



# THE TELEGRAM

## Wisconsin Chapter American Fisheries Society Newsletter

Published quarterly and as needed by WI-AFS.

Compiled by Chapter Members.

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## President's Message



In December 2007, we co-hosted the 68<sup>th</sup> Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. The meeting was well-attended with exceptional-quality presentations. Initial financial reports from the meeting were rather gloomy, but on-site registrations were strong and John Nelson (Chair of the conference Budget and Finance Committee) projects the conference will net about \$30,000. Proceeds will be split between Wisconsin Chapters of AFS and The Wildlife Society (WI-TWS). We host this meeting every 10 years. The next one is scheduled for 2017.

Our annual chapter meeting was held in Wausau, February 5-7, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Attendance was good at the meeting, especially from students. 17% of meeting attendees were students. Furthermore, of the 236 WIAFS members, 37% are students. Our continued support and encouragement of student members will pay dividends as those students stay involved in AFS during their professional careers.

My vision for the Chapter is to invest in professional development, along with increased involvement of students and new members. We've had some very well-received continuing education courses, and we are past due to sponsor a few more. One place for increased involvement is on our standing committees – feel free to contact the committee chair if you have an interest, an idea or a desire to pitch in. My challenge to each of you over the next year is to reach out to at least one non-member and invite them to check out what AFS membership has to offer.

Check out our website ([wi-afs.org](http://wi-afs.org)) and send webmaster Brad Eggold photos, links, articles and announcements.-John Kubisiak

# Editor's Note

*Yeah, spring! Well kind of...tomorrows forecast calls for 6 inches of the white stuff. Anyway...*

*As the snow melts and folks begin to ready themselves for another year of fieldwork, we should take time to reflect on the past. What worked, what didn't, new partnerships, successful meetings, advances in fisheries science, and the loss of some friends. I for one am determined to not make the same mistakes five years in a row.*

*As your newsletter editor, I can only hope to do half as well as Martye. His past efforts have made the "Teleogram" a complete success. Thanks!*

*Article submissions/ideas can be emailed to me at: [jordan.weeks@wisconsin.gov](mailto:jordan.weeks@wisconsin.gov) or give me a call at 608-785-9002. I'm always interested in where the fish are biting.*

## Announcements

More can be found on the AFS webpage

### Meeting Announcements:

**April 17-19 2008 Wisconsin Lakes Convention**

**April 22-24, 2008 Road/Stream Crossings-Inventory, Assessment, Design and Construction Workshop, Holiday Inn Express, Rhinelander, Wisconsin**

**July 24 Centrarcid Technical Committee Meeting, Wyalusing State Park, Prarie du Chien, Wisconsin (Contact: Lewis Bruce, [Lewis.Bruce@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Lewis.Bruce@dnr.iowa.gov))**

**August 4-6 Walleye Technical Committee Meeting, Kemp's Station, Lake Tomahawk, WI (Contact: Patrick Hanchin, [hanchinp@michigan.gov](mailto:hanchinp@michigan.gov))**

**August 6-8 Esocid Technical Committee Meeting, Kemp's Station, Lake Tomahawk, WI (Contact: Tim Simonson, [timothy.simonson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:timothy.simonson@wisconsin.gov))**

**August 17-21 American Fisheries Society 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada**

**December 14-17 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Columbus, OH.**

**Sunday Dec 14:** **Ictalurid Technical Committee Meeting (Contact: Greg Pitchford, 660-646-6122, [Greg.Pitchford@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Greg.Pitchford@mdc.mo.gov))**  
**Esocid Technical Committee Meeting (Contact: Tim Simonson, 608-266-5222, [Timothy.Simonson@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Timothy.Simonson@Wisconsin.gov))**  
**Walleye Technical Committee Meeting (Contact: Patrick Hanchin, 231-547-2914 Ext227, [hanchinp@michigan.gov](mailto:hanchinp@michigan.gov))**

# Announcements


**Richard Frie Memorial Scholarship-Wisconsin Chapter American Fisheries Society, April 11, 2008**

**Joshua Maxwell will be awarded with the chapters Richard Frie Memorial Scholarship on April 11, 2008 when the College of Natural Resources holds its Spring Rendezvous. Josh is a double major in Fisheries/Limnology and General Biology. His interests include fishing, hunting, biking, camping, and travel. He was born and raised in Litchfield, MN and says he loves everything that deals with the outdoors. Josh was an active member of Zion Lutheran and Assembly of God churches in Litchfield. At UWSP he has been active in his dorm and participates regularly in the student chapter of AFS, Izaak Walton League, intramural sports, and the Wildlife Society. In his breaks from college he has volunteered at the local MN DNR office by assisting fishery biologists with carp pheromone studies and lake sampling with the University of Minnesota. Josh is paying his way through college by working at a local grocery store and providing lawn care service. His plans after college are to work as a fisheries biologist in one of the northern states.**

## NEW CHAPTER T-SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE



As part of our ongoing chapter fundraising activities the Chapter Raffle and Revenue Chair is happy to announce that a brand new chapter t-shirt design is now available. The design is part of a new series for the fictional International Brotherhood of Electrofishing Boat Operators union. The front of the t-shirt displays the union logo and the back of the t-shirt depicts a comical electrofishing scene. T-shirts and sweatshirts will be available at the Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, and are available for members and non-members to purchase.

In addition, to help get the word out and generate sales, feel free to [download the sales poster](#)  to post in your office. Please note that checks should be made out to: American Fisheries Society - Wisconsin Chapter. Revenue from t-shirt sales will go towards supporting Wisconsin Chapter AFS scholarship funds for students enrolled in an aquatic science programs in Wisconsin.

# Notes

## Division website

In 2008, the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society decided to move the website from servers located at the National Office in Bethesda, Maryland to a company in Milwaukee. The primary reason for the switch was so that we could regain local control over the website which would allow us to modify, edit and add to the website in a more timely fashion. In addition, the national office started to use webpage language that could not be supported by anyone in Wisconsin. The new website location is <http://www.wi-afs.org/>.

If you have any information that you would like posted on the website please send the information to the new web coordinator, Brad Eggold, Fisheries Supervisor with the WDNR. My e-mail address is [bradley.eggold@wi.gov](mailto:bradley.eggold@wi.gov). Please include not only the text or information you would like posted but the exact location on the web that you would like it placed.

## Resolutions Anyone?

Resolutions are being solicited to be presented at the January 2009 annual meeting. If you have a resolution please send it to Phil Moy at [pmoy@uwc.edu](mailto:pmoy@uwc.edu) no later than December 3<sup>rd</sup> so that they we can be put into final form and published in time for the meeting. Thank you.

## UWSP Student Subunit Officers for 2008

### President

Scott Vulstek [svuls076@uwsp.edu](mailto:svuls076@uwsp.edu)

### Vice President

Hilary Meyer [hmeye711@uwsp.edu](mailto:hmeye711@uwsp.edu)

### Treasurer

Jorge Buening [jbuen327@uwsp.edu](mailto:jbuen327@uwsp.edu)

### Secretary

Charlie Roswell [crosw940@uwsp.edu](mailto:crosw940@uwsp.edu)

### Student Advisory Person/Website

Tim Parks [tpark765@uwsp.edu](mailto:tpark765@uwsp.edu)

## Northland College Student Subunit Officers for 2008

### President

Joseph Schenk [schenkj01@northland.edu](mailto:schenkj01@northland.edu)

### Vice President

Lance Uselman [uselmanl01@northland.edu](mailto:uselmanl01@northland.edu)

### Treasurer

Jessica Sarauer [sarauerj01@northland.edu](mailto:sarauerj01@northland.edu)

### Secretary

Katie Renschen [renschenk01@northland.edu](mailto:renschenk01@northland.edu)

# Communicating Science...

## Lake Wingra Carp-Kurt Welke

Like many Wisconsin lakes, Madison's Lake Wingra is showing signs of human impacts and eutrophication. A recent cooperative project between the Department of Natural Resources, The Friends of lake Wingra, UW – Madison and the City of Madison is hoping to give the lake a second chance.

Like many other lakes in Wisconsin and throughout the Midwest, carp, are a significant component of the fishery in Lake Wingra. They disrupt sediments, and re-suspend phosphorous which in turn fuels heavy algal blooms that limit macrophyte growth and limits recreational opportunities.

If carp are the cog that drives the wheel, then how large is the carp problem? Dane County fisheries staff set out to answer that question by performing a mark-recapture survey from 2005 through 2008, aimed at estimating carp population size, and subsequent impact on the fishery. Marking took place in 2005 and 2006 and recapture took place in winter 2007-2008. Carp were recaptured by a contract commercial fisherman subsidized to seine beneath the ice.

After 3 hauls covering 167 acres of the 345 acre lake basin, crews recovered 256 of 537 at large clips, as well as 6 of 14 radio tagged fish. The population estimate was 12,232 carp with a very tight coefficient of variance (6%). Total removal was 6300+ carp, yielding 48,100 lbs of carp biomass which represents a 49% reduction of the lakes' standing stock. This work gives restoration efforts some context into what is possible versus what is idle dreaming. While carp represent a continuing challenge, mechanical removal appears to hold promise in significantly reducing numbers and biomass.

A complete photo-documentary of the process is on line at:  
<http://epdfiles.engr.wisc.edu/pd/liebl/CarpFishingonWingra.pdf>

*Stop wishin, go fishin !*



*A new way to look at trout populations...presented in  
part by Marty Engel at the DNR Fisheries Statewide  
Training session*

**DRAFT**

**Population Characteristics of Wild Brook Trout Streams in Western Wisconsin with  
Special Reference to Catch per Unit Effort and Management Implications.**

*Martin Engel*

*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

*Baldwin Service Center*

*890 Spruce Street, Baldwin, Wisconsin 54002, USA*

*Nancy Nate*

*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

*Bureau of Fisheries Management*

*101 South Webster Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921, USA*

We examined brook trout *Salvelinus fontinalis* data collected during 1993–2005 from 479 stream sites on 159 West Central Wisconsin streams to describe the natural range in several brook trout population metrics. Preliminary results suggest 4.5 inches as reasonable criteria for separating adult from juvenile brook trout for regional summaries based on visual interpretation of a regional length frequency histogram. We tested the assumption that adult brook trout relative abundance as indexed by catch per unit effort (CPUE) was an adequate index of population density using a smaller dataset of 115 streams with adult mark-recapture population estimates. Adult population densities estimated using mark-recapture ranged 7–4,063 fish per mile and relative abundance of brook trout  $\geq 5$  inches ranged 5–2,399 fish per mile. Approximately 96% of the variation in  $\log_e$  adult relative abundance was explained by  $\log_e$  adult population density. Overall, juvenile brook trout relative abundance ranged from 0 to 9,792 per mile with an

average of 95 per mile. Adult relative abundance ranged from 0 to 2,653 per mile and averaged 90 per mile. Overall, brook trout relative abundance for fish  $\geq 8$  inches ranged from 0 to 1,140 per mile with an average of 17 per mile. Relative abundance,  $\geq 10$  inches ranged from 0 to 166 per mile and averaged 3 per mile. Five qualitative categories were developed from quantitative criteria (i.e., corresponding relative abundance estimates) identified as different percentages of the normal distribution of all juvenile and adult relative abundance estimates for the entire study area, and separated by stream size groups based on mean stream width. The ranges described will be used to document current sport fish status, and establish future management goals.

## Conferences, Seminars and Training

### 2008 Wisconsin Lakes Convention

In 2008, the Wisconsin Lakes Convention celebrates its 30th birthday! We will reflect on the accomplishments we have achieved by working together these past 30+ years and explore ways to build on those successes. The convention, held April 17-19, 2008 will focus on how Wisconsin lakes have changed over time, and what we have collectively learned over the years. We are looking for sessions/workshops that fit in the following categories:

- o Success stories related to Wisconsin lakes
- o Current research, lake science
- o Water law and public policy
- o Wildlife, fisheries or aquatic plants
- o Citizen involvement
- o Aquatic Invasive Species
- o Lake organizations and their management
- o Other lake/water topics

Presentations that highlight local lake management experiences are encouraged.

#### *Types of sessions:*

There are three types of sessions: hands-on/interactive workshops, field trip(s), and concurrent sessions. The 3-hour workshops and field trip(s) will occur on Thursday, April 17. Concurrent sessions will take place on Friday and Saturday, April 18-19. Concurrent sessions will be 50 minutes each.

If you have questions, please contact Kim Becken at 715-346-2116 or [kbecken@uwsp.edu](mailto:kbecken@uwsp.edu).

# Challenges and Changes: Managing Fisheries in an Unpredictable World

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Statewide Meeting  
February 26-28, 2008

For all DNR staff this program was designed to focus on priorities affecting all jobs into the future. Highlights included: VHS, monitoring, statewide species teams, ethics, angler recruitment, career development, permitting programs, safety, and training. Messages relayed the importance of “safety first” and some of the most difficult problems facing any agency-alcohol and drug abuse.

This conference included great training sessions including an angler education workshop, heavy equipment, strategic policy and culture, “our customers”, invasives, gear disinfection, fisheries outreach, urban fishing, fisheries database, tournaments and new policy, and biosecurity. Best paper and poster sessions ran concurrently throughout the meeting.

Best paper went to John Nelson who outlined restoration of the trout population in the Onion River watershed. Runner’s up were Jordan Weeks (Brook and brown trout population changes in Plum Creek, Crawford County, Wisconsin 1999-2007), and Scott Toshner (Biological and social aspects of managing a trophy brown trout fishery). Best poster was awarded to Robert Hujik for “annual growth ring formation on smallmouth bass dorsal spines”. Runners up were Skip Sommerfeldt, Gavin King and Jason Folstad (Alleviating winterkill through solar and wind powered aeration on small northern Wisconsin lakes) and Karl Scheidegger (VHS and you).

## Officers and Committees

### Officers

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## Committees

**Awards**, Don Bush-[donald.bush@wisconsin.gov](mailto:donald.bush@wisconsin.gov), & Sue Byler-

[susan.beyler@wisconsin.gov](mailto:susan.beyler@wisconsin.gov)

**Communications**, Jordan Weeks-[jordan.weeks@wisconsin.gov](mailto:jordan.weeks@wisconsin.gov)

**Continuing Education**, Justine Hasz-[justine.hasz@wisconsin.gov](mailto:justine.hasz@wisconsin.gov)

**Fisheries Action Network (FIN & FAN)**, Joe Hennessy-[joseph.hennessy@wisconsin.gov](mailto:joseph.hennessy@wisconsin.gov)

**Membership**, Tim Simonson (chair)- [timothy.simonson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:timothy.simonson@wisconsin.gov), & Phil Moy

(aquaculture liaison)

[pmoy@uwc.edu](mailto:pmoy@uwc.edu)

**Nominations**, Kurt Welke (chair)- [kurt.welke@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kurt.welke@wisconsin.gov), Joe Hennessy-

[joseph.hennessy@wisconsin.gov](mailto:joseph.hennessy@wisconsin.gov)

**Raffle & Revenue**, Steve Gilbert (chair)- [stephen.gilbert@wisconsin.gov](mailto:stephen.gilbert@wisconsin.gov), Kendall

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Gervase Thompson- [Gervase.thompson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Gervase.thompson@wisconsin.gov), & Bill Gobin-

[William.gobin@wisconsin.gov](mailto:William.gobin@wisconsin.gov)

**Resolutions**, Phil Moy-[pmoy@uwc.edu](mailto:pmoy@uwc.edu)

**Scholarship**, Pete Segerson-[peter.segerson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:peter.segerson@wisconsin.gov)

**Environmental Issues**, Joe Hennessy-[joseph.hennessy@wisconsin.gov](mailto:joseph.hennessy@wisconsin.gov)

Web Coordinator, Brad Eggold-[bradley.eggold@wisconsin.gov](mailto:bradley.eggold@wisconsin.gov)

## JOIN NOW!

Active membership in the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will provide many opportunities to advance your growth as a fisheries professional and allow you a greater voice in shaping the future of Wisconsin fisheries. The quarterly newsletter and the ability to network with other fisheries and aquatic resource professionals from government, academia, fish culture and the private sector will keep you abreast of all the latest techniques and issues.

You do not have to join the parent society to be a Wisconsin Chapter member and the annual \$10.00 membership fee is an unbelievable bargain.

Please send complete form and a check for \$10.00 payable to AFS Wisconsin Chapter:

**American Fisheries Society, Wisconsin Chapter**

PO Box 1846

Madison, WI 53701

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want a copy of our newsletter (now available on our website) mailed to you?

[Circle one] **Yes**      **No**

Student? [Circle one] **Yes**      **No**

Are you a member of AFS (parent society)? [Circle one] **Yes**      **No**

Occupation and employer (optional):

**Congratulations and welcome aboard!**



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**PO Box 1846**

**Madison, WI 53701**

**Spring 2008 Issue**