

The Angler

Newsletter of the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society http://www.fisheries.org/units/co-wy/

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The Vent **Kathy Foster**

Happy 2009 to all! I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year and that you made wonderful memories this holiday season with family and friends.

This is my first Vent as Chapter President. Typically my first Vent would be in the November Angler. The ExCom and The Angler editors decided a shortened email version would be best mainly because we seem to always struggle to decide what to put into our fall Angler since annual meeting planning is just beginning. However, now is my time to do a little reflecting and hopefully inspiring.

I started my involvement with the Chapter in 1999 after I moved back to Colorado from Idaho by attending annual meetings. By 2003 I was the Awards chair and I continued that role through 2006. Then I got a call from Past President Anita Martinez asking me if I would be interested in running for Secretary/Treasurer. I said sure and that was really the extent of our conversation. Little did I know what I was getting into. And now, I am incredibly honored to be serving as your Colorado/Wyoming Chapter President.

It's been an amazing past couple of years. I've had the opportunity to work with great people from all over the western United States that I would have otherwise never met. And just like our Chapter they are an excellent group of professionals and students that are highly motivated to promote the conservation of aquatic resources, use the technological advancements available and provide professional exchange of aquatic information. I've come to realize that without organizations like AFS to defend

science, the efforts of many fisheries professionals would be lost in a world ruled by politics.

I've also learned a lot too. I know that I have a much better understanding of fisheries issues beyond the borders of our states. I've learned that I can accomplish things that I never tried before and thought I couldn't do. AFS has been instrumental in teaching me these skills. Not only have my communication skills improved but also my listening skills. I've learned that delegation is a lifesaver and that teamwork is invaluable. I've also learned that Past Presidents are a great resource and are always willing to help. The greatest thing that I have learned is that without being involved in the Chapter, I wouldn't have had the opportunity for learning new things and doing some personal growth.

I'm hoping that I've inspired you to become involved in the Chapter because this isn't my Chapter or ExCom's Chapter, it is your Chapter and with your help, we can make it better than before. You are the future for the continued excellence of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

Our 44th Annual Meeting is fast approaching. Many people have put in a huge amount of time and effort to make it an informative, professional, and productive meeting. I can't thank them enough for all of their hard work. This year's theme is Climate Change and we encourage you to be as green as possible. Please consider carpooling as much as practical and bringing your own water bottle. All the meeting information is included in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing all of you in Loveland!

"Incorporating Climate Change into Local Management Decisions"

2009 Annual Meeting of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society February 23 - 26, 2009 Loveland, Colorado

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be held in Loveland, Colorado at The First National Bank East Exhibition Hall, February 23-26, 2009.

The First National Bank Exhibition Hall is located at the Ranch – Larimer County Fairgrounds and next to the Budweiser Event Center.

A block of rooms have been set aside for this meeting at the Holiday Day Inn Express (I-25 and Crossroads Blvd) for \$85/night (which is below the FY09 Federal per diem rate). Government rate rooms will be released February 6th, so make your reservations fast to ensure this special rate! Call 970-663-0057 and be sure to state you will be attending the Colorado/Wyoming AFS meeting. The Holiday Inn Express offers a free Express Start® Breakfast Bar

A half-day, plenary session focusing on climate change will launch the meeting on Tuesday, February 24 at 8:00 am until 12:00 pm. Contributed papers will follow in the afternoon. An evening social will occur on Tuesday, February 24 at 6:00 pm. Contributed papers will continue on Wednesday, February 25. The Colorado-Wyoming Annual Business Meeting luncheon with follow the morning session of contributed papers on Wednesday, February 25. The banquet and raffle will conclude Wednesday's activities. A Continuing Education Workshop will be offered on Thursday, February 26.

Information related to the 2009 Annual Meeting can be found on the new and improved CO-WY AFS Chapter website at http://www.cowyafs.org

Best Paper and Poster Judges Needed!



Volunteers are needed to judge papers and posters at the 2009 CO-WY AFS meeting in Loveland. We would like to have three judges per paper and poster, so a great deal of help will be needed from CO-WY AFS members. Government agency and private consulting professionals are preferred for judging volunteers. Please consider volunteering some of your time at the meeting!

If you are interested in judging please contact Christina Barrineau @ 307-745-5180 x240 or Christina.Barrineau@wgf.state.wy.us

Tentative Meeting Agenda



Monday, February 23rd

5:00 - 7:00 PM: Early Registration (Entry), Presentation Download and Practice (Sandhouse Room), Poster/Trade Show Setup (East Hall), Raffle Setup (Broad, Cross and Rodenberger Rooms)

6:00 - 10:00 PM: Welcoming Social - beverages and snacks provided (East Hall).

Tuesday, February 24th

7:00 AM - 5:00 PM: Registration (Entry)

7:00 AM - 6:00 PM: Presentation Download and

Practice (Sandhouse Room)

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM: Poster Session, Trade Show

(East Hall), Raffle (Broad, etc. Rooms)

 $8{:}00$ - $8{:}15$ AM: Welcome and Introduction

(Moorehouse Hall)

8:15 - 8:25 AM: Plenary Session Introduction

8:25 AM - 12:00 PM: Plenary Session –

"Incorporating Climate Change Into Local Management Decisions" (Moorehouse Hall)

(8:25 - 9:10): Keynote Address - To be determined

(9:10 - 9:50): <u>Implications of Climate</u>
<u>Change to Fish Communities and Aquatic</u>
<u>Habitats in Mountain Streams</u> Dr. Dan Isaak, Rocky Mountain Research
Station

9:50 – 10:15 AM: Morning Break - beverages and pastries (East Hall)

(10:15 - 10:45): <u>Using Climate Change Models to Prioritize Restoration Activities</u> - Warren Colyer, Trout Unlimited

(10:45 - 11:25): <u>Agency Perspectives</u> -Tom Nesler, Colorado Division of Wildlife Mike Stone, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. Bruce Rosenlund or Morgan Elmer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Linda Joyce, U.S. Forest Service

(11:25 - 11:55): <u>Panel Discussion</u> - All Speakers

(11:55 - 12:00): <u>Concluding Remarks</u> - Rick Henderson, Plenary Moderator

12:00 - 1:30 PM: Lunch (on your own) 1:30 - 5:00 PM: Contributed Papers

6:00 - 10:00 PM: Student-Mentoring Social – beverages and snacks provided (location to be determined).

Wednesday, February 25th

7:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Registration (Entry)

7:00 AM - 4:00 PM: Presentation Download and

Practice (Sandhouse Room)

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM: Poster Session, Trade Show,

(East Hall), Raffle Items (Broad, etc. Rooms)

8:00 - 10:00 AM: Contributed Papers

10:00 - 10:30 AM: Morning Break - beverages (East Hall)

10:30 - 11:30 AM: Contributed Papers

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM: Chapter Business Lunch Meeting (East Hall)

1:15 - 3:00 PM: Contributed Papers (continued)

3:00 - 3:30 PM: Afternoon Break - beverages and snacks (East Hall)

3:30 - 5:00 PM: Contributed Papers

6:00 - 10:00 PM: Dinner Banquet and Raffle (East Hall)

Thursday, February 26th

8:00 - 10:00 AM: Continuing Education Workshop 10:00 - 10:30 PM: Morning Break - beverages and pastries (East Hall)

10:30 - 12:00 PM: Continuing Education Workshop

12:00 - 1:00 PM: Lunch (on your own)

1:00 - 3:00 PM: Continuing Education Workshop (continued)

3:00 - 3:30 PM: Afternoon Break - beverages and snacks (East Hall)

3:30 - 5:00 PM: Continuing Education Workshop (continued)





The Program Committee members are recruiting speakers and posters for the 44 Annual Meeting of the CO/WY AFS. The committee encourages members to consider a presentation or poster. All aquatic related topics enhance the knowledge base of our membership and are welcome. This year's plenary session is titled "Incorporating Climate Change into Local Management Decisions". Presentations related to this topic are appreciated for Tuesday afternoon, February 24, 2009.

Final deadline for presentation and poster abstracts is February 13, 2009.

Abstracts for contributed papers and posters should be prepared as a MS Word or WordPerfect file in 12 point, Times New Roman font, left aligned and include the following information:

- 1. A brief descriptive title.
- 2. Names, addresses, telephone and FAX numbers, and e-mail addresses for all organizers. Presenter must be clearly identified.
- 3. An abstract of 350 words or less.
- 4. Indicate whether presenting a poster or oral presentation. Oral presentation must be in MS PowerPoint compatible format.
- 5. Indicate if presenter is a student.
- 6. Indicate length and width of poster.
- 7. Indicate whether presentation is "informational" or follows "scientific method" (helps in judging process).

Abstract Example

Title: Program Committee

Authors: Rick Henderson (Presenter), US Forest Service, 925 Weiss Drive, Steamboat Springs, CO, 80487, 970-870-2219 (W), 970-870-2284 (F), rhenderson01@fs.fed.us; Katharine Foster, US Geological Survey, 2617 E. Lincolnway, Suite B, Cheyenne, WY 82001, 307-775-9166 (W), 307-778-2764 (F), kafoster@usgs.gov

Abstract: The abstract may include but is not required to include a problem statement, objectives, findings, and conclusions.

Preference: Oral presentation preferred.

Student: No.

All contributions must be submitted in either of two ways:

- 1. E-mail to Rick Henderson at: rhenderson01@fs.fed.us with contributed paper/poster abstract attached as an MS Word or WordPerfect file.
- 2. Submit on a CD in either MS Word or WordPerfect to:

CO/WY Program Committee Rick Henderson US Forest Service 925 Weiss Drive, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

For additional information, please contact **Rick Henderson** at **970-870-2219**

Guidelines for Presenters

Presenting a Paper:

- Submit abstract (≤350 words) by February 13th
- Time allotted for each presentation will be 20 minutes: 1 minute for introductions, 15-16 minutes for the presentation, and 3-4 minutes for questions.
- Save presentation as your last name followed by first name as the presentation title.
- If not submitted by February 13, presentations should be brought to the meeting on CD or USB Flash Drive in Microsoft PowerPoint compatible format.
- At the meeting, presentations will be downloaded to the meeting computers during registration. Presentations must be

- downloaded by 8:00 pm on the evening before your talk.
- Please bring a backup copy of your presentation to the meeting, just in case.
- A preview room will also be available so speakers can review their presentations.

Presenting a Poster:

- Submit abstract (<350 words) prior to February 13th.
- Create an easily readable poster.
- Bring your poster to the meeting. Locations for posters and directions for hanging will be provided at registration.
- Stand near your poster during dedicated poster breaks to answer questions.

Help Green the Meeting



The 2009 CO-WY AFS meeting will be addressing climate change issues affecting our fisheries, but large meetings can often be environmentally unfriendly events. Our meeting in Loveland is a great time to make some small changes and sacrifices to help our environment. The ExCom will be looking into several "green" options at the event facilities. Below are just a few "green" ideas for attendees to consider:

- Car pool to the meeting
- Bring your own re-useable water bottle and coffee mug
- Recycle aluminum cans and plastic bottles
- Recycle your program and any other paper materials
- Reuse an old nametag holder, and don't forget to turn in your nametag holders at the end of the meeting so we can reuse them next year

Final Call for Nominations CO-WY Chapter AFS Awards



Thinking about that outstanding coworker, supervisor, citizen, landowner, colleague, mentor, or other "character?"

Know someone who has made a significant contribution (this past year) to fishery or habitat management, science, or policy...or someone who was involved in an infamous fish folly?

It is that time of year again!

Award of Excellence: Recognizes (since 1980) "an individual who has made significant contributions in the fishery-aquatic resource field." This award was formerly (1977-79) known as "Fishery Worker of the Year Award."

"Max" Award of Merit: In honor of Max Rollefson (WGFD), this "atta boy" recognizes a "short-term professional accomplishment in management, administration, research, or culture." This award evolved from the original "Stream Habitat Award" (1977-1982) and (since 1991) has been broadened to recognize accomplishments in a wider range of aquatic endeavors.

Leaky Boot Award: "Recognizes the most outrageous behavior" of any fisheries student or professional in the year subsequent to the Chapter's Annual Meeting.

Format: Limit to one page for MAX and Leaky Boot awards please (Award of Excellence can be more detailed).

Deadline for Nominations: February 6, 2009

Send to or Contact:

Melissa Dickard

Melissa.Dickard@fhwa.dot.gov
or
Rod Scarpella

rscarpella@hotmail.com

2009 AFS Continuing Education Workshop

Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Identification, Ecology, and Metrics Useful in Fishery Management

The purpose of this full-day course is to provide information on the taxonomy and biology of commonly found aquatic insects and other macroinvertebrates in Colorado and Wyoming. The primary focus will be aquatic insects of the southern Rocky Mountain ecoregion, but taxa from the Great Plains ecoregion will also be discussed. The morning session will focus on identification and ecology while the afternoon session will focus on aquatic invertebrate metrics that are useful for fishery managers. This course is appropriate for persons with beginning or intermediate skills at aquatic invertebrate identification. There will be an attendance limit, so please register early to reserve a spot.

Date: February 26, 2009

Regular member cost: \$35 early registration; \$50 late registration

Instructor: Dr. Boris Kondratieff, Professor, Colorado State University

Supplies provided: A binder with reference materials will be distributed the morning of the course. There will be approximately 25 microscopes provided for identification. If you have a microscope please bring it to ensure as many people as possible have their own.

Useful texts (optional):

- An Introduction to the Aquatic Insects of North America; Merritt, Cummins, and Berg editors 4th edition.
- An Illustrated Guide to the Mountain Stream Insects of Colorado; Ward, Kondratieff, and Zuellig, 2nd edition.

For questions about workshop content or registration please contact:

Ryan Fitzpatrick at ryan.fitzpatrick@state.co.us, 970-472-4336, or

Bobby Compton at Bobby.Compton@wgf.state.wy.us, 307-875-3225 (ext 256)



New Secretary-Treasurer

There will be no election this year for Secretary-Treasurer of the CO-WY AFS Chapter. We are happy to announce that Diana Sweet is our new Secretary/Treasurer. Congratulations Diana!!



Diana Sweet

I wish I could tell you a fantastic fish story about how I fought this big fish for hours on the end of a fishing line. How we played a game of cat and mouse, catch, and go seek all rolled into one, before she finally decided that my determination to land her was stronger than her resolve to get away. I wish I could tell you that story, but unfortunately, that's not the case. I cheated. This fish was caught in a gillnet in Jackson Lake during the lake trout spawn sampling last fall. But despite my lack of angling prowess, there is very little that excites me like fish do, whether they come from a net, the end of a line, or floating up from electrofishing equipment.

I had a very unique childhood that inspired my love and respect for the outdoors. I grew up on a guest ranch on the Shoshone National Forest only 12 miles from the east gate of Yellowstone National Park. I spent my summers exploring the forests, playing in the creeks, and riding horses. Every day was an adventure. My father, an active hunter and angler, encouraged my interest in nature. By the time I was in high school and my family left the guest ranch business, I was hooked.

I went to college at Colorado State University where I gained a sound basis of resource management in biological systems. During this time, my interests definitely leaned toward fuzzy critters, but I was soon to change my tune.

After I graduated from CSU, I took a seasonal fisheries technician position with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD). Within a few months, I knew that fisheries was where the fun was. I worked several more contracts with the WGFD as an aquatic habitat technician working on stream habitat improvement projects and riparian ecosystem health.

I went back to school at the University of Wyoming to work on my Master's degree under the direction of Dr. Wayne Hubert. I spent the next two years working with native and non-native sucker species in the Big Sandy River of Wyoming. It was also during this time that I began my involvement in AFS. I was an active member of the UW student subunit throughout my time at the University and served as the secretary for one year. I presented my research at the CO-WY meetings in 2007 and 2008 and was awarded best student speaker in 2007. I also presented at the Western Division meeting in Portland, OR in 2008. I presented a poster at the national meetings in San Francisco and Ottawa in 2007 and 2008. Although I didn't attend the meeting in Ottawa, I was able to attend the meeting in San Francisco and was inspired by the energy and enthusiasm that people feel for fisheries throughout the nation.

After I received my Master's Degree, I began working as a permanent fisheries biologist with the WGFD in Jackson. I am currently responsible for a large variety of fish species in a myriad of systems, from headwater tributary streams, to larger rivers, to lakes and reservoirs. I am lucky to work with talented and passionate people who are always eager to lend a hand.

I believe that the American Fisheries Society is an incredible organization with very dedicated and hardworking members. It is an honor to be a candidate for Secretary-Treasurer of the CO-WY Chapter. I hope to encourage participation in research to determine the effects of oil and gas development on fisheries systems. I also hope to promote discussions among Chapters by inviting speakers from nearby states with similar issues to present their ideas and research. I appreciate your consideration for the Secretary-Treasurer position and hope to serve you in the coming years.

Student Gift Memberships

It's time to think about that summer field worker and recognize him or her with a Student Gift Membership to our CO/WY AFS Chapter!



Your chapter and ExCom continue to support giving out gift memberships to undergraduate students in Wyoming and Colorado. The Membership Committee has the authority to give out 4 gift memberships to undergraduate students attending any college or university in Colorado or Wyoming.

The gift is meant to increase the involvement of undergraduate students in the chapter. We hope these students will consider becoming members of our chapter in the future.

The criteria are simple:

- 1. A Colorado or Wyoming undergraduate student enrolled in a state college or university.
- 2. Interested in fisheries, majoring or studying fisheries or aquatics.

Chapter members can send their student nomination to the Membership Committee Co-Chairs. The Membership Committee has awarded three gift memberships to undergraduate students since the annual meeting. We have 1 more to award, so please nominate a student that might be interested in exploring a career in fisheries.

Steve Gale

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

528 South Adam Laramie, WY 82070

Phone: 307-745-4046

Email: Steve.Gale@wgf.state.wv.us

Check your Parent Society AFS Membership Information



Check and update your membership information by visiting the Parent Society website at http://www.fisheries.org/afs/ Next, click on the "Membership" tab near the top of the page. Then under the "Information" column click on "Directory". Your Login is the first letter of your first name followed by your full last name and your full AFS membership number (i.e. JDOE0000000). The default password is "afslive". Search for yourself and then click on your name under the "Customer Name Company" column to access your information and update if necessary. If you have problems, contact Steve Gale at Steve.Gale@wgf.state.wy.us or Farasha Euker (Parent Society Webmaster and Electronic Services Coordinator) at feuker@fisheries.org.

JOB BOARD



We're planning to have a JOB BOARD again at the 2009 Chapter meeting in Loveland. The board is intended to help those looking for employees, as well as those looking for employment. Please bring copies of your job announcement or resume to post on the board. If you will not be present at the meeting, please send your announcement or resume to Steve Gale (Steve.Gale@wgf.state.wy.us).

Join the Online American Fisheries Society Google Group



How to Join:

- 1. Visit http://www.fisheries.org/afs/. On the right side of the page as you scroll down there is a small box that says "AFS Discussion Group".
- 2. Enter your email address and click the "Subscribe" button.
- 3. You will receive an email confirmation which will contain a link that you will need to click on to confirm your membership in the American Fisheries Society Google Group.

Benefits of Membership:

Once you join you will have access to job postings, current fisheries news, deadlines for grants and other applications. In addition, you can post a question or respond to posted questions to create discussions on fisheries topics.

Student Subunit and Committee Updates

UW Student Subunit - Anna Senecal

The Wyoming Student Subunit has been actively encouraging participation from members and non-members through regular meetings, workshops, and presentations. Our most recent workshop, "Getting into Graduate School," was a great success with an attendance of over 20. In February we will be hosting a follow-up workshop focusing on tips for pursuing technician positions and careers in natural resource and management fields. The Wyoming Student Subunit also plans on attending the CO-WY Chapter meeting at which it will be presenting a poster on the preliminary findings from 2007 and 2008 Spring Creek redd surveys. In recent news, undergraduate

member Richard J. Hays has been awarded with a gift membership to AFS. Congratulations, Richard!

CSU Student Subunit - Adam Hansen

The fall 2008 semester was a success. Seven fisheries professionals were invited to speak, which included Dr. Wayne Hubert (UW), Chad LaChance (local fishing guide and professional angler), Jesse Lepak (post-doc in Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology at CSU), George Schisler (CDOW aquatic researcher), Vicky Milano (CDOW aquatic pathologist), Boyd Wright (CDOW aquatic biologist), and Dr. Robert Behnke (professor emeritus, CSU). The end of the fall semester brought high turnover in subunit officers, and the next president (spring 2009) will be Nate Cathcart (cncathca@simla.colostate.edu). Activities for the spring semester will include conducting bi-weekly meetings, the annual spring fishing derby on College Lake, a kids fishing day with the Fort Collins Boys and Girls Club, and a potential further College Lake investigation. A brief article summarizing the results from the fall semester's fundraising activity (fish sampling on Meadow Springs Ranch and Soapstone Prairie Natural Area) has been included. Please contact Adam Hansen (aghans@live.com) for more detailed information concerning this fundraising activity.

<u>CSU Student Subunit Fall Fundraising Activity</u> – "Inventory of Fishes Inhabiting Spottlewood, Graves, and Sand Creeks on Meadow Springs Ranch and Soapstone Prairie Natural Area, Larimer County, CO."

Introduction - Baseline inventories of aquatic resources are essential to the development of comprehensive land management plans aimed at conserving the biotic and abiotic components of an ecological system while simultaneously providing recreational opportunities to the public. For example, aquatic systems and inhabitants must be considered when formulating attuned cattle grazing regimes. recreational trail systems, and other infrastructure (e.g., roads, parking lots, and services) for the facilitation of public use, due to potential direct or indirect impacts. Limited information existed on the fishes inhabiting key transition zone streams on Soapstone Prairie Natural Area (SPNA; 2004 purchase by City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program) and Meadow Springs Ranch (MSR; 1990 purchase by City of Fort Collins Utilities), Larimer County, CO; a necessity for the adequate

characterization of fauna on each property. The primary objective of the present study was to inventory the fishes inhabiting designated streams on SPNA and MSR as outlined in the 2007 *Soapstone Prairie Natural Area Management Plan*, developed by the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program. The anticipated use of this information was for its integration into the finalization process of SPNA's management plan, as well as its consideration within the context of current land use on MSR by City of Fort Collins Utilities.



Iowa darter *Etheostoma exile* captured using a seine in Spottlewood Creek on Meadow Springs Ranch (Kelly Stockton photo).

Methods - Soapstone Prairie Natural Area is 18,728 acres in size, and located approximately 25 miles north of Fort Collins, Larimer County, CO. Its northern border is delineated by the CO-WY state line, with its western border lying juxtaposed to the 13,500 acre Red Mountain Open Space, owned by Larimer County. Meadow Springs Ranch borders the eastern and southern edges of SPNA and extends further to the south. Streams designated to be sampled included Spottlewood Creek (sections on both SPNA and MSR targeted), Sand Creek (and Jack Springs tributary; sections on MSR targeted), and Graves Creek (historic sites located on SPNA). In October 2008, qualitative fish presence-absence data were obtained from each creek using backpack electrofishing (single pass), seining (single pass), and minnow trapping (single overnight set). Entire segments of each stream holding surface water (except Graves Creek) were sampled by targeting pools. Two historic sampling locations designated by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) were sampled on Graves Creek (150 ft reaches). Captured fish \geq 30 mm in each stream were identified, enumerated by pool, and measured (total length in mm; up to 30 individuals with remainder being counted).



Eric Gardunio and Kelly Stockton shocking a small pool in Spottlewood Creek on the Soapstone Prairie Natural Area.

Results and Discussion - Sand Creek and Jack Springs could not be sampled because no surface water was located. No fishes were captured in either CDOW site on Graves Creek. No fishes were captured in Spottlewood Creek on SPNA (38 pools sampled total). Native brassy minnows *Hybognathus* hankinsoni (180 total; state threatened), fathead minnows Pimephales promelas (681 total), Iowa darters Etheostoma exile (15 total; species of special concern), and northern leopard frogs *Lithobates* pipiens (5 total; species of special concern) were captured in Spottlewood Creek on MSR (surface water only located at southern MSR border consisting of 15 large pools). Relative abundances of captured fishes were 20.55%, 77.74%, and 1.71%, respectively (summed across pools). Measured lengths for all species ranged between 30 – 81 mm. Since Spottlewood Creek on MSR contains sensitive populations of both fish and amphibian species, the city of Fort Collins Utilities must take consideration in the context of future land use decisions. It is recommended that instream water quality be surveyed and monitored (primary use of MSR is for the application of biosolids from Fort Collins wastewater treatment facilities). Additionally, reintroduction of brassy minnow to wetted stream sections of Spottlewood Creek on SPNA would contribute to efforts aimed at restoring native fauna on SPNA.

The SPNA and MSR properties contain unique aquatic ecosystems and organisms. The baseline information collected from the present study should be a valuable addition to the finalization process of SPNA's management plan and future land use consideration on MSR. Furthermore, the present study sets the foundation for a future monitoring program critical to the conservation of the properties' native fishes and amphibians.



Carl and Erica Saunders pulling on towropes connected to the brails of a seine to facilitate hauling through the large, densely vegetated pools in Spottlewood Creek on Meadow Springs Ranch (Kelly Stockton Photo).

<u>Acknowledgments</u> - We acknowledge and thank Harry Crockett and Ryan Fitzpatrick with the CDOW for their support in providing all sampling equipment, as well as Carl Saunders (Ph.D. candidate in Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at CSU) and Erica Saunders (Environmental Planner, City of Fort Collins Natural Resources Department) for field sampling help and sampling design advice.

Membership Committee Update – Steve Gale

<u>2009 Annual Meeting Info.</u> - At recent Chapter meetings, the Membership Committee has set up a booth to provide members with information on the Hutton program, Professional Certification, and our committee activities. This information will also be made available at the 2009 Chapter meeting.

<u>Membership</u> - Since the annual meeting, the committee has communicated with the Parent Society and updated our membership as of September 2008. The Parent Society only gives us a membership list with those who have paid their 2008 annual dues. As of September 2008, our Chapter has 228 members that reside in Colorado and Wyoming. We have not received a membership list of our out-of-state members from the Parent Society. The Membership Committee will contact the Parent Society before the annual meeting to obtain a current list of paid members.

Membership Type	CO/WY AFS Chapter
Life	33
Regular	126
Retired	15
Student	31
Young Professional	23
Total	228

CO/WY AFS Chapter ExCom Meeting Notes

Ft. Collins, CO December 3, 2008

<u>Attendees</u>: Kathy Foster, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Christina Barrineau, Beth Bear, Adam Hansen, Bobby Compton, Mark Smith, Matt Kondratieff, Ann Widmer, Anna Senecal, Steve Gale, Catherine Willard, Rick Henderson

Minutes: Ann Widmer

Secretary Treasurer Report: Expenses since August 2008 total \$1,617.70, income in the period was \$2,000 (donation from BLM), current balances are \$11,699.45 checking and \$12,129.14 savings. Updated budget spreadsheet was provided.

Student Sub-unit Reports

Colorado State University: The students enjoyed the Montana State University student colloquium, which included a day of talks and a day at Yellowstone National Park. Approximately 30 people attended. Both Adam Hansen and Mandy Brant from CSU gave talks. The CSU subunit is looking to host the colloquium next fall, which will be headed by incoming student president Nate Cathcart. ExCom encouraged the subunit to request money from the Chapter if they decide to host the student colloquium next year and encouraged the UW subunit to get involved also. For subunit fundraiser, the City of Ft. Collins Natural Areas Program hired the CSU subunit to sample streams around town, including Soapstone Creek. Iowa darters, brassy minnows, and fathead minnows were sampled. The subunit is also planning a manipulation experiment on College Lake with CDOW to reduce mercury concentrations in northern pike by increasing growth rate through rainbow trout stocking.

University of Wyoming: The subunit has been active with steady/increasing membership. They are encouraging cross-discipline participation (e.g., wildlife students) and hosting a workshop on how to get into graduate school. The subunit received a presentation from Steve Gale about sampling on Spring Creek. The subunit plans to do data analysis on Spring Creek and hopes to prepare a publication. A workshop is also planned on gaining employment in the natural resources field.

The UW subunit wants to participate in the raffle and will contact Dan Brauch (Raffle Committee). Students have been learning to tie flies and want to auction them off to raise money for the subunit.

Kathy encouraged both subunits to contribute articles to the Western Division (WD) Tributary newsletter. Kathy reminded students that they should start thinking about applying for WD money (to attend the next WD meeting). This is a one-time opportunity. Application is not yet available, but should be soon. Kathy also described CO-WY Chapter competitive travel grant (\$250) for two undergraduate students to attend WD meeting. The meeting is May 3-7, 2009 in Albuquerque this year. Anna said May 5-9 is finals week at UW, which conflicts with WD meeting. Students may need to make special arrangements.

Steve asked whether the subunit wants to participate in ice fishing fundraiser with the Lions Club. Steve will send information to the subunit.

Annual Meeting Planning

Student Social: No donated kegs are permitted at The Ranch facility and the Chapter cannot afford to host a keg there for the student social. Kathy will research other venues. The most promising is the local recreation center, which costs \$400 to \$500 to rent. The students will be responsible for organizing food and entertainment. Bobby recommended that the subunits start planning now. Permits take awhile to obtain. Donated food also takes time. Ann will request proof of insurance from parent society.

Mark recommended that we keep the student social as a separate line item in the future. Ann will keep the receipts separate this year.

Other Socials: Discussed inconsistent turnout for the Monday social over the last two years. Decided that the Chapter will host a keg for the Monday and Wednesday night socials at The Ranch. No additional entertainment will be provided Monday night (e.g., a film).

Hotels: Holiday Inn Express currently has 25 rooms reserved. Once these fill up, we'll get another 25. There are more hotels at the Windsor exit (e.g., AmericInn, Candlewood Suites). Last year we booked a big block of rooms: Sunday 3, Monday - Wednesday 70, Thursday 6. The Chapter will pay for

two rooms for the UW students. Anna thinks less than 10 will attend from UW.

Committee Reports

Mentoring Committee: This is a new committee that was formed with Catherine Willard as its chairperson. This committee will encourage Chapter members to be good mentors to high school and college students and to increase participation in the Hutton program. The program could be started by setting up the Hutton Program in the first year and then actively pushing participation in the second year (field season). Participants would be provided a list of ideas to involve students.

The Hutton Program is geared towards high school students, minorities, and females, although other applicants can be accepted. Professionals should recruit students locally. These students should be under 18 and can work 8 hours a day or less, 5 days a week, which may be limiting for field work in some cases. Greg Andersen has tried to get the Hutton Program going before. However, there are other avenues for mentorship that WGFD would prefer for their employees to use rather than the Hutton Program. For example, the state of WY has an internship program with fewer restrictions. Steve said there are a lot of opportunities to get students into the field in the Laramie area. This could also be coordinated by the Mentoring Committee.

Arrangements: Hotel and meeting place are reserved. We're getting down to the little details, but we're in good shape. Lori Martin sent Kathy a spreadsheet with tasks that need to be completed. Kathy will work with students on student social.

Program: The program is still in progress (soliciting papers, arranging projection equipment, etc.). Rick is planning to keep the plenary session to ½ day. He's called other state chapters about their similar plenary sessions and received helpful advice on focusing the meeting. Rick suggested we think about having a green emphasis for this meeting. An email was sent to the group regarding speakers and solicited comments. Rick would like a representative from NOAA. No response on call for papers yet. Hopefully some climate change related talks will be submitted – there were a few promising leads.

Continuing Education: Ryan and Bobby provided results of the continuing education topics survey (47 respondents). The top five topics were very closely

ranked. Three of the top five (aquatic plants, aquatic macroinvertebrate ID, and collection of routine and trend fish data) can be grouped nicely together, although they're probably too much for one day. The committee is considering having two continuing education sessions (Monday and Thursday). The number of sessions and the title of the session(s) will be decided by the first week of January 2009.

Environmental Policy: Kathy mentioned that the Oregon chapter writes a lot of letters to legislature. The Oregon chapter is trying to provide background information rather than telling the legislators what to vote for, so the letters are not considered advocacy. The Montana chapter once employed a lobbyist. National Fish Conservation Act is inactive right now and the Western Division has drafted a letter of support.

The Chapter may want to get a permanent chairperson for the Environmental Policy Committee rather than the Chapter Vice President if we want to increase Chapter involvement in environmental policy.

Membership: Two gift memberships for students have been given out and a third request has been received. Gift memberships may not be advertised effectively.

It is difficult for all chapters to get membership lists. Our rebate seems unreasonably low. Records show that we have fewer members than we actually do (86 members?), so we will only receive around \$100. Lori is going to look into this.

Newsletter: Submissions are needed for *The Angler* by January 2nd (or for real by January 9th). Early registration deadline is the February 13th. Kathy recommended sending out a second call for papers via email. No submissions have been received yet.

Nominating: Matt has his list and will be making calls. We should think about having the 2012 Western Division Meeting in Jackson, WY.

Website: Kevin Gelwicks is meeting with Mark Coleman on Friday and will have something soon. Mark said we may be able to vote on the website through a service called Ballot Bin, which is free. Administrator sets up your election and then individual email addresses are used to log in. We provide the valid email list. Ann will email Mark and

Kevin to set up a PayPal enabled credit card payment for meeting registration. This will cost us 3% on credit card payments, but the registration fee increase should cover it

Funding: The Chapter received \$2,000 from Mark Gorges at the BLM. The Chapter may receive \$500 from the Forest Service (per Henderson) and another \$500 from CDOW. The CDOW wants to print programs and needs a receipt. Rick will send an electronic copy of the program to Matt once program is finalized. Rick will find out the best way to obtain Forest Service funding, and doesn't know if an invoice is needed. Matt contacted Dave Speas regarding funding from the Bureau of Reclamation and sent him copies of our last three years' programs. Funding has not been promised.

Awards: No report was given. However, Rod Scarpella and Melissa Dickard should contact some of the folks that submitted applications last year and get them to re-submit. We had some great applicants last year.

Audio-Visual: This committee will become the responsibility of the student subunits. Kathy, Kendall, and Bobby will help coordinate.

Best Paper/Poster: Will use the same format as last year (from parent society). Want professionals to decide whether they want to have their papers judged or not because some papers aren't formatted in a compatible way.

Speaker Gifts: Christina will send out different gift options for consideration. She is planning on buying gifts for about 125 people.

Raffle: Request letters should go out January 1. It might be harder to get donations this year because of the economy. Membership is encouraged to donate their talents and trips. Other ideas included: 1) Members get raffle tickets for donating flies to the raffle. The UW students are planning to do something similar to this; 2) A white elephant raffle where members bid on wrapped up junk. There may also be a raffle to have other people take home cumbersome junk (like at the Great Plains Meeting).

Registration: There are no registrants yet. Updates to the registration form were discussed.

Trade Show: Letters will be sent out next week. Unlike last year, vendors will be charged registration.

Taxes: There will be a meeting with our tax preparer this Monday (December 8). We may need to file an extension. Lori and Matt have discussed putting together a procedures manual for taxes, but are hoping to pass this off to one of the officers.

Student Travel Application: The student travel application was finalized. A due date of March 19 was set for applications and approved by the attendees. Kathy will provide the application to student subunit advisors (Myrick and Hubert) at the beginning of the spring semester.

Western Division Retreat: Kathy Foster attended the retreat and said it was worthwhile. Most Chapter presidents attended. Lori Martin is Vice President of the WD now.

The western native fishes database is nearly finished. A masters student in Redlands, CA linked the database to GIS. He gave a presentation that was impressive. No more funding is needed for it. The database is currently at the Redlands College server, and can stay there one year until moved to NBII (National Biological Information Infrastructure; hosted by the USGS). It will be a visual tool.

Western Division Endowment lost money like everything else and is about \$9500 right now.

Scott Bonar is the current WD president. His push is education because 3% of people work in natural resources, but 100% impact it. Some chapters are active in education, others are not.

The upcoming WD meeting in Albuquerque was discussed. The CO/WY Chapter should start looking into venues after the 2009 CO/WY Annual Meeting. The parent society has someone that will help negotiate hotels and such.

ExCom conference call meetings in 2009: The next ExCom meetings will take place January 29 at 2:00 pm and April 1 at noon.



Registration Form for the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

February 23 - 26, 2009
First National Bank Exhibition Building at The Ranch, Loveland, CO

Name:				
Title:				
Affiliation:				
Address:				
City: State:	Zip:			
Phone: E-Mail:				
AFS Member ID #:				
Early registration deadline for the meeting and continuing e February 13, 2009. Early registration is required to attend the meeting.	-			
Meeting Registration: Includes all breaks and Monday and Tuesda	y evening socials			
	Early	<u>Late</u>	C C	
Regular Parent Society Member	\$125	\$140		
Student, Young Professional, or Retired Parent Society Member	\$55	\$70	\$	
Regular Non-Parent Society Member	\$140	\$155	\$	
Student, Young Professional, or Retired Non-Parent Society Member	\$70	\$85	\$	
Vendor (check if participating in Trade Show, in addition to registration	category above)			
Monday Evening Welcoming Social (Free)	# attending			
Tuesday Evening Student Mentoring Social (Free)	# attending			
Banquet Registration				
Dinner Buffet Wednesday, February 25th @ 6:00 PM	\$25		\$	
Additional Buffet Ticket	\$30		\$	
CO/WY Business Meeting Lunch Buffet				
Wednesday, February 25th @ 11:30 AM	\$10		\$	
Continuing Education Workshop Registration: Aquatic macroinveruseful in fishery management. Thursday, February 26	rtebrate identification, o	ecology	y, and m	netrics
Regular Parent Society Member	\$35	\$50	\$	
Student or Retired Parent Society Member	\$25	\$40	\$	
Regular Non-Parent Society Member	\$50	\$65	\$	
Student or Retired Non-Parent Society Member	\$40	\$55	\$	
*Note: No Credit Cards Accepted. Please make checks payable to: CO-W	/Y AFS Total Due		\$	
Send completed form and registration fee to:				
Ann Widmer, 295 Interlocken Blvd. Suite 300, Broomfield, CO 8002	.1			



American Fisheries Society

Western Division

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,
- > 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

Other (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 at the address listed below and **must be received by March 16, 2009.** Contact Troy Brandt (<u>tbrandt@riverdesigngroup.net</u> or 503-307-8367) for more information and Riparian Challenge guidelines.



American Fisheries Society

Western Division

AFS Western Division Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee - 2009 Riparian Challenge Entry Format and Evaluation Criteria -

The Riparian Challenge was established as an annual event to encourage continued on-the-ground accomplishments in riparian habitat management in the region encompassed by the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society. Entries must document riparian habitat management efforts where resource values will be or have been improved within a watershed. Examples of these resource values include, but are not limited to:

- Streambank stability
- Water quality
- Vegetative diversity and recovery
- Stream flows
- Subsurface water supplies

- Aquatic/fish habitat
- Terrestrial wildlife habitat
- Forage production
- Recreation/aesthetic qualities
- Education

Entries must be type written and <u>must not exceed 4 pages of text.</u> An additional 3 pages may be used for photographs and maps. Land use plans, research projects, handbooks or technical guidelines are not eligible. These are products that are not actually on-the-ground accomplishments or achievements. Projects must also be completed; projects in planning do not qualify. All entries must be submitted as electronic Adobe pdf documents (preferable) or Microsoft Word documents. To reduce file sizes, please compress photographs within Microsoft Word prior to emailing or converting to pdf files. Hard copies will not be accepted. Directions for submitting entries are included below. Include the following information on the first page of each entry (not included in page total):

- a) Project Title
- b) Agency name or private industry
- c) Name of BLM Field Office or Resource Area or name of USFS Ranger District and National Forest
- d) Primary contact person, phone number, and email address
- e) 1-3 other contacts familiar with the project and telephone numbers
- f) Date the plan was initiated and date project was or will be completed

Each typed entry should accurately describe the project, including background, objectives and results. Include photographs or scanned images (no slides) adequate to describe the project. Maps can also be included. The entry should be completed according to the following format. Point values are in parentheses.

- 1) Correct entry of information on first page (8 points)
- 2) Project title (2 points)
- 3) Project location (2 points)
- 4) Project need and the goals and objectives related to addressing the project need (10 points)
- 5) Participants who participated in the project (3 points)
- 6) Project scope tasks completed to achieve the project goals and objectives (65 points)

- a. What species of fish and wildlife were affected?
- b. Which resource values were improved?
- c. Does the project address habitat for threatened or endangered species?
- d. How many stream miles and/or acres of riparian habitat were improved?
- e. Did the project involve an interdisciplinary process? Who was involved?
- f. Did the project involve multi-agency cooperation? Federal government, state government, private landowners, corporations, conservation groups, etc.
- 7) Monitoring plan components (5 points)
- 8) Plan for information dissemination to the public (5 points)

Winners will be selected in the following categories (depending on the number of submissions).

BLM

➤ Best Resource Area or Field Office

Forest Service

➤ Best Ranger District

Other (conservation agencies, consultants, or private industry)

Best Riparian Project

Winners will be selected on the basis of total points received from the judges for all projects/plans submitted by an office. Points will be awarded based on the resource protection afforded by each project/plan. Small projects are important and valuable; a number of small projects within a field office, resource area or district can equal the point total of an extensive multi-resource cooperative management effort. The Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee of the Western Division of AFS will make selections.

Completed entries should be submitted to the Western Division Riparian Committee Chair at the address listed below and <u>must be received by March 16, 2009</u>. Entries with file sizes less than 5 mb may be emailed to Troy Brandt at <u>tbrandt@riverdesigngroup.net</u>. Entries exceeding 5 mb may also be posted to a dedicated ftp site or saved to a CD and mailed to the address below. Contact Troy Brandt for directions to access the ftp site. The high scorer in each agency/entity category will be declared the winner. Scoring sheets will be made available upon request.

Troy Brandt
Riparian Challenge Committee Chair
311 SW Jefferson Avenue
Corvallis, Oregon 97333
503-307-8367
tbrandt@riverdesigngroup.net

2008 - 2009 Chapter Officers and Committee Members

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	Paul Gerrity	Paul.Gerrity@wgf.state.wy.us	307-473-3413
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