



VIRGINIA CHAPTER *of the* AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

President: Steve Reeser
 President-Elect: John Odenkirk
 Immediate Past President: Mark Hudy

Treasurer: Mike Odom
 Secretary: Shelly Miller

Mark your calendars! Join us at the beach.

The Virginia Chapter, Tidewater Chapter, and the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society invite you to join us in **Virginia Beach, VA** at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center for the 2005 Southern Division Spring Meeting **February 10-13, 2005**.



Schedule of Events:

- Thursday, 10 February-Technical Committee Meetings
- Friday, 11 February-Southern Division EXCOM Meeting; Southern Division Business Meeting; Continuing Education Workshops, Student Social (Virginia Chapter Fish Fry)
- Saturday, 12 February-Plenary Session, Symposia and Technical Sessions, Poster Session, Social at the Virginia Marine Science Museum.
- Sunday, 13 February-Symposia and Technical Sessions, Poster Session.

2nd Call for Symposia, Workshops, Papers and Posters

Deadlines fast approaching!

Symposia and Workshop Proposals

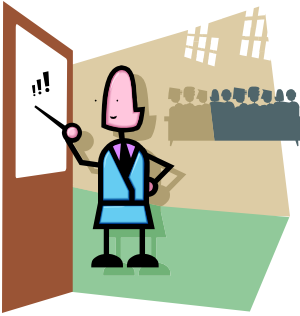
Proposals for symposia must include a topic, statement of objectives, list of presenters, and tentative titles. Workshop proposals must include title, topics to be covered, description of target audience, maximum attendance, name of instructor, anticipated cost per participant. Deadline for submissions is **1 October 2004**. Submit proposals to:

Vic DiCenzo
 Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
 HC 6 Box 46
 Farmville, VA 23901
Vic.Dicenzo@dgif.virginia.gov

Submission Procedures for Presentations and Posters

Presentations will be scheduled for 20 minutes (15-minute presentation and 5 minutes for questions). Media for presentations will be *Microsoft PowerPoint only*. Abstracts should be a 200-word (or less) statement of objectives, principal results and conclusions. All abstracts for presentations and posters must be submitted electronically by **1 December 2004** to:

Vic Dicenzo at address above



Meeting registration is \$85.00 until January 15th, after which time the fee increases to \$105.00. Checks should be payable to the Virginia Chapter, AFS and mailed to Michael Odom, USFWS, Harrison Lake NFH, 11110 Kimages Road, Charles City, VA 23030.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged!

Contact the hotel at 757-481-9000 or 800-468-2722 for room registration information. Room rates are \$55 for single or double, \$65 for triple and \$75 for quad occupancy.

For more details, visit the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center web site (<http://www.virginiabeachresort.com/>). Find out all that Virginia Beach has to offer by visiting the web site of the Virginia Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau, (<http://www.vbgov.com/dept/cvd/>)

Symposia scheduled

Defining a Catch and Release Research and Education Model (Drs. Gene Wilde and Jon Lucy)

Striped Bass Management (Dan Wilson, SDAFS Striped Bass technical committee and Dr. Tom Shahady)

Asian Carp (Anita Kelly, AFS Fish Culture Section)

Tentative Workshops

Continuing Education Chairperson, Scott Smith, is hard at work lining up workshops for the mid-year of 2005. The following is a tentative list of workshops and contacts. **Meanwhile, if anyone is planning a workshop and has not yet contacted Scott, please do so as soon as possible!** (Scott.Smith@dgif.virginia.gov)

Elise Irwin and Dave Buckmeier - Catfish aging

Steve Rider - Mussel ID

Dan Wilson and Tom Shahady - Striper Parasitic Copepods (confirmed; details not yet available)

Stuart Welsh - Student workshop (2-hour workshop confirmed; details not yet available)

Steve McMullin - Leadership in state agencies

Continue to check the VA-AFS or Southern Division website for further details and confirmation of workshops.

<http://faculty.virginia.edu/vcafs/>

Look forward to seeing you in Virginia Beach.

2004 American Fisheries Society Student Colloquium for the Southern Division

The University of Florida is hosting the 2004 American Fisheries Society Student Colloquium for the Southern Division. This meeting is designed to allow students to present their research, in any stage of completion, to their peers. It also facilitates the development of professional relationships between students that will last their entire careers. These goals will be accomplished through presentations, a poster session, and socials. This is the fourth annual student meeting; the prior three were each a great success and we expect nothing less this year.

The Colloquium will be held at The University of Florida's Whitney Marine Laboratory, November 5-7. We welcome both graduate and undergraduate students in fisheries related majors. Registration begins August 2nd and is only \$15 per student (\$35 late registration after September 17th). Meals will be provided. Lodging is the only other expense and we have rooms reserved at a reduced rate of \$53-\$66 per night at Beacher's Lodge, located on nearby South St. Augustine Beach.

For further information, visit the colloquium website at <http://surf.ifas.ufl.edu> or use the contact information below:

Paul Anderson
AFS Student Colloquium Committee Chair
Students United in the Research of Fisheries (SURF)
E-mail: chromis@ufl.edu

Northern Snakeheads (NSH) in the Tidal Potomac System John Odenkirk, VDGIF

Snakehead hysteria reached down into Virginia on May 7, 2004. It started on a Friday afternoon when Robert Hinds, Jr. was pre-fishing a tournament and caught what he believed was a NSH. Robert's fish came from a canal off Little Hunting Creek in Fairfax County, and he convinced a skeptical John Odenkirk that he had the real thing (rather than a bowfin or eel). John verified the catch, and recreational anglers caught two more during the following week. Another NSH (the fourth) was caught during May by a commercial haul seine in Pohick Bay (two drainages south of Little Hunting Creek).

Five more NSH were collected during June – one each by Maryland and Virginia electrofishing crews and three by anglers. One of the angler catches was a 6 pound male. July's pace increased with seven additional NSH verified – another by VDGIF electrofishing, one by dip net and five by anglers. Tom Woo of Ft. Belvoir had the distinction of angling three of these. As of this writing (8/11/04), the NSH count stood at 17,



Scott Hermann (VDGIF) with fish #17. Photo taken by John Odenkirk

with the only August catch provided by the Fredericksburg VDGIF electrofishing crew (a.k.a. Jerky Crew – tied with Tom Woo).

Sampling by Maryland DNR, VDGIF and the USFWS, while at a bit of a frantic pace during June and early July was reduced from nearly daily trips with seines, trap nets, gill nets, trawls and electrofishing to several electrofishing trips per month. No nests or juvenile fish have been documented. NSH respond fairly well to standard pulsed DC gear; however, reaction can be varied and violent (similar to grass carp). If located fully

within the electrical field, they are pacified nicely. Preferred habitat seems to be hydrilla and milfoil beds along lily pad edges – water depth usually ranges from one to two feet, but they have been capture in dense SAV beds in water up to five feet deep.

The fish have been found throughout a 15-mile reach of tidal river including tributaries of both states. However, distribution was clumpy, as three NSH were captured in Little Hunting Creek, seven were taken from Dogue Creek, and two were collected in Pohick Bay – all adjacent Virginia drainages.

Size range was 305 – 634 mm TL and 348 – 2635 g. The sex of five was unknown, while four were believed to be males. Eight were females, and six of these had eggs (the last five captured were all females with eggs). Male sex organs seemed to be underdeveloped. Otolith removal was standard, and the best reads were obtained using whole views. Stomachs were usually empty, except one NSH had a white perch in its gut (the most dominant species in the system). Fourteen of the 17 NSH were available for ageing:

Age	2	3	4	5	6
N	2	6	3	2	1

The NSH source and the implications for the tidal Potomac resource remain unknown. We have yet to test the culinary attributes of the NSH, as all fish were delivered to the Smithsonian for genetic evaluation (results not provided to date) but eagerly await the opportunity.

Virginia Chapter welcomes a new webmaster

Mark Kopeny, former Secretary of the Chapter, recommended Joanne Chaplin of UVA for the webmaster position. She has been doing a great job keeping the site updated. Below is a little bit about her in her own words:

I graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland in 1975 with a degree in Biology. After college, I spent approx. 2 years at the Univ. of Md. Solomons Island lab doing phytoplankton research and culture, and another 1 1/2 years or so at VIMS doing the

same kind of work. In 1978 I took a position at Thomas Nelson Community College in Hampton as a chemistry lab preparator, and also taught chemistry and biology labs for several years. During that time I took many classes in Computer Programming, until coming to the University of Virginia in 1984.

Since that time I have worked as a biology lab preparator for undergraduate biology lab courses. For the past couple of years, I have also served as the department's webmaster, completely rebuilding the sites for both the Biology Dept. and the Human Biology program. I also serve as the webmaster for my church in a volunteer capacity, and have recently started a part-time business, *WebCurrents*, specializing in web maintenance. I try to offer fast turn-around times and reasonable rates for those who have sites which they no longer have the time or capability of maintaining, in addition to re-design as requested. I'm particularly interested in working with non-profit organizations and small businesses that may not have access to the necessary software or training with which to maintain sites which may have been designed by former employees, volunteers, expensive web designers, etc.

Three NBII Nodes Lead Data Collection Effort Supporting Eastern Brook Trout Initiative

Excerpt from NBII Access newsletter, Volume 7 No. 3;
NBII is the National Biological Information Infrastructure.
Visit www.nbii.gov for more info on this and other projects.

The NBII Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Node has been working closely with the NBII Southern Appalachian Information Node and the NBII Mid-Atlantic Information Node to support an effort to determine the status of brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) within the eastern United States.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, thirteen state fisheries agencies, Trout Unlimited, the Izaak Walton League, and the NBII have joined forces to develop a range-wide management

strategy for eastern brook trout that demonstrates a geographic model for implementing the National Fish Habitat Initiative.

Focus areas of this project include:

- Collecting and integrating data on the status and trends of brook trout populations and identifying the main threats to existing populations and restoring impaired populations;
- Using that data as the basis to develop a range-wide management strategy for eastern brook trout; and
- Implementing management actions and educational efforts on the importance of eastern brook trout and their habitats.

The NBII has taken the lead collecting and integrating data on brook trout. Specifically the NBII is creating an ArcIMS interface that will allow users access to data provided by state and federal agencies through a map-based stream hydrography layer. Working closely with state, federal, and NGO partners, a workshop will be held this fall to identify the status of brook trout within streams of the eastern United States. Eventually, the plan is for data held by state and federal partners on brook trout to be made available through the Brook Trout ArcIMS interface. Ultimately, this project will be used as an example of how the National Fish Habitat Initiative could proceed nationwide.

Some other upcoming meetings

58th Annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference
Hilton Head, South Carolina
October 30 – November 3, 2004

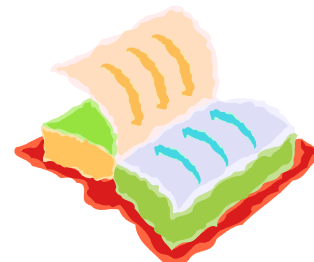
NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM WETLANDS 2004:
PROTECTING WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE
October 19-20, 2004. Hilton Kansas City Airport, Kansas City, Missouri
<http://www.aswm.org/calendar/wetlands2004/agenda2004.htm>



New AFS publications

Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico, Sixth Edition; Joseph S. Nelson, Edwin J. Crossman, Héctor Espinosa-Pérez, Lloyd T. Findley, Carter R. Gilbert, Robert N. Lea, and James D. Williams; 386 pages
Published by American Fisheries Society
Publication date: July 2004

Aquatic Protected Areas as Fisheries Management Tools; J. Brooke Shipley, editor;
301 pages
Published by American Fisheries Society
Publication date: August 2004



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Secretary: Shelly Miller, Shelly.Miller@dgif.virginia.gov, 804-367-0909

Immediate Past President: Mark Hudy, hudymx@jmu.edu, 540-568-2704

If you received this newsletter by snail mail and would like to receive it electronically, please contact Shelly Miller with your e-mail address. Thanks!