
PALMETTO PISCIFORUM

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



<http://www.scafs.org>

President's Message

Chris Thomason

I hope everyone has thoroughly enjoyed (and recovered from) this past Holiday season. I guess this will be my swan song in this issue. I will become the ultimate useful officer after the annual meeting at Belle Baruch Institute this February --**Past President!** I must say this has been a most educational and enjoyable experience serving as the South Carolina Chapter's President the past 2 years. I have been able to work with more fisheries professionals throughout the state, southeast and even nationally than I would have had the opportunity to associate with in my more normal job duties.

The best part of the job has been the guys I have had working with me for the chapter. Leo Rose (President-elect), Jason Moak (Sec./Treasurer), and Jim Long (Newsletter editor) have made the various tasks the chapter handles run smoothly. The Fall workshops, annual meetings, newsletters, web site, award ceremonies and other duties of SCAFS are accomplished largely as the result of all the time and talents they have freely given. I think we have made a good team, and I appreciate all they have done. I know they will be doing even more in the future to help connect the fisheries professionals of our state (and beyond) through SCAFS. Please consider serving in an office or on a committee to help continue the tradition. Remember, elections are to be held at

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Hutton Junior Fisheries Biologists in South Carolina

Brian Wisner

Heather Underwood, a Walhalla High School student, was chosen as one of 55 students nationwide to participate in the 2003 Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program. The program was developed by the AFS and designed to primarily encourage interest in fisheries among women and minority high school students. Miss Underwood was awarded a scholarship to work at the Walhalla State Fish Hatchery (WSFH), which is operated by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. The program matches a student with a mentor so they can learn what it's like to be a fisheries professional. Brian Wisner, WSFH Manager, served as her mentor for the eight-week program.



WSFH produces approximately 500,000 trout annually for stocking public waters of South Carolina. Miss Underwood was involved in all aspects of fish culture at the hatchery. She took part in daily water quality monitoring, fish feeding, raceway cleaning, inventory, growth measurements, stocking and fish health management. She learned how to use a dissolved oxygen meter, pH meter and temperature logger. Miss Underwood also assisted with electroshocking two stream segments near the hatchery as part of the trout population survey. She assisted with a short-term growth study that compared trout growth, water temperature and feed conversion. Heather was responsible for setting up the spreadsheets, gathering data and writing a brief report.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 27 – 29, 2004

GA AFS 2004 Annual Meeting

Holiday Inn Express

Athens, GA

www.uga.edu/ugafish/ga-afs/

February 26 – 29, 2004

Southern Division AFS 2004 Spring Meeting

Westin Hotel

Oklahoma City, OK

www.sdafs.org

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the annual meeting!

Back on our main subject of fish and fish squeezers, please take note on the calendar of events section, the wide range of gatherings that will be held in our state this year. We will have much more than the annual SCAFS/SCFWA meeting. There will be meetings of the 13th Annual Southeastern Lake Management Conference in March, 28th Annual Larval Fish Conference in May, North American Native Fishes Association in June, and Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in October. These meetings have rarely or never been held in our state before. They offer quite a variety of venues for fisheries professionals to gather, learn and make contacts. Notify your colleagues, who may not be members, of these events and opportunities. While you're at it, encourage them to join SCAFS and make it even stronger! I hope to see all of you sometime, somewhere this year.

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SCAFS 2004 Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Chapter Meeting will be jointly held with the South Carolina Fishery Workers Association (SCFWA) at the Baruch Marine Laboratory near Georgetown on February 2nd and 3rd. Registration will begin at 11 a.m. and the technical session will begin at 12:30 p.m.

The Lab, located on the North Inlet of Winyah Bay, is the primary research facility of the University of South Carolina's Belle W. Baruch Marine Institute.

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A tidal creek on the North Inlet at Belle W. Baruch Marine Institute.

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March 7 – 9, 2004
 13th Annual Southeastern Lake Management Conference
 Wild Dunes Resort
 Isle of Palms, SC
wadeb@scdnr.state.sc.us

May 23 – 26, 2004
 28th Annual Larval Fish Conference
 Clemson University

August 22 – 26, 2004
 134th Annual AFS Meeting
 Monona Terrace Convention Center
 Madison, WI
www.afs2004madison.org

October 31 – November 3, 2004
 SEAFWA 2004 Annual Conference
 Hilton Head, SC
stevel@scdnr.state.sc.us or
lamprechts@scdnr.state.sc.us

TREASURER'S REPORT

DATE: 1/1/2004

Items	Debits	Credits
Web hosting	\$ 239.40	
Dues		\$160.00
2003 Annual Meeting	\$ 288.24	\$152.14
2003 Fall Workshop	\$ 569.38	\$105.00
2003 Officer dues	\$ 190.00	
Awards	\$ 150.16	
Miscellaneous	\$ 222.28	\$205.00
Interest		
Checking		\$ 8.57
Savings		\$ 41.31
Certificate of Deposit		\$ 61.16
	\$ 1,659.46	\$733.18

Account Balances

Checking	\$ 2,706.68
Savings	\$ 4,806.75
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 3,310.42

TOTAL ASSETS \$10,823.85



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Registration fees are \$30 for individuals and \$15 for students registering prior to January 15 (\$35/\$20 thereafter). Fees will be waived for student presenters. The registration fee includes attendance, refreshments at breaks, continental breakfast, dinner and social (including beverages). Overnight accommodations in onsite dorm-style rooms (3-4 beds per room) are available on a "first come, first served" basis for \$12. Additional offsite accommodations are available at the Days Inn in Georgetown (ph. 843-546-8441).

The program will include contributed papers on any fishery related topic. Presentations may include completed projects or works in progress. The submission deadline is **January 15**. All submissions should include your *name, title of presentation, affiliation, phone number and e-mail address*. Please note if you are a student. Submissions should be sent to:

Bill Post
 SCFWA
 SCDNR
 PO Box 12559
 Charleston, SC 29422
 Phone: (843) 953-9821
postb@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us

A copy of the registration packet can be downloaded from the chapter website at
<http://www.scafs.org/meetings.html>.

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SCAFS 2003 Fall Workshop

Leo Rose

The SC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (SCAFS) held its annual fall workshop on November 19, 2003 at Saluda Shoals Park. This year the subject of the workshop was technology in fisheries. Our guest speakers led the morning session with presentation sessions on emerging technology in geographic information systems (GIS), applied GIS solutions, GPS hardware and radio telemetry.

Kevin Remington, the Campus GIS Coordinator for the University of South Carolina's Center for GIS & Remote Sensing gave an exceptional presentation on current GIS trends and how GIS can be used for more than just making pretty maps. Remington showed how remote sensing technology has evolved into a tool that

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North American Native Fishes Association to convene Annual Conference in South Carolina

We invite you to attend this year's NANFA Convention in Columbia, SC on June 17-20, 2004. Our annual convention is a great place to meet other NANFA members, hear some great presentations about fishes and the aquatic environment in general, and spend a day or two visiting some of the local areas and collecting fishes you may have never seen before.

South Carolina has a diverse range of habitats, from mountains to piedmont to coastal plains, so we have a lot of options! You will need a South Carolina recreational fishing license to collect nongame fishes in South Carolina. Anyone who wants should be able to find some interesting fishes. The weather in early June should be warm but not oppressive, and many of the fish may still be in breeding coloration. For those of you wishing to bring your families, there are many historical sites and attractions for them to visit around the state.

Riverbanks Zoological Park & Gardens has been kind enough to allow us to have our auction, speakers and banquet in their facilities. Dustin Smith, Fritz Rohde and Chip Rinehart will be acting as your hosts. The format for the meeting will be a full day on Friday of collecting trips around South Carolina, with the possibility of brief forays into North Carolina. Friday night we will have our annual auction as well as guided tours of the aquariums at Riverbanks Zoo. On Saturday we will have presentations of interest to NANFA members by some well-known and highly regarded speakers, followed by the banquet that night. Sunday, for those interested, we will do some more collecting. This year's convention t-shirt will again be an original design by Casper Cox; make sure to get your order in early.

On Saturday, our meeting will begin at 8:30am, lunch break at 12:30pm, resume at 2:00pm and continue until 5:00pm. A brief list of our speakers and their topics below:

Patrick McMillan - Aquatic Plants
Gerald Pottern - Shiners of the subgenus *Hydrophlox*
Fritz Rohde - Pygmy Sunfishes
Brian Wagner - Crayfishes
Dave Neely - Sculpins
Ray Wolff - Aquarium and Pond Maintenance

We are honored to have, as our special guest speaker at the banquet, Dr. Robert Goldstein, who will be speaking on collecting in South America.

Here are the details of how to get to and where to stay in Columbia:

CONVENTION LODGING: Holiday Inn - Columbia Airport. The rooms will be non-smoking doubles, and some smoking rooms will be available at your request. The rate will be \$65.00 per night and will include a complimentary hot breakfast buffet in Magnolia's Grill which is the on-site

restaurant (www.holiday-inn.com/cae-airport, (803) 794-9440). *NOTE: Make sure to mention that you are with the 'NANFA' group and tell them to use tracking number "2-NAN". The deadline for making reservations is May 25, 2004. This Holiday Inn is located on Chris Drive, just off of US #1 at I-26 (Exit 111b) and is a short 10 minute drive to Riverbanks Zoo via I-26/I-126. For any of you that may be flying in, it is also very close (approx. 10 minutes) to the Columbia Metropolitan Airport and has free shuttle service to and from the airport.

AIR TRAVEL: Columbia Metropolitan Airport is served by several major air carriers with direct connections to many North American cities. The airport is about 10 miles west of the meeting site, connected by US #1/I-26/I-126.

TRAVEL BY CAR: Columbia is located in the center of the state easily accessible via interstates I-20, I-26, and I-77.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION: The registration fee for the convention is \$65 if paid by May 16, \$75 at the door. A spousal registration fee of \$20 will cover attendance at the Saturday evening banquet and admission to other convention events. Also, this year we will have a special student registration rate of \$25 (\$30 at the door) for middle school, high school and college students. Early registrations should be made out to NANFA and sent to: Dustin Smith, 1229 Walnut Street, Newberry, SC 29108 .

We hope you can make it to Columbia this June. If you have any questions, please contact us at:

Dustin - home phone 803-405-1847 or email Dsmith73@hotmail.com

Fritz - e-mail at Fritz.Rohde@ncmail.net

Chip - home phone 803-808-3502 or email Ipchay61@aol.com.

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Guest Column: Trout Unlimited in South Carolina

Tom McInnis, Chair

South Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited (TU) is a national organization dedicated to “conserving, protecting and restoring North America’s cold water fisheries”. TU accomplishes this mission on local, state and national levels with an extensive and dedicated volunteer network. TU’s national office, based just outside of Washington, D.C., and its regional offices employ professionals who testify before Congress, publish a quarterly magazine, intervene in federal legal proceedings, and work with the organization’s 125,000 member-volunteers in 500 chapters nationwide to keep them active and involved in conservation issues.

South Carolina TU consists of four chapters, one each in Clemson, Greenville-Spartanburg and Columbia, and an inactive chapter in Charleston. Representatives from each chapter form the state council, which coordinates the activities of the four chapters and acts as an intermediary between the chapters and the national office.

South Carolina TU has formed partnerships with many state and federal agencies, and private companies, to carry out our conservation mission here in South Carolina. The fact that South Carolina has only a limited amount of trout water makes it even more precious and worthy of our protection. Some examples of recent and future activities in South Carolina include:

- Participation in “Partners for Trout”, a consortium of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U. S. Forest Service, SC Department of Natural Resources, and Trout Unlimited, along with other groups. Major projects include installation of bottom-draw cold water release structures on lakes feeding warm water into trout streams and restoration of the Eastatooe River as a trout fishery.
- Monitoring water quality in the Saluda River trout water below Lake Murray and the re-licensing of the Lake Murray dam operated by SC Gas and Electric.
- Construction of educational kiosks on the Saluda, Chattooga and Middle Saluda rivers.
- Offering short courses for youth in fly fishing and cold-water resource conservation.
- Opposing a request by a gold mining outfit for a DHEC permit to open an in-stream mining operation

in Oconee County.

- Opposing proposed changes in administration of the Clean Water Act by the Bush Administration that would have removed one-third of the nation’s wetlands and small streams from federal protection.
- Working for more stringent restrictions on mercury emissions by coal-fired power plants.
- Assisting the U. S. Forest Service and SC Department of Natural Resources with a brook trout restoration project in the Chattooga River watershed.
- Participating in the Chattooga Coalition, which brings together federal and state agencies, and conservation groups to monitor, protect and restore the Chattooga River, including its trout fishery.

We are committed to continuing our fight to preserve our cold-water resources in South Carolina, and invite anyone interested to join with us.

For more information on the state’s chapters and the national organization, visit the following web sites.

- Chattooga River Chapter: www.chattoogatu.org
- Mountain Bridge Chapter: www.mbtu.org
- Saluda River Chapter: www.saludatu.org
- National TU: www.tu.org



Trout stocking via helicopter (the only way to fly).

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TREASURER'S REPORT

DATE: 1/05/2004

Checking Account Balance: \$573.61

TOTAL CHAPTER ASSETS: \$573.61

We plan to continue working with Helping Hands throughout the spring semester including another Kid Fish. We are also hoping to sponsor the attendance of our members at the SCAFS/SCFWA meeting in February and the national AFS meeting at Madison, WI in August. Clemson University will be hosting the 28th Annual Larval Fish Conference and our members will be busy supporting the meeting May 23rd-26th. We are planning a weekend getaway in Charleston for the spring semester, which will include fishing and possibly a trip to the South Carolina Aquarium.

Our accounts are in good shape, and we anticipate the revenue from our T-shirt sales to continue to support our activities for 2004. Currently we have \$573.61 having made \$53.36 in donations to Helping Hands (so far) and \$130.80 for our Fall Social. We have made \$200.00 in T-shirt sales this year and will continue to sell T-shirts at SCAFS/SCFWA functions, Robust Redhorse Conservation Committee meetings, and other meetings until they are gone.

Our members have continued their diverse research looking at the movement patterns and behavior of striped bass in reservoirs, shortnose sturgeon, and robust redhorse. We have new members who are conducting research on the ontogeny of the immune system in mummichogs, mating systems and sexual selection in sailfin mollies, and ammonia and nitrite toxicity in Pacific white shrimp. We also have a project starting up that will look at the partitioning of gravel bar spawning habitat among riverine fishes in the Savannah River. We have been able to encourage several of our undergraduate members to participate in these research projects and hope to gain even greater participation in the future. If SCAFS members are looking for assistance, please contact us here at Clemson. Many of our members are looking for opportunities to gain experience.

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Visit us on the web at our new site:

www.clemson.edu/~csafs

It's been a busy semester for the Clemson University Student Subunit. We have successfully increased our membership to 15 and plan to continue our recruitment efforts. On October 6th, we held our Fall Social that included smoked brisket, a fish fry, and a bonfire not to mention good company and a keg. We have also continued our charity work with Helping Hands through the construction of picnic tables for their outdoor pavilion. We also mobilized other student organizations at Clemson to donate money for Christmas presents for Helping Hands children through our offer of matching funds.



Clemson Sub-Unit hosts fishing derby for disadvantaged youth

Our first Kid Fish was held on October 12th. We hosted approximately 30 kids from Helping Hands, the local shelter for abused and neglected children, for a day of fishing and a hot dog lunch. A good time was had by all...and it didn't hurt that everyone caught a fish.

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Hutton Biologist continued from page 1

One of the greatest benefits of the program was exposing Miss Underwood to the real work involved in fisheries and hatchery duties so she can make an informed career choice in the future. She saw that there is much more to do than stock fish or record length measurements. Much of her time was spent doing the daily fish husbandry tasks that make up most of our time at a hatchery. She worked well with the hatchery crew and the program was beneficial for the staff as well. Having the extra person around the facility helped to free up some time to do those elusive odd jobs that are difficult to find time to do in a busy summer. Although it takes time to mentor a high school student, I would recommend the Hutton Program as a positive experience for both the student and mentor.

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Fall Workshop continued from page 3

can provide useful information rapidly and at a relatively low cost. Projects that used to take years of manual field data collections can now be completed in a matter of minutes or days. Remington gave numerous examples of how GIS technology can be applied to marine and freshwater fisheries. Remington concluded by offering to teach a free-of-charge technical GIS training session to AFS members. For those of you who are interested in attending a training session contact Leo Rose (803-734-1280) for more information. Also, Remington instructs excellent one-day training classes at USC that are very affordable (\$60). For more information on GIS training at USC see their website (<http://www.cla.sc.edu/gis/>).

Tara Koman presented her recently completed GIS modeling project that showcased how these new technologies have real-world applications. She developed a model that combines existing biological and chemical data with spatial and geological information to predict mercury levels in fish. The new method she developed will allow for more accurate fish consumption advisories.

A regional representative from Duncan-Parnell, Chuck Drouillard, showcased the new Trimble GPS technology and provided an overview of some of the more technical benefits and advancements in the new generation of GPS receivers.

Doug Cooke wrapped up the final morning presentation with an informative talk on tracking fish movement and passage through dams. Cooke showed impressive 3D images developed from data collected by some of their new equipment. Also, Cooke brought various types of telemetry devices that allowed us to get a hands-on look at the equipment.

After the morning session Drew Robb prepared a delicious Beaufort boil for lunch (thanks Drew) before we headed back for the hands-on equipment demonstrations.

Jason Moak was able to demonstrate Kleinschmidt's sonar device with some previously collected data. Also, the new Trimble GPS units were on display along with two new backpack electrofishing units. Smith-Root's newest model features an electronic display while the new HallTech Aquatic Research model is slightly cheaper, comes with a handy carry case and has an ergonomic anode handle.

Based on comments from many who attended, the information provided at the workshop was useful and interesting. All our presenters did an excellent job. Thanks to all those people who participated to make this year's workshop another resounding success.

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Don't get swallowed alive. Join SCAFS!!!

Clemson University Grads

Nathacha Emerant, M.S. Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Wildlife (May 2004).

“Caged Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) Growth, Survival and Assimilation Efficiency in a Greenhouse Partitioned Aquaculture System (PAS) Wastewater Unit”. Currently, Nathacha is looking for a short-term internship through June 2004.

Tiffany Griggs, M.S. Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Wildlife (December 2003).

Tiffany used radio and acoustic telemetry to complete her thesis; “Diel movement of Hatchery-Reared and Wild Shortnose Sturgeon in the Savannah River South Carolina-Georgia.” She will begin a position at Fort Stewart, GA in February 2004 working on sturgeon. Congratulations Tiffany!!

Kevin Kubach, M.S. Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Wildlife (December 2003).

Kevin’s thesis, “Development and Implementation of a Reintroduction Methodology for the Turquoise Darter (*Etheostoma inscriptum*) in a South Carolina Piedmont Stream,” focused on assessing the suitability of a small stream system in the upper Savannah River drainage for reintroduction of the turquoise darter, a species extirpated from the system. He is currently seeking employment in the fields of fisheries/aquatic resources management, conservation, consulting, or education in the southeast.

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NOMINATIONS NEEDED

Chapter Officer Elections

Nominations are needed for the offices of President-elect and Secretary/Treasurer. Elections for these offices will be held during the Chapter’s business meeting on February 2, 2004 at the SCAFS-SCFWA Annual Meeting at the Baruch Marine Lab (see page 2). Please send your nominations to Leo Rose (president-elect@scafs.org).

Fishery Conservationist of the Year

SCAFS presents, annually, the Fishery Conservationist of the Year award to an individual or organization for outstanding contributions to the conservation of South Carolina’s fishery resources. We are currently soliciting nominations for this year’s (2002) award. Submit your nomination, along with a brief biographical sketch outlining why that person or organization deserves the award, to any SCAFS officer by March 1, 2004.



Membership

Interested in becoming a member of SCAFS? Contact the chapter president, [Chris Thomason](#), fill out the form below, or download the [membership form](#) and send it in, along with your \$5 annual dues, to:

Jason Moak
Kleinschmidt Associates
101 Trade Zone Drive Suite 21A
West Columbia, SC 29170

Name	
Address	
City, State ZIP	
Phone	
Email	
Title	
Employer	

Dues enclosed

Dues paid through Parent Society