



GILL RAKER GAZETTE

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Editor: James Capurso

THE BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

IDAHO CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MATT POWELL

Greetings Idaho AFS folks,

August is typically a busy part of the year for us fish squeezers. For many of you, it is field season. For others, there are new budgets to contend with, year-end reports and so on. Many of you are also preparing presentations and posters for our parent society's upcoming annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. This meeting promises to have the largest attendance AFS has ever had and it appears Idaho AFS will be very well represented in the ranks of those making presentations. There will even be a workshop presentation and symposia coordinated by Idaho AFS members.

The annual AFS meeting is also a time of transition for the IDAFS Executive Committee or EXCOM. I will be stepping aside to allow Russ Kiefer to steer us toward bigger and better things as Idaho AFS President in the coming year. Russ did a tremendous job with our own annual meeting in Boise this past February. Jim Capurso, as your new President-elect, has our 2006 IDAFS meeting already coordinated and is busy with additional workshops he's planning. Liz Mamer will be

beginning the second half of her term as Secretary-Treasurer and facilitating the transition to a new two-year cycle for Secretary-Treasurer you all, as a membership, voted to amend in our bylaws. What can I say about Liz? Water covers 2/3 of the earth and Liz pretty much covers the rest. Jim Fredricks, your Nominations Chair, brought us a great set of candidates for Vice President, Secretary and Nominations Chairs this past year. Congratulations to Bart Gamett, Tammy Salow and Ryan Hardy respectively. They will be beginning their new positions in September.

Besides thanking this past year's EXCOM for all their help, I also need to take a moment to thank some other folks who have made things much easier for all of us. Art Butts, Dimitri Vidergar, Doug Megargle, Brian Leth, Stephanie Bosch, our Past-President Vaughn Paragamian, Nate Jensen, and our very own "Professor Dumbledore" of Idaho AFS, that well-spring of information and logic, Steve Elle.

To everyone in the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, it's been an honor to serve as your President, I thank you for your support and wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors.

Cheers,
Matt

NEW IDAHO CHAPTER AFS WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The world wide web has revolutionized the way we communicate and get information, but it can also be a dour and uncivilized place. Most websites are excruciatingly redundant and are infected with pop-ups and spyware; Car bombs, cancer, Viagra, weight loss, appendage enhancers.... it can all be too much to take some times.

Then again, every so often there arises a website that reshapes our beliefs about the benefits of the Internet. Good examples are Amazon, Ebay and Google, which are now every-day household words. Today, we would like to proudly announce the new and improved website for the Idaho Chapter of American Fisheries Society has joined that list: www.idahoafs.org

Yes, it's true. Where else can you go for current information about your favorite professional society? It's all there. Mission statements, newsletters, upcoming events, meeting information... awaiting you at the simple click of your mouse.

Interested in perusing a database of fishes of Idaho? It's there! Looking for employment in the high-paying world of fisheries science? We have links to job opportunities in the agencies you'll need to contact. Need gift ideas for your spouse's birthday or an imminent wedding anniversary? Try shopping at our new on-line store for that stylish ICAFS shirt and hat, or even a Tomelleri cutthroat print! What else could you possibly dream of in a website?

To top it off, there is a sponsor page complete with local and national donors that have supported our chapter. Take a minute to see who has given to ICAFS and consider them first, next time you shop...don't forget to say you "saw them on the ICAFS website"!

So, stop what you're doing! Click on www.idahoafs.org. You don't really need to place that bid on a fried bologna sandwich that has the image of Gale Norton on Ebay.... Come check out the only website you'll want to visit again and again...your new ICAFS home.

Reminder: This is a work in progress and we're always looking for news on upcoming events, historical facts and anything else you'd like to see on the site. Please contact Liz Mamer (lmamer@idfg.idaho.gov) with any information you'd like to get out to our ICAFS members and we'll get it on the site ASAP!

INTERNATIONAL BURBOT MOU SIGNED

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed by a international multi-agency managing committee for rehabilitation of Kootenai River burbot. The document recognizes burbot are an important species in the Kootenai River and are in need of conservation measures to prevent extinction. The MOU recognizes a Kootenai River/Kootenay Lake Burbot Conservation Strategy for the protection and coordination of measures to bring this population back. The Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (a grass roots organization of local state and tribal government) was important in the support for this MOU. This was an important event that had political support. But all agreed there is much work to be done.

2006 ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

The 2006 Idaho Chapter American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting will be held at the Idaho Falls Red Lion Riverside on February 15-17. The plenary session, to be the first half of the first day is entitled *The Economic Aspects of Idaho Fisheries: The Great (but Seldom Used) Conservation Tool*. It features presentations by Thomas Michael Power and John Duffield of the University of Montana, Ray Rasker of the Sonoran Institute, Don Reading (Private Consultant), and Virgil Moore and Sharon Kiefer of Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Presentation topics include recent changes in Idaho rural economics, the recently completed Idaho fisheries economic survey, economic value of salmon and steelhead in Idaho, the economic value of the South Fork Snake River and Henrys Fork, rural economic development in the Greater Yellowstone Area and the West, economic values of instream flows, and the non-market value of resources.

Please note February 15-17 is Wednesday through Friday. After polling the membership, it was determined preferences for weekday or weekend meeting days were nearly equal, with slightly more preferring weekday meeting days.

2006 ANNUAL MEETING CALL FOR PAPERS (OCTOBER 31 DEADLINE)

This newsletter initiates the call for papers for the 2006 Annual Meeting scheduled for February 15-17 at the Idaho Falls Red Lion Riverside. EXCOM believes it is important to deliver the annual meeting agenda to the chapter members in a timely fashion for their convenience, so we are requesting proposals for papers to be presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting. The call for papers will close October 31, so a final agenda will be available in November. Please spread the word.

The plenary session will be the first half of the first day, leaving less of the schedule available for contributed papers than in recent years. This further emphasizes the need for early submittal of papers. While planning the last annual meeting, Russ ended up turning some contributed papers away. This is even more likely to happen this year, so please send your name, affiliation, presentation title, and draft abstract to jcapurso@fs.fed.us by October 31.

2006 PRE-ANNUAL MEETING WORKSHOP

Exploring differences between fine-spotted and large-spotted varieties of Yellowstone cutthroat trout

February 14, 2006

Red Lion Riverside in Idaho Falls, Idaho

Organized by Rob Van Kirk, Mark Novak, and James Capurso

Theme: Are differences between fine-spotted and large-spotted Yellowstone cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki bouvieri*) sufficient for them to be considered separate subspecies?

Session 1 Introduction and background

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introduction-Rob Van Kirk, Idaho State University

9:15 a.m. Geologic evolution of the upper Snake and Yellowstone river drainages-Ken Pierce, U.S. Geological Survey

9:45 a.m. Overview of evolution, distribution and historical management of YCT-Bob Gresswell, U.S. Geological Survey

10:15 a.m. What does genetic analysis tell us about evolution and phylogeny of western North American *Oncorhynchus*?-Paul Spruell, University of Montana

10:45 a.m. BREAK

Session 2 Current research

11:00 a.m. Evolution, distribution and phylogeny of cutthroat trout in the Yellowstone River drainage, Montana-Brad Shepard, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

11:20 a.m. Evolution, distribution and phylogeny of cutthroat trout in the upper Snake River drainage, Idaho-Matt Campbell and Christine Cegelski, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

11:40 a.m. Evolution, distribution and phylogeny of cutthroat trout in the Snake headwaters and Wind/Bighorn drainage, Wyoming-Wayne

Hubert, U.S. Geological Survey

12:00 noon Morphological differences among Yellowstone cutthroat trout and its close relatives in the Greater Yellowstone region-Ernest Keeley, Idaho State Univ.

12:20 p.m. LUNCH

1:30 p.m. Morphological and genetic variability in cutthroat trout of the Snake River headwaters-Mark Novak, Utah State University

Session 3 Management Implications of one versus two subspecies

2:00 p.m. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Lynn Kaeding

2:10 p.m. National Park Service-Todd Koel

2:20 p.m. Private-Amy Harig, Trout Unlimited

2:30 p.m. Wyoming-Dirk Miller, Wyoming Department of Game and Fish

2:40 p.m. Idaho-Mark Gamblin, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

2:50 p.m. Montana-Ken McDonald, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

3:00 p.m. U.S. Forest Service-Jeff Kershner

3:10 p.m. BREAK

Session 4 Summary and Discussion

3:30 p.m. Summary-Robert Behnke, Colorado State University (Emeritus)

3:45 p.m.--? Discussion moderated by Rob Van Kirk

PLASTIC WELCOMED HERE: THE IDAHO CHAPTER NOW ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS

ICAFS has entered the world of global economics using VISA and MasterCard! That's right, next time you come to our annual meeting, not only will you be able to pay for your registration **on-line** at our **NEW WEBSITE**, you also won't have to pass up that dream fishing or hunting trip that was going for a song at our fundraiser auction! Bring your credit cards.... we'll take them all.

The redesign of our website has enabled us to utilize the PayPal system to process credit card transactions. It works with just about every kind of credit card, PCards and checking accounts, too. By using PayPal, ICAFS will avoid costly merchant account fees and equipment purchases and allow easy transitions for the secretary and treasurers positions. We're looking forward to using this process to handle registrations for workshops, meetings, and if we're lucky, donations! The new system is secure and should help your ICAFS staff process payments as efficiently as possible.

Please feel free to explore this great chance to exercise your plastic by visiting our new **ON-LINE STORE** at <http://www.idahoafcs.org/store.php>.

YOUR CHAPTER DOLLARS AT WORK.....

This has been a busy year! With the success of Art and Dmitri at our last fundraiser, ICAFS has been able to say yes to a number of funding requests.

The chapter approved the funding of an Operation and Maintenance budget on Trout in the Stream installations in schools across the state (\$2000 allocated). This program is being monitored by Steve Elle. The chapter also received a request from Tim Cochnauer who passed along an opportunity to support developing a living stream installation for educational programs at the Kamiah School District. Our chapter was able to contribute \$2000 towards that effort. We've also contributed to Salmon & Steelhead Days, sending them \$500 this year. For more details on these fundings, please read the Education Committee Report in this issue.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Living Stream in Kamiah

The Education Committee received a request from Tim Cochnauer for \$2000.00 for capitol outlay assistance for a living stream project proposed for construction at Kamiah High School. The committee forwarded the request to Excom and it was subsequently approved in late June. The project will be constructed by September 2005 and will provide public education regarding trout life history. The project is being cost shared by Idaho Dept. Fish and Game, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Kamiah School District. It will include an outside living stream facility available to the general public as well as used as an educational tool in the school district.

Trout in the Stream O/M

At the annual meeting, Excom approved \$2000.00 for Operations and Maintenance of aquariums and chillers associated with trout in the classroom projects statewide. The education committee is providing notification to teachers involved in the program statewide about the availability of these funds. Hopefully, this will allow us to have any aquariums currently in disrepair back on line by the start of Fall Semester.

'Rare Native Fishes of Idaho' Poster is available once again

Idaho Native Fish posters are now available, free, to any educator in the state who wishes a copy. If you know of anyone wanting a copy, please have them contact Steve Elle, 465-8404 (x225), selle@idfg.idaho.gov. These posters are also available to the general public at our online store on the new ICASF website (www.idahoaf.org) - they sell for \$10 each including shipping and handling.

SALMON AND STEELHEAD DAYS, SEPTEMBER 7-9

Idaho Salmon & Steelhead Days is just around the corner. Mark your calendars! ICASF has donated \$500 to this event again this year. Please take the time to volunteer for this great educational opportunity for Idaho kids.....

What is "Idaho Salmon & Steelhead Days"?

Salmon Days celebrates the biology, history, economic and cultural significance of salmon and steelhead. During the three day event, as many as 3,000 fifth graders participate in hands-on outdoor activities. This is where we need most of our volunteers. For the general public, a salmon barbecue and several outdoor educational activities will take place Thursday evening. All events are held at the Idaho Fish and Game headquarters complex at 600 S. Walnut St., Boise.

What should you do if you want to volunteer?

Contact Brenda Beckley at bbeckley@idfg.idaho.gov for an application and return it to the MK Nature Center by Friday, August 26th. If you cannot make this deadline, please call or send your application (The sooner the better!!!). We will probably still need you. Because we are scheduling many volunteers, please understand that we may not be able to accommodate everyone's wishes to work specific activities. As a thank you for volunteering, you will receive a salmon days t-shirt. T-shirts will be available at the main tent during the event. Remember to bring a sack lunch and water, especially if you are working a full day.

Barbecue Details

The barbecue will be held Thursday, September 8th at 5:00 PM. This popular event is open to the public. Tickets for the salmon dinner are \$8.00. A hot dog meal for kids is \$3.00. The menu includes the main entree, salads, soft drinks and ice cream. Please do not send a check with your applications. Tickets may be purchased at the MK Nature Center, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game headquarters and at the main tent during the event. Tickets are also sold on the night of the BBQ, but please understand that the number of tickets available is limited.

For more information please contact Brenda Beckley, IDFG Wildlife Educator at 208-287-2901 or bbeckley@idfg.idaho.gov

2005 NATIVE NON-GAME FISH WORKSHOP FEATURED LOST RIVER WHITEFISH

2005 Native Non-Game Fish Workshop Summary

On August 5 and 6, biologists and AFS members from across Idaho and parts of Utah met to discuss one of Idaho's native fish - the mountain whitefish. Approximately 25 people were in attendance for the third annual Native Fish

Committee's summer workshop. Each year, the committee votes on a native species to feature, with the overall goal to raise awareness of one of Idaho's aquatic non-game natives. This year, the species selected was the mountain whitefish. Biologists with state, federal and private affiliations presented past, ongoing and future work associated with whitefish, with particular emphasis on the subspecies found in the Big Lost River. Recent research has identified Big Lost whitefish as genetically distinct, which has precipitated much research on that population and whitefish in general.

Papers presented in the unique outdoor format included a genetic assessment of the Big Lost population, population dynamics on whitefish in the Henrys Fork, physiological experiments such as jumping ability, assessment of spawning locations and habitat, movements and telemetry, and an overview of specific threats to the Big Lost River population with resulting work to preserve the population. Attendees were treated to a BBQ dinner prior to the presentations, and retired to the "tent city" before undertaking field activities the following morning.

Saturday morning found everyone well-rested and ready to embark on the hands-on portion of the program. An hour or two were spent on ageing whitefish otoliths, followed by the group splitting into two groups to either track radio-tagged fish, or conduct snorkel surveys on historic reaches of the North Fork Big Lost River.

Overall, the workshop was a great success, with much information-sharing, and discussion on possible avenues for recovery of the Big Lost population. Thanks to all who contributed to the setup of the meeting, all the presenters, the folks willing to dive into the chilly water in leaky drysuits, and the people who traveled to the Lost River Valley to attend the workshop!



Steve Elle and Ethan Crawford snorkeling for whitefish



Tent city at the Lost River for the whitefish workshop

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