Chapter Meeting being held on Feb. 10-11 at the Ak-sar-ben Aquarium in Gretna, NE. The secretary/treasurer serves a two-year term, with the president-elect serving as chapter president the second year and the following year as past-president. The only requirements are membership in the parent society and interest in Nebraska's aquatic resources. If your are interested in serving the chapter in either role or know someone who would make a good candidate, contact Mark Porath at (402) 471-7651 or mporath@ngpc.state.ne.us

## UPDATING OUR WEB SITE!

The new webmaster is getting ready to make changes and update the chapter web site. Some suggestions have been to update old pages, create a message board and create a current events page. If you have any additional suggestions or would like to help, contact Jay Francis at (402) 471-5589 or jfrancis@ngpc.state.ne.us

*President's Report (Continued from page 1)*

none and a major reason I feel so strongly about being a part of the AFS.

As your president I hope to serve the needs of this Chapter and its members to the best of my ability. Up to this point, most of my time has been spent preparing annual reports to the Parent Society and North Central Division on behalf of our Chapter. I've also been involved with our Executive Committee in planning our upcoming annual meeting and look forward to seeing everyone there. I encourage each of you to attend the meeting and tap into the resources available through the Nebraska Chapter and our Parent Society. I'm proud to be part of this organization and hope to serve you well as President.

Robin L. Hofpar

<p style="text-align: center;">Robert E. Thomas Memorial Fisheries Fund Raffle</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$150.00</b> <b>Cabela's Gift Certificate</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Sponsored by the Nebraska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">February 10, 2003 \$1.00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Robert E. Thomas Memorial Fisheries Fund Raffle</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Phone: ( _____ ) _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nebraska Chapter of the AFS Annual Meeting - February 10, 2003 \$1.00</p>
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Chapter Member, Please print as many copies of this page as needed. Ticket receipts and money collected from ticket sales must be turned in to Rick Eades by 6:00 pm on February 10, 2003

To email webmaster: [jfrancis@ngpc.state.ne.us](mailto:jfrancis@ngpc.state.ne.us)

We are On The WEB! <http://www.nebraskaafs.org>

## The Nebraska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

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402/472-6824

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### Nebraska AFS Chapter Meeting

February 10-11, 2003

Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium

Gretna, NE

Rob Hopfar - Nebraska Chapter President

Nebraska Lake Management

402-486-0071

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

### 7th Annual Missouri River Natural Resources Conference

Restoring the "butifull Praree & Timber deversity"

June 1-4, 2003

#### Benedictine College

Atchison, KS

<http://infolink.cr.usgs.gov/events/03.htm>

Steve Adams - Conference Chairman

KS Department of Wildlife and Parks

785/296-0019

[stevea@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:stevea@wp.state.ks.us)

### 133rd AFS Annual Meeting

"Worldwide Decline of Wild Fish Populations"

August 10-14, 2003

Quebec City, Quebec CANADA

<http://www.fisheries.org>

### 2nd Annual Bob Thomas Golf Tournament

Crooked Creek Golf Course—Lincoln

September 18, 2003, 1:30 PM

Rick Eades

402/471-5445

### 64th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference

December 7-10, 2003

Crown Center Westin, Kansas City, MO

## !!! WANTED !!!

### Items for Chapter Newsletter

Including, but not limited to:

- ⇒ Fisheries issues of local, state or national importance
- ⇒ What are our members involved with—publications, projects, etc.
- ⇒ Student projects
- ⇒ Upcoming meetings
- ⇒ Any other items that you think would interest our members