

The Tributary

A Newsletter of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society

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Join us in New Mexico 2009!



We invite you to the Land of Enchantment as the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society and Arizona/New Mexico Chapter co-convene the 2009 WDAFS Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico during May 3-7, 2009.

The theme of the meeting is "Evolution of the Western Landscape: Balancing Habitat, Land, and Water Management for Fish." The program will offer a full range of topics in fisheries science as well as provide the opportunity for networking and socializing. Come enjoy majestic vistas, taste the many flavors of our New Mexico cuisine, and explore the diverse cultural and historical opportunities that Albuquerque and the surrounding area have to offer. See first-hand our unique, arid landscape to appreciate how it has shaped our native fauna and flora.

This issue of the *Tributary* features announcements and updates for the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Western Division AFS.

See the attached Second Call for Papers and visit <http://www.wdafs.org>.

President's message

Scott Bonar, Western Division AFS President



You are probably a fish biologist. So pat yourself on the back! Now do it again! It is probably easy to lose track of how important your job is when you are attending endless committee meetings, writing permits, negotiating with landowners and doing some biology. But your work is essential - your efforts are protecting our natural aquatic resources for future generations of anglers and naturalists.

I am writing you for two reasons. I wish to encourage your participation in this year's annual WDAFS meeting and to alert you about an exciting new initiative from your division.

Across the West, fisheries biologists and managers are now planning for the WDAFS Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The meeting is shaping up to be an exciting event. The theme of the meeting is "Evolution of the Western Landscape: Balancing Habitat, Land, and Water Management for Fish," hosted by the Arizona/New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The program will offer a full range of topics in fisheries science; present valuable networking opportunities for aquatic biologists across the Western United States, Canada and Mexico; and provide participants an opportunity to visit the beautiful Southwestern United States: a land of stunning canyons, vast deserts, and rich history.

This meeting will be held May 3-7, 2009 in downtown Albuquerque at the Hyatt Regency. There will be a plenary session the first day, followed by 3 days of contributed papers, symposium sessions, poster presentations, a trade show, and social events. We expect 500 to 800 participants. So submit that abstract, or just attend to have a wonderful and informative time.

Continued Page 3.

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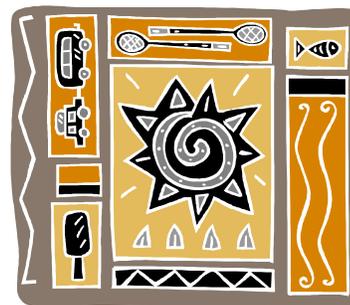
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(President's Message, continued from Page 2)

Now on to the latest WDAFS initiative! Your work is critical, and it is getting harder. Human population growth has impacted streams and lakes in even the most remote areas of the continent. A generation ago, equal percentages of the United States population lived in urban and rural areas. Now, according to census data, 79 percent of the population of the United States is urban. According to Dr. Ron Wimberley, Distinguished Professor of Sociology at North Carolina State; Dr. Libby Morris, director of the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia; and Dr. Gregory Fulkerson, a sociologist at North Carolina State – on May 23, 2007, for the first time in human history, the majority of the world's population became urban.

This has implications for the fisheries profession in addition to the obvious increased human impact. Less of us live side-by-side with nature – as an urban society, we often do not interact with streams, rivers and lakes on a daily basis as we once did. Many researchers argue that this lack of connection with nature leads to less interest in things natural. Richard Louv, familiar to most of us as the author of “Last Child in the Woods,” wrote an article for the San Diego Union that detailed disturbing research results from Utah State University. Researchers there found undergraduate enrollment in natural resource programs fell from 1980 to 2003. Furthermore, professor Terry Sharik, stated that although interpreting estimates before 1980 are problematic, if the 1970's are factored in, enrollment might have fallen by half. “We've got to find out why this is happening,” he says. “If we don't answer that question, our academic departments and conservationists may soon be seen as irrelevant, if they aren't already seen that way.” The Outdoor Industry Association, reports sales of traditional entry-level outdoor gear are nearly dead in the water. Discouraged by the trend, some companies have decided to drop their entry-level product lines.

Of course, all of this is not all gloom and doom. Fisheries professionals are a resourceful bunch, and like the fish they study can often adapt to changing situations. At the turn of the last century, fish rescue crews, widespread stocking of exotics, and fish train cars were all the rage. When many of us biologists were growing up emphasis was on sport fishes and consumptive uses of our fish populations. Now many say emphasis needs to be on a combination of consumptive uses, other types of conservation and enjoyment of both game and nongame species, and reacquainting our children with aquatic systems. Here is where the fishery professional can increase his or her role as an educator.

“What? Put another task on my plate? I'm already too busy to help educate kids about the importance of fish!” Perhaps this is what some of you might be saying.

However, having enough public support to save waters and the fish populations therein for future generations will depend on an informed and interested populace. Heroic efforts by biologists are already taking place across the country – and you often don't have to go further than your backyard to find great examples. I just look up the road from my University to Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service Offices where there are excellent education programs, urban and sport fishing programs, and nongame programs, all acquainting people with nature.

The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society has launched an initiative to support aquatic education, and you will hear more about this in upcoming reports. We will need your advice and involvement. However, in the meantime, ask yourself – are you doing all you can do? Can you volunteer at a school, train a group of science teachers about fish biology, lead an urban-fishing clinic, take your son or daughter out to help seine a stream, lead a hike to a nearby lake? Who knows better about fish than you? Teach a child. You will be leaving an important legacy as a fisheries biologist, and might even have some fun doing it!

Scott Bonar

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WDAFS Aquatic Education Initiative

Do you like aquatic science? Well, duh.
Do you enjoy working with kids?...Maybe.
Are you concerned about the amount of aquatic science being taught in your local schools?.....?

The WDAFS is looking to get more involved in helping local schools and teachers make aquatic science more accessible to students. If you already participate in a school science program, volunteer at a school, or would want to do either - please contact your chapter president or e-mail Leanne Roulson leanne.roulson@myportal.montana.edu or Scott Bonar sbonar@Ag.arizona.edu.

Watch for more information and opportunities at your local chapter meeting this spring!

River Quotes

“Boundaries don’t protect rivers, people do.” — Brad Arrowsmith

“If our salmon are not healthy, then our watersheds are not healthy — and if our watersheds are not healthy, then we have truly squandered our heritage and mortgaged our future.” — John Kitzhaber

“Wild rivers are earth’s renegades, defying gravity, dancing to their own tunes, resisting the authority of humans, always chipping away, and eventually always winning.” — Richard Bangs

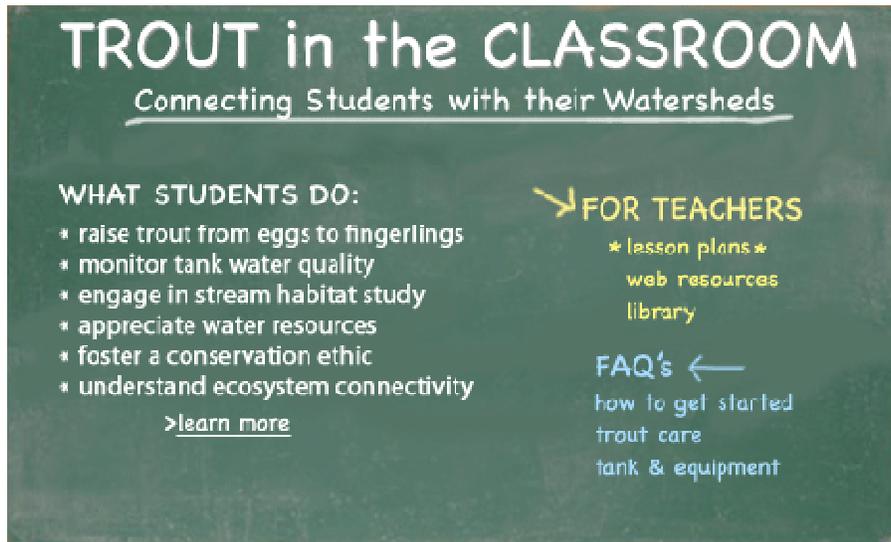
“In the 19th century, we devoted our best minds to exploring nature. In the 20th century, we devoted ourselves to controlling and harnessing it. In the 21st century, we must devote ourselves to restoring it.” — Stephen Ambrose

“Water has a voice. It carries a message that tells those downstream who you are and how you care for the land.”
— Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Association

These quotes came from the American Rivers weekly blog of river quotes at:
<http://blog.americanrivers.org/wordpress/index.php/category/quotes/>.

Featured Education Resource

Trout in the Classroom from Trout Unlimited website:
<http://www.troutintheclassroom.org>



Among many other resources, this website contains a state-by-state list of Trout in the Classroom resources. See an excerpt containing western states below. See something missing? They want to know about it and provide a contact form online. Visit:

http://www.troutintheclassroom.org/site/c.juLTJ6MTKvH/b.2558093/k.7B09/StateSpecific_Resources.htm

California

[Classroom Aquarium Education Project \(CAEP\)](#)

Idaho

[Idaho Fish and Game TIC Program](#)

[Ted Trueblood Chapter Trout Unlimited](#)

Oregon

[Oregon State University Extension Service / Rural Science Education Program: Salmon in the Classroom \(pdf\)](#)

[Oregon State University National Science Foundation Rural Science Education Program: Salmon in the Classroom Lesson Plan \(pdf\)](#)

[Oregon Museum of Science and Industry \(OMSI\) SalmonCam](#)

[Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife: Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program \(STEP\) Education Resources](#)

Washington

[Salmon in the Classroom of Clark County, Washington](#)

[Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: Salmon in the Classroom](#)

[Renton School District: Salmon in the Classroom](#)

[University of Washington K-12 Resource Guide: Salmon in the Classroom](#)

[South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group: Education & Outreach](#)

[Central Coast Salmon Enhancement: Trout in the Classroom](#)

AFS Western Division Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee - 2009 Riparian Challenge Call for Entries –



The Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee is seeking entries for the Western Division's 2009 Riparian Challenge Award. The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other conservation agencies or private industries in the region encompassed by the Western Division (thirteen western states, British Columbia, Yukon Territories, Mexico and U.S. Islands and Trust Territories of the Western Pacific), are invited to participate in the Riparian Challenge. Winners will receive the Western Division's Award of Excellence in Riparian Management to be presented at the Western Division Annual Meeting hosted by the Arizona/New Mexico Chapter AFS in Albuquerque, New Mexico May 3-7, 2009. The purpose of the Riparian Challenge award is to:

- **Encourage the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and other conservation agencies or private industry to strive for excellence in riparian and watershed habitat management,**
- **Encourage agencies to progress in on-the-ground accomplishments which when added together throughout the West, will significantly improve riparian systems, and**
- **Recognize managers and resource specialists for their efforts in maintaining, restoring, and improving riparian and watershed ecosystems.**

If you are aware of a project that should be considered, please ask the appropriate USFS, BLM, conservation agency or industry to submit an entry form. Winners will be selected in the following categories (depending on the number of submissions received): **BLM** (Best Resource Area or Field Office), **Forest Service** (Best Ranger District), and **Other**, including conservation agencies, consultants, or private industry (Best Riparian Project).

More information, along with a description of the entry format and the criteria for evaluating entries can be found on the Western Division AFS web site <http://www.wdafs.org/> - Click on Committees, Riparian and Watersheds Committee.

Completed entries should be submitted to the Riparian Challenge Committee Chair and must be received by **March 16, 2009.** Contact Troy Brandt (tbrandt@riverdesigngroup.net or 503-307-8367) for more information and Riparian Challenge guidelines.

“First-Annual WDAFS Student Colloquium a success!”

By Kris Homel and Lora Tennant



Students participated in a field trip to Yellowstone National Park.

The Montana State University AFS (MSU-AFS) student subunit hosted the first annual, Western Division AFS Student Colloquium October 23-25, 2008 in Bozeman. Students came from four universities and participated in a variety of social and professional activities designed to foster networking among fisheries students. Attendees were from Montana State University, University of Montana, Utah State University, and Colorado State University.

The event kicked off on Thursday with a well-attended opening social at a local brew pub. Students, MSU professors, and local fisheries professionals gathered over appetizers and beverages to discuss fisheries research, potential graduate positions, the nuances of fisheries careers, and to make new acquaintances.

On Friday, students participated in a field trip to Yellowstone National Park (YNP). The trip into the Park rewarded students with sights of geysers in the Norris Geyser Basin, waterfalls in Yellowstone

River Canyon, and wolves roaming through a 1988 burn area. The Park was serene and quiet with the winter season fast approaching. The day was concluded with a relaxing soak in Boiling River.

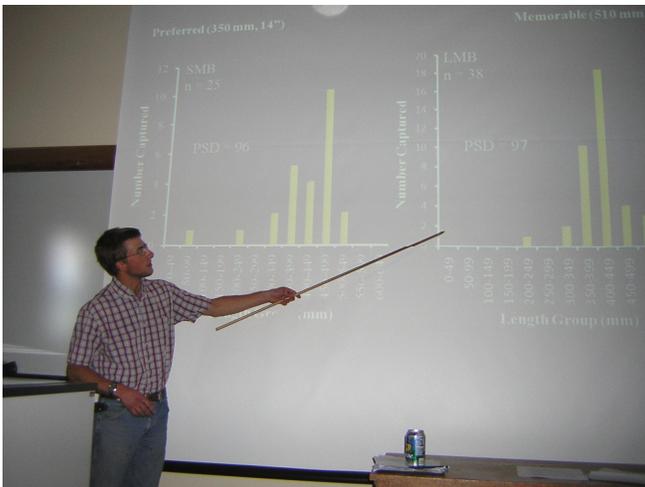
MSU-AFS was delighted by the excellent participation in the presentation section of the Colloquium on Saturday. Kris Homel (President) and Lora Tennant (Vice-President), of the MSU-AFS subunit, welcomed students to the meeting. Leanne Roulson, President-Elect of the Western Division, gave an update of WDAFS activities and opportunities, specifically those related to students. After the welcome, the day was filled with four sessions of oral presentations and a poster session. A lot of time went into preparing the presentations and the quality was impressive! At the end of the presentations, attendees voted on the location of next year's Colloquium and it was determined that the Colorado State University student subunit will host the Student Colloquium in the autumn of 2009.

Continues next page...

The Colloquium closed with a social at a local hot spring, where students soaked and listened to live folk music. The combination of social and professional activities allowed students many opportunities to forge new friendships that will grow stronger through future professional interactions. Furthermore, by bringing students together from throughout the Western Division, everyone had the opportunity to learn about fisheries issues, research, and academic programs from other regions.

The MSU-AFS subunit would like to thank all of the participants in this year's Student Colloquium and would particularly like to thank the Western Division of AFS, the Montana Chapter of AFS, and Montana State University for their generous contributions.

Thanks to the effort of so many, the first annual WDAFS Student Colloquium was a success!



WDAFS CHAPTERS



Alaska Chapter

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/>

Arizona-New Mexico Chapter

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/aznm/index.htm>

California-Nevada Chapter

<http://www.afs-calneva.org/>

Colorado-Wyoming Chapter

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/co-wy/>

Idaho Chapter

<http://www.idahoafs.org/index.php>

Mexico Chapter

http://www.ecosistemico.org/afs_mexchap/

Montana Chapter

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/AFSmontana/>

Washington-British Columbia Chapter

<http://www.npic-afs.org>

Washington-British Columbia Chapter

<http://www.npic-afs.org>

The Washington – British Columbia Chapter of AFS is having its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Little Creek Casino in Shelton, Washington, April 20-23, 2009. The theme of our meeting is “New Science for Managing Uncertainty in Fisheries.”

The Little Creek Casino Resort is a spacious and comfortable venue amidst some of Washington’s most breathtaking scenery and promises to contribute to a fantastic AGM.

The 2009 AGM Program Committee is seeking symposia, papers and poster submissions. To date, we have confirmed the following symposia:

Fish Tracking/Tagging, Chair: Anna Kagley, anna.kagley@noaa.gov

Pacific Rockfish Management, Chair: Elizabeth Clark, Elizabeth.Clark@noaa.gov

Biological Uncertainties Associated with Hydropower, Chair: Todd Pearson, tpearson@gcpud.org

Remote Sensing and Fisheries, Chair: Keith Wolf, kwolf@kwaecoscience.com

If you are interested in submitting a proposal for the 2009 AGM, please contact Jim Shannon jash@deainc.com

You can also submit your paper and poster abstracts on-line at <http://www.npic-afs.org/>. Deadline for your submission is February 15, 2009. Please contact Jim Shannon with additional questions or to participate in meeting planning and operation. Visit the Washington – British Columbia website for regular AGM updates (<http://www.npic-afs.org/>). Students are strongly encouraged to participate and some funding will be provided.

See you in Shelton!



Western Division AFS Student Groups!

- [University of Alaska Student Unit](#)
- [New Mexico State University Student Chapter](#)
- [Palouse Unit - University of Idaho Student Chapter](#)
- [Colorado State University Student Chapter](#)
- [University of Wyoming Student Chapter](#)
- [Oregon State University Students Chapter](#)
- [Montana State University Student Subunit](#)
- [USU Student Subunit of the Bonneville Chapter](#)

About the Tributary

The Tributary is the newsletter of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society published three times per year.

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About the American Fisheries Society

The mission of the American Fisheries Society is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

<http://www.fisheries.org>

About the Western Division AFS

Established as the first Division of the [American Fisheries Society](#) in 1948, the Western Division now includes [Chapters](#) from thirteen western states, British Columbia, Yukon Territories, and U.S. Islands and Trust Territories of the Western Pacific.

Our members represent a tremendous array of fisheries workers involved in all aspects of the fisheries profession. The collective diversity and expertise of Western Division members is the basis of an intimate and unparalleled familiarity with fisheries resources and issues within our geographic region.

Division objectives are to provide a forum for exchanging technical and policy information, promote understanding by regional, Federal, and state policy-makers of the nature and extent of fishery matters of concern to the membership, facilitate timely exchange of information to chapters and the general membership, and provide a vehicle for the active participation of individual members in Society business and professional activities.

<http://www.wdafs.org>

Upcoming Events

State of the Salmon

Feb 2-5, Vancouver, BC

Aquaculture America 2009

Feb 15-18, Seattle, WA

Washington-British Columbia Chapter Annual Meeting

April 20-23, Shelton, WA

WDAFS Annual Meeting 2009

May 3-7, 2009, Albuquerque, NM

WDAFS Student Colloquium

Fall 2009, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

See the full listing online:

<http://www.fisheries.org/afs/aboutus/calendarofevents.pdf>

