



NEWS: AFS UNITS

Past President Russell Kiefer (brown pants), President Jim Capurso (blue pants) and Vice President Bart Gamett (white pants) award Dave Burns (no pants) the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Idaho Chapter Meets in Boise

"No conference group drinks as much beer as you folks," said the hotel manager at the conclusion of the Idaho Chapter meeting in Boise in February 2007. And so it was another superlative distinction for a thirsty Chapter that hosted its largest meeting yet and whose membership continues to grow. The meeting itself passed a growth threshold—with 270 registrants and over 50 plenary and contributed talks over two and a half days—so that we were required to host concurrent sessions. Although concurrent sessions regrettably preclude the ability to see every presentation (a proud tradition of collegiality and congeniality), it seems a small price to pay for extremely positive growth and development in the Chapter. Each of the two university Student Subunits (Palouse and Portneuf—new in 2006) faced a significant drive to get to Boise but managed to bring about 30 students collectively.

As in past years, the meeting was preceded by a workshop built around a topic of regional fisheries concern. This year's workshop focused on fish health, entitled "Current and Emerging Pathogens of Fish in the Pacific Northwest." The workshop was led by Idaho Chapter members Ken Cain of the University of Idaho; Keith Johnson, Doug Burton, Doug Munson, and Jeff Heindell of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG); and Laura Kessel-Hawn of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and attracted many of the regional experts in this field. Over 30 fish biologists from many institutions and agencies throughout the state participated. The plenary theme for day one was Diversions, Dams and Fish. In this case, even the best screens couldn't keep the meeting attendees out. The day of talks, a plenary session in the morning and contributed papers in the afternoon, was at maximum capacity.

The meeting presented an opportunity to recognize an outstanding lineup of fisheries professionals in the state. Dave Burns received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his 30+ years of service in fisheries in the Payette National Forest with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The R. L. Wallace Native Fish Conservationist of the Year award went to Virgil Moore for his dedicated and inspired achievements as lead of fisheries at IDFG. Finally the Mentoring Committee presented their first Mentor Award to the notoriously loquacious Steve Elle, IDFG, supporting the notion that it's not what you say, but how (much) you say it.



Dan Garren is tired after reading off the long list of accomplishments of Virgil Moore, this year's recipient of the Wallace Native Fish Conservationist Award.



Jeff Heindell hands out a door prize.



Stu Shipman (right), NCD president, presented the North Central Division's Most Active Small Chapter Award to Indiana Chapter President Dave Meuninck.

We had a great list of candidates for Executive Committee positions to become active following the meeting and the winners represent the diversity of agency representation in the Chapter. Jim Fredericks (IDFG) will be vice president, Matt Davis (USFS) will be the new secretary, and Tom Bassista (Idaho Department of Water Resources) will be nominations chair. Congratulations to all of the future leaders and thanks to all who ran for these important positions.

A student presentation award went to Nate Jensen, a recent graduate from the University of Idaho, for his work on the cryopreservation of burbot semen. In short, this study showed that a solution of 20% methanol improves fertilization rates for burbot, which should come as no big surprise to those who know something about the effects of alcohol compounds on human reproductive success. At the professional level, our warm welcome of visitors was manifest in the awarding of best paper to Mike Hansen (University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point) for his sabbatical work on lake trout in Lake Pend O'Reille. However, several of us will be paying a visit to the Wisconsin Chapter annual meeting next year to try to win the award back.

The students hosted their annual pizza mixer, which was a hugely successful way for students and young professionals to meet some of the more established fisheries professionals in the state. Ideas were shared, networking happened, several employment opportunities were discovered, and only a couple of jobs were lost during this annual gala affair. The pizza joint fortunately had remembered this group from previous years and had an extra keg in store for an emergency, which, as it happens, did occur.

Committees continue to be extremely active in the Chapter and Chapter members divide their attendance and commitment evenly across focal areas that range from anadromous and native fishes to riparian systems and water quality to mentoring and education. The committees developed new mission statements and have high goals for the upcoming year, including for many of them developing workshops and plenary sessions for our next annual meeting in Post Falls in early February 2008. As we look forward to next year, the registration gift, a beautiful travel mug, will serve as a constant reminder of the qualities and values that embody fisheries professionals worldwide: industrialism (e.g., gluing lids in our basement shops), professionalism in behavior and attire (e.g., coffee stained clothing), and practical sensibilities and down-to-earthness (e.g., doing our own laundry).

—Brian Kennedy

Indiana Chapter Full year of activities

The Indiana Chapter had a busy year of activities, starting with providing financial assistance to the North Central Division annual meeting at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. A contribution of \$500 was given toward the Rivers and Streams Symposium to help bring in presenters and the Chapter donated \$50 for the "Beginning Your Professional Journey" student workshop for the purchase of AFS publications.

For many years, the Chapter hosted an annual legislative reception. This gave an opportunity for members to interact with legislators during Indiana's spring legislative session. Now, the Chapter has joined the Indiana Conservation Alliance (INCA) to achieve the same collaboration with legislators but in association with other organizations, such as the Nature Conservancy-Indiana Chapter. The event is called Conservation Day at the statehouse and is an annual spring event.

The Chapter's joint workshop and spring meeting was held at Pokagon State Park in northeast Indiana. An untimely snow storm rushed through the tri-state area and prevented nearly two dozen people from attending. The plenary speaker was stuck in an airport. Despite the weather, attendance was higher than expected, the workshop and meeting were a great success, and many enjoyed a quarter-mile toboggan run that is operated by the park. North Central Division president Stu Shipman presented the Chapter with the Division's Most Active Small Chapter Award. A summary of the workshop and meeting can be found at the Chapter's website: www.fisheries.org/units/indiana. While there, check out the Chapter's award winning newsletter.

The Chapter was eager to help out with the Katrina Disaster Relief Effort. Working with the Mississippi Division of Marine Resources, \$450 worth of equipment was purchased by the Chapter and shipped to their Seafood Technology Bureau. Personnel there were very grateful.

—Dave Meuninck

Offering an Integrated Tracking Approach

The Crux of the
"Integrated Tracking Approach" is the ability
to use the same transmitters for
easy and efficient manual tracking, as well as
automated tracking with submersible receivers.



Sonotronics

www.sonotronics.com (520) 746-3322

